**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Wednesday, 22 October, 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [CEE/CIS](#CEECIS) | **Ukraine** | One civilian killed in east Ukraine shelling, cold weather on its way |
|  |  | Candidate survives gun and grenade attack |
| [EAP](#EAP) | **China** | Hong Kong protesters plan march after fruitless talks with government |
|  | **Indonesia** | Indonesia president to make new cabinet picks after 8 rejected |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **Across ESA** | Military kill five militants, seize explosives |
|  | **Mozambique** | US, EU concerned over delayed vote count |
| [LAC](#LAC) | **Colombia** | Officials boosts security ahead of release of paramilitaries |
|  |  | ELN says agreement reached with FARC to join in peace talks |
|  | **Guatemala** | Overflowing rivers affect almost half a million people |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Egypt** | Egypt refers 60 'pro-Brotherhood' judges to disciplinary board |
|  | **Iraq** | Islamic State onslaught on Yazidis may be attempted genocide - UN |
|  | **State of Palestine/Israel** | UN chief Ban Ki-moon to set up Gaza conflict inquiry |
|  |  | Egypt invites Israel, Palestinians for new Gaza talks |
|  |  | Israel convicts Palestinian activist for "interfering" with barrier construction |
|  | **Syria** | UN convoy crosses lines to reach children fleeing besieged Kobane – UNICEF mention |
| [SA](#SA) | **Afghanistan** | Opium poppy cultivation hits all-time high |
|  | **Pakistan** | Blast injures three members of anti-polio team near Pakistan's Peshawar |
|  |  | Taliban sack influential spokesman as divisions grow |
| [WCA](#WCA) | **CAR** | UN Security Council extends EU force |
|  | **DR Congo** | African rivalries weaken U.N. hand against rebels in Congo |

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**One civilian killed in east Ukraine shelling, cold weather on its way**

One civilian was killed and five inujured in shelling in east Ukraine's rebel-controlled city of Donetsk over the past day, local authorities said Wednesday. Heavy shelling hit the Kirov and Kalinin districts southwest and north of the city centre on Tuesday and throughout the night, although Wednesday appeared calmer. Although fighting between Kiev's forces and pro-Russian rebels has been less intense since they signed a ceasefire on September 5, several locations are seeing near daily crossfire, including Donetsk airport. More than 3,700 people have been killed in the conflict since April, according to UN figures. At least 600,000 people have also been displaced from their homes in eastern Ukraine, with a third of them going to Russia. By the end of this week, temperatures are forecast to drop below freezing in the sharpest cold snap since war broke out in April between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatist rebels.

**AFP -** [**http://www.brecorder.com/world/europe/201066-one-civilian-killed-in-east-ukraine-shelling.html**](http://www.brecorder.com/world/europe/201066-one-civilian-killed-in-east-ukraine-shelling.html)

**Candidate survives gun and grenade attack**

A Ukrainian election candidate allied to the Prime Minister was shot at and came under a grenade attack as he left his home and only survived because he was wearing body armor, his party said. Volodymyr Borysenko, from Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk's People's Front party, was being treated in hospital for shock after the assault - the first of its kind reported during campaigning for 26 October's parliamentary vote, officials added, the first parliamentary election in Ukraine since street protests overthrew the President in February.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-ukraine-crisis-election-attack-idUSKCN0IA0TW20141021**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-ukraine-crisis-election-attack-idUSKCN0IA0TW20141021)

EAP

**China**

**Hong Kong protesters plan march after fruitless talks with government**

Hong Kong protesters planned to march to the home of the city's Beijing-backed leader, Leung Chun-ying, on Wednesday to push their case for greater democracy a day after talks between student leaders and senior officials failed to break the deadlock. Expectations had been low for a breakthrough in Tuesday evening's televised talks which were cordial and pitted five of the city's most senior officials against five tenacious but poised student leaders in black T-shirts.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/22/us-hongkong-china-idUSKCN0IB0B020141022**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/22/us-hongkong-china-idUSKCN0IB0B020141022)

**Indonesia**

**Indonesia president to make new cabinet picks after 8 rejected**

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who won election on a vow of clean government, said on Wednesday he would have to find new people to fill some of his cabinet posts after the anti-graft agency rejected eight of the people he picked. Widodo has tried to steer clear of the traditional trading of cabinet posts for political support and has said he wants a ministerial team dominated by professional technocrats.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141022083101-fgv12/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141022083101-fgv12/?source=jtOtherNews1)

ESA

**Across ESA**

**Military kill five militants, seize explosives**

Kenyan soldiers have killed five suspected al-Shabaab militants near the border with Ethiopia and recovered a vehicle packed with explosives, preventing a potentially huge attack, a defense spokesperson said. Kenyan forces intercepted the five men in their car in the northern frontier town of Moyale, and ordered them to stop, the spokesperson said. The militants opened fire and were killed in the shootout. Soldiers found 100 kg of highly explosive TNT in their vehicle along with six suicide vests. The incident came just days after the US Embassy in Ethiopia warned of a possible attack by al Shabaab there, and urged its nationals to avoid large crowds and hotels and restaurants in an upscale district of the Addis Ababa.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/20/us-kenya-security-idUSKCN0I927920141020**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/20/us-kenya-security-idUSKCN0I927920141020)

**Mozambique**

**US, EU concerned over delayed vote count**

Foreign observers on 21 October voiced concern over alleged irregularities in the counting of votes from Mozambique's presidential and legislative polls held last week. Both the European Union and the United States government issued statements pointing at problems in the tallying process after last week's polls. "Despite an orderly election day, these processes have encountered many difficulties and adversities," the EU observer mission said. These included "faulty" handling of final result sheets from polling stations and lengthy tabulation procedures. The EU observers noted that legal deadlines for the announcement of district and provincial results "were in their majority unfulfilled."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/us-eu-concerned-over-delayed-mozambique-vote-count-213028006.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/us-eu-concerned-over-delayed-mozambique-vote-count-213028006.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Officials boosts security ahead of release of paramilitaries**

Colombia is implementing additional security measures for human rights activists in high-risk areas ahead of the forthcoming release from prison of rightist paramilitaries sentenced to eight years under the 2006 pact leading to their demobilization, the Interior Ministry said. Officials met with more than 100 activists and grassroots and communities leaders to draw up guidelines for prevention a resurgence in violence as the former AUC militiamen hit the streets.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/10/21/colombia-boosts-security-ahead-release-paramilitaries/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2014/10/21/colombia-boosts-security-ahead-release-paramilitaries/)

**ELN says agreement reached with FARC to join in peace talks**

Colombia's second largest insurgent group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), has said that it has reached an agreement with the biggest rebel group "to seek confluence in the two peace processes." In a statement on its web page posted on 20 October, the ELN said it and the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) would coordinate the two peace processes with the Colombian President to end South America's longest armed insurgency. The ELN explained that the processes have different emphases and therefore different approaches.

**EFE -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/141021/eln-says-agreement-reached-farc-join-peace-talks**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/141021/eln-says-agreement-reached-farc-join-peace-talks)

**Guatemala**

**Overflowing rivers affect almost half a million people**

Two rivers in the north of Guatemala have risen over a meter and present an increasing risk to locals. According to an official report, nearly 500,000 Guatemalans were affected by the flooding of the Usumacinta and Salinas rivers in the north of the country, and 318 houses suffered damage. The incidents were caused by rains in the country in the last 24 hours, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Conred) reported. Six people were buried by a landslide in Santa María El Tablón de Sololá, with five being rescued and one dying. Weather continues to be unstable in the area, and the country is on alert for more floods and there is a chance that a tropical cyclone will emerge in the region.

**Prensa Latina -** [**http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Overflowing-Rivers-Affect-Almost-Half-a-Million-Guatemalans-20141021-0039.html**](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Overflowing-Rivers-Affect-Almost-Half-a-Million-Guatemalans-20141021-0039.html)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Egypt refers 60 'pro-Brotherhood' judges to disciplinary board**

Sixty Egyptian judges were referred to a disciplinary board on Monday after investigations concluded that they support a political faction - namely the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Judge Sherine Fahmy, delegated by the Cairo Appeals Court to investigate the issue, ruled to refer 60 judges to the board and called for them to be removed from office. Investigations showed the 60 judges had signed a statement stipulating their support for the Brotherhood on 24 July 2013 during the Islamist sit-in at Rabaa Al-Adaweya.

**Ahram -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/113517/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-refers--proBrotherhood-judges-to-disciplinar.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/113517/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-refers--proBrotherhood-judges-to-disciplinar.aspx)

**Iraq**

**Islamic State onslaught on Yazidis may be attempted genocide - UN**

The campaign of Islamic State militants against Iraq's Yazidi minority may be attempted genocide, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for human rights Ivan Simonovic said on Tuesday. "Facts are indicating that actions against Yazidis may amount to attempted genocide," he told a small group of reporters at the United Nations after returning from a recent visit to Iraq. Simonovic was speaking as Islamic State, often referred to as ISIL or ISIS, advanced on Iraq's Sinjar mountain, tightening a siege of thousands of stranded Yazidis, who called on the United States and its allies to act to avert more bloodshed.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141021223323-3fmsy/?source=jtHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141021223323-3fmsy/?source=jtHeadlineStory)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**UN chief Ban Ki-moon to set up Gaza conflict inquiry**

The UN secretary general has said he is setting up an inquiry into attacks on UN facilities during Israel's recent offensive in the Gaza Strip. Ban Ki-moon said the independent investigation would look into most serious cases where innocent people were killed.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29718322**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29718322)

**Egypt invites Israel, Palestinians for new Gaza talks**

Egypt has invited Israel and the Palestinians to resume indirect negotiations next week on a long-term Gaza truce, Palestinian delegation member Qais Abdul Karim said in a statement Tuesday. The indirect negotiations began on September 23, days before expiry of a one-month truce that temporarily ended 50 days of fighting between Israel and the Hamas movement that runs Gaza. Hamas wants a full lifting of a blockade on Gaza.

**DPA -** [**http://www.dpa-international.com/news/international/egypt-invites-israel-palestinians-for-new-gaza-talks-a-43035362.html**](http://www.dpa-international.com/news/international/egypt-invites-israel-palestinians-for-new-gaza-talks-a-43035362.html)

**Israel convicts Palestinian activist for "interfering" with barrier construction**

An Israeli military court has convicted a Palestinian activist, regarded by the EU as a human rights defender, for "interfering" with the work of an army tractor as it tried to erect a barrier in the West Bank, his lawyer said Tuesday. Abdullah Abu Rahma, who spent 15 months behind bars for organizing peaceful demonstrations against the illegal Israeli apartheid wall in the village of Bilin, was convicted on Monday at Ofer military court near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

**Al Akhbar -** [**http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/israel-convicts-palestinian-activist-interfering-construction-barrier**](http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/israel-convicts-palestinian-activist-interfering-construction-barrier)

**Syria**

**UN convoy crosses lines to reach children fleeing besieged Kobane – UNICEF mention**

Trucks carrying lifesaving supplies for Syrian children have managed to cross over the battle line in Aleppo for the first time in months, a spokesperson for UNICEF said in what was described as a “small but significant breakthrough” in the UN agency’s efforts to help children displaced by the fighting in Kobane. Speaking to reporters in Geneva, UNICEF spokesperson, Christophe Boulierac, explained that five trucks departing from the Government-controlled city of Aleppo succeeded in reaching the suburb of Afrin, a small district due north, where thousands of children fleeing the fighting in Kobane have taken refuge.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49130#.VEcnD2jD\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49130#.VEcnD2jD_ct)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan opium poppy cultivation hits all-time high**

A U.S. report shows that opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan grew to an all-time high in 2013 despite America spending more than $7 billion to fight it over the past decade. Federal auditors SIGAR report that Afghan farmers grew an unprecedented 209,000 hectares of the poppy in 2013, blowing past the previous peak of 193,000 hectares in 2007. As of June 30, 2014, they say, the United States had spent approximately $7.6 billion on counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan. It said one factor for the surge was affordable deep-well technology, which turned 200,000 hectares of desert in southwestern Afghanistan into arable land over the past decade.

**AP –** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-afghanistan-usa-opium-idUSKCN0IA0A420141021**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-afghanistan-usa-opium-idUSKCN0IA0A420141021)

**Pakistan**

**Blast injures three members of anti-polio team near Pakistan's Peshawar**

Three people were injured on Wednesday when a remote-controlled blast targeted a polio team in the Bajaur tribal region's Mamond tehsil. Rescue teams rushed to the site of the attack and shifted the injured who included two Levies personnel on security duty and a driver to a hospital in Khar. Earlier on Tuesday, militants had threatened to target polio teams participating in the ongoing polio drive.

**Dawn -** [**http://www.dawn.com/news/1139628/three-injured-in-attack-on-polio-team-in-bajaur**](http://www.dawn.com/news/1139628/three-injured-in-attack-on-polio-team-in-bajaur)

**Pakistani Taliban sack influential spokesman as divisions grow**

The Pakistani Taliban have sacked the movement's influential spokesman, according to a statement received by Reuters on Tuesday, in a sign of growing divisions within the deeply fractured group. The move followed last week's release of an audio message purporting to have been recorded by the spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, saying he and a group of other commanders had defected to the Middle Eastern jihadist group, Islamic State. The Taliban leadership said he no longer worked for them and reiterated their support for the Afghan Taliban leader, Mullah Omar.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-pakistan-taliban-idUSKCN0IA1EC20141021**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/us-pakistan-taliban-idUSKCN0IA1EC20141021)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29640242**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29640242)

WCA

**CAR**

**UN Security Council extends EU force**

The UN Security Council has decided to extend its authorisation of the EU operation in CAR until 15 March 2015. Under the resolution, the Security Council determined the situation in the CAR continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security, and therefore decided to extend the operation. The UN Security Council authorized the EU to deploy an operation in the CAR and take all necessary measures with the limits of its capacities to help with the local security situation, in January. In June, EUFOR RCA has reached its full operational capacity and includes 700 troops from France, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

**Xinhua -** [**https://in.news.yahoo.com/un-security-council-extends-eu-force-car-213619322.html**](https://in.news.yahoo.com/un-security-council-extends-eu-force-car-213619322.html)

**DR Congo**

**African rivalries weaken U.N. hand against rebels in Congo**

Hundreds of Rwandan rebels in eastern Congo are defying a six month ultimatum to disarm, ratcheting up pressure on regional powers and U.N. peacekeepers to eliminate, once and for all, a force at the heart of two decades of conflict. Midway to a deadline set by regional leaders, not one Hutu rebel had laid down his weapon and yet rivalries among African nations are undermining the prospect of U.N.-led military action against insurgents Rwanda has previously hunted down in Congo.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141022045959-e21v7/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141022045959-e21v7/?source=fiOtherNews3)

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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