**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Tuesday, 25 November 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [GENERAL](#GENERAL) | **Across Regions** | Trafficking of children on the rise, says UN |
|  | **United Nations** | United Nations members resolve to end child marriage |
| [CEE/CIS](#CEECIS) | **Across CEE/CIS** | Russia suspends coal supplies to Ukraine |
|  |  | Putin strengthens ties with Georgia breakaway region; Tbilisi protests |
|  | **Moldova** | President to convene defense meeting before election |
|  | **Ukraine** | Three more Ukrainian soldiers killed |
| [EAP](#EAP) | **DPR Korea** | N. Korea holds rally against UN rights resolution |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **Somalia** | New financial management system introduced by Somalia |
|  | **Uganda** | Uganda baby torture causes uproar (UNICEF Mention) |
|  | **South Sudan** | S. Sudan political leaders demand peaceful end to conflict |
| [LAC](#LAC) | **Bahamas** | IOM official mission to discuss new immigration policy |
|  | **Chile** | Two hurt in attack on police station at university in Santiago |
|  | **Colombia** | FARC attack on island off the Pacific coast |
|  |  | Colombia rebel chief says peace talks suspension destroyed confidence |
|  | **Jamaica** | Meteorological Service urges residents to conserve water due to rain deficit |
|  | **Mexico** | Protesters occupy prosecutor's office in 43 missing case |
|  | **Peru** | Extreme El Nino weather stunted growth of Peruvian children |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Iran** | Iran nuclear talks extended 7 months after failing to meet deadline |
|  | **Iraq** | Iraq says airstrikes are critical in the shifting battle for Ramadi |
|  | **Libya** | Unidentified jet targets airport in Tripoli |
|  |  | Pro-government forces retake Kekla |
|  | **Syria** | 40 IS militants killed in Syria |
|  | **Tunisia** | Anti-Islamist Essebsi leads Tunisia presidential vote |
|  | **Yemen** | Yemeni forces free eight hostages, kill seven kidnappers-agency |
| [SA](#SA) | **Afghanistan** | Two blasts hit Kabul, seven Afghan soldiers wounded |
|  | **Pakistan** | Polio worker injured in attack |
| [WCA](#WCA) | **CAR** | UN team probes outbreak of sectarian violence in Central African Republic |
|  | **Mali** | Government confirms eighth Ebola case |
|  | **Niger** | Niger elects new parliament head after ex-speaker flees |
|  | **Nigeria** | Suspected Boko Haram militants attack Nigerian border town |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Trafficking of children on the rise, says UN**

One third of human trafficking victims are children, and their share has been rising, the UNODC said on 24 November. The problem is most acute in Africa and the Middle East, where the majority of trafficked people are boys and girls, the UN agency said in a report. However, this crime is a global phenomenon. UNODC has collected information about victims from 152 countries, who have been forced into sex work, forced labour and other activities against their will in 124 countries.

**UNODC -** [**http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/November/trafficking-in-children-on-the-increase--according-to-latest-unodc-report.html?ref=fs1**](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2014/November/trafficking-in-children-on-the-increase--according-to-latest-unodc-report.html?ref=fs1)

**United Nations**

**United Nations members resolve to end child marriage**

The United Nations agreed on Friday that all members should pass and enforce laws banning child marriages, resolving to end a practice that affects about 15 million girls every year. The committee of the 193-nation General Assembly that deals with human rights adopted by consensus a resolution urging all states to take steps to end "child, early and forced marriage." There are now more than 700 million women who were married before their 18th birthday, many in conditions of poverty and insecurity, according to U.N. statistics. Child marriage among girls is most common in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-children-un-rights-idUSKCN0J81O320141124**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-children-un-rights-idUSKCN0J81O320141124)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia suspends coal supplies to Ukraine**

The Ukrainian Energy Minister said on 24 November that Russia had suspended coal supplies to Ukraine, an energy ministry spokesperson said. "According to information received from DTEK and Tsentrenergo, coal supplies from Russia have been suspended," the spokesperson quoted the minister as saying.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/ukraine-crisis-coal-idUSL6N0TE31Y20141124**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/ukraine-crisis-coal-idUSL6N0TE31Y20141124)

**Putin strengthens ties with Georgia breakaway region; Tbilisi protests**

President Vladimir Putin signed a "strategic partnership" agreement with Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia on Monday, angering Tbilisi, which said Moscow was looking to annex the territory. The agreement drew strong criticism from NATO and the EU. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in a statement the "so-called treaty" did not contribute to a peaceful and lasting settlement of the situation in Georgia and the Western alliance would not recognise it.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141124163345-ztvoj/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141124163345-ztvoj/?source=search)

**Moldova**

**President to convene defense meeting before election**

Moldova's President has convened a meeting of the top defense body before a parliamentary election on 30 November amid concerns that Russia may try to influence the vote in the country. The Moldovan President didn't say what was discussed at the 24 November's meeting. But Moldova's intelligence service warned there may be an attempt to destabilize the election process, without providing specific details. Moldovan authorities are concerned that Moscow may seek more influence in the country of 4 million which borders Ukraine.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/moldova-convene-defense-meeting-election-27116370**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/moldova-convene-defense-meeting-election-27116370)

**Ukraine**

**Three more Ukrainian soldiers killed**

Three Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in the past 24 hours in fighting with pro-Russian separatists in the east despite a ceasefire in place since early September, a Ukrainian military spokesperson said. Ukraine lost four other serviceman over the weekend, and the death toll among Ukrainian soldiers since the ceasefire came into force now stands at about 150, according to Kiev's military. Ukrainian military say that rebels are continuing attacks on the positions of government forces near the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, and more than 50 attacks have taken place in the past 24 hours.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-ukraine-crisis-deathtoll-idUSKCN0J80IQ20141124**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-ukraine-crisis-deathtoll-idUSKCN0J80IQ20141124)

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/24/c\_133811018.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/24/c_133811018.htm)

EAP

**DPR Korea**

**N. Korea Holds Rally against UN Rights Resolution**

North Korea held a mass rally Tuesday in its capital to protest a United Nations resolution condemning its human rights record. Thousands of protesters in Kim Il Sung Square carried banners praising their leaders and condemning the United States. Such mass rallies are organized by the government and are used to express its official line. North Korea has denounced the U.N. resolution, which is the first to urge the Security Council to refer the issue to the International Criminal Court. That would open the possibility of its autocratic leader, Kim Jong Un, being targeted by prosecutors. The non-binding resolution is to come before the U.N. General Assembly in the coming weeks.

**ABC –** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/korea-holds-rally-rights-resolution-27158578**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/korea-holds-rally-rights-resolution-27158578)

ESA

**Somalia**

**New financial management system introduced by Somalia**

Somalia’s finance department has launched a new Financial Management Information System (SFMIS) to improve accountability in processing transactions. The Somali government said that SFMIS system will focus on budgeting, expenditure and revenue collection in a bid to improve reporting capabilities and establish an accurate audit trail. It added that improved timeliness, accuracy and comprehensiveness of financial reports would help make government decisions more effective.

**Goobjoog -** [**http://goobjoog.com/english/?p=6215**](http://goobjoog.com/english/?p=6215)

**Uganda**

**Uganda baby torture causes uproar - UNICEF Mention**

A video clip showing a child caretaker torturing an 18-month-old baby has caused an outcry in Uganda with the public calling for harsh punitive measures. Aida Girma, the UNICEF Representative here said in a statement issued on Monday. "Any such act of abuse and violence against children is completely unacceptable and a violation of every child's fundamental right to be protected." According to UNICEF, about 3.5 million children between the ages of 6-17 -- 32 percent of all 6-17 year olds -- currently experience physical violence in Uganda.

**Xinhuaret -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2014-11/25/c\_133811398.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2014-11/25/c_133811398.htm)

**South Sudan**

**S. Sudan political leaders demand peaceful end to conflict**

A forum of South Sudanese political leaders has urged the country’s warring parties to make the necessary concessions to end the ongoing war in the young nation. The call came as reports emerged that the eighth session of peace negotiations led by the East African regional bloc (IGAD) initially scheduled for 25 November in Ethiopia, had been adjourned indefinitely. This is yet another sign that the warring parties do not have the political will to bring this destructive war to an end, said the political parties in a joint press release.

**Relief Web -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/s-sudan-political-leaders-demand-peaceful-end-conflict**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/s-sudan-political-leaders-demand-peaceful-end-conflict)

LAC

**Bahamas**

**IOM official mission to discuss new immigration policy**

The deputy director-general of the IOM visited the Bahamas for talks with top officials on the nation's controversial new immigration law, the government said on 24 November. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration shared with the IOM deputy director-general, his concerns about "misconceptions" arising from media coverage of the new immigration law, suggesting that a public education campaign is needed. Under the new law, which took effect in November, the Bahamian government will not accept applications for work permits from persons residing illegally in the country and legal immigrants must carry their passports at all times.

**EFE -** [**http://www.caribnewsdesk.com/news/8998-u-n-official-visits-bahamas-to-discuss-new-immigration-policy**](http://www.caribnewsdesk.com/news/8998-u-n-official-visits-bahamas-to-discuss-new-immigration-policy)

**Chile**

**Two hurt in attack on police station at university in Santiago**

Two detectives were injured and two cars burned on 24 November when hooded assailants attacked a police station in Santiago, authorities said. The assault occurred at a precinct in Santiago's Providencia municipality. At least a dozen attackers rushed the station from a university campus located across the street, the head of Chile's Carabineros militarized police reported. Three of the assailants used chains and padlocks to seal the station's doors from the outside before the group hurled several Molotov cocktails and then retreated to the nearby campus. Two vehicles parked outside the station were burned and the building's external walls were scorched.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/24/2-hurt-in-attack-on-police-station-in-chile/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/24/2-hurt-in-attack-on-police-station-in-chile/)

**Colombia**

**FARC attack on island off the Pacific coast**

Guerrillas belonging to the FARC launched a stealth amphibious attack on the Gorgona Island. The island's police commander was killed and six officers were injured during the hour-long firefight. The attack was the first to be made on the island located 35 kilometers from the mainland. Colombia's National Parks administration said Aviatur requested suspension of its contract to provide lodging and other services until the island's security can be guaranteed.

**AP -** [**http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\_id=2&objectid=11363970**](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11363970)

**Colombia rebel chief says peace talks suspension destroyed confidence**

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos "destroyed" confidence in the peace process by suspending talks and violated the terms of an agreement that brought the rebels to the negotiating table, FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londono said. Londono, known by his nom de guerre Timochenko, said in a statement published on Monday that Santos had "overturned the board game" when he halted talks last week and breached terms that allowed the negotiations to start in 2012.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141124173205-o4n1e/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141124173205-o4n1e/?source=leadCarousel)

**Jamaica**

**Meteorological Service urges residents to conserve water due to rain deficit**

Meteorological Service has urged island residents to "remain vigilant" and conserve water due to a shortage of rainfall in some regions of the country. "Southern parishes, in particular, are expected to continue to receive below normal rainfall and might plunge into drought conditions and some might remain into early next year when the dry season takes effect," Meteorological Service head said on 24 November in a statement.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/24/jamaica-urges-residents-to-conserve-water-due-to-rain-deficit/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/11/24/jamaica-urges-residents-to-conserve-water-due-to-rain-deficit/)

**Mexico**

**Protesters occupy prosecutor's office in 43 missing case**

Hundreds of protesters stormed a southern Mexican state prosecutor's office on 24 November in the latest demonstration against the government's handling of the apparent slaughter of 43 students. Some 300 people, some wearing masks, entered the Guerrero state building in the regional capital Chilpancingo, prompting nearly all staff to leave, a state security official reported. The demonstrators included members of the radical CETEG teachers union, which has participated in violent protests in recent weeks, including the burning of the state government headquarters and local legislature.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/141124/mexicans-occupy-prosecutors-office-43-missing-case**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/141124/mexicans-occupy-prosecutors-office-43-missing-case)

**Peru**

**Extreme El Nino weather stunted growth of Peruvian children**

Children in Peru on the front line of a severe cyclical warming of the Pacific Ocean in 1997-98 suffered stunted growth, showing how extreme weather can cause lasting damage to health, a study said on Tuesday. The study of 2,095 children born between 1991 and 2001 in villages around Tumbes in northern Peru found that those born during or just after the El Nino weather system, which caused floods, damaged crops and triggered illnesses such as malaria and diarrhoea, grew less than normal.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141125005848-67bs9/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141125005848-67bs9/?source=jtTheWire)

MENA

**Iran**

**Iran nuclear talks extended 7 months after failing to meet deadline**

Iran and six powers failed on Monday for a second time this year to resolve their 12-year stand-off over Tehran's nuclear ambitions, and gave themselves seven more months to clinch an historic deal. Western officials said they were aiming to secure an agreement on the substance of a final accord by March but that more time would be needed to reach a consensus on the all-important technical details.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141124143311-yiyu6/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141124143311-yiyu6/?source=search)

**Iraq**

**Iraq says airstrikes are critical in the shifting battle for Ramadi**

The battle for control of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, is shifting in favour of Iraqi and tribal forces fighting IS militants, Iraqi officials said Monday. Iraqi forces, with the help of coalition airstrikes, have pushed back IS militants and have retaken territory lost after ISIS fighters launched a coordinated assault on the city Friday. They have also regained control of the only military supply line into Ramadi from a nearby airbase, according to Faleh al-Issawi, the deputy governor of Anbar.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/23/world/meast/iraq-violence/index.html**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/23/world/meast/iraq-violence/index.html)

**Libya**

**Unidentified jet targets airport in Tripoli**

At least one unidentified jet carried out an air strike on 24 November targeting Mitiga airport in Tripoli, but the extent of damage was not clear, witnesses and local television said. The air raid hit the runway of the Libyan capital's only working airport, witnesses and an airport security source said. A low-flying fighter jet fired two missiles at Mitiga airport, which is in an eastern suburb of Tripoli and held by Fajr Libya, an anti-government militia coalition which controls the capital, witnesses said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/417515/raid-hits-libyan-capital's-only-working-airport**](http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/417515/raid-hits-libyan-capital's-only-working-airport)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-libya-security-airport-idUSKCN0J81IX20141124**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-libya-security-airport-idUSKCN0J81IX20141124)

**Pro-government forces retake Kekla**

Fighters loyal to Libya's internationally recognised government have seized control of the key western town of Kekla after more than 40 days of clashes with militants, both sides said on 24 November. A diverse coalition of militias drove fighters allied with the government from Tripoli in August, after weeks of fighting that killed more than 100 people. Pro-government fighters from Zintan, backed by parts of the army and air force loyal to the government of Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani, launched a counter-offensive in October to wrest back control of Kekla, southwest of Tripoli.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Pro-government-forces-retake-west-Libya-town-20141124-5**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Pro-government-forces-retake-west-Libya-town-20141124-5)

**Syria**

**40 IS militants killed in Syria**

Sunni radical group have been killed over the past 24 hours in clashes and airstrikes in the Syrian enclave of Kobani and the province of Deir al-Zur in the northeast of the country. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said Monday that at least 18 jihadis died in fighting against Kurdish forces in Kobani in the northern province of Aleppo. The Kurds have advanced in the last several hours inside the city where they have managed to regain control of many buildings previously held by the IS.

**Maktoob -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/40-militants-killed-syria-121036916.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/40-militants-killed-syria-121036916.html)

**Tunisia**

**Anti-Islamist Essebsi leads Tunisia presidential vote**

The head of Tunisia's anti-Islamist Nidaa Tounes party, Beji Caid Essebsi, leads the country's presidential election with 39.46 percent of votes, six percentage points ahead of incumbent Moncef Marzouki, results showed Tuesday. Because there was no outright winner, a second round of voting will now be held, with the date depending on any appeals

**Daily mail -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2845873/Tunisians-elect-president-time.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2845873/Tunisians-elect-president-time.html)

**Yemen**

**Yemeni forces free eight hostages, kill seven kidnappers-agency**

Yemeni security forces freed seven Yemeni hostages and one foreigner in a special operation in which seven al Qaeda kidnappers were also killed, the country's supreme security committee said. The committee, in a statement published by state news agency Saba, did not disclose the nationality of the foreign hostage nor say where in Yemen the operation took place. It was not immediately clear when or where the kidnappings had occurred. One member of the Yemeni security forces was lightly wounded in the raid.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141125040534-0qi7b/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141125040534-0qi7b/?source=jtTheWire)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Two blasts hit Kabul, seven Afghan soldiers wounded**

Two explosions shook the Afghan capital on Tuesday, leaving seven army officers wounded after a bomb attack on their bus, while a grenade blast in the diplomatic quarter caused no casualties but led to the arrest of a suspect, officials said. Kabul has suffered a growing number of bombings by the Taliban and other jihadist militants as foreign combat troops withdraw from a 13-year-long war, leaving behind a smaller support mission. Early on Tuesday, a remote-controlled bomb exploded on the city's outskirts as a bus carrying Afghan army personnel passed by, said Zahir Azimi, a spokesman for the Afghan defense ministry. Seven of the bus passengers were injured.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKCN0J90F920141125**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKCN0J90F920141125)

**Pakistan**

**Polio worker injured in attack**

The perils of taking part in the polio vaccination campaign were exposed once again on 24 November as a worker was injured in a drive-by shooting in Shabqadar, while his friend narrowly escaped. Area officer in charge of the polio campaign said he and fellow 10th grade student were checking on polio teams in UC Katozai near Sadar Ghari Afghan refugee camp in Munda. He added two unidentified motorcyclists arrived at the spot and started firing at them. A Khwajawas police official reported that police cordoned off the area and shifted the injured polio worker, who had been lying by the roadside, to a hospital. He added a search for the assailants was under way while the polio worker was later shifted to a hospital in Peshawar in critical condition. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) faction Jamaatul Ahrar claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Tribune -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/796510/under-fire-polio-worker-injured-in-gun-attack/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/796510/under-fire-polio-worker-injured-in-gun-attack/)

WCA

**CAR**

**UN team probes outbreak of sectarian violence in Central African Republic**

A UN humanitarian mission has visited a town in the CAR amid an outburst of violence that left at least 14 people injured and three killed, the UN humanitarian relief office announced Monday. The crisis in Zemio, which has a mixed community of both Christians and Muslims, is the first major inter-community incident in the country's southeast since the CAR crisis began in 2012. At least 14 people were injured in the violence while 3,000 people were displaced.

**Global post -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141124/un-team-probes-outbreak-sectarian-violence-central-african-r**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141124/un-team-probes-outbreak-sectarian-violence-central-african-r)

**Mali  
Government confirms eighth Ebola case**

Mali has confirmed a new case of Ebola, bringing to eight the number of people who have fallen ill with the disease in the country. A government statement issued on 24 November night said the patient had been placed in a treatment center. Six of Mali's eight Ebola patients have died. The government said on 22 November that another patient who tested positive was also receiving treatment and had been isolated. Officials are monitoring 271 people in a bid to contain the disease. The next 15 days are critical for ending Ebola in Mali.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/mali-confirms-eighth-ebola-case-27145797**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/mali-confirms-eighth-ebola-case-27145797)

**Niger**

**Niger elects new parliament head after ex-speaker flees**

Lawmakers in Niger chose an ex-opposition member to become the new head of parliament on Monday, replacing Hama Amadou who fled to France after being named in a baby trafficking scandal. Amadou Salifou "was declared elected as speaker of the National Assembly with 71 votes," out of 113, said parliamentary vice-president Daouda Marthe, who has led parliament since Amadou's departure. Salifou, who is in his 60s, was recently suspended from Niger's main opposition party, the National Movement for a Developing Society (MNSD), for deciding to support President Mahamadou Issoufou, an MNSD source told Agence France-Presse.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/156640-niger-elects-new-parliament-head-after-ex-speaker-flees**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/156640-niger-elects-new-parliament-head-after-ex-speaker-flees)

**Nigeria**

**Suspected Boko Haram militants attack Nigerian border town**

Suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a Nigerian border town in the restive northeast on Monday, setting fire to houses and killing an unknown number of people, witnesses and government sources said. Hours after the raid started on Damasak, gunmen still roamed the area, with many locals seeking to flee into neighbouring Niger, just to the north of the town. It was the third major attack over the last week in Nigeria's Borno State, which have already seen close to 100 people die, including more than 25 people, mostly fishermen, shot dead in a remote community over the weekend.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141124183636-n4app/?source=leadCarousel**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141124183636-n4app/?source=leadCarousel)

**Top Nigerian cleric backs vigilantes, doubts military in Boko Haram fight**

One of Nigeria's most powerful Muslim leaders, the emir of Kano, has voiced support for vigilantes fighting Boko Haram, urging others to form civilian militias and questioning the competence of the military. The comments were made by Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, who became emir earlier this year after being sacked from his post as the central bank governor, where he was one of the government's most high-profile critics. It is extremely rare for Nigeria's clerics to speak explicitly about political and military affairs, but many expected Sanusi to defy convention and inject himself into public debate after assuming the highly influential post.

**AFP-** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/11/17/Top-Nigerian-cleric-backs-vigilantes-doubts-military-in-Boko-Haram-fight.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/11/17/Top-Nigerian-cleric-backs-vigilantes-doubts-military-in-Boko-Haram-fight.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.

Disclaimer: The views presented here are those of the original authors and are not necessarily shared by UNICEF. Please note that these news stories should be used solely for official purposes. Our license agreement does not permit users to store, post or redistribute the contents beyond personal use. We kindly ask that UNICEF colleagues be responsible users of copyrighted material. For information on this service please contact: