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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UNSC urges "neutralization" of Rwandan rebels in DRC**

The UN Security Council on Tuesday called for the "swift neutralization" of Rwandan rebels in Democratic Republic of the Congo as essential to bringing stability to the eastern regions of the country. Rwandan FDLR rebels, who seek to overthrow the Rwandan government and who include former soldiers and Hutu militia held responsible for Rwanda's 1994 genocide, announced in April they would disarm, and some began doing so in May. But a senior UN official warned earlier this month that some FDLR members believe an extended deadline for their disarming was an excuse to stall.   
**Reuters -** **<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GQ1FO20140826>**

**Amid multiple crises UNICEF deploys largest aid operation**

UNICEF has shipped 1,000 metric tonnes of life-saving supplies for children caught in the world's most urgent crises -- the largest emergency supply operation in the organisation's history in a single month. In CAR 26 metric tonnes of medical equipment, vaccines, emergency food rations and hardware has been distributed; in Liberia, efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak has been strengthened by 248 metric tonnes of supplies from UNICEF; and in Gaza, nearly 3.5 metric tonnes, mostly of essential medicines, have been received.

**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48561#.U\_2Vm3mYbcs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48561#.U_2Vm3mYbcs)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Fighting on Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border spreads**

Kyrgyz and Tajik soldiers have again exchanged fire on their disputed border, injuring and possibly killing civilians. This is their third shootout this year. But this time the fighting has spread to a new location, suggesting that the authorities’ halting efforts to end the long-festering dispute risk being overtaken by events on the ground. Both sides offer conflicting accounts of the violence. According to Kyrgyz officials, Tajik border guards attempted to establish a border post in a disputed area.

**Eurasianet -** [**http://www.eurasianet.org/node/69701**](http://www.eurasianet.org/node/69701)

**Russia, Ukraine talks end without major breakthrough**

Talks between the leaders of Russia and Ukraine apparently failed to make a major breakthrough towards ending brutal fighting in east Ukraine. Poroshenko said there were "some results" but there seemed to be no significant compromises to help end four months of clashes between government forces and pro-Russian fighters that some fear could spill over into all-out war between the two neighbours. The Russian leader said he would "do everything" to help a future peace process but did little to soothe tensions when he shrugged off Kiev's claims it had captured 10 Russian troops on its territory, with military sources in Moscow earlier saying they crossed over "by accident."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/putin-says-ready-everything-ukraine-peace-process-starts-215613563.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/putin-says-ready-everything-ukraine-peace-process-starts-215613563.html)

**Ukraine**

**Seaside refuge becomes Ukraine's new front**

Now the war between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces has caught up with Novoazovsk, a coastal town around 100 km south of Donetsk, turning government-held territory into a "new front" of Ukraine's brutal conflict over the past few days. The small town of Novoazovsk is only 12 kilometres from the frontier with Russia's Rostov region, and Kiev has blamed Russia for sending armoured convoys across the border.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140826/seaside-refuge-becomes-ukraines-new-front**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140826/seaside-refuge-becomes-ukraines-new-front)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28924945**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28924945)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/26/us-ukraine-crisis-column-idUSKBN0GP0MB20140826?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/26/us-ukraine-crisis-column-idUSKBN0GP0MB20140826?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**UN says pro-Russia rebels in Ukraine murder, kidnap and torture**

Pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine are guilty of a wide array of human rights abuses, including murder, abductions and torture, and are receiving a "steady supply" of sophisticated weapons and ammunition, according to a UN report obtained by Reuters. The report by the 34-member UN monitoring mission, prepared by the UN human rights office in Geneva, also cited reports of human rights violations by Ukraine's military forces and special battalions run by the country's Interior Ministry. The report said the death toll has risen to at least 2,200 since the fighting began in mid-April, with an average of at least 36 people killed daily.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/26/us-ukraine-crisis-rights-un-idUSKBN0GQ1TA20140826**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/26/us-ukraine-crisis-rights-un-idUSKBN0GQ1TA20140826)

**Ukraine says four border guards killed by Russian choppers**

Ukrainian authorities said on 26 August that Russian helicopters attacked a border post in Lugansk region in eastern Ukraine on 25 August, killing four border guards. After the attack, a fierce fighting erupted on the Ukrainian-Russian frontier, the spokesperson said, adding that government forces have managed to prevent "saboteurs" from crossing into Ukraine from Russia.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-08/26/c\_126921136.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-08/26/c_126921136.htm)

EAP

**DPR Korea**

**WFP food aid program lacks donors**

WFP has distributed aid in DPR Korea since the mid-1990s, but the amount has steadily dropped over the past decade as Pyongyang defied the international community's calls to stop nuclear tests. In 2001, it distributed 900,000 metric tons of food in DPR Korea; in 2013, the figure was 46,000 metric tons, the agency says. WFP, which is funded by voluntary contributions from private donors and UN member states, says DPR Korea continues to face regular food shortages. Its program for the country has only received about $5.7 million in aid this year. The agency says that if it doesn't receive another $50 million by November, it could be forced to stop providing aid as early as January.

**WSJ -** [**http://online.wsj.com/articles/united-nations-food-aid-program-for-north-korea-lacks-donors-1409047712**](http://online.wsj.com/articles/united-nations-food-aid-program-for-north-korea-lacks-donors-1409047712)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**At least 40,500 people live in flooded camp**

Over 40,500 IDPs now occupy the UN Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu. The area has been flooded by rains over the past several days and now the majority of the IDPs are forced to live in the flooded area as it is the only place they feel safe. With 100 IDPs to one latrine the conditions in the camp during the rainy season are very dire. Latrines have been collapsing under the deluge of rain. The numbers of IDP's in UN bases throughout the country has risen and is now at an all-time high of 102,000. Robert van den Dool, the newly appointed Dutch Ambassador to South Sudan was visibly taken aback as he waded through the flood waters of the POC site. He spoke about the experience. He said "for me this is the first POC camp that I have visited and frankly it is totally appalling what I see here. It illustrates how necessary it is that the fighting stops and people will be allowed to go to their home peacefully, because to live here is not human."

**CIHAN -** [**http://en.cihan.com.tr/news/40-500-people-live-in-flooded-camp-carrying-epidemy-risk-in-Sudan\_5248-CHMTUyNTI0OC80**](http://en.cihan.com.tr/news/40-500-people-live-in-flooded-camp-carrying-epidemy-risk-in-Sudan_5248-CHMTUyNTI0OC80)

**UN cargo helicopter crashes in South Sudan**

A U.N. cargo helicopter crashed Tuesday in South Sudan's Unity state, near Bentiu, killing three crew members and injuring another, the U.N. peacekeeping mission in South Sudan said. The U.N. mission said it had "dispatched a search and rescue team" to the area, near the northern oil town of Bentiu, one of the hardest fought over areas in the country's more than eight-month-long civil war. The Mi-8 helicopter generally carries between three and five crew members. Investigation is ongoing.  
**Al Jazeera -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/8/26/south-sudan-helicopter.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/8/26/south-sudan-helicopter.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**FARC negotiator says disarming will be 'long process'**

Colombia's FARC guerrillas will not give up their weapons at once, and need guarantees from the government to disarm, a negotiator said on 26 August as the peace process marked two years. Cementing a ceasefire and disarming the rebel group are among the thorniest topics remaining in the talks, the fourth and most promising attempt so far to end the 50-year-old conflict. As a "subcommittee" of army officers and rebels got down to work on the issue, the FARC negotiator warned there would be no instant solution. A ceasefire and disarmament are the next item on the schedule for the peace process, which was launched on 26 August 2012 with the signing of an agreement that laid out a six-point agenda for negotiations.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24823488/farc-negotiator-says-disarming-will-be-long-process/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24823488/farc-negotiator-says-disarming-will-be-long-process/)

**330K teachers to gather in Colombia’s capitals for nationwide strike**

Teachers will assemble in every state capital of Colombia on Wednesday for a national strike organized by Colombian Federation of Educators. According to a statement by Fecode, the teacher’s union is calling for “the immediate solution to the problem of the provision of health services, in keeping with contract conditions; timely payment of debts for various purchases; the progress of the operation of the Tripartite Commission; the implementation of wage adjustment; guarantees for teachers and union workers; and respect for the life and physical integrity of educators.”

**AKE -** [**http://colombiareports.co/330k-teachers-to-gather-in-colombias-capitals-for-nationwide-strike/#prettyPhoto**](http://colombiareports.co/330k-teachers-to-gather-in-colombias-capitals-for-nationwide-strike/#prettyPhoto)

**Guatemala**

**Government declares state of emergency for drought**

The Guatemalan government has declared a state of emergency in 16 of the country's 22 provinces because of a drought that has caused major agricultural losses in Central America. The Agriculture Minister said that as of last week more than 236,000 families had been affected mainly in western and central Guatemala. The Guatemalan President said that there are over 500,000 children at risk, pointing a finger at the west for climate change that is mainly devastating nations of the South. The state of emergency declaration has to be approved by lawmakers so the government can provide funds to those who have lost their crops, and to stabilize food prices.

**MISNA -** [**http://www.misna.org/en/other/state-of-emergency-200000-families-at-risk-26-08-2014-813.html**](http://www.misna.org/en/other/state-of-emergency-200000-families-at-risk-26-08-2014-813.html)

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guatemala-declares-state-emergency-drought-25123757**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guatemala-declares-state-emergency-drought-25123757)

MENA

**Djibouti**

**Presidential guard wounds two in airport shooting**

A Djiboutian presidential guard opened fire at the Djibouti's airport, wounding two people, a government spokesman said, adding that the President was not present during the shooting. One of those wounded in the shooting was the president's doctor. The President had already left the airport when the Republican Guard soldier opened fire. The soldier was seized and arrested.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/djibouti-presidential-guard-wounds-two-airport-shooting-111432567.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/djibouti-presidential-guard-wounds-two-airport-shooting-111432567.html)

**Iraq**

**UN investigators fear for children in IS training camps**UN investigators voiced concern on Wednesday at the fate of boys forced to join Islamic State training camps in Syria and said that any decision by the United States to bomb the Sunni militant group "must respect the laws of war". "We are aware of the presence of children in training camps, we think this decision by the United States must respect the laws of war and we concerned about presence of children," Paulo Pinheiro, chairman of the U.N. panel, told a news briefing.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-syria-crisis-warcrimes-panel-20140827-story.html**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-syria-crisis-warcrimes-panel-20140827-story.html) **Libya  
Proxy war feared as UN envoy warns against foreign intervention**The incoming UN envoy for Libya warned against foreign intervention, as the country plunges deeper into civil conflict. Bernadino Leon, the UN's newly appointed special representative for Libya, said that he did not believe that foreign intervention could halt Libya's slide into turmoil. Leon, speaking on his last trip as EU envoy for the region, said the country needed international support to back "Libyans who want to fight chaos… through a political process." The Misrata alliance — operating under the banner Libya Dawn — is now said to be in de facto control of the entire city of Tripoli after their opponents abandoned their positions.  
**VICE -** [**https://news.vice.com/article/proxy-war-feared-in-libya-as-un-envoy-warns-against-foreign-intervention**](https://news.vice.com/article/proxy-war-feared-in-libya-as-un-envoy-warns-against-foreign-intervention)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Long-term ceasefire goes into effect**

Celebrations erupted in Gaza on Tuesday as a long-term ceasefire agreed by Israel and the Palestinians went into effect, ending 50 days of the deadliest violence in a decade. The agreement, which came into effect at 1600 GMT, involves an immediate halt to the violence in Gaza, which began on 8 July and has claimed the lives of 2,143 Palestinians. The Palestinians said it was a "permanent" truce, while a senior Israeli official described it as "unconditional and unlimited in time."

**AFP -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28939350**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28939350)

**Syria**

**US: No plans to coordinate with Syria on fighting IS**

The United States said Tuesday it would not coordinate with the government of President Bashar al-Assad on targeting Islamic State militants on Syrian territory, as preparations for possible air strikes gathered pace. Obama has already authorized spy flights over Syria to prepare for possible attacks on IS to match those already conducted against the jihadist group in Iraq, prompting the Assad regime to warn Washington would need permission to operate in Syrian airspace.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.deccanchronicle.com/140827/world-americas/article/us-no-plans-coordinate-syria-fighting-islamic-state**](http://www.deccanchronicle.com/140827/world-americas/article/us-no-plans-coordinate-syria-fighting-islamic-state)

**Islamic State and Syrian government committing war crimes - U.N**.

The Syrian government and Islamic State insurgents are both committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in their war against each other, U.N. investigators said on Wednesday. The U.N. report, the commission of inquiry's eighth since being set up three years ago, is based on 480 interviews and documentary evidence gathered by its team, which is trying to build a case for future criminal prosecution. Forces of the IS have committed torture, murder, acts tantamount to enforced disappearance and forced displacement as part of attacks on the civilian population in Aleppo and al-Raqqa provinces, amounting to crimes against humanity.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/27/syria-crisis-warcrimes-idINKBN0GR0RR20140827**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/27/syria-crisis-warcrimes-idINKBN0GR0RR20140827)

**Yemen**

**Yemen's rival protesters speak out**

After a week of mounting anti-government protests in Sana’a led by the Houthis, a rebel Shia movement from the north of the country, a counter-protest was organized by Islah, Yemen's biggest Sunni Islamist party and the Houthis' biggest political rivals. Although the Islah march on August 24 was ostensibly aimed at promoting unity among Yemenis, much of the rhetoric was distinctly anti-Houthi. The march came amidst growing tensions between the Houthis, the government, and Islah, which sees the Houthis as an existential threat after its recent military successes in Amran, historically an Islah stronghold.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/yemen-rival-protests-houthis-islah-2014825115419549184.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/yemen-rival-protests-houthis-islah-2014825115419549184.html)

SA

**Across SA**

**Civilians hardest hit by India-Pakistan skirmishes**

Indian and Pakistani troops have intensified firing across their de-facto border in Jammu and Kashmir, killing at least four people over the weekend. Some 1,000 people, mostly women and children, have since fled their homes. For more than a month, the de-facto border between India and Pakistan has seen firing between soldiers from both countries. India claims there have been about 70 incidents of shelling into the Indian side by Pakistan since Narendra Modi took over as India's Prime Minister. Pakistan alleges India violated the ceasefire 57 times.

**CAN -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/civilians-hardest-hit-by/1330626.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/civilians-hardest-hit-by/1330626.html)

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan election in crisis as candidate pulls out of audit**

Afghanistan's election teetered on the brink of collapse Wednesday as one of the two candidates boycotted the UN-supervised vote audit set up to end a prolonged dispute over the rightful winner. The stand-off between Abdullah and his poll rival Ashraf Ghani has threatened to revive ethnic violence in Afghanistan as US-led NATO troops withdraw after 13 years of fighting Taliban insurgents. The audit of all eight million votes was halted on Wednesday when Abdullah's observers refused to take part -- despite a US-brokered deal in which both sides agreed to support the recount and respect its outcome.

**AFP -** [**https://news.yahoo.com/abdullah-boycotts-afghan-election-audit-spokesman-063545163.html**](https://news.yahoo.com/abdullah-boycotts-afghan-election-audit-spokesman-063545163.html)

**Afghan forces battle for control of symbolic Kunduz province**

Afghan security forces are battling the Taliban for control of the northern province of Kunduz, where insurgents are threatening to overrun the capital and terrorizing residents who have fled to nearby districts. The fighting in Kunduz reflects a broader trend of insurgent attacks across the country involving hundreds of fighters at a time. Most Western troops are due to leave Afghanistan after 13 years of fighting, leaving a security vacuum some fear the Taliban could quickly fill as Afghan security forces grapple with maintaining law and order on their own.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140827094000-aty9o/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140827094000-aty9o/?source=hpbreaking)

**Pakistan**

**Opposition party ends deadlock in dialogue**

The opposition party, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf party (PTI) which has started protest against the Pakistani Prime Minister since 14 August, ended deadlock in talks with the government and met a government negotiation team late on 26 August to defuse the political tensions. The PTI alleges that last year's parliamentary elections were rigged, which were won by the Prime Minister's PML-N party. The government has rejected calls for resignation of the PM but has agreed to investigate the alleged rigging in the polls. The dialogue faced a deadlock at the weekend over demand for the resignation of the PM. However the talks were resumed on 26 August when a government team met with the PTI negotiating committees "to explore possibilities of breaking the political deadlock," leaders of the two sides said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/140826/pakistani-opposition-partys-ends-deadlock-dialogue**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/140826/pakistani-opposition-partys-ends-deadlock-dialogue)

WCA

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram seizes more towns in north east as 'army flees'**

Boko Haram on 26 August attempted to blow up a bridge on the Nigerian border with Cameroon after overrunning two towns and sending residents and soldiers fleeing, police and locals said. Boko Haram stormed Gamboru Ngala early on 25 August and by evening had taken over the police station, a military barracks and vocational training centre, where they had based themselves, locals said. Boko Haram had earlier stormed through two other Nigerian cities, cut the throats of three people in front of a church after soldiers deployed there fled for their lives across the border into Cameroon, a police source in that country said.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-seizes-villages-towns-ne-nigeria-144336792.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-seizes-villages-towns-ne-nigeria-144336792.html)

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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