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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Food security alarm for east, central Africa**

Some 20 million people are facing acute food insecurity in eastern and central Africa, with most of them being at “crisis” and “emergency” levels, according to aid agencies. This figure compares unfavorably with 15.8 million people in July 2013. The affected countries include Somalia, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Sudan, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania.

**IRIN -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/food-security-alarm-east-central-africa**](http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/food-security-alarm-east-central-africa)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Ukraine sets conditions for Russian convoy**

Ukraine set conditions for letting in Russian aid shipments to rebel-held eastern regions. After earlier vowing to block a massive Russian convoy headed for its borders, Kiev said on 13 August it could allow the aid to enter the country after it was inspected by Ukrainian border guards and foreign monitors. Ukraine has raised fears the convoy of nearly 300 lorries could be a "Trojan horse" bringing military help to pro-Moscow insurgents who launched a rebellion in the country's east. The proposal would allow aid for the hard-hit eastern city of Lugansk "to cross over the nearest border post" after it had been checked by Ukrainian officials and monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a Ukranian presidential spokesperson said. The mission would then be allowed to travel across rebel-controlled territory to Lugansk where the "Red Cross would distribute aid to civilians", he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/ukraine-sets-conditions/1312060.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/ukraine-sets-conditions/1312060.html)

[**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24704863/ukraine-signals-compromise-on-russian-convoy-as-death-toll-soars/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24704863/ukraine-signals-compromise-on-russian-convoy-as-death-toll-soars/)

**Ukraine**

**74 killed in three days in Ukraine's rebel-held Donetsk region**

Fierce clashes between government forces and rebel fighters have killed 74 civilians over the last three days in east Ukraine's war-torn Donetsk region, local authorities said Thursday.

"Over the past three days, 74 residents of the region were killed and another 116 were wounded as a result of fighting," the Donetsk region's health authorities said in a statement.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/74-killed-three-days-ukraines-rebel-held-donetsk-114552408.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/74-killed-three-days-ukraines-rebel-held-donetsk-114552408.html)

**Shelling kills 22 people in rebel-held Lugansk**

Shelling has killed at least 22 residents in the besieged rebel-held bastion of Lugansk in east Ukraine over the past 24 hours, a local official said on 14 August. "There was an artillery bombardment of the eastern areas of the city. A bus, shop and several apartment blocks were hit," an official from the regional administration reported.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/World/2014/Aug-14/267215-shelling-kills-22-in-ukraines-rebel-held-lugansk.ashx#axzz3AMH2HVkJ**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/World/2014/Aug-14/267215-shelling-kills-22-in-ukraines-rebel-held-lugansk.ashx#axzz3AMH2HVkJ)

**Turkey**

**Country gives refuge to 2,000 Yazidis fleeing Iraq**

Turkey is providing refuge to some 2,000 members of Iraq's Yazidi community who have fled the deadly advance of IS militants in Iraq, officials said on 14 August. Most of the Yazidis are being housed in tents at a refugee camp in Silopi just north of the Iraqi border in the Sirnak province of southeastern Turkey. They are given meals three times a day and undergoing regular health screenings.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/turkey-gives-refuge-2000-yazidis-fleeing-isis-militants-iraq-20140814**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/turkey-gives-refuge-2000-yazidis-fleeing-isis-militants-iraq-20140814)

EAP

**China**

**Rights group says police open fire on Tibetan protesters**

Chinese police have opened fire on Tibetan demonstrators in southwestern China, wounding 10 people, after the Tibetans protested against the detention of a respected village leader, a Tibetan rights group said. The crackdown in the Ganzi prefecture of Sichuan province, a flashpoint for Tibetan protests against Chinese rule, underscores simmering tensions between Tibetans and the Chinese authorities. The UK-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) group, citing several Tibetan sources in exile, said late on 13 August that the area "is now under tight control, with local Tibetans including the elderly and children subject to interrogation".

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0GE09N20140814**](http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0GE09N20140814)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Kenya at high risk of Ebola, warns WHO**

The WHO has classified Kenya as a "high-risk" country for the spread of the Ebola virus. Kenya was vulnerable because it was a major transport hub, with many flights from West Africa, a WHO official said. This is the most serious warning to date by the WHO that Ebola could spread to East Africa.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28769678**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28769678)

**Mozambique**

**Country passes amnesty law for opposition leader ahead of vote**

Mozambique's parliament has approved an amnesty law that will allow opposition Renamo party leader Afonso Dhlakama to leave his hideaway in the bush, sign a peace accord with President Armando Guebuza and run in a 15th October election, lawmakers said. The law approved late on 13 August also applied to Dhlakama's supporters, who had clashed with the government army since 2012. Dhlakama has lived in a bush base in central Sofala province for more than a year to escape what he says is government persecution.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/uk-mozambique-politics-idUKKBN0GD0CY20140813**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/uk-mozambique-politics-idUKKBN0GD0CY20140813)

**Uganda**

**Army rescues hostages, mostly women and children, held by LRA**

Ugandan troops have rescued 45 women and children held by fugitive Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels after battles with the rebels, the army said. Army officials said they were freed in two separate batches earlier this month in Digba, in the remote forests of northeastern DR Congo. "We rescued from the LRA 45 people, the latest (batch) being 32 women and children," Ugandan army spokesperson reported on 13 August. He said another batch of 13 women and children had also been freed.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/ugandan-army-rescues-hostages-held-lra-2014813165551905773.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/08/ugandan-army-rescues-hostages-held-lra-2014813165551905773.html)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Colombia questions Venezuela's border closure to stem smuggling**

Colombia on Wednesday questioned an effort by Venezuela to reduce smuggling of heavily subsidized fuel and food by shutting their shared border overnight, saying joint military cooperation would be more effective. Venezuela shut traffic across the border into Colombia between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., beginning this week, to limit the movement of cargo vehicles in border municipalities and prevent lucrative cross-border trade.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-colombia-venezuela-contraband-idUSKBN0GD1S720140813**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-colombia-venezuela-contraband-idUSKBN0GD1S720140813)

**Brazil**

**President race stunned by candidate death**

Brazil's presidential race is in stunned disarray after one of the top three contenders was killed on the campaign trail when a small plane carrying him and aides crashed into a residential area in the city of Santos. Socialist politician Eduardo Campos and the six other people aboard the aircraft died on 13 August, which came less than two months ahead of the 4 October presidential election. President Dilma Rousseff, who opinion polls say leads the race, declared three days of official mourning for Campos and said she was suspending her campaign during that time. The other main candidate, Aecio Neves, also said he was putting his campaign on hold.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aircraft-crashes-residential-area-brazil-24964612**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aircraft-crashes-residential-area-brazil-24964612)

**Ecuador**

**Quake death toll rises to four**

Ecuadorean authorities said on 13 August that four people have died since a 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck near the capital the day before, up from an initial count of two, as dozens of aftershocks rattled the city. At least 44 medium-intensity aftershocks have been registered since the quake struck. Some residents remain in city shelters and authorities have called for calm despite the continued aftershocks.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-earthquake-ecuador-idUSKBN0GD1VR20140813**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-earthquake-ecuador-idUSKBN0GD1VR20140813)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Cairo policeman shot dead on anniversary of protester killings**

Gunmen shot dead a police sergeant in Cairo on 14 August, as security forces were on high alert for the first anniversary of the killing of hundreds of protesters. Gunmen riding on motorcycles opened fire on the sergeant's private car in the Helwan area south of the city, killing him and wounding his nephew who was accompanying him, security officials said. The attack came as police were on guard for attempts by Muslim Brotherhood supporters to commemorate the killings one year ago.

**DPA -** [**http://www.enca.com/cairo-cop-killed-anniversary-protester-killings**](http://www.enca.com/cairo-cop-killed-anniversary-protester-killings)

**Iraq**

**IS militants mass near another town north of Baghdad**

Islamic State militants are massing near the Iraqi town of Qara Tappa, 122 km north of Baghdad, security sources and a local official said, in an apparent bid to broaden their front with Kurdish peshmerga fighters. The movement around Qara Tappa suggests they are getting more confident and seeking to grab more territory closer to the capital after stalling in that region.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140814093451-lours/?source=fiTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140814093451-lours/?source=fiTheWire)

**Jordan**

**‘Refugee influx could impact development goals’**

Jordan’s development plans may be affected by the large influxes of refugees. Higher Population Council (HPC) Secretary General Sawsan Majali said Jordan has for decades been a destination for refugees in the region, noting that around 2.5 million non-Jordanians reside in the Kingdom. Over the past three years, large numbers of Syrians have entered Jordan fleeing violence in their country, which had placed a “huge” burden on the Kingdom’s resources and services such as education and health in addition to infrastructure, she said, pointing out that official figures estimate the number of Syrians in Jordan at around 1.4 million.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/article/refugee-influx-could-impact-development-goals**](http://jordantimes.com/article/refugee-influx-could-impact-development-goals)

**Libya**

**Assembly asks for UN help as militias clash**

Libya's newly elected parliament asked the United Nations for an "international intervention" Wednesday as militia violence raged across the country. Libya is undergoing its worst spasm of violence since the 2011 ouster and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Thousands have fled the country, including diplomats and foreign nationals. Scores of embassies have closed down and international organizations have shut their offices. Lawmakers convened in Libya's eastern-most city of Tobruk, far from weeks-long militia battle over the international airport in the capital, Tripoli, and clashes in the country's second-largest city, Benghazi.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tripoli-police-chief-killed-libya-24944763**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/tripoli-police-chief-killed-libya-24944763)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Renewed Israel, Palestinian truce off to shaky start**

Israel and the Palestinians renewed a truce that had largely tempered a five-week-old war, but the deal got off to a shaky start on Thursday with rockets from Gaza slamming into Israel and Israel retaliating with air strikes. Hamas, which denied involvement in firing some of what Israel counted as eight rockets shot just as an earlier truce expired on Wednesday, and accused the Jewish state of violating the new truce by launching air strikes. There were no reported casualties in any of the incidents that marred an Egyptian-brokered agreement announced in Cairo to extend a ceasefire begun on Monday by another five days, or until Aug. 19.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/14/us-mideast-gaza-idUSKBN0G907R20140814**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/14/us-mideast-gaza-idUSKBN0G907R20140814)

**Syria**

**US completes destruction of Sarin precursors**

All 581 metric tonnes of a precursor chemical for sarin gas that were removed from the Syrian Arab Republic and trans-loaded onto the US Maritime Vessel Cape Ray in early July, have been destroyed with neutralization technology aboard the ship while sailing in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The destruction operations were continuously monitored and verified by a team of OPCW inspectors on the Cape Ray. The Cape Ray has now begun operations to neutralise 19.8 metric tonnes of sulfur mustard, a blistering agent, which are all the Syrian chemicals that remain on the ship. When that has been completed, the Cape Ray will then transport the effluents from the DF and sulfur mustard for disposal at land-based facilities in Finland and Germany.

**OPCW -** [**http://www.opcw.org/news/article/us-completes-destruction-of-sarin-precursors-from-syria-on-the-cape-ray/**](http://www.opcw.org/news/article/us-completes-destruction-of-sarin-precursors-from-syria-on-the-cape-ray/)

**Army takes town outside Damascus**

Syrian government forces have taken full control of a town southeast of Damascus, a TV station run by the pro-Damascus Lebanese group Hezbollah reported on 14 August, a gain that would deal a blow to rebels who had held it for more than a year. The town of Mleiha lies on the edge of the eastern Ghouta region near Damascus airport, a mix of farmland and small towns that has formed a base for rebel fighters. They have been surrounded by President Bashar al-Assad's forces for more than a year. There was no way to independently confirm the report.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0GE0MN20140814**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0GE0MN20140814)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghanistan should have new president in 15 days, Karzai says**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Thursday that Afghanistan should have new government and president in the next two weeks. The presidential palace media office, said President Hamid Karzai shared the issue with the university lecturers in ARG presidential palace on Thursday. President Karzai has said that the election results should be released as per the schedule which was decided earlier

**KP -** [**http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-should-have-new-president-in-15-days-karzai-says-6550**](http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-should-have-new-president-in-15-days-karzai-says-6550)

**India**

**Three people killed in militant attack in Kashmir**

Two days before the Independence Day, another militant attack took place in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, which claimed three lives. A police vehicle was ambushed in Pampore area, on the Srinagar-Jammu highway. This was the second attack on security forces in as many days. Around 7.45 pm, the militants had opened fire on the vehicle of a deputy superintendent of police. Two of the deceased were policemen, another a civilian, whose identity is yet to be established. On 12 August, eight BSF personnel, one of them an officer, were injured when militants attacked their convoy at Pampore. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

**NDTV -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/three-killed-in-militant-attack-in-kashmir-575578**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/three-killed-in-militant-attack-in-kashmir-575578)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan braces for day of protests**

Pakistan's Punjab province is set for a day of protests, as opposition leader Imran Khan and anti-government cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri lead thousands of supporters in a march calling for the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign. Marchers departed from Lahore on Thursday morning, also Pakistan's independence day, and are travelling up the main highway to the capital Islamabad, where they plan to hold a sit-in until their demands are met. Hundreds of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists gathered outside Khan's Lahore residence, with hundreds more present at Qadri’s party headquarters, local television news footage showed.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/08/pakistan-braces-day-protests-201481462340766201.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/08/pakistan-braces-day-protests-201481462340766201.html)

**Sri Lanka**

**UNHCR says Sri Lanka is violating refugee laws**

UNHCR has accused Sri Lanka of breaking international law in its growing campaign to force out Pakistani asylum seekers without a fair hearing. "Fundamentally, this is a breach of the principle of no forced returns. That's a clear violation of international law," the spokesperson for the UNHCR, said on 13 August. Sri Lanka has deported 88 Pakistanis since 1 August, despite claims that they could be at risk in their homeland, the spokesperson said. Starting with men who had been placed in detention, the country has since widened the net to cover whole families, he reported.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/08/un-says-sri-lanka-violating-refugee-laws-201481372316778892.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/08/un-says-sri-lanka-violating-refugee-laws-201481372316778892.html)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**WHO says more than 1 million people affected by outbreak**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a UN system-wide coordination meeting in response to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which is now affecting more than 1 million people in the so-called “hot zone of disease transmission” on the borders of the three countries most impacted by the disease. According to the latest update issued by the WHO, between 10 and 11 August, 128 new cases of Ebola virus disease, as well as 56 deaths, were reported from Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, bringing the total number of cases to 1,975 and deaths to 1,069.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48478#.U-x1E2jD\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48478#.U-x1E2jD_ct)

**CAR refugees face harrowing trip to Cameroon**

The number of refugees fleeing the CAR for Cameroon has declined somewhat, but not because the CAR is returning to calm. Refugees and aid workers say fewer people are able to make the trip because of malnutrition and insecurity. The refugees entering in Gado from the CAR look tired, sick and hungry. According to the UNHCR, the numbers crossing the border has dropped in recent weeks, from 10,000 per week to about 8,000 now.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/car-refugees-face-harrowing-trip-to-cameroon/2412191.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/car-refugees-face-harrowing-trip-to-cameroon/2412191.html)

**Mali**

**Peace talks postponed to 1 September**

Peace talks between the Malian government and mainly Tuareg rebels will not resume until 1 September after both sides asked for more time to prepare, mediator Algeria said on 13 August. The substantive round of negotiations had been due to open in mid-August under a timetable agreed in preliminary talks in Algiers in July. Its postponement came in response to "the request of the Malian sides who asked for sufficient time to complete their consultations and preparations."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mali-peace-talks-postponed-september-1-001110568.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mali-peace-talks-postponed-september-1-001110568.html)

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