**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Friday 7 August 2015**

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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**EU countries fail to meet goals to tackle migrant’s crisis**

The EU failed on Monday to agree on how to spread 40,000 asylum seekers in Greece and Italy among its members over the next two years, postponing the decision until the end of the year. Underscoring how divisive the issue has become, ministers showed little solidarity despite a deal struck by EU leaders at a summit in June. We are very critical of the relocation plan because it will create a pull factor" attracting more migrants to Europe instead of preventing their departure, said Spain's home affairs minister.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/eu-countries-seek-agreement-coping-flood-migrants-123708242.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/eu-countries-seek-agreement-coping-flood-migrants-123708242.html)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Turkey to increase border security after ISIL attack;**

Turkey plans to bolster security along its border with Syria following a suspected suicide bombing in the town of Suruc which killed 30 people, most of them students. The Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, announced the plans at a news conference on Monday after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan earlier condemned the attack as "an act of terror". Also on Monday, Turkish riot police fired teargas and water cannon during a protest in Istanbul that blamed the government for not doing enough to prevent the bombing on the mostly Kurdish town. Hundreds gathered near the city's central Taksim Square, and chanted slogans against Erdogan and the ruling AK Party, including: "Murderer Islamic State, collaborator Erdogan and AKP", the Reuters news agency reported. Turkey's Kurds have accused Ankara of failing to do more to stop ISIL.

**Aljazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/turkey-bolster-border-security-suruc-attack-150721000033031.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/turkey-bolster-border-security-suruc-attack-150721000033031.html)

**Ukraine**

**Bar in Ukraine's Odessa bombed in second such attack this month**

A bar in the southern Ukrainian city of Odessa was bombed overnight in the second such attack this month. Authorities have not suggested a motive for the bombing, but it comes as political tensions in Ukraine's third largest city bubbles up to the surface. On 2 July the ministry reported an overnight bombing at the restaurant U Angelovykh on Zhukovskogo Street. That incident is being investigated as a terrorist attack. Odessa, which is predominantly Russian-speaking, experienced deadly clashes between Ukrainian nationalists and pro-Russian protestors last summer.

**DPA** - [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/bar-in-ukraines-odessa-bombed-in-second-such-attack-this-month\_403656.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/bar-in-ukraines-odessa-bombed-in-second-such-attack-this-month_403656.html)

**Scars deepen for Ukraine’s children**

UNICEF launched a program at the end of last year to help children caught up in Ukraine’s conflict. By partnering with schools and community centres, they offer psychosocial support, providing therapy through art, games and group discussion. Children in need of more support are given in-depth psychological assistance. “This strategy has proven actually to be quite effective. It helps them to communicate and to open up… to basically alleviate their suffering,” UNICEF representative in Ukraine Giovanna Barberis told IRIN. The program has so far reached 30,000 children, but UNICEF estimates there are at least 100,000 in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in need of support. A study by the UN agency found that 37% of children interviewed had been exposed to adverse or threatening events related to the conflict. UNICEF is also training psychologists, social workers and teachers to be able to spot the signs of stress in children.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/101766/scars-deepen-for-ukraine-s-children**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/101766/scars-deepen-for-ukraine-s-children)

ESA

**Burundi**

**Burundi presidential pools open amid blasts and gunfire**

Polling stations have opened in Burundi's controversial presidential elections with Pierre Nkurunziza widely expected to win a third consecutive term. Shortly before voting started on Tuesday, at least two people - a policeman and a civilian - were killed, according to witnesses, in a string of explosions and gunfire in the capital Bujumbura. On Tuesday, Al Jazeera's Haru Mutasa, reporting from Bujumbura, said that one of the opposition members was also killed overnight in the city's Nyakabiga neighbourhood. The incident prompted a big crowd to gather there in protest in the morning. About 3.8 million Burundians are eligible to vote in the polls, which the opposition and civil society groups are boycotting, claiming they will not be free and fair. The opposition have denounced the candidacy of the incumbent president as unconstitutional and a violation of the 2006 peace deal that ended a dozen years of civil war and ethnic massacres in 2006.

**Aljazeera-**[**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/burundi-presidential-polls-open-blasts-gunfire-150721042414573.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/burundi-presidential-polls-open-blasts-gunfire-150721042414573.html)

LAC

**Mexico**

**Child killed in protest against detained Mexico vigilante**

Mexican authorities say a 12-year-old boy was killed when an armed group opened fire on a crowd of protesters in the western state of Michoacan. The Michoacan coordinated security group of federal forces says the crowd was protesting the arrest of a local vigilante leader on Sunday when armed men opened fire. A statement released early Monday promised to find those responsible.

**AP-**[**http://news.yahoo.com/child-killed-protest-against-detained-mexico-vigilante-193941985.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/child-killed-protest-against-detained-mexico-vigilante-193941985.html)

MENA

**Iran**

**UN endorses Iran nuclear agreement**

The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution that will clear a path for international sanctions crippling Iran's economy to be lifted. Representatives of all 15 countries on the Security Council voted on Monday. The passing of the resolution marks formal UN endorsement for the agreement reached between Iran and the so-called P5 1 group after 18 straight days of talks that capped almost two years of negotiations. The document specifies that seven resolutions related to UN sanctions will be terminated when Iran has completed a series of major steps to curb its nuclear programme and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has concluded that "all nuclear material in Iran remains in peaceful activities". In addition, the measure provides a mechanism for UN sanctions to "snap back" in place if Iran fails to meet its obligations.

**Aljazeera-**[**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/security-council-adopts-resolution-endorsing-iran-nuclear-deal-150720131953369.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/security-council-adopts-resolution-endorsing-iran-nuclear-deal-150720131953369.html)

**Syria**

**Syrian rebels fire hundreds of rockets at regime-held villages in Idlib**

Syrian rebels for the past two days have fired hundreds of rockets and shells at regime-held villages in the northwestern province of Idlib, killing at least seven and wounding hundreds. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Army of Conquest rebel alliance, which includes al-Qaeda militants, targeted the villages of Fuaa and Kafraya. The Britain-based monitor said it was unclear whether the victims were civilians or government troops. Fighting continued in the two villages on Tuesday between opposition forces and Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah militants. In Damascus, regime militia from the villages demonstrated in the streets, asking to be sent to there to defend them.  **AFP -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3169162/Syria-rebels-rain-rockets-Shiite-villages-monitor.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3169162/Syria-rebels-rain-rockets-Shiite-villages-monitor.html)

**UAE**

**UAE, concerned about militant Islam, passes law against race, faith hate**

The United Arab Emirates has outlawed religious or racial discrimination citing a royal decree by President Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The law is aimed in part at countering Islamist militancy, particularly the practice known as takfir, whereby hardline Muslims label followers of other schools of Islam unbelievers, but it also outlaws insults against religions.

**Reuters-**[**http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/20/us-emirates-law-idUSKCN0PU1F620150720**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/20/us-emirates-law-idUSKCN0PU1F620150720)

**Yemen**

**Death toll from Houthi rebel shelling in Aden doubles to nearly 100**

The death toll in Yemen from the Shiite rebel shelling of a town near the southern port city of Aden rose Monday to nearly 100, the head of an international aid group said, describing it as "the worst day" for the city and its surroundings in over three months of fighting. The attack on Aden took place on Sunday. The shelling also wounded about 200 people. Of the victims, 80% are civilians, including pregnant women, elderly and children.

**AP-**[**http://trib.com/news/world/yemen-death-toll-from-rebel-shelling-doubles-to-nearly/article\_cc52328a-cd8e-55fb-b9d6-c1375a4507ee.html**](http://trib.com/news/world/yemen-death-toll-from-rebel-shelling-doubles-to-nearly/article_cc52328a-cd8e-55fb-b9d6-c1375a4507ee.html)

**Car bomb claimed by ISIL kills 4 in Sana’a**A car bombing claimed by the Islamic State group killed four people near a Shiite mosque in the rebel-controlled Yemeni capital Sanaa, the Shiite rebels said. Children were among eight people wounded in the Monday evening blast. The Huthi Shiite rebels, who overran Sanaa last September, also lost 11 fighters in other attacks in the capital overnight, medics and witnesses said. Six were killed in a shooting at a checkpoint near the central bank. Five were killed in a car bombing against a police station in the Al-Hassaba district in the north of the city.

**AFP**-[**http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-car-bomb-claimed-by-is-kills-four-in-yemen-capital-2015-7**](http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-car-bomb-claimed-by-is-kills-four-in-yemen-capital-2015-7)

SA

**Nepal**

**Quake-damaged buildings put Nepalis at risk**

Thousands of potentially dangerous structures are waiting for demolition after April earthquake. The Nepali government has declared Kathmandu Valley a crisis zone in order to speed up demolitions of potentially dangerous buildings after the April earthquake, which damaged 73,000 houses. Yet while buildings have been condemned, the government says it is the responsibility of property owners to tear them down. Many potentially dangerous structures have been left standing, raising concern among local communities.

**Aljazeera-**[**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/nepal-earthquake-demolition-damaged-buildings-150720075448637.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/nepal-earthquake-demolition-damaged-buildings-150720075448637.html)

WCA

**Cameroon**

**Boko Haram kills six children, three adults in northern Cameroon**

Suspected Boko Haram insurgents burnt at least six children and three adults during an attack on a village in northern Cameroon, officials and witnesses said Tuesday. At least 11 others were injured when gunmen torched more than 300 homes in the village of Kamouna, which borders Nigeria, on Monday.

**DPA-**[**http://ghana.news24.com/Regional-News/Boko-Haram-kills-6-children-3-adults-in-northern-Cameroon-20150721-4**](http://ghana.news24.com/Regional-News/Boko-Haram-kills-6-children-3-adults-in-northern-Cameroon-20150721-4)

**Liberia**

**Last four Ebola cases in Liberia discharged from clinic**

The last four cases of Ebola in Liberia were discharged from a treatment clinic in the capital of Monrovia on Monday, meaning there were no more confirmed carriers of the deadly virus in the country. The group of four, released from the ELWA treatment unit to cheers and applause, were part of a new wave of Ebola infections in Margibi County just outside Monrovia discovered in late June. Two other confirmed cases have since died, including the sister of one of the released patients.

**Reuters-<http://news.yahoo.com/last-four-ebola-cases-liberia-discharged-clinic-135614550.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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