**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – 13 August 2014**

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GENERAL

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine vows to block Russian 'aid' convoy heading for border**

A convoy of 262 Russian trucks was expected at the Ukrainian border on 13 August as Kiev vowed to block the aid mission from its territory over fears it was a ploy to bolster pro-Kremlin rebels. The convoy of what Russia says is humanitarian aid has sparked fears of an escalation in a conflict that has left hundreds dead in eastern Ukraine in recent months and plunged Moscow's ties with the West to their lowest point in decades. The United States backed Ukraine's demand for border checks to clear up concerns that Moscow is seeking to support rebels. Washington and its European allies have been voicing concern for days over the convoy, which sources told Russian news agencies would arrive at the border on 13 August.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-vows-block-russian-aid-convoy-heading-border-190806802.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-vows-block-russian-aid-convoy-heading-border-190806802.html)

**GoRF -** [**http://en.mchs.ru/news/item/1821421/**](http://en.mchs.ru/news/item/1821421/)

**ICRC -** [**http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/interview/2014/08-13-ukraine-donbass-russian-convoy-corbaz.htm**](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/interview/2014/08-13-ukraine-donbass-russian-convoy-corbaz.htm)

**EU increases humanitarian assistance for conflict-affected population**

The European Commission is giving additional funding of €2.5 million to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the continuing fighting in Eastern Ukraine. This humanitarian aid is geared towards helping to register and relocate IDPs, provide shelter, food, water, healthcare, psycho-social assistance and protection in preparation for the coming winter. The Commission's humanitarian funding will address the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, and the returnees who are going back home to recovered areas by the Ukrainian military. This category includes some 3.9 million people. The continued fighting in Eastern Ukraine has taken more civilian lives and led to further forced displacement of the population since July 2014. Some 293 000 people are registered as internally displaced or refugees (118 000 internally displaced and 175 000 refugees to Russia). The numbers may be higher due to the lack of a centralised registration system for the internally displaced.

**EU -** [**http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\_IP-14-924\_en.htm**](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-924_en.htm)

**Civilians in the east are in urgent need of assistance**

The ICRC is extremely concerned about the plight of people in need of assistance and protection as a result of conflict in eastern Ukraine. In response to the latest initiative of the authorities of the Russian Federation to hand over humanitarian assistance to the ICRC in order to help people and areas affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine, the ICRC is ready to facilitate such an operation with the involvement, endorsement, and support of all sides concerned.

The ICRC met with the Ukrainian and the Russian authorities and shared a document which specifies the manner in which such an operation could take place. This includes the agreement by all sides that the ICRC will be allowed to deliver the aid with due respect for its fundamental working principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. The document also stipulates, among other matters, that prior to beginning of the operation, the ICRC should receive without undue delay from the authorities of the Russian Federation all necessary details concerning the aid, including the volume and type of items, and requirements for transport and storage. All parties must also guarantee the security of ICRC staff and vehicles, for the entire duration of the operation, in view of the fact that the organization does not accept armed escorts.

**ICRC -** [**http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2014/08-11-ukraine-east-civilians-plight-concern.htm**](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2014/08-11-ukraine-east-civilians-plight-concern.htm)

**Twelve nationalist fighters killed in separatist ambush**

Twelve Ukrainian nationalist fighters, battling a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine, were killed early on 13 August and an unknown number taken captive when rebels ambushed their bus, a spokesman for their group said. The separatists opened fire on the bus, that was taking the men to fight just outside the rebel-held city of Donetsk, at the nearby village of Mandrykino, said a spokesman for Right Sector, extreme nationalists who are supporting government forces. It was the group's biggest single loss of life since violence erupted in Ukraine's Russian-speaking east in April, he said. The unit had run into separatists unexpectedly because a government forces' push against the rebels in the last few days had moved them from their usual positions, he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140813074517-xxhoc**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140813074517-xxhoc)

**Rebel-held city hit by heavy rocket fire**

At least three people have been killed in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine as the government intensifies its shelling campaign. Reporters saw two bodies lying in a street on 13 August morning in the city's southwestern Petrovsky district, 11 hours after the rocket fire ended. The city government reported three deaths. Residents said the intermittent artillery barrage lasted around two hours. One high-rise building appeared to have been struck five times. City authorities said 10 residential buildings and the wing of a hospital were struck.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ukraine-russian-aid-enter-red-cross-24946168**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ukraine-russian-aid-enter-red-cross-24946168)

**Death toll doubles in two weeks**

The estimated death toll in the Ukraine confict nearly doubled to 2,086 as of 10 August from 1,129 on 26 July, the UN human rights office said on 13 August. "This corresponds to a clear escalating trend. " UN human rights spokesperson reported in response to a query. On average, more than 60 people a day have been killed or wounded since fighting began in mid-April in eastern Ukraine, she said. Nearly 5,000 have been wounded to date. The figures for casualties include Ukrainian soldiers, armed groups and civilians, but "are very conservative estimates", she said. It was not clear whether Russian soldiers were among them.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140813105315-9qilf**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140813105315-9qilf)

EAP

ESA

**Somalia**

**Aid groups investigate polio outbreak – UNICEF mention**

UN agencies in Somalia have combined forces to visit a remote district of Puntland in north-east Somalia where four people have contracted polio this year. The victims – a young father who died and three children who were paralysed – all live in Jariban district, a long drive along a dusty track from the nearest main town of Galkayo. However, these four cases are the only ones reported in Somalia so far this year. So, despite the challenges and dangers, it was essential that aid groups visit the area to discover how the virus arrived, and to develop strategies to stop its spread. The mission to Jariban was organized by the WHO and UNICEF, in partnership with the Puntland Health Ministry. The UNHCR, UN DSS and OCHA – helped arrange logistics for the complicated road mission, and provided additional aid supplies to distribute during the mission.

**OCHA -** [**http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/somalia-aid-groups-investigate-polio-outbreak**](http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/somalia-aid-groups-investigate-polio-outbreak)

**South Sudan**

**UN threatens leaders with sanctions**

UN Security Council envoys warned South Sudan's warring leaders they would face sanctions if a civil war that has pushed the young nation to the brink of famine does not stop. "The council has made it very clear: that it is prepared to impose consequences if there continue to be spoilers, if there continue to be people carrying out gross violations of human rights," US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power said after meeting with President Salva Kiir.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-security-council-war-torn-sudan-push-peace-092917066.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-security-council-war-torn-sudan-push-peace-092917066.html)

**Threat of famine, fighting loom**

The risk of famine and reports of growing arms imports could bring fresh woe to South Sudan, a delegation from the U.N. Security Council warned on Tuesday, urging the state's warring leaders to resolve their differences. At least 10,000 people have been killed since fierce fighting erupted in South Sudan in December. Adding to the country's many problems, aid agencies say South Sudan could be headed for the worst famine since the mid-1980s. "There is a grave risk of famine that now looms, that hangs over this visit," United States ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Powers told reporters, saying 50,000 children under five were at risk of dying of malnutrition in the coming months.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/ethiopiaNews/idAFL6N0QI2SH20140812**](http://af.reuters.com/article/ethiopiaNews/idAFL6N0QI2SH20140812)

LAC

**US assesses virus of the Caribbean**

In the past few months, passengers at North American airports have been warned that travel to the Caribbean might result in an unwanted souvenir. The first outbreak of chikungunya virus in the Western Hemisphere began in the French part of the Caribbean island of St Martin in December and has spread rapidly around the region, infecting more than 500,000 people. The virus has gained more of a foothold in Central and South America: authorities have confirmed 174 cases of locally transmitted disease in El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela and the Guianas. For now, the Caribbean strain of chikungunya does not seem likely to expand into the rest of the Western Hemisphere, mostly because it is spread by the tropical mosquito Aedes aegypti. However, several major chikungunya outbreaks have been fuelled by a specific mutation of the virus that makes it more suited to transmission by a different species of mosquito. The insect that could cause the damage is the Asian tiger mosquito (Aedes albopictus), which has been expanding worldwide for the past two decades and taking diseases such as chikungunya and dengue with it.

**Nature -** [**http://www.nature.com/news/us-assesses-virus-of-the-caribbean-1.15710#tropical**](http://www.nature.com/news/us-assesses-virus-of-the-caribbean-1.15710#tropical)

**Colombia**

**Drought triggers clashes in La Guajira province**

Nine people have been injured in clashes between police and residents of Colombia's northern La Guajira province demanding more government support for the impoverished region. La Guajira is currently suffering from a drought and locals say the authorities have not done enough to mitigate its effects on the population. Riot police were deployed to clear roadblocks and remove burning cars. The government says it has done all it can to ease the water shortage. Angry locals have called an open-ended strike and about 70% of businesses and most schools remained closed.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28754687**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28754687)

**Army sends more troops to ELN rebel stronghold**

The military in Colombia says it is sending more troops to the eastern province of Arauca, a rebel stronghold, to deal with a recent wave of attacks. The announcement comes hours after gunmen shot dead a local politician and his bodyguard in the city of Saravena. Earlier, eight soldiers were also injured by a homemade explosive device in a separate incident. The area, which borders Venezuela, is a stronghold of the ELN rebels. With an estimated 2,500 members, the ELN is Colombia's second biggest rebel group. Colombia's police chief, offered a reward for information on the attackers.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28767636**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-28767636)

**Ecuador**

**Two dead, eight wounded in Quito earthquake**

Two people were killed and eight wounded after a 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck outside Quito, the government said on 12 August, with rescue workers seeking to free three others trapped after the tremor. "Firemen are working to evacuate the wounded and to find and rescue the people who are trapped," the government's National Risk Control Agency said via Twitter, without providing details. A local television station earlier reported that people had been trapped by landslides in the area of a quarry north of Quito. The city's main airport returned to normal operations after earlier halting flights as a precautionary measure to evaluate its infrastructure following the temblor.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/uk-earthquake-ecuador-idUKKBN0GC23I20140812**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/uk-earthquake-ecuador-idUKKBN0GC23I20140812)

MENA

**Iraq**

**UN warns against Yazidi "genocide"**

UN rights monitors called Tuesday for the global community to take urgent action to avoid a potential genocide against the Yazidi community in Iraq. Thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority are trapped on a mountain in northwestern Iraq with little food or water after Islamic State jihadis overran the region. "All possible measures must be taken urgently to avoid a mass atrocity and potential genocide within days or hours," said Rita Izsak, the UN's minority rights expert. "The responsibility to protect populations at risk of atrocity crimes falls both on the Iraqi Government and the international community." Thousands of Yazidi refugees are stranded on Mount Sinjar, besieged by extremists from the Islamic State who control much of northern Iraq and eastern Syria. John Kerry insists any US moves in Iraq will not involve combat troops.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/12/john-kerry-insists-us-iraq-not-involve-combat-troops**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/12/john-kerry-insists-us-iraq-not-involve-combat-troops)

**Suicide bomber attacks checkpoint near new PM's house**

A suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint near the Baghdad home of new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday, two police sources and local media said."The suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint that leads to the prime minister's house," said one of the police sources. There was no word on casualties. Officials in Abadi's office were not immediately available for comment on the attack.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-iraq-security-abadi-blast-idUSKBN0GC26820140812**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-iraq-security-abadi-blast-idUSKBN0GC26820140812)

**US ready to help new leader, Iran welcomes choice**

Iraq's new prime minister-designate won swift endorsements from uneasy mutual allies the United States and Iran on Tuesday as he called on political leaders to end crippling feuds that have let jihadists seize a third of the country.Haider al-Abadi still faces opposition closer to home, where his Shi'ite party colleague Nuri al-Maliki has refused to step aside after eight years as premier that have alienated Iraq's once dominant Sunni minority and irked Washington and Tehran. However, Shi'ite militia and army commanders long loyal to Maliki signaled their backing for the change, as did many people on the streets of Baghdad, eager for an end to fears of a further descent into sectarian and ethnic bloodletting. Sunni neighbours Turkey and Saudi Arabia also welcomed Abadi's appointment.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-iraq-security-idUSKBN0GC0Z220140813**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-iraq-security-idUSKBN0GC0Z220140813)

**US sends 130 more military advisers**

Another 130 US military personnel have arrived in Iraq on what the Pentagon described as a temporary mission to assess the scope of the humanitarian crisis facing thousands of displaced Iraqi civilians trapped on Sinjar Mountain. The US defence secretary, announced the deployment on 12 August, saying that "this is not a combat boots on the ground kind of operation". Another defence official said the extra troops were Marines and special operations forces whose mission was to assess the situation in the Sinjar area and to develop additional humanitarian assistance options beyond current US efforts there. The 130 troops, who are in addition to 250 US military advisers already in Baghdad and Erbil, arrived on 12 August in the city of Erbil, well east of Sinjar. They are to work with representatives of the State Department and the US Agency for International Development to prevent potential acts of genocide by the fighters of the so called Islamic State who forced them from their villages, the defence official said.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/us-sends-130-more-military-advisers-iraq-2014812233230394936.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/us-sends-130-more-military-advisers-iraq-2014812233230394936.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-iraq-security-usa-military-idUSKBN0GC1RP20140812**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-iraq-security-usa-military-idUSKBN0GC1RP20140812)

**Relief helicopter crashes, Yazidi MP injured**

An Iraqi army helicopter carrying aid and evacuating displaced members of the Yazidi minority in northern Iraq crashed on 12 August, in an accident that killed the pilot and wounded passengers, a government spokesman said. A Yazidi member of parliament, Vian Dakheel, was among those injured, the prime minister's military spokesperson reported.

**Al Arabiya -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/08/13/Helicopter-crash-in-north-Iraq-kills-pilot-injures-Yazidi-lawmaker.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/08/13/Helicopter-crash-in-north-Iraq-kills-pilot-injures-Yazidi-lawmaker.html)

**Libya**

**Tripoli police chief assassinated**

Colonel Mohamed al-Suissi, chief of police in Tripoli, was gunned down by unidentified attackers in the Libyan capital's eastern suburbs on Tuesday, a security source told AFP. "Colonel al-Suissi was assassinated by a group of unknown hooded, armed people. Two men with him were kidnapped in the attack," said the source. Suissi had taken part in a meeting of Tajura municipal council in the eastern suburbs and was on his way back to Tripoli city centre when the attack took place, the source said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28760795**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28760795)

**At least five killed by rocket fire in Tripoli**

At least five people were killed and families were forced from their homes when rockets hit neighbourhoods in western Tripoli during clashes between rival armed factions, officials and witnesses said on 13 August.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140813102352-06l2w/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140813102352-06l2w/)

**State of Palestine**

**Talks on ending Gaza war 'difficult', but truce holds**

Talks to end a month-long war between Israel and Gaza militants are "difficult", Palestinian delegates said on Tuesday, while Israeli officials said no progress had been made so far and fighting could soon resume. As a 72-hour ceasefire held for a second day, Palestinian negotiators held fresh talks with Egyptian intelligence following a meeting on Monday that lasted nine hours. Hamas, the Islamist group that dominates the Gaza Strip, and its allies are seeking an end to an Israeli and Egyptian blockade of the coastal Palestinian enclave.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-mideast-gaza-idUSKBN0G907R20140812**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-mideast-gaza-idUSKBN0G907R20140812)

**Journalist, three bomb disposal experts, two others killed in Gaza**

An Italian journalist, three Palestinian bomb disposal experts and two other people were killed in Gaza on 13 August when unexploded munitions blew up, medical officials and police said. The explosion occurred in Beit Lahiya, a town in the northern Gaza Strip that had been the scene of fierce fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants during a month-long war. A three-day ceasefire, in effect since 11 August, has given Palestinians an opportunity to search for unexploded munitions. Gaza's police force said it was mourning the deaths of its three men: the head of the local bomb squad, his deputy and another officer, killed when an Israeli shell detonated.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/six-killed-gaza-unexploded-munitions-blow-105143883.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/six-killed-gaza-unexploded-munitions-blow-105143883.html)

**Syria**

**Militants seize 2 northern towns**

Syrian opposition activists say extremists from the Islamic State group have seized key towns and villages near the border with Turkey after deadly clashes with other rebels in the area. They say fighters of the group captured the towns of Akhtarin and Turkmanbareh in the Aleppo countryside on 13 August, dislodging other rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad. They also took three nearby areas. The towns are the latest prize for Islamic State militants, who have carved out a self-styled caliphate across vast swaths of eastern Syria and northern and western Iraq. The towns' takeover was reported by several activists, jihadists affiliated with the Islamic State group on social media and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory said it expected Islamic State's next targets to be the towns of Azaz and Marea to the west. It identified the groups defeated by Islamic State as fighters from Islamist battalions that have been resisting its expansion. The Nusra Front, al Qaeda's official affiliate in Syria, and other Islamist groups had withdrawn from the area in June.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamic-militants-seize-northern-syrian-towns-24957196**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamic-militants-seize-northern-syrian-towns-24957196)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-syria-crisis-islamicstate-idUSKBN0GD0NR20140813**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/us-syria-crisis-islamicstate-idUSKBN0GD0NR20140813)

**Yemen**

**Fighting kills at least 15 people in the northeast**

Fighting between Shi'ite Muslim Houthi rebels and Sunnis loyal to the Islamist Islah party has killed at least 15 people in Yemen's al-Jouf province, tribal sources said on 13 August. The fighting in northern Yemen, which has taken on a sectarian tone, is further destabilising the country battling a secessionist movement in the south and the nationwide spread of an al Qaeda insurgency. Ceasefire agreements reached with government intervention have repeatedly failed to stop the conflict between the two sides. At least 200 people were killed and more than 35,000 displaced in July when Houthi rebels overtook Amran, 50 kms north of Sanaa. According to tribal sources, fighting erupted in the northeastern province of al-Jouf on 12 August night with both sides using heavy weaponry including tanks that were previously captured from the army. The Houthis have said their fight was against rivals loyal to the Islamist Islah party,- rather than the government.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/uk-yemen-violence-idUKKBN0GD0Q020140813**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/13/uk-yemen-violence-idUKKBN0GD0Q020140813)

**At least 13 people killed in 'Qaeda bomb' accident**

Ten civilians and three army technicians were killed on 13 August when a bomb planted near a prison by presumed Al-Qaeda militants exploded in south Yemen, a security official said. The device placed in the Tibn area of Lahij province went off when the soldiers were trying to defuse it, but the area had not been sealed off to keep civilians away, the official added. "Residents alerted the security services about an explosive device planted near a prison. Army ammunition technical officers were sent to the scene and were trying to defuse it. "The bomb exploded prematurely, killing the three technicians and 10 civilians, and wounding 13 more including the local police chief," the official said. Two hospitals in Lahij and Aden where the dead and wounded were taken confirmed the toll. The dead civilians were among a crowd that had gathered to watch the army defuse the device and which was not kept at a safe distance by police.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/13-killed-qaeda-bomb-accident-yemen-official-says-100842697.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/13-killed-qaeda-bomb-accident-yemen-official-says-100842697.html)

SA

**Pakistan**

**Islamabad may be sealed tonight**

The capital police are considering sealing the federal capital from 12 August night. A police official reported that from 12 August night 70% of each entry road to the capital would be closed and after that only light vehicles can enter the city. “It will become easy for the law enforcement agencies to check people entering the city,” he said. As many as 5,000 officials of the Punjab police, 1,000 from the AJK police and 3,000 Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel will be deputed in the capital city to stop the participants of the march. He said the entry point to Red Zone from Radio Pakistan had been closed and people can only enter the high security area from the Convention Centre or the Secretariat sides.

**Dawn -** [**http://www.dawn.com/news/1124824/islamabad-may-be-sealed-tonight**](http://www.dawn.com/news/1124824/islamabad-may-be-sealed-tonight)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Guinea-Bissau shuts border with Ebola-hit Guinea-Conakry**

Guinea-Bissau is closing its border with Guinea, one of the west African countries hardest hit by the deadly Ebola virus, Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira said Tuesday. "In light of information provided by the health ministry and after a series of consultations, the government of Guinea-Bissau has decided to close its southern and eastern borders" with Guinea "until further notice," Pereira told a press conference.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/liberiaNews/idAFL6N0QJ2QX20140813**](http://af.reuters.com/article/liberiaNews/idAFL6N0QJ2QX20140813)

**Liberia**

**Liberia to give two doctors trial drug**

Liberia said on Tuesday it would treat two infected doctors with the scarce experimental Ebola drug ZMapp, the first Africans to receive the treatment, while authorities in Spain said a 75-year-old priest had died of the disease.The death toll from the worst ever outbreak of the highly contagious disease has climbed to 1,013 since it was discovered in remote southeastern Guinea in March, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-ebola-health-liberia-idUSKBN0GB27120140812**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/12/us-ebola-health-liberia-idUSKBN0GB27120140812)

**Mali**

**French forces capture three Al-Qaeda suspects**

French forces in Mali captured three suspected members of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, an army spokesman said on 13 August."They are being questioned now. If our suspicions are confirmed, they will be transferred to the Malian authorities," the French army spokesperson reported. The insurgents were captured during a special forces operation near the northern town of Timbuktu on 10 August. The United Nations mission in Mali, Minusma, confirmed that an AQIM cell was believed to be located west of Timbuktu. It was believed the group included non-Malian nationals, possibly insurgents from Somalia, Chad and Tunisia as well as a man with dual citizenship from Morocco and Spain.

[**http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2014/08/13/french-forces-in-mali-capture-three-al-qaeda-suspects**](http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2014/08/13/french-forces-in-mali-capture-three-al-qaeda-suspects)

**Nigeria**

**Suicide bombers put women under suspicion in Kano**

Women in the city Kano are abandoning their traditional religious dress after a spate of suicide bombings by young girls with explosives under their hijab. The commercial city was hit last month by four separate attacks involving teenaged girls in the Muslim dress, leaving at least nine people dead and scores more injured. Although no one has claimed responsibility for the bombings, fingers have been pointed at Boko Haram, the militants blamed for a string of attacks on the city. But the bombings have cast fear and suspicion on young women wearing the loose clothing, prompting many to dress differently.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/suicide-bombers-put-women-under-suspicion-nigerias-kano-033320557.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/suicide-bombers-put-women-under-suspicion-nigerias-kano-033320557.html)

**Humanitarian crisis warning after Boko Haram attack**

Hundreds of people who escaped a Boko Haram attack need urgent help, a local lawmaker said on 13 August, as those still hiding on a mountain a week later said food and water supplies had run out. Militants attacked Gwoza in Borno state, northeast Nigeria, last week, leaving dozens of people dead and sending others fleeing for their lives, some to hills near the border with Cameroon. The government said on 12 August that operations were "ongoing", with indications the military had been unable to wrest back control of the town, 135 kilometers from Maiduguri. But Senator Ali Ndume, who represents Borno South in Nigeria's National Assembly, warned of a humanitarian emergency. "Honestly, our people need help. The only people that are living in Gwoza are those that are either too old to walk or too young to flee. "They have no water to drink because the boreholes are no longer functioning. They also have no food to eat. There are over 50,000 people in Gwoza and more than 270,000 in the local government area but all of them are devastated," he said. Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said 10,000 people had been displaced because of the attack and they were providing assistance to those who had escaped to Maiduguri or Madagali, in Adamawa state.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/143081-humanitarian-crisis-warning-after-boko-haram-attack**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/143081-humanitarian-crisis-warning-after-boko-haram-attack)

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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