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**GENERAL**

**Across Regions**

**China evacuates hundreds of workers from Libya to Malta**

China has evacuated several hundred workers from Libya and is taking them by ship to Malta, the head of the Malta Civil Service, Mario Cutajar, said on Wednesday. He said the Maltese government was arranging temporary accommodation for the workers and was preparing for the eventuality of a bigger evacuation from the North African country if the unrest there continues to grow. Cutajar is heading a crisis centre to cater for the fallout from the unrest in Libya. China has urged all its nationals to leave Libya.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0G00GO20140731**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0G00GO20140731)

**World Ebola fears grow with Europe and Asia on alert**

Fears that the West African Ebola outbreak could spread to other continents grew on Wednesday with European and Asian countries on alert as MSF warned the epidemic was out of control. MSF said the crisis gripping Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone would only get worse and warned there was no overarching strategy to handle the world's worst-ever outbreak of the disease. Hong Kong announced quarantine measures for suspected cases, although one woman arriving from Africa with possible symptoms tested negative, while the EU said it was ready to deal with the threat. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has held talks with global health officials on potential measures to halt the spread of the disease.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/uk-holds-emergency-talks-growing-ebola-threat-084704564.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/uk-holds-emergency-talks-growing-ebola-threat-084704564.html)

**Ebola epidemic 'out of control' says charity**

Global medical charity Doctors Without Borders has given warning that the Ebola crisis in West Africa is "unprecedented, absolutely out of control", as states across the world took steps to prevent its spread. Bart Janssens, the charity's director of operations, warned there was no overarching vision of how to tackle the outbreak, in an interview with Belgium's  La Libre Belgique newspaper. "This epidemic can only get worse, because it is still spreading, above all in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in some very important hotspots," Janssens said. "We are extremely worried by the turn of events, particularly in these two countries where there is a lack of visibility on the epidemic. If the situation does not improve fairly quickly, there is a real risk of new countries being affected."That is certainly not ruled out, but it is difficult to predict, because we have never known such an epidemic." More than 670 people have died of Ebola in the outbreak, the largest on record since the disease was detected in the 1970s.

**Aljazeera** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/ebola-epidemic-out-control-says-charity-2014730143330618539.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/ebola-epidemic-out-control-says-charity-2014730143330618539.html)

**Climate change affects children UNICEF**

[The Challenges of Climate Change: Children on the front line](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/716/#pdf), a new publication produced by the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, seeks to broaden and deepen understanding of child rights dimensions in the climate change discourse.

**Reliefweb -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/world/challenges-climate-change-children-front-line**](http://reliefweb.int/report/world/challenges-climate-change-children-front-line)

**Drug-resistant malaria reaches Southeast Asia borders, could spread to Africa**

Drug-resistant malaria parasites have spread to border regions of Southeast Asia, seriously threatening global efforts to control and eliminate the mosquito-borne disease, researchers said on 30 July. The scientists, who analysed blood samples from 1,241 malaria patients in 10 countries across Asia and Africa, found resistance to the world's most effective antimalarial drug, artemisinin, is now widespread in Southeast Asia. However, the study found no signs yet of resistance in the three African sites it covered in Kenya, Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140730205333-qqueq/?source=jt**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140730205333-qqueq/?source=jt)

**Doctor says Australia covering up mental illness in asylum-seeker children**

A former healthcare worker at Australia's immigration detention centres said on Thursday the government asked him to cover up evidence that children held in the camps were suffering from widespread mental illness caused by their confinement. Under policies aimed at stopping asylum seekers reaching Australia's mainland by boat, migrants are sent to camps in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific nation of Nauru where they face long periods of detention while they are processed. Peter Young, a doctor who previously supervised mental health services at the camps, said at a hearing held by the Australian Human Rights Commission that he was asked to remove figures from a report detailing the extent of the problem.

**REUTERS** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/uk-australia-asylum-idUKKBN0G00O020140731**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/uk-australia-asylum-idUKKBN0G00O020140731)

**CEE/CIS**

**Romania**

**Hundreds evacuated as floods wreak havoc**

One person died and three others were missing after heavy rain caused floods in southwest Romania over the past three days, forcing hundreds of villagers to flee their homes, the interior ministry said on Wednesday. Heavy rainfall broke river banks in the affected counties of Gorj, Valcea, Arges and Teleorman, about 200km west of the capital Bucharest. Interior Minister Gabriel Oprea said 400 people were rescued from 1,100 homes in the area and given temporary shelter in nearby schools and police stations or at relatives' homes. He did not give any details on the person who was killed or the three missing.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140730160700-2hn6k/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140730160700-2hn6k/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Ukraine**

**Nato 'unprepared' for Russia threat, say MPs**

Nato is poorly prepared for an attack on a member state from Russia, an influential group of MPs has warned. The Commons Defence Committee said the recent Ukraine conflict showed "serious deficiencies" in Nato's preparedness to counter threats - and "radical reform" was needed. The MPs said the risk of a conventional assault remained low - but warned over methods such as cyber-attacks and the use of irregular militias. Nato said it would study the findings.

**BBC** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28577904**](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28577904)

**Moscow fights back after sanctions; battle rages near Ukraine crash site**

Russia fought back on Wednesday over new U.S. and EU sanctions imposed over Ukraine even as G7 leaders warned of further steps, while Ukraine's government accused pro-Russian rebels of placing land mines near the site of a crashed Malaysian airliner to prevent a proper investigation. Russia announced a ban on most fruit and vegetable imports from Poland and said it could extend it to the entire European Union, a move Warsaw called Kremlin retaliation for new Western sanctions over Ukraine imposed on Russia on Tuesday.

**Reuters** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0FZ1JF20140731**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/31/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0FZ1JF20140731)

**Russia Scorns Sanctions; Ukraine Army Forges On**

The day after the European Union and the United States announced [expanded sanctions against Russia](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/30/world/europe/as-sanctions-pile-up-russians-alarm-grows-over-putin-tactics.html) over the conflict in eastern Ukraine, Moscow remained defiant, the Ukrainian Army remained on the offensive, and an international team remained unable to reach the crash site of a Malaysian jetliner. A senior Ukrainian official, Valeriy Chaly, said on Wednesday that his country welcomed the expanded sanctions, while Russian officials condemned and belittled them, saying they would prompt Russia to strengthen its economy but would just make a sour diplomatic atmosphere worse.

**New York Times** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/31/world/europe/ukraine-welcomes-sanctions-against-russia.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/31/world/europe/ukraine-welcomes-sanctions-against-russia.html)

**EAP**

**Philippines**

**Philippines to ferry workers out of Libya after beheading, rape**

The Philippines is to charter ferries to speed up the removal of 13,000 nationals from Libya, officials said Thursday a day after a Filipina nurse was abducted and gang-raped there.The foreign ministry on Thursday confirmed the sexual assault of the woman in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Wednesday.It occurred 10 days after discovery at a hospital in the port of Benghazi of the beheaded remains of a Filipino construction worker who had been abducted earlier. "We condemn these crimes that have been committed against our people," President Benigno Aquino's spokesman Herminio Coloma told reporters in Manila.

**AFP** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24599673/philippines-to-ferry-workers-out-of-libya-after-beheading-rape/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24599673/philippines-to-ferry-workers-out-of-libya-after-beheading-rape/)

**ESA**

**Kenya**

**Six million lack access to toilets, UN**

The UN has asked Parliament to adopt the Water Bill to ensure millions of Kenyans who have no access to water are provided with the commodity. The UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Ms Catarina de Albuquerque, said only 30 percent of the population has access to improved sanitation while, 13% of people still have no choice but defecate in the open. "This is a daily indignity for over six million people", she added. Ms de Albuquerque urged Parliament to adopt the Water Bill, and the Government to subsequently develop a new national water and sanitation strategy, which should be translated into real action at the county level.

**Daily Nation -** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/news/Six-million-Kenyans-lack-access-to-toilets-UN/-/1056/2402950/-/11dxsdh/-/index.html**](http://www.nation.co.ke/news/Six-million-Kenyans-lack-access-to-toilets-UN/-/1056/2402950/-/11dxsdh/-/index.html)

**Somalia**

**Woman killed for not wearing veil, relatives say**

Al-Shebaab have shot dead a Muslim woman for refusing to wear a veil, her relatives say. Ruqiya Farah Yarow was killed outside her hut near the southern Somali town of Hosingow by gunmen belonging to the al-Shebaab group, they say. The militants had ordered her to put on a veil, and then killed her after returning and finding she was still not wearing one, the relatives said. An al-Shebaab spokesman denied the group had killed the woman. Al-Shebaab does not fully control the area where she was living, he added.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28564984**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28564984)

**South Sudan**

**AU to assess situation of children**

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) will conduct a one-week visit to South Sudan to assess the situation of children affected by the country’s ongoing conflict. The visit from 3 to 9 August is reportedly part of ACERWC’s mandate to promote and protect the rights of children pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child (ACRWC). An assessment of the impact of the conflict on children will also be conducted in Juba, Bor and Bentiu towns. “The main objective of this mission is to advocate for improved protection and response to children affected by the armed conflict in South Sudan,” the AU said in a statement.

**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51851**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51851)

**Warring parties ready for another round of talks**

New peace talks between South Sudan's warring parties have been delayed by at least a day, as the two sides prepare for another round of negotiations. Hopes for a lasting peace are pinned to the process, which has repeatedly failed to end the seven-month conflict. The talks between South Sudan's government and the rebel opposition were scheduled to resume Wednesday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. South Sudan government spokesman Michael Makuei Lueth says negotiators, just getting back to work after the Eid holiday break, needed more time to prepare for the talks.  But he says they do expect to have a team ready in the coming days.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-parties-ready-for-another-round-of-talks/1968047.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/south-sudan-parties-ready-for-another-round-of-talks/1968047.html)

**Uganda**

**Activists launch court bid to overturn anti-gay law**

Ugandan activists launched a petition Wednesday at the constitutional court seeking to overturn tough anti-gay laws that have been condemned by rights groups as draconian. Signed by Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni in February, the law calls for homosexuals to be jailed for life, outlaws the promotion of homosexuality and obliges Ugandans to denounce gays to the authorities. But the activists argue that the law was passed in parliament without the necessary quorum of lawmakers. The 10 petitioners -- including two Ugandan rights organisations -- also claim that the law violates the constitutional right to privacy and dignity, as well as the right to be free from discrimination, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/uganda-activists-launch-court-bid-overturn-anti-gay-140653737.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/uganda-activists-launch-court-bid-overturn-anti-gay-140653737.html)

**LAC**

**Argentina**

**Argentina debt crisis: Talks collapse, staggering economy slips into default**

The collapse of talks with U.S. creditors sent Argentina into its second debt default in 13 years and raised questions about what comes next for financial markets and the South American nation's staggering economy.

A midnight Wednesday deadline to reach a deal with holdout bondholders came and went with Argentine Economy Minister Axel Kicillof holding firm to his government's position that it could not accept a deal with U.S. hedge fund creditors it dismisses as "vultures."

Kicillof said the funds refused a compromise offer in talks that ended several hours earlier, although he gave no details of that proposal.

"We're not going to sign an agreement that jeopardizes the future of all Argentines," Kicillof said after he emerged from the meeting with creditors and a mediator in New York City. "Argentines can remain calm because tomorrow will just be another day and the world will keep on spinning."

**CBC** [**http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/argentina-debt-crisis-talks-collapse-staggering-economy-slips-into-default-1.2723440**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/argentina-debt-crisis-talks-collapse-staggering-economy-slips-into-default-1.2723440)

**Colombia**

**Rights group denounces rebel abuses**

A leading human rights group Wednesday accused FARC of widespread rights abuses in a Colombian port city whose residents are predominantly of African descent. Human Rights Watch said the abuses by FARC included 12 assassinations, kidnappings, disappearances, torture, forced recruitment, planting landmines, extortion and death threats in and around the southwestern city of Tumaco. "FARC abuses are devastating Tumaco's Afro-Colombian communities," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, HRW's Americas director. "The FARC has a tight grip over the lives of many Tumaco residents, who are forced to keep silent as the guerrillas plant their fields with landmines, drive them from their homes, and kill their neighbors and loved ones with impunity," he said. An investigation by HRW between May and June documented rights violations against more than 70 people in Tumaco in 2013-14.

**AFP -** [**http://english.irib.ir/news/world/latin-america/item/192994-rights-group-denounces-rebel-abuses-in-colombia**](http://english.irib.ir/news/world/latin-america/item/192994-rights-group-denounces-rebel-abuses-in-colombia)

**President says "demented" FARC attacks could end peace talks**

Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos warned on Tuesday that continuing attacks perpetrated by leftist FARC guerrillas, many of which target infrastructure, could bring an end to peace negotiations with the government. The threat was made weeks after Santos' successful re-election campaign, which made much of agreements he had reached with the rebels on more than half the agenda for peace talks that he initiated in late 2012 to end a half-century of war. He referred to infrastructure attacks, including a major one this week on an electricity pylon that cut power to Buenaventura, with more than a quarter of a million people the largest city on Colombia's Pacific coast .

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140730035258-huwmb/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140730035258-huwmb/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Venezuela**

**US imposes travel ban on Venezuelan officials**

Officials did not specify how many people would be affected, but said those "who have been responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses" would not be "welcome" in the US.

The Venezuelan opposition has been lobbying for sanctions since thousands of protesters were detained during anti-government protests. At least 43 people were killed in the protests.

The victims were from both sides of the political divide.

Relations between the US and Venezuela took a turn for the worse on Sunday when the former head of Venezuelan military intelligence, Gen Hugo Carvajal, was released from custody in the Caribbean and given a hero's welcome in Caracas.

**BBC** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28569936**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28569936)

**US bars some officials from US travel**

Amid escalating tensions with socialist Venezuela, the US State Department on Wednesday announced sanctions against officials it said committed human rights abuses during a crackdown on anti-government protests. The department is imposing a travel ban on a list of unnamed Venezuelan officials, jumping ahead of Congress, which has been pondering a similar move since the height of the protests in March. The visa restrictions, the strongest action yet against the South American country, "underscores our commitment to holding accountable individuals who commit human rights abuses" deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/us-bars-venezuela-officials-us-travel-24770614**](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/us-bars-venezuela-officials-us-travel-24770614)

**MENA**

**Across MENA**

**Thousands flee to Tunisia to escape Libya fighting**

Up to 6,000 people a day have fled Libya into neighboring Tunisia this week, the Tunisian foreign minister said Wednesday, the biggest influx since Libya's 2011 civil war in a sign of the spiraling turmoil as rival militias battle over control of the airport in the capital Tripoli. The weeks-long fighting is the worst violence seen in the Libyan capital since the war. Nearly 100 people have been killed, 400 others wounded, and much of the airport has been destroyed. A giant fire has been raging the past three days after shelling hit airport oil depots, forcing nearby residents to evacuate, with firefighters largely unable to put it down because of clashes. Many diplomats, including the U.S. ambassador, have pulled out of the country. With the interim government paralyzed, the fighting threatens the planned opening session of the newly elected parliament on Aug. 4.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamist-leader-backs-fight-libya-airport-24771705**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamist-leader-backs-fight-libya-airport-24771705)

**Iraq**

**Hezbollah commander killed during mission in Iraq**

A Hezbollah commander has died during a mission in Iraq, sources familiar with the incident said on Wednesday, indicating that the Lebanese group that is already fighting in Syria's civil war may be involved in a second conflict in the region.Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Shi'ite Islamist group, has not previously announced any role in the conflict in Iraq, which escalated last month when radical Sunni militants seized large areas of territory from the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad. Four sources in Lebanon named the Hezbollah commander as Ibrahim al-Haj, a technical specialist involved in training. They said he was "martyred" in a battle near Mosul, a city in northern Iraq seized from government control last month by an al Qaeda offshoot known as the Islamic State.

**Reuters** [**http://www.firstpost.com/world/hezbollah-commander-killed-mission-iraq-1642559.html**](http://www.firstpost.com/world/hezbollah-commander-killed-mission-iraq-1642559.html)

**Libya**

**Temporary ceasefire in Tripoli, 75 bodies found in Benghazi**

Rival Libyan militias fighting for control of Tripoli's airport agreed to a temporary ceasefire on Wednesday to allow firefighters to try to control a huge blaze at a fuel depot hit by a rocket. Meanwhile in Libya's second city, Benghazi, at least 75 bodies, mostly soldiers, were found after two days of fighting in which Islamist fighters and allied militiamen overran an army base.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0FZ1IN20140730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0FZ1IN20140730)

**State of Palestine/ Israel**

**Gaza conflict: Israel 'to destroy' Hamas tunnels – Netanyahu**

Israel will not stop its operation in Gaza until all the tunnels constructed by Hamas have been destroyed, PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said. Speaking ahead of a cabinet meeting, he said Israel was determined to destroy the tunnels - used to attack troops and towns - "with or without a ceasefire". Earlier Israel called up 16,000 reservists, bringing the total mobilised so far to 86,000. Some 425,000 people in Gaza have been displaced by fighting, the UN says. The [UN says it is sheltering 225,178](https://twitter.com/ChrisGunness/status/494757785280589824) Palestinians in 86 shelters across Gaza, with 200,000 more thought to be sheltering with friends or family. The total number displaced amounts to 25% of all of Gaza's 1.7 million inhabitants.

**BBC** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28582853**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28582853)

**Gaza toll his 1,374 on day 24 of conflict**

At least 10 people were killed in Israeli strikes on central and southern Gaza on Thursday, bringing the Palestinian death toll to 1,374 on day 24 of the conflict. Another three people, including a local journalist, died of injuries sustained in earlier attacks, emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said. Six people were killed in two separate raids on the southern city of Khan Yunis, including a woman, while two more people died in a strike on Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. Another two people, including a woman, were killed in two separate incidents in the southern city of Rafah. In a separate incident, 15 Palestinians sheltering in a UN school in Jabaliya **refugee** camp in the north were injured in an air strike on a neighbouring mosque. Two were in a serious condition. The raid came a day after two tank shells slammed into the school, killing 16 people in an attack denounced as "reprehensible" by UN chief Ban Ki-moon. So far, 1,374 people have been killed and more than 6,800 wounded since the start of the Israeli offensive, which began with an intensive air campaign on July 8 and expanded when Israel sent ground troops into the Gaza periphery on July 17.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gaza-toll-his-1-374-on-day-24-of-conflict\_951530.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/gaza-toll-his-1-374-on-day-24-of-conflict_951530.html)

**Israel Calls Reservists as UN Condemns Shelter Attack**

Israel called up an additional 16,000 reservists, a day after Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon said the army was ready push further into the Gaza Strip. The move came as rockets fired from Gaza struck southern Israel early today, adding to the more than 140 launched in the past 24 hours, the army said. Israel carried out 110 strikes in the same time. President Barack Obama and United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon are among world leaders calling for an immediate end of hostilities. The army says its operation is intended to destroy the rockets fired by Hamas militants at Israel, and the tunnels used for smuggling and raids. The third major showdown in Gaza in less than six years has become the bloodiest, and there’s little sign of agreement on terms of a cease-fire. Israel says that would require Gaza to be disarmed, while Hamas, the militant group that rules the territory, seeks an end to the Israeli blockade in force since 2006.

**Bloomberg News** <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-07-30/shelling-of-un-gaza-shelter-kills-20-as-fighting-worsens>

**Gaza crisis: Families grieve UN school dead**

The UN claims that Israel attacked a UN-run school housing refugees in Gaza, despite warnings that civilians were there. Fifteen people were killed and dozens hurt in the incident. The Israeli military said an initial inquiry suggested soldiers responded to mortar fire. More than 1,300 Palestinians and 58 Israelis have now died in the conflict. Most of the Palestinian deaths have been civilians.

**BBC-** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28573314**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28573314)

**Gaza conflict: 'Israeli market strike kills 15'**

An Israeli strike on a market near Gaza city has left at least 15 people dead and 160 injured, Palestinian officials say.The BBC's Martin Patience reports that though the attack came during a partial ceasefire, most people in Gaza were not aware which parts of the city were safe. Rocket fire from Gaza into Israel also continued during the temporary truce. More than 1,300 Palestinians and 58 Israelis have now died in the conflict.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28573306**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28573306)

**Israel-Gaza conflict: UN accuses Israel of possible war crime after shelling of Gaza schools kills 19**

Faiza Al-Tanboura had not spoken for 21 days since a missile strike destroyed her home. In the early hours of this morning she found her voice: “The children. Don't let them kill the children,” she shouted as she ran out into the playground of a UN school under Israeli tank fire. Today's attack on the Jabaliya Elementary Girls School has been described as a possible war crime by the UN. The Israeli authorities, it said, had been told no less than 17 times that it was full of refugees, the last warning message delivered on 8.50 on Tuesday evening. But, seven and half hours later, a series of shells smashed into the building, destroying two of the classrooms, killing 19 and injuring more than a hundred others. Pierre Krahenbuhl, the commissioner for UN agency for Palestinian refugees, described the killings as “a source of universal shame”. Investigations clearly showed, he maintained, that Israeli fire was to blame, condemning “in the strongest possible terms this serious violation of international law by Israeli forces.”

**The Independent -** [**http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israelgaza-conflict-un-accuses-israel-of-possible-war-crime-after-shelling-of-one-of-its-schools-kills-19-9638765.html**](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israelgaza-conflict-un-accuses-israel-of-possible-war-crime-after-shelling-of-one-of-its-schools-kills-19-9638765.html)

**UN officials urge end of fighting in Gaza following attacks on UN school**

A top UN official called on Wednesday for the ending of fighting in Gaza after a second UN school was hit by Israeli airstrike that killed at least 16 people earlier in the day. "Enough is enough ... Stop this horrible fighting and start talking about issues," said UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said on Wednesday. (…) Anthony Lake, executive director of the UN Children's Agency (**UNICEF**) said, "For 23 days, too many children in Gaza have lived with fear and desperation. Water taps have run dry and raw sewage is running in the streets, while health workers try to save lives with little electricity and insufficient medicines."What hope is there for these children -- and their societies -- if adults no longer live up to their responsibility to protect them?" he asked. "What are these children learning about how to behave when they are adults?"

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-07/31/c\_126816374.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-07/31/c_126816374.htm)

**Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos Statement on the Occupied Palestinian**

“Humanitarian organizations in Gaza are trying to help people in desperate and dangerous circumstances. People need food, water, medical care, safe shelter and other vital assistance. More families are being displaced every day and there are currently over 250,000 confirmed displaced people, 200,000 people in UNRWA shelters alone, in need of aid. This is over 10 per cent of the overall population of Gaza. Our capacity is stretched to the limit. World Food Programme is providing emergency food assistance to 204,000 people in addition to the regular food programmes and shortages of basic supplies have been reported in local markets. Given the deteriorating humanitarian situation, people’s needs will continue to grow. The harrowing pictures we see every day are a reminder to us all of the terrifying ordeal being suffered by children and families in Gaza.”

**Reliefweb** - [**http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-0**](http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-0)

**Israel 'deeply disappointed' by LatAm Envoy recalls**

Israel expressed "deep disappointment" Wednesday after Chile, El Salvador and Peru recalled their ambassadors over its military campaign in Gaza, saying they are encouraging Hamas in its attacks on the Jewish state. On Tuesday, El Salvador's foreign ministry recalled its envoy for urgent consultations, speaking of what it called "indiscriminate" Israeli bombing of Gaza. The same day, Chile ordered its ambassador home in response to what it said was a "new outbreak of Israeli military operations" and condemned what it called the "collective punishment" of Palestinians in Gaza. And Peru did the same, saying it "deeply regretted" Israel's "interruption of a ceasefire with new military operations against Gaza" while also criticizing rocket fire from Gaza into Israel. Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said in a statement that these moves constitute "encouragement for Hamas, a group recognized as a terror organisation by many countries around the world.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141152-israel-deeply-disappointed-by-latam-envoy-recalls**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/141152-israel-deeply-disappointed-by-latam-envoy-recalls)

**Syria**

**Government using barrel bombs in defiance of UN - HRW**

The Syrian government is still indiscriminately bombing civilians with explosives-filled barrels in defiance of a UNSC resolution, a Human Rights Watch said. HRW's statement came as the Security Council is expected to meet later in the day for a fifth round of reporting on the resolution. HRW has documented over 650 strikes on rebel-held neighborhoods in the northern city of Aleppo since the resolution's adoption. It noted in the report that opposition fighters also carry out indiscriminate attacks, including mortar strikes and car bombings.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/hrw-syria-using-barrel-bombs-defiance-un-103157149.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/hrw-syria-using-barrel-bombs-defiance-un-103157149.html)

**US unveils $378 mn in new humanitarian aid**

The US on Wednesday unveiled $378 million in new humanitarian aid for the Syrian people, denouncing "appalling 'starve or surrender' tactics" by the regime of President al-Assad. "The regime is asphyxiating half a million Syrians in Aleppo by obstructing deliveries of food, water, and medicine," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement. The regime was "dropping dozens of barrel bombs a day on the city and surrounding suburbs," he said. "The world must act quickly and decisively to get life-saving assistance to the innocent civilians who are bearing the brunt of this barbaric war," the top US diplomat added. The new aid brings the US total released for Syria since the start of the war three years ago to $2.4 billion, and Kerry insisted that it was "having an impact on the ground -- right now."

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140730/us-unveils-378-mn-new-humanitarian-aid-syria-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140730/us-unveils-378-mn-new-humanitarian-aid-syria-0)

**Yemen**

**Army breaks up protests as Yemen raises fuel prices**

One woman was killed in protests that erupted in Sanaa on Wednesday after the Yemeni government announced a rise in fuel prices.

Witnesses and a medical source told Reuters the protester was killed as the army fired into the air in an attempt to break up a demonstration near the presidential palace. A security source later confirmed the death to the state news agency and said another protester was injured.

The government increased fuel prices after spending about $3 billion on energy subsidies last year, nearly a third of state revenue.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/uk-yemen-budget-subsidies-idUKKBN0FZ1F020140730**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/uk-yemen-budget-subsidies-idUKKBN0FZ1F020140730)

**ROSA**

**India**

**21 Killed, Dozens Feared Trapped in India Landslide**

Rescue workers in western India dug through mud in a search for survivors of a landslide that killed at least 21 people. Officials fear more than 100 people are missing after the landslide Wednesday flattened Malin village, 60 kilometers from the city of Pune in Maharashtra state. Heavy rains and poor communication in the remote region hindered rescue efforts by emergency teams. A man headed to see family in the remote town of Ambegaon found a disaster site.

"I had come to visit my relatives. I often come here. When I came I discovered that the entire village has been destroyed," Ranadeep Gokhale said.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1968627.html**](http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1968627.html)

**WCA**

**Cameroon**

**Cameroon army officers sacked after Boko Haram attacks**

Cameroon's President Paul Biya has sacked two senior army officers at the forefront of the battle against militant Islamist group Boko Haram. State radio did not give reasons for the dismissal of Col Youssa Gedeon and Lt-Col Justin Ngonga. The decision probably reflects Mr Biya's growing concern about the Boko Haram threat, correspondents say. On Sunday, the deputy prime minister's wife was abducted by suspected militants. She was abducted in the northern town of Kolofata, along with her maid, a religious leader and the local mayor.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28563715**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28563715)

**CAR**

**Thousands of children are starving**

UN predicts nearly 110,000 children will suffer from malnutrition this year despite end of sectarian fighting. After two years of war between the majority-Muslim Seleka and Christian armed groups, many are left in a country so ravaged, there is not enough food to survive. The warring groups have only recently signed a peace deal.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2014/07/thousands-car-children-are-starving-2014730124530154518.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2014/07/thousands-car-children-are-starving-2014730124530154518.html)

**Liberia**

**Liberia takes steps to contain west African Ebola outbreak**

Liberia plans to shut down schools and many markets, place all non-essential public servants on leave and quarantine several communities in the most stringent bid yet to curb an [Ebola](http://www.theguardian.com/society/ebola) epidemic that has raged for seven months across three west African nations. A Liberian civil servant who last week died after flying to Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation, brought the total number of countries hit by the deadly and contagious pathogen to four.

**The Guardian** [**http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/30/ebola-liberia-outbreak-contain**](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/30/ebola-liberia-outbreak-contain)

**Suspected Ebola cases sent home as isolation unit fills up**

An isolation unit for Ebola victims in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is overrun with cases and health workers are being forced to treat up to 20 new patients in their homes, government officials said on Wednesday. Protests by the local community against the construction of a new isolation unit at Elwa Hospital have ended, said Tolbert Nyenswah, an assistant minister of health, but patients with Ebola symptoms will have to wait at home until work is finished. "The staff here are overwhelmed. This is a humanitarian crisis in Liberia," Nyenswah told Reuters by telephone. "People are being given care at their homes until we can move them to the new unit."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140730164335-wj26h/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140730164335-wj26h/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Authorities shuts schools, quarantines communities in bid to halt Ebola**

Liberia announced on Wednesday the quarantine of a number of communities and the closure of schools across the country, the toughest measures yet imposed by a West African government in a bid to halt the worst Ebola outbreak on record. Security forces in Liberia were ordered to enforce the measures, part of an action plan that included placing all non-essential government workers on 30-day compulsory leave.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/health-ebola-africa-idUSL6N0Q56DX20140730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/30/health-ebola-africa-idUSL6N0Q56DX20140730)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria finds 10-year-old girl with bomb strapped to her**

Nigerian forces have arrested two Boko Haram suspects who were travelling with a 10-year-old girl with explosives strapped to her, the government said on Wednesday. Government spokesman Mike Omeri said the suspects had been intercepted in a Honda CRV car travelling along a road in the north's Katsina state.

**Reuters - http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0G00HQ20140731**

**Fourth female suicide bomber hits Kano, kills six**

A female suicide bomber blew herself up in a college in northern Nigeria's biggest city of Kano on Wednesday, killing six people and critically wounding another six in the fourth such attack by a woman in Kano in less than a week, a security source said. The bomber targeted youths who were looking at a notice board for national youth service in Kano Polytechnic, the source said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Using female suicide bombers in the city appears to be a new tactic of Boko Haram, although they have used them on occasion for years in the northeast. Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up at a trade show and a petrol station in Kano on Monday, killing one other person and injuring at least six others. On Sunday, a female suicide bomber killed herself but no one else while trying to target police officers.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/07/30/Witnesses-Suicide-blast-rocks-college-campus-in-Nigeria-s-Kano.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/07/30/Witnesses-Suicide-blast-rocks-college-campus-in-Nigeria-s-Kano.html)

**Sierra Leone**

**Sierra Leone president declares public health emergency over Ebola**

Sierra Leone has declared a public health emergency to tackle the worst ever outbreak of Ebola and will call in security forces to quarantine epicentres of the deadly virus, President Ernest Bai Koroma said in a statement. The measures resembled a tough anti-Ebola package announced by neighbouring Liberia on Wednesday evening. Koroma also announced he was cancelling a visit to Washington for a U.S.-Africa summit next week because of the crisis. Highly infectious Ebola has been blamed for 672 deaths in the West Africa nations of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, according to the World Health Organization.

**REUTERS** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0G00R820140731**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0G00R820140731)

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