**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief - Wednesday, 21 May 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENERAL | **Across Regions** | Vaccines group seeks $7.5 bln to protect 300 million children |
|  |  | Two migrant boats with 133 children rescued off Italy |
|  |  | Extreme weather leaves conflict-hit communities even more vulnerable |
|  |  | After air fares and share sales, UN seeks aid money from oil |
| CEE/CIS | **Across CEE/CIS** | Health officials warn of epidemic as Balkans mourn dead |
|  |  | Balkan floods may have undone years of landmine detection |
|  | **Ukraine** | UN chief, Putin agree on political talks |
|  |  | Slovyansk residents caught in the crossfire |
| EAP | **China** | China jails 39 in restive Xinjiang |
|  | **Indonesia** | Mounting food crisis in isolated West Papuan village |
|  | **Philippines** | US group says Philippine death squad killed 298 |
|  | **Thailand** | Thai army chief summons political rivals to seek end to crisis |
| ESA | **Across ESAR** | Al-Shabab still "threat" to African countries contributing troops to Somalia:AFRICOM |
|  | **Madagascar** | War against locusts |
|  | **Malawi** | Vote enters second day after riots |
|  | **Somalia** | New airstrikes target al-Shabaab |
|  | **South Sudan** | A third face starvation as conflict rages - UN |
|  |  | Donors pledge more than $600 million for humanitarian response |
|  | **Uganda** | Uganda might disengage from 'expensive' LRA manhunt |
|  |  | Jailing of HIV-positive Ugandan nurse in negligence case "outrageous" |
| LAC | **Brazil** | Nuns, backed by pope, warn of human trafficking at World Cup |
|  | **Colombia** | UN sounds alarm on displacement as peace talks advance |
|  | **El Salvador** | Hundreds evacuated as volcanic activity picks up |
|  | **Venezuela** | Mediators leave as standoff continues |
| MENA | **Egypt** | Egypt court sentences ousted leader Mubarak to 3 years in jail |
|  | **Libya** | New parliamentary polls on 25 June |
|  | **Saudi Arabia** | Authorities announce 2 new MERS deaths |
|  | **State of Palestine** | UN calls for probe after teens' fatal shooting |
|  | **Yemen** | 27 killed in clashes in northwest |
|  |  | At least eight dead in fresh fighting in Yemen |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | 16 Afghan police killed in past 24 hours |
|  | **India** | Militants incite anti-India attacks after Narendra Modi's victory |
|  | **Pakistan** | Pakistan airstrikes kill 30 Taliban |
| WCA | **Across WCA** | France delays Sahel counter-insurgency plan after Mali violence |
|  | **Guinea-Bissau** | Vaz wins presidential runoff vote |
|  | **Mali** | UN warns renewed violence in northern Mali threatens to destabilize entire sub-region |
|  |  | Mali urges UN to demand disarmament of all groups |
|  | **Nigeria** | Twin blasts in the city of Jos |
|  |  | 19 children missing after communal clashes in Taraba |
|  |  | Boko Haram militant says 'it's acceptable to fire on' children |
|  |  | Parliament approves state of emergency extension |
|  |  | Nigeria asks for UN sanctions on Boko Haram |
|  |  | Two Boko Haram attacks near Chibok kill 30 |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Vaccines group seeks $7.5 bln to protect 300 million children**

The GAVI global vaccines alliance appealed on Tuesday for $7.5 billion to help immunize another 300 million children against life-threatening diseases between 2016 and 2020 and save up to 6 million more lives. GAVI said the additional investments, which it hopes to get mainly from global health philanthropists and the governments of developed nations, could double the number of lives saved through GAVI-supported vaccines to an estimated 12 million. "We are faced with an historic opportunity to support countries to build sustainable immunisation programmes that will protect entire generations of children," the group's chairman, Dagfinn Hoybraten, said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520082917-o94qa/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520082917-o94qa/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Two migrant boats with 133 children rescued off Italy**

Italy's navy on Tuesday rescued two boats packed with more than 500 migrants including 133 minors in the latest influx that has brought in more than 36,000 people so far in 2014. A navy helicopter spotted the boats -- one towing the other following an accident -- south of Sicily on Monday. Poor weather conditions delayed the rescue, carried out on Tuesday with the help of nearby merchant vessels. There were also 64 women in the group, the navy said in a statement. Almost all of the new arrivals are on boats leaving northern Libya, which is becoming increasingly lawless, and many are originally from Eritrea, Somalia and Syria.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/two-migrant-boats-133-children-rescued-off-italy-134421040.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/two-migrant-boats-133-children-rescued-off-italy-134421040.html)

**Extreme weather leaves conflict-hit communities even more vulnerable**

Experts warn that tens of thousands of conflict-affected persons are being made even more vulnerable by frequent extreme weather events and lack of effective efforts to deal with climate change in countries like Sri Lanka and Myanmar. At least 30% of the province’s population derive their income from agriculture, and it is home to more than 400,000 former IDPs. The province is also one of the poorest in the country with some districts like Mannar and Kilinochchi recording unemployment rates twice as high as the national rate of 4%. A similar situation has arisen in the restive Rakhine state in western Myanmar. Humanitarian officials say that the plight of communities affected by ethnic violence has been exacerbated by the region’s vulnerability to extreme weather events.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140519090656-5whcm/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140519090656-5whcm/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**After air fares and share sales, UN seeks aid money from oil**

The United Nations is talking to oil-producing African countries about levying 10 cents on every barrel produced to provide funds to help the poorest nations improve public health, a senior U.N. official said on Tuesday. The proposed funding mechanism would follow two other schemes to raise money for development in unconventional ways - a levy on airline tickets in more than 90 countries and a tax planned by 11 European nations on share transactions.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520121339-kmlqv**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520121339-kmlqv)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS  
Health officials warn of epidemic as Balkans mourn dead**

WHO said Tuesday that it has sent an expert to advise Serbian authorities on sanitation and ensuring safe drinking water for people as they return home after the floods. "We will face a major fight against epidemics and infectious diseases which are inevitable after such floods," said Nermin Niksic, the prime minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local health officials warned of the possible outbreak of "infectious diseases", calling on the population from affected areas to use only bottled water. Tonnes of dead animal carcasses have already been taken from farms for destruction, but muddy areas and landslides have hampered their collection. "In some areas there were cases of enterocolitis which could be a signal of epidemics," said Sevledina Sarajlic-Spahic, the top health officer in Zenica, one of the worst affected towns in Bosnia.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/balkans-alert-swollen-rivers-due-hit-peaks-100312638.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/balkans-alert-swollen-rivers-due-hit-peaks-100312638.html)

**Balkan floods may have undone years of landmine detection**

Authorities are warning that many of the more than 100,000 remaining landmines dotted across Bosnia have been dislodged by heavy rain, floodwaters and hundreds of landslides, shifting beyond the markers. Mine removal experts estimate that more than 120,000 landmines remain planted across Bosnia. Bosnia's Mine Action Centre (MAC) has appealed for international help in getting more equipment and satellite screening to track the movement of mines after the heaviest rainfall in the Balkans since records began 120 years ago.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/20/us-balkans-flood-landmines-idUSBREA4J0K220140520**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/20/us-balkans-flood-landmines-idUSBREA4J0K220140520)

**Ukraine**

**UN chief, Putin agree on political talks**

The UN says SG Ban Ki-moon and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed that the crisis in Ukraine can only be resolved politically "through an inclusive political dialogue." UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Ban discussed Ukraine, Syria and other global challenges with Putin Tuesday on the sidelines of a two-day meeting on Asian security in Shanghai. Dujarric said the secretary-general noted that upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine "are an opportunity to move forward towards long-term peace and stability in the country." He would not give Putin's response.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/chief-putin-agree-ukraine-political-talks-23797135**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/chief-putin-agree-ukraine-political-talks-23797135)

**Slovyansk residents caught in the crossfire**

Angry residents in Slovyansk have protested after overnight shelling – reportedly by Ukrainian government forces surrounding the eastern town – badly damaged several houses. The people confronted the self-proclaimed mayor. Some had backed him recently. But now they are demanding that he end hostilities. The separatist leader promised compensation for the damage. Despite the destruction there were no reports of casualties, although elsewhere four people were wounded in the night fighting, according to Russian media.

**Euro News -** [**http://www.euronews.com/2014/05/20/ukraine-slovyansk-residents-chide-self-proclaimed-mayor-ponomaryov-after-/**](http://www.euronews.com/2014/05/20/ukraine-slovyansk-residents-chide-self-proclaimed-mayor-ponomaryov-after-/)

**Washington Post -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/posttv/world/europe/slovyansk-residents-caught-in-the-crossfire/2014/05/20/dd0bc934-e04e-11e3-9442-54189bf1a809\_video.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/posttv/world/europe/slovyansk-residents-caught-in-the-crossfire/2014/05/20/dd0bc934-e04e-11e3-9442-54189bf1a809_video.html)

EAPR

**China  
China jails 39 in restive Xinjiang**Courts in China's ethnically-divided Xinjiang region have jailed 39 people for offences including spreading "terrorist videos", state media said Wednesday as Beijing tightens security after several deadly attacks. The 39 were given prison sentences of up to 15 years, the state run China News Service (CNS) said, adding that several had "organised, led and participated" in terrorist organisations. In the past year Xinjiang has seen an increase in violent clashes which Beijing blames on organised terrorist groups seeking independence for the region.

**AFP -** [**http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/China-jails-39-in-restive-Xinjiang-Report/articleshow/35423645.cms**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/china/China-jails-39-in-restive-Xinjiang-Report/articleshow/35423645.cms)

**Indonesia**

**Mounting food crisis in isolated West Papuan village**

The Mimika regency administration in Indonesia's Papua province says it will soon dispatch aid relief to a village in the Tembagapura district, which is facing a mounting food crisis. The regency has been slow to send aid to isolated Jewa village, saying it only learnt about the crisis in the village recently. Last Wednesday, the Amungme and Kamoro Community Development Institute helicoptered 1,200 kilograms of food into Jewa.

**Radio New Zealand –** [**http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/244869/mounting-food-crisis-in-isolated-west-papuan-village**](http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/244869/mounting-food-crisis-in-isolated-west-papuan-village)

**Philippines  
US group says Philippine death squad killed 298**A US-based human rights group has reported that a "death squad" that targeted criminal suspects in a southern Philippine city allegedly was organized by the former mayor and was responsible for nearly 300 killings over the past seven years. Human Rights Watch said Wednesday it has documented at least a dozen of the 298 killings from January 2007 to March 2013 based largely on accounts of former hit men, witnesses, relatives of victims and police officers in Tagum City. Human Rights Watch says President Benigno Aquino III has largely ignored the killings.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-group-philippine-death-squad-killed-298-23806372**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-group-philippine-death-squad-killed-298-23806372)

**Thailand**

**Thai army chief summons political rivals to seek end to crisis**Thailand's army chief summoned leaders of rival political groups and parties, Election Commission members and senators to a meeting on Wednesday, a day after he declared martial law, to discuss a way out of the country's political turmoil. Although the military denied Tuesday's surprise intervention amounted to a coup, General Prayuth Chan-ocha appears to be setting the agenda by forcing groups and organizations with a central role in the crisis to meet. The Election Commission was meeting separately during the morning to consider the caretaker government's proposal of a 3 Aug. election.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/21/us-thailand-protest-idUSBREA4J0HN20140521**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/21/us-thailand-protest-idUSBREA4J0HN20140521)

ESA

**Across ESA  
Al-Shabab still "threat" to African countries contributing troops to Somalia: AFRICOM**AFRICOM, the United States Military command for Africa, believes that al-Shabab will continue to attack nations that contribute troops to the Somalia effort. The commanding general of AFRICOM, David Rodriguez, said despite the fact that al-Shabab’s area of control has decreased in recent months, the militant group continues to be a threat. “We think that they are going to continue to go after the troop contributing countries to try to disrupt and frustrate the populations of those countries,” Rodriguez said, “so that the support to the AMISOM effort is limited from those nations

**VOA -** [**http://www.midnimo.com/2014/05/20/somalia-al-shabab-still-threat-amisom-countries/**](http://www.midnimo.com/2014/05/20/somalia-al-shabab-still-threat-amisom-countries/)

**Madagascar**

**War against locusts**

The 90 people in the joint operation between FAO and Madagascar's anti-locust agency have already sprayed 500,000 litres of pesticide over one million hectares of land. "The goal is to break the invasion," explains Tsitohaina Andriamaroahina, head of a UN mission to end a locust plague threatening the crops of 13 million farmers in Madagascar. The airborne operation under way now is seen as the only solution to the plague, but it is far from over and FAO still needs $14 million to see the project through over the next two years.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/war-against-locusts/article6026539.ece**](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/war-against-locusts/article6026539.ece)

**Malawi**

**Vote enters second day after riots**

Voting in Malawi's heated elections spilled into a second day Wednesday after riots sparked by the late opening of polling stations marred a vote seen as a test of President Joyce Banda's scandal-tainted rule. The military was deployed Tuesday when irate voters burnt poll stations amid allegations of rigging when some bureaus opened 10 hours late. Late openings and delivery of ballot papers disrupted voting in one percent of the more than 4,000 centres on Tuesday. In the commercial capital Blantyre voting was again delayed on Wednesday because ballot papers had not been printed on time, according to an AFP correspondent. Election chief Maxon Mbendera acknowledged it was an "embarrassing situation", but denied any intention to disenfranchise individuals.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/malawi-vote-enters-second-day-riots-104156980.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/malawi-vote-enters-second-day-riots-104156980.html)

**Somalia**

**New airstrikes target al-Shabaab**

AMISOM said Tuesday it had conducted new air strikes against an al-Shabaab in the south of the country, the second attack in three days. A statement from AMISOM said its planes were after "senior leadership and foreign al-Shabaab fighters" at a base near the town of Jilib in Somalia's Middle Juba region. It also claimed 50 insurgents were killed in the attack.An al-Shabaab spokesman, however, told Agence France Presse that only farmland was hit and five civilians wounded. "The claim of AMISOM is baseless and pure propaganda," said the spokesman, Abdulaziz Abu Musab.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/131417-new-airstrikes-target-somalia-s-shebab**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/131417-new-airstrikes-target-somalia-s-shebab)

**South Sudan**

**Donors pledge more than $600 million for humanitarian response**The international donor community raised more than US$600 million in pledges to scale up humanitarian response to the South Sudan crisis at a conference hosted by Norway in collaboration with OCHA. Violence and fear have forced over 1.3 million people from their homes since fighting began in South Sudan in mid-December 2013. This includes more than 325,000 who have sought refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. One-third of South Sudanese people are severely food insecure as a result of conflict, displacement, destroyed markets and disrupted livelihoods. UN emergency experts point to a small window of opportunity to prevent the crisis from deteriorating into a catastrophe - but increased humanitarian access and assistance is critical.  
**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/donors-pledge-more-600-million-humanitarian-response-south-sudan-crisis**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/donors-pledge-more-600-million-humanitarian-response-south-sudan-crisis)

**Uganda**

**Uganda might disengage from 'expensive' LRA manhunt**

Uganda might reduce the number of troops it is contributing to an African taskforce stationed in CAR and tasked with hunting down the LRA due to a lack of funding. "It is becoming increasingly very expensive to maintain the troops in that operation," Ugandan Chief of Defense Forces Gen. Katumba Wamala said. "The lack of funding from external sources is a big challenge; sustaining troops that far is not cheap," he said. In 2009, Uganda sent 2000 soldiers to CAR as part of the African Union Regional Task Force (AURTF) tasked with capturing LRA warlord Joseph Kony. .

**Anadolu Agency -** [**http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/331285--uganda-might-disengage-from-man**](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/331285--uganda-might-disengage-from-man)

**Jailing of HIV-positive Ugandan nurse in negligence case "outrageous"**

The three-year jail sentence handed down to an HIV-positive nurse in Uganda for re-using a needle she had accidentally pricked her finger on, is "outrageous", a U.S.-based advocacy group said. AIDS-Free World, which has followed Rosemary Namubiru's trial closely, said the 64-year-old did not deserve to spend three years in prison "by any reasonable measure". A Ugandan court sentenced Namubiru, a nurse with 35 years' experience, to jail on 19 May. She was convicted of criminal negligence for giving a two-year-old boy an injection with a needle on which she had accidentally pricked her finger.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520171352-6c98o/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520171352-6c98o/?source=fiOtherNews2)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Nuns, backed by pope, warn of human trafficking at World Cup**

Roman Catholic nuns backed by Pope Francis on Tuesday raised the alarm over increased risks of human trafficking, exploitation of workers, forced prostitution and sexual tourism at the soccer World Cup in Brazil next month. The nuns, whose campaign is also backed by the U.S. embassy to the Vatican, announced an international campaign called "Play in Favour of Life - Denounce Human Trafficking," on the risks they say will be associated with the 12 June – 13 July tournament. She said young people from the countryside are lured with the promise of a job and forced into prostitution. Children in rural areas may be kidnapped and taken to cities hosting the venues and forced to beg.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520143304-yq8b1/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520143304-yq8b1/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Colombia**

**UN sounds alarm on displacement as peace talks advance**

Thousands of Colombia’s Indians from the Embera indigenous tribe have fled their rainforest reserves since last week to escape fighting between warring factions, the UN says, highlighting the plight tribes face in a country with one of the largest numbers of IDPs in the world. Latest UN figures show 2,631 Embera Indians from 27 different communities living along the country’s Pacific coast in the remote western province of Choco have been caught in the middle of fighting between drug-running criminal gangs and the National Liberation Army (ELN), forcing the Emberas to uproot since mid-May.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520065117-u8gdq/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520065117-u8gdq/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**El Salvador**

**Hundreds evacuated as volcanic activity picks up**

More than 1,000 people in El Salvador were evacuated from the area around the simmering Chaparrastique volcano in the east of the country as a precautionary measure against a possible eruption, the government said on Monday. The Chaparrastique volcano, which is also known as San Miguel, lies about 140km east of San Salvador. It has erupted twice in the past six months. No lives were lost on either occasion.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/el-salvador-evacuates-1000-people-volcano-23788112**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/el-salvador-evacuates-1000-people-volcano-23788112)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140519202203-3hqz0/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140519202203-3hqz0/)

**Venezuela**

**Mediators leave as standoff continues**

A South American effort to end a standoff in talks between Venezuela's government and opposition appears to have stalled. The FM’s of Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador left Caracas after a two-day visit without convincing opponents of Venezuela's government to return to talks aimed at easing the country's political crisis. In a statement issued Tuesday, the diplomats urged both sides to reflect on the next steps and decide on the date for another meeting in the near future.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mediators-leave-venezuela-standoff-continues-173842946.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mediators-leave-venezuela-standoff-continues-173842946.html)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Egypt court sentences ousted leader Mubarak to 3 years in jail**An Egyptian court on Wednesday sentenced ousted president Hosni Mubarak to three years in prison on charges of stealing public funds. The court fined Mubarak and his sons $2.98 million and ordered them to repay about 125 million Egyptian pounds of funds the court said they had stolen. The verdict may please some Egyptians who lived through three decades of autocracy under Mubarak, but analysts say that businessmen still loyal to him are still influential.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0E10OQ20140521**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0E10OQ20140521)

**Libya**

**New parliamentary polls on 25 June**

Libya's electoral commission announced Tuesday that polls will take place on 25 June to elect a new parliament to replace the contested General National Congress. Successive governments have complained that the GNC's claim to executive power as well as legislative authority has tied their hands in bringing to heel former rebel militias blamed for growing unrest in the country since the 2011 uprising that ousted and killed long-time dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/libya-elect-parliament-june-25-174343718.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/libya-elect-parliament-june-25-174343718.html)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Authorities announce 2 new MERS deaths**

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday reported two new deaths from the MERS coronavirus, taking to 175 the overall number of fatalities from the respiratory disease in the world's worst-hit country. The latest victims were a man in Riyadh and a woman in the port city of Jeddah, both in their 70s, the health ministry website said. It said the total number of infections was now 540. Other nations including Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, the UAE and the US have also recorded cases, mostly in people who had been in Saudi Arabia.

**AFP -** [**http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudis-announce-2-new-mers-deaths-1.1335886**](http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudis-announce-2-new-mers-deaths-1.1335886)

**State of Palestine**

**UN calls for probe after teens' fatal shooting**

A top UN official on Tuesday called for an investigation into the deaths of two Palestinian teens fatally shot last week by Israeli border policemen in the West Bank. The youths were shot dead as Israeli police responded to demonstrations marking the 66th anniversary of the “Nakba”. Assistant UN secretary general for political affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco called for an "independent and transparent" probe into the circumstances surrounding the boys' deaths. Israel has said the border police had tried to quell a violent demonstration by about 150 Palestinians but CCTV footage released via the human rights organisation Defence for Children International (DCI) indicates that neither of the boys posed a threat to Israeli forces.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/101848/World/Region/UN-calls-for-probe-after-Palestinian-teens-fatal-s.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/101848/World/Region/UN-calls-for-probe-after-Palestinian-teens-fatal-s.aspx)

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/20/video-indicates-killed-palestinian-youths-no-threat-israeli-forces**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/20/video-indicates-killed-palestinian-youths-no-threat-israeli-forces)

**Yemen**

**27 killed in clashes in northwest**

Clashes between Shiite northern rebels, Sunni tribesmen and military troops left 27 killed in the country's restive northwest, security officials and tribesmen said Tuesday. The security officials said military troops bombed al-Makhath, a village in the northwestern Amran province after clashes erupted between armed members of the Hawthi rebel group and the Sunni tribesmen. The officials and tribesmen said 15 Hawthi rebels, seven Sunnis, and five troops, including an officer, were killed in the clashes. The security officials said the Hawthi rebels seized a military base in the area. It is not immediately clear what ignited the fighting.

**AP -** [**http://bigstory.ap.org/article/27-killed-clashes-yemens-northwest**](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/27-killed-clashes-yemens-northwest)

**At least eight dead in fresh fighting in Yemen**At least eight people were killed on Wednesday after Shi'ite fighters clashed with the army and allied Sunni tribesmen over the control of a strategic hilltop north of the Yemeni capital, local officials said. The fighting began on Tuesday when armed men loyal to the Shi'ite Houthi tribe attacked military and security outposts near the city of Omran, in the province that carries the same name, killing six soldiers and one officer, military sources said. The army responded to the attack, killing nine of the fighters. The fighting resumed on Wednesday, local officials said, after mediation efforts failed to agree on a ceasefire.   
**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/05/21/uk-yemen-violence-idINKBN0E10PK20140521**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/05/21/uk-yemen-violence-idINKBN0E10PK20140521)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**16 Afghan police killed in past 24 hours**Taliban fighters have killed 16 policemen in Afghanistan in the space of one day and beheaded eight of them, officials said Wednesday, as security forces prepare to guard a second-round election. Villagers in the southern province of Zabul Tuesday found the decapitated bodies of eight local policemen who were seized two weeks ago, deputy provincial governor Mohammad Jan Rassoulyar told AFP. Also on Tuesday at least eight policemen were killed when Taliban fighters stormed checkpoints in the northern province of Badakhshan, said Gul Mohammad Bedar, the deputy provincial governor  
**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-148388-16-Afghan-police-killed-in-past-24-hours:-officials**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-148388-16-Afghan-police-killed-in-past-24-hours:-officials)

**India**

**Militants incite anti-India attacks after Narendra Modi's victory**

An extremist group suspected of having links to al-Qaida has released a video calling for militant organizations across the Middle East and south Asia to attack India and Indian interests overseas. The video was uploaded within 24 hours of India's recent election results, which saw a landslide victory for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Before the poll, counter-terrorist officials and experts predicted an increased threat from Islamic militants if the BJP won.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/20/islamic-militants-anti-india-attacks-narendra-modi**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/20/islamic-militants-anti-india-attacks-narendra-modi)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan airstrikes kill 30 Taliban**Pakistani jets Wednesday bombed Taliban hideouts in the north-west of the country, killing at least 30 militants, a security official said, as peace talks between the government and insurgents appeared close to collapse. Military officials said hideouts of militants linked with Pakistani Taliban were shelled in the North Waziristan tribal district near the Afghan border shortly after midnight.   
**DPA -** [**http://www.stripes.com/news/pakistan-airstrikes-against-taliban-kill-at-least-30-militants-official-says-1.284228**](http://www.stripes.com/news/pakistan-airstrikes-against-taliban-kill-at-least-30-militants-official-says-1.284228)

WCAR

**Across WCA**

**France delays Sahel counter-insurgency plan after Mali violence**

France has delayed plans to redeploy 3,000 soldiers to fight militants across Africa's Sahel region, saying it first needs to help deal with a new outbreak of violence in northern Mali. Paris had hoped to move the troops from Mali and other bases to target extremist groups operating between southern Libya, northern Chad and northern Niger. But it paused the plans after deadly clashes broke out between Mali government troops and Tuareg MNLA separatists in the northern town of Kidal over the weekend, officials said. A French military source said no new date had been set for the broader West African deployment, originally scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140520094222-1etp4/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140520094222-1etp4/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Guinea-Bissau**

**Vaz wins presidential runoff vote**

Election officials in Guinea-Bissau say Jose Mario Vaz has won the presidential runoff vote. Vaz supporters immediately took to the capital's streets Tuesday to celebrate his victory. Guinea-Bissau's electoral commission announced that Vaz won 61.92% of Sunday's vote, while Nuno Gomes Nabiam finished second with 38.08%.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guinea-bissaus-vaz-wins-presidential-runoff-vote-23795505**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guinea-bissaus-vaz-wins-presidential-runoff-vote-23795505)

**Mali**

**UN warns renewed violence in northern Mali threatens to destabilize entire sub-region**   
Briefing the UN Security Council in the wake deadly violence that rocked the northern Malian town of Kidal this past weekend, the top UN official in the country urged all parties to take immediate steps to de-escalate tensions and avoid further provocation to keep the long-troubled region from sliding back into crisis. "The priority today is to pull Kidal back from the brink of renewed confrontation. It is absolutely imperative that all actions are taken to avoid further violence," said Albert Koenders, head of MINUSMA, the UN News Centre reported on 20 May.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47847#.U3xNsGjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47847#.U3xNsGjD_cs)

**Mali urges UN to demand disarmament of all groups**Mali's foreign minister urged the U.N. Security Council at an emergency meeting Tuesday to demand that all armed groups in the volatile West African nation lay down their weapons, especially separatist Tuareg rebels who launched a deadly attack over the weekend in the northern town of Kidal. Abdoulaye Diop also urged the council to approve "a much more robust mandate" for the UN peacekeeping force in Mali. It is authorized to help restore peace, especially in northern cities, but not to undertake offensive military operations or chase terrorists in the desert.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/mali-urges-demand-disarmament-groups-23805080**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/mali-urges-demand-disarmament-groups-23805080)

**Nigeria**

**Twin blasts in the city of Jos**

Two bombs hidden in a truck and minibus have exploded in a crowded market in the Nigerian city of Jos. At least 118 people were killed in the car bomb attack in Jos on 20 May, police said. Both blasts, which also injured 45 people, were caused by improvised explosive devices hidden in the truck and minibus, according to the military. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the 20 May's blasts, but Nigeria has been struggling to curb a bombing campaign by the militant group Boko Haram.

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/twin-blasts-in-central-nigerian-city-of-jos-kill-dozens/a-17649109**](http://www.dw.de/twin-blasts-in-central-nigerian-city-of-jos-kill-dozens/a-17649109)

**19 children missing after communal clashes in Taraba**

As victims of the recent violent clashes in some parts of Taraba State continued to count their loses, the mysterious disappearance of no fewer than 19 children from six communities is currently causing ripples in the six separate communities of the state. The whereabouts of the children, aged between 10 and 15, had thrown traditional and religious leaders in the state into a state of confusion as frantic efforts were being made to ascertain their locations and ensure their safety.

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201405200602.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201405200602.html)

**Boko Haram militant says 'it's acceptable to fire on' children**A member of Boko Haram has said it is acceptable to fire on children. Saleh Abubakar has tried to justify the targeting of children and warned of more kidnappings in an interview with CBS News. Abubakar said 'you see the enemies among the children, it's acceptable to fire on all of them. You cannot differentiate the children'. He added that the abduction of the girls was in planning stages for three months. According to the report, he claimed to have seen the abducted girls three weeks ago and said they are fine. He said nothing will happen to the girls as long as the government releases Boko Haram fighters being held in Nigerian jails.   
**ANI -** [**https://in.news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-militant-says-acceptable-fire-children-061204623.html**](https://in.news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-militant-says-acceptable-fire-children-061204623.html)

**Parliament approves state of emergency extension**

Nigeria's parliament on Tuesday approved a six-month extension to a state of emergency in three northeast states hit by militant violence. Senators unanimously approved the continuation of special powers in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in a vote, following a similar backing from the lower chamber House of Representatives last week. President Goodluck Jonathan requested the extension after calling the continued violence in the three states "daunting" and expressing concern about mounting civilian casualties.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerias-parliament-approves-state-emergency-extension-145048380.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerias-parliament-approves-state-emergency-extension-145048380.html)

**Nigeria asks for UN sanctions on Boko Haram**

Nigeria asked the UNSC to impose sanctions on Boko Haram, and list it as a terrorist group, diplomats said Tuesday. They said Nigeria lodged the request with a Security Council committee that deals with sanctions against Al-Qaeda-linked groups. The decision to add Boko Haram to the black list will go into effect on Thursday if no objections are raised by any of the council's 15 members. The imposition of UN sanctions on the group was recommended Saturday at a conference in Paris that brought together the presidents of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroun, Niger and Benin as well as representatives of the US, Britain and France.

**AP –** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/nigeria-seeks-sanctions-boko-haram-23794808**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/nigeria-seeks-sanctions-boko-haram-23794808)

**Two Boko Haram attacks near Chibok kill 30**

Two attacks by Boko Haram gunmen killed 30 people near Chibok, the northeast town where more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped last month, witnesses said on Wednesday. The first attack on Monday afternoon killed 10 in the village of Shawa, some 7km from Chibok, a number of residents said. Gunmen then stormed the nearby village of Alagarno late Tuesday and stole food, razed homes and fired on fleeing civilians.

AFP - [**http://bangkokpost.com/news/world/411035/two-boko-haram-attacks-near-nigeria-chibok-kill-30-witnesses**](http://bangkokpost.com/news/world/411035/two-boko-haram-attacks-near-nigeria-chibok-kill-30-witnesses)

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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