**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Thursday, 26 June 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENERAL | **Across Regions** | Russia says next Iran atom talks to be marathon, slams UN experts |
|  |  | UN SC blacklists Boko Haram leader, splinter group |
|  |  | West renews Russia sanctions threat as Ukraine ceasefire crumbles |
|  |  | North Korea threatens war on US over Kim Jong-un movie |
| CEE/CIS | **Across CEE/CIS** | Azerbaijani forces kill Karabakh soldier |
|  |  | NATO: "No signs" Russia is respecting commitments |
|  | **Turkey** | Turkey raises fears over potential spillover from Iraq |
|  | **Ukraine** | IDPs in Lviv oblast will get target-focus assistance from the UNHCR |
| EAPR | **Myanmar** | Myanmar mulls religious marriage curbs |
|  | **Thailand** | Thai general denies military coup was planned |
| ESAR | **Somalia** | Al Shabaab insurgents attack hotel in central Somalia |
|  | **Kenya** | Kenya arrests governor after coastal attacks |
| LAC | **Colombia** | FARC targets Bogota to mark anniversary |
|  | **Ecuador** | Ecuador ruling party proposes end to presidential two-term limit |
|  | **Honduras** | Children flee terror at home, hope for opportunity in US |
|  | **Mexico** | Authorities have stopped 9,622 unaccompanied minors, official says |
|  | **Uruguay** | Uruguay to receive 120 Syrian refugees |
| MENA | **Across MENA** | Iran guards killed in armed clashes near Iraq border |
|  |  | Israel army presses operation in West Bank, arrests 17 |
|  |  | Morocco busts cell for Syria, Iraq volunteers |
|  |  | Israel stages 12 air strikes on Gaza after rocket fire |
|  | **Bahrain** | Bahrain court acquits opposition leader Khalil Marzook |
|  | **Iraq** | North car bomb kills three people |
|  |  | Iraq insurgents seize oilfields, hit air base as US advisers arrive |
|  |  | Attacks kill 12 people south of Baghdad |
|  | **Kuwait** | Kuwait Emir urges calm over coup, graft allegations |
|  | **Lebanon** | Man blows himself up during security raid at Raouche Hotel, 11 hurt |
|  | **Libya** | Deadly attack, low turnout mar Libya election |
|  |  | Libyan human rights activist killed in her home |
|  | **Syria** | Syrian army attacks kill 45 in north |
|  | **Tunisia** | Tunisia parliamentary, Presidential polls in Oct., Nov. |
|  | **Yemen** | 13 civilians die as Yemen army clashes with Shiite rebels |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | Bomb in the north kills 4 civilians |
|  | **Pakistan** | Polio drive in Lehri stopped after threats |
|  |  | Mass arrests in Pakistan after gunmen shoot at plane |
| WCAR | **CAR** | CAR at risk of genocide, group says |
|  | **Equatorial Guinea** | Polio in Equatorial Guinea |
|  | **Mali** | Country urges aggressive overhaul of UN peacekeeping mission |
|  | **Nigeria** | Bomb blast in Abuja kills 21 people, wounds 17 |
|  |  | Government denies latest mass abduction claims |
|  | **Sierra Leone** | Exams cancelled amid Ebola crisis |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Russia says next Iran atom talks to be marathon, slams UN experts**

Russia's UN envoy on Wednesday said the next round of talks between Iran and six world powers will be a two-week marathon session, while warning a panel of UN sanctions experts not to sabotage the final phase of the delicate negotiations. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told the Security Council that the negotiations are scheduled to run from 2 July to 15 July in Vienna. Other senior officials close to the talks confirmed the talks are expected to last two weeks, as a 20 July deadline for a long-term deal approaches.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140625224724-r84k4/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140625224724-r84k4/?source=search)

**UN Security Council blacklists Boko Haram leader, splinter group**

The UN SC sanctioned the leader of Nigeria's Boko Haram and a splinter group on Wednesday, the first individual and entity to be designated by the world body since the Islamist militant group was blacklisted, diplomats said. Leader Abubakar Shekau and Boko Haram faction Ansaru will be banned from international travel and their assets frozen under the UN al Qaeda sanctions list. Russia placed a "technical hold" on the designations two weeks ago because it needed more time to review the listings, but diplomats said they lifted the hold on Wednesday, allowing the sanctions to come into force.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140625221250-ynpwu/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140625221250-ynpwu/?source=search)

**West renews Russia sanctions threat as Ukraine ceasefire crumbles**

Western powers warned Russia on Wednesday that they could impose new sanctions if Moscow did not do more to defuse the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where a ceasefire between Russian-speaking rebels and government forces appeared to be crumbling. The upper house of Russia's parliament fulfilled a request by President Vladimir Putin to rescind the right to invade Ukraine in defence of its Russian speakers that it had granted him in March. However, a leading lawmaker said the power could be quickly restored if required, and Western governments indicated they would judge Russia by the progress that was made to end the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140625164648-lzci5/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140625164648-lzci5/?source=search)

**North Korea threatens war on US over Kim Jong-un movie**

North Korea has promised "merciless" retaliation if a forthcoming Hollywood movie about killing Kim Jong-un is released, say agencies. A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said in state media that the movie's release would be an "act of war". He did not mention the title, but a Hollywood movie called The Interview with a similar plot is due in October. The film’s teaser trailer, posted on Youtube, shows a lookalike actor playing Kim Jong-un, as well as fight scenes involving what appear to be North Korean tanks and helicopters, and a nuclear missile launch.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28014069**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28014069)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Azerbaijani forces kill Karabakh soldier**

Azerbaijani troops have shot dead a soldier from the separatist Nagorny Karabakh forces in the latest outbreak of violence along the disputed region's volatile frontline, the rebel defence ministry said on 25 June. The start of the year saw an uptick in violence along the frontline between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with both sides accusing each other of launching tit-for-tat raids. At least 17 soldiers from all sides have been killed so far this year with snipers frequently exchanging fire across the flashpoint frontier.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/azerbaijani-forces-kill-karabakh-soldier-separatists-547664**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/azerbaijani-forces-kill-karabakh-soldier-separatists-547664)

**NATO: "No signs" Russia is respecting commitments**

NATO's secretary general said on 25 June there are "no signs" Russia is respecting its commitments over Ukraine, and that the alliance will consider what to do next. One of the items on the agenda is how NATO can help build Ukraine's military capacities, including by creating targeted trust funds. He noted Russia's occupation and annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula this spring had led the alliance to suspend programs for practical cooperation with Moscow.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nato-no-signs-russia-respecting-commitments-063005792.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nato-no-signs-russia-respecting-commitments-063005792.html)

**Turkey**

**Turkey raises fears over potential spillover from Iraq**

Turkey raised fears on 25 June over potential spillover from turmoil in Iraq, as NATO promised not to hesitate to defend its ally from the widening conflict. Speaking on the sidelines of a NATO gathering in Brussels, the Turkish Foreign Minister called for greater cooperation with its allies to meet the threat posed by the rise of extremist militants in Iraq and the continuing civil war in Syria. Militants, who have seized a swathe of territory in a lightning offensive in northern Iraq in the past two weeks, are holding 49 Turkish citizens kidnapped from Turkey's consulate in the Iraqi city of Mosul. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which Turkey included in its list of terrorist organisations in early June, has also kidnapped 31 Turkish truck drivers.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/104761/World/Region/Turkey-raises-fears-over-potential-spillover-from-.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/104761/World/Region/Turkey-raises-fears-over-potential-spillover-from-.aspx)

**Ukraine**

**IDPs in Lviv oblast will get target-focus assistance from the UNHCR**

An agreement was signed by Lviv Oblast State Administration and the UNHCR. The project agreement includes providing financial assistance to the most vulnerable internally displaced persons who moved to the Lviv region. The Agency estimates the total number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine to be more than 34,000 with a significant proportion of them being women, children and elderly persons. **UNHCR-** [**http://unhcr.org.ua/en/2011-08-26-06-58-56/news-archive/1277-internally-displaced-persons-in-lviv-oblast-will-get-target-focus-assistance-from-the-unhcr**](http://unhcr.org.ua/en/2011-08-26-06-58-56/news-archive/1277-internally-displaced-persons-in-lviv-oblast-will-get-target-focus-assistance-from-the-unhcr)

EAPR

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar mulls religious marriage curbs**

Proposals by radical Buddhist monks to criminalize inter-faith marriage in Myanmar face strong opposition from women's rights groups in a tussle over the nation's religious identity that has sparked international alarm. Buddhist nationalists, feeding off the fear and uncertainty caused by successive waves of anti-Muslim violence, have issued fiery pronouncements that the very fabric of the country's main religion is under threat, casting a dark shadow over ongoing democratic reforms. To "protect" Buddhism - the religion of more than 80% of the population - radical monks have urged boycotts of Muslim businesses, including of Qatari telecoms firm Ooredoo, despite its promise to bring much-needed affordable mobile access. And they have warned that Buddhist women are at risk from Muslim men, a tactic "calibrated for emotional impact", said Nicholas Farrelly, a research fellow at the Australian National University.

**AFP-** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136373-legislating-love-myanmar-mulls-religious-marriage-curbs**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136373-legislating-love-myanmar-mulls-religious-marriage-curbs)

**Thailand**

**Thai general denies military coup was planned**

A senior Thai general has told the BBC that last month's military coup had not been planned in advance. It comes after an opposition leader claimed the army had been discussing overthrowing the government for years. Lt Gen Chatchalerm Chalermsukh also said those detained by the military since the coup were being treated well. And he said controversial former PM Thaksin Shinawatra and his family could still return to Thai politics. The military seized power in the south-east Asian nation on 22 May, saying it wanted to return stability to Thailand after months of political and social unrest.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28029977**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28029977)

ESAR

**Somalia**

**Al Shabaab insurgents attack hotel in central Somalia**

Islamist militants hurled grenades at the gate of a hotel in central Somalia on Thursday then opened fire as they burst into the building used by Somali soldiers and Djiboutian African Union peacekeepers, residents said. Al Shabaab said it killed several guards and soldiers in the attack in town of Bulobarde, the movement's second assault on the hotel since March.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/26/us-somalia-blast-idUSKBN0F10HF20140626**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/26/us-somalia-blast-idUSKBN0F10HF20140626)

**Kenya**

**Kenya arrests governor after coastal attacks**

Police in Kenya have arrested a regional governor in connection with a series of gun attacks in the coastal town of Mpeketoni earlier this month that killed at least 60 people. Issa Timamy, governor of Lamu County where the town is located, is due to appear in court on Thursday. President Uhuru Kenyatta has blamed "local political networks" for the violence. But the Somali Islamist group, al-Shabab, said it was behind the attacks. Mr Timamy belongs to the opposition Coalition of Reforms and Democracy (CORD), which is led by former PM Raila Odinga. Separatist arrests President Kenyatta has dismissed al-Shabab's claims because members of one ethnic group were targeted in the attacks. Most of the dead were ethnic Kikuyus, like the president. Non-Muslims were singled out to be killed. Opposition parties have ridiculed Mr Kenyatta's claim, including Mr Odinga, who has called for dialogue with the government to address the security failings.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28030230**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28030230)

LAC

**Colombia**

**FARC targets Bogota to mark anniversary**

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas left at least six small explosive devices dotted around Bogota on 25 June, three of which detonated, to mark 50 years of the rebellion, the mayor of the Colombian capital said. There were no injuries, the Bogota Mayor said, adding that the devices were accompanied by FARC propaganda.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140625/farc-targets-colombia-capital-mark-anniversary**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140625/farc-targets-colombia-capital-mark-anniversary)

**Ecuador**

**Ecuador ruling party proposes end to presidential two-term limit**

Ecuador's ruling political movement presented to the national assembly on Wednesday on a controversial plan to end a two-term limit for the re-election of the president, give new powers to the military and increase oversight of the country's media. The opposition has fiercely criticized the proposed package of at least 17 reforms to the 2008 constitution with possibly more to follow, which the ruling Alianza Pais (AP) presented to the national assembly where it has a majority.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140625211215-2bxqq/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140625211215-2bxqq/?source=search)

**Honduras**

**Children flee terror at home, hope for opportunity in US**

Driven from home by threats of gang violence and extortion and drawn to the US by hopes of education and opportunity, a 15-year-old from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, is stuck in southern Mexico, living in a shelter and trying to figure out how to get to California. He says he has an uncle there, who told him that in America he can go to school and find a job. He says that back in Honduras there's a local gang that wants to kill him. In eight months the US has detained about 52,000 children at the Mexican border, double the figure the year earlier. There's no telling how many have gotten through.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-usa-immigration-mexico-idUSKBN0F00CU20140625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-usa-immigration-mexico-idUSKBN0F00CU20140625)

**Mexico**

**Authorities have stopped 9,622 unaccompanied minors, official says**

Mexican immigration agents have stopped 9,622 unaccompanied minors at the US border this year, a figure equal to the 2013 total, with the total for the full year projected at 16,000, the Mexican Deputy Government Secretary for Population, Migration and Religious Affairs reported. The federal official said during a conference hosted by the Mexican Senate that examined immigration reform efforts in the US that the rise in the number of unaccompanied minors heading north was caused by a misinterpretation of the US government's statements about a "temporary normalization" of immigration status.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laprensasa.com/309\_america-in-english/2600557\_mexico-has-stopped-9-622-unaccompanied-minors-official-says.html**](http://www.laprensasa.com/309_america-in-english/2600557_mexico-has-stopped-9-622-unaccompanied-minors-official-says.html)

**Uruguay**

**Uruguay to receive 120 Syrian refugees**

Some 120 refugees from Syria are due to begin arriving in Uruguay in the coming weeks, officials said on Tuesday. The director of the country's office for human rights, Javier Miranda, is in Geneva finalizing with UN officials the details of an arrangement that will see the first 40 Syrians arrive "in September or October," a governmental spokesman said. "What has been agreed upon in principle, is that a total of 120 Syrians will come," presidential spokesman Homero Guerrero said. A large number of the refugees are minors, some of whom will be accompanied by older relatives, officials said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136346-uruguay-to-receive-120-syrian-refugees**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136346-uruguay-to-receive-120-syrian-refugees)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Iran guards killed in armed clashes near Iraq border**

Unknown gunmen killed three Iranian security guards in an ambush near the Iraqi border, Iran's official media reported on 25 June. The victims, two police officers and a sergeant, came under fire while patrolling a border area in Kurdish-dominated Kermanshah province in the late hours of 24 June. The spokesman gave no indication the killings were related to the violence in Iraq, where militants fighting the government have captured a number of border crossings between Syria and Iraq. He did rule out any involvement by PJAK, an Iranian offshoot of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a Kurdish rebel group in Turkey with a long history of armed struggle for independence. However, the police governor general of Kermanshah said evidence suggested the attacks were carried out by elements linked to PJAK.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/iran-attacks-idUSL6N0P62R620140625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/iran-attacks-idUSL6N0P62R620140625)

**Israel army presses operation in West Bank, arrests 17**

Troops searching for three teenagers Israeli says were kidnapped a fortnight ago by Hamas militants, arrested 17 Palestinians in the West Bank overnight, an army spokeswoman said on Wednesday.  The arrests took place across the West Bank and included two Hamas members of the Palestinian parliament. The search operation sparked clashes south of the city of Hebron in which an 18-year-old Palestinian was seriously wounded by a live round to the stomach, Palestinian security sources.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136468-israel-army-presses-operation-in-west-bank-arrests-17**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136468-israel-army-presses-operation-in-west-bank-arrests-17)

**Morocco busts cell for Syria, Iraq volunteers**

Moroccan police have busted a "terrorist" cell recruiting and sending volunteers to fight alongside Islamists in Syria and Iraq, arresting six people, the interior ministry said on Wednesday. Among those arrested in the operation, carried out in the city of Fez in coordination with the domestic intelligence agency (DGST), was a Moroccan Islamist formerly held under the country's anti-terrorist law, according to the ministry statement. Morocco claims to have dismantled scores of jihadist cells since a wave of suicide bombings in Casablanca in May 2003 killed 33 people, including 18 between 2011 and 2013.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136429-morocco-busts-cell-for-syria-iraq-volunteers**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136429-morocco-busts-cell-for-syria-iraq-volunteers)

**Israel stages 12 air strikes on Gaza after rocket fire**

The Israeli air force carried out 12 raids on the Gaza Strip overnight after militants fired more rockets at southern Israel, Palestinian security sources said Wednesday. The attacks struck training grounds used by Palestinian militants, leaving two people lightly injured, they told AFP. The Israeli military confirmed a series of overnight strikes in a statement which said it had struck five rocket-launching sites in northern Gaza, as well two other sites in central and southern areas of the strip.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136356-israel-stages-12-air-strikes-on-gaza-after-rocket-fire**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136356-israel-stages-12-air-strikes-on-gaza-after-rocket-fire)

**Bahrain**

**Bahrain court acquits opposition leader Khalil Marzook**

A leading Bahraini Shia opposition figure has been cleared of all charges at a closely-watched trial in Manama. Khalil Marzook, assistant secretary general of Wefaq, was accused of "inciting terrorism" and supporting a youth movement blamed for many attacks. Mr Marzook was arrested in September after giving a speech at a rally. He was released on bail the following month, after the opposition boycotted national dialogue talks in protest at his detention and the lack of progress. The government formally suspended the dialogue in January and it has not since reconvened. However, earlier this month the information minister said meetings between government and opposition representatives were continuing.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28017401**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28017401)

**Iraq**

**North car bomb kills three people**

A car bomb in a Kurdish-majority neighbourhood of the ethnically mixed northern city of Kirkuk killed three people on 25 June evening, security and medical officials said. The blast also wounded 15 others in the northern part of the tinderbox oil hub, which lies at the centre of territory Iraq's Kurds want to incorporate into their autonomous region over the objections of Baghdad.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/north-iraq-car-bomb-kills-three-165644944.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/north-iraq-car-bomb-kills-three-165644944.html)

**Iraq insurgents seize oilfields, hit air base as US advisers arrive**

Militants attacked one of Iraq's largest air bases and seized control of several small oilfields on Wednesday as US special forces troops and intelligence analysts arrived to help Iraqi security forces counter a mounting Sunni insurgency. Iraqi PM Nuri al-Maliki, who is fighting for his job and is under international pressure to create a more inclusive government, said he supported starting the process of forming a new cabinet within a week.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140625182601-c25uv/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140625182601-c25uv/?source=search)

**Kuwait**

**Kuwait Emir urges calm over coup, graft allegations**

Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, urged calm Wednesday as he expressed deep concern over allegations of a conspiracy against the government and a huge corruption scam. In his first public comments on an issue that has shaken the Gulf state, Sheikh Sabah urged all parties to leave the issue for the judiciary to investigate. Early this month, Sheikh Ahmed Fahad al-Sabah, a senior member of the ruling family, filed a lawsuit claiming he has videotapes showing a senior member of the family and the former parliament speaker plotting a coup and accusing them of massive corruption.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136469-kuwait-emir-urges-calm-over-coup-graft-allegations**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136469-kuwait-emir-urges-calm-over-coup-graft-allegations)

**Lebanon**

**Man blows himself up during security raid at Raouche Hotel, 11 hurt**

A man blew himself up at a hotel in the Beirut area of Raouche on Wednesday as General Security members stormed his room. TV footage showed broken windows and flames shooting from the third and fourth floors of the Duroy Hotel, located in Raouche, close to the sea. According to Lebanese Red Cross director George Kettaneh, eleven people were injured in the blast, including seven civilians and four General Security members. MTV said the suicide bomber was a Saudi national and quoted security sources as saying that “there are no other terrorists in the hotel.”

**Naharnet-** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136460-man-blows-himself-up-during-security-raid-at-raouche-hotel-11-hurt**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136460-man-blows-himself-up-during-security-raid-at-raouche-hotel-11-hurt)

**Libya**

**Deadly attack, low turnout mar Libya election**

A deadly attack on troops and low turnout Wednesday marred Libya's general election on which hopes were pinned of ending three years of turmoil since dictator Moammar Gadhafi's ouster. At least three soldiers deployed to provide polling day security in second city Benghazi were killed in what security officials said was an attack on their convoy by Islamist militia. The eastern city, which was the scene of a deadly 2012 attack on the US consulate, has been tense since a rogue former rebel commander launched an offensive against powerful Islamist groups late last month, drawing many regular army units to his side.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136381-deadly-attack-low-turnout-mar-libya-election**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136381-deadly-attack-low-turnout-mar-libya-election)

**Libyan human rights activist killed in her home**

The Libyan human rights activist Salwa Bugaighis has been shot dead by unknown assailants at her home in Benghazi on the day of the country's general election. "Unknown hooded men wearing military uniforms attacked Mrs Bugaighis in her home and opened fire on her," said a security official. She was shot several times and taken to hospital in critical condition, where she died shortly afterwards, a spokesman for the Benghazi medical centre said. Her husband, who was in the family home at the time of the attack, had since been reported as missing, a family member said. Bugaighis, a lawyer, played an active part in Libya's 2011 revolution, which overthrew the regime of Muammar Gaddafi. A former member of the National Transitional Council, the rebellion's political wing, she was vice-president of a preparatory committee for national dialogue in Libya.

**AFP -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/26/salwa-bugaighis-libyan-shot-dead-benghazi**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/26/salwa-bugaighis-libyan-shot-dead-benghazi)

**Syria**

**Syrian army attacks kill 45 in north**

Forty five people were killed and many others were wounded on Wednesday, as Syrian army forces conducted series of attacks in the northern Syrian cities of Aleppo and Raqqa, local sources say. 15 people were killed in Tariq al-Bab district of Aleppo, where the opposition holds control, after Syrian army forces conducted barrel bomb attacks. 30 of those killed were in Raqqa, which is under the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)'s control, Syrian Revolution General Commission (SRGC) said in a statement.

**AA-** [**http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2014/06/25/syrian-army-attacks-kill-45-in-north**](http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2014/06/25/syrian-army-attacks-kill-45-in-north)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia parliamentary, Presidential polls in Oct., Nov.**

Tunisia's National Assembly approved Wednesday the proposed dates of parliamentary and presidential polls due to take place this year under a deal to end a political crisis. After months of negotiations among Tunisia's political parties, the assembly approved 26 October for the legislative election and 23 November for the first round of the presidential poll. Some 125 deputies voted in favor of the timetable, which also envisages a presidential run-off before the end of 2014, while 15 voted against and 17 abstained. "It's a historic step. We are pleased that the electoral calendar has been fixed, because it gives hope for the future of Tunisia," MP Mahmoud Baroudi told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136430-tunisia-parliamentary-presidential-polls-in-oct-nov**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136430-tunisia-parliamentary-presidential-polls-in-oct-nov)

**Yemen**

**13 civilians die as Yemen army clashes with Shiite rebels**

Clashes between Yemeni forces and Shiite Huthi rebels in the northern city of Amran claimed the lives of 13 civilians, who died when their houses collapsed, a medic said Wednesday. The bodies of the 13, among them five children and two women, were taken to the city's public hospital, the medic said, adding that they died after "their houses collapsed in overnight clashes." The fighting erupted when rebels attacked government forces near the university of Amran, in the western district of the city, a tribal chief said, adding that " dozens of houses and shops" were destroyed.  The Huthis - also known as Ansarullah -- have advanced out of their northern mountain strongholds towards the capital in a suspected attempt to expand their sphere of influence as Yemen is reorganized into six regions.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136426-13-civilians-die-as-yemen-army-clashes-with-shiite-rebels**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136426-13-civilians-die-as-yemen-army-clashes-with-shiite-rebels)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Bomb in the north kills 4 civilians**

A bomb hidden in a push cart and detonated by remote control near a government building in northern Afghanistan killed four people on 25 June while a rocket attack near the Kabul airport wounded four, officials said. The explosion, which struck early in the morning near the governor's building in Dawlat Abad district, also wounded 13 civilians, said the police spokesperson in Faryab province. Meanwhile, the Kabul police chief spokesperson said four people were wounded when two rockets struck near Kabul's international airport overnight. One of the projectiles hit a house near the airport, wounding four civilians inside it, including a woman. The other rocket struck an open area and caused no damage. Separately, an Interior Ministry statement said three insurgents were killed as they inadvertently detonated a roadside bomb they were trying to plant in the Domanda district in eastern Khost province.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-gunmen-kill-people-afghanistan-24275934**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-gunmen-kill-people-afghanistan-24275934)

**Pakistan**

**Polio drive in Lehri stopped after threats**

Polio vaccinators have discontinued their drive in Brahmani area of Lehri tehsil, Sibi distirct after receiving death threats. The District Health Officer Sibi reported that they had lodged a complaint with the Levies Force in Lehri about the suspect who threatened of attacking the polio team. “The suspect hurled threats to a polio team as it reached Brahmani to administer vaccines to children,” he District Health Office said. He said that it was the duty of the Levies Forces to arrest the man who threatened polio workers, including policemen. The Deputy Commissioner Sibi had also been informed about the incident, he said adding that the drive, however, continued in other areas of Sibi district.

[**http://www.dawn.com/news/1114981/polio-drive-in-lehri-stopped-after-threats**](http://www.dawn.com/news/1114981/polio-drive-in-lehri-stopped-after-threats)

**Mass arrests in Pakistan after gunmen shoot at plane**

Pakistani police arrested hundreds of people on Wednesday after gunmen opened fire on a passenger plane during its landing approach, as fighter jets hit militant targets in the latest round of an anti-Taliban offensive. The attack at Peshawar airport in the country's northwest killed a female passenger and wounded two crew, and will raise further questions about aircraft safety in Pakistan. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, landing in Peshawar from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, came under fire late Tuesday as it descended with more than 170 passengers on board.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136453-mass-arrests-in-pakistan-after-gunmen-shoot-at-plane**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136453-mass-arrests-in-pakistan-after-gunmen-shoot-at-plane)

WCAR

**CAR**

**CAR at risk of genocide, group says**

In the early hours of Monday morning, a Christian militia swept down on the village of Ardo-Djobi near Bambari in the Central African Republic killing 18 Muslims of the Fulani ethnicity. Just a few days earlier, Muslim gunmen had attacked Christians in the nearby village of Liwa and killed 21. The tit-for-tat attacks against rival religious groups in Central African Republic threaten to create the conditions for a genocide reminiscent of Bosnia in the 1990s and requires swift efforts by the government and the international community to stop the violence, said a new report by the International Federation for Human Rights. The 88-page report released Tuesday details the atrocities committed by both sides in the impoverished country and urged the re-establishment of a legal and penal system to stop the wave of crime  and violence and to begin trying those behind the massacres.

Foxnews- <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/06/24/central-african-republic-at-risk-genocide-warns-human-rights-group/>

**Equatorial Guinea**

**Polio in Equatorial Guinea**

The ongoing polio outbreak in Equatorial Guinea has paralyzed four children to date this year. The country has carried out three nationwide immunization campaigns, with more activities planned for mid-July and August. With very low immunization coverage and poor surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), Equatorial Guinea has been considered at high risk since the confirmation of an outbreak of polio in Cameroon last year. The ongoing campaigns play an essential role in stopping the virus transmission and limit the risk of exportation to other countries. Virus linked to Equatorial Guinea was detected in the sewage in Brazil in March this year: a reminder of the importance of responding to the outbreak efficiently, of the critical need to vaccinate residents of Equatorial Guinea before international travel, and of the need for all countries to maintain high immunity against polio. Thanks to Brazil’s high levels of population immunity, there has been no virus transmission within or from the country, and no one has been paralyzed. Brazil has been polio-free since 1989.

**GPEI -** [**http://www.polioeradication.org/mediaroom/newsstories/Polio-in-Equatorial-Guinea/tabid/526/news/927/Default.aspx**](http://www.polioeradication.org/mediaroom/newsstories/Polio-in-Equatorial-Guinea/tabid/526/news/927/Default.aspx)

**Mali**

**Country urges aggressive overhaul of UN peacekeeping mission**

Mali called on the UN to speed up deploying the remainder of its promised 12,000-member peacekeeping force and station more troops in the north. The Malian Foreign Minister reported on the sidelines of an African Union summit in Equatorial Guinea on 25 June, said the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA) had so far deployed only 8,000 troops and less than half of the promised logistical resources. The Security Council is due to discuss the mission's mandate, which expires this month, later on 25 June. UN SG Ban Ki-moon called earlier this month for UN troops to expand their presence in the north. The Malian Foreign Minister said the new mandate should also include a greater role for the UN mission in negotiations with northern separatist rebels.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-mali-un-idUSKBN0F01CL20140625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-mali-un-idUSKBN0F01CL20140625)

**Nigeria**

**Bomb blast in Abuja kills 21 people, wounds 17**

A bomb exploded in a crowded shopping centre in Abuja on 25 June, killing at least 21 people and wounding 17, police and the government said. A senior government spokesperson confirmed that the blast was the result of "a bomb attack".

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/bomb-blast-nigeria-capital-kills-21-wounds-17-police-20140626**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/more-world-stories/story/bomb-blast-nigeria-capital-kills-21-wounds-17-police-20140626)

**Government denies latest mass abduction claims**

Nigeria's government on 25 June denied claims that Boko Haram militants abducted 60 women and children from the country's restive northeast, saying there was no evidence despite eyewitness testimony. A government spokesperson reported at a news conference in Abuja that there was "nothing on the ground to prove any act of abduction, as reported." A local government official in the Damboa district of Borno, a vigilante leader and an area senator all said the women and girls, some as young as three, were taken during a raid on Kummabza village in the last week. Nigeria's military initially did not confirm or deny the abduction and the Borno State governor ordered an urgent probe, highlighting a recent reported abduction of at least 20 nomadic women from the same area. The Borno State governor said he was cautious because of subsequent counter-claims that the women had in fact moved elsewhere in the state as part of migration patterns among ethnic Fulani cattle breeders.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136467-nigeria-denies-latest-mass-abduction-claims**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/136467-nigeria-denies-latest-mass-abduction-claims)

**Sierra Leone**

**Exams cancelled amid Ebola crisis**

The Sierra Leone government has postponed this year’s secondary school exams nationwide as the West African Ebola outbreak further spikes in the country. The epidemic which is ravaging the three neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, is said to be in its second phase after initially slowing down only to re-surge with seemingly uncontrollable intensity. WHO on Monday put the global death toll since the outbreak in Guinea in February at 350, up from 330 only about two days earlier. The total cases of infection in the region is 567.

**Daily Nation -** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Exams-cancelled-amid-Ebola-crisis/-/1066/2361790/-/jw3gy9z/-/index.html**](http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Exams-cancelled-amid-Ebola-crisis/-/1066/2361790/-/jw3gy9z/-/index.html)

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