Gloria,

Overall, your Brief was excellent. I noted that there it was a slow night in terms of news. I scanned the main websites (Al Jazeera, Alertnet, BBC, etc.) and found very little to add. Usually, however, we try to have a more comprehensive Brief that covers all regions. In any case, I propose you maintain this habit of checking main news sites in addition to Newsedge.

I made other comments (in red below). Mainly these are related to deleting articles or some formatting issues. Your editing was good. I propose you pay attention to choice of articles, and try to include more facts than opinions.

Keep up the great work.

With thanks,

Paul

**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Tuesday, 09 September 2014**

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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UN chief hails new government in Iraq This should be under Iraq section of Brief**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki- moon Monday welcomed the formation of a new government in Iraq, saying that it "is a positive step towards political stability and peace in the country". "The secretary-general welcomes today's announcement of the formation of a new inclusive government in Iraq and congratulates Haider al-Abadi on his confirmation as Iraq's prime minister". "At this challenging moment for Iraq and the region, today's decision by the Iraqi Council of Representatives is a positive step towards political stability and peace in the country."

Xinhua - <http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-09/09/c_133628632.htm>

**Australia rejects UN criticism of 'human rights violations' I removed this. Australia is not a programme country, so I would only include such a country if there was something more substantive to say. This issue has been included in the Brief for months now.**

Australia Tuesday rejected United Nations criticism that its treatment of asylum-seekers was "leading to a chain of human rights violations" with Canberra saying abuses in Syria and Iraq were worse.

New UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein used his inaugural speech Monday to slam Australia's offshore processing of asylum-seekers and turning back of boats.

He said it was leading to "a chain of human rights violations, including arbitrary detention and possible torture following return to home countries".

AFP - <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24939061/australia-rejects-un-criticism-of-human-rights-violations/>

**US faces Arab reluctance in Islamic State fight I would put this in Iraq update instead, as the Briefs tends to focus more on events rather than analysis.**

Stitching together a broad coalition to tackle the extremist Islamic State group hinges on overcoming the reluctance of U.S. allies in the Middle East who are deeply frustrated with a White House they believe has been naive and weak on Syria's civil war. Key Sunni Arab states, Saudi Arabia chief among them, have wanted the U.S. to do more to provide robust support to mainstream Syrian rebels in their war against President Bashar Assad. The result is hesitation to answer President Barack Obama's call for a regional front against the Islamic State group, even though it is widely reviled. The United States is mounting a major campaign to get allies on board. Secretary of State John Kerry will visit the region and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was in Turkey on Monday to lobby the NATO ally.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-faces-arab-reluctance-islamic-state-fight-25367738**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-faces-arab-reluctance-islamic-state-fight-25367738)

**U.N. Security Council plans to suppress foreign extremist fighters**  
The U.N. Security Council plans to demand countries "prevent and suppress" the recruitment and travel of foreign fighters to join extremist militant groups like Islamic State by ensuring it is considered a serious criminal offence under domestic laws. The US circulated a draft resolution late on Monday, to the 15-member Security Council and hopes it can be unanimously adopted at a high-level meeting chaired by U.S. President Barack Obama on September 24.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0H408O20140909**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0H408O20140909)

**U.S. fears Islamic State group attack on Jordan – For Iraq Update as this is analysis rather than an actual event.**

Worried that Jordan could be vulnerable to the Islamic State militant group, the U.S. is stepping up its intelligence cooperation with one of its most stalwart Middle East allies. The CIA has approached a retired former agency official with close ties to King Abdullah II about setting up a special task force to help Jordan deal with the threat from the Islamic State group, according to two former agency officials who would not be quoted by name discussing a secret mission.

AP - <http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_ISLAMIC_STATE_JORDAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT>

**Islamic State fears take hold in Netherlands**

Three Dutch citizens were arrested last week on suspicion of recruiting for the hard-line Islamic State (IS) group in its armed struggle in Syria and Iraq, as tensions between radical Muslims and Holland's far-right Pro Patria organisation continue to rise. The men detained come from The Hague, the city that positions itself as an international city of peace and justice, and which Islamic State sympathisers [have also named "Jihad City"](https://twitter.com/abu_walid22/status/498486562477580289/photo/1). Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, said during a press conference that they had caught "big fish" who had "sown hatred and incited terrorism" on social media and news sites.

One of those detained is 32-year-old Azzedine Choukoud, known as Abou Moussa, a charismatic Dutchman of Moroccan descent. He has been involved in demonstrations in recent years, and has been in contact with fighters in Syria. [In a YouTube video](http://nos.nl/op3/video/668781-ik-feliciteer-isis-met-het-kalifaat.html), he congratulated the Muslim community on the establishment of the caliphate in Iraq and Syria. A few young men hold up a black IS flag in the background.

Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/09/islamic-state-fears-take-hold-netherlands-201492131426326526.html>

**Ban Ki-moon: "The commitment to protect is being severely tested today"**

At an interactive General Assembly discussion on 'Responsibility to Protect', UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the commitment to protect "is being severely tested today" with so many conflicts around the world. He noted that the world faces a series of conflicts that feature acts that shock the global conscience -- from the horror unfolding in Iraq and Syria, to persistent violence against civilian populations in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, Northern Nigeria, Pakistan Gaza and elsewhere. Ban said "these crises illustrate the human costs of failure: the failure to confront the rise of extremist ideology that propagates hate and manipulates inter-communal differences for political gain; the failure of States to protect their own populations; and the failure of the international community to react to early warning signs or to respond adequately once atrocity crimes are taking place."

CIHAN - <http://en.cihan.com.tr/news/Ban-Ki-moon-The-commitment-to-protect-is-being-severely-tested-today-_2364-CHMTUyMjM2NC80>

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine crisis: EU adopts new sanction on Russia**

European Union member states have formally adopted new sanctions on Russia over the Ukraine crisis. The new measures include restrictions on large Russian state-owned oil companies raising money on European financial markets. However, the new measures will come into effect "in the next few days", not on Tuesday as some had expected. Russia denies accusations by Ukraine and the West that it has been sending troops to help pro-Russian rebels. [EU Council President Herman van Rompuy said](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/144839.pdf) the measures were aimed at "promoting a change of course in Russia's actions destabilizing eastern Ukraine".

BBC - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29119885>

**Pro-Russia rebels release 20 Ukrainian prisoners of war under Minsk ceasefire**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has reportedly said that almost 20 Ukrainian prisoners of war have been released under the ceasefire agreement signed between Kiev and pro-Russian rebels in Minsk, Belarus last week. Ukraine's counterterrorist operation press office said that the prisoners were Ukrainian soldiers and were released on Monday in exchange for a "terrorist".

ANI - <http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/pro-russia-rebels-release-20-ukrainian-prisoners-of-war-under-minsk-ceasefire-agreement-114090900200_1.html>

CNN - <http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/08/world/europe/ukraine-crisis/index.html>

**I added the following article as it provides an informative update regarding ceasefire implementation**

**Ukraine death toll edges up despite ceasefire**

Four Ukrainian servicemen have been killed since the start of a ceasefire between government forces and pro-Russian separatists last Friday in eastern Ukraine, a defence ministry official was quoted on Tuesday as saying. The ceasefire is part of a peace plan intended to end a five-month-old conflict the United Nations says has killed more than 3,000 people. It has also caused the sharpest confrontation between Russia and the West since the Cold War. The ceasefire largely held overnight into Tuesday despite sporadic violations, including in rebel-held Donetsk, the region's largest city, where government forces hold the airport. A woman was wounded in Donetsk overnight, officials said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140909081049-ruoel/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140909081049-ruoel/?source=fiOtherNews3)

ESA

**Lesotho**

**Lesotho army denies reports of insurgency**

The Lesotho military on Monday refuted rumors that deposed army chief Tlali Kamoli has seized weapons and fled to the mountains to prepare an insurgency. Prime Minister Thomas Khabane deposed Kamoli, a move that trigged a military coup late last month. The Lesotho military has accused Thabane of trying to turn what is a political crisis into a military one. After returning home following the coup, Thabane pledged to re- open parliament on Sept. 19. But due to differences over the fate of Kamoli, Thabane reportedly postponed plans to reopen parliament. This prompted South African President Jacob Zuma to make a decision to visit the kingdom on Tuesday.

**Shanghai Daily -** [**http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\_xinhua.aspx?id=239953**](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=239953)

**Somalia No title**

Somalia's Islamist rebel group bombed African peacekeepers and government vehicles on Monday in twin attacks that left at least 12 civilians dead, marking al Shabaab's first major attack since promising revenge for the killing of its leader last week. The blasts within an hour of each other on the same road southwest of Mogadishu targeted a convoy of African Union (AU) troops and a Somali government convoy of police and national security forces. Civilian buses near the first blast were hit.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0H31I220140908**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0H31I220140908)

LAC

**Brazil No title**

A huge fire destroyed around 500 homes in a shantytown - or "favela" - here in Brazil's largest city, leaving about 2,500 people homeless, the fire department said Monday. The blaze destroyed about 80 percent of the rickety shacks making up Buraco Quente, a slum in southern Sao Paulo, but there were no reports of any serious injuries or worse. The people who lost their homes were taken to a church near the shantytown, where they were registered by Civil Defense personnel so that they may benefit from the social programs that are available to help them in circumstances like this.

EFE - <http://www.laprensasa.com/309_america-in-english/2698289_fire-in-brazil-shantytown-leaves-2-500-homeless.html>

**Chile**

**Bomb blast in Chile wounds 14; government blames 'terrorists'**

A bomb exploded next to an underground train station in the Chilean capital of Santiago on Monday afternoon, wounding at least 10 people, and the government said it bore the signs of "a terrorist" act. Cameras show device being planted, suspects escaping in car. No group claims responsibility. Chile, which returned to democracy in 1990 after a 17-year dictatorship, is normally one of Latin America's most stable countries and has not suffered an attack of this magnitude in at least 20 years.

Reuters - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/explosion-chile-subway-injures-25354114>

MENA

**Across Regions Across MENA**

**Arab States Back New UN Appeal by Palestinians**

Arab foreign ministers have backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's appeal to the United Nations to set a deadline for Israel to end its occupation of lands captured in the 1967 war and make way for an independent Palestinian state. The Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt, Jamal al-Shobaki, said Monday that the Arab resolution issued a day earlier calls for the Arab League chief to push the idea in the U.N. Security Council and other regional and international groups. Al-Shobaki said the foreign ministers are discussing the draft resolution.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/arab-states-back-appeal-palestinians-25349260**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/arab-states-back-appeal-palestinians-25349260)

**I added the following 2 articles:**

**Libya accuses Sudan of arming rebels**

Libya has intercepted a Sudanese military plane loaded with ammunition in its airspace, and declared Sudan's military attache persona non grata, amid growing accusations Khartoum was supporting Islamist rebels in the country. Libya's newly elected government accused Sudan on Sunday of breaching its "national sovereignty," by flying in ammunition destined for "terrorist groups". Sudan confirmed it had sent a military plane but said it had only carried equipment for a joint Libyan-Sudanese state border force.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/libya-sudan-plane-20149794158236322.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/libya-sudan-plane-20149794158236322.html)

**Lebanese troops seize area by restive border town**

Lebanese troops have advanced near Syria, almost separating a border town from rebel-held areas in nearby fields, a senior military official and state media said Tuesday.

The military official and the National News Agency said that troops captured a post they lost when Islamic extremists overran the town of Arsal last month, killing and capturing a number of soldiers and police officers. The military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said "90 percent" of the area between the town of Arsal and its rebel-held outskirts that stretches to Syria is now held by troops.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/lebanese-troops-seize-area-restive-border-town-112613858.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/lebanese-troops-seize-area-restive-border-town-112613858.html)

**Iraq**

**Iraqi Parliament Approves Partial New Cabinet**

Iraq's parliament officially named Haider al-Abadi the country's new prime minister late Monday and approved most of his proposed Cabinet amid calls by the Arab League for its members to combat the Sunni militant group violently advancing across Iraq and Syria**.** Speaking before parliament, Al-Abadi vowed to "back the military operations in all the areas of confrontation against the armed gangs and the forces of terrorism and ensuring their continuation till victory is achieved." Outgoing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and former Speaker of Parliament Osama al-Nujeifi were given the largely ceremonial posts of co-vice president. Kurdish politician and former Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari was named as one of three deputy prime ministers. Former premier Ibrahim al-Jafaari was named foreign minister.

AP - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bomber-hits-iraq-sunni-tribal-gathering-kills-16-25341485>

**Bomber hits Iraq Sunni tribal gathering, kills 16**

Iraqi officials say a suicide bomber targeted a meeting between security forces and Sunni militiamen in a small town north of Baghdad, killing at least 16 people. A police officer says Monday's attack took place in Duluiyah, some 80 kilometers (45 miles) north of Baghdad. The bomber drove his explosives-laden Humvee into the gathering of a major Sunni tribe, the Al-Jabour.

AP - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bomber-hits-iraq-sunni-tribal-gathering-kills-16-25341485>

**Yemen**

## **Yemeni police open fire at Shiite protesters marching on PM's office in capital, killing 2**

Yemeni police have opened fire on Shiite protesters marching toward the prime minister's office in the capital, Sanaa, killing at least two people. The shooting erupted during a rally on Tuesday by supporters of Shiite Hawthi rebels who have been fighting against Sunni tribesmen in the country's north.

As the demonstrators marched up to the government headquarters, the police first fired tear gas to try and disperse the crowds, then started shooting.

Medical officials said two people died. Witnesses at the scene said at least three were wounded by gunshots while several were injured in a stampede that erupted after the shooting, as the protesters tried to get away from the scene.

Star - <http://www.startribune.com/world/274440541.html>

**Syria Syria should come before Yemen as they are in alphabetical order. Also, I would put this in Iraq Update instead.**

**FSA leader declares second round of war against ISIS**

Syrian rebel leader Jamal Maarouf has issued a second declaration of war against ISIS militants, as western powers led by the United States are expected this week to unveil their plans to defeat the Al-Qaeda splinter group that controls territory in Iraq and Syria**.** Maarouf heads the Syria Rebel Front, one of several groups from the rebel Free Syrian Army that is receiving American weapons and training.

Daily Star - <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-09/270024-fsa-leader-declares-second-round-of-war-against-isis.ashx#axzz3Cm38NQNg>

SA

**Across Region**

**DISASTER ON EPIC SCALE This article is written in a very “flowery” style. The next article is more informative. I deleted this one and kept the second.**

A HEROIC rescue effort led by the armed forces is underway in flood- ravaged Jammu and Kashmir, but the gargantuan scale of the unforeseen disaster threatens to overwhelm it. The worst- ever floods in Jammu and Kashmir, caused by torrential rains that lashed the Valley as well as Jammu region last week, have grown into a catastrophe. The Central and state governments have already thrown everything they have at the disaster, but relief is still a long way off.

DailyMail - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2748392/Disaster-unforeseen-impact-underestimated-Scale-Kashmir-s-floods-dwarfs-heroic-relief-efforts-death-toll-hits-200.html>

**No title**

Authorities in India and Pakistan made frantic efforts to pluck tens of thousands of people to safety from floods which have killed at least 350 people as desperate residents huddled on rooftops. With phone lines down and roads cut off, the full scale of the disaster in the cross-border Kashmir region and in Pakistan's Punjab province was still to emerge but video footage shot from army helicopters showed entire villages under water, with only tin roofs visible. As Pakistan's premier toured some of the worst-hit areas, Indian authorities deployed naval commandos as part of a massive relief effort that saw thousands of blankets distributed as well as tents.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/india-pakistan-flood/1352468.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/india-pakistan-flood/1352468.html)

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan power sharing hope dims as Abdullah reiterates win**

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah insisted on Monday that he won the country's disputed election run-off, dimming hopes that a power-sharing deal could soon be agreed to end the prolonged political crisis. Abdullah repeated claims that massive ballot-rigging had denied him victory over his rival Ashraf Ghani in the race to lead Afghanistan as US-led Nato troops withdraw from their long war against Taliban insurgents. The bitter stalemate over alleged fraud in the June 14 vote has raised fears of renewed ethnic violence as the 13-year international military and civilian development effort winds down.

AFP - <http://www.timesofoman.com/News/39435/Article-Afghan-power-sharing-hope-dims-as-Abdullah-reiterates-win>

WCA

**Sierra Leone**

**Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone infects WHO doctor**

A doctor with the World Health Organization in Sierra Leone has tested positive for the Ebola virus. The doctor was working at the Ebola treatment centre in the Kenema Government Hospital, which is run by Sierra Leone's health ministry. The physician had symptoms on Saturday that were confirmed yesterday as Ebola, and the evacuation is scheduled for Monday.

**CBC News -** [**http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/ebola-outbreak-in-sierra-leone-infects-who-doctor-1.2759470**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/ebola-outbreak-in-sierra-leone-infects-who-doctor-1.2759470)

**Cameroon This should come before S.L. so they are in alphabetical order**

**Cameroon ‘kills over 100 Boko Haram fighters’**

The Cameroonian government has said its soldiers had killed "over 100" Boko Haram fighters during an attempted incursion by the Nigeria-based fighters into its territory. The Cameroonian army has dealt "a severe setback" to Boko Haram, government spokesman Issa Tchiroma Bakary said in a statement read out on state radio on Monday, adding that the clashes took place in the north of the country on Saturday.

It was not immediately possible to independently verify the information. According to the government statement, Boko Haram fighters fired two shells on the town of Fotokol in Cameroon's northern tip, on the border with Nigeria, at around 1:00 pm (1200 GMT) on Saturday.

"There were no casualties reported on the Cameroonian side after the attack," the statement said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/cameroon-kills-over-100-boko-haram-fighters-20149822435540376.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/cameroon-kills-over-100-boko-haram-fighters-20149822435540376.html)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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