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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**This year may be hottest on record; adds urgency to climate talks - WMO**

This year is on track to be the hottest on record, or at least among the very warmest, the United Nations said on Wednesday in new evidence of long-term warming that adds urgency to 190-nation talks under way in Lima on slowing climate change. Including this year, 14 of the 15 most sweltering years on record will have been in the 21st century, the U.N.'s WMO said of the findings presented during the Dec. 1-12 climate negotiations in Peru. "There is no standstill in global warming," WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said in a statement. "What is particularly unusual and alarming this year are the high temperatures of vast areas of the ocean surface."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141203173500-icmgx/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141203173500-icmgx/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Ending violence against women calls for legally binding global standard**

A top UN expert on violence against women on Wednesday called for a binding international legal standard that holds Member States accountable in fighting widespread human rights violation against women. "With global estimates reaching epidemic proportions, it is deplorable that combatting violence against women has not yet attracted the same level of focus, commitment and resources as non- gendered crimes," Rashida Manjoo, the UN special rapporteur on violence against women, said in a statement, which came as part of an international campaign to end violence against women.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-12/04/c\_127274835.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-12/04/c_127274835.htm)

**Landmine casualties fell by 25% over last year to 15-year low**

Fewer people were killed or wounded by landmines over the past year than at any time since record-keeping began in 1999, and production of the weapons has almost stopped, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines said in a new report on 3 December. The drop in casualties caused by landmines, victim-activated explosive devices and unexploded weapons left behind after war came despite the spread of conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe over the past year. The report said the new use of anti-personnel landmines by government troops had been confirmed in Syria and Myanmar between September 2013 and October 2014 as well as military forces in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

**LMCMM -** [**http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/LM/Our-Research-Products/Landmine-Monitor/LMM2014/LMM14-Major-Findings-English**](http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/LM/Our-Research-Products/Landmine-Monitor/LMM2014/LMM14-Major-Findings-English)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia says 'gross violations' in Moldova election**

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on 3 December there had been "gross violations" of election rules during the campaign for the 30 November parliamentary election in Moldova and on voting day. International monitors said the election had been well-run but criticized a last-minute decision to exclude the party of a Russian businessman from the race on the grounds that it had been funded from abroad. Three pro-European parties look likely to form a new ruling coalition after the vote even though Moldova's Socialist Party, which favors joining a Russia-led economic bloc rather than moving toward the European Union, won the most votes. The ministry said the results showed many Moldovans want deeper ties with Moscow, which supports close ties with Transdniestria, a pro-Russian breakaway region in Moldova.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-moldova-election-russia-idUSKCN0JH1BP20141203**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-moldova-election-russia-idUSKCN0JH1BP20141203)

**Fleeing war and crumbling economy, Ukrainians flock to Europe**

More than 4,300 combatants and civilians have been killed in eastern Ukraine since pro-Russian rebels seized border regions in April. Nearly a million people have fled the area, with a surge in the past two months. Most have fled to other areas of Ukraine but some have gone further afield, with thousands seeking a new life in Russia and, increasingly, Europe. According to several legal and illegal migrants who spoke, many are coming via gangs in Poland, the Baltics and Ukraine that offer fake or doctored EU documents for several thousand dollars, plus the option of transport to Western Europe where spot document checks are extremely rare. The nature of illegal immigration means it yields little data but legal flows show Ukrainians were the biggest single group of non-EU citizens granted residency permits by EU members in 2013.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-europe-demographics-migrants-idUSKCN0JI0KY20141204**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-europe-demographics-migrants-idUSKCN0JI0KY20141204)

**Turkey**

**Turkey 'guilty of religious discrimination'**

Turkey has been discriminating against its Alevi Muslim religious minority by failing to recognise their places of worship and pay the electricity bill of their premises, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled. Turkey was taken to the top human rights court in 2010 by the Republican Education and Cultural Center Foundation, an Alevi organisation also known as Cem Foundation. The group objected to the state practice of not paying the electricity bills for an Istanbul cemevi - where Alevis hold rituals - while doing so for mosques, churches and synagogues.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/turkey-guilty-religious-discrimination-2014123105736700367.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/turkey-guilty-religious-discrimination-2014123105736700367.html)

**Ukraine**

**At least 70 rebel attacks in the east**

The Ukraine military reported on 4 December more than 70 rebel attacks on its positions in the past 24 hours. The attacks took place across several parts of the frontline in eastern Ukraine, a military spokesman said, including in Lugansk and the airport in Donetsk, where the two sides have this week tried to put ceasefires in place. The claims could not be independently verified, but a reporter in Donetsk city said there had been heavy fire, including the use of Grad rockets, throughout the night.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/70-rebel-attacks-in-east/1510030.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/70-rebel-attacks-in-east/1510030.html)

EAP

**Philippines**

**Super Typhoon Hagupit gets stronger as it moves closer**

A powerful typhoon has intensified as it heads towards the Philippines, threatening the same areas devastated by super typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the weather bureau said on 4 December. Typhoon Hagupit was packing maximum winds of 195 kilometres per hour (kph) and gusts of up to 230 kph as it moved closer to the country's east coast at a speed of 20 kph, the bureau said. The 18th typhoon to hit the Philippines this year was expected to make landfall in the Eastern Visayas region on 6 December and sweep through the central provinces before exiting on 8 December. The areas being threatened by Hagupit are the same communities still recovering from the destruction caused by Haiyan in November 2013. Hagupit, which has a diameter of 700 kilometres, would affect more than 40 provinces in the Philippines and could trigger storm surges of up to 4 metres, weather forecasters said. Local authorities have started to move residents in coastal communities in the storm's expected path, according to the head of the national disaster risk management agency.

**DPA -** [**http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Typhoon-Hagupit-gets-stronger-as-it-moves-closer-t-30249124.html**](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Typhoon-Hagupit-gets-stronger-as-it-moves-closer-t-30249124.html)

ESA

**Kenya**

**ICC issues deadline on Kenyatta's trial**

The International Criminal Court has given prosecutors a week to decide whether to proceed with their case against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for crimes against humanity or to withdraw the charges.

Prosecutors say Kenyatta, accused of orchestrating a wave of deadly violence after Kenya's 2007 elections, has used his political power to obstruct their investigation, especially since becoming president last year. They had asked for the case to be suspended until they had enough evidence to proceed.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/12/icc-issues-deadline-kenyatta-trial-201412317214391140.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/12/icc-issues-deadline-kenyatta-trial-201412317214391140.html)

**Somalia**

**Shabaab assassinate ex-lawmaker, wound another**

Al-Shabaab insurgents said they had assassinated a former lawmaker and his bodyguard and wounded another MP in a drive-by shooting in Mogadishu on 4 December to show the government they remained a threat. Gunmen in a moving car opened fire as the lawmaker drove through the centre of the city, before racing off, witnesses said. "The government say they have eradicated the Shabaab from Mogadishu, but this is to show that we are here and active," a Shabaab spokesperson reported. At least five lawmakers have been killed in Mogadishu this year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/somalia-s-shebab-assassinate-ex-lawmaker-wound-another-114120400634\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/somalia-s-shebab-assassinate-ex-lawmaker-wound-another-114120400634_1.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**FARC and government resume peace talks**

The FARC guerrillas and the Colombian government agreed Wednesday to resume peace talks that stalled over the kidnap of an army general, vowing to "de-escalate" the 50-year conflict. The next round of talks will take place in Cuba from December 10 to 17, the two sides said in a joint statement read out by Cuban diplomat Jose Luis Ponce after two days of closed-door meetings in Havana to get the talks back on track. "We consider the crisis overcome," said the statement. The new talks will aim to "make progress on the issue of de-escalating the conflict."

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141203-farc-colombian-government-resume-peace-talks/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141203-farc-colombian-government-resume-peace-talks/)

**Venezuela**

**Opposition leader charged over 'plot' to kill president**

Venezuelan prosecutors charged a prominent opposition leader with conspiracy in relation to an alleged plot to assassinate the President. Maria Corina Machado, a vocal supporter of anti-government protests that rocked the country earlier this year, vehemently rejected the charge as she left the attorney general's office after questioning. Under Venezuelan law she faces eight to 16 years in prison if convicted. The attorney general's office said in a statement she had been charged with "conspiracy" for "allegedly having links to the assassination plan against the president."

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/25688512/venezuela-opposition-leader-charged-over-plot-to-kill-president/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/25688512/venezuela-opposition-leader-charged-over-plot-to-kill-president/)

MENA

**Egypt**

**'Ultras' fuel Egypt's campus protests**

Protests continued on [university campuses](ttp://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/egypt-students-protest-over-mubarak-verdict-20141129185712774558.htm) across Egypt following the court verdict that cleared ousted President Hosni Mubarak of charges of killing protesters during the January 25 uprising. The protesters comprise a broad mix of Islamists, liberals, leftists, independents and other non-affiliated students. The scale of protests prompted state-owned news website Al-Ahram to describe it as Egypt witnessing ["a university uprising".](http://www.madamasr.com/news/nationwide-student-protests-demonstrate-against-mubarak-verdict) But it was one group of activists that has given a sharper edge to many of the ongoing protests on university campuses across Egypt since the new academic year began on October 11: Ultras Nahdawy.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/fuel-egypt-campus-protests-201412385231554131.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/fuel-egypt-campus-protests-201412385231554131.html)

**Iraq**

**Bomb near Baghdad's Green Zone kills two people**

A bomb killed two people on 4 December near Baghdad's Green Zone, the central district which houses most government buildings, security and medical sources said. The bomb struck 200 meters from the edge of zone, they said. In response, security forces closed two nearby bridges that span the Tigris river, linking eastern and western Baghdad.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKCN0JI0TP20141204**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKCN0JI0TP20141204)

**Libya**

**Airstrikes hit Zuwara port**

Libya's official news agency says warplanes have struck the port of Zuwara, a day after similar strikes killed eight people. LANA reports that Zuwara port was bombed on 3 December. The airstrikes were carried out by the country's internationally recognized government, which has been meeting in eastern Libya since Islamist-led militias took control of the capital and formed their own government. The strikes come as a UN mission in Libya attempts to promote political dialogue among the country's rival factions and bring peace to the tumultuous country.

**AP -** [**http://bigstory.ap.org/article/6834f317d4cd44e095961f3552f95ae0/airstrikes-hit-western-libyan-port**](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/6834f317d4cd44e095961f3552f95ae0/airstrikes-hit-western-libyan-port)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Teenager shot after stabbing two Israelis**

A Palestinian teenager has been shot and injured by an Israeli off-duty security guard, after he entered a supermarket in the occupied West Bank and stabbed two Israeli civilians, police said. Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said a 16-year-old Palestinian entered the supermarket in the settlement of Maaleh Adumim, east of Jerusalem, and stabbed two Israeli shoppers.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/three-injured-west-bank-supermarket-attack-201412315015813216.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/three-injured-west-bank-supermarket-attack-201412315015813216.html)

**Syria**

**Destruction of chemical facilities hit by delays**

Syria on Tuesday blamed delays in the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons production facilities on technical problems, including the delivery of explosives, and denied it was being uncooperative. Syria had said last month that work on the destruction of the 12 hangars and tunnels would begin in November, but the Syrian company chosen to conduct the operation pulled out. Two other Syrian companies were picked but the firm tasked with destroying five tunnels is waiting for deliveries of explosives and equipment, said Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Jaafari.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141203-destruction-syria-chemical-facilities-hit-delays/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141203-destruction-syria-chemical-facilities-hit-delays/)

**Yemen**

**Students rally against rebels on campus**

Dozens of Yemeni students rallied in the capital’s main university to protest against the presence of armed rebels on their campus. Students from different colleges gathered on Thursday in front of the gate of Sanaa University and marched around a number of colleges, holding placards and banners that read "No to Armed Militias”, and "the university is not a place for guns". The organisers of the protests called for "the swift withdrawal of Houthi rebels from campus, ending the military presence and preserving the civil nature of the university," according to a statement quoted by the Anadulu news agency.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/yemen-students-rally-against-rebels-campus-2014124133614363594.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/12/yemen-students-rally-against-rebels-campus-2014124133614363594.html)

SA

**Pakistan**

**One person dead, 13 injured in Quetta blast**

A bomb in southwest Pakistan on 4 December killed at least one person and wounded eight others, including two schoolchildren, officials said. The blast on the outskirts of Quetta, Baluchistan province, came during the morning rush hour. "A man riding a bicycle was killed in the explosion on the Sirki road, as eight others including two schoolchildren aged 10-12 years, were injured in the incident," the home secretary of the province reported. "The school van these children were boarding also damaged." He said that the target of the bomb, which was planted in a car, was not immediately clear but security forces patrol in the area. No security official was hurt in the explosion.

**GEO -** [**http://www.geo.tv/article-167639-One-dead-13-injured-in-Quetta-blast**](http://www.geo.tv/article-167639-One-dead-13-injured-in-Quetta-blast)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Five million children out of school due to Ebola - UNICEF mention**

Some five million children are out of school in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone because of the deadly Ebola outbreak, according to a report by the Global Business Coalition for Education. Schools and other public buildings have been closed because they are believed to increase the spread of the virus. Many are now used as holding centres for Ebola patients. If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty with devastating consequences for their health and economic development, the report said. Last month, the government in Sierra Leone pioneered a new approach to teaching children out of school via the radio, Sierra Leone's Minister for Information reported. Liberia has introduced similar measures, according to UNICEF.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141203173030-fmmlh/?source=dpagetopic**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141203173030-fmmlh/?source=dpagetopic)

**CAR**

**Ex-rebels attack officials**

Fighters from ex-Seleka in CAR are attacking government officials trying to re-exert control over the country's north. The Seleka rebels are largely confined to their bases, but some are retrenching in the north. The government spokesperson said on 3 December that the former rebels have attacked officials this week who were taking up their posts, as part of an effort to extend the government's control throughout the country. Three officials were seriously wounded by gunshots.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/central-african-rebels-attack-officials-27340541**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/central-african-rebels-attack-officials-27340541)

**DR Congo**

**Great Lakes envoys outraged by spate of massacres in the east**

A team of United Nations, African Union and other Special Envoys on the Great Lakes region have said they are "deeply outraged" by the recent spate of civilian massacres that have taken place in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and have called on the Government to "engage in robust military action' against all armed groups operating there. The Envoys also called for similar action against all the other armed groups in the region, chief among them the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which have been under international pressure to dismantle by 2 January or face military action.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201412030825.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201412030825.html)

**Mali**

**UN mission establishes new military zone**

The UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on 3 December established a new military zone in Kidal, a little over 24 hours after an attack that left three Chadian soldiers injured, UN sources disclosed. The new zone called "Northern Sector" covers the localities of Tessalit, in Ifoghas, Aguelhoc Adrar, 160 km from the Algerian-Mali border and the city of Kidal which was chosen to be its headquarters. The new base will have 2,000 peacekeepers and thirty people in its staff. It will work to improve the security situation in Kidal but also contribute, in the medium-term to the Malian development efforts in the north of the country, the mission noted.

**APA -** [**http://en.starafrica.com/news/un-mission-establishes-new-military-zone-in-mali.html**](http://en.starafrica.com/news/un-mission-establishes-new-military-zone-in-mali.html)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram raid two northeast towns**

Suspected Boko Haram gunmen on 4 December stormed two towns in northeast Nigeria, raiding banks and burning government buildings as well as political party offices, residents reported. Scores of gunmen dressed in military uniform arrived in Bajoga, 60 kilometres from Gombe city in a convoy of 20 vehicles at about 7:00 am. Troops managed to push the attackers out and they then drove towards the town of Ashaka five kilometres away near the border with Yobe state to the northeast.

**AFP -** [**https://uk.news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-raid-two-northeast-nigeria-towns-115336062.html#lopcaau**](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-raid-two-northeast-nigeria-towns-115336062.html#lopcaau)

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