**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Wednesday, 26 November 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [GENERAL](#GENERAL) | **Across Regions** | Slow progress in the fight against the LRA |
|  |  | UN committee adopts resolution on migrant children |
| [CEE/CIS](#CEECIS) | **Across CEE/CIS** | Ukraine reports new arrivals of Russian supplies for eastern rebels |
|  | **Ukraine** | Rebels urge UN to send peacekeepers into the east |
|  |  | Seven people killed in the east amid fierce fighting |
|  |  | Cash cut to rebel areas in risky strategy |
| [EAP](#EAP) | **Cambodia** | Khmer Rouge trial suspended until January |
|  | **Myanmar** | Army releases 80 more children |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **Across ESA** | As number of South Sudanese refugees grows, UN relief official urges support to Ethiopia |
|  | **South Sudan** | South Sudan warns UN against imposing sanctions |
|  | **Zimbabwe** | Zimbabwe vice president on the brink of losing party position |
| [LAC](#LAC) | **Colombia** | FARC free two soldiers, vow to release general by weekend |
|  |  | Sexual violence, an unattended medical emergency |
|  | **El Salvador** | Eight people killed at graduation party in shooting |
|  | **Guyana** | President seen as candidate for re-election |
|  | **Haiti** | Too few beds to treat cholera patients |
|  |  | Thousands of protesters demand president to step down |
|  | **Mexico** | Argentine specialists identify 3 more bodies found in southern Mexico |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Across MENA** | Hezbollah member, militant freed in Syria prisoner swap |
|  | **Egypt** | Egypt to reopen Gaza crossing Wednesday |
|  | **Iraq** | IS fighters battle army near Baiji refinery |
|  | **Lebanon** | Tripoli is target for IS Group |
|  | **Libya** | Libya air strike hits Tripoli's last functioning airport |
|  | **Syria** | Air raids on IS-held town of Raqa kill 63 civilians |
| [SA](#SA) | **Afghanistan** | President orders military review |
|  |  | Around 1.2 million children in Afghanistan are acutely malnourished |
|  | **Pakistan** | Gunmen Kill 4 Polio Workers in Pakistan |
| [WCA](#WCA) | **Burkina Faso** | 24 killed in Burkina's anti-Compaore uprising |
|  | **CAR** | UN eyes sanctions against former CAR president |
|  | **Mali** | Two soldiers killed in landmine explosion |
|  |  | Increased tension between armed groups limits access in the north |
|  | **Nigeria** | Maiduguri city hit by 'deadly blasts' |
|  | **Togo** | Leader rules out limiting presidential mandates |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Slow progress in the fight against the LRA**

The Lord's Resistance Army has been escalating its abductions in Central Africa, a new UN report says. Although AU-led military operations appear to be weakening the group, the countries involved have other priorities. The UN recorded 150 LRA attacks this year. The rebels are said to have killed 22 people. Uganda, South Sudan, the CAR and the DR Congo put together a regional force under AU mandate. This African Union Regional Task Force (AU-RTF) conducts military operations against the LRA. The US provides logistical support to the Central African states. In May the US deployed two military aircraft designed for long-range missions over difficult terrain and about 150 additional soldiers. But the soldiers are not engaging in combat. So far they have not succeeded in finding rebel leader Kony.

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/slow-progress-in-the-fight-against-the-lra/a-18082810**](http://www.dw.de/slow-progress-in-the-fight-against-the-lra/a-18082810)

**UN committee adopts resolution on migrant children**

The UN General Assembly’s human rights committee has adopted a resolution declaring that the arrest or detention of children based solely on their migration status should be a last resort. The nonbinding resolution, adopted by consensus, is a measure of world opinion after the US saw tens of thousands of children arrive at its borders from Central America earlier this year. The resolution’s co-sponsors include some of the countries the children were leaving, chiefly Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. Most of the children were fleeing violence or poverty. The resolution calls on countries to focus on family reunification, and stresses the potential for human rights abuses as children move across international borders, at times unaccompanied. It now goes to the General Assembly.

**AP -** [**http://fox11online.com/2014/11/25/un-committee-adopts-resolution-on-migrant-children/**](http://fox11online.com/2014/11/25/un-committee-adopts-resolution-on-migrant-children/)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Ukraine reports new arrivals of Russian supplies for eastern rebels**

Ukraine leveled fresh charges on 25 November that Russia was sending support to pro-Russian separatists in the east, saying that five columns of heavy equipment were seen crossing onto Ukrainian territory on 24 November. "The Russian side is continuing to provide the terrorist organizations of the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics with heavy armaments," said a foreign ministry spokesperson. He told journalists that a total of 85 vehicles had been detected in the five columns that entered at the Izvaryne border crossing point from Russia on 24 November.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-ukraine-crisis-accusations-idUSKCN0J91IK20141125**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-ukraine-crisis-accusations-idUSKCN0J91IK20141125)

**Ukraine**

**Rebels urge UN to send peacekeepers into the east**

Pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine called on 25 November for an emergency UN Security Council session that could authorize sending international peacekeepers into the war zone. The leadership of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic said in a statement it was seeking "the intervention of a peacekeeping force that includes Russian representatives to control the implementation of existing agreements and help resolve the humanitarian and social situation". The Ukrainian government reacted with scepticism to the request, seeing it as an excuse to invite Russian troops, who Kiev says are already covertly taking part in the war, onto its territory.

**AFP -** [**https://sg.news.yahoo.com/rebels-urge-un-send-peacekeepers-east-ukraine-134917514.html**](https://sg.news.yahoo.com/rebels-urge-un-send-peacekeepers-east-ukraine-134917514.html)

**Seven people killed in the east amid fierce fighting**

Intense fighting between government troops and independence-seeking insurgents in eastern Ukraine killed seven people over the past 24 hours, authorities said on 25 November. The civilian deaths came in the areas of Donetsk region engulfed by fighting, with government troops and insurgents accusing each other of using heavy artillery in residential districts.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/25/c\_133813655.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/europe/europe/2014-11/25/c_133813655.htm)

**Cash cut to rebel areas in risky strategy**

Money is running short in the rebel heartland since the government announced this month that it will suspend banking services as it piles on the pressure. Almost all ATMs have stopped working and the remainder are expected to stop operating over the next two weeks. The move is part of Ukraine's plan to suffocate its separatist foe, now that its costly military campaign has foundered. Authorities say they are also withdrawing all state services from rebel areas, although hospital and school workers in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk say it has been a while since they last saw funding anyhow.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/cash-cut-ukraine-rebel-areas-risky-strategy-144728295.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/cash-cut-ukraine-rebel-areas-risky-strategy-144728295.html)

EAP

**Cambodia**

**Khmer Rouge trial suspended until January**

Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal announced Tuesday it will suspend trial sessions until January, bowing to pressure from lawyers of one of the two defendants charged with genocide. A tribunal statement said hearings would resume Jan. 9, deferring to threats of a boycott by lawyers of Khieu Samphan, who said it was unfair to proceed while they are still working on appealing the verdict in his first trial. The tribunal met briefly Monday before suspending proceedings.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodia-khmer-rouge-trial-suspended-january-27164893**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodia-khmer-rouge-trial-suspended-january-27164893)

**Myanmar**

**Army releases 80 more children**

Myanmar has released 80 more children from military services and they were handed back to their parents, an official report said on 25 November. The 80 minors constitute the 8th batch freed by the army since 2012. The move signified the Myanmar military's commitment to ending recruitment of under-age children as soldiers. Myanmar's armed forces last released 109 child soldiers from military service in Yangon in September. The latest release has brought the total number of minors discharged from military service to 553.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141124/myanmar-releases-80-more-child-soldiers**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141124/myanmar-releases-80-more-child-soldiers)

ESA

**Across ESA**

**As number of South Sudanese refugees grows, UN relief official urges support to Ethiopia**

Following the end of a four-day mission to Ethiopia, a senior UN relief official has called for continued international attention to the plight of South Sudanese refugees, warning that the number of refugees could rise substantially if fighting in South Sudan persists. In a press release issued today by OCHA, ASG for Humanitarian Affairs, Ms. Kyung-Wha Kang, noted that nearly 194,000 South Sudanese refugees – 90 per cent of them women and children – have arrived in Ethiopia since the conflict in South Sudan began this past December. Without a political solution, and with more fighting and major food security challenges in South Sudan, that number could rise to 350,000 by the end of the first quarter of 2015.

**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49445#.VHWvpLUo7cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49445#.VHWvpLUo7cs)

**South Sudan**

**South Sudan warns UN against imposing sanctions**

Ambassador Francis Deng told the U.N. Security Council that targeted sanctions suggested by council members this month likely would "harden positions toward confrontation rather than cooperation," and he insisted that his government remains optimistic that a peace deal is possible. Impatient, a United States official this month said the U.S. is seeking a U.N. resolution that would authorize sanctions against individuals who are undermining South Sudan's political stability and abusing human rights.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/extends-south-sudan-peacekeeping-mission-27166750**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/extends-south-sudan-peacekeeping-mission-27166750)

**Zimbabwe**

**Zimbabwe vice president on the brink of losing party position**

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party has barred his embattled deputy Joice Mujuru from contesting a seat in its highest decision-making organ, further undermining her chances of succeeding the veteran leader. State media has accused Mujuru -- who until recently was considered one of the front runners to someday take over from the 90-year-old Mugabe -- of plotting to challenge her boss at a party congress set for next week.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-zimbabwe-mujuru-idUSKCN0JA0MN20141126**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/26/us-zimbabwe-mujuru-idUSKCN0JA0MN20141126)

LAC

**Colombia**

**FARC free two soldiers, vow to release general by weekend**

The Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels released two captives on 25 November and vowed to free a kidnapped army general by the weekend in a move that may lead to the resumption of suspended peace talks which aim to end five decades of war. The Colombian President halted two-year-old negotiations in Havana after the FARC seized five hostages, threatening to derail the peace efforts. The two liberated on 25 November were soldiers taken in eastern Arauca province during combat with the FARC two weeks ago.

**RCN –** [**http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/unicef-confia-en-que-se-reanuden-los-acuerdos-de-paz-176861**](http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/unicef-confia-en-que-se-reanuden-los-acuerdos-de-paz-176861)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-colombia-rebels-idUSKCN0J91PI20141125**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-colombia-rebels-idUSKCN0J91PI20141125)

**Sexual violence, an unattended medical emergency**

In Colombia, eighty per cent of the survivors of sexual violence attended by MSF between June 2012 and August 2013 hadn’t looked for help in the local health structures. The obstacles to their seeking health and psychological help were: the lack of awareness that it requires a visit to the hospital (61%); not considering they had suffered sexual violence; threats by the perpetrator, and shyness, among others. If the survivor goes to the doctor in the first 72 hours, it is possible to give prophylaxis for HIV/AIDS and antibiotics that will help prevent some infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis, besides emergency contraceptives to avoid an unwanted pregnancy.

**MSF -** [**http://www.msf.org/article/colombia-sexual-violence-unattended-medical-emergency**](http://www.msf.org/article/colombia-sexual-violence-unattended-medical-emergency)

**El Salvador**

**Eight people killed at graduation party in shooting**

Suspected gang members in El Salvador shot dead seven men and a woman early on 25 November during a middle school graduation party in the town of Acajutla, police said. At least four suspected members of local street gangs known as Maras broke into a house in Acajutla, about 84 km southwest of San Salvador, and opened fire on the group without warning, police said. "This is the most serious incident reported this year," the country's police chief reported. Among the seven dead men was a gang member wanted for murder, authorities said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-elsalvador-violence-idUSKCN0J92AS20141125?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-elsalvador-violence-idUSKCN0J92AS20141125?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Guyana**

**President seen as candidate for re-election**

With the likelihood of an early poll, Guyana's ruling PPP/C is holding talks about presidential nominations and said on 25 November that its only candidate for the position of president is the incumbent. The PPP/C general secretary reported that the PPP/C Executive Committee is expected to deliberate on the presidential nomination, as well as the nomination of the party's prime ministerial candidate and that a public pronouncement on both nominations will be made soon. Political observers say the country could hold early elections after opposition legislators rejected an invitation from the President for dialogue following his decision to prorogue parliament in November.

**EFE -** [**http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2014/11/25/pres-ramotar-seen-as-candidate-for-re-election-in-guyana/**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2014/11/25/pres-ramotar-seen-as-candidate-for-re-election-in-guyana/)

**Haiti**

**Too few beds to treat cholera patients**

More than 2,000 people with symptoms of cholera have required emergency hospitalization since mid-October in Port-au-Prince. Even though the majority of the population remains exposed to cholera due to a lack of access to clean drinking water and latrines, capacity to treat those affected by the disease is still inadequate. In response MSF has rapidly reinforced its cholera response, making close to 320 beds available. Four years on from cholera’s appearance in the country, the health system is still facing shortages of funding, human resources, and drugs.

**MSF -** [**http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/article/haiti-too-few-beds-treat-cholera-patients**](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/article/haiti-too-few-beds-treat-cholera-patients)

**Thousands of protesters demand president to step down**

Thousands of anti-government protesters in Haiti called on 25 November for the resignation of the Haitian President, whom they accused of trying to reinstall a dictatorship. Opposition politicians called for the protests, which took place in several neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. The protests were held amid worries that the Haitian President could try to rule by decree when parliament expires in January following three years of election delays. Demonstrators carried signs calling for democratic elections and a new government, and demanded the release of jailed opposition activists.

**AFP -** [**http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Thousands-of-Haiti-protesters-demand-president-to-step-down**](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Thousands-of-Haiti-protesters-demand-president-to-step-down)

**Mexico**

**Argentine specialists identify 3 more bodies found in southern Mexico**

The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) said on 25 November that it identified three more bodies found in clandestine graves in the Mexican state of Guerrero, but they are not the remains of any of the 43 students who disappeared in the city of Iguala in September. The remains found in the Pueblo Viejo area are those of "three people who disappeared in Iguala in recent months," the EAAF, which is assisting with the investigation of the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa Normal School students at the request of the families of the missing, said in a statement.

**EFE -** [**http://www.laprensasa.com/309\_america-in-english/2812963\_argentine-specialists-identify-3-more-bodies-found-in-southern-mexico.html**](http://www.laprensasa.com/309_america-in-english/2812963_argentine-specialists-identify-3-more-bodies-found-in-southern-mexico.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Hezbollah member, militant freed in Syria prisoner swap**

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah movement said one of its members captured in Syria by Al-Qaeda's affiliate there was released on 25 November in exchange for two militants held by the group. "Prisoner Emad Ayyad has been freed, in exchange for two members of Al-Nusra Front who were being held by Hezbollah, after weeks of negotiations," the group's television channel reported. Hezbollah confirmed the swap in a later statement without mentioning Al-Nusra.

**AFP -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/hezbollah-member-jihadist-freed-syria-prisoner-swap-153155408.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/hezbollah-member-jihadist-freed-syria-prisoner-swap-153155408.html)

**Egypt**

**Egypt to reopen Gaza crossing Wednesday**

Egypt is to open the Rafah border crossing with Gaza Wednesday for the first time since its closure in late October after a bombing in the Sinai Peninsula. The crossing, which is the only access point to the Palestinian territory not controlled by Israel, will open for four hours Wednesday and Thursday, a government official said. The crossing is being opened for two days to help traffic mainly from Egypt to Gaza, the reopening will be temporary. The United Nations says more than 3,500 Palestinians have been stranded on the Egyptian side since the crossing was closed after a suicide attack killed 30 soldiers in the North Sinai on October 24.

**Daily star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Nov-26/278967-egypt-to-reopen-gaza-crossing-wednesday-officials.ashx#axzz3KAYq8KBN**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Nov-26/278967-egypt-to-reopen-gaza-crossing-wednesday-officials.ashx#axzz3KAYq8KBN)

**Iraq**

**IS fighters battle army near Baiji refinery**

IS insurgents battled Iraqi forces in the center of Baiji on 25 November, a week after the army broke their prolonged siege of the country's largest oil refinery just outside the town, an army officer and residents said. The renewed fighting in Baiji by the IS militants, who control thousands of square miles of territory in Iraq and Syria, appeared aimed at reimposing that stranglehold around the oil facility 4 km to the north. The IS fighters were present in four of Baiji's 12 neighborhoods, as well as areas on the perimeter of the refinery complex. But the army controlled its southern approaches, preventing insurgents from surrounding it.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-baiji-idUSKCN0J91IU20141125?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-baiji-idUSKCN0J91IU20141125?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews)

**Lebanon**

**Tripoli is target for IS Group**

Sunni Muslim-majority Tripoli is seen as particularly vulnerable to becoming a foothold for militants from Syria, including the Islamic State group, to expand into Lebanon. Years of neglect have deepened poverty in the city, Lebanon's second largest. Many among its conservative Sunni residents are bitter over what they see as domination of the central government by Shiites, the Hezbollah group in particular giving fertile ground for the sectarian hatred that militants often feed on.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/impoverished-lebanese-city-target-group-27188621**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/impoverished-lebanese-city-target-group-27188621)

**Libya**

**Libya air strike hits Tripoli's last functioning airport**

A Libyan air force jet has carried out two attacks on Maitiga air base in Tripoli, the Libyan capital's last functioning airport. The strikes hit an area near the runway without damaging it, but caused some damage to nearby civilian homes. The coalition of militias that controls Tripoli called it a "provocative" move by foreign-backed forces. Local media reports said flights were initially redirected to the city of Misrata but later resumed at Maitiga.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30175992**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30175992)

**Syria**

**Air raids on IS-held town of Raqa kill 63 people**

A wave of Syrian regime air strikes on the IS group’s self-proclaimed capital of Raqa, in the east, killed at least 63 people, including 36 civilians on 25 November, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. “The death toll has risen to at least 63 in air raids on Raqa,” said the Observatory director, updating its earlier toll of at least 23 killed. “Dozens more were wounded, some of them critically. We fear the death toll may rise further,” the Observatory director reported.

**AP –** [**http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/11/26/syria-air-strikes-capital-kill-63**](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/11/26/syria-air-strikes-capital-kill-63)

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/syrian-air-raids-isis-held-town-raqa-kill-23-civilians-monitor-20141125**](http://www.straitstimes.com/news/world/middle-east/story/syrian-air-raids-isis-held-town-raqa-kill-23-civilians-monitor-20141125)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**President orders military review**

President Ashraf Ghani has ordered a top-to-bottom review of the operations of Afghanistan's defense forces, including discussing the resumption of controversial night raids banned by his predecessor. The move appears aimed at revamping the military for the fight against the Taliban amid new indications that U.S. and international forces will play a greater role than initially envisaged after the 13-year U.S.-led combat mission formally ends next month. The wholesale review is already underway, presidential spokesman Nafizullah Salarzai told The Associated Press, saying Ghani had instructed the National Security Council to work on a manual of guidelines and standards for military operations.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-afghan-review-military-plan-27176879**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-afghan-review-military-plan-27176879)

**Around 1.2 million children in Afghanistan are acutely malnourished**

U.N. humanitarian coordinator Mark Bowden says that almost 8,000 civilians have been killed in the war with Taliban-led insurgents this year, and more than 100,000 people have been forced from their homes. As the conflict expands in the coming year, more help will be needed, he says. Around 1.2 million children in Afghanistan are acutely malnourished, half a million of them younger than five years old. Half a million children die each year of preventable disease, and already 4,000 families are facing the onset of winter without adequate housing. The UN said about 8,000 civilians had been killed and injured in the Afghan war this year. Mark Bowden said 22 per cent of the victims were children.

**The daily times -** [**http://www.thedailytimes.com/news/nation\_world/un-appeals-for-m-for-afghanistan-aid-in/article\_ea6ae1a6-8229-5339-83a4-87bd37cf678b.html**](http://www.thedailytimes.com/news/nation_world/un-appeals-for-m-for-afghanistan-aid-in/article_ea6ae1a6-8229-5339-83a4-87bd37cf678b.html)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen Kill 4 Polio Workers in Pakistan**

A Pakistani police spokesman says gunmen have killed four health workers administering polio vaccines in a southwestern city. Those killed in the Wednesday attack in Quetta included three women. He says the vaccination team of three women and three men was waiting for a police escort when the two gunmen opened fire on them. Local militants oppose the vaccination campaign, alleging that western governments would use it as a cover to spy on insurgents.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-us-drone-kills-militants-pakistan-27187468**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-us-drone-kills-militants-pakistan-27187468)

WCA

**Burkina Faso**

**24 killed in Burkina's anti-Compaore uprising**

Twenty-four people were killed and 625 people were wounded in the popular uprising that toppled long-time president Blaise Compaore in October, a committee appointed by Prime Minister Isaac Zida to probe the violence said Wednesday. Among causes of the fatalities were gunshot wounds, serious burns or suffocation, said Clarisse Merindol-Ouoba, who heads the committee.

**Ahram -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/116498/World/International/-killed-in-Burkinas-antiCompaore-uprising-Probe.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/116498/World/International/-killed-in-Burkinas-antiCompaore-uprising-Probe.aspx)

**CAR**

**UN eyes sanctions against former CAR president**

A UN panel is calling for targeted sanctions against former CAR president Michel Djotodia, accused of trying to derail the political transition in Bangui, diplomats said Tuesday. Djotodia rose to power in March 2013 after his Seleka rebel movement overthrew longtime leader Francois Bozize, but he stepped down in January amid chaos in his country. A panel of experts have listed Djotodia, who lives in exile in Cotonou, among about 15 names of individuals who should be punished for hampering peace efforts in the Central African Republic. The targeted sanctions would include a visa ban and an assets freeze.

**Daily Mail –** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2849715/UN-eyes-sanctions-against-former-C-Africa-president.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2849715/UN-eyes-sanctions-against-former-C-Africa-president.html)

**Mali**

**Two soldiers killed in landmine explosion**A mine explosion hit a government minister's convoy in northern Mali on 25 November, killing two soldiers and injuring nine others, a colonel in the Malian army said. It was not immediately clear who was responsible. Al Qaeda-linked militants continue to carry out attacks despite a French-led intervention last year to drive them out of the north. In a separate incident on 25 November, a mine exploded beneath a water truck near Tessalit, in the Kidal region, a spokesperson for the UN peace-keeping mission said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-mali-attacks-idUSKCN0J91QR20141125**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-mali-attacks-idUSKCN0J91QR20141125)

**Increased tension between armed groups limits access in the north**

The breakdown of the ceasefire agreement between separatist groups and the Malian government has led to increased incidents of armed groups competing for power and territorial control. Clashes between these groups have caused delays and suspension of some humanitarian activities. The delivery of government services continues to be weak in many areas of northern Mali. The region is therefore highly dependent on humanitarian aid. The capacity of the armed groups, in terms of weaponry as well as tactical skill, appears to be increasing, as rocket and IED attacks seem to be hitting their target with ever greater precision.

**DRC -** [**http://www.drc.dk/news/news/artikel/increased-tension-between-armed-groups-limits-access-in-northern-mali/**](http://www.drc.dk/news/news/artikel/increased-tension-between-armed-groups-limits-access-in-northern-mali/)

**Nigeria**

**Maiduguri city hit by 'deadly blasts'**

Two female suicide bombers have blown themselves up at a crowded market in Maiduguri city, killing at least 30 people, witnesses say. One teenage girl blew herself up first and as people gathered to help victims, the second girl detonated herself, the witnesses added. Boko Haram has not commented on the explosions. It has been blamed for at least five female suicide bombings in Nigeria since June. The girls, dressed in full hijab, entered the busy market and detonated their explosives, said the coordinator of a government-backed vigilante group in Borno.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30194149**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30194149)

**Business Standard -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nearly-100-killed-in-nigeria-attacks-roundup-114112501560\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/nearly-100-killed-in-nigeria-attacks-roundup-114112501560_1.html)

**Togo**

**Leader rules out limiting presidential mandates**

Togo leader on 25 November rejected opposition calls for limiting the number of presidential mandates and gave a strong signal that he would seek re-election next year. The head of state has come under mounting pressure to change the constitution to limit a president to a maximum two, five-year terms of office from the current provision of no limit. The President has been in power since 2005 and took over from his father, who governed the country for 38 years.

**AFP -** [**http://aidnews.org/togo-togo-leader-rules-out-limiting-presidential-mandates/**](http://aidnews.org/togo-togo-leader-rules-out-limiting-presidential-mandates/)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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