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CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**EU delays sanctions on Russia**

The EU decision to suspend debate until 11 September came after some members - wary of further economic reprisals by Russia - called for the measures to be imposed only on condition they could be scaled back quickly if the peace deal holds. An EU diplomatic source said the bloc's 28 ambassadors agreed to "continue today's discussion on the restrictive measures, allowing for further assessment of the situation on the ground and additional consultations".

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/ukraine-says-russia/1356280.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/ukraine-says-russia/1356280.html)

**Russia**

**Putin orders combat readiness checks for troops in Russia’s Far East**

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered snap checks of troops' combat readiness in the far east, Itar-Tass news agency reported Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying on Thursday. Shoigu told a meeting of the armed forces' leadership that the troops were ordered to be on full combat readiness at 10:00 a.m. Moscow time.

Reuters - <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/putin-orders-combat-readiness-checks-063952324.html;_ylt=AwrBEiEGeBFUlFYAQCnQtDMD>

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine leader pledges more autonomy for east**

Ukraine's president has promised to introduce a bill that would offer greater autonomy to regions in the pro-Russia east, where separatists have been battling government troops for almost five months.

President Petro Poroshenko told a televised cabinet meeting on Wednesday that Ukraine would remain a sovereign, united country under the terms of a peace roadmap approved last Friday, but said parts of the east under rebel control would get special status. In his remarks, Poroshenko offered the rebels an olive branch by saying the bill would offer "special status" to parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions they now control.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/09/ukraine-poroshenko-autonomy-east-2014910163640362480.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/09/ukraine-poroshenko-autonomy-east-2014910163640362480.html)

**WHO responding to serious health concerns – UNICEF** **mention**

The crisis in eastern Ukraine is creating a looming health emergency as hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced and are living in varying and often exposed conditions as winter approaches, many without official status either as internally displaced persons or as refugees. The health situation is marked by a weak health system, low immunization coverage, and a high burden of chronic disease. At least 32 hospitals in the affected regions are not functioning. In addition, up to 70% of health staff have fled the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. WHO and partners are intensifying humanitarian health services by leading the establishment of a medical-supplies platform to coordinate health-sector activities efficiently in partnership with UNICEF, the Red Cross, UNFPA, and other organizations and

planning a vaccination campaign for polio and measles in cooperation with UNICEF.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/no-vaccine-stocks-crisis-hit-ukraine-210507272.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/no-vaccine-stocks-crisis-hit-ukraine-210507272.html)

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/hac/crises/ukr/releases/9september2014/en/**](http://www.who.int/hac/crises/ukr/releases/9september2014/en/)

**OSCE says will use drones for ceasefire monitoring**

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Europe will deploy drones soon as part of efforts to beef up monitoring the ceasefire in Ukraine, its chairman said on 10 September. Calling the situation fragile, the OSCE chairman and Swiss President told an OSCE forum in Prague the organisation had 70 specialists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions to monitor the ceasefire between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists and was expanding that mission fast.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/10/ukraine-crisis-osce-idINKBN0H50YT20140910**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/10/ukraine-crisis-osce-idINKBN0H50YT20140910)

**Death toll of more than 3,000 ‘alarming’**

The number of people killed in Ukraine has topped 3,000 and could be “significantly higher,” the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights said, as he urgently appealed for a sustainable peace to spare the country “a winter of horrors.” “The trend is clear and alarming,” he said to a special session of the Permanent Council of the OSCE.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48660#.VBCBq63D\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48660#.VBCBq63D_ct)

ESA

**Across ESA**

**Four sentenced to eight years over plot to kill Rwanda general**

A South African court on Wednesday sentenced four men to eight years in prison for trying to murder a Rwandan general, months after he fell out with President Paul Kagame. Magistrate Stanley Mkhari found three Tanzanians and one Rwandan guilty of a "politically motivated" plot to kill General Kayumba Nyamwasa in June 2010. Nyamwasa fled to South Africa in February 2010. The ex-general was shot and wounded as South Africa hosted the football World Cup, in what Pretoria described as an attack by foreign security operatives. Since that first attack, Nyamwasa has survived three further attempts on his life.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/four-sentenced-eight-years-over-plot-kill-rwanda-155026577.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/four-sentenced-eight-years-over-plot-kill-rwanda-155026577.html)

# South Sudan

# China deploys troops to U.N. force to protect South Sudan oilfields

China has begun deploying 700 soldiers to a U.N. peacekeeping force in South Sudan to protect oil fields and Chinese workers. A spokesman for South Sudan's president said on Tuesday that the airlift of a Chinese infantry battalion to the South Sudanese states of Unity and Upper Nile was expected to take several days. China is the biggest investor in South Sudan's oil industry. U.N. officials have previously said it would be the first time China had contributed a battalion to a U.N. peacekeeping mission.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140910010735-xo55f/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140910010735-xo55f/?source=search)

**Zimbabwe**

**Flood displaced allege forcible resettlement**

More than 3,000 families in Zimbabwe's southeastern Masvingo Province who accuse the government of forcibly resettling them to small plots of undeveloped land, are facing hardships including a lack of adequate food, shelter, health and education facilities. The families had been staying at Chingwizi transit camp since torrential rains in early February caused water levels in the catchment area of the partially constructed Tokwe-Mukosi dam to reach dangerously high levels, flooding several villages that had been scheduled for relocation.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=100593**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=100593)

LAC

**Argentina**

**UN calls for regular debt structuring after debt crisis**

Spurred by the conflict between Argentina and the hedge funds, the UN General Assembly has passed a resolution to put an international legal framework in place in order to regulate the process of restructuring sovereign debt. The proposal, hat came from developing and emerging countries that comprise the G77 plus China, passed with an overwhelming majority of 124 votes in favor, 11 against and 41 abstentions. However, the US, Japan and several countries of the EU voted against the resolution which advocates the adoption of “a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes”. The modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations on a multilateral legal framework will be defined before the end of 2014, the resolution said.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2351505&CategoryId=14093**](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2351505&CategoryId=14093)

**Chile**

**New bombing wounds one**

Two homemade bombs have exploded at a shopping center in Vina del Mar, adding to panic after a subway bombing in Santiago wounded 14 people. The latest explosion came on 10 September inside a bathroom at the Open Plaza mall in Vina del Mar. It caused no injuries, but came less than 24 hours after a similar blast outside the nearby Tottus supermarket wounded one woman on 9 September night. Police are investigating the bombings, which, like attack in Santiago, has not been claimed.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140910/new-chile-bombing-wounds-one**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140910/new-chile-bombing-wounds-one)

**EFE -** [**http://www.centnews.com/Politics/New-Chile-bombings-hit-resort-city/S-2014-09-10/89545.html**](http://www.centnews.com/Politics/New-Chile-bombings-hit-resort-city/S-2014-09-10/89545.html)

**Colombia**

**Second group of Colombian conflict victims arrive in Havana**

A dozen victims of Colombia’s armed conflict, many of whom were kidnapped or subject to sexual violence, have arrived in Havana, Cuba to take part in dialogue with representatives of the Colombian government and the FARC rebel group. Sources involved in the negotiations reported that they were received by members of both delegations and representatives of the two countries sponsoring the peace process, Cuba and Norway. The victims included people who had suffered from violence carried out by FARC, the Colombian military and paramilitary forces. Nine of the 12 victims are women which “reflects a harsh reality of the armed conflict, of which women and girls have paid the highest price”, the UN Representative in Colombia, said.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2351506&CategoryId=12393**](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2351506&CategoryId=12393)

**Haiti**

**House arrest ordered for former President**

A judge has ordered Haiti's former president Jean Bertrand Aristide placed under house arrest and barred him from leaving the country, court sources said on 10 September. He is under investigation for corruption, drug trafficking and money laundering in a case involving about 30 people, including family members and former officials in his administration. The judge who is leading the investigation issued an order to police and prison authorities to "secure" Aristide's residence "and bring him, if necessary, before us to answer's the court's questions about the facts of the money-laundering and illicit drug trafficking he is accused of."

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140910/house-arrest-ordered-aristide-haiti**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140910/house-arrest-ordered-aristide-haiti)

**Country gets help for chikungunya outbreak**

Haiti has received millions of kits to treat the mosquito-borne virus known as chikungunya amid a rainy season expected to result in a surge of new cases in the country. The kits include oral rehydration packs, mosquito spray and the pain reliever acetaminophen for a disease that has sickened tens of thousands of people in recent months. Chikungunya has spread rapidly throughout the Caribbean since the first locally transmitted case was documented in late 2013. The Haitian First Lady and Health Minister on 10 September announced the receipt of the 6.1 million treatment packs provided by US medical aid group Direct Relief.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-mosquito-borne-virus-outbreak-25411770**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-mosquito-borne-virus-outbreak-25411770)

**Mexico**

**Tropical storm Odile forms off Pacific Coast**

Tropical storm Odile formed on 10 September off Mexico's Pacific Coast and is due to strengthen overnight as it moves toward the famous beach resort of Acapulco, which was hit hard by storms and record flooding last year. On 10 September, Odile was about 350 km south-south-west of the port of Lazaro Cardenas. Odile was moving at 5 km per hour with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph. The storm is forecast to strengthen in the next 48 hours, though the center will remain offshore of Mexico's southwest cost through early on 12 September.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-depression-forms-south-mexico-25398547**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tropical-depression-forms-south-mexico-25398547)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/10/us-storm-odile-idUKKBN0H51ZJ20140910**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/10/us-storm-odile-idUKKBN0H51ZJ20140910)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Saudi Arabia agrees to host training of moderate Syria rebels**

Saudi Arabia has agreed to host training camps for moderate Syrian rebels as part of President Barack Obama's broad strategy to combat Islamic State militants who have taken over parts of Syria and Iraq, US officials said on Wednesday. The agreement, outlined by Obama's aides on the night of his speech to the American people laying out his expanded campaign against the Islamist group, appeared to reflect the depth of Saudi concern about Islamic State's threat to the region.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140911023129-1de7d/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140911023129-1de7d/?source=jtTheWire)

**Israeli military opens five criminal investigations into Gaza war conduct**

Israel's military said on Wednesday it had opened five criminal investigations into its Gaza war operations, including attacks that killed four Palestinian children on a beach and 17 people at a UN school. The internal inquiries could help Israel challenge the work of a UN Human Rights Council commission of inquiry into possible war crimes committed by its forces and Palestinian militants in the 50-day conflict in July and August.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140910152248-183zh/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140910152248-183zh/?source=jtOtherNews2)

**Libya**

**Militants kidnap 25 Libyan soldiers, army says; PM seeks support**

Militants in Libya are reported to have kidnapped up to 25 soldiers and killed five others in the eastern city of Benghazi, an army commander said on Wednesday, as the prime minister travelled to the United Arab Emirates to seek support for his embattled government. Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni has called for the international community to help fight terrorism in the oil- producing country, which has slid towards anarchy three years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. Last month, the capital, Tripoli, fell to an armed group, forcing the elected parliament to relocate to the remote eastern town of Tobruk.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/09/11/Islamists-kidnap-25-Libyan-soldiers-army-says-PM-seeks-support/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/09/11/Islamists-kidnap-25-Libyan-soldiers-army-says-PM-seeks-support/)

**Syria**

**Nusra Front release Fijian UN peacekeepers**

Forty-five Fijian UN peacekeepers captured by an al-Qaeda-affiliated rebel group in the Syrian Golan Heights have been released, the UN says. [A statement said](https://twitter.com/UN_Spokesperson/status/510038556421926912) they were handed over to UNDOF personnel at 14:30. All the peacekeepers were in a good condition, it added. Members of the al-Nusra Front captured the Fijians last month during clashes between rebels and Syrian government forces in the demilitarised zone. According to the Fijian authorities, al-Nusra demanded to be taken off the UN's list of designated terrorist organisations, wanted humanitarian aid be delivered to parts of Syria, and sought compensation for three fighters killed in a gunfight with Undof forces in the Golan Heights.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29161884**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29161884)

**Obama orders US airstrikes in Syria against Islamic State**

President Barack Obama told Americans on Wednesday he had authorized US airstrikes for the first time in Syria and more attacks in Iraq in a broad escalation of a campaign against the Islamic State militant group. Obama's decision to launch attacks inside Syria, which is embroiled in a three-year civil war, showed the seriousness of the threat American officials see from Islamic State. A year ago, the president shied away from airstrikes against Syria's government for its use of chemical weapons against Syrians.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140911013227-oun4k/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140911013227-oun4k/?source=jtTheWire)

**OPCW says has evidence of chlorine attacks in Syria**

Inspectors from the global chemical weapons watchdog have found "compelling evidence" that chlorine gas was used "systematically and repeatedly" as a weapon in northern Syria this year, it said in a statement on Wednesday. The Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said there had been a "spate of new allegations" of chlorine attacks in August, after a reduction in reported attacks since May. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad agreed to hand over 1,300 tonnes of chemical weapons and destroy production and storage facilities last year under a deal that averted threatened US military strikes.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140910172535-ywmpn/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140910172535-ywmpn/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Yemen**

**Yemen govt, Houthis reach agreement to end crisis**

Yemen's government and Shi'ite Muslim Houthi rebels signed an agreement on Thursday to end a crisis that has seen weeks of sometimes bloody protests in the capital Sanaa, a member of the government's negotiating team said. Houthi protesters have been blocking the main road to Sanaa's airport and holding sit-ins for weeks at ministries in an attempt to oust the government and restore fuel subsidies. The agreement includes a further reduction of fuel prices and the formation of a new government.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140911072510-pvovf/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140911072510-pvovf/?source=search)

SA

**Across SA**

**Tempers flare as mass flood evacuations begin in Kashmir**

Floods that have killed 450 people in India and Pakistan began to recede on Wednesday giving rescue teams a chance to evacuate thousands of villagers stranded by the heaviest rainfall in 50 years in the heavily militarized and disputed region of Kashmir. On the Indian side of the divided region, floods and landslides have cut off more than 1 million people from basic services, triggering a massive military rescue operation that has so far evacuated 80,000 from villages and city rooftops. Tempers rose on Wednesday with some angry that relief efforts were only reaching them six days after the floods began. Others complained about living conditions in temporary camps. Villagers heckled some soldiers and beat a rescue official who was airlifted for emergency treatment.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/rescuers-evacuate-thousands-indian-kashmir-floods-recede-062710892.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/rescuers-evacuate-thousands-indian-kashmir-floods-recede-062710892.html)

**Afghanistan**

**At least 11 civilians 'killed by NATO airstrike'**

At least 11 Afghan civilians including women and children have been killed and 16 injured in a NATO airstrike in the eastern province of Kunar, local security officials reported. The airstrike took place in Narang district after local police and soldiers came under attack, they said. NATO is investigating the air strike, which President Hamid Karzai condemned.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29145750**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29145750)

**Pakistan**

**Military operations in NW disrupt education – UNICEF mention**

Continuing military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal district are disrupting the education of more than 85,000 students in state-run schools. According to the latest report from OCHA, as of the 1 September, 1,016,559 people are registered as displaced from North Waziristan, around 45% of them children. UNICEF in collaboration with the provincial education department will support the education of 9,000 IDP children (including 4,500 girls) in IDP hosting districts of the province, said a UNICEFspokesperson. North Waziristan’s political authorities have also directed all displaced government teachers to start teaching at schools in different KP districts, especially in Bannu.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100594/military-operations-in-nw-pakistan-disrupt-education**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100594/military-operations-in-nw-pakistan-disrupt-education)

WCA

**Across WCA**

# Gates Foundation pledges $50 mln to fight Ebola epidemic

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged $50 million on Wednesday to support emergency efforts to contain West Africa's Ebola epidemic. The U.S.-based philanthropic foundation said it would release funds immediately to U.N. agencies and international organisations to help them buy supplies and scale up the emergency response in affected countries. It will also work with public and private sector partners to speed up to development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics that could be effective in treating Ebola patients and preventing further spread of the haemorrhagic fever-causing virus.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140910184735-jvmnd/?source=dpagetopic**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140910184735-jvmnd/?source=dpagetopic)

**Gambia**

**Gambia urged to drop life sentences for gays**

Rights campaigners called Wednesday for Gambian President Yahya Jammeh to reject proposals by lawmakers to introduce a punishment of life in prison for "aggravated homosexuality". Amnesty International and HRW said in a joint statement that a bill passed by parliament on August 25 could be used to target "repeat offenders" and people living with HIV. "President Jammeh should not approve this profoundly damaging act that violates international human rights law," said Stephen Cockburn, Amnesty's deputy regional director for west and central Africa.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/gambia-urged-drop-life-sentences-gays-152133343.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/gambia-urged-drop-life-sentences-gays-152133343.html)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria air and ground attacks to reclaim town from Boko Haram**

Nigeria's military launched ground and air offensives against Boko Haram to recapture the northeastern town of Michika that fell to the jihadist militants over the weekend, witnesses said on Wednesday. Hundreds of troops aided by military jets have been pounding Boko Haram positions in Michika in Adamawa state since Sunday, residents of nearby towns and villages told AFP. "We have been hearing thunderous explosions from bombs dropped by military jets on Michika," said a Christian priest in Chibok, 20 km from Michika. Chibok was the scene of a mass abduction by Boko Haram of more than 200 schoolgirls in April.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-air-ground-attacks-reclaim-town-boko-haram-232715931.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-air-ground-attacks-reclaim-town-boko-haram-232715931.html)

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