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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Turkey evacuates hundreds of citizens from Libya after threat**

Turkey has been evacuating hundreds of citizens from Libya after a threat from a renegade general fighting Islamists in the east, Ankara's embassy and airport officials said on Tuesday. On Sunday, retired general Khalifa Haftar called on Turks and Qataris to leave eastern Libya within two days, accusing both their countries of supporting "terrorism." Haftar has declared war on militants in eastern Libya, deepening turmoil in the oil-producing state where the government is unable to control armed groups which helped oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but defy state authority.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0EZ1ZA20140624**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0EZ1ZA20140624)

**Surging environmental crime funds conflicts, hurts growth – UN**

Surging environmental crime, from illegal logging to elephant poaching, is worth up to $213 billion a year and is helping to fund armed conflicts while cutting economic growth, a UN and Interpol report said on Tuesday. The study, released during a UN meeting of environment ministers in Nairobi, called for tougher action to prevent crimes such as illegal logging, fishing, mining, dumping of toxic waste and trade in rare animals and plants. "Many criminal networks are making phenomenal profits from environmental crime," Achim Steiner, head of the UNEP, told Reuters. "It is a financing machine.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624100223-jmbtf/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624100223-jmbtf/?source=jtOtherNews2)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**NATO dashes Georgia, Montenegro membership hopes**

NATO will not approve a formal step to membership for Georgia at its summit in Britain in September and will delay taking a decision on whether to admit Montenegro until next year, NATO officials said on Wednesday. NATO members have agreed in principle to draw up a substantive package of cooperation with Georgia that would "help it come closer to NATO", Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters during a meeting of alliance foreign ministers. But that falls short of an invitation to join NATO's Membership Action Plan - a formal step towards NATO membership - that Georgia had hoped for.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-nato-enlargement-idUSKBN0F00IJ20140625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/us-nato-enlargement-idUSKBN0F00IJ20140625)

**Putin says will continue to protect ethnic Russians in Ukraine**

Moscow will continue to protect ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin said on 24 June after dismissing a week-long ceasefire between pro-Kremlin rebels and Ukrainian troops as "too short". "We will always protect ethnic Russians in Ukraine, as well as the part of Ukrainian people who ... feel part of the wider Russian world, and we will not only monitor this but also react," Putin said during a visit to Austria. The Russian leader however insisted that a seven-day truce between separatist rebels and forces loyal to Kiev in Ukraine's restive east be followed by concrete talks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/russias-putin-says-will-continue-protect-ethnic-russians-ukraine-20140625**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/europe/story/russias-putin-says-will-continue-protect-ethnic-russians-ukraine-20140625)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/uk-ukraine-crisis-putin-idUKKBN0EZ15D20140624**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/uk-ukraine-crisis-putin-idUKKBN0EZ15D20140624)

**Over 14,000 Ukrainian refugees accommodated in Russia**

The total number of Ukrainian refugees staying in temporary accommodation sites in Russia exceeds 14,000, the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said on 23 June. "A total of 211 temporary accommodation sites have been established, with over 14,200 people - nearly 6,500 children - living in them," a ministry spokesperson said. "Six more mobile temporary accommodation sites have been set up with a capacity of 3,000 people."

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0624/c90777-8745929.html**](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0624/c90777-8745929.html)

**Turkey**

**Court acquits 25 in coup plot trial**

A Turkish court on Tuesday acquitted more than two dozen people in a retrial after they were convicted over an alleged coup plot in 2012 against Turkey's government. Last October, an appeals court ordered a retrial of 88 people, including former army chiefs, who had been sentenced to prison terms of up to 20 years. The criminal court in Istanbul acquitted a total of 25 defendants, citing a lack of tangible, credible evidence against them, and decided to review the dossiers of the remaining suspects, the private Dogan news agency said. Those acquitted were largely mid-ranking former army officials but also included Omer Faruk Yarman, the former CEO of Turkish defence and software manufacturer Havelsan.

**AFP -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/turkey-acquits-25-in-coup-plot-trial-114062401315\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/turkey-acquits-25-in-coup-plot-trial-114062401315_1.html)

**Ukraine**

**At least 423 people killed since April, more than 40,000 displaced**

While there have been several steps recently to help de-escalate tensions in Ukraine, including a ceasefire that seems to be holding and the start of peace talks, the situation on the ground remains deeply worrying, senior UN officials reported to the Security Council on 24 June. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, told the Council that the peace plan and ceasefire are positive steps in the right direction. Estimates based on information gathered from official sources indicate that from 15 April to 20 June, 423 people, including servicemen and civilians, have been killed. As of 23 June, the UNHCR has profiled more than 46,100 IDPs – 11,500 from Crimea and nearly 34,600 from the east.

**AFP -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48118#.U6ncgWjD\_cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48118#.U6ncgWjD_cs)

**International push to save Ukraine truce**

International efforts to save Ukraine's fragile ceasefire are set to intensify as Kiev threatens to scrap the truce after pro-Russian rebels downed an army helicopter. Nine servicemen were killed when the Mi-8 helicopter was brought down on Tuesday, underscoring the limited control both Russia and senior rebel leaders seem to have over some militia units that are apparently operating according to their own rules in Ukraine's heavily Russified rustbelt.

**Sky News -** [**http://www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2014/06/25/international-push-to-save-ukraine-truce.html#sthash.pu7Prd1N.dpuf**](http://www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2014/06/25/international-push-to-save-ukraine-truce.html#sthash.pu7Prd1N.dpuf)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**China sends minister-level official to Taiwan for first time since split in the 1940s**

China has sent its first ever ministerial-level official to Taiwan for four days of meetings to rebuild ties with the self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its own, after mass protests in Taipei set back relations earlier this year. Zhang Zhijun, minister of Beijing’s Taiwan Affairs Office, reached the island’s main airport just before noon Wednesday to speak privately with his government counterpart. He sidestepped scores of anti-China protesters to enter a nearby hotel for the talks.

**Globe & Mail -** [**http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/china-sends-minister-level-official-to-taiwan-for-first-time-since-split-in-the-1940s/article19324754/**](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/china-sends-minister-level-official-to-taiwan-for-first-time-since-split-in-the-1940s/article19324754/)

**Thailand**

**Opponents of Thai junta launch democracy campaign**

Opponents of Thailand's junta launched a campaign on Tuesday to restore democracy and "oppose the military dictatorship and its aristocratic network", the first sign of organised resistance to the army since it seized power last month. Jarupong Ruangsuwan, chairman of the Puea Thai Party that led the government ousted by the military, said in an open letter to fellow Thais that the military council had no legitimacy and cast doubt on its promise to transfer power back to civilian authorities at some point.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624065410-h8cy8/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624065410-h8cy8/?source=search)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Opposition leader demands dialogue after spate of attacks**

Kenya's veteran opposition leader demanded on Tuesday a national dialogue by 7 July and sought a timetable to pull Kenyan troops out of Somalia, hours after a fresh attack on the coast killed five people. Raila Odinga, who was President Uhuru Kenyatta's main challenger in last year's election, has called for nationwide rallies next month over what he said were public worries that include security failings, corruption and rising living costs. His comments have set him on a collision course with the government, which has dismissed the deadline as a bid by the former prime minister to create a crisis that will haul him back to the centre of politics.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EZ1U020140624**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0EZ1U020140624)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**US sends more agents to border amid child immigrant crisis**

Homeland Security Secretary said on 24 June the United States is sending more agents to the border with Mexico to help deal with a flood of undocumented children, mostly from Central America, crossing into the US. One hundred and fifteen experienced agents have been sent from less active areas to the Rio Grande Valley, and a further 150 may join them, based on a review of operations there last week, the Homeland Security Secretary said in testimony prepared for a congressional hearing on 24 June. In the fiscal year through September 2013, US agents picked up more than 24,000 unaccompanied children at the southern border. From October to mid-June this year, that number more than doubled to over 52,000, and US authorities have been grappling with how best to deal with the crisis.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/us-usa-immigration-children-idUSKBN0EZ1L720140624**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/us-usa-immigration-children-idUSKBN0EZ1L720140624)

**Brazil**

**Risk of child exploitation at World Cup – UNICEF mention**

The FIFA World Cup being played in Brazil has sounded a warning for organisations fighting exploitation of children and adolescents, during an event that has attracted 3.7 million tourists to the 12 host cities.

As well as revenue, business and employment opportunities, the World Cup also increases the risks of labour and sexual exploitation of children, according to NGOs and UNICEF. The wave of tourists between 12 June and 13 July in the cities where [FIFA](http://www.fifa.com/) World Cup matches are being played has multiplied temporary demand for services and increased child labour and the vulnerability of children’s rights, according to Flora Werneck, the coordinator of Childhood Brasil.

**IPS -** [**http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/06/red-card-for-exploitation-of-children-at-brazils-world-cup/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/06/red-card-for-exploitation-of-children-at-brazils-world-cup/)

**Polio virus sample found at airport**

A strain of the polio virus has been found at an international airport in Brazil, but there are no human cases, the WHO has said. A WHO statement released on Monday said the virus was found in samples taken from sewage at Viracopos International Airport in Sao Paulo state in March. It said the local population's high immunity to the disease "appears to have prevented transmission". Brazil has been polio-free since 1989 and has high vaccination coverage. The WHO said the sample was a close match with a recent strain isolated in a case in Equatorial Guinea.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27986877**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27986877)

**Colombia**

**Over 4,000 indigenous people displaced in 5 months**

Over 4000 indigenous people were victims of displacement amid violence across Colombia during the first five months of 2014, the UN reported. In their most recent humanitarian affairs report, Colombia’s OCHA said the in the five months to May 2014, ten cases of mass displacements resulting in 4,500 indigenous people from five different states were forced to leave their homes. The report said that cultural and physical extinction was a real risk for the affected communities (Awa, Embera, Eparara Siapidara, Nasa and Nukak). These communities are part of the 35 indigenous groups recognized by the Constitutional Court of Colombia as being in danger of extinction.

**OCHA -** [**http://www.salahumanitaria.co/es/news/pueblos-ind%C3%ADgenas-en-riesgo-retos-para-la-comunidad-humanitaria**](http://www.salahumanitaria.co/es/news/pueblos-ind%C3%ADgenas-en-riesgo-retos-para-la-comunidad-humanitaria)

**Peru**

**Chikungunya virus spreads to Peru**

Peru reported its first cases of the chikungunya virus, in two people who recently traveled to the Dominican Republic, authorities said. The Health Ministry Director said the man and woman who were diagnosed in Lima had recently traveled to the Dominican Republic where the virus has been detected. The virus has spread across the Caribbean, to Central America and now South America. In the Caribbean, 16 countries have seen cases and the WHO counts 4,500 confirmed cases since the virus first appeared in December 2013.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/chikungunya-virus-spreads-peru-033614588.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/chikungunya-virus-spreads-peru-033614588.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Syrian warplanes strike in Iraq, killing 57 civilians, official** **says**

At least 57 Iraqi civilians were killed and more than 120 others were wounded by what local officials say were Syrian warplanes that struck several parts of Anbar province Tuesday. Sabah Karkhout, the head of Iraq's Anbar provincial council, said that the attacks struck markets and fuel stations in areas such as Rutba, al-Walid and Qaim.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/25/world/meast/iraq-crisis/**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/25/world/meast/iraq-crisis/)

**Israel's crackdown on Hamas slows in search for missing teens**

Israel eased a crackdown on Hamas in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday due to the fear of a Palestinian uprising linked to the search for three Israeli teenagers. Israel has accused Hamas of orchestrating the abduction of the Jewish seminary students on June 12, and the Israeli military's raids of Palestinian towns and cities have undermined President Mahmoud Abbas. Militants in the Gaza Strip, a coastal enclave where Hamas is dominant and has vowed revenge at Israel's crackdown, fired rockets into Israel and Israel responded with air strikes at militant targets there, the Israeli army said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624145248-pz9f3/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624145248-pz9f3/?source=search)

**Egypt**

**Preparing Egyptians for austerity, Sisi cuts own pay**

Egypt's new president pledged on Tuesday to give up half his salary and property and called on the Egyptian people to make similar sacrifices, trying to prepare the public for a period of painful economic austerity. In an impromptu speech at a military graduation ceremony, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said he had refused to sign off on a 2014/15 budget proposal following lengthy discussions this week because it was too dependent on ballooning borrowing. "We said we would revise this budget because I cannot bear to accept it when it contains this level of deficit," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624111833-sg20j/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624111833-sg20j/?source=search)

**4 bombs in Cairo metro stations, at least 2 hurt**

Four makeshift bombs exploded within minutes of each other at three Cairo metro stations during morning rush hour on Wednesday, wounding at least two people, police said. The explosive devices were “very primary” and of “low intensity,” a police official told AFP. Militants have stepped up attacks in Egypt, mostly against security forces, since the army ousted president Mohammed Mursi in July 2013 and the authorities launched a deadly crackdown on his supporters.

**AFP -** [**http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2014/June/middleeast\_June285.xml&section=middleeast**](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2014/June/middleeast_June285.xml&section=middleeast)

**Egyptian president ignores Obama call for clemency over al-Jazeera journalists**

The future of three al-Jazeera journalists jailed in Egypt looks bleaker after president, Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, refused a pardon, ignoring pleas from Barack Obama to release them and other political prisoners. The defendants in the trial have been portrayed as terrorists – known in the media as "the Marriott cell" – and students with Islamist links were added to the case to make it seem like the journalists had been collaborating with dissidents.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jun/24/al-jazeera-journalists-sisi-egypt-denied-celemency**](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jun/24/al-jazeera-journalists-sisi-egypt-denied-celemency)

**Lebanon**

**Abdullah Azzam Brigades** **warn Hezbollah of more attacks**

The Abdullah Azzam Brigades announced Tuesday that explosions in Beirut’s southern suburbs were a series of many attacks to come as long as Hezbollah was fighting in Syria, in an indirect claim to Monday’s suicide attack that killed one and wounded 25. Sheikh Sirajeddine Zuraiqat, the Al-Qaeda affiliated group’s religious guide, tweeted that the recent targeting of General Security head Maj. Gen. Abbas Ibrahim and the explosions in the southern suburbs confirmed that “you [Hezbollah] will not be living safely, until safety is returned to the people of Syria and Lebanon.”

**The Daily Star-** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Jun-24/261423-al-qaeda-affiliated-group-warns-hezbollah-of-more-attacks.ashx#ixzz35c7yAPOu**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Jun-24/261423-al-qaeda-affiliated-group-warns-hezbollah-of-more-attacks.ashx#ixzz35c7yAPOu)

**Libya**

**Libyans vote for new parliament in test for transition**

Libyans vote for a new parliament on Wednesday, an election officials hope will ease the chaos that has gripped the OPEC oil producer since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi three years ago. Marking another step in its transition after decades of one-man rule, Libya is set to hold the vote as the North African country is slipping deeper into turmoil after a renegade former army general launched a campaign against Islamist militants in the east. The country badly needs a functioning government and parliament to impose authority over heavily armed former rebels, militias and tribes that helped oust Gaddafi, but who now defy state authority, carving out fiefdoms.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624235620-ni6sy/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624235620-ni6sy/?source=jtTheWire)

**State of Palestine**

**Palestinian prisoners suspend hunger strike**

Scores of Palestinians on hunger-strike suspended their protest against detention without charges by Israel on Wednesday, and an Israeli official said there had been no major change of policy. Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian official advocating for the prisoners, told Reuters the hunger-strike had been suspended overnight and reasons for the move would be given later.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/palestinian-prisoners-suspend-hunger-strike/article19324747/**](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/palestinian-prisoners-suspend-hunger-strike/article19324747/)

**Sudan**

**Sudan war-zone bombing may be 'starvation' policy, says Amnesty**

Intensified bombing in Sudan's war-torn South Kordofan may be part of an attempt to starve the population, Amnesty International said on Wednesday. The air raids in recent weeks are "unprecedented in their scale and impact," the London-based watchdog said, citing human rights monitors. In the last week of May, 59 bombs fell in and around Kauda, a stronghold of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), Amnesty said in a briefing paper. Between May 15 and 22, Sudan's air force dropped around 200 bombs over the agricultural area of Tangal in Umm Durain district, severely disrupting the planting season, it said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/sudan-war-zone-bombing-may-starvation-policy-says-231232829.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/sudan-war-zone-bombing-may-starvation-policy-says-231232829.html)

**Sudan death row woman Meriam Ibrahim detained again**

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry summoned the American and South Sudanese ambassadors on Wednesday after a Christian-convert woman attempted to travel to the US using documents issued by the embassy of South Sudan, Sudan's top security service said on its official Facebook page. Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, who was released from death row on Monday, was detained as she and her family sought to fly out of Khartoum on Tuesday. Her lawyer Mohaned Mostafa told Reuters that she is expected to stay in police custody for 24 hours.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624235720-cfho6**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624235720-cfho6)

**Syria**

**Damascus mortar fire kills five people**

Rebel mortar fire on a government-held district of Damascus killed five people on 24 June, state media said, as a car bomb killed one person in a pro-government area of the city of Homs. Five people were also wounded by the mortar fire on the south Damascus district of Kissweh, the state SANA news agency reported. The car bomb in Homs wounded 14 people in a district mainly inhabited members of the same Alawite community as President Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Southeast of Damascus, pro-government forces fired three missiles at the rebel-held town of Mleiha, which has been virtually flattened by months of bombardment by the army and its Lebanese militia ally Hezbollah. The death toll from a 20 June truck bombing in the central province of Hama meanwhile rose to 43, including 11 children, the Observatory said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/damascus-mortar-fire-kills-five-172723143.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/damascus-mortar-fire-kills-five-172723143.html)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Polio spread feared as nearly 500,000 Pakistanis uprooted - UN**

About 50,000 Pakistanis have crossed into eastern Afghanistan to escape air strikes over the past 10 days and 435,000 have fled within their homeland, which could fuel the spread of polio as many are not vaccinated, UN agencies said on Tuesday. Pakistan's military gave residents of North Waziristan until the end of Monday to leave the remote mountainous region ahead of a widely anticipated major ground offensive by the army against militants. The number of Pakistanis who have fled to Afghanistan since military operations began on 15 June jumped from 7,000 last Friday to an estimated 50,000, said UNHCR’s Dan McNorton.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/uk-pakistan-airstrikes-polio-idINKBN0EZ1SI20140624**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/uk-pakistan-airstrikes-polio-idINKBN0EZ1SI20140624)

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan forces battle major Taliban offensive**

About 100 Taliban fighters have been killed in five days of fighting with the government forces in southern Afghanistan after hundreds of armed rebels launched an offensive in the area to gain territory recently vacated by the US troops, officials have said.

Local officials in Helmand province said that more than 800 Taliban were involved in the clashes in which at least 21 Afghan soldiers and 40 civilians were also killed.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/afghan-forces-battle-major-taliban-offensive-2014625114348657513.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/06/afghan-forces-battle-major-taliban-offensive-2014625114348657513.html)

**Pakistan**

**1 dead after shots fired at Pakistani plane**

Authorities in Pakistan were looking for a gunman who opened fire at a plane Tuesday evening just as it was landing in the volatile northwest, killing one person and wounding two others, officials said, casting fresh doubts about security at the country's airports. The violence in Peshawar comes just two weeks after gunmen laid siege to the country's busiest airport in Karachi in an attack that shocked Pakistanis and the international community and helped trigger a long-awaited military offensive against militants in the northwest. A female passenger on board the plane died on the way to the hospital, said Mashood Tajwar, a spokesman for the national carrier, Pakistan International Airlines. He said 178 passengers and an undetermined number of crew were on board.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/1-dead-shots-fired-pakistani-plane-200737981.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/1-dead-shots-fired-pakistani-plane-200737981.html)

**450,000 displaced as Pakistan attacks militants**

More than 450,000 Pakistanis have fled their homes for safer areas in the past two weeks as the military has attacked suspected anti-government militant hideouts in northwestern Pakistan, disaster management officials said Tuesday. Many of the displaced civilians have moved from the North Waziristan region, where the military campaign is largely focused, to camps in Pakistan's nearby Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, according to the country's army.

**CNN -** [**http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/24/world/asia/pakistan-north-waziristan-displaced-people/index.html?hpt=hp\_t4**](http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/24/world/asia/pakistan-north-waziristan-displaced-people/index.html?hpt=hp_t4)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Cameroon troops kill 8 suspected Boko Haram gunmen**

Cameroonian security forces killed eight gunmen believed to be members of Boko Haram, the militant group sowing terror in Nigeria, a paramilitary official said on 24 June. "Eight Boko Haram were killed during a mixed patrol of soldiers and paramilitary officers around Mora (northern Cameroon)", the official said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/cameroon-troops-kill-8-suspected-boko-haram-gunmen-171834386.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/cameroon-troops-kill-8-suspected-boko-haram-gunmen-171834386.html)

**CAR**

**Further fighting kills over 50**

More than 50 people have been killed in two days of clashes in CAR, witnesses and officials said on Tuesday. Witnesses in Bambari, 380km northwest of the capital Bangui, said an initial attack early on Monday by anti-Balaka led to waves of reprisals by Muslim youths and fighting inside the town. Robert Ponsien, an MSF doctor and project coordinator for medical aid agency MSF in Bambari, said rising tension there triggered clashes on Monday during which 34 people were killed, while another 17 were killed in Liwa. "There was a lot of violence. In the hospital, we had 28 wounded by gunshot and machete," Ponsien told Reuters by telephone, adding that the upsurge of violence forced several hundreds to flee to Bambari's Catholic church premises.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140624163933-bq1c8/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140624163933-bq1c8/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Minorities trapped in 16 sites in CAR - UN**

About 20,000 people are trapped in 16 minority communities in CAR because "if they leave, they may be attacked before they reach safety," said the top U.N. official in the country, which has been racked by sectarian violence. United Nations envoy to the Central African Republic, retired Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye of Senegal, told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that the few Muslim communities left in the capital, Bangui, remain largely confined to their neighborhoods."They are encircled by anti-balaka (Christian militia) who are not only preventing people from leaving but are also cutting off food and medical supplies," Gaye told the 15-member council.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0F00IH20140625**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0F00IH20140625)

**Nigeria**

**Gunmen kill 38 in Kaduna state raids**

Unidentified gunmen killed 38 people, mostly women and children, in raids on two villages in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state. The late Monday attacks targeted the remote villages of Fadan Karshi and Nandu in southern Kaduna, the head of the area's local government, Emmanuel Adamu Danzaria, told AFP. Ahmed Maiyaki, spokesman for Kaduna Governor Mukhtar Yero, confirmed the attack and the death toll but declined to discuss which group may have been responsible.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24312037/gunmen-kill-38-in-central-nigeria-raids/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24312037/gunmen-kill-38-in-central-nigeria-raids/)

**Scores abducted in northeast Nigeria**

Suspected Boko Haram fighters have abducted 60 girls and women and 31 boys from villages in northeast Nigeria, according to witnesses and a vigilante commander. Al Jazeera's Andrew Simmons, reporting from Bauchi in northern Nigeria, said the abduction happened over a three-day period - Thursday, Friday and Saturday - and took place in three villages about 60km from Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state. "A viligante commander in the town of Damboa has confirmed that three villages have been attacked by insurgents and a total of at least 90 people, most of them young people, around 60 females and at least 30 males “he said.

"It's unclear but there's also a report that four who tried to resist were shot."

**AlJazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/scores-abducted-northeast-nigeria-2014624103134503699.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/scores-abducted-northeast-nigeria-2014624103134503699.html)

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