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GENERAL

**United Nations**

**UN to recognise gay marriages of all its staffers**

The UN has decided to recognise the gay marriages of all its staffers, UNSG Ban Ki-moon announced on Monday. Previously, the United Nations only recognised the unions of employees who came from countries where gay marriage is legal, UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said. "This is a step forward that many of the staffers at the UN had been seeking for some time," Haq said. The new policy became effective on 26 June, and applies to the UN's approximately 43,000 employees worldwide. Employees of separate UN agencies, UNICEF and UNESCO are not affected by the change in policy, Haq said.

**AP -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/07/un-to-recognise-gay-marriages-staffers**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/07/un-to-recognise-gay-marriages-staffers)

**UN urges bold action to turn around off-track MDGs**

Significant global action is still required to reach several key targets set for the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), says a UN report published today. Despite major progress towards many of the eight goals, on current trends, member states will miss MDG targets related to reducing child and maternal mortality and increasing access to sanitation, according to an accompanying press release. “We need bolder and focused action where significant gaps and disparities exist,” says Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, in the opening paragraph of the report.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140708095646-2brya/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140708095646-2brya/?source=jtTheWire)

**Report -** [**http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf**](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Turkey PM vows to take combat against foe to new level**

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday vowed to take the fight against an ally-turned-foe Muslim cleric to a new level if he is elected president in August 10 elections. "If elected president, I will take the fight against the parallel structure to the next level," Erdogan told lawmakers of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in parliament. Erdogan has long accused followers of Pennsylvania-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of establishing a "parallel structure within the state" by using its sway in Turkey's police and the judiciary and of concocting a vast corruption scandal in December to unseat his government.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/turkey-pm-vows-to-take/1245676.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/turkey-pm-vows-to-take/1245676.html)

**Ukraine**

**Pushed from Slaviansk, Ukraine rebels barricade Donetsk**

Pro-Russian rebels erected new barricades on the streets of Donetsk on Monday, preparing to make a stand in the city of a million people after losing their bastion in the town of Slaviansk in the worst defeat of their three-month uprising. Occasional bursts of gunfire could be heard in the distance from the centre of Donetsk, where residents said they were living in fear of a potential battle between government forces and the separatist gunmen now out in force. Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov, pleaded with the government on Monday not to bomb his home city. Local authorities say thousands of residents have left Donetsk, but most have nowhere to go.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/pushed-slaviansk-ukraine-rebels-barricade-donetsk-020130089.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/pushed-slaviansk-ukraine-rebels-barricade-donetsk-020130089.html)

**Ukraine's Poroshenko names new head of anti-rebel operations**

President Petro Poroshenko has named a new chief of military operations against separatists in eastern Ukraine, continuing a shake-up of the military and security leadership to combat the insurgency. In a decree, he named Vasyl Grytsak head of the "anti-terrorist centre", making him operational chief in the drive to quash the rebels. Pro-Russian separatists have been fighting government forces since April when they set up 'people's republics' in the east of Ukraine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140708064459-x0ajv/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140708064459-x0ajv/?source=search)

**Rebel leader threatens offensive action in eastern Ukraine**

A separatist leader in eastern Ukraine warned Kiev that pro-Russian rebels would take the offensive again after regrouping forces in the region's biggest industrial hub of Donetsk. "We're not preparing ourselves for a siege, we're preparing ourselves for action," Alexander Borodai said in an interview in Moscow with Russian Internet outlet Gazeta.ru in Moscow. Militants fled the rebel stronghold of Slaviansk over the weekend, following months of fighting, in a victory for Kiev that President Petro Poroshenko called a "turning point" in its fight against the separatists.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140708091738-x416i**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140708091738-x416i)

EAP

**China**

**China tightens state secrets rules for journalists**

China will toughen curbs on journalists disclosing state and commercial secrets, a top media regulator said on Tuesday, in the latest effort by President Xi Jinping's government to muzzle critical speech, both in traditional media and online. News outfits must stiffen oversight of material obtained by journalists and other employees containing national and commercial secrets and information that has not yet been made public, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television said in a statement. News organisations must also require employees to sign pledges that they will not disclose secrets.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140708080602-gzqk8/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140708080602-gzqk8/?source=search)

**Japan**

**One dead as powerful typhoon hits Japan's Okinawa**

One man died, more than 500,000 people were urged to evacuate and hundreds of flights were cancelled in Japan as a strong typhoon brought torrential rain and high winds to its southwestern islands and could bring heavy rain to Tokyo later this week. Typhoon Neoguri weakened from its original status as a super typhoon but remained intense, with gusts of more than 250 km per hour (155 mph). It was powering through the Okinawa island chain where emergency rain and high-seas warnings were in effect.

Reuters - <http://www.trust.org/item/20140708090907-8dpaf>

ESA

**Ghana**

**US citizen tested for Ebola in Ghana**

A US citizen in Ghana is being tested for Ebola after he fell ill following a trip to two countries in the region battling the disease, a senior government official said on Monday. "He is an American and records showed that he had been to Guinea and Sierra Leone in the past few weeks," a senior health ministry official told Reuters. Test results are expected later on Monday. The Ministry of Health said in a statement a patient, who has not been named, was in quarantine at Nyaho clinic in Accra and tests were being conducted at Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research in Accra. It urged the public to remain calm.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707114036-1nczr/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707114036-1nczr/?source=dpagehead)

**Kenya**

**Nairobi rally criticises Kenyatta government**

Thousands of people have rallied in Kenya's capital to criticise what they call President Uhuru Kenyatta's failure to improve the lives of ordinary people, more than a year after he came to office. Kenya's main opposition group, which organised the protest on Monday in Nairobi, hinted it would carry out more mass protests after the government refused to comply with its demands to convene national talks on security, corruption and rising costs of living. "Today we are telling the president if he is not working he must go," Senator Bonny Khalwale told those gathered at Nairobi's central park.The crowd responded with chants of "Uhuru must go".

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/kenyan-police-fire-tear-gas-at-protesters-2014779015482928.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/07/kenyan-police-fire-tear-gas-at-protesters-2014779015482928.html)

**One killed in Kenya attacks in northeast and on coast**

Gunmen in Kenya launched two separate attacks, killing one person by hurling a grenade into a restaurant in the restive northeast, and torching conservation offices on the coast near Lamu, police said Tuesday. At least one person was killed and several injured late Monday in the grenade blast in a restaurant in Kenya's northeastern town of Wajir, before spraying the building with bullets and escaping, police said. No one claimed immediate responsibility for the killing.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137897-one-killed-in-grenade-attack-in-kenyan-northeast**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137897-one-killed-in-grenade-attack-in-kenyan-northeast)

**Mozambique**

**Renamo spokesman arrested at peace talks**

Police arrested a senior member of Mozambique's opposition party Renamo as he left peace talks at the president's office Monday, a party official said. Renamo's spokesman Antonio Muchunga had been invited to the presidency as a member of a state council charged with resolving escalating political and military tensions between the party and the government. Muchunga was held as he tried to leave the meeting, where it had been decided to remove the immunity from prosecution he enjoyed as a member of the council, Lole said. Muchunga is one of three Renamo members nominated to the 18-member advisory council, which meets to discuss issues of national importance.

**Global Post - http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140707/mozambique-opposition-spokesman-arrested-at-peace-talks**

**Tanzania**

**Eight wounded in Tanzanian tourist town restaurant blast**

Eight people were wounded, one seriously, in a bomb blast in a restaurant late Monday in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, police said Tuesday. "No one died but eight people were wounded, one is in a serious condition," top Tanzanian police officer Issaya Mngulu told Agence France Presse. "It was an improvised explosive device thrown through a window." The attack took place at an upmarket Indian restaurant popular with foreigners and wealthy Tanzanians in the centre of town. It was not clear if any of those wounded were foreigners.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137916-eight-wounded-in-tanzanian-tourist-town-restaurant-blast**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137916-eight-wounded-in-tanzanian-tourist-town-restaurant-blast)

**Uganda**

**Uganda says anti-gay bill misunderstood by donors who halted aid**

International donors who withheld aid over Uganda's anti-gay bill "misinterpreted" the law whose main focus was to stop promotion of homosexuality to children and others, the government said on Tuesday.

Widely condemned by donor countries, the law imposes jail terms of up to life for "aggravated homosexuality", which includes homosexual sex with a minor or while HIV-positive. It also criminalizes lesbianism for the first time and makes it a crime to help individuals engage in homosexual acts. The United States last month reduced aid to Uganda, imposed visa restrictions and cancelled a regional military exercise in response. The World Bank, Sweden, [Norway](http://www.reuters.com/places/norway?lc=int_mb_1001), Denmark and the Netherlands also suspended or redirected aid to the government.

**Reuters - http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/07/us-uganda-gay-idUSKBN0FC1K420140707**

**Army kills 60 armed men, troops deployed near oil area**

Uganda's army said on Monday it had killed more than 60 armed men who attacked police and army posts in the west on Saturday, while extra troops had been deployed to restore security in an area near the country's new oil fields. Authorities have said the gunmen are from a local militia and had no connection to the rebel group ADF-NALU. Uganda worries that ADF-NALU, if left unchallenged in Congo's loosely governed east, poses a threat to its oil fields in the Albertine rift basin where Tullow Oil, Total and China's CNOOC are preparing for commercial production, possibly starting in 2017.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707125244-2zlur/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707125244-2zlur/?source=dpagehead)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**UN pushes for migrants to be called refugees**

UN officials are pushing for many of the Central Americans fleeing to the US to be treated as refugees displaced by armed conflict, a designation meant to increase pressure on the United States to accept tens of thousands of people currently ineligible for asylum. Officials with the UNHCR say they hope to see a regional agreement on that status Thursday when migration and interior department representatives from the US, Mexico, and Central America meet in Nicaragua. The group will discuss updating a 30-year-old declaration regarding the obligations nations have to aid refugees.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-pushes-migrants-called-refugees-040404169.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-pushes-migrants-called-refugees-040404169.html)

**White House says most children at border to be sent home**

The White House said on Monday that most unaccompanied minors flooding into the US from Central America will not be allowed to stay as the Obama administration prepares to ask Congress for $2 billion to address the border crisis. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said most of the border-crossers would not qualify to stay in the US. Those who possibly could get asylum are children who have been victims of domestic abuse. Minors who fled because of gang-related violence could have a harder time qualifying, according to immigration experts.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/white-house-says-most-children-border-sent-home-044008779.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/white-house-says-most-children-border-sent-home-044008779.html)

**Quake slams Mexico, Guatemala; at least 3 dead**

A magnitude-6.9 earthquake on the Pacific Coast jolted a wide area of southern Mexico and Central America Monday, killing at least three people while damaging homes, hospitals and churches. The US Geological Survey said the quake hit at 6:23 a.m. on the Pacific Coast 1 mile north-northeast of Puerto Madero, near the Guatemala border. It initially calculated the magnitude at 7.1 but later lowered the figure to 6.9.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/quake-slams-mexico-guatemala-least-3-dead-183813737.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/quake-slams-mexico-guatemala-least-3-dead-183813737.html)

**Colombia**

**More Colombians trafficked for forced labour than sex work –report**

In 2008, Colombia's interior ministry assisted eight victims of slavery. Last year that figure rose to 24. The number of Colombians trafficked for slave labour outside of the country has now overtaken the number of people trafficked for sexual exploitation, the newspaper said. So far this year, Colombia's interior ministry has dealt with 26 cases of forced labour, 11 cases of forced prostitution and three cases of forced marriage. Experts say these cases of forced labour are likely to be the tip of the iceberg as fear of reprisal and low prosecution rates in Colombia prevent victims reporting trafficking crimes to the authorities. There have also been cases of Colombian men forced to work making furniture and baskets in Argentina, according to the 2014 US State Department's trafficking in persons report.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707163614-4y9px/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707163614-4y9px/?source=dpagehead)

**Haiti**

**Four and a half years after devastating quake, 92% of displaced population has left camps in Haiti**

Four and a half years after the earthquake that struck Haiti on the 12th January 2010, an estimated 103,565 IDPs, or 28,134 households, remain in 172 camps scattered throughout metropolitan Port-au-Prince and the Palms regions, in the West department. Since the height of the displacement crisis, when 1.5 million persons lived in makeshift camps, the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has registered a decrease of 92 per cent in the total number of households and an 89 per cent decrease in the number of sites. “IOM commends the Government of Haiti for the efforts and resources it has put towards closing the displacement chapter in Haiti. We are working closely with Government institutions and donors to identify durable solutions for the remaining IDPs,” said IOM Haiti Chief of Mission Gregoire Goodstein.

**IOM -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/four-and-half-years-after-devastating-quake-92-cent-displaced-population-has-left-camps**](http://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/four-and-half-years-after-devastating-quake-92-cent-displaced-population-has-left-camps)

**Nicaragua**

**Route of proposed Nicaraguan canal unveiled**

Nicaragua's government and Hong Kong-based HKND Group on Monday unveiled the route of a proposed $40 billion inter-ocean canal to compete with the Panama Canal. While the canal has the support of President Daniel Ortega and most Nicaraguans, many legal experts charge that the deal violates the country's national sovereignty. Environmental experts warn that construction could cause profound ecological damage by damming rivers, splitting ecosystems and moving untold tons of earth. Others fear the project is not economically feasible. Construction is expected to begin in December 2014 and take five years

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/route-proposed-nicaraguan-canal-unveiled-031338263.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/route-proposed-nicaraguan-canal-unveiled-031338263.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel vows 'lengthy' offensive in Gaza**

The Israeli army has promised a “lengthy” offensive against Hamas, after a fresh wave of airstrikes against Gaza and a salvo of dozens of rockets fired from the strip into southern Israel. Palestinians told Al Jazeera that eight people were injured in the Israeli strikes on Tuesday morning, one of which reportedly targeted the house of a senior member of the Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. The bombings came after at least 20 rockets were fired from Gaza. No injuries or damage were reported. Overnight, the air force carried out some 50 airstrikes in the besieged territory, and on Tuesday Moshe Ya’alon, the defence minister, said the current campaign in Gaza would be lengthy

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707235012-afye5/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707235012-afye5/?source=search)

**Palestinians in Israel protest as anger grows**

An estimated 250 protesters assembled on Monday in the northern coastal city of Acre, chanting slogans against the recent killing of Palestinian teen Muhammad Abu Khdair, against Israel’s ongoing airstrikes in the Gaza Strip and in support of a third Intifada (uprising). After six consecutive days of large demonstrations, Israeli media and politicians have raised concerns that Palestinians in Israel, who number about 20 percent of the country's population, will escalate their protests. On Sunday night, police clashed with demonstrators in at least 19 Palestinian cities, towns and villages across Israel, mostly in the Galilee and Triangle regions. In Iksal, a Galilee village south of Nazareth, locals burned down a police outpost after clashes on Sunday, while in Nazareth, police clashed with local youth for four consecutive nights.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/palestinians-israel-protest-2014788246711841.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/palestinians-israel-protest-2014788246711841.html)

**Egypt**

**Prime minister seeks to justify fuel subsidy cuts**

Egypt's prime minister has sought to justify politically sensitive subsidy cuts on fuel and natural gas which took effect on Saturday, saying they were a necessary part of fixing an economy hammered by three years of turmoil. Egypt had overnight on Friday slashed its subsidies for car fuel and natural gas, increasing their prices by more than 70 percent. The move prompted scattered protests, with several minibus drivers for instance protesting in the cities of Suez and Ismailia and demanding a rise in fares to compensate for increased fuel costs. Police fired tear gas to disperse them.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypts-prime-minister-seeks-justify-fuel-subsidy-cuts-154245419--business.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypts-prime-minister-seeks-justify-fuel-subsidy-cuts-154245419--business.html)

**Kuwait**

**Freed Kuwait opposition leader vows protests to continue**

Prominent Kuwait opposition leader Mussallam al-Barrak sent a defiant message to the government hours after he was released from jail saying protests will continue in the oil-rich Gulf state. "Putting us in jail will only strengthen our determination," Barrak told an opposition rally Monday night near the central prison where a number of activists are still detained. "We will not stop protests until we achieve the elected government that comes out from ballot boxes," the nationalist leader told a cheering crowd celebrating his release. Forming an elected government to replace the existing ruling family-led cabinets is one of the main demands for the Kuwaiti opposition groups which include Islamists, nationalists and liberals.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137869-freed-kuwait-opposition-leader-vows-protests-to-continue**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137869-freed-kuwait-opposition-leader-vows-protests-to-continue)

**Iraq**

**Iraq parliament delayed for five weeks, general killed near Baghdad**

Iraq's new parliament put off its next session for five weeks on Monday, extending the country's political paralysis amid a Sunni Islamist insurgency that claimed the life of an army general near Baghdad. Citing the politicians' failure to reach "understanding and agreement" on nominations for the top three posts in government, the office of acting speaker Mehdi al-Hafidh said parliament would not meet again until Aug. 12. Putting off the work of reaching consensus is a slap in the face to efforts by Iraq's Shiite clergy, the US, the UN and Iran, who have all urged the swift formation of an inclusive government to hold the country together.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-parliament-delayed-five-weeks-general-killed-near-012734793.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-parliament-delayed-five-weeks-general-killed-near-012734793.html)

**Syria**

**US begins destroying Syrian chemical agents at sea**

A US naval crew has begun work to "neutralize" Syria's chemical weapons on a vessel in the Mediterranean, an unprecedented operation expected to take about two months, the Pentagon said Monday. The MV Cape Ray, which is outfitted with portable hydrolysis machinery, launched the effort after having loaded on board 600 metric tons of chemical agents at an Italian port on July 2, spokesman Colonel Steven Warren told reporters. "We expect neutralization to take approximately 60 days," Warren said. The pace of the work would depend in part on the weather and conditions at sea, he said. After breaking down the lethal chemicals to a sludge equivalent to industrial waste, the byproducts will be transported to Finland and Germany for final disposal, he said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137851-u-s-begins-destroying-syrian-chemical-agents-at-sea**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137851-u-s-begins-destroying-syrian-chemical-agents-at-sea)

**Syria's female refugees facing poverty, harassment and isolation: UNHCR**

Women are the sole providers for one in four Syrian refugee families, struggling to provide food and shelter for their children and often facing harassment, humiliation and isolation, according to a report from the UNHCR. More than 145,000 Syrian families now living in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan are led by women, it says. The civil war in Syria has torn apart families and communities, forcing almost three million people - mostly women and children - to flee the country. Those interviewed for the report, “Woman Alone - the Fight for Survival by Syrian Refugee Women”, said they lacked resources, jobs, food, housing, protection and security. One in three reported they did not have enough to eat.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/women-head-quarter-syrian-refugee-families**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/women-head-quarter-syrian-refugee-families)

**Europe should accept more Syrian refugees, official says**

A top EU official appealed to the EU's 28 member states on Monday to step up their efforts to resettle Syrian refugees, saying Europe must offer a legal alternative to migrants who risk their life to reach the continent by sea. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said Syria's neighbors were hosting three million refugees displaced by the country's three-year-old civil war but Europe had accepted fewer than 100,000. If all EU countries resettled as many as the two EU countries that take most Syrian refugees, Sweden and Germany, did, "we could at least help 150,000 resettled refugees," she said.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/europe-accept-more-syrian-refugees-official-says-182904949.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/europe-accept-more-syrian-refugees-official-says-182904949.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghanistan's Abdullah rejects election result as 'coup' against people**

Afghan presidential contender Abdullah Abdullah's camp rejected preliminary results of last month's run-off election on Monday as a "coup" against the people, putting him on a dangerous collision course with his rival, Ashraf Ghani. The Independent Election Commission announced on Monday that Ghani won the June 14 second round with 56.44 percent of the vote, according to preliminary results. The tally might change when the final official numbers come out on July 22. Abdullah's camp responded angrily, saying the result was invalid because it did not throw out all the fraudulent votes.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistans-abdullah-rejects-election-result-coup-against-people-033758236.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/afghanistans-abdullah-rejects-election-result-coup-against-people-033758236.html)

**At least 16 killed in Afghan suicide blast, including 4 NATO soldiers**

At least four NATO soldiers, two policemen and 10 civilians have been killed in a suicide blast in eastern Afghanistan, police and security sources said. Women and children were among the dead and at least 14 people were also injured in Tuesday's attack, which the Taliban claimed responsibility for in a text message to the Reuters news agency. An Afghan security source told Al Jazeera that the attack took place at a medical clinic in the province of Parwan near the Bagram Air Base. NATO forces were reportedly investigating a rocket attack on Sunday that hit the base, our correspondent said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/nato-troops-afghan-police-killed-blast-20147861423746478.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/07/nato-troops-afghan-police-killed-blast-20147861423746478.html)

**India**

**Delhi records most rapes as crimes against women rise in India**

Reports of crimes against women in India such as rape, dowry deaths, abduction and molestation increased by 26.7 percent in 2013 compared to the previous year, government statistics showed on Monday. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) said there were 309,546 crimes against women reported to the Indian police last year against 244,270 in 2012, with the highest number recorded in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. Crimes included rape, kidnapping, sexual harassment, trafficking, molestation and cruelty by husbands and relatives. They also include crimes in which a woman was driven to suicide as a result of demands for a dowry from her husband or in-laws.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140707165336-5h0k7/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140707165336-5h0k7/?source=search)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan airstrikes kill 13 militants in tribal area**

Pakistani jets bombed insurgent hideouts in a restive tribal area bordering Afghanistan and killed at least 13 militants on Tuesday, the military said. The strikes were carried out at Degan village, a stronghold of Taliban militants in the North Waziristan tribal district. "Seven terrorist hideouts were destroyed and 13 terrorists were killed, including foreigners, by jet aircraft strikes in Degan in North Waziristan Agency today," a military statement said. More than half a million civilians have fled the long-awaited offensive unleashed by the military on the tribal area last month.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137918-pakistan-airstrikes-kill-13-militants-in-tribal-area**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/137918-pakistan-airstrikes-kill-13-militants-in-tribal-area)

WCA

**CAR**

**34 injured in Central African mosque attack**

Thirty-four people were injured, including four critically, in a Monday hand grenade attack on a mosque in the town of Paoua in western Central African Republic, local media has said. A group of militants threw a hand grenade at Muslims worshippers in the mosque, local newspaper La Nouvelle Centrafrique reported.

**TVC news-** [**http://www.tvcnews.tv/?q=article/34-injured-central-african-mosque-attack**](http://www.tvcnews.tv/?q=article/34-injured-central-african-mosque-attack)

**Deadly clashes erupt in C. Africa as French minister visits**

France's defence minister warned Monday that violence in the CAR was becoming "more serious" as he started a visit to the former French colony, amid reports of more deadly clashes. Jean-Yves Le Drian said political efforts to end the bloody conflict have stalled despite the election of a new leader six months ago. Central Africa's transitional president Catherine Samba Panza took power in February in a bid to end the deadly sectarian violence, which erupted when the mainly Muslim Seleka alliance seized power in a March 2013 coup.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/deadly-clashes-erupt-c-africa-french-minister-visits-205556927.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/deadly-clashes-erupt-c-africa-french-minister-visits-205556927.html)

**Fighters attack church sheltering civilians**

Rebel fighters and armed Muslim civilians killed “many” people in an attack on a church compound in CAR on Monday where thousands of civilians had taken refuge, Catholic Church officials said. The attack in Bambari, 380 km northwest of the capital Bangui, came just a day before French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was due to visit the town, where a grenade attack injured seven French soldiers last week. Church officials said fighters from the Seleka rebel movement and armed civilians from the town's Muslim community entered St. Joseph's Cathedral around 3 p.m.

**VOA-** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/central-african-republic-fighters-attack-church/1952764.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/central-african-republic-fighters-attack-church/1952764.html)

**Nigeria**

**Suspected Boko Haram kill 7 in northeast Nigeria**

Suspected Boko Haram disguised in army uniforms killed seven people in an attack near the northeastern border with Cameroon, residents said Monday. The gunmen, five of whom were also killed, razed a police station and a military camp during the late Sunday attack in the restive region, which has been among the hardest hit areas during Boko Haram's five-year uprising. "The gunmen split into three groups and launched simultaneous attacks on the military camp, the police station and other buildings in the village," said Abor Grema, a resident of the targeted Krenuwa village in Marte district.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/suspected-boko-haram-islamists-kill-7-northeast-nigeria-194838498.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/suspected-boko-haram-islamists-kill-7-northeast-nigeria-194838498.html)

**63 abducted women, girls escape from Boko Haram**

Sixty-three women and girls kidnapped by Boko Haram last month in Nigeria escaped from their captors and have returned to their burnt village, a security source and a local vigilante fighting the militant group said. The hostages were seized from the Kummabza village in northern Borno state on June 18 after a four-day invasion of the village by Boko Haram insurgents. The militants killed 30 men and burned the entire village. Their escape is good news, but the Islamist terrorist group is still believed to be holding about 200 schoolgirls abducted April 14 from their hostels in the town of Chibok - a case that drew international outrage and prompted a global campaign for their release.

**CNN-** [**http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/07/world/africa/nigeria-boko-haram-women-escape/index.html?hpt=hp\_t3**](http://edition.cnn.com/2014/07/07/world/africa/nigeria-boko-haram-women-escape/index.html?hpt=hp_t3)

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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