**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Thursday, 18 September 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENRAL | **Across Regions** | Green aid test for UN climate summit as poor seek $15 bln |
| CEE/CIS | **Across CEE/CIS** | Russia says ready to send third humanitarian convoy to Ukraine |
|  |  | Two people killed in floods in Serbia and Romania |
|  |  | Floods threaten northeastern parts of Croatia |
|  | **Ukraine** | Premier calls for "full combat readiness" despite peace process |
|  |  | Government will screen one million civil servants |
|  |  | Rebels defiant over new self-rule law |
| EAP | **Fiji** | Country returns to democracy with trouble-free vote |
|  | **Malaysia** | Forced labor rife in electronics factories |
|  | **Philippines** | Rushed evacuations as volcano spews lava |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **South Sudan** | South Sudan won't expel foreign workers: minister |
| LAC | **Across LAC** | Caricom urges preparation for possible Ebola cases |
|  | **Brazil** | First domestic case of chikungunya reported |
|  | **Colombia** | Country reports more than a thousand cases of chikungunya |
|  | **Ecuador** | At least 15 police hurt as thousands rally |
|  | **Mexico** | Hurricane Polo surges off Pacific coast |
|  | **Venezuela** | Health minister confirms 398 cases of chikungunya |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Lebanon** | Gunmen seize Lebanese soldier in border town |
|  | **Libya** | PM picks rights activist as foreign minister |
|  |  | Militants launch new assault on Benghazi airport |
|  |  | Libya army chief calls for jihad amid clashes with Islamists |
|  | **Syria** | Joint WHO – **UNICEF** statement regarding deaths of children in Idlib |
|  |  | War may make hundreds of thousands of young people stateless |
|  |  | US House backs plan to arm Syrian rebels |
|  | **Yemen** | UN envoy presses rebel leader for new talks with govt |
|  |  | Yemen's Shiite rebels fighting in Sanaa suburb |
| [SA](#SA) | **Bangladesh** | Clashes after top political leader spared death sentence |
| WCA | **Across WCA** | IMF proposes $127 million for three Ebola-hit countries in West Africa |
|  | **Nigeria** | Senate urges government to declare "full scale war" on Boko Haram |
|  |  | Boko Haram blamed as 15 die in Kano college shooting, blast |
|  | **Sierra Leone** | Sierra Leone readies for Ebola door-to-door campaign |

GENERAL

**Across Regions  
Green aid test for UN climate summit as poor seek $15 bln**A UN summit on climate change next week will test rich nations' willingness to fill a near-empty fund to help the poor, but pledges are likely to be far short of developing nations' hopes for $15 billion in 2014. Emerging nations say that cash for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), meant to help the poor with projects to curb rising greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to heatwaves, floods and rising seas, is vital to combat global warming. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wants more than 120 world leaders to make "bold pledges" about climate change at the 23 Sept. summit in New York.   
**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/un-climatechange-fund-idINL6N0RI2D520140918**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/un-climatechange-fund-idINL6N0RI2D520140918)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia says ready to send third humanitarian convoy to Ukraine**

Russia is ready to send a third batch of humanitarian aid to Ukraine's southeastern regions within days. Russia urged the ICRC to play a more active role in the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid in Ukraine. The European Union said Russia's second convoy sent without consent of or inspection by the Ukrainian authorities was "illegal."

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/euruope/2014-09/17/c\_133650826.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/euruope/2014-09/17/c_133650826.htm)

**Two people killed in floods in Serbia and Romania**

At least two people have been killed and five are missing in flash floods and landslides that hit Serbia and Romania. An elderly woman was swept away in a flash flood and three were missing in municipalities on the Serbian side of the River Danube. Across the river in Orsova in western Romania, a landslide killed a man in his car and two people were missing. Torrential rain in the area at the start of the week caused flash floods in the mountains of the Djerdap Gorge, through which the Danube flows. Water roaring from the uplands tore away roads and houses along the river and deposited thick layers of mud, cutting off several municipalities. The Environment and Water Ministry in Bulgaria also issued a warning that flash floods are possible.

**Sky News -** [**http://www.skynews.com.au/news/world/europe/2014/09/17/two-killed-in-floods-in-serbia-and-romania.html**](http://www.skynews.com.au/news/world/europe/2014/09/17/two-killed-in-floods-in-serbia-and-romania.html)

**Floods threaten northeastern parts of Croatia**

The floods are slowly receding in Central Croatia while water moving down stream is threatening many houses and roads in the northeastern parts of the country. The rivers Mura and Drava overflowed and flooded parts of Sisak-Moslavina and Koprivnica-Krizevci, northeastern counties of Croatia. Emergency flood protection measures are in force in counties and several residents were evacuated. The situation in the central county of Karlovac where the floods hit several days ago, has been slowly normalizing and the people who evacuated have returned home.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2014-09/18/content\_33542102.htm**](http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2014-09/18/content_33542102.htm)

**Ukraine**

**Premier calls for "full combat readiness" despite peace process**

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has urged Ukraine's security forces to maintain "full combat readiness" despite the peace process with pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions that began with the 5 September ceasefire. Yatsenyuk said that any peace talks should be held only in a four-party format: USA, EU, Ukraine and Russia.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-ukraine-crisis-yatseniuk-battle-idUSKBN0HC0VE20140917**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-ukraine-crisis-yatseniuk-battle-idUSKBN0HC0VE20140917)

**Government will screen one million civil servants**

The parliament passed a new law, allowing the vetting of government officials and the removal of corrupt officials. Mr. Yatseniuk said all departments who worked under previous President Viktor Yanukovych would be vetted. "One million civil servants of different kinds will come under this law, including the whole cabinet of ministers, the interior ministry, the intelligence services, the prosecutor's office," Mr Yatseniuk said in a televised cabinet meeting.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29239447**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29239447)

**Rebels defiant over new self-rule law**

A senior Ukrainian rebel leader has told the BBC that a new law granting self-rule to parts of the east will not sway the demand for independence. Andrei Purgin said there were no plans to develop any political relationship, federal or otherwise, with Ukraine. The new law is part of a truce agreed between separatists and the Ukrainian government, after months of conflict. Meanwhile two civilians were killed by fighting in the eastern city of Donetsk on Wednesday, officials said. The new law, which affects Donetsk and Luhansk regions and is in line with the 5 September ceasefire, was condemned by some Ukrainian MPs as "capitulation". The truce has held despite sporadic fighting between the two sides over the past 12 days.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29232830**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29232830)

EAP

**Fiji**

**Country returns to democracy with trouble-free vote**

Fijians flocked to vote Wednesday in the South Pacific nation's first election since a 2006 coup, with officials declaring the poll trouble-free and military strongman Voreqe Bainimarama appearing set for victory. Fiji’s President Epeli Nailatikau had called for a violence-free election and military commander Mosese Tikoitoga said his forces were on standby after receiving reports of intimidation. But fears that there would be a repeat of the rioting that erupted in Suva after a 2000 coup proved unfounded, with both races queuing side-by-side in the capital in an easy-going atmosphere.

**AFP -** [**http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/fiji-returns-to-democracy-with-trouble-free-vote-1.1386397**](http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/fiji-returns-to-democracy-with-trouble-free-vote-1.1386397)

**Malaysia**

**Forced labor rife in electronics factories**

Nearly a third of some 350,000 workers in Malaysia's electronics industry, which services the international consumer supply chain, suffer from conditions of modern-day slavery such as debt bondage, according to a study released on Wednesday and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The survey by Verité, an international labor rights group, found that abuse of worker rights — particularly the tens of thousands of individuals from low-wage countries like Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia — was rife in a $75 billion sector that is a mainstay of the Southeast Asian country's export-driven economy. Several U.S., European, Japanese and South Korean multinationals have operations in Malaysia, including Samsung, Sony, Intel and Bosch.

**Reuters -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/17/report-forced-laborrifeinmalaysianelectronicsfactories.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/17/report-forced-laborrifeinmalaysianelectronicsfactories.html)

**Philippines**

**Rushed evacuations as volcano spews lava**

Lava cascaded down the Philippines' most active volcano on 17 September as authorities rushed to evacuate thousands ahead of a possible deadly eruption. Mostly women, children and the elderly carrying bags of clothes were hauled out of farming villages near Mayon volcano's slopes on board army trucks and minibuses. Soldiers went from house to house asking residents to evacuate, after authorities raised the third highest alert in a five-step scale, meaning a full-scale eruption is possible "within weeks". At least 8,000 of the target 50,000 people had been moved to temporary shelters, with the operation expected to run for three days, the regional civil defence director reported.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/rushed-evacuations-philippine-volcano-spews-lava-062050425.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/rushed-evacuations-philippine-volcano-spews-lava-062050425.html)

ESA

**South Sudan**

# South Sudan won't expel foreign workers: minister

The government in South Sudan said Wednesday it will not be expelling any foreign workers, reversing a policy announcement made the previous day that caused a storm of protests from aid agencies and neighbouring countries. "We would like to make a clear statement that there is no statement in the Republic of South Sudan saying that they are expelling foreign workers in this country. The government of South Sudan is not expelling any foreign worker in South Sudan," Foreign Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin told reporters.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-revoke-order-expel-foreign-workers-report**](http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-revoke-order-expel-foreign-workers-report)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Caricom urges preparation for possible Ebola cases**

A Caribbean trade bloc is urging governments to establish isolation facilities and take other preventive measures in case the Ebola virus reaches the region. Caricom's secretariat said in a statement on 17 September that the recommendation was backed at a meeting of government officials and the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency. No cases of Ebola have been reported originating in the region. Caricom said leaders also should review their response to an outbreak of the chikungunya virus. Across the Caribbean, the PAHO has recorded nearly 700,000 suspected and confirmed cases as of 12 September.

**AP -** [**https://news.yahoo.com/caricom-urges-preparation-possible-ebola-cases-173223559.html**](https://news.yahoo.com/caricom-urges-preparation-possible-ebola-cases-173223559.html)

**Brazil**

**First domestic case of chikungunya reported**

Brazil's authorities reported the first domestically contracted cases of the mosquito-borne chikungunya virus, prompting the government to announce it was stepping up attempts to control the disease. Brazil's cases emerged in Oiapoque municipality in the northern region of Amapa, bordering French Guiana, where cases have also been reported. The Brazilian health ministry said the two sufferers appeared not to have traveled abroad recently, suggesting they must have contracted chikungunya in Brazil. The country reported 37 cases between January and this month, although on each occasion the patient had contracted the disease abroad. A health ministry spokesman said the government would "step up control measures" to combat an illness which bears some resemblance to dengue fever and for which there is no vaccine.

**AFP -** [**http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/First-domestic-case-of-chikungunya-in-Brazil--says-ministry**](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/First-domestic-case-of-chikungunya-in-Brazil--says-ministry)

**Colombia**

**Country reports more than a thousand cases of Chikungunya**

The Health Minister confirmed that authorities have detected more than a thousand people infected Chikungunya virus in Colombia. He estimated a peak of 600,000 people with th is virus can spread in the country and at least 250,000 need medical attention. According to official figures the possibility is not ruled out increase “and they will continue to multiply … and have a growth that has characterized as exponential in the coming weeks, reaching a total of 600,000 cases.”

**LA Info -** [**http://lainfo.es/en/2014/09/17/colombia-receives-more-than-a-thousand-cases-of-chikungunya/**](http://lainfo.es/en/2014/09/17/colombia-receives-more-than-a-thousand-cases-of-chikungunya/)

**Ecuador**

**At least 15 police hurt as thousands rally**

At least 15 officers were wounded and multiple arrests were reported in Quito as thousands gathered for rallies for and against the Ecuadorian President, officials said. Union and opposition groups that included indigenous people, students and doctors gathered to protest a spate of government initiatives, in a march that filled tens of city blocks, organizers reported. Meanwhile, 4,000 pro-government demonstrators headed a call by the Ecuadorian President and convened in front of the presidential palace in Quito's downtown.

**AFP -** [**https://uk.news.yahoo.com/15-police-hurt-thousands-rally-ecuador-030119738.html#wASlloC**](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/15-police-hurt-thousands-rally-ecuador-030119738.html#wASlloC)

**Mexico**

**Hurricane Polo surges off Pacific coast**

Hurricane Polo formed off Mexico's southwestern coast late on 17 September, threatening to spark floods and mudslides days after another storm wreaked havoc further north. Polo was cruising parallel to the coast but was expected to bring tropical storm conditions over some Pacific states. Its maximum sustained winds reached 120 km per hour, while Mexican forecasters warned that it would produce heavy rains in the states of Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan and Guerrero. Authorities planned to evacuate scores of people in Guerrero's Playa Azul while 153 shelters were opened in Michoacan. In its current track, Polo would just miss the Baja California peninsula, devastated by Hurricane Odile on 15 September.

**AFP -** [**http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/world/article/hurricane-polo-surges-off-mexicos-pacific-coast**](http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/world/article/hurricane-polo-surges-off-mexicos-pacific-coast)

**Venezuela**

**Health minister confirms 398 cases of Chikungunya**

The Venezuelan Health Minister, confirmed that 398 cases of chikungunya fever and 45,745 cases of dengue fever have been registered so far nationwide. She also referred to the nine deaths occurred last week as a result of hemorrhagic fever at Maracay's Central Hospital, north central Aragua state. Pérez reported that a diagnosis of chikungunya virus had only been confirmed in two fatal victims. The minister also ruled out that those cases were related.

**El Universal -** [**http://www.eluniversal.com/nacional-y-politica/140917/health-minister-398-confirmed-cases-of-chikungunya-fever-in-venezuela**](http://www.eluniversal.com/nacional-y-politica/140917/health-minister-398-confirmed-cases-of-chikungunya-fever-in-venezuela)

MENA

**Lebanon**

**Gunmen seize Lebanese soldier in border town**

Gunmen seized a Lebanese soldier on 17 September near a town at the border with Syria where militant insurgents took 19 soldiers captive in early August, a security source said. It was not immediately clear who had seized the soldier. Two of the Lebanese soldiers taken from Arsal in early August have been beheaded by militants affiliated to Islamic State, another two of the soldiers have been freed. Some of the soldiers are being held by the Nusra Front, al Qaeda's official affiliate in the Syrian civil war.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/uk-lebanon-security-soldier-idUKKBN0HC15420140917**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/uk-lebanon-security-soldier-idUKKBN0HC15420140917)

**Libya**

**PM picks rights activist as foreign minister**Libya's Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni presented a new cabinet of 16 ministers for approval to the country's elected parliament, however, on Thursday, Libya's parliament rejected the new cabinet of demanding that Thinni submit a new cabinet with not more than 10 ministers. Thinni proposed human rights activist Farida Allaghi as the oil producer's next foreign minister.  
**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/libya-security-idUKL6N0RJ23C20140918**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/libya-security-idUKL6N0RJ23C20140918)

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-17/271005-libya-pm-picks-rights-activist-as-foreign-minister.ashx#axzz3DZzLWbn9**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-17/271005-libya-pm-picks-rights-activist-as-foreign-minister.ashx#axzz3DZzLWbn9)

**Militants launch new assault on Benghazi airport**

Islamist fighters launched another offensive Wednesday on the airport in Libya's Benghazi, the final redoubt in the eastern city of an ex-general who has been waging war on them. The fighters of the Shura Revolutionary Council, which includes the Islamist Ansar al-Sharia group, have been trying since early September to capture the facility, which houses both civilian and military airfields.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-17/271009-libya-islamists-launch-new-assault-on-benghazi-airport.ashx#axzz3DZzLWbn9**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-17/271009-libya-islamists-launch-new-assault-on-benghazi-airport.ashx#axzz3DZzLWbn9)

**Libya army chief calls for jihad amid clashes with Islamists**   
Libyan army chief General Abdel-Razzaq al-Nazouri Thursday called for "jihad" against "outlaws" amid clashes between Islamist militias and their rivals, including some army units. In a move apparently aimed at the Islamist militias and allied forces who have captured Tripoli and most of Libya's second largest city Benghazi, al-Nazouri called on all members of the army to join their units immediately. The army chief called on "Libya's youth" to "join the jihad against the Kharijites and outlaws." Months of clashes have pitted Islamist militias and local allies, including forces from the powerful western town of Misrata, against rivals in Tripoli, Benghazi and other areas.   
**DPA -** [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/libya-army-chief-calls-for-jihad-amid-clashes-with-islamists\_355660.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/libya-army-chief-calls-for-jihad-amid-clashes-with-islamists_355660.html)

**Syria**

**Joint WHO – UNICEF statement regarding deaths of children in Idlib**

UNICEF and WHO have been shocked and saddened to learn of the deaths of at least 15 young children in Idlib, Syria. The deaths of the children – all of whom were less than two years of age – occurred in districts where a measles immunization campaign had been under way. Establishing the precise cause of the children’s deaths is vital. To this end, WHO has assigned a team of experts to provide assistance in investigating this event. WHO is also providing advice and protocols for the investigation of adverse events following the immunizations.

**UNICEF -** [**http://childrenofsyria.info/2014/09/17/joint-who-unicef-statement-regarding-deaths-of-children-in-idlib-northern-syria/**](http://childrenofsyria.info/2014/09/17/joint-who-unicef-statement-regarding-deaths-of-children-in-idlib-northern-syria/)

**War may make hundreds of thousands of young Syrians stateless**

Hundreds of thousands of exiled Syrian children may become stateless because of the fighting in their country, putting them at risk of exploitation and potentially hindering their return home, regional protection officer for the UNHCR. High casualty rates and forcible separation mean a quarter of Syrian refugee families are headed by women, but Syrian law does not allow women to pass their nationality to their children. “Syrian children acquire nationality exclusively through their fathers,” said Amit Sen. “However the war in Syria has robbed hundreds of thousands of children of their fathers.” Without identity documents children cannot access healthcare and education. In adolescence the lack of papers proving their age puts them at risk of early marriage, child labor, recruitment by armed forces and being trafficked.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-foundation-syria-crisis-stateless-idUSKBN0HC1W420140917**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-foundation-syria-crisis-stateless-idUSKBN0HC1W420140917)

**US House backs plan to arm Syrian rebels**

US legislators have voted to authorise training and arming of vetted Syrian rebels to combat fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the self-declared jihadist group which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria. The House of Representatives on Wednesday voted 273 to 156 to approve President Barack Obama's train-and-equip plan despite misgivings by both Democrats and Republicans.

Some Democrats said the move could open the door to full-blown American military intervention in the Middle East. Conservative members are concerned that the plan falls short of what is needed to defeat the ISIL.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/us-lawmakers-back-plan-arm-syrian-rebels-2014917212421935644.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/us-lawmakers-back-plan-arm-syrian-rebels-2014917212421935644.html)

**Yemen**

**UN envoy presses Yemen rebel leader for new talks with govt**

The UN envoy to Yemen landed in the Shiite rebel stronghold of Saada Wednesday for talks with leader Abdulmalik al-Huthi in a fresh effort to end the country's latest political crisis. Jamal Benomar's unexpected trip comes after failure to hammer out a deal between President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi and rebels seeking greater political clout, whose supporters have camped out across and around the capital for weeks. The talks "aim to restart negotiations that have stalled" in Sanaa.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-envoy-presses-yemen-rebel-leader-talks-govt-154114598.html;\_ylt=AwrBEiTEuBlU4RQAVFjQtDMD**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-envoy-presses-yemen-rebel-leader-talks-govt-154114598.html;_ylt=AwrBEiTEuBlU4RQAVFjQtDMD)

**Yemen's Shiite rebels fighting in Sanaa suburb**Security officials say Shiite rebels have reached a suburb of Yemen's capital where they are fighting Sunni militias and besieging a university run by one of the nation's best known Sunni radicals. Thursday's fighting in Shamlan has forced thousands to flee their homes. Rebels, known as Hawthis, are surrounding the Iman University, an institution long viewed as a primary breeding ground for militants. At least 60 people have been killed in the fighting during the last 48 hours.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemens-shiite-rebels-fighting-sanaa-suburb-25587420**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemens-shiite-rebels-fighting-sanaa-suburb-25587420)

SA

**Bangladesh**

**Clashes in Bangladesh after top Islamist spared death sentence**

Bangladesh's highest court on Wednesday commuted the death sentence on a top Islamic preacher, triggering angry protests by both his Islamist supporters and secular opponents and clashes with police. In a surprise ruling, the Supreme Court said 74-year-old Delwar Hossain Sayedee should spend "the rest of his natural life" in jail for crimes during the 1971 liberation war with Pakistan. Violence erupted between police and hundreds of secular demonstrators who converged on Dhaka University after Wednesday's verdict to protest at perceived leniency.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/bangladesh-court-commutes/1366334.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/bangladesh-court-commutes/1366334.html)

WCA

**Across WCA  
IMF proposes $127 million for three Ebola-hit countries in West Africa**

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone could receive an additional $127 million from the International Monetary Fund to help them deal with the worst-ever outbreak of the Ebola virus, the IMF said on Wednesday. The funds, which must still be approved by the IMF's executive board, would help cover an estimated $300 million financing gap in the West African countries over the next six to nine months, when the IMF expects the impact of the outbreak to be most acute.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/imf-proposes-127-million-three-ebola-hit-countries-170908412--business.html;\_ylt=AwrBJR7s1RlUT0AANzDQtDMD**](http://news.yahoo.com/imf-proposes-127-million-three-ebola-hit-countries-170908412--business.html;_ylt=AwrBJR7s1RlUT0AANzDQtDMD)

**Nigeria**

**Nigerian Senate urges government to declare "full scale war" on Boko Haram**

The Senate, on Tuesday, asked the Federal Government to declare full scale war on the Boko Haram insurgents, whose activities have threatened the peace of north-eastern states. This was contained in a two-point resolution by the lawmakers, upon the adoption of a motion moved by the Senate Leader, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba. The motion, entitled: "Threat to national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nigeria by insurgents," which was supported by 107 senators, urged the Federal Government to declare full scale war on the insurgents.

**The Guardian -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201409170310.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201409170310.html)

**Boko Haram blamed as 15 die in Kano college shooting, blast**

Boko Haram insurgents were blamed on Wednesday after at least 13 people were killed during a shoot-out between police and suspected suicide bombers at a teacher training college in northern Nigeria. Kano State police commissioner Adelere Shinaba said the gunmen, whom he described as "insurgents", ran into the Federal College of Education after exchanging fire with police outside the grounds. Most of the victims were in a lecture hall inside the Kano college where the two gunmen ran and opened fire on students.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/shooting-blast-college-nigerias-kano-150602198.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/shooting-blast-college-nigerias-kano-150602198.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0HC1KS20140917**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0HC1KS20140917)

**Sierra Leone**

**Sierra Leone readies for Ebola door-to-door campaign**Sierra Leone prepared Thursday for an unprecedented three-day nationwide door-to-door campaign to contain the deadly spread of the Ebola virus. The population of six million will be confined to their homes from midnight (0000 GMT) going into Friday as almost 30,000 volunteers go door-to-door uncovering patients and bodies hidden in people's homes. Volunteers will hand out bars of soap and information on how to prevent infection, as well as setting up "neighborhood watch"-style community Ebola surveillance teams. Extra beds have been set up at schools and hospitals across the country, including 200 around Freetown, with the government projecting a 15 to 20% upsurge of cases as new patients are discovered.   
**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/sep/17/ebola-three-day-shutdown-sierra-leone**](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/sep/17/ebola-three-day-shutdown-sierra-leone)

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