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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UN's Ebola crisis manager found dead in Guinea one month after appointment**

The United Nations envoy charged with leading fight against Ebola in Guinea has been found dead a month after he was appointed to the post. Rwandan national Marcel Rudasingwa 59, "died suddenly", Aissata Cisse Yao Yao, of the UN Development Programme, said in a statement which did not reveal the cause. Yao however says Rudasindwa died of natural causes. At a time when we are focusing all our energies to help Guinea out of the Ebola outbreak, Marcel Rudasingwa made an invaluable contribution which is to be applauded," Yao added. Rudasingwa had worked for UNICEF for almost 20 years before being appointed as the Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea. The career UN employee, he had worked in Kenya, Mali, Guinea and Denmark.

**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/UN-s-Ebola-crisis-manager-found-dead/-/688340/2526164/-/x6lu8tz/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/UN-s-Ebola-crisis-manager-found-dead/-/688340/2526164/-/x6lu8tz/-/index.html)

**More than 35 million people worldwide are being held as slaves**

More than 35 million men, women, and children across the world are being held as slaves, according to a bleak new report. The document highlighted how swathes of people are currently trapped by forced labour, human trafficking, forced marriages, debt bondage and or commercial sexual exploitation. The Global Slavery Index, an annual study by Australian NGO the Walk Free Foundation (WFF), also revealed that the 10 countries where slavery is most common account for 71 per cent of the overall global total. When slavery is measured by absolute numbers, India remained at top of the list where around 14.29 million people are enslaved, followed by China with 3.24 million, Pakistan with 2.06 million, Uzbekistan at 1.2 million, and 1.05 million in Russia.

**Independent -** [**http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/more-than-35-million-people-worldwide-are-being-held-as-slaves-9866430.html**](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/more-than-35-million-people-worldwide-are-being-held-as-slaves-9866430.html)

**Drowning kills 372,000 people each year**

A newly released WHO report shows that drowning claims the lives of 372,000 people each year, said UN deputy spokesperson reported. The WHO on 17 November released the global report on drowning: Preventing a leading killer, which reveals that drowning kills more than 40 people every hour and is among the 10 leading causes of death for children and young people in every region.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141117/drowning-kills-372000-people-each-year-un-report**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141117/drowning-kills-372000-people-each-year-un-report)

**As another El Nino looms, Africa aims to cut hunger threat**

With an El Niño event predicted to hit the Horn of Africa and the Sahel starting in December 2014, potentially bringing worsening droughts and floods, researchers are recommending action now to avoid a food crisis. Effective measure to cut risks might include better water management, planting a more diverse range of crops and sharing weather information, they said. Forecasts by the US National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released this month warn of an El Niño period starting in December 2014 and lasting into 2015 - a risk for the two fragile regions prone to extreme weather, experts say. Recent El Niño events brought floods to the Horn of Africa in 1997-1998 and 2006-2007 and drought to the Sahel in 2012, resulting in losses of lives, harvests and livestock as well as infrastructure damage and outbreaks of hunger and disease.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/africa-el-nino-food-idINL6N0T45GM20141117**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/africa-el-nino-food-idINL6N0T45GM20141117)

**UN Deputy Humanitarian Chief Kyung-Wha Kang to visit South Sudan**

UN Deputy Humanitarian Chief Kyung-Wha Kang is scheduled to visit South Sudan from 19 to 21 November to draw attention to the humanitarian consequences of the current crisis and to mobilize support to scale up and expand critical aid operations. During her three-day mission, ASG Kang is expected to meet with communities affected by the crisis in different parts of the country, as well as senior Government officials and humanitarian partners. She will discuss ways of improving access to those in need and strengthening protection of civilians and aid workers.

**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/un-deputy-humanitarian-chief-kyung-wha-kang-visit-south-sudan**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/un-deputy-humanitarian-chief-kyung-wha-kang-visit-south-sudan)

**UN warns of more Israeli-Palestinian violence**

A senior UN official warned the Security Council on Monday that violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories was likely to worsen without a quick return to peace talks. "Returning to negotiations has never been more important," UN Assistant-Secretary General Jens Toyberg-Frandzen told the 15-member council, during a meeting on the Middle East. "Without a genuine commitment from the parties and an overall improvement in the lives of Palestinians, we should anticipate further deterioration of the security situation and an expansion of the current violence," he said.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/115764/World/Region/UN-warns-of-more-IsraeliPalestinian-violence.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/115764/World/Region/UN-warns-of-more-IsraeliPalestinian-violence.aspx)

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**EU sanctions separatists as crisis deepens**

The EU agreed to blacklist more Ukrainian separatists on 17 November but stopped short of fresh sanctions against Russia, saying there was hope of restarting dialogue with Moscow to end the worst standoff since the Cold War. The new European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said foreign ministers meeting in Brussels had raised the possibility of her visiting Moscow for talks to seek a solution to a crisis. She said the EU would add more separatists to the list of 119 individuals currently facing travel bans and asset freezes. Those previously targeted range from close Putin allies and Russian oligarchs to rebel leaders. A final decision on the new names is due at the end of November.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/eu-agrees-add-ukraine-separatists-blacklist-diplomats-134535465.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/eu-agrees-add-ukraine-separatists-blacklist-diplomats-134535465.html)

**Army beefs up defences over intensified violence**

Ukrainian forces beefed up its defenses along the frontline with territories controlled by independence-seeking insurgents in the country's east as fighting has intensified over the weekend, a military spokesperson said on 17 November. "We have already prepared a first line of defense, reinforced our units, withdraw additional defensive means and weapons from storages and geared up additional troops," said the spokesperson for the National Security and Defense Council. He accused insurgents of attacking Ukrainian positions across Donetsk and Lugansk regions and preparing a fresh offensive aimed at breaking into the territories controlled by the government forces.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/17/c\_127221791.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/17/c_127221791.htm)

**EU to launch advisory mission for civilian security sector reform**

The Council of the European Union (EU) announced on 17 November the launch of an advisory mission for civilian security sector reform in Ukraine on 1 December with an initial mandate of two years. According to a statement by the EU, the mission will assist the Ukrainian authorities in the field of civilian security sector reform, including police and rule of law.

**ECHO -** [**http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/145774.pdf**](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/145774.pdf)

**Artillery explosions shake Donetsk airport in the east**

Loud explosions and artillery fire rocked Donetsk airport in eastern Ukraine, despite attempts to negotiate an end to a battle that is undermining a ceasefire in regions held by separatists. A reporter near the strategically important airport saw flashes of artillery fire in several places and heard frequent blasts in new clashes between the pro-Russian rebels and government forces. A separatist leader said that the rebels had reached an agreement with the Ukrainian forces to stop shelling around Donetsk airport, which both Ukrainian and rebel forces lay partial claim to. But a military spokesperson in Kiev said the agreement was meant only to allow the rebels to recover the dead and wounded from the airport and that fighting had abated overnight.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-ukraine-crisis-donetsk-idUSKCN0J115520141117**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-ukraine-crisis-donetsk-idUSKCN0J115520141117)

**Ten soldiers, police killed in the east in last 24 hours**

Seven Ukrainian soldiers and three police officers were killed in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours, security officials in Kiev said on 17 November. The officers were killed in shelling while out on patrol near Makarove in the Lugansk region. Five other police were also wounded in the attack. Six soldiers died in separate incidents, officials said, while nine others were also wounded. One of the injured servicemen later died in hospital from his wounds, the military said later. In the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, a reporter in the city reported hearing fresh shelling early on 17 November. The separatist leadership in the industrial hub said Ukrainian army shelling destroyed three houses close to the ruins of the international airport, where government forces are battling to maintain control.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20141117-ten-ukrainian-soldiers-police-killed-east-last-24-hours/**](http://www.france24.com/en/20141117-ten-ukrainian-soldiers-police-killed-east-last-24-hours/)

EAP

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar army speak against constitutional change**

Myanmar's powerful army has told parliament it opposes changing a junta-drafted constitution that bars opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming president, days after US President Barack Obama called for it to be amended. Military representatives - whose veto on charter change is guaranteed by the constitution - spoke out against amending a clause which bans Suu Kyi from high political office, during a heated debate that could have a major bearing on the country's future after crucial 2015 elections.

**NewsAsia -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/myanmar-army-bristles/1479368.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/myanmar-army-bristles/1479368.html)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Deadly raids on mosques in Mombasa**

Police shoot dead one man and arrest more than 200 people at two mosques they allege have links with al-Shabaab group. One man has been killed and more than 200 people arrested during raids on two mosques in the Kenyan city of Mombasa, which police accused of having links with Somalia's al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabab fighters Kenya has been trying to break up fighter networks it blames for a series of attacks on the coast, saying many recruits were inspired by al-Shabaab. Security forces began the operation in the early hours of Monday morning, targeting the Musa and Sakina mosques in the port city.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/11/deadly-raids-mosques-kenya-mombasa-2014111715249473661.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/11/deadly-raids-mosques-kenya-mombasa-2014111715249473661.html)

**South Sudan president holds reconciliation talks with Garang’s widow**

South Sudan’s president, Salva Kiir, has held reconciliation and unity talks with a group former political detainees in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, one week ahead of the resumption of peace talks in Ethiopia. The group is led by Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, wife of the late founding leader of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), John Garang de Mabior. A former long-serving adviser to the president on human rights and gender affairs, de Mabior was sacked on Kiir’s orders last August. The talks were organised by Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni, who urged the two sides to renew their commitment to ending the country’s more than 11-month-long conflict or risk being “trouble makers” in the region.

**SudanTribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53070**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53070)

LAC

**Across Region**

**Border crossings by children decline as immigration debate intensifies**

The number of unaccompanied children apprehended by federal agents in October at the US Southwest border was down by 40% compared with October 2013, according to US Customs and Border Protection. The announcement comes as the US prepares for a renewed battle over immigration issues. Over the summer, the swell of children and their families illegally crossing the border, mainly from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, inflamed the political debate. The latest numbers show that in the nine sectors of the Southwest border from California to Texas, the number of unaccompanied children apprehended by federal border personnel fell from about 4,181 in October 2013 to 2,529 in October 2014, the agency said. Family apprehensions also fell, from 2,414 to 2,163, about 10%, the agency said. The numbers are organized by federal fiscal year, which begins on 1 October, so it is too soon to make annual comparisons. But the monthly decrease is part of a continuing trend, the Homeland Security Secretary said.

**LA Times -** [**http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-immigration-numbers-20141114-story.html**](http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-immigration-numbers-20141114-story.html)

**US to grant refugee status to some children**

The US government will launch a program in December 2014 to grant refugee status to some people under the age of 21 who live in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and whose parents legally reside in the US. US officials say parents can ask authorities free of charge for refugee status for their children in the Central American countries. The program does not apply to minors who have arrived in the US illegally. US officials said that children deemed refugees will be able to work immediately upon arrival in the U.S., opt for permanent residency the following year and for naturalization five years later. They did not say how long the process of receiving refugee status will take. Central American children who meet the requirements will be part of a quota of 4,000 people from Latin America receiving refugee status each fiscal year, officials said. The US quota of Latin America refugees currently consists of Cubans and Colombians. Applicants who don't meet the requirements will be evaluated to see if they can be admitted conditionally under a non-permanent migratory status that allows them to work temporarily in the US.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/us-grant-refugee-status-children-26912922**](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/us-grant-refugee-status-children-26912922)

**Bolivia**

**Child labor laws increase awareness of issues**

Bolivia’s child labor law seemingly disregards the age protocols put in place by the International Labor Organization’s (ILO). Now four months old, the practicalities of the law are being revealed. There are some protections included in the law: children between 10 and 12 must be supervised by a parent while they work, children under 12 are not permitted to undertake third-party employment, and children must still attend school. One obvious problem with Bolivia’s law: how will children, exhausted after a day’s work, be able to engage in learning?

**MNN -** [**https://www.mnnonline.org/news/bolivian-child-labor-laws-increase-awareness-issues/**](https://www.mnnonline.org/news/bolivian-child-labor-laws-increase-awareness-issues/)

**Haiti**

**Police face crucial test with UN drawdown**

Disdained by many as abusive or inept, officers of Haiti's force say their new approach is beginning to pay off. A New York City Police officer, who worked as a Haitian officer in the 1990s before moving to the US, closely watched the rookies work on building trust with local residents. "The population's comfort level with police is not going to change overnight, but we're removing the myth that police are not friendly or approachable. People here are starting to see that they can talk to the cops," he said. Haitians will soon rely more on their police to maintain security as the UN downsizes the peacekeeping force it has kept in Haiti since 2004. While the UN will maintain a police contingent of 2,601, it will cut its multinational troop size from 5,021 to 2,370 in June 2015. Many people wonder if the Haitian officers will be ready.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-police-face-crucial-test-drawdown-26960021**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-police-face-crucial-test-drawdown-26960021)

**Honduras**

**UN announced CERF allocation to fight drought - UNICEF mention**

The UN System announced the allocation of $2.6 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to assist people affected by drought in 13 municipalities in the dry corridor in Choluteca, Valle, El Paraiso and Francisco Morazan. The fund will support projects in four sectors: food security and recovery of agricultural livelihoods, health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). **UNICEF** will receive more than $500,000 for nutrition and WASH.

**La Prensa -** [**http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2014/11/14/economia/1388275-la-onu-dona-us2-6-millones-a-honduras-para-afectados-por-la-sequia**](http://www.laprensa.com.ni/2014/11/14/economia/1388275-la-onu-dona-us2-6-millones-a-honduras-para-afectados-por-la-sequia)

**La Tribuna -** [**http://www.latribuna.hn/2014/11/14/la-onu-dona-26-millones-de-dolares-honduras-para-afectados-por-la-sequia/**](http://www.latribuna.hn/2014/11/14/la-onu-dona-26-millones-de-dolares-honduras-para-afectados-por-la-sequia/)

**Mexico**

**Mexico City gov't charges officer in student shooting**

A police officer involved in a shooting that wounded a college student in Mexico City's Ciudad Universitaria will face abuse of authority and other charges, the Federal District Government Secretary said. The officer, who used his firearm during the incident, will face criminal charges, the Federal District Government Secretary said. The shooting ratcheted up tensions between students and police in Mexico, where numerous protests, some of them violent, have been staged since the disappearance of 43 education students nearly two months ago in the state of Guerrero. The shooting occurred near the School of Philosophy on the main campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), officials said.

**EFE -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/141117/mexico-city-govt-charges-officer-university-shooting**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/141117/mexico-city-govt-charges-officer-university-shooting)

**Peru**

**Two suspected Shining Path members captured in the south**

Two suspected members of the Shining Path rebel group were captured after they exchanged gunfire with an army patrol, the Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command said. The encounter took place on a path near Panti Tincuy, a settlement in what the military has designated as the Valley of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers (VRAEM), where remnants of Shining Path continue to operate more than two decades after the insurgency was defeated at the national level. The army patrol intercepted the suspects as they were traveling in a vehicle driven by a third man. Once the shooting was over, the soldiers inspected the vehicle and found two rifles, a handgun and ammunition magazines for a FAL combat rifle and an Uzi submachine gun, the Joint Command said.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2360735&CategoryId=14095**](http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2360735&CategoryId=14095)

MENA

**Across Region**

**ISIS claims Baghdad bomb attack on U.N. convoy**

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) jihadist group on Monday claimed responsibility for a suicide car bomb attack against a U.N. convoy near Baghdad airport. “Our brother Abu Muawiya al-Falluji rammed a convoy for the ‘United Nations waging war against Muslims’ surrounded by heavy U.S. protection,” the group said in a statement. The name given for the suicide attacker suggests he was an Iraqi from the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, which lies around 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Baghdad. In its statement, ISIS claimed Sunday’s attack had left many dead and alleged the Iraqi government had taken away the bodies of U.S. personnel. “The convoy was strictly a U.N. convoy, there was nobody who isn’t U.N. staff,” a press officer for the U.N. mission in Iraq said. The world body’s top envoy in Iraq said on Sunday that no U.N. staff member was wounded in the blast. A police officer said three people were injured.[**(Al Arabiya)**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/17/ISIS-claims-Baghdad-bomb-attack-on-U-N-convoy.html)

**Egypt**

**Egyptian woman dies of bird flu, second death in 2014-ministry**

An Egyptian woman died on Monday of H5N1 bird flu after coming into contact with infected birds, the second death from the disease this year, a health ministry spokesman told Reuters. Egypt has identified seven cases of the virus in people this year, including the two who died, Hosam Abdel Gaffar said. In the latest case, the woman was 19 and died at a hospital in the southern region of Assiut, he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-egypt-birdflu-death-idUSKCN0J11H020141117**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-egypt-birdflu-death-idUSKCN0J11H020141117)

**Egypt to deepen buffer zone with Gaza after finding longer tunnels**

Egypt will double to one kilometre (0.62 mile) the depth of a security buffer zone it is clearing on its border with the Gaza Strip after some of the worst anti-state violence since President Mohamed Mursi was overthrown last year. Egypt declared a state of emergency in the border area after at least 33 security personnel were killed last month in two attacks in the Sinai Peninsula, a remote but strategic region bordering Israel, Gaza and the Suez Canal. It also accelerated plans to create a 500-meter deep buffer strip along the border by clearing houses and trees and destroying subterranean tunnels it says are used to smuggle arms from Gaza to militants in Sinai.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-egypt-sinai-buffer-idUSKCN0J11M920141117**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-egypt-sinai-buffer-idUSKCN0J11M920141117)

**Iraq**

**Baghdad car bombs kill at least 12 people**

Two car bombs exploded in Baghdad on 17 November, killing at least 12 people and wounding at least 29, security and medical officials said. One exploded on a main commercial street in the Mashtal area of east Baghdad, while the other hit a similar road in Amriyah in the west. There was no immediate claim for the attacks but the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militant group has claimed multiple car bombs in Baghdad in recent weeks.

**Al Arabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/17/Baghdad-car-bombs-kill-at-least-12-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/17/Baghdad-car-bombs-kill-at-least-12-.html)

**Jerusalem/State of Palestine**

**Netanyahu vows harsh response to synagogue attack**

The Israeli prime minister says Israel will "respond harshly" to a deadly attack on a Jerusalem synagogue. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Tuesday's attack a "cruel murder of Jews who came to pray and were killed by despicable murderers."

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/several-wounded-jerusalem-synagogue-attack-054944730.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/several-wounded-jerusalem-synagogue-attack-054944730.html)

**Sudan**

**Army denies UN access to Darfur village to check rape accusations**

Sudan has refused to let UN and AU peacekeepers visit a village in the western Darfur region to investigate allegations of mass rape for the second time this month, saying it was skeptical about the motives for the visit. The UN said Sudanese troops initially denied members of the joint peacekeeping mission (UNAMID), access to Tabit in north Darfur earlier this month. The force was later allowed to visit the area and said in a statement that it had found no evidence to substantiate media reports that Sudanese soldiers had raped about 200 women and girls there. But after that visit, the Australian UN Ambassador Gary Quinlan, president of the Security Council during November, said the heavy presence of Sudan's military during UNAMID's interviews of alleged rape victims in Tabit had raised serious concerns. UNAMID said it intended to conduct further investigations and patrols in the area. But Sudan's foreign ministry issued a statement saying it had denied UNAMID entry to the area because the mission had sought to bypass Khartoum and had gone directly to Darfuri authorities for a permit.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-sudan-darfur-un-rape-idUSKCN0J10VH20141117**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/us-sudan-darfur-un-rape-idUSKCN0J10VH20141117)

**Mbeki adjourns talks on Sudan’s two areas for more consultations**

African Union mediator Thabo Mbeki announced on Monday the adjournment of peace talks on the Blue Nile and South Kordofan conflict, saying there is a need to better prepare the framework agreement. The announcement watered down hopes that transpired on Saturday when the two parties reached a compromise on all the contentious issues and tasked the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) with the writing of a new version of the draft agreement. Chief mediator Thabo Mbeki told the press conference that the parties felt the need to conduct consultations and reflection on the elements of the draft agreement and agreed “to adjourn before to resume as quick as possible”.

**SudanTribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53074**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53074)

**Syria**

**Syria says it needs more details on UN truce plan**

A high-ranking Syrian official says Damascus has agreed "in principle" to the U.N. envoy's call for local cease-fires to try to ease the worst fighting in the country's civil war, but that the government needs more details before it can make a final decision. Syrian Minister of National Reconciliation Ali Haidar says U.N. Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura presented officials in Damascus last week with "a headline, not with any comprehensive proposal" to implement small-scale, local truces. Haidar also told The Associated Press on Monday that de Mistura "has to make sure that the armed groups on the ground and their backers are ready to accept this initiative."

**AP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/17/Syria-says-it-needs-more-details-on-U-N-truce-plan.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/11/17/Syria-says-it-needs-more-details-on-U-N-truce-plan.html)

**IS executes 1,500 people in Syria in five months**

The IS group has executed nearly 1,500 people in Syria in the five months, a monitoring group said on Monday. "The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has documented the execution of 1,429 people since the IS announced its 'caliphate' in June," the group's director, Rami Abdel Rahman, said. The majority of IS's victims in Syria have been civilians, he said. "Of the total number of people beheaded or shot dead in mass killings by IS, 879 have been civilians, some 700 of them members of the Shaitat tribe."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/executes-nearly-1-500-people-syria-5-months-130323665.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/executes-nearly-1-500-people-syria-5-months-130323665.html)

**Aleppo’s children need protection – now - UNICEF**

Children living in the Syrian city of Aleppo watch the sky. Not for signs of winter's approach, although the cold winds are already blowing, but for the barrel bombs, mortars and shellfire they know will not distinguish between military targets and their families' homes. It is hard to be a child -- or to have a childhood -- in Aleppo. Despite all this, Aleppo is not a place without hope -- and there has been progress. Working with communities and local authorities, humanitarian staff are reaching some children and families in need across the city. In recent months, United Nations convoys, including those led by UNICEF, have been able to cross conflict lines, bringing with them critical supplies to help children suffering from a lack of nutrition and to increase the availability of safe water and improved sanitation.

**CNN -** [**http://edition.cnn.com/2014/11/17/opinion/lake-syria-children-refugees/index.html**](http://edition.cnn.com/2014/11/17/opinion/lake-syria-children-refugees/index.html)

SA

Across Region

**Bangladesh rescues over 600 trafficking victims**

More than 600 trafficking victims from Myanmar and Bangladesh have been rescued off the South Asian coast, a navy spokesman in Dhaka said on Tuesday, in the single biggest operation of its kind by Bangladesh authorities. The victims were found aboard a 22-metre long trawler flying the Myanmar flag off Cox's Bazar, about 400 km (250 miles) from the capital Dhaka, navy spokesman Commodore M Rashed Ali said. He said that the trawler had been awaiting another vessel which would carry the trafficking victims on the deep sea voyage to Malaysia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141118063714-j3bqb/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141118063714-j3bqb/?source=search)

**Afghanistan**

**Truck bomb hits foreign base in Kabul, kills two security guards**

A truck bomb hit a base for foreign forces in Kabul early on 18 November, killing two Afghan security guards, police said. The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack at the base on the eastern outskirts of Kabul. The explosion targeted a foreign base in the Pul-e-Charkhi district in eastern Kabul, and at least two Afghan security guards were killed, said the Kabul's police chief. He said investigations were under way, but early reports indicated that explosives were hidden under sand in the back of a mini-truck that approached the base. The blast was large enough to rattle windows several kilometres away in Kabul's central diplomatic district. The Taliban spokesperson said in an emailed statement that the truck bomb was aimed at an intelligence centre of foreign troops. He said a suicide bomber started the attack and several insurgent gunmen breached the walls of the base.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/18/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKCN0J206F20141118**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/18/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKCN0J206F20141118)

**India/Pakistan**

**Winter food crisis threatens landslide-hit villages in Indian Kashmir**

With seasonal snowfall expected any day now, the 90 or so families who inhabit the isolated mountain village of Hill Kaka are worried they won’t have enough to eat during the coming winter. They lost their entire food crop to devastating rains and landslides in September. The Jammu and Kashmir state government has promised six months of free food rations to those affected by the rains and floods. But people in this hamlet tucked away deep in the Peer Panjal mountains, some 20km from the troubled border with Pakistan, complain they have yet to receive anything. The village is usually blanketed in around 7 feet of snow for four months of the year, cutting it off from the outside world. Already lacking basic amenities, such as roads, electricity and a clinic, things took a turn for the worse when September’s landslides killed five people and damaged property and fields. There are hundreds of villages in the remote Indian Himalayas where people will have little to eat this winter without additional government help. The state’s average annual grain production is about 1.8 million tonnes against a requirement of 2.3 million tonnes, official data show, and the food deficit is likely to worsen this year due to extreme weather, experts warn.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141117103347-bklqe/?source=jtOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141117103347-bklqe/?source=jtOtherNews3)

**Pakistan**

**Bomb targeting school bus kills two, including a child**

An 11-year-old boy died in a bomb attack on a school bus in a northwestern Pakistani tribal area, which also killed the driver, officials said on 18 November. The bombing took place in the Nisti Kot area of the Upper Kurram tribal district, which is rife with insurgents and is also gripped by sectarian violence between Shiite and Sunni. “An 11-year-old boy and the driver of the school van were killed when a bomb planted on a roadside exploded,” a local government official reported. A seven-year-old girl was also wounded, he said, adding that no group had come forward to immediately claim responsibility for the attack. An intelligence official also confirmed the bombing and casualties.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/node/53964**](http://www.nst.com.my/node/53964)

WCA

**DRC**

**Police deploy at DRC embassy ahead of FDC petition over Mugumya's arrest**

Police have heavily deployed at the Democratic Republic of Congo embassy in Kampala after the opposition Forum for Democratic Change said they would petition the embassy over the arrest of activist Sam Mugumya. Mugumya was arrested two weeks ago and according to the UPDF he was arrested for alleged involvement in rebel activities while the Congolese government says he is being held for illegal entry into the country.

**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Police-deploy-at-DRC-embassy-ahead-of-FDC-petition/-/688334/2526322/-/qq2g6nz/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Police-deploy-at-DRC-embassy-ahead-of-FDC-petition/-/688334/2526322/-/qq2g6nz/-/index.html)

**Mali**

**Country places almost 600 under Ebola surveillance**

Fearful of a surge of Ebola cases, Mali placed nearly 600 people under surveillance, as the country battles to contain the spread of the deadly tropical virus. Malian officials met on 17 November to consider increasing security at its border following two confirmed cases of Ebola due to infection in Guinea. US airports also announced plans to begin enhanced screening of travellers from the nation.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mali-places-hundreds-under-watch-bid-stem-ebola-131448405.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mali-places-hundreds-under-watch-bid-stem-ebola-131448405.html)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria to seek state of emergency extension: justice minister**

Nigeria's government will seek to extend emergency rule in the restive northeast for six more months, the justice minister said Monday, meaning the extraordinary measures will likely be in force for February polls. President Goodluck Jonathan first declared a state of emergency in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in May last year, saying the military temporarily needed enhanced powers to crush Boko Haram's Islamist uprising. Lawmakers gave swift approval to two previous extension requests -- in November 2013 and May of this year -- despite mounting evidence that the measures had done nothing to ease the crisis.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2837975/Nigeria-seek-state-emergency-extension-justice-minister.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2837975/Nigeria-seek-state-emergency-extension-justice-minister.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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