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GENERAL

**Across Regions  
World Bank announces $200m emergency fund for Ebola**  
The World Bank has announced that it is allocating $200 million in emergency assistance for West African countries battling to contain the Ebola outbreak. The money will be distributed to the governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea as well as to the WHO. The number of people who have died in the outbreak has reached 887, the WHO says. The World Bank's announcement came as African leaders including 35 presidents discuss the crisis in Washington. Over the long term the funds will be used to help countries deal with the economic impact of the outbreak and to monitor the spread of the disease. The package is now awaiting approval by the World Bank's Board of Directors, though officials say the confirmation could come as early as this week.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28652083**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28652083)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**UNSG urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to observe ceasefire agreement**

UNSG Ban Ki-moon voiced his opposition to the renewed fighting over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in the South Caucasus, urging the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides to respect a ceasefire agreement. In a statement from his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said he shares the deep concerns expressed by the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, the group driving efforts to find a peaceful solution to conflict, and other international partners.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48409#.U-BZXWjD\_cu**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48409#.U-BZXWjD_cu)

**Russia to hold war games in show of strength near Ukraine**

Russia announced military exercises near the border with Ukraine on 4 August in a show of strength as the Ukrainian army recaptured more territory from pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country. The Russian air force said more than 100 aircraft, including fighter jets and bombers, were taking part in the maneuvers this week in the central and western military districts. The move could alarm Western powers which have accused Russia of beefing up its troops along its border with Ukraine and arming the rebels in eastern Ukraine, although Moscow denies the accusations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-military-idUSKBN0G40CH20140804?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-military-idUSKBN0G40CH20140804?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**More than 300 Ukrainian troops cross into Russia, talks under way**

Ukraine said on 4 August that it was in talks with Moscow over the return of 311 Ukrainian soldiers and border guards who had been forced by fighting with separatists to cross into Russia, but Russian border authorities said the troops were seeking asylum. A Ukrainian defense spokesman said a group of soldiers and border guards, who had been caught between the Russian border to the east and rebel positions in the west, had crossed into Russia in the early hours of 4 August.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/kiev-says-it-recaptures-rail-hub-in-eastern-ukraine-five-soldiers-killed/article19906723/**](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/kiev-says-it-recaptures-rail-hub-in-eastern-ukraine-five-soldiers-killed/article19906723/)

**Ukraine  
About 730,000 have left Ukraine for Russia due to conflict : UNHCR**About 730,000 people have left Ukraine for Russia this year due to the fighting in eastern Ukraine, UNHCR's European director Vincent Cochetel said on Tuesday. That figure implies a far higher exodus than the 168,000 who have fled and applied to Russia's Migration Service. A further 117,000 people are displaced inside Ukraine, a number that is growing by about 1,200 per day, he said. UNHCR stripped out the seasonal figures and numbers for people who would normally have crossed the border in the course of trade or tourism to arrive at the 730,000 figure, Cochetel told a UN news briefing.   
**Reuters -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/730-000-left-ukraine-russia-due-conflict-unhcr-101007405.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/730-000-left-ukraine-russia-due-conflict-unhcr-101007405.html)

**Over 200,000 people flee Ukraine's rebel-controlled Luhansk**More than half of Luhansk residents have already left the city, and the situation is critical, the deputy head of a department at the Luhansk city council, Oleksandr Savenko, has said. "To date, of the 464,070 Luhansk residents, around 250,000 people still remain in the city. These are the people who did not leave due to various reasons and remain there in conditions of a humanitarian catastrophe," he said. According to Savenko, those willing to leave the city can do so via a humanitarian corridor, which was unilaterally set up and is maintained by the ATO [antiterrorist operation] forces.   
**Bloomberg -** [**http://www.livemint.com/Politics/BbYxfs1E85xJk415iSHgBM/Ukraine-concerned-by-Russian-buildup-as-Luhansk-residents-fl.html**](http://www.livemint.com/Politics/BbYxfs1E85xJk415iSHgBM/Ukraine-concerned-by-Russian-buildup-as-Luhansk-residents-fl.html)

**Army positioning to move on rebels in Donetsk**

The Ukrainian military on 4 August appeared to be readying a long-awaited major assault on the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, warning civilians to leave as troops tightened their ring around the city amid heavy fighting. Extra evacuation corridors were set up for cars bearing white flags, said a military spokesman. The military spokesman also announced that troops had taken the town of Yasynuvata, home to a key railway control center between Donetsk and Luhansk.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/ukrainian-military-urges-donetsk-residents-to-evacuate-clearing-way-for-advance/2014/08/04/4d060f6c-1bcb-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/ukrainian-military-urges-donetsk-residents-to-evacuate-clearing-way-for-advance/2014/08/04/4d060f6c-1bcb-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4_story.html)

**Insurgents disrupt medical services**

Insurgent forces in eastern Ukraine have threatened medical staff, stolen and destroyed medical equipment and hospital furniture, and compromised the ability of civilian patients to receive treatment, Human Rights Watch said today. Insurgent forces have also expropriated ambulances and used them to transport active fighters. Such acts are strictly prohibited under International Humanitarian Law, which afford special protections to medical units and personnel as well as to the wounded and sick, Human Rights Watch said.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/04/ukraine-insurgents-disrupt-medical-services**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/04/ukraine-insurgents-disrupt-medical-services)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Half a million advised to evacuate as heavy rain lashes Japan**

More than half a million people were advised to evacuate over the weekend as heavy rain from Typhoon Nakri lashed western Japan, officials said. As the storm headed away from Japan, downpours continued in parts of the country on Monday with rainfall of up to 117 centimetres over the past three days, the national weather agency said. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said early on 4 August that about 550,000 people had been advised to seek shelter at public facilities. Meanwhile a new super typhoon was building in the Pacific off the Philippines and was expected to reach Japan's southern Okinawa island chain on 7 August, the weather agency said. The "very strong" typhoon, named Halong, was packing winds of up to 234km per hour as it slowly moved northwest at about 10km per hour, it added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/half-a-million-advised-to/1296262.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/half-a-million-advised-to/1296262.html)

**China**

**China earthquake: Troops join race to aid survivors**  
China has deployed 2,500 soldiers to the south-western province of Yunnan to help search for survivors after an earthquake killed at least 398 people. More than 1,800 people were injured when the magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck on Sunday. Attempts to reach the epicentre have been hampered by heavy rain, with some rescuers forced to travel on foot. State broadcaster CCTV said the earthquake was the strongest to hit the mountainous province in 14 years.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-28635027**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-28635027)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**South Sudan peace talks resume in Addis Ababa**Peace talks between South Sudan's government and rebels have resumed in Addis Ababa. The regional bloc overseeing the talks, IGAD, has set a 10 August deadline to agree on a transitional government and implement a ceasefire. More than 1.5 million people have since been displaced and the UN has warned that the country is on the verge of famine. "This session of negotiations must make progress, we must end the war," said chief mediator Seyoum Mesfin at the resumption of talks in Addis Ababa.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28644316**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28644316)

LAC

**Colombia  
Colombia probes soldiers' poisoning in Arauca**Forensic scientists in Colombia are investigating the death by poisoning of a soldier in eastern Arauca province. The soldier died and at least six others fell ill after eating pork they had bought from a local person. The military suspects the meat was laced with rat poison and that the person who sold it to the soldiers was a member of the ELN rebel group. The group has an estimated 2,500 members and has been fighting the Colombian state for five decades.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28641166**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28641166)

**El Salvador**

**Red Cross takes action in the fight against Chikungunya amid alarming number of cases**

Since July, authorities in El Salvador declared a yellow alert in the municipalities of Ayutuxtepeque, Mejicanos, Apopa, Nejapa, Cuscatancingo and San Salvador, San Idelfonso in the department of San Vicente, as well as some municipalities of the department of Usulutan, due to the identification of suspected cases of Chikungunya. Following the alert the Salvadorean Red Cross (SRC) has been carrying out fumigation campaigns, awareness raising and cleaning in homes to prevent the increase in the amount of cases. However, in spite of these efforts, cases remain present.

**IFRC -** [**http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/americas/el-salvador/red-cross-takes-action-in-the-fight-against-dengue-and-chikungunya-amid-alarming-number-of-cases-in-el-salvador-66568/**](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/americas/el-salvador/red-cross-takes-action-in-the-fight-against-dengue-and-chikungunya-amid-alarming-number-of-cases-in-el-salvador-66568/)

MENA

**Iraq**

**UN says tens of thousands flee IS assault in the north**

Tens of thousands of people have fled an assault by Islamic State on the town of Sinjar in northern Iraq on 3 August and are now surrounded, the UN said on 4 August. Islamic State inflicted a severe defeat on Iraq's Kurds on 3 August, when it made a rapid advance through three towns to reach the Mosul Dam, the largest in Iraq and a major source of electricity. Previously, an estimated 308,000 people lived in the district of Sinjar. As the insurgents advanced, many fled to Sinjar Mountain, or Jebel Sinjar, OCHA said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140804205236-7a1bk/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140804205236-7a1bk/)

**40 Yazidi children reported dead after Iraq attack: UNICEF**Forty children from northern Iraq's Yazidi minority are reported to have died as a result of an attack by IS on the Sinjar region, UNICEF said Tuesday. "According to official reports received by UNICEF, these children from the Yazidi minority died as a direct consequence of violence, displacement and dehydration over the past two days," a statement said. The attack on Sinjar sent thousands of people running from their homes in panic, some of them scurrying into the mountains with no supplies.  
**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24639180/40-yazidi-children-reported-dead-after-iraq-attack-un/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24639180/40-yazidi-children-reported-dead-after-iraq-attack-un/)

**Iraqis fear food crisis under Islamic State**

Almost two months after the Islamic State group seized Iraq’s second largest city, Mosul, tension seems to have calmed in Baghdad. But along the trade supply routes linking Turkey to Baghdad, which are now under the group’s complete control, a new threat has emerged: a cut-off from food supplies. Thousands of Baghdad residents have begun stock-piling food to protect themselves from a possible food crisis. The FAO reported that Baghdad depends on imports for almost 80% of its food supply, and the majority comes from Turkey.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/iraq-food-crisis-islamic-state-2014714105218518749.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/iraq-food-crisis-islamic-state-2014714105218518749.html)

**Lebanon**

**Exodus after Syrian rebels raid border town**Thousands of people are fleeing Lebanon's eastern border town of Arsal, as the Lebanese army and rebels from Syria clash for a third day. The fighting began on Saturday, when rebels raided the town after Lebanese forces detained an alleged member of the Syrian Islamist militant group al-Nusra Front. At least 13 Lebanese soldiers have been killed since Saturday. Syrian refugees were also among those fleeing.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28640618**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28640618)

**Libya  
Libya's new parliament calls for unity as rival militias clash**Libya's new parliament appealed for national unity at its first formal session on Monday as rival armed factions battled for dominance of the country. Hours before parliament met in the eastern city of Tobruk, heavy artillery and rocket fire bombarded southern and western Tripoli, where Islamist-leaning Misrata brigades have fought for three weeks with rival militias allied with the town of Zintan. Lawmakers gathered in a heavily guarded hotel in Tobruk because three weeks of fighting in Tripoli and Benghazi had made Libya's two main cities unsafe for the parliamentary session.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0G40YX20140805?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0G40YX20140805?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza**

A 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire brokered by Egypt has gone into effect in the Gaza Strip, with Israel pulling its forces from the Palestinian territory on the 29th day of the offensive. The start of the truce at 05:00 GMT on Tuesday was preceded by a barrage of rockets from Gaza, with air raid sirens sounding throughout southern Israel, including in the cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon and Beersheba, as well as around Jerusalem. A large numbers of Israeli ground forces had left the Beit Hanoun area, and residents were returning. Israeli troops had also left the southern Rafah area, according to Al Jazeera.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/humanitarian-ceasefire-begins-gaza-2014855316321399.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/humanitarian-ceasefire-begins-gaza-2014855316321399.html)

**Gaza crisis moves to full UN Assembly**

With criticism mounting of UN inaction in the Gaza conflict, envoys from all 193 countries of the UN will meet on 6 August to hear top officials report on the crisis. The meeting of the UN General Assembly was requested by Arab countries who are pushing for a toughly-worded resolution to be adopted by the Security Council. Top UN officials will brief ambassadors including Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay, who has said Israel’s offensive in Gaza could amount to war crimes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/gaza-crisis-moves-full-un-assembly-20140805**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/gaza-crisis-moves-full-un-assembly-20140805)

**Israel cracks down on anti-war protesters**

More than 1,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel have been arrested by the Israeli police since the country's military offensive in Gaza began in early July, according to a lawyer representing a number of the detainees. While some have been arrested for protesting the Israeli incursion into Gaza, dozens are currently being held without charge. Many say they have been detained based on policemen's "lies", while some have been beaten to the point of needing medical care. Maisa Arshid, an attorney for dozens of the detainees, said that the crackdown on Palestinian citizens is only getting worse, with 20 to 30 Palestinians getting picked up every week in the Nazareth area alone.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/israel-palestinians-anti-war-protesters-gaza-2014839155862548.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/israel-palestinians-anti-war-protesters-gaza-2014839155862548.html)

**Yemen  
Suspected al Qaeda militants kill nine Yemeni soldiers**Militants have killed at least nine soldiers in attacks in south and eastern Yemen over the past three days, local officials said on Monday, just as the government sent more troops to the east to confront a growing al Qaeda threat. A local official told Reuters that a group of militants attacked a security checkpoint on a main road in Hadramout province in eastern Yemen early on Monday, killing six soldiers. On Saturday, three soldiers were killed in a similar attack in the southern Shabwa province, local officials told Reuters.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-yemen-violence-idUSKBN0G411Z20140804?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-yemen-violence-idUSKBN0G411Z20140804?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

SA  
  
**Across SA  
UN aids response efforts in Nepal, India after monsoons trigger landslides**With more than 200 people dead or missing, the UN and its partners are supporting the governments of India and Nepal in search-and-rescue operations, and to care for thousands of people displaced by landslides triggered by monsoon rain. In western India, OCHA said that more than 100 people reportedly have been killed, while the search continues for some 60 others. Meanwhile, in northeast Nepal, a separate landslide killed at least 10 people in the middle of the night as they slept. Authorities said the death toll could climb to more than 150 people. The landslide has also blocked the Sunkoshi River, forming a lake which is threatening to cause downstream flash floods, the UN agency warned. Governments in both Nepal and India are evacuating thousands of people along the river embankment.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48407#.U-CyFmjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48407#.U-CyFmjD_cs)

**Afghanistan**

**US drone kills four civilians in Afghanistan**Four civilians, including two minors, have died in an air attack by a US drone in the western Afghan province of Herat, an official told Efe Tuesday. "A man, a woman, a teenager and a baby died in a drone attack on Monday evening in Zawal city, located in the Shindand district of Herat", a provincial police spokesperson said. The death of civilians is one of the points of friction between Afghan authorities and NATO. In the first six months of 2014, violence has claimed the lives of 1,564 civilians in Afghanistan, 17% more than in the first half of 2013, while 3,298 people were wounded, an increase of 28%.   
**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/05/374103/4-afghan-civilians-killed-in-us-strike/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/08/05/374103/4-afghan-civilians-killed-in-us-strike/) **India  
Thousands evacuated over flood fears in India's Bihar**Authorities in India have evacuated 60,000 people in the northern state of Bihar amid fears of flash floods from Nepal, officials say. Water levels in the Kosi river, which begins in Nepal, have risen steeply. Officials said Saturday's landslide had created a mud wall that was blocking the Sunkoshi river which flows downstream into the Kosi. On Sunday, the Nepalese army carried out controlled explosions to knock down part of the earth wall, allowing some water to flow out but much of it remained trapped.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28636087**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28636087)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Sierra Leone, Liberia deploy troops as Ebola toll hits 887**

Hundreds of troops deployed in Sierra Leone and Liberia on 4 August to quarantine communities hit by the deadly Ebola virus, as the death toll from the worst-ever outbreak reached 887 and three new cases were reported in Nigeria. With healthcare systems in the West Africa nations overrun by the epidemic, the African Development Bank and World Bank said they would immediately disburse $260 million to the three countries worst affected - Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. The WHO, which warned last week of catastrophic consequences if the disease were not controlled, reported 61 new deaths in the two days to 1 August as the disease continues to spread.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G41D820140804**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0G41D820140804)

**Nigeria’s military accused of ‘war crimes’**Graphic new video footage from northeastern Nigeria shows the country's military carrying out abuses against civilians as part of their fight against Boko Haram, Amnesty International said Tuesday. The international human rights group also accused the military of killing of more than 600 released prisoners. The violence against civilians constitutes “war crimes,” Amnesty alleged. The Amnesty allegations back up previous reports by the Associated Press that human rights abuses are being committed by all sides in Nigeria. Nigerian authorities have rejected past accusations, insisting the military follows international best practice in its fight against the group.  
**AP -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/8/4/video-rights-abusesnigeriaamnestyreport.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/8/4/video-rights-abusesnigeriaamnestyreport.html)

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