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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**HIV epidemic only getting worse for young African women**

Girls living in sub-Saharan Africa are behind a staggering increase in cases of HIV infections, a recent report from UNICEF shows. The remarkably disproportionate impact on young women has raised questions about whether an ambitious new campaign to eradicate the AIDS epidemic needs to do more to ensure young people are receiving preventative services. The death toll from AIDS has fallen by 30 percent around the world since 2005, but has increased by 50 percent among adolescents. In many African countries, adolescent girls are two to three times more likely to contract the disease than their male counterparts.

**IBT -** [**http://www.ibtimes.com/world-aids-day-epidemic-only-getting-worse-young-african-women-1731502**](http://www.ibtimes.com/world-aids-day-epidemic-only-getting-worse-young-african-women-1731502)

# Conflict, militancy hit human rights in MENA, Africa - UNICEF mention

Syria was bottom and Ukraine had the biggest slide in a human rights index published by Maplecroft on Wednesday, as countries suffering from conflict grappled with human trafficking and other rights violations. The worsening situation in Syria and Iraq, two of the three worst performing countries, increased the likelihood of human trafficking, forced labour and child marriage taking place. Human Rights Watch reported in October that women and girls from the Yazidi sect were being forced to marry fighters of the militant Sunni group Islamic State in Iraq or sent to Syria to be sold. The Syrian civil war has had a 'spillover' effect on refugees, especially in Lebanon and Jordan where a child under 18 was involved in nearly one third of refugee marriages, UNICEF reported in July.

**Reuters -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/conflict-militancy-hit-human-rights-middle-east-african-000100973.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/conflict-militancy-hit-human-rights-middle-east-african-000100973.html)

CEE/CIS

**Tajikistan**

**Authorities arrest dozens suspected IS recruits**

Tajikistan's prosecutors said on 3 December that nearly 50 young men from banned militant groups have been arrested on grounds they were preparing to join extremists in Syria. The men, aged between 20 and 30 and allegedly members of banned groups, were accused of "organizing a criminal group for participating in armed conflicts or warfare in other countries," a statement by the regional prosecutor's office in northern Sogd region said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Dec-03/279744-tajikistan-arrests-dozens-suspected-isis-recruits.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Dec-03/279744-tajikistan-arrests-dozens-suspected-isis-recruits.ashx)

**Ukraine**

**Parliament votes in new government, fresh ceasefire hopes fade**

Ukraine's parliament voted in a new government on 2 December, putting foreign technocrats in key financial roles and renewing terms for the foreign and defense ministers in a signal that no major change in policy is likely on the rebellious east. Fighting has continued despite a ceasefire agreed in September. In the rebel stronghold of Donetsk a senior separatist figure said rival sides agreed a new local truce around the city airport. "But this is 65th time we agree about this. I don't rule out that there is going to be 66th time," the senior separatist figure said.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30290690**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30290690)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JG0UU20141202**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0JG0UU20141202)

**Ukrainians feel the pinch as winter closes in**

After a year of political upheaval and a war in the east, Ukrainians are facing a winter in poverty, with prices rising sharply, the currency crumbling and a nearly bankrupt state dependent on foreign aid and in no position to offer any help. Inflation is due to top 25% this year, and the hryvnia currency has plunged by 40% against the dollar. A long delayed natural gas deal with Russia has staved off the prospect of a winter without heat. But energy prices are expected to surge still further as international lenders that are keeping the Kiev government afloat demand a cut in subsidies.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/ukraine-crisis-winter-idUSL6N0TM23W20141202**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/ukraine-crisis-winter-idUSL6N0TM23W20141202)

**EU releases 500 million euros in aid**

The EU released 500 million euros in loans to Ukraine on 3 December, the latest portion of a $2 billion aid programme launched in March to rescue an almost bankrupt Kiev government. The expected payout comes a day after the Ukrainian President unveiled a new government tasked with pushing through anti-corruption reforms, a key condition of the EU's loan programme.

**AFP -** [**http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/12/03/356251/eu-releases-500-mn-euros-in-aid-to-ukraine.html**](http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2014/12/03/356251/eu-releases-500-mn-euros-in-aid-to-ukraine.html)

EAP

**Philippines**

**Disaster city braces for strong typhoon**

Authorities in the city of Tacloban ravaged by Super Typhoon Haiyan were on 3 December faced with how to keep residents still living in tents after the 2013 disaster safe as a new, powerful cyclone threatened to bring giant waves ashore. The state weather service said Typhoon Hagupit was heading west for the central islands of Samar and Leyte, and would make landfall as early as 6 December afternoon with gusts of up to 170 kilometres an hour. The weather service said on 3 December that shorelines are vulnerable to “storm surges” or walls of water up to four metres tall that could be driven ashore by Hagupit’s violent winds.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippines-disaster-city/1507804.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippines-disaster-city/1507804.html)

ESA

**Kenya**

# Police chief retires amid surge in terror attack

Kenyan police chief David Kimaiyo offered to retire on Tuesday after serving the service for 34 years amid increased terror attacks across the East African nation. Kimaiyo told a news conference in Nairobi that his retirement was a personal decision, adding that President Uhuru Kenyatta has accepted his resignation from the National Police Service.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2014-12/02/c\_133828497.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2014-12/02/c_133828497.htm)

**Somalia**

**Six people killed in suicide attack on UN convoy in Mogadishu**

At least six people were killed on 3 December when a suicide bomber in Mogadishu rammed a car packed with explosives into a UN convoy, police said. The attack took place close to the heavily fortified gates of the airport in Mogadishu, the entrance to the "green zone" and base of foreign embassies. "The bomber drove in between the security escort and the UN armoured vehicles and detonated the car, ramming into one of the escort vehicles," a police officer reported. Four UN armoured vehicles were reportedly ferrying staff either from or to the airport to a protected UN base in the city.

**EFE -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/six-killed-in-somalia-car-bomb-attack-114120300555\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/six-killed-in-somalia-car-bomb-attack-114120300555_1.html)

LAC

**Haiti**

**Opposition meets with US ambassador**

US Ambassador to Haiti met with opposition leaders seeking an end to the rule of the Haitian President. The closed-door meeting, arranged at the request of the activists, was held on 2 December in the party offices of Haiti's social democrat Fusion party, and lasted nearly one hour. It came just days after thousands of angry protesters fanned out across the country to demand the resignation of the Haitian leader. Haiti has been mired in political crisis for three years over the failure to hold long delayed municipal and legislative elections. If elections are not held before 12 January 2015, the legislature will be automatically dissolved and the Haitian President can rule by decree.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/haiti-opposition-meets-us-ambassador-023343019.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/haiti-opposition-meets-us-ambassador-023343019.html)

MENA

**Across Region**

# Israeli Prime Minister fires 2 ministers, calls Knesset vote

Benjamin Netanyahu will seek early elections after strains in his Cabinet have prompted him to fire two key ministers. Dismissal letters are being sent to Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Finance Minister Yair Lapid. Netanyahu announced the news Tuesday after failing to convince Finance Minister Lapid to halt a housing reform and back a controversial bill defining Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, the Jerusalem Post reported. Lapid and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni have both opposed recent proposals from Netanyahu on the budget and on defining Israel as a Jewish state. The next elections, previously not scheduled until 2017 at the earliest, could come as soon as mid-March.

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/netanyahu-fires-2-israel-ministers-calls-knesset-vote/a-18106696**](http://www.dw.de/netanyahu-fires-2-israel-ministers-calls-knesset-vote/a-18106696)

# Egypt

# Security forces accountable for abuses: UN

Egypt must rein in its security forces and investigate human rights abuses against protesters, the United Nations said Tuesday, calling political tensions in the country "alarming". The UN rights office said it was deeply concerned by "the seriously damaging lack of accountability for human rights violations committed by security forces in the context of demonstrations". Spokesman Rupert Colville said at least five people, including two security officers, had been reported killed in clashes during protests at the weekend.

**AFP -** [**https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/egypt-must-hold-security-forces-accountable-abuses-un-142018351.html**](https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/egypt-must-hold-security-forces-accountable-abuses-un-142018351.html)

**Libya**

**UN mission calls for new talks between groups on 9 December**

The UN's mission in Libya will call for a new round of talks to start on 9 December between Libya's warring parties, it said in a statement on 3 December, to try to end a conflict threatening to tear apart the nation. The UN mission said it "will call a new round of political dialogue" on 9 December, without saying where talks would be held nor who would participate. Previous rounds have not included members of armed groups linked to both sides but diplomats hope the talks will start a wider dialogue about Libya's political crisis.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/uk-libya-security-idUKKCN0JH0RL20141203**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/uk-libya-security-idUKKCN0JH0RL20141203)

**Yemen**

**Car bomb explodes at Iranian envoy's house in Sanaa, three people dead**

Three people were killed on 3 December when a suicide attacker drove a car laden with explosives at the residence of the Iranian ambassador in Sanaa, security officials and paramedics said. The blast punched a large hole in the building and sent rubble flying across the street of the well-guarded diplomatic quarter of the city, a witness said. Yemeni soldiers and paramedics arrived at the scene with stretchers. A soldier, said Yemeni and Iranian guards had been killed and a paramedic at the scene said three dead bodies and three wounded had been taken from the area. It was not immediately clear whether the ambassador was in the residence at the time of the blast.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-yemen-blast-idUSKCN0JH0EW20141203**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-yemen-blast-idUSKCN0JH0EW20141203)

SA

**Across Region**

**Indian forces kill 6 militants crossing into Kashmir to disrupt vote**

Soldiers killed six militants near the border with Pakistan in the Indian state of Kashmir, the army said on 3 December, in the biggest single-day shootouts in months at the heavily militarized border. The encounter took place in Kupwara in northern Kashmir late on 2 December, hours after voters turned out in large numbers for a state election that separatists and militants are opposed to. One soldier was killed and four wounded in the gunbattle that lasted several hours, an army officer said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-india-kashmir-election-idUSKCN0JG0QA20141203**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/us-india-kashmir-election-idUSKCN0JG0QA20141203)

WCA

**Nigeria**

**Over 150 people killed in Boko Haram dawn raid**

Health workers and security sources have put the death toll in the 1 December’s attack by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State at over 220 even as more corpses were evacuated from the streets on 2 December. The dead included over 150 militants, six soldiers, and 33 policemen. The Yobe State police spokesperson was also killed in the attack, a security source reported. A 24-hour curfew announced by the state government after soldiers repelled the militants in a bloody battle that kept residents indoors, while workers from the state Ministry of Environment, NEMA and the Red Cross picked up the bodies.

**AFP -** [**http://thenews-chronicle.com/damaturu-attack-update-150-insurgents-33-cops-6-soldiers-dead/**](http://thenews-chronicle.com/damaturu-attack-update-150-insurgents-33-cops-6-soldiers-dead/)

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