



The West Africa Report

*Security and Piracy - At Sea - On
Land - Domestic News
and Developments for the
International Resources Sector*

The West Africa Report ~ SUMMARY

April 29 – May 12, 2013



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Burkina Faso

- Travel Summary

Central African Republic

- Travel Summary

Domestic News

- **4 May 2013** - The Central African Republic's (CAR) interim government has opened a probe into what it claims are human rights abuses under the rule of ousted president Francois Bozize.

International Developments

- **18 April 2013** - The European Union has confirmed that it will not restore its more than US \$200 million aid programme to the Central African Republic until the country has re-established the rule of law.

Cote d'Ivoire

- **9 May 2013** - According to a presidential source, Simone Gbagbo, the wife of former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo, has been sent back to detention in the northern part of the country.
- **8 May 2013** - Government spokesman Bruno Kone has confirmed that around 200 fighters loyal to Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo will be repatriated from Togo after two years of exile following their country's 2010 - 2011 post-election conflict.

- **29 April 2013** - According to a report put together by a number of UN experts, warlord military commanders in the Cote d'Ivoire are making hundreds of millions of dollars by plundering the country's exports of cocoa and other resources.

Equatorial Guinea

- **7 May 2013** - Three human rights organizations have indicated that elections, which are set to take place later on this month in Equatorial Guinea, will unlikely be free as the organizing body is controlled by the government, as such, the work of those observing the elections will be severely restricted.

The Gambia

Domestic News

- **11 May 2013** - The Gambian government has indicated that it has released a Muslim cleric who had been in detention for five months.

International Developments

- **1 May 2013** - Activists in Gambia are calling on the government to release an imam who has been jailed for the past five months.

Guinea

- **8 May 2013** - Guinea has indicted a gendarme officer on rape charges related to a stadium massacre of pro-democracy protestors by forces linked to the military junta in September 2009.
- **3 May 2013** - Authorities in Guinea have confirmed that at least four people are dead following a second day of violent demonstrations against an upcoming legislative election which have swept the streets of Guinea's capital.

Guinea - Bissau

- **2 May 2013** - The African Union (AU) has indicated that it could lift sanctions against Guinea-Bissau as the country's leader has promised to hold elections later this year.
- **1 May 2013** - A new road map to the end of the transition period in Guinea-Bissau, which has been dubbed as the Pact of the Regime, was presented on Tuesday in the capital Bissau to politicians as well as they army and civil society.

Mali

- Travel Summary
- Breakdown of Events

On the Ground Analysis

- **30 April 2013** - British citizens travelling to former French colonies in Africa are at a higher risk of being targeted for kidnapping and murder by al-Qaeda fighters following the ongoing military operations in Mali.

International Developments:

- **7 May 2013** - In an online video that was posted on Tuesday, an Algeria-based al-Qaeda offshoot has stated that Muslims have an obligation to attack French interests around the world because of France's on-going military intervention in Mali.

Mauritania

- **18 April 2013** - France's Foreign Minister has confirmed that Mauritania will be sending 1,800 troops to Mali as part of a planned UN force to keep the peace in the West African nation.

Niger

- **6 May 2013** - Niger has increased its budgetary spending for 2013 by six percent, in part to help cover the costs of a military deployment which is aimed at driving militant rebels out of neighbouring Mali.

Nigeria

On the Ground Events

- **9 May 2013** - Officials have confirmed that at least twenty-three police officers have been killed in Nigeria after an ambush by local militia occurred in the central state of Nasarawa.
- **7 May 2013** - At least fifty-five people have been killed in the north-east region of Nigeria in what the army is stating are the result of co-ordinated attacks by Boko Haram militants.
- **3 May 2013** - A former Nigerian oil minister was kidnapped on Friday by gunmen who stormed his vehicle outside a mosque in Maiduguri.
- **1 May 2013** - Satellite images have revealed that 2,275 homes have been destroyed during a military raid to hunt down militant Islamists in the northern Nigerian town of Baga last month.

Domestic News

- **23 April 2013** - Nigeria is to investigate its army's conduct after clashes between troops and Islamist fighters in the northeast killed nearly 200 people, the single deadliest event since the insurgency began.
- **18 April 2013** - Nigeria's largest opposition party has voted to merge with two other parties, a move that is aimed at creating a unified front capable of unseating the ruling party at the 2015 polls.
- **15 April 2013** - Nigeria's Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has threatened to bomb mosques and assassinate Muslim clerics.

Kidnappings

- **29 April 2013** - Nine workers from two oil servicing companies, the Octopus Clan Nigerian Limited and the Deck Oil Services, have been confirmed kidnapped from the Ilebiri Creek in the southern Ijaw area of Bayelsa State by gunmen who are suspected to be renegade militants.

Senegal

On Land

- **4 May 2013** - Security sources have confirmed that twelve bomb disposal experts have been abducted in southern Senegal by suspected separatist rebels.

Domestic News

- **4 May 2013** - The justice ministers from Senegal and Chad have signed an agreement on Friday which will effectively allow Senegalese judges to carry out investigations in Chad on the alleged wartime crimes that were committed during the reign of former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre.

Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

Hijackings

- **30 April 2013** - Security sources have confirmed that pirates have kidnapped five crew members from a cargo ship off Nigeria.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **7 May 2013** - Seven armed pirates in a speed boat approached and fired upon a Panama-flagged bulk carrier, Centenario Blu, while underway at 1458 UTC in position 04:43.3N - 008:20.7E, Calabar River, Nigeria.
- **9 May 2013** - Eight persons in a boat came alongside and attempted to board an anchored crude tanker at 2230 UTC while in position 06:04N - 001:15.9E, around 3.5 nautical miles south-east of Lome, Togo.
- **4 May 2013** - Bahamas-flagged container ships, the CMA CGM Africa Four, reported being attacked by seven armed pirates in a speed boat at 0940 UTC while in position 04:02.30N - 006:54.90E, approximately 28 nautical miles south-west of Bonny, Nigeria. distance between the ship and the boat increased. The crew members on board the vessel suffered no injuries. The vessel safely reached Onne, Nigeria.
 - Meanwhile a Vanuatu-flagged refrigerated tanker, the Frio Athens, was attacked by six to eight pirates in a speed boat.

About MS Risk



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

Travel Summary:

There a general terrorist threat remains in the Sahel region, along with a heightened risk that kidnap activity may cross the northern borders from Mali and Niger into Burkina Faso. As such MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern region of Burkina Faso, specifically north of the town of Boulsa, which is located 25km north of the capital city of Ouagadougou, as well as to those areas that border Mali and Niger. The risk of kidnapping is substantial in these regions and Westerners continue to be a favorite target. As such, MS Risk advises you to exercise extreme caution at all times. Since 2008, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has captured over 25 hostages of a variety of nationalities, primarily European, in which a number of these hostages are still being held. If you travel to Burkina Faso, we advise that you use varied and unpredictable routes and schedules when moving from one place to another. If possible, it is recommended that you be accompanied by an armed security escort when undertaking road travel in this region.



The French military has been assisting the Malian government in its efforts to repel armed rebels. Terrorist groups in the region have since declared their intention to increase attacks and kidnappings targeting Westerners. Furthermore, citizens of countries that are currently supporting the military intervention in Mali are at a particular risk, however MS Risk advises all travellers to exercise increased vigilance in the region.

Demonstrations involving young Burkinabes and junior soldiers have taken place in towns and cities throughout the country and at times they have turned violent. As such, citizens should avoid large crowds and demonstrations.

There is also a high risk of crime involving armed groups stopping vehicles (including public buses) in order to rob them. Such incidents have occurred in various parts of the country, particularly at night. As such all travel between towns by road at night is to be avoided, especially from Ouagadougou to Po where there is a heightened risk posed by bandits. This is especially severe on market days when highwaymen often operate in the hopes of catching merchants with stock or cash en route to and from the urban areas.

MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Burkina Faso:

The biggest concern at this time is the northern areas of the country along the porous Mali border and at the junction of the Niger border. Burkina Faso has played a leading role in establishing the terms of reference for the ECOWAS force to strike back at the insurgents in Mali while concurrently brokering peace negotiations. There is an increased Burkinabe military presence in the north of the country and companies should review their respective security situations and consider the following:

- Location and safety of personnel
- Security controls, communications and contingency plans at static locations
- Work tempo implications
- Journey management systems in place and working
- Liaison with the military - use of military escorts, coordination between multiple assets, confirmation that military escorts are coordinated and competent for the task.
- Reviewing all crisis management contingencies including but not limited to the following:
 - Kidnap (for ransom or ideological purposes)
 - Medical emergency and evacuation cycle for northern area
 - Interdiction of road moves for personnel and any convoys
 - Loss of communications with remote locations - enhanced comms options, access to stores if replenishment is restricted or cut off.
 - Media and public affairs contingency
- Liaising with insurers to ensure appropriate cover is in place to meet speciality risks where needed.

Companies that rely on police escorts in the northern region of the country should ensure that travel patterns do not become predictable. Varying routes are difficult due to the limited road networks, as such, it is even more important to vary the types of vehicles that are used as well as to time the journeys and to avoid travel patterns becoming widely known. This is especially critical given the current tensions that are occurring along the Mali border and the ongoing ECOWAS operations.

All companies that are linked to the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation should familiarise themselves with the IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Security Forces. This applies to military, police or private security services.

Finally, unconfirmed reports have suggested that there is an elevated banditry threat that exists on the main routes south and east of the town of Fada N’Gourma en route to Pama and Diapala respectively. Road moves to these areas should be risk assessed and liaison with police should occur until the nature of the threats have been clarified. Companies with operations in the region are invited to report incidents to MS Risk in order to aid in assessing the local atmospherics.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



Travel Summary:

MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). The armed rebel coalition Seleka has renewed their offensive against President Francois Bozize’s government and have they have taken control of the capital city of Bangui. The security situation throughout the country continues to rapidly deteriorate. There has also been gunfire, violence and widespread looting throughout the capital city, which may occur again.



Armed rebels took control of a number of towns in the northern and central areas of the country in December 2012 and January 2013, stopping 75 km from the capital of Bangui. While a ceasefire agreement was made in Libreville, Gabon on 11 January 2013, the situation remains fragile and unpredictable. The rebels restarted their offensive in mid-March and took control of Bangui on 24 March.

There are reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking across the country. Currently the government has very limited control over much of the country. In the capital city of Bangui, there has been looting, clashes and gun fire. Reports have also surfaced that hospitals throughout the

capital city are running dangerously low on supplies. The situation in Bangui remains to be fragile, with reports of continued looting and gunfire. A curfew is in place from midnight to 4am. You should avoid being on the streets during this time. At other times, MS Risk advises you to take extreme care, and to travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter several roadblocks - both official and unofficial - that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. Take particular care when approaching these.

Any individuals in the country are advised to leave now. Those who remain should take all the necessary precautions in order to stay in a safe place with sufficient stocks of food and water. If the situation deteriorates further, leaving the country by commercial means will likely become increasingly difficult. Currently regional country flights have been suspended. We advise those remaining in the country to keep up to date with local political developments and to avoid all political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings.

Domestic News:

- **4 May 2013** - The Central African Republic's (CAR) interim government has opened a probe into what it claims are human rights abuses that occurred under the rule of ousted president Francois Bozize. The CAR's justice minister, Arsene Sende, has indicated that he had instructed prosecutors to open an investigation "because crimes and other grave human rights violations were committed and continue to be committed by ex-president Francois Bozize and some of his allies." Bozize, 66, was ousted on 24 March by the Seleka rebel coalition in the latest coup to hit the chronically unstable impoverished former French colony. Sende alluded to "assassinations, illegal and arbitrary detentions, torture, destruction of homes, kidnappings, summary and extra judicial executions, inciting hatred and genocide, economic crimes and acts compromising civil peace." Sende also cited the alleged execution of 119 people by Bozize's bodyguards however he was reluctant to specify the date of the incident. In turn, he also accused Bozize of being behind the 2010 disappearance of former minister and leader of the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP) rebel group. Furthermore, he indicated that the probe would also look into the fate of numerous political prisoners in the Bossembele military camp which is located 150 kilometers (93 miles) northeast of Bangui, allegedly locked up on Bozize's orders. Investigators will also look into the alleged embezzlement of public money by Bozize and his allies.

International Developments:

- **18 April 2013** - The European Union has confirmed that it will not restore its more than US \$200 million aid programme to the Central African Republic until the country has re-established the rule of law. The announcement comes amidst the recent visit made by the prime minister of the CAR's transitional government, Nicolas Tiangay, to Brussels where he appealed to keep funds flowing to the chronically unstable country. However EU development aid chief Andris Piebalgs made it clear that the CAR needed to prove the credibility of the government to regional neighbors and international donors before funding could be restored. The EU halted aid in December 2012 due to the growing security problems, however it has not formally stopped cooperation. Shortly after the meeting in Brussels, Mr. Piebalgs indicated that "the main message to the prime minister is saying that you need to re-establish constitutional order in the country and you should also try to address the security situation...because we can't deliver humanitarian aid." Rebel leader Michel Djotodia took charge of the country's government in a 24 March 2013 coup. He led thousands of rebels into the riverside capital of Bangui in March, ousting President Francois Bozize after he failed to honour a peace deal that was struck in January. He was subsequently elected president by a transitional council that has since promised to lead the nation to elections within eighteen months. Calm has yet to return to Bangui since the coup as rebel fighters have repeatedly clashed with youths who are loyal to the ex-president. A European Commission spokesman has indicated that there are a number of areas in the CAR which are not accessible to aid workers. Despite African and Western powers' reluctance to recognize Djotodia before the creation of the transitional council, prime minister Tiangaye is able to represent the country to the EU because he was appointed under the failed peace deal. The European Union has provided roughly 157 million euros (US \$205 million) in aid since 2008 to the landlocked, mineral-rich country, and an addition 34 million euros in budget support. It also provided more than 14.3 million euros in 2012 to support 600 regional troops for a peace-building mission in the country. Regional heads of state have recently decided that they will increase the troops numbers to 2,000.



Avoid all but essential travel to part(s) of the country

MS RISK advises against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut-Sassandra, Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra as the situation in these regions remains to be unstable due to the intercommunity tensions as well as the presence of armed groups. All air, land and sea borders with Ghana have now re-opened following their closure on 22 September 2012. There have been a number of widely-reported shootings which occurred around Abidjan in August 2012. Although these attacks occurred mainly at night and targeted police and military installations, further incidents cannot be ruled out. Consequently the security situation in Abidjan could deteriorate at short notice.

On Land:

- **9 May 2013** - According to a presidential source, Simone Gbagbo, the wife of former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo, has been sent back to detention in the northern part of the country. The source has indicated that she was escorted back to detention by some members of staff of the UN Operation in the Cote d'Ivoire and by members of the Ivorian security. Reports have further indicated that Simone, who has been in detention since the end of the political crisis, was transferred to Abidjan on May 2 due to health issues. The arrest of Gbagbo and his wife on 11 April 2011 ended the Ivorian post-electoral crisis that is reported to have led to about 3,000 deaths. She has been accused of crimes against humanity, including rape, murder and other forms of sexual violence which were committed between 16 December 2010 and April 2011.
- **8 May 2013** - Government spokesman Bruno Kone has confirmed that around 200 fighters loyal to Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo will be repatriated from Togo after two years of exile following their country's 2010 - 2011 post-election conflict. Amongst the fighters that will be repatriated are members of Gbagbo's Defense and Security Forces army and pro-Gbagbo militiamen who fled to Togo towards the end of the conflict which was sparked after Laurent Gbagbo refused to leave office despite losing the November 2010 elections to current President Alassane Ouattara. According to estimates put together by the United Nations, more than 3,000 people were killed during the five months of fighting which occurred after the elections. Mr. Kone has indicated that "this operation will be taking into account 200 of the ex-combatants...since all of these armed people are not part of our regular armed forces, they will be disarmed." The former fighters will now be civilians of the Cote d'Ivoire and some will receive a small amount of compensation in order to help them get started. Although no date for repatriation has been set, Mr. Kone stated that the process could start "at any time." President Ouattara first mentioned the operation publicly last weekend during a trip to the western region of the Cote d'Ivoire, a region that generally supported Gbagbo and which has remained to be volatile in the two years since the

conflict ended. The UN refugee agency has indicated that it has registered around 400 Ivorian ex-combatants in Togo however they are not staying in refugee camps. During a March meeting in the Togolese capital Lome, the UN agency provided a list of these fighters to Fidele Sarassoro, the director general of the Cote d'Ivoire's Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. Furthermore, the decision to repatriate them is the result of a bilateral agreement that was signed between the two countries. Pro-Gbagbo fighters who have scattered throughout West Africa, most notably in Ghana and Liberia, have been accused of staging attacks on villages and security installations in the Cote d'Ivoire. The most recent attack occurred in March of this year when thousands of citizens were displaced by three raids in western Cote d'Ivoire that were suspected to have originated in Liberia. In addition to the ex-combatants, there are about 5,000 Ivorian refugees in Togo.

- **29 April 2013** - According to a report put together by a number of UN experts, warlord military commanders in the Cote d'Ivoire are making hundreds of millions of dollars by plundering the country's exports of cocoa and other resources. According to the report, Forces Nouvelles militia leaders, who took the side of President Alassane Ouattara in his showdown with Laurent Gbagbo in 2011, are part of a "military-economic network" that is taking advantage of "rampant" smuggling and parallel tax networks. The report further noted that the former rebel leaders have been integrated into the national army "without the commanders having abandoned their warlord-style predatory economic activities, which they have now extended to the entire Ivorian territory." Cote d'Ivoire is the world's leading cocoa producer, however according to government figures quoted by the UN sanctions experts, about 153,000 tons out of the 1.47 million tons produced in the 2011 - 2012 season was lost to smugglers. According to experts, the lost cocoa was valued at about US \$400 million and much of it went through Ghana. The report added that third of the country's 450,000 tons of cashew nuts, worth about US \$130 million, was lost to the smugglers. The Cote d'Ivoire is the world's second largest producer of nuts. UN experts also raised their doubts about trade in gold, diamonds, cotton, timber and other resources in the report for the UN Security Council, which renewed the mandate of the experts last week. The report indicated that the balance of power after the 2011 crisis and the security situation in the West African nation was "precarious."

No restrictions
in this travel
advice



Equatorial Guinea

Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Equatorial Guinea, MS Risk advises to remain alert and to take sensible personal security precautions. Roadblocks and unannounced identification checks are likely to occur. As such, you are advised to carry the appropriate form of identification (such as a passport or residence card) with you at all times.

International Developments:

- 7 May 2013** - Three human rights organizations have indicated that elections, which are set to take place later on this month in Equatorial Guinea, will unlikely be free as the organizing body is controlled by the government, as such, the work of those observing the elections will be severely restricted. As such, the lack of an independent body to oversee the vote will make it increasingly difficult to deal with complaints related to it. Voters are set to go to the polls on May 26 in order to elect members of the parliament, senators and local councillors in a vote that is expected to tighten President Teodoro Nguema Obiang's 34-year grip on power. However Amnesty International, EG Justice and Human Rights Watch have, in a joint statement that was released this week, indicated that the government was not respecting its own laws which guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association. In the statement, Tutu Alicante, executive director at EG Justice, indicated that "President Obiang often says that Africans should demand a voice in global affairs but he denies one to the people of Equatorial Guinea." The groups also indicated that a decree that was issued in March of this year imposed strict rules on international observers, including the need to follow a government-issued programme, speaking to media only with permission and refraining from making disparaging comments. Furthermore, there is just one opposition member in the 100-seat parliament and critics have warned that President Obiang is seeking to line up his son Teodor Nguema Obiang Mangué, to be his eventual successor. Although oil wealth has improved the infrastructure in Equatorial Guinea, critics have noted that corruption remains rampant, progress on social programmes has been slow and the government has zero tolerances for dissent.



No restrictions
in this travel
advice

Following political disagreement between the government of The Gambia and the European Union, pertaining to the deterioration of human right in The Gambia, there has been an increase in political tensions which may lead to unannounced demonstrations in Banjul and other regions of the country. Consequently you should avoid all demonstrations and gatherings of large groups. MS Risk advises against all travel by road from the Gambia to the Casamance in southern Senegal. The Casamance region of south western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. Travel to the other areas of The Gambia is reasonably safe as long as you take sensible precautions to safeguard your personal possessions. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks, although unlikely, could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.

Domestic News:

- **11 May 2013** - The Gambian government has indicated that it has released a Muslim cleric who had been in detention for five months. According to state media, Imam Baba Leigh was released late on Friday by the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). The outspoken Imam was taken away by plainclothes officers on 3 December 2012. Since then, media reports have linked his arrest with a number of comments that he made in August 2012 in relation to the executions of nine people, citing that the government's acts were "un-Islamic." Since then President Yahya Jammeh's government has faced mounting pressure from the international community (*See Below*) as the Muslim cleric was regarded to be a prisoner by a number of human rights organizations. The United States and British governments had called on Gambian authorities to release him.

International Developments:

- **1 May 2013** - Activists in Gambia are calling on the government to release an Imam who has been jailed for the past five months. Hamat Bah of the opposition National Reconciliation Party (NRP) has called on the Gambian government to release the Muslim cleric, describing his detention as unconstitutional. According to sources, Imam Baba Leigh has been missing since December 2012 and is believed to have been detained by Gambia's National Intelligence Agency (NIA). Media reports have linked his alleged arrest with comments he made in September 2012 describing the execution of nine death row inmates as "un-Islamic." Gambian President Yahya Jammeh has ruled the country since he came to power in a coup in 1994. Human rights groups have accused the government of Gambia of carrying out arbitrary arrests, summary executions and torture in recent years.

No restrictions
in this travel
advice



Although there are currently no restrictions on travel to Guinea, there is a continued risk of spontaneous riots and violent demonstrations occurring which are largely due to political tensions but which on occasion can be due to other reasons ranging from power shortages to commercial disputes. At least four deaths were reported in Conakry on 3 May, the day after violent demonstrations in which a number of injuries were also reported. There has been extensive rioting and violence recently in Conakry. The districts of Medina, Hamdallaye, Cosa and Bambeto have been particularly affected by this violence. Further riots and such incidents have occurred in Conakry as well as in the regional towns like Kissidougou, Zogota, Labe, Dubreka, Fria and Siguiri. MS Risk advises those in the country to monitor the local media and to avoid large gatherings. The Guinean authorities maintain police and local militia checkpoints throughout the whole country. As such, you are advised to carry identification with you at all times. Theft at gunpoint is increasingly common throughout Guinea, especially at night. However violent muggings can occur even in broad daylight for cash and other valuables such as mobile telephones. Incidents of violent car-jackings are also on the rise, especially in the outlying suburbs of Conakry like Kipe. These crimes are often carried out by individuals who are dressed in either police or military uniforms and who are often carrying military weapons. There are regular reports of robberies on the route Mamou, Faranah, Kissidougou, Guekedou, Macenta and Nzerekore.

On Land:

- 8 May 2013** - Guinea has indicted a gendarme officer on rape charges related to a stadium massacre of pro-democracy protestors by forces linked to the military junta in September 2009. A number of rights groups have criticized President Alpha Conde, who was elected in 2010 in the country's first democratic handover of power since gaining independence from France in 1958, for not moving fast enough to bring those responsible to justice. So far, about six people have been charged in relation to the attack however none of them have been put on trial. The gendarme officer is the first in the case to be indicted for rape. According to Thierno Maadjou Sow, head of the Guinea chapter of the International Federation for Human rights, "a gendarme officer has been formally indicted on rape charges after he was identified by one of his victims." He further noted that "the rape took place during the September 28 massacre...the indictment is a first in Guinea. It will certainly allow us to move forward on this issue." A Guinean official also confirmed the charges however he declined to identify the officer. During the September 2009 massacre, more than 150 people were shot, stabbed, bludgeoned, or trampled to death after pro-democracy demonstrators gathered at a stadium in the minerals-rich nation's capital for a rally. A UN-led probe concluded that the abuses likely constituted crimes against humanity. Several officials of the former military junta

that ruled Guinea for two years after a 2008 coup have been charged with crimes relating to the massacre, including Lieutenant Aboubacar Sidiki Diakite, then the head of the Presidential Guard.

- **3 May 2013** - Authorities in Guinea have confirmed that at least four people are dead following a second day of violent demonstrations against an upcoming legislative election which have swept the streets of Guinea's capital. According to relatives, Cherif Souleymane Diallo, a student, died after being shot by a police officer on Friday. A second man, Mamady Camara, who was wounded Thursday by a thrown rock, has also died. A third unidentified man died from gunshot wounds while the fourth victim of the protest-related violence was a police officer who was killed by demonstrators. Friday's deaths have brought to at least 15 the number of people that have been killed in violent clashes since March. Over 300 have been wounded, including 30 during the protests on Thursday. Long-delayed legislative elections have been set for June 30 however opposition to the poll date has prompted a series of demonstrations in Guinea's capital. Guinea's opposition parties have accused President Alpha Conde, who took office in 2010 following Guinea's first democratic transfer of power since 1958, of trying to rig the polls. The opposition, which has indicated that Conde did not consult them before announcing the poll date, has called on its supporters to protest until the president backs down and calls off the June 30 poll. The opposition has also demanded that South African firm Waymark be stripped of a contract to revise the voter list. However the Guinean government has rejected the opposition's demands.



No restrictions
in this travel
advice

There are currently no restrictions on travel to Guinea-Bissau, the current political situation remains uncertain throughout the country and the possibility of civil or military unrest in Guinea-Bissau remains high. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northwestern regions of the country, specifically those which border the Casamance region of Senegal, including the Sao Domingos/Mpack road.

On Land:

- **2 May 2013** - The African Union (AU) has indicated that it could lift sanctions against Guinea-Bissau as the country's leader has promised to hold elections later this year. The West African nation has long been destabilized by a number of rebellions suffered after the latest coup which occurred in April 2012. However Guinea-Bissau's interim leader has now pledged to organize elections before the end of the year however no date has been officially set. Ouidio Pequeno, the AU's permanent representative to Guinea-Bissau has praised the latest political developments that have occurred in the country. Furthermore, he indicated that the international community was ready to help Guinea-Bissau organize and carry out the vote.
- **1 May 2013** - A new road map to the end of the transition period in Guinea-Bissau, which has been dubbed as the Pact of the Regime, was presented on Tuesday in the capital Bissau to politicians as well as they army and civil society. The document drafted by a parliamentary committee in charge of consultations envisions, among others, the formation of an inclusive government, the holding of general elections before the end of 2013 and the appointment of the chairman of the national election commission. The Pact of the Regime replaced the previous transition roadmap adopted after a coup on 12 April 2012. The revised version expects the former ruling party, the African party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), to join the government. PAIGC, the largest parliamentary party, was excluded from the transition process after the coup overturned the regime of its leader Carlos Gomes Junior, the ex-prime minister. The specific date of the elections will be set after the document is handed over to transitional President Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo for approval. The United Nations demanded the adoption before 10 May 2013 of a new transition road, with precise dates for the electoral process that will facilitate the West African country's return to normal constitutional life. The UN Security Council considers the formation of a new government of national unity as a condition for the resumption of aid to Guinea-Bissau by the international community. Guinea-Bissau, one of the poorest in the world, is in need of aid for development and for carrying out necessary judicial and security reforms.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



Travel Summary:

Currently there is a high threat from terrorism in Mali. The Government of Mali declared a State of Emergency across the whole country on 12 January 2013. This state of Emergency is in force until 6 June 2013. This effectively enables the government to take extraordinary measures to deal with the security situation in the north and elsewhere. No curfew is currently in place however MS Risk advises those in the country to monitor the local media for reports of any new measures.



Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. There is also a high threat of kidnapping in Mali by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and by the splinter group, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA). Although AQIM uses the northern region of Mali as an operating base, it has proven its capability of travelling long distances in order to carry out attacks, some of which have occurred in neighbouring countries. As such the kidnap threat cannot be isolated within the northern regional stronghold. In turn, criminal gangs have previously been engaged to carry out kidnappings for terrorist groups in return for financial rewards. Subsequently attacks can take place throughout Mali. In the

past, a number of Westerners have been kidnapped by terrorists in Mali and in the Sahel region. Since 2008, over 25 Westerners have been kidnapped in the Sahel. Victims have included tourists, NGO workers and diplomats of a variety of nationalities, primarily European. These attacks have on occasion resulted in the murder of the hostages. The recent kidnapping of a French citizen in the western region of the country has come as a shock as the area where he was taken has been perceived as being stable and under governmental control. In the past, kidnap threats have typically emanated from the Azawad region in the north and east part of the county, as such this incident in the west has caused great concern. MS Risk forecasts that there will be an increased and sustained kidnap threat across Mali and in certain border-regions for some time to come. Incidents of kidnap are likely to occur for three primary reasons:

- For Ransom - insurgents will raise finances for future operations. With the impending ECOWAS operation, this is accelerating as a concern.
- Human Shields - Insurgents will kidnap persons in order to deter/reduce the risk of direct action by governmental forces against them.
- Ideological - Kidnappings will occur for political purposes.

Since the coup in March 2012, and due to the ongoing political unrest, MS RISK judges that there is a continued heightened threat of kidnap for ransom in Mali and as such further attacks and kidnappings are highly likely to occur. Furthermore, although it is difficult to forecast how severe this threat will emerge, all affected organisations are recommended to review their current operations and contingencies which is in line with the previous advice which has been given. MS RISK currently advises against all travel to Mali.

MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Mali:

With western diplomatic missions all warning against unnecessary travel to Mali, those companies with fixed interests in the country need to take measured precautions if they have not done so already. This is especially an issue for organisations with any interest in the so-called Azawad region - that portion of the country which is under insurgent control. Preparations should include the following:

- Thinning out non-essential staff and dependents
- Restricting expat and local national internal travel
- Seeking advice from the security forces
- Ensuring journey management systems are in place and work
- Reviewing crisis management contingencies and carrying out exercises of these plans
- Registration of expatriates with relevant diplomatic missions and seeking advice on what support will be forthcoming (if any) if conditions deteriorate
- Liaison with insurers to know any exclusions or limits to existing cover

The most extreme risks will be in the Azawad region. There is expected to be military clashes there between the various insurgent groupings against the ECOWAS-bolstered Mali army force in line with the UN Security Council authorization to use force. Despite the obvious threats in the Azawad, organisations in Mali should be braced for nuisance attacks and isolated terrorist attacks in the capital of Bamako. When al-Shabaab was weakened in Somalia, these types of attacks were experienced in Uganda and Kenya. Although the two conflicts are not connected, it is logical to predict that similar tactics may evolve and be witnessed in Mali and inside contributing nations.

Breakdown of the Mali Intervention:

- **29 April** - The French Defence Ministry has confirmed that a 32-year-old paratrooper has been killed between Zaouaten and Boughessa, near the border with Algeria. France's defence ministry has indicated that the special forces soldier died after his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. Two other soldiers were seriously injured in the same attack. A military spokesman has further noted that no militants were found in the area. Six French soldiers have been killed since France launched an operation in Mali in January of this year in order to drive Islamist rebels out of the northern desert region. The death of this paratrooper comes at a time when France is beginning to withdraw some of its 4,000 troops. Meanwhile Malian security forces have arrested at least eight people suspected of plotting an attack in Bamako. Malian officials have indicated that the arrests were the first sign that Islamist rebels battling French and African troops for control of Mali's desert north, had activated cells in Bamako, which is located in the southern region of the country. According to a

high-ranking military officer, a group made up of fifteen people had been trained by MUJWA in Gao and were planning to commit bombings in Bamako when they were arrested. According to the officer, the group was made up entirely of Malian nationals who had been living in Bamako's Banankabougou district near a mosque.

- **30 April** - Germany has begun its EU-Malian Army training. The Bundeswehr is responsible for training in military engineering under the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM). Meanwhile police in Mali's capital have dismantled a terrorist cell belonging to the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO).

- **1 May** - The French army confirms that its troops have captured Gilles Le Guen, known as Abdel Jelil, on Sunday night in a region just north of Timbuktu. According to France's Defence Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, Mr. Le Guen, aged 58, is believed to have been living in Timbuktu and appears to have fought alongside the Islamist militants.

Mr. Le Guen, a former merchant seaman, is originally from the city of Nantes in western France. He converted to Islam in 1985 and lived in Mauritania and Morocco before settling in Mali with his Moroccan wife and family in 2011. He is said to have lived mostly off wire transfers from Europe and did odd jobs such as repairing broken water pumps and cars. According to on the ground sources in Timbuktu, when AQIM occupied the town, Mr. Le Guen was assigned to patrol it. According to Mr. Le Drian, Mr. Guen was captured by French troops who were on patrol at the time. The detainee will now be handed over



to the Malian authorities and "probably expelled to France." Mr. Le Drian further noted that so far, no charges have been drawn up however an investigation is currently underway.

- **4 May** - Officials have confirmed that two Malian soldiers have been killed while several people have been wounded in a suicide attack that occurred in northern Mali. Five Islamists suicide bombers were also killed. According to Colonel Kassim Goita, the latest attack took place in the village of Hamakouladji, which is located 40 km (25 miles) north of Gao. Several militants detonated their explosives as the patrol passed through a village near the city of Gao where the fighting continues.

- **7 May** - Officials have confirmed that a Nigerian warplane involved in operations against militant Islamists in Mali has crashed in Niger, killing two pilots. These are the first casualties that Nigeria has suffered after deploying troops in January to fight the militants. According to reports, mechanical failure was likely to have caused the fighter jet to crash near Mali's border while it was on a non-combat mission. International forces use Niger as an airbase for operations in Mali. Nigerian Air Force spokesman Commodore Yusuf Anas has confirmed that an investigation is currently underway in order to establish the cause of the crash. According to Commodore Anas, "they were on a normal routine flight about 60 km (37 miles) west of Niamey when something happened." Furthermore, army sources in Niger have ruled out the possibility that the jet had been shot at, stating that it was not in "enemy territory." International forces are currently using Niger as an airbase for operations in Mali. Meanwhile soldiers from Mali and Burkina Faso pushed into the village of Ber, which is located 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Timbuktu, which had previously been occupied by fighters from a Tuareg rebel group known as the National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad (NMLA). Speaking from Ber, Malian military spokesman Capt. Samba Coulibaly has stated that the town is now calm and that the armed groups occupying the village appear to have fled. The village has been a focal point in recent weeks of fighting between two of Mali's ethnic minorities - the Tuaregs and the Arabs. Last month, an Arab militia attacked the village, seizing control from the NMLA. The militia has since accused the NMLA of looting the stores of Arab merchants.

- **8 May** - According to a military spokesman, Mali is in the final stages of preparation for an assault on the northern provincial capital of Kidal. Lt. Col. Souleymane Maiga refused to give a timeline for the attack for Kidal, however he did note that preparations for the deployment were “in an advanced stage” and that Mali can no longer accept having two armies on its soil. Kidal, the capital of one of the three northern provinces which fell into rebel hands last year, currently remains to be under the control of Tuareg separatists who want to secure a homeland for the Tuareg people. An army spokesman has confirmed that “the army is preparing to take back Kidal. Not just Kidal, but also Tessalit, Abeibara and Aguelhok.” He further added that the army needed to secure Kidal in order to allow Mali’s administration to return and to prepare for the national elections which are due to be held in July.
- **10 May** - Military sources have confirmed that an Islamist suicide bomber attacked a camp of soldiers from Niger posted in the northeastern region of Mali however the only casualty that was suffered was the assailant. According to a Nigerian military source, “around 5:00 am (0500 GMT), a kamikaze in a car busted through the entrance to our military camp at Menaka. We fired our weapons and the kamikaze blew himself up.” The source added that “he is dead, but there were no victims among our ranks,” further noting that the Nigerian troops had gone onto a “state of alert.”

On the Ground Analysis:

- **30 April 2013** - British citizens travelling to former French colonies in Africa are at a higher risk of being targeted for kidnapping and murder by al-Qaeda fighters following the ongoing military operations in Mali. This warning comes in light of the fact that al-Qaeda has issued that it will seek revenge on those countries which assisted the French in their crackdown of terrorism in the region. In January, the UK has sent 330 troops to the region in order to help the French army. Although the threat will primarily target French citizens, it is feared that al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) terror cells will take all westerners in the region as hostages and will also consider British travellers as fair game, due to Britain’s role in the recent French-led operation. According to a number of security sources, al-Qaeda terror cells are planning on revenge for what they see as attacks which “killed” their children and are organising themselves to step up kidnapping of holiday makers in the region of West Africa, where AQIM has control (mainly in Mauritania, Niger, Algeria, Libya, Burkina Faso and Chad).

International Developments:

- **7 May 2013** - In an online video that was posted on Tuesday, an Algeria-based al-Qaeda offshoot has stated that Muslims have an obligation to attack French interests around the world because of France’s on-going military intervention in Mali. In a message that was posted on YouTube, Abou Obeida Youssef Al-Annabi, a known Islamist belonging to AQIM stated that the “crusade” led by France in Mali makes its interests “legitimate targets.” The speech further indicated that the military campaign against AQIM “is an issue of religion being disgraced and a people being annihilated and an identity destroyed,” noting that “it is an obligation on you, Muslims, to response...by confronting French interests everywhere.” He added that “these interests have become legitimate targets for you,” warning that France risks falling into “the same swamp Wp which America fell into in Iraq and Afghanistan.” In response, French President Francois Hollande has stated that “we take seriously this threat from AQIM. We have inflicted tremendous loss to AQIM via the intervention in Mali...but AQIM networks exist outside Mali.”



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

Avoid all but essential travel to part(s) of the country

Travel Summary:

Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern and eastern regions of the country - especially the desert areas north of the Oualata-Tichit-Ouadane-Zouerat line, as well as the border areas with Algeria, Mali and Morocco. We also advise you to avoid Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant and Hodh el Chargui. This is due to extremist groups and armed smugglers that are active in these areas which has resulted in high threats of terrorism as well as a heightened risk of banditry and kidnapping. We also advise against all travel to the western provinces of Dakhlet - Nouadhibou and Inchiri. This includes the road from the port of Nouadhibou to Nouakchott. We advise against all but essential travel to the rest of the country.

Terrorism

Following the French military intervention in Mali there has been a heightened possibility of retaliatory attacks that may target Western interests in the region. Consequently we advise vigilance.

Kidnapping

There is a high risk of kidnapping throughout Mauritania and Westerners are the favoured target. In the past, hostages have been held captive for several months before being released. MS Risk advises anyone traveling to Mauritania to take particular caution in the region of Inchire (Akjoujt is the capita) as well as in the areas that border Mali and Morocco.

For companies with employees remaining in Mauritania, MS Risk advises you to arrange a trustworthy escort that is familiar with the country. The use of varied and unpredictable routes and schedules when moving from one location to another is also highly advised. Exercise a high



awareness of personal security at all times and monitor the local developments.

Domestic News:

- 18 April 2013** - France's Foreign Minister has confirmed that Mauritania will be sending 1,800 troops to Mali as part of a planned UN force to keep the peace in the West African nation. Laurent Fabius has confirmed that a UN Security Council resolution to approve the creation of a 12,600-strong UN peacekeeping force from 1 July 2013 should be approved as soon as next week. The force, which is expected to be made up primarily of African contingents, will take up the slack as France starts drawing down its 4,000-strong force to just 1,000 by the end of this year. Mauritania, an Islamic republic which borders Mali to the west, has one of the most effective armies in the region, with experience of battling Islamist fighters in the desert terrain. However up until now, Mauritania has remained out of the Malian conflict.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

Avoid all but essential travel to part(s) of the country



Travel Summary:

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following parts of Niger: Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road that links Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillaberi province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka. We currently advise against all but essential travel to the remainder of the country, including the capital city Niamey. Due to the French military intervention in Mali, there is a possibility of retaliatory attacks that may target Western interests in the region. We advise vigilance. There is a high threat of terrorism occurring throughout the country. Attacks could be indiscriminate and can occur in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. There is a high threat of kidnapping from terrorist groups such as AQIM and Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA). These terrorist groups have already kidnapped a number of Westerners in Niger and throughout the wider Sahel region, including in Niamey, and the northern and western regions of Niger. It is highly likely that further kidnap attacks will occur.



There is a high level of crime that exists throughout the country, especially in the capital city of Niamey. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. The areas located around the Gaweye Hotel, National Museum and Petit Marche in Niamey are particularly prone to muggings. It is advised that you not walk alone there, or cross the Kennedy Bridge on foot at any time. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria, south of Zinder. MS Risk advises you to take special care and to avoid crossing the border with Nigeria during the night.

All companies that are currently operating in the north and north-west regions of the country should be aware of the increased security threats.

Companies attempting road moves should

coordinate them with local authorities. MS Risk does not recommend unescorted road moves east of Tahoua. There have been several military escorts operating from Tahoua to the north and north-eastern regions of the country which companies should liaise with for increased protection.

Domestic News:

- 6 May 2013** - Niger has increased its budgetary spending for 2013 by six percent, in part to help cover the costs of a military deployment which is aimed at driving militant rebels out of neighbouring Mali. Niger sent around 670 soldiers into Mali earlier this year as part of a regional force that is participating in the French-led intervention. In a statement released on Monday, "taking this situation into account, the government is increasing by 25 billion CFA franc (US \$49.76 million) the budgetary allocation for the security and defence forces." Niger's total budget will increase to 1.411 trillion CFA francs from 1.331 trillion with some of the additional spending the result of increased support from donors. The statement further indicated that the government has also raised around 50 billion CFA francs through the issuance of treasury bills.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

Avoid all but essential travel to part(s) of the country

Travel Summary:

Summary

In light of the recent kidnapping and execution of several foreigners, coupled with an increase of attacks in the northern region of the country which have been blamed on Islamist militants, MS Risk advises against travelling to several regions in northern Nigeria. MS Risk advises against all travel to: the Riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States; Warri city, Kano city, Okene City. We advise against all travel to Borno State, Yobe State, Bombe State and Bauchi State. This is due to the frequent violent attacks which have been occurring over the past months. More recent attacks have increasingly focussed on public places, including bars and restaurants. These attacks have resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We also advise against all travel to Kano City and Okene City, which has also seen a frequent number of high levels of violence.



We advise against all but essential travel to Kano state, Kaduna State, Jigwa State, Katsina State, Sokoto State, Kebbi State, Jos City, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas in Plateau State; Okene Region of Kogi State. These areas have witnessed an increase in violent attacks. We also advise against all but essential travel to Mubi Town in Adamawa State and the area north of Mubi Town that borders Borno State where there has also been a rise in violent attacks. We also advise against all but essential travel to the non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States, Abia State, Kaduna City, Zaria City.

Companies with workers in northern Nigeria, even in areas which are not subject to specific advice against travel, will require a high level of security. In light of the recent kidnappings of Westerners, employers are advised to review their security arrangements and to ensure that compounds are protected.

There is a high threat of terrorism occurring in Nigeria. A bomb attack that occurred at a bus station in Kano city on 18 March 2013 resulted in multiple casualties. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including government, security and educational institutions, international organisations as well as public venues and areas such as restaurants, bars, markets, hotels, shopping centers, places of worship and other areas that are frequented by expatriates, foreign tourists and business travelers. Terrorist attacks have been known to occur on religious and public holidays. There have been regular attacks on churches in northern Nigeria at times of worship. The US government has published an Emergency Message for US citizens, detailing information that Boko Haram may be planning attacks in Abuja. This information has been assessed as being credible and attacks could occur at any time, including against international hotels that are frequently visited by Westerners. There is also an increased level of kidnap threat in Nigeria in which foreign nationals have typically been the targets of such kidnaps.

Kidnapping

Although recent incidents of kidnapping have mostly occurred in northern Nigeria, MS Risk advises that such kidnappings can take place anywhere in the country.

- On 16 February 2013, after storming the compound of Lebanese-owned construction firm Setraco in Bauchi state, gunmen killed a security guard and abducted a Briton, an Italian, a Greek, two Lebanese and two Syrian workers. The British construction worker is believed to have been killed along with the six other foreign nationals. This was the worst case of foreigners being kidnapped in the mostly Muslim north of Africa's most populous country since an insurgency by Islamist militants intensified two years ago.
- In December 2012, a French national was kidnapped by armed men in Katsina State in northern Nigeria, reportedly from a residential compound.
- In 2012, a Lebanese national was kidnapped in Kaduna State. His Lebanese colleague was killed during the abduction
- In January 2012, a German national was killed in Kano city. He was killed on 31 May 2012.
- In May 2011, a British national and an Italian national were kidnapped together in Kebbi State. Both hostages were killed in Sokoto on 8 March 2012.

Threats and Terrorism

Attacks by Islamist groups in northern Nigeria have become the biggest threat to stability in Africa's top oil producing country. This has been exacerbated by the fact that Western governments are currently concerned that militants may link up with groups elsewhere in the region, including al-Qaeda's North African wing, AQIM. These concerns have been further intensified by the conflict and military intervention in nearby Mali.

On the Ground Events:

- **9 May 2013** - Officials have confirmed that at least twenty-three police officers have been killed in Nigeria after an ambush by local militia occurred in the central state of Nasarawa. According to Nasarawa police chief Abayomi Akeremale, about sixty police officers came under attack, in which seventeen are still missing. According to reports, the policemen were on their way to arrest the leader of the outlawed Ombatse "cult" when gunmen opened fire at them. Akeremale indicated that "we decided to send our men to the area to arrest members of Ombatse, including their priest." Further indicating that "they had been going to churches and mosques initiating people in their cult by forcefully administering an allegiance oath to unwilling people." The police officers were attacked on Tuesday near the shrine



on the traditional deity of the Eggon people, in the village of Alakyo, near the state capital of Lafia.

- **7 May 2013** - At least fifty-five people have been killed in the north-east region of Nigeria in what the army is stating are the result of co-ordinated attacks by Boko Haram militants. The army further indicated that 105 prisoners had been freed in a pre-dawn raid that occurred in Bama, in the Borno state of Nigeria. According to the military, Bama's police station, military barracks and government



buildings were burned to the ground. Tuesday's raid in the remote town began when some 200 heavily-armed suspected members of Boko Haram arrived in buses and pick-up trucks at about 05:00 (04:00 GMT). According to Musa Sagir, a military spokesman who is based in Maiduguri, which is located some 70 km (44 miles) from Bama, "some of the gunmen attacked the military barracks but they were repelled. Ten of them were killed and two were arrested." He further noted that "the gunmen broke into the prison, freeing 105 inmates, and killed all prison warders they could see except

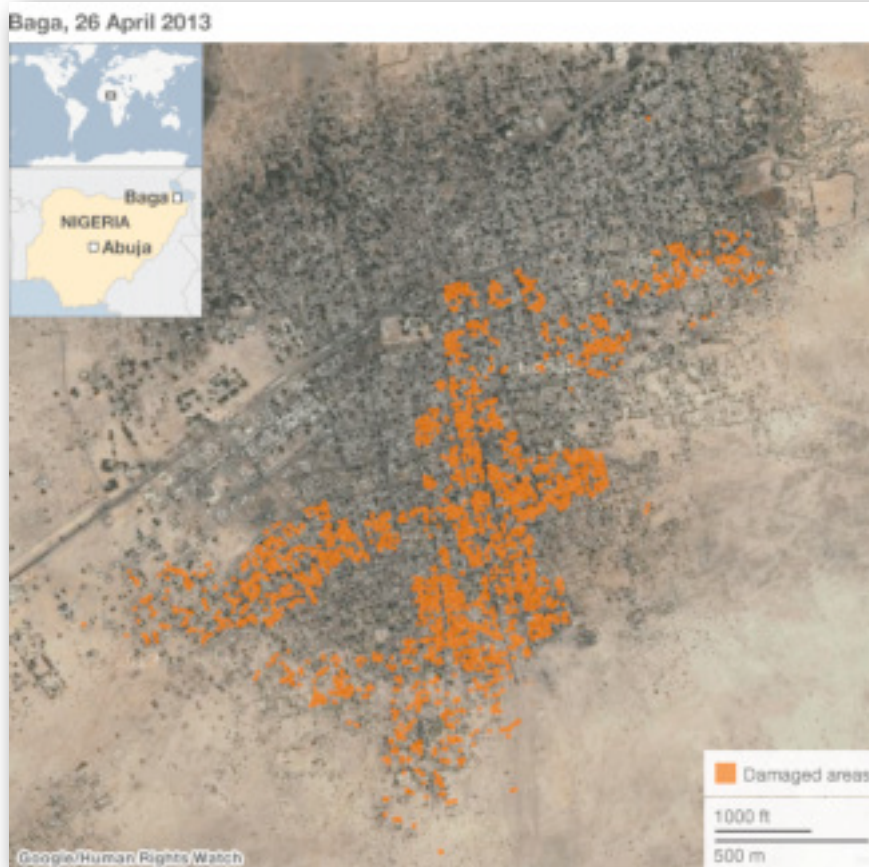
those who hid in a store where cooking utensils were kept." He added that some of the attackers wore army uniforms for the assault, which continued for almost five hours. Furthermore this latest strike, which comes shortly after other deadly attacks have occurred in the region, further undermines the suggestion that the military operation against the militants has diminished the threat they pose. Although President Goodluck Jonathan set up a committee to agree the terms of an amnesty for Boko Haram's militants, the group's leader, Abubakar Shekau, has so far rejected the idea.

- **3 May 2013** - A former Nigerian oil minister was kidnapped on Friday by gunmen who stormed his vehicle outside a mosque in Maiduguri. Residents have reported that Shettima Ali Monguno, 87, had stayed behind in order to greet well-wishers after prayers and was attacked shortly after entering his car. Although no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, Boko Haram has been behind a number of assassinations and kidnappings around the northeastern city. Update - police have confirmed that a former Nigerian oil minister, who was kidnapped over the weekend by gunmen in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, which is a Boko Haram stronghold, has been released. According to Borno State police chief Abdullahi Yuguda, "I can confirm that Shettima Ali Monguno has been released today by his abductors." A security source has indicated that the kidnappers were paid 50 million naira (US \$318,000) however the police chief has declined to comment on the circumstances surrounding the release. The former minister's son Abubakar Ali Monguno, indicated that the kidnappers had demanded a ransom hours after the former minister was kidnapped on Friday just outside a mosque in Maiduguri. Although no group has claimed responsibility for the abduction, security officials believe that Boko Haram is responsible for the kidnapping as the militant group has increasingly been turning to ransom payments as a method of financing its insurgency. Notably, this has involved the kidnapping of wealthy individuals around Maiduguri. In turn, a number of criminal groups have also carried out attacks under the guise of Boko Haram. Mr. Monguno, 87, served as Nigeria's oil minister in the 1970's and held the rotating presidency of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1972. He was amongst a group of elders who met with President Goodluck Jonathan in Maiduguri in March of this year in order to discuss the ongoing Boko Haram crisis. The former minister has repeatedly called for dialogue with the militant group and has urged President Jonathan to reduce the massive security deployment in the city and to ease a curfew which forces all residents to stay indoors after sundown.
- **1 May 2013** - Satellite images have revealed that 2,275 homes have been destroyed during a military raid to hunt down militant Islamists in the northern Nigerian town of Baga last month.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), soldiers “engaged more in destruction than in protection” after Boko Haram fighters attacked a military patrol last month. The army however has yet to comment on the latest allegations. The rights group has since called on the Nigerian authorities to impartially investigate and prosecute soldiers responsible for the recent violence in Baga. The HRW further noted that satellite images it had analyzed undermined the military’s assertion that only thirty houses were destroyed during the fighting in Baga which occurred on 16 - 17 April and that the images are in line with reports from residents who indicated to the HRW that soldiers had ransacked the town after Boko Haram had killed a soldier during an



attack on a military patrol. Community leaders have indicated that 2,000 homes were burned and that 183 bodies were identified after the military raid ended. Satellite images have corroborated this account, identifying that 2,275 buildings were destroyed, with another 125 severely damaged.



Domestic News:

- **23 April 2013** - Nigeria is to investigate its army’s conduct after clashes between troops and Islamist fighters in the northeast killed nearly 200 people, the single deadliest event since the insurgency began. Late on Monday, President Goodluck Jonathan ordered a “full-scale” probe as

the Red Cross reported a death toll of 187, many of them civilians, with dozens more wounded. A statement released from the President's office has indicated that the investigation will determine whether or not the military complied with the established rules of engagement during the operation. The fighting broke out between troops and Islamist fighters in the town of Baga which is located near the border with Chad. More than 300 houses in the fishing town had been burnt. The bloodshed, which began on Friday, has seen the most deaths in a single event since the insurgency of Boko Haram began in northern and central Nigeria in 2009.

- **18 April 2013** - Nigeria's largest opposition party has voted to merge with two other parties, a move that is aimed at creating a unified front capable of unseating the ruling party at the 2015 polls. An overwhelming majority of the 4,500 delegates at the Action Congress of Nigeria's convention in a stadium in Lagos backed the merger with the Congress for Progressive Change and the main faction of the All Nigeria Peoples Party.
- **15 April 2013** - Nigeria's Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has threatened to bomb mosques and assassinate Muslim clerics. This announcement comes just one week after the movement claimed responsibility for the killing of fifteen security personnel in the southern oil-producing Bayelsa state. According to MEND spokesman Jorno Gbomo, the campaign will start on 31 May and will focus "to save Christianity in Nigeria from annihilation." Furthermore, "the bombings of mosques, haj camps, Islamic institutions, large congregations in Islamic events and assassinations of clerics that propagate doctrines of hate will form the core mission of this crusade." According to Gbomo, MEND, the main rebel group in the oil-rich south, may call off "Operation Barbarossa" if Christian organizations and the group's suspected leader Henry Okah intervene." It has also urged Boko Haram to stop attacking Christians and churches.

Kidnappings:

- **29 April 2013** - Nine workers from two oil servicing companies, the Octopus Clan Nigerian Limited and the Deck Oil Services, have been confirmed kidnapped from the Ileberi Creek in the southern Ijaw area of Bayelsa State by gunmen who are suspected to be renegade militants. According to security sources, the oil workers were abducted around 2:00pm last Thursday by gunmen suspected to be behind the killings of twelve policemen men last month along the waterways of the Azuzuama community in the southern Ijaw area. It was also disclosed yesterday that the kidnapped workers were all Nigerians, on their way to resume repairs on the 18" Tebidaba Brass Line, Ogoda Ogboinbiri 24" line at Oporoma, as well as the Ogboinbiri Tebidaba 4" line at Ikebiri, Kemebiam, the Osiam 6" flowline, the Tebidaba wells and several others for the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC). Five of the kidnapped workers were reportedly attached to the Port Harcourt-based oil and gas servicing company known as the Octopus Clan Nigeria Limited. The company is owned by the former Chairman of the defunct Bayelsa State Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee, Chief James Jephathah.

No restrictions
in this travel
advice



Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Senegal, MS Risk advises to avoid road travel in the Casamance region, to the west of Kolda. The Casamance region of south-western Senegal (between the southern border of Gambia and the northern border of Guinea-Bissau) remains affected by incidents involving armed separatist groups and banditry, particularly in the regions of Bignona and Sindian. There has been an increase in clashes between the Senegalese army and suspected elements of the armed separatist group Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC). MS Risk advises against all road travel in the Casamance region to the west of Kolda, other than on the main road from Ziguinchor to Cap skiring (which is often used by groups of tourists during daylight hours) and on the road north of the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border, from Sao Domingos to Ziguinchor (N4 bis). If you travel on either of these roads, you should do so only during daylight hours and monitor the local security situation before travelling. This has resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, authorities in Senegal have increased security in the capital city as well as along the border with Mali. MS Risk advises that al-Qaeda militants may cross the border into Senegal and they may target Western interests as well as foreigners.

On Land:

- 4 May 2013** - Security sources have confirmed that twelve bomb disposal experts have been abducted in southern Senegal by suspected separatist rebels. According to sources, the “armed band” was suspected to belong to the Casamance Movement for Democratic Forces (MFDC), which has been fighting to gain independence in southern Senegal for the past three decades. Sources close to the government’s mine-clearing agency have confirmed twelve were abducted Friday in the village of Kailou, which is located about 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the region’s main city of Ziguinchor. Reports have also indicated that the hostages include women. The MFDC has been fighting for independence for Casamance, a region that is separated from northern Senegal by Gambia, since 1982 in what has become west Africa’s longest-running conflict. The fighting has claimed thousands of lives and has further displaced thousands more. Update - Military and civilian officials have confirmed that gunmen suspected of belonging to a Senegalese separatist group have abducted twelve employees of a South African mine clearance company in the Casamance region. The workers, all Senegalese, were on their way to inspect a mine field that had been cleared of explosives when they were kidnapped on Friday by men believed to be members of the MFDC.

Domestic News:

- **4 May 2013** - The justice ministers from Senegal and Chad have signed an agreement on Friday which will effectively allow Senegalese judges to carry out investigations in Chad on the alleged wartime crimes that were committed during the reign of former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre. According to Human Rights Watch, this will ‘Greatly facilitate’ the work of the court and help move the long-delayed case forward. As part of the case being brought against him by a special tribunal in Dakar, Senegalese judges will now have the ability to investigate the alleged wartime crimes of Hissene Habre within Chad. Habre, who ruled Chad from 1982 until a 1990 military coup, has been accused of more than 40,000 political killings, systematic torture and human rights violations. He has been living in Dakar under house arrest since 1990. Senegal and the African Union (AU) signed an agreement in December 2012 in order to set up the court, which has a budget of 7.4 million euros (US \$9.7 million) to try Habre for offences allegedly committed between 1982 and 1990. He is accused of crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture during his eight years in power in Chad where rights groups report that some 40,000 people were killed under his rule. The AU had mandated Senegal to try Habre in July 2006 however the country stalled the process for years under former president Abdoulaye Wade. His successor, Macky Sall, who took office in April 2012, ruled out extraditing Habre to Belgium, which has prepared to try him. Instead vowing to organize a trial in Senegal.



Hijackings:

- **30 April 2013** - Security sources have confirmed that pirates have kidnapped five crew members from a cargo ship off Nigeria. According to a security sources, the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged MV City of Xiamen container ship was attacked late on 25 April off the coast of the oil-producing Bayelsa state. The crew mostly comprises of Sri Lankans however there is one Russian crew member on board and one from Myanmar. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), fourteen heavily armed pirates attacked the container ship, breached its citadel and took five crew members captive before escaping with cash that was taken from the ship and the crew. According to the IMB, pirates in a speed boat off Nigeria had chased and fired upon another container ship on 24 April however the vessel had increased speed and managed to escape being hijacked.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **7 May 2013** - Seven armed pirates in a speed boat approached and fired upon a Panama-flagged bulk carrier, Centenario Blu, while underway at 1458 UTC in position 04:43.3N - 008:20.7E, Calabar River, Nigeria. Master raised the alarm, increased the speed, and sent a distress message. The SSAS was activated and all non-essential crew members were mustered into the citadel. The pirates aborted the attack and moved away when they heard the ship's alarm. The crew members on board the vessel sustained no injuries.
- **9 May 2013** - Eight persons in a boat came alongside and attempted to board an anchored crude tanker at 2230 UTC while in position 06:04N - 001:15.9E, around 3.5 nautical miles south-east of Lome, Togo. Alert duty crew spotted the approach and sounded the alarm, informing the Togo Navy. They identified the boat using the spotlight and activated the fire hoses in order to water the deck. The boat was observed attempting to come along side from various directions however the water from the fire houses flooded the vessel and resulted in the attempted boarding begin aborted. A Togo navy boat immediately responded and a navy boat arrived at the location within twenty minutes. All crew have been reported safe.
- **4 May 2013** - Bahamas-flagged container ships, the CMA CGM Africa Four, reported being attacked by seven armed pirates in a speed boat at 0940 UTC while in position 04:02.30N - 006:54.90E, approximately 28 nautical miles south-west of Bonny, Nigeria. The master raised the alarm, increased the ship's speed, sent a distress message, activated the SSAS and mustered all the non-essential crew members into the citadel. The pirates close in to a distance of 60 - 70 metres upon which they began to fire at the ship using automatic guns. At 0953 UTC, the pirates aborted the attack and moved away as the distance between the ship and the boat increased. The crew members on board the vessel suffered no injuries. The vessel safely reached Onne, Nigeria.

- Meanwhile a Vanuatu-flagged refrigerated tanker, the Frio Athens, was attacked by six to eight pirates in a speed boat. The pirates chased and fired at the ship which was at the time underway at 1135 UTC in position 03:49.50N - 006:41.20E, approximately 33 nautical miles south-west of Bonny River, Fairway Buoy, Nigeria. The master enforced anti-piracy measures and managed to move away. All the crew members on board were safe however the vessel sustained minor damage due to the firing.



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