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GENERAL

**United Nations**

**Ban Ki-moon appoints Mary Robinson as special climate envoy**

Former Irish President Mary Robinson has been appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change in a drive to mobilize political will and action ahead of a climate summit Ban Ki-moon will host in New York on September 23. Robinson has long advocated for "climate justice", and has her own foundation that works to secure justice for people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change who are often forgotten - the poor, disempowered and marginalized across the world.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715105630-angz4/?source=quickview**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715105630-angz4/?source=quickview)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia asks envoys to visit town it says was hit by Ukraine shelling**

Russia has asked military attaches from 18 countries including the US to visit a town in the Rostov region on Tuesday where Moscow says a shell fired from across the border in Ukraine killed one person. The planned visit appeared part of a war of words between Ukraine and Russia intended to win international backing in the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists who have risen up in eastern Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715055441-4eqzk/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715055441-4eqzk/?source=jtTheWire)

**Ukraine and Russia edge closer to war amid accusations of cross-border attacks**

Russia and Ukraine lurch closer toward open warfare on Monday as both countries accused each other of lethal cross-border attacks including the downing of a Ukrainian plane, and Moscow appeared to resume a buildup of troops on its south-western frontier. The Russian government warned Ukraine could face “irreversible consequences” in response to cross-border shelling that killed one person on Sunday, but backed off from reports that it was considering “retaliatory precision strikes” in what would be the first conventional Russian intervention in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

**The Telegraph-** [**http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/ukraine/10967316/Ukraine-and-Russia-edge-closer-to-war-amid-accusations-of-cross-border-attacks.html**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/ukraine/10967316/Ukraine-and-Russia-edge-closer-to-war-amid-accusations-of-cross-border-attacks.html)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Thailand's plan to deport 130,000 raises concerns**

Refugee advocates are raising concerns about the safety and welfare of 130,000 people whom Thailand's military government plans to send to send back to Myanmar. Human Rights Watch researcher Sunai Phasuk says the Thai junta should clarify its plans to make sure the repatriation is not forced. The affected people are mainly ethnic minorities who've been living in displacement camps in Thailand since fleeing government offensives in eastern Myanmar. But they are not formally acknowledged as refugees. Sunai said on Tuesday both nations should consult with the affected people and international organizations with expertise in the issue before finalizing any repatriation plans.

**AP –** [**http://www.neurope.eu/news/wire/thai-juntas-plan-deport-130000-myanmar-raises-concerns-their-safety**](http://www.neurope.eu/news/wire/thai-juntas-plan-deport-130000-myanmar-raises-concerns-their-safety)

**Kim Jong Un supervises rocket launches close to South Korea border**

North Korea on Tuesday showed detailed photos of Kim Jong Un directing rocket launches from a site close to the South in an apparent act of defiance that puts a personal face of its leader to actions provoking its neighbours. Satellite imagery and photos released by state media show the rockets were fired several kilometres north of a popular South Korean tourist observatory near the inter-Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). It was not immediately clear why North Korea conducted drills so close to the border, but state media has in recent days called the presence of a US Navy aircraft carrier in South Korea a "sinister interference".

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715040232-fbw7y/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715040232-fbw7y/?source=search)

**S. Korea to launch committee on unification with N. Korea**

South Korea was to announce 50 members of a presidential committee aimed at making preparations for unification with North Korea, an official said Tuesday, amid tensions on the divided Korean Peninsula over Pyongyang's missile launches. President Park Geun-hye ordered the formation of the preparatory committee in January, saying the country should be prepared for inter-Korean unification which she said would be a "bonanza" for both Koreas as well as a blessing for neighboring countries.

**Yonhap -** [**http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/07/15/8/0301000000AEN20140715001600315F.html**](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2014/07/15/8/0301000000AEN20140715001600315F.html)

**Cambodia**

**Cambodian police and opposition supporters clash, dozens hurt**

Cambodian opposition supporters tried to re-open a protest site on Tuesday in defiance of a ban on political gatherings and dozens of people were hurt in clashes with police and three opposition members of parliament were detained. The skirmishes near the capital's Freedom Park were the latest unrest since a disputed election a year ago which the government of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen said it won despite surprising opposition gains. The park was the only place in Phnom Penh where protests were allowed until it was closed in January after supporters of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) held a protest there aimed at toppling Hun Sen.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715091510-rf5v2/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715091510-rf5v2/?source=jtTheWire)

**Philippines**

**Philippines evacuates coastal areas as typhoon aims for Manila**

The Philippines evacuated eastern coastal areas, suspended ferry services and closed schools in parts of the main Luzon Island on Tuesday as the strongest storm to hit the country since Typhoon Haiyan last year charted a direct course for the capital Manila. Typhoon Rammasun, with gusts of up to 150 kph (93 mph) and maximum winds of 120 kph near the centre, was expected to make landfall over the eastern province of Albay and Sorsogon within hours.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715033400-9dp4m/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715033400-9dp4m/?source=search)

**18 dead after Filipino rebels attack armed tribesmen in south Philippines, military says**

Philippine military officials say 18 combatants have been killed after communist rebels attacked armed tribesmen, who were later reinforced by army troops, in the south of the country in one of the bloodiest attacks of the 45-year Marxist insurgency so far this year. Army Maj. Gen. Ricardo Visaya said Tuesday that the New People's Army guerrillas attacked Manobo tribesmen in a village of Prosperidad town in Agusan del Sur province, sparking a clash that killed 12 insurgents and four tribesmen. Visaya says army troops were deployed to reinforce the tribesmen, igniting pockets of fighting that killed a soldier and another rebel.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/07/15/18-dead-after-filipino-rebels-attack-armed-tribesmen-in-south-philippines/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/07/15/18-dead-after-filipino-rebels-attack-armed-tribesmen-in-south-philippines/)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**Child Malnutrition Rises in South Sudan: MSF**

MSF says children in parts of South Sudan are suffering from shocking rates of malnutrition. The group said in a statement Monday that more than 13,270 children, most under the age of 5, have been admitted to its feeding programs in South Sudan so far this year, compared to 18,125 admissions during all of 2013. It said malnutrition rates have "skyrocketed" in parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei States - three states that have seen serious fighting since violence erupted in South Sudan in December. Amid ongoing fighting between government troops and rebels loyal to a former deputy president, aid groups have been warning of a humanitarian crisis in the world's newest country. More than 1 million South Sudanese remain internally displaced.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aid-group-child-malnutrition-rises-south-sudan-24552956**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aid-group-child-malnutrition-rises-south-sudan-24552956)

**Hundreds of foreigners holed up in South Sudan camps**

Among the 100,000 civilians holed up in UN bases in South Sudan since fighting broke out in mid-December 2013 between supporters and opponents of President Salva Kiir are several hundred citizens from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia. Many have lost the means to resume their precarious lives in the world’s youngest nation, and so cannot return to their home countries for fear of persecution or imprisonment. The fate of the foreigners is an extra headache for government officials and relief agencies trying to assist nearly 1.5 million others displaced by the violence. Aid workers warn that famine will strike some areas of South Sudan in the coming months unless more humanitarian assistance is provided.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100343/hundreds-of-foreigners-holed-up-in-south-sudan-camps**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100343/hundreds-of-foreigners-holed-up-in-south-sudan-camps)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**First US flight deports Honduran kids under fast-track drive**

The US deported a group of Honduran children on Monday in the first flight since President Barack Obama pledged to speed up the process of sending back illegal immigrant children from Central America. Fleeing violence and poverty, record numbers of children from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala have crossed into the United States over the past year, testing US border facilities and sparking intense debate about how to solve the problem. Monday's charter flight from New Mexico to San Pedro Sula, the city with the highest murder rate in the world, deported 17 Honduran adult women, as well as 12 girls and nine boys, aged between 18 months and 15 years, the Honduran government said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/14/us-usa-immigration-honduras-idUSKBN0FJ2LE20140714**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/14/us-usa-immigration-honduras-idUSKBN0FJ2LE20140714)

**Bolivia**

**Morales officially candidate for third term**

Bolivian President Evo Morales' candidacy for a third consecutive term is now official. Bolivia's electoral council announced Monday that the Andean nation's first indigenous president will be on the Oct. 12 ballot. The 54-year-old coca growers' union leader is heavily favored to win. Bolivia's new constitution, ratified in 2009, sets a two-term limit for presidents, but the country's Supreme Court ruled last year that Morales' initial 2006-2009 term was exempt. The main opposition candidate is currently cement magnate Samuel Doria Medina, who got less than 10 percent of the votes in the last three presidential elections.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bolivia-morales-officially-candidate-3rd-term-24561008**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bolivia-morales-officially-candidate-3rd-term-24561008)

**Haiti**

**UN chief flies to Haiti to address cholera crisis**

UN SC Ban Ki-moon flew to Haiti on Monday to discuss efforts to alleviate a cholera epidemic that has killed thousands and has been linked to the UN's own peacekeepers. Ban is seeking support for a $2.2 billion, 10-year cholera-elimination campaign that he launched in December 2012 with the presidents of Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714155908-97cli/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714155908-97cli/?source=dpagehead)

MENA

**Iraq**

**Iraqi parliament breaks deadlock to elect speaker**

Iraqi lawmakers broke their deadlock Tuesday and elected a new speaker of parliament, taking the first formal step toward forming a new government that is widely seen as crucial to confronting the militants who have overrun much of the country. Still, it was not clear whether lawmakers had reached a larger deal on the most contentious decision - the choice for prime minister. The incumbent, Nouri al-Maliki, has ruled the country since 2006 but is under intense pressure to step aside, but he is insisting he be picked for a third term.

**AP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-15/263937-iraq-parliament-elects-salim-al-juburi-as-speaker.ashx#ixzz37XQ6hAdt**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Jul-15/263937-iraq-parliament-elects-salim-al-juburi-as-speaker.ashx#ixzz37XQ6hAdt)

**Libya**

**Militia shells Tripoli airport, UN pulls staff out of Libya**

A militia shelled Tripoli airport, destroying 90 percent of planes parked there, a Libyan government spokesman said, as heavy fighting between armed groups prompted the UN to pull its staff out of the North African country. At least 15 people have been killed in clashes in Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi since Sunday, and a Libyan official said several Grad rockets hit the Tripoli International Airport on Monday, damaging the control tower. Government spokesman Ahmed Lamine said 90 percent of the planes parked at the airport were destroyed. "The government has studied the possibility to bring international forces to enhance security," he told reporters On Tuesday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715015957-x0z4u/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715015957-x0z4u/?source=search)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**80 per cent of Palestinians killed in Israeli offensive are civilians: UN**

Four out of every five Palestinians killed during Israel's ongoing military offensive in Gaza have been civilians, including dozens of women and children, the UN said on Monday. The statistic was disclosed by OCHA amid mounting international concern over non-combatant casualties during an operation Israeli officials have said is aimed solely at rooting out militants and stopping rockets being fired into Israel. The White House said it did not want to see an Israeli ground invasion of the Gaza Strip “because that would put even more civilians at risk”.

**The Telegraph-** [**http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/10967279/UN-80-per-cent-of-Palestinians-killed-in-Israeli-offensive-are-civilians.html**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/10967279/UN-80-per-cent-of-Palestinians-killed-in-Israeli-offensive-are-civilians.html)

**Arab league calls on 'All Parties' to back Egypt-proposed Gaza truce**

Arab foreign ministers in Cairo early Tuesday called on "all parties" to accept an Egyptian proposal to end the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas, after the Palestinian militant group signaled its rejection of the truce. The ministers, meeting for an extraordinary Arab League session, also backed a Palestinian demand for "international protection." Hours before the meeting, Cairo announced a proposal for a ceasefire that would begin Tuesday, saying it was willing to host high-level Israeli and Palestinian delegations for talks after a truce went into effect. At least 186 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip as the conflict entered its eighth day.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138915-arab-league-calls-on-all-parties-to-back-egypt-proposed-gaza-truce**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138915-arab-league-calls-on-all-parties-to-back-egypt-proposed-gaza-truce)

**Palestinian rocket fire persists after Israel agrees to Gaza truce**

Palestinian militants fired rockets at Israel on Tuesday after it agreed to an Egyptian proposal to end the week-old Gaza conflict, and a Hamas leader said the group was still undecided on whether to accept the ceasefire. Under the terms of the blueprint announced by Egypt - whose military-backed government has been at odds with Hamas - a mutual "de-escalation" of fighting was to begin at 9 a.m. (0600 GMT), with hostilities ceasing within 12 hours. Israel said it had halted its attacks in the Gaza Strip but would respond strongly if Palestinian strikes persisted. Hamas's armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, rejected the reported text of the deal announced by Egypt, Gaza's neighbour, saying but Moussa Abu Marzouk, a top Hamas official who was in Cairo, said the movement had made no final decision.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715090739-tpzs3/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715090739-tpzs3/?source=search)

**Rockets fired from Egypt at Israeli resort, 4 wounded**

Three rockets launched from Egypt at the southern Israeli resort of Eilat on Tuesday wounded four civilians, Israeli security officials said. They believed the salvo was fired by Islamist militants in the Egyptian Sinai and meant to upstage Cairo's efforts to mediate a truce ending a week-old shelling war between Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715042335-fig5m/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715042335-fig5m/?source=search)

**Israel to charge 3 extremists over Palestinian teen murder**

Israel is to indict three Israeli extremists with murder over the brutal killing of a Palestinian teenager, officials said Monday, as it emerged their initial target was an eight-year-old child. According to a statement given to Petah Tikvah magistrates court near Tel Aviv, a 29-year-old man and two minors aged 17 are to be charged on counts of murder, kidnapping with intent to murder, arson and attempted arson, all committed "on racist-nationalistic grounds," police said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138839-israel-to-charge-3-jews-over-palestinian-teen-murder**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138839-israel-to-charge-3-jews-over-palestinian-teen-murder)

**Syria**

**UN Security Council authorizes cross-border aid access in Syria**

The UN SC on Monday authorized humanitarian access without Syrian government consent into rebel-held areas at four border crossings from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, even though Syria has warned it deems such deliveries incursions into its territory. "The consent of the Syrian authorities will no longer be necessary," Luxembourg's UN Ambassador Sylvie Lucas told the 15-member Security Council after the vote on the resolution, which was drafted by Luxembourg, Australia and Jordan. The unanimously adopted resolution established for 180 days a monitoring mechanism for loading aid convoys in neighboring countries, which will notify Syria of the "humanitarian nature of these relief consignments."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140714162913-25j4z/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140714162913-25j4z/?source=dpagehead)

**Jihadists expel rivals from Syria's Deir Ezzor**

ISIL took control of the rebel-held half of the eastern Syrian city of Deir Ezzor on Monday, buoyed by advances in neighboring Iraq, a monitoring group said. Rival rebel groups either gave in and joined the ISIL or fled from the strategic Euphrates valley city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Assad's forces remain in control of the other half of the city, a provincial capital and pre-war hub of the country's oil industry. Only the regime-controlled half of Deir Ezzor city, a handful of villages and the military airport remain out of ISIL control.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138830-jihadists-expel-rivals-from-syria-s-deir-ezzor**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138830-jihadists-expel-rivals-from-syria-s-deir-ezzor)

**Syria's Assad inauguration to take place Wednesday**

Syria's President Bashar Assad will be sworn in for a new seven-year term on Wednesday, a source close to the regime told AFP. "President Assad will be sworn in before a large number of figures on Wednesday. He will then give an inauguration speech in which he will outline plans for his new seven-year term," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. For security reasons, the location of the ceremony that had initially been scheduled for Thursday has yet to be disclosed.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138982-syria-s-assad-inauguration-to-take-place-wednesday**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/138982-syria-s-assad-inauguration-to-take-place-wednesday)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan bombs kill more than 90 people in 2 attacks**

An Afghan general says the death toll from a suicide car bombing in the country's eastern Paktika province has climbed to 89, with more than 40 people wounded. The blast took place on Tuesday when the bomber detonated his explosives-packed vehicle near a crowded market and a mosque in the Urgun district of Paktika province. Also Tuesday a roadside bomb ripped through a minivan carrying employees of the presidential palace in eastern Kabul on Tuesday, killing two passengers, Afghan officials said.

**AP -** [**http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/afghan-bombs-kill-more-than-90-people-in-2-attacks-1.2707126**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/afghan-bombs-kill-more-than-90-people-in-2-attacks-1.2707126)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Death toll from West Africa Ebola outbreak jumps to 603 –WHO**

The death toll from an Ebola outbreak in West Africa has spiked to 603 since February, with at least 68 deaths reported in the last week alone, the WHO said on Tuesday. Sierra Leone recorded the highest number of deaths, which include confirmed, probable and suspect cases of Ebola, with 52. Liberia reported 13 and Guinea 3, according to the WHO figures for July 8-12. WHO said there were 85 new cases, highlighting continued high levels of transmission, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone, despite local and international efforts to halt the disease.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715101818-67ki4/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715101818-67ki4/?source=search)

**Mali**

**Mali clashes leaves more than 30 dead**

More than 30 people have been killed in clashes in the desert of northern Mali, the army and Tuareg rebels said, just days before the start of internationally-brokered peace talks. An army source told the Reuters news agency on Sunday that 37 people had been killed in clashes which began on Friday in the northern desert area between Gao and Kidal. The army blamed the violence on infighting between rebels. Peace talks between Mali government officials and Tuareg rebels are due to start in Algeria on Wednesday, the first meeting since clashes took place in the Tuareg stronghold of Kidal in May in which some 50 Malian soldiers were killed.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/mali-clashes-leaves-more-than-30-dead-201471485111714216.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/mali-clashes-leaves-more-than-30-dead-201471485111714216.html)

**French soldier killed in northern Mali**

The president’s office says a French soldier has died while taking part in a reconnaissance mission in Mali.

Forty-five year-old Dejvid Nikolic - from the Genie 1st regiment - was killed by a suicide attack Monday in the north of the country some 100 km from Gao. French President Francois Hollande expressed his “profound sadness” at the tragedy and praised the bravery of French soldiers who are in Mali to fight terrorist groups.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/french-soldier-killed-in-northern-mali/2014/07/15/501ca2f6-0c03-11e4-bc42-59a59e5f9e42\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/french-soldier-killed-in-northern-mali/2014/07/15/501ca2f6-0c03-11e4-bc42-59a59e5f9e42_story.html)

**Nigeria**

**All eyes on Nigeria amid fears 2015 election could trigger rampage**

The US called on Nigerian politicians on Monday to refrain from incendiary activities heading into the hotly contested 2015 presidential elections, which many observers fear could unleash a fresh wave of violence in Africa’s largest democracy. “The world is watching Nigeria,” Linda Thomas-Greenfield, assistant US Secretary of State in the Bureau of African Affairs, said at a forum where she offered US assistance in training security forces ahead of the February 2015 poll. “Nigeria must do everything in its power to ensure that elections are not just fair but peaceful,” she said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140715042654-bu902**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140715042654-bu902)

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