



# 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

July 8 – 21, 2013



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### Security Summaries for West African States

#### Burkina Faso

#### Central African Republic

##### *Domestic News*

- **16 July 2013** - The CAR's Interim President Michel Djotodia announced late on Monday that "security has returned" to much of the CAR despite continued reports of disappearances, theft and other alleged abuses against civilians by rebels and other armed groups.

##### *International Developments*

- **11 July 2013** - The European Union is set to increase its aid to the CAR in order to tackle a humanitarian crisis that has gripped the impoverished nation since rebels seized power in March.
- **9 July 2013** - The new top envoy for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in the CAR, General Babacar Gaye, arrived in Bangui today.

## Ghana

- **15 July 2013** - Thousands of Chinese nationals have been deported from Ghana in a crackdown on the looting of the country's gold by illegal miners.

## Guinea

### *On Land*

- **17 July 2013** - At least sixteen people have been burned alive or hacked to death with machetes, while dozens more have been wounded after two days of ethnic clashes took place in Guinea.
- **18 July 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Guinea has deployed security forces to towns in the southeast in a bid to stem three days of ethnic violence which has killed at least seventeen people.

### *Domestic News*

- **13 July 2013** - A court in Guinea has handed out life sentences to two ringleaders of a failed assassination attempt on President Alpha Conde that rocked the nation just seven months after the first-ever democratic presidential elections were held.

## Guinea-Bissau

### *On Land*

- **12 July 2013** - Nine Senegalese nationals working for a demining organization in Guinea-Bissau were freed on Friday after being held captive by separatist rebels in Senegal's southern region of Casamance.

## Mali

### *On the Ground Analysis*

- **16 July 2013** - The French foreign ministry announced on Sunday in Paris that the body of a French hostage, who was announced killed by his al-Qaeda captors back in March of this year, has "very likely" been found in Mali.

### *Domestic News*

- **17 July 2013** - A presidential candidate, who called for the 28 July elections to be delayed, has withdrawn from the race.
- **16 July 2013** - Mali's two main political parties have pledged to accept the results of this month's presidential election even though it was likely to be marred by technical problems as the West African country struggles to emerge from conflict.
- **10 July 2013** - Mali's Interim President Dioncounda Traore has promised that the July 28 presidential elections will be fair.

### *International Developments*

- **15 July 2013** - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for the international community to respect the results of Mali's upcoming elections even if the vote is "imperfect."

## Mauritania

### *Domestic News*

- **16 July 2013** - Meanwhile in Mauritania, a court on Sunday freed a Canadian who was jailed for attempting to join an al-Qaeda training camp in neighbouring Mali.

## Niger

### *Domestic News*

- **8 July 2013** - In a statement that was published by online news agency ANI, an al-Qaeda splinter group, founded by Algerian jihadi mastermind Mokhtar Belmokhtar, has claimed that it is responsible for a deadly prison break that was carried out last month in Niger.

## Nigeria

### *On Land*

- **19 July 2013** - A diplomat and a private security source have indicated that a British national has been kidnapped by gunmen shortly after landing at the international airport in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city.
- **18 July 2013** - Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has announced that Nigeria is planning to withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali.
- **14 July 2013** - Nigeria's military claimed on Sunday that it rescued a number of women and children who were being held hostage in a Boko Haram Islamist stronghold, further indicating that its troops killed several insurgents during a number of gun battles which occurred in the area.
- **12 July 2013** - A high court judge has refused bail for three Lebanese-Nigerian men who have been accused of stockpiling an arms cache in Nigeria's troubled north for the Lebanese political party and militant movement Hezbollah.
- **10 July 2013** - Nigerian security forces fired tear gas on Wednesday in order to prevent hundreds of youths loyal to President Goodluck Jonathan, and his bitter rival Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi, clashing in the main oil hub of Port Harcourt.
- **9 July 2013** - Four alleged members of Boko Haram have been sentenced to life for their role in bomb attacks that killed nineteen people.
- **8 July 2013** - In recent weeks, Islamist extremists in Nigeria have massacred dozens of students in the northeastern regions of the country, effectively opening a new phase in their insurgency despite a nearly two-month-old military offensive against them.

## *Domestic News*

- **15 July 2013** - Nigeria's military announced on Monday that a two-month-old offensive in the northeastern regions of the country has "substantially achieved" the aim of destroying Islamist bases, as well as killing or capturing a number of fighters and freeing many victims who were being held as hostages.
- **12 July 2013** - Nigeria has stopped blocking the mobile phone signal in one of the three states where an emergency was declared because of an increase in militant attacks.

## *International Developments*

- **8 July 2013** - Support for two extremists groups, Minbar Ansar Deen and Boko Haram, is to be made a criminal offence in the United Kingdom.

## **Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea**

### *At Sea*

#### *Hijacks*

- **16 July 2013** - Armed pirates in two speedboats approached, boarded and hijacked a Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker, the Ocean Centurion, at 0430 LT, approximately 45 nautical miles south-east of Lome, Togo.
- **14 July 2013** - Officials confirmed on Monday that pirates have seized a Malta-flagged, Turkey-owned tanker, the MV Cotton, off the coast of Port-Gentil, Gabon.

#### *Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies*

- **19 July 2013** - Vanuatu-flagged, US-operates OSV, the C Viking, reported being attacked by pirates at 01:00 LT near position 04:18 N - 007:46E, Usari field, offshore Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.
- **18 July 2013** - Duty Officer on board an anchored USA-flagged bulk carrier, the Liberty Grace, spotted an unlit skiff with 5 - 6 persons on board approaching the bulk carrier at 0150 UTC in position 06:05N - 001:17E, approximately 3 nautical miles off Lome breakwater, Togo.
- **14 July 2013** - Around twenty armed robbers in a speed boat approached and boarded a Gabon-flagged landing craft, the Renovation, while underway at 2246 UTC in position 00:29S - 008:51E, Port Gentil, Gabon.

#### *Suspicious Activity*

- **10 July 2013** - Armed security personnel on board an anchored chemical tanker noticed a small boat with an unknown number of persons approaching at 0330 UTC while in position 06:17.8N - 003:21.2E, around 5.4 nautical miles south-west of Fairway Buoy, Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria.

## **About MS Risk**

## Security Summaries for West African States

**Benin** - Although there is currently no travel advisory for Benin, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. There have been incidents of mugging, personal assault and car-jacking in Cotonou. Armed robberies have also been reported in other areas, most notably in those regions that border Nigeria.

**Burkina Faso** - [Click Here](#)

**Cameroon** - On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamwa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon. MS RISK advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the Ndiain Division of the South West Province. We also advise against all travel to within 40km of the border with Chad in the North and Far North Provinces. This is due to a heightened risk of banditry and armed poachers in Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the North Province. There is currently a travel advisory north of Maroua in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. We also advise against all but essential travel to within 40 km of the border with the Central African Republic. Incidents of armed banditry have been reported in this area. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future which may cause strikes and civil unrest throughout the country. Finally, there have been attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, including the coastline of Cameroon around the port of Douala. Vessels travelling throughout this area have been advised to exercise extreme caution.

**Central African Republic** - [Click Here](#)

**Equatorial Guinea** - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea. Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports of petty theft which has affected both visitors and expatriates. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid walking around Malabo and Bata at night and to avoid travelling by road after dark. Although the political situation has been calm in recent years, you should be aware that political events can lead to an increased presence of police, military or security forces on the streets. Consequently you should avoid any political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings. There is a low threat from terrorism; however you should be aware that attacks can occur at any time and place, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.

**Gabon** - There is a low threat from terrorism. Crime is increasing in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been incidents of robbery, armed attacks and rape. Consequently MS Risk advises you to take sensible personal security precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. Avoid isolated or poorer areas of towns and walking alone at night. There have been a number of car-jackings in Libreville. There have been attacks of armed robbery on commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.

**Gambia** - There is no travel advisory for Gambia, however MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance, in the southern region of Senegal. The Casamance region of south western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Due to the French military intervention in Mali, coupled with The Gambia's stated commitment to participate in the intervention, there is a possibility that retaliatory attacks that target Western interests in the region, may be carried out. Travellers to the country are warned to remain vigilant as attacks can take place at anytime and anywhere. Following a political disagreement between the government of The Gambia and the Europa Union, pertaining to the deterioration of human rights in The Gambia, there has been an increase of political tensions which may lead to unannounced demonstrations in Banjul as well as in other parts of the country. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid all demonstrations.

**Ghana** - [Click Here](#)

**Guinea** - [Click Here](#)

**Guinea-Bissau** - [Click Here](#)



**Ivory Coast** - 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 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. There recently was an attack that occurred in the Boufla CI concession, in which a group of armed men, numbering about ten, engaged in banditry . According to on the ground sources, the attack lasted for fifteen minutes during which the victim's personal belongings were stolen from him. However no injuries were reported. The attack occurred during daylight hours. Consequently any individuals in this particular region are reminded to be extremely vigilant.

**Liberia** - MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to parts of Liberia. There is a high level of crime in Monrovia, including armed robbery. The Liberian National Police has a very limited capability to prevent or detect crime, or to provide emergency response in any part of the country. Foreigners have been mugged in the Mamba Point and Sinkor areas of Monrovia, where most international visitors stay. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks could be carried out in Liberia, this is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali.

**Mali** - [Click Here](#)

**Mauritania** - [Click Here](#)

**Niger** - [Click Here](#)

**Nigeria** - [Click Here](#)

**Senegal** - 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. There have been a number of deaths and injuries. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places 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.

**Sierra Leone** - There is currently no travel advisory for Sierra Leone. Violent incidents have taken place under cover of crowds in the streets of Freetown. There are also occasional small riots between rival groups of youths in the central and eastern areas of Freetown. If you encounter such an incident, you should leave the area immediately. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks may be carried out in Sierra Leone. This is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali.

**Togo** - There is currently no travel advisory for Togo. Legislative elections will be held on 25 July 2013, which has been declared a public holiday. Consequently MS Risk advises you to avoid all demonstrations and large gatherings anywhere in the country as they could quickly become violent. In the past, demonstrators have targeted foreigners. There have previously been riots and protests in Lome in August 2012 and in April 2013. Crime is on the rise in Lome. Local authorities warn of a rise in violent robberies and car-jacking incidents that target both foreigners and Togolese alike. Togolese authorities have also warned motorists to only stop for



individuals in uniform, particularly after dark. You should avoid travelling alone where possible even within Lome city limits, especially after dark. There is a possibility of retaliatory attacks in Togo, due to its participation in the intervention in Mali.

Avoid ALL  
travel to part(s)  
of country



Burkina Faso

## Security Summary

Any citizens traveling to, and residing in, Burkina Faso are urged to exercise and maintain a high level of security awareness at all times.

### *Threats and Concerns*

There is a general threat from terrorism throughout the Sahel region. Given the on-going French military intervention in Mali, the threat of retribution against Western private sector interests, especially French, has increased. Although there are currently no known Islamist operatives in Burkina Faso, the country's shared border with Mali may enable such elements to gain access. Furthermore, such militants may have disguised themselves as refugees in an attempt to blend in and to cross the border without detection. The regional Islamist elements that could threaten Burkina Faso include: al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Ansar al Dine, Ansar al Sharia and Boko Haram.

### *Kidnapping Threats*

Over the past several weeks, regional Islamist militants, such as members of AQIM, have specifically targeted Westerners for kidnapping for ransom in neighbouring countries. Although no known kidnappings have taken place in Burkina Faso, the instability throughout the region, specifically in Mali, has increased potential vulnerabilities. Intelligence reports have confirmed that terrorists are highly likely to be planning kidnap operations from Burkina Faso. Consequently there is a heightened risk that such kidnap activity may cross the northern borders from Niger and Mali into Burkina Faso. MS RISK advises against all travel to the northern region of Burkina Faso, specifically north of the town of Boulou, which is located 25km north of the capital city of Ouagadougou. This includes the border provinces of Lebara, Kenedougou, Banwa, Kossi, Sourou, Yatenga, Loroum, Soum, Oudalan, Seno, Yagha, Komondjari and





Tapoa. Since 2008, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has captured over 25 hostages of a variety of nationalities, primarily European, and a number of these hostages are still being held.

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

#### ***MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Burkina Faso:***

Although the biggest concern at this time remains in the northern areas of the country, specifically along the porous Mali border and at the junction of the Niger border, the attack and kidnapping in Algeria has demonstrated that such attacks can occur at any place and at any time. In addition, the attack on BP in Algeria came just days after Islamists announced that they would retaliate against French interests in the region. Consequently, it is highly likely that more attacks will take place over the coming months.

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

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

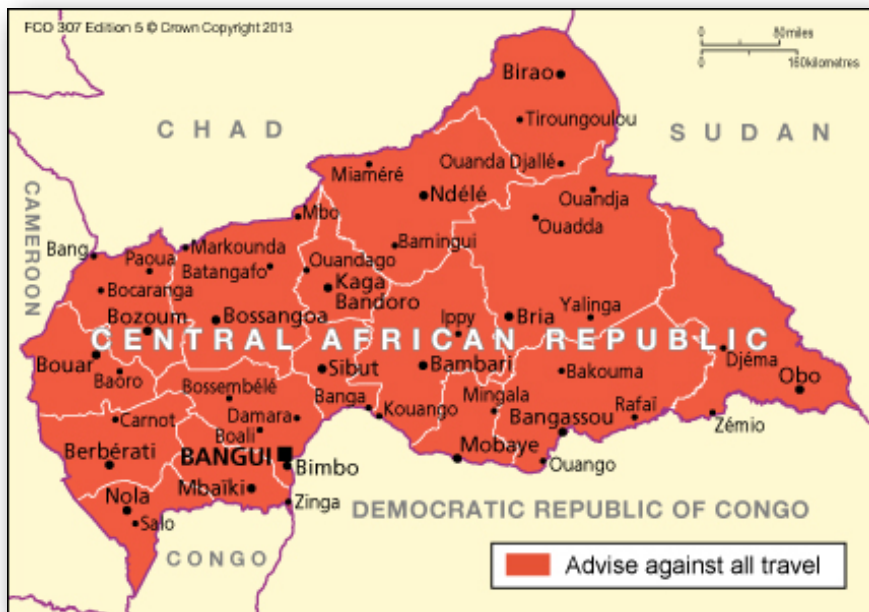
Finally, unconfirmed reports suggest there is an elevated banditry threat on the main routes south and east of the town of Fada N'Gourma en route to Pama and Diapala respectively. Road moves to these areas should be risk assessed and liaison with police should occur until the nature of the threats has been clarified. Companies with operations in the region are invited to report incidents to MS Risk to aid in assessing local conditions. Liaising with insurers to ensure appropriate cover is in place to meet special risks where needed is also strongly advised.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

## Security Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). The armed rebel coalition Seleka has renewed its offensive against President Francois Bozize's government and has taken control of the capital, Bangui. Security throughout the country continues to rapidly deteriorate with gunfire, violence and widespread looting reported throughout the capital.



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 Bangui. While a ceasefire agreement was made in Libreville, Gabon on 11 January 2013, the situation remained fragile and unpredictable. The rebels restarted their offensive in mid-March and took control of Bangui on 24 March.

Currently the government has very limited control over much of the country and there are reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking country-wide. Reports have also surfaced that hospitals throughout Bangui are running dangerously low on supplies and the situation there remains fragile, and a curfew is in place from midnight to 4am and the streets should be avoided during this time. At other times, MS Risk advises extreme care, and to travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and roadblocks - both official and unofficial - that are likely to be manned by armed personnel and particular care should be taken when approaching these.

Any individuals in the country are advised to leave now. Anyone who remains should take all necessary precautions and 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 anyone remaining in the country to keep up to date with local political developments and to avoid all political rallies, demonstrations and large public gatherings. Any individuals in the country are advised to leave now. Those who remain should take all the necessary precautions 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

- **16 July 2013** - The CAR's Interim President Michel Djotodia announced late on Monday that "security has returned" to much of the CAR despite continued reports of disappearances, theft and other alleged abuses against civilians by rebels and other armed groups. The announcement was made as the Interim CAR president visited Burkina Faso on Monday in order to request the support of Burkinabe president, and regional powerbroker, Blaise Compaore. During his visit, the interim president also dismissed media reports of "rampant insecurity in the country," stating that he does not know what is behind these reports of insecurity. He further continued by stating that the capital city, Bangui, is now calm and that the "big problem" that remains is the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which, according to the president, is still active in the far northeast and eastern regions of the country. However residents in the capital city have provided a different story, stating that Seleka fighters continue to commit abuses against civilians, nearly four months after the rebel takeover. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has also indicated that it has documented raids by Seleka fighters and other armed groups against villages in the rural areas outside Bangui as recent as June.

## International Developments

- **11 July 2013** - The European Union is set to increase its aid to the CAR in order to tackle a humanitarian crisis that has gripped the impoverished nation since rebels seized power in March. The toppling of former president Francois Bozize, by the Seleka rebel coalition, plunged the former French colony into chaos and Interim President Michel Djotodia, the leader of the Seleka coalition, has failed to establish security even in Bangui, forcing a number of humanitarian groups to pull back many of their staff. Kristalina Georgieva, the EU Commissioner responsible for international cooperation and humanitarian aid, indicated on Thursday that Europe would provide an additional US \$8 million (£5.2 million), bringing the total aid since the start of the year to US \$20 million. During a visit to Bangui, the capital city, Ms. Georgieva stated that "the whole country, more than 4 million people, is hit by the current crisis and suffering looting and human rights violations. I call on our international partners in humanitarian aid and development to redouble their efforts to end the suffering of the population of Central African Republic." Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) accused the international community this week of turning its back on the mineral-rich nation, which has been devastated by more than a decade of sporadic violence. Four months after rebels seized Bangui, government and health services across the country are close to collapse while armed groups terrorise civilians. Looting and attacks are commonplace within Bangui. Ms. Georgieva further indicated that since December, the conflict has displaced some 206,000 people with the CAR and has pushed 55,000 refugees across its borders into the neighbouring states. Valerie Amos, deputy UN security general in charge of humanitarian affairs, who accompanied Ms. Georgieva on the trip, also noted that 1.6 million people in the CAR were at risk of malnutrition, adding that the EU donation would be spend on food and medical supplies along with clean water and hygiene.

- **9 July 2013** - The new top envoy for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in the CAR, General Babacar Gaye, arrived in Bangui today. Mr. Gaye, who is also head of the UN Integrated Peace building Office for the CAR, known as BINUCA, has reaffirmed the commitment of BINUCA and the UN country team to pursue “the necessary assistance to the Central African people to put in place needed priorities and build the foundation for sustainable development.” Since the Seleka rebel coalition launched its offensive in December 2012, 1.2 million people in the CAR have been cut off from essential services, while human rights violations have been widespread. Mr. Gaye noted that the four priority axes of intervention in the country, as identified by the UN, were restoration of security throughout the national territory, respect for human rights, humanitarian assistance and the re-launch of political dialogue. BINUCA’s conversion in January 2010 to an “integrated” mission was designed to ensure the coherence of peace-building support activities by the various UN entities present in the CAR. Early in the current crisis, a peace accord, known as the Libreville Agreements, was signed on 11 January in Gabon, and it called for the establishment of a National Transitional Council that would elect a transitional government. The rebels however claimed that the government was not complying with its obligation under the accord. They would continue to gain territory and would eventually overrun Bangui in late March.

No travel restrictions for this country



Ghana

*There is currently no travel advisory for this country, however over the past year, there has been an increase in violent robberies. In May of this year, an expatriates vehicle was stopped by an armed individual who forced his way into the car, demanding money. On being paid, the individual left the vehicle. During a separate incident, an expatriate was robbed of her wallet while trying to pay a taxi driver. There have been reports that two westerners were shot while driving along at night and of a further two westerners being robbed at gunpoint at a restaurant. Both incidents occurred in the Accra area. There was a separate report of a robbery occurring in the Tema area, which resulted in the fatality of a westerner. There have been other reports of foreign nations being held at gun-point in their homes and while walking in the street. Most armed robberies occur at night however some incidences have occurred during daytime. A common tactic is to deliberately cause a minor road traffic accident in order to force you to stop. As a result of ongoing local Chieftancy and land disputes, isolated inter-ethnic violence and civil unrest can occur at any time including in the Northern, Upper East and Volta Regions. A dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed on the Hohoe community in the Volta Region. This is due to communal clashes over the exhumation of Chief Imam of Hohoe. If you are considering to travel to the Northern Region, MS Risk advises you to remain alert to the potential of new outbreaks of fighting. There is an underlying threat from terrorism.*

## On Land

- 15 July 2013** - Thousands of Chinese nationals have been deported from Ghana in a crackdown on the looting of the country's gold by illegal miners. Ghana's immigration authorities have confirmed that more than 4,500 Chinese nationals have been repatriated after a series of raids on illegal goldmines. However Ghana's government, which depends heavily on China for billions of dollars in loans and which is a major trading partner, now believes that Beijing may be retaliating, a move which may damage relations between the two countries. According to Alhaji Inusah Fuseini, Ghana's minister of lands and mines, "of late, we have seen a tightening of the visa regime at the Chinese embassy for Ghanaians. We don't know whether this is a manifestation of our actions to deport illegal Chinese goldminers." He further noted that "this is a matter for concern. Relations between China and Ghana go back a long way, and they had been on the rise until we started the expulsion of foreigners from our illegal mining sites. We didn't think China would take it to this extent." In response, China has denied that any of its actions are in retaliation for the deportation of illegal immigrants from Ghana. Furthermore, officials in Ghana claim that delays in Ghana being able to access a US \$3bn loan facility agreed with China recently were related to current events. According to the ministry for lands and mines, so far this year, 1,577 illegal foreign miners have been arrested by Ghanaian authorities while more than 3,800 have been submitted to deportation on a voluntary basis. Immigration authorities have stated that in June and July of this year, 4,592



Chinese illegal immigrants were deported. Michael Amoako-Atta, a spokesman for Ghana's immigration service indicated that "all these Chinese workers were involved in illegal employment in Ghana, the majority in illegal gold mining." He further noted that "this is only the first phase of our operations, we will be continuing in due course." Earlier this year, the scale of illegal Chinese gold mining in Ghana was exposed after information was released pertaining to the widespread excavating and the use of toxic chemicals as well as allegations of human rights abuses. Since then, the government has launched a number of raids through the combined military, immigration and police task forces. Officials have stated that towns which have swelled with the presence of illegal miners have now been significantly affected.



No travel restrictions for this country

*There is currently a low threat from terrorism. Serious ethnic violence is occurring in N'Zerekore, which is located in the far south-eastern region of the country. A number of people have reportedly been killed while others have been severely injured. There have also been reports that properties have been destroyed. The violence follows an incident which occurred on 14 July in Koule, which is located about 25 miles north of N'Zerekore. There are currently reports that the violence is spreading further into other parts of the "Guinea Forestiere" region. MS Risk advises any travellers to Guinea to avoid this region as continued attacks are likely to occur. Due to the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, there is a possibility that retaliatory attacks targeting Western interests may be carried out in the region. Over the past several weeks, there has been extensive rioting and violence that has occurred in Conakry. Up to ten people are reported to have been killed in Conakry in the latest outbreaks of violence, on 25 and 25 May. The suburbs of Hamdallaye, Bambeto and Cosa have been especially affected. With Guinea's opposition parties pulling out of UN-mediated elections talks, and with the likelihood of elections being pushed back, it is highly likely that violent protests and demonstrations will continue to occur in the capital city. MS Risk advises to maintain extreme vigilance, and to monitor local media and to avoid large gatherings. Guinean authorities maintain police and local militia checkpoints throughout the entire country as such you are advised to carry the appropriate form of identification (such as a passport or residence card) with you at all times.*

## On Land

- **17 July 2013** - At least sixteen people have been burned alive or hacked to death with machetes, while dozens more have been wounded after two days of ethnic clashes took place in Guinea. The violence in the West African state broke out in the southern forest region early on Monday when petrol station guards from the Guerze tribe in the town of Koule beat to death an ethnic Konianke youth whom they had accused of stealing. Fighting rapidly spread to the nearby provincial capital of N'Zerekore, which is located 570 kilometers (350 miles) southeast of Conakry. Several homes have

been destroyed as a result of the fighting. According to Damantang Albert Camara, who is a government spokesman, “the violence recorded since Monday in Koule, and then in N’Zerekore, has left 16 people dead and some 80 wounded.” He further indicated that security forces have been deployed “en masse” to the affected regions and that calm was beginning to return to the streets. During a televised address to the nation, Guinea’s President called for calm and unity and has promised to bring those behind the violence to justice. A number of witnesses have reported that members of the Guerzes and Koniankes tribes have been attacking one another with machetes, axes, sticks, stones and firearms, and that some of the houses and cars in the region had been set on fire. Communal violence has been common in the region, which is located near the border with Liberia, where clashes between the two tribes regularly break out over religious and other grievances. The indigenous Guerze are mostly Christian or animist, while the Konianke are Muslims who are considered to be close to Liberia’s Mandingo ethnic community. During Liberia’s civil war, which concluded in 2003, rebels fighting the forces of then-president Charles Taylor drew much of their support from the Mandingo community. The Guerze, who are known as Kpelle in Liberia, were generally considered to be supporters of forces who were loyal to Taylor who was jailed last year for “aiding and abetting” war crimes in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

- 18 July 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Guinea has deployed security forces to towns in the southeast in a bid to stem three days of ethnic violence which has killed at least seventeen people. Guinea’s second largest city, N’Zerekore, along with the surrounding regions near the border with the Ivory Coast, have been gripped by clashes which have occurred between local communities after a man who was accused of being a thief was lynched on Sunday. Government spokesman Damantang Albert Camara has indicated that the death toll has risen to seventeen after a death was reported on Wednesday in Beyla, a town located near N’Zerekore. About ninety people have been injured in the violence. After several days of fighting between the ethnic gangs, residents have indicated that security forces arrived in N’Zerekore, Beyla and nearby Koule, where the initial killing took place. The violence comes shortly after Guinea’s rival political parties agreed to hold legislative elections on September 24. The decision comes months after a deadlock and street protests, which often degenerated into ethnic clashes. **Update** - Authorities in Guinea on Thursday identified the bodies of those people who were hacked or burned to death. They also rounded up dozens of suspects after days of ethnic clashes that have killed fifty-eight people and injured at least 160 more. Furthermore, residents have indicated that the towns in southeastern Guinea, where the military has moved into restore order, have been mostly calm after days of violence between rival communities.

## Domestic News

- 13 July 2013** - A court in Guinea has handed out life sentences to two ringleaders of a failed assassination attempt on President Alpha Conde that rocked the nation just seven months after the first-ever democratic presidential elections were held. Another six defendants have received jail terms ranging from five to fifteen years. Around sixty people were arrested in connection with the attack, which occurred on 20 July 2011, during which rogue soldiers opened fire on President Conde’s residence, attacking it with bazookas and rocket-propelled grenades in a two-hour gun battle. Although the president was unhurt during the attack, a member of his presidential guard was killed and two others were injured. A total of thirty-one civilians and soldiers had been charged with a variety of offenses relating to the incident, including criminal conspiracy, breach of state security, murder and attempted murder of the head of state. Charges of attempted assassination against seventeen alleged co-conspirators were dropped in March of last year. Shortly after the attack, President Conde indicated that he had suspected the assassination plot had been organized in Dakar, with the knowledge of the Senegalese and Gambian governments, an accusation that has been strongly denied by both administrations.

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



*There are currently no restrictions on travel to Guinea-Bissau. Although the security situation is currently calm, 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

- 12 July 2013** - Nine Senegalese nationals working for a demining organization in Guinea-Bissau were freed on Friday after being held captive by separatist rebels in Senegal's southern region of Casamance. According to reports, the nine were part of a group of twelve employees from South African demining firm Mechem who were kidnapped by a faction of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance on 4 May of this year. According to Senegal's state news agency APS, "they were released and handed over to a Guinea-Bissau-based NGO who will hand them to Bissau authorities...they will later be transferred to Senegalese officials at the border on Saturday." The release of the nine Senegalese nationals follows the May 29 release of three women who were kidnapped with the group. The Casamance rebels have waged a thirty-one-year low-level insurgency to gain independence in Senegal's southern border region with Guinea-Bissau. The conflict is largely dormant however there have been sporadic flare-ups between rebels and Senegal's army. Banditry and drug trafficking are common in the isolated region, which was once a major tourist destination.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

## Security Summary

### Terrorism

Currently there is a high threat from terrorism in Mali. Although the Government of Mali declared a State of Emergency across the whole country on 12 January 2013, that state of emergency has now been lifted. 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 neighboring

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.

There have been incidents of armed banditry, car-jacking, and kidnap in the northern regions of Mali. Bandits and smugglers are particularly active across the Mali-Algeria, Mali-Burkina Faso, Mali-Mauritania and Mali-Niger borders and pose a threat to travellers, especially after dark. Authorities in Mali have provided the following numbers in case of emergencies:

- 80 00 11 14
- 80 00 11 15
- 20 22 13 35
- 20 23 95 15
- 20 23 95 11

#### *Kidnapping*

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 country, 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 to the previous advice which has been given. MS RISK currently advises against all travel to Mali.

#### *Local Travel*

Although the ongoing military intervention has regained control of the major northern cities in Mali, the situation remains tense in the region and there continues to be a high risk of retaliatory action by terrorist groups. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern region of Mali, especially to the



cities/towns of Gao, In Khalil, Kidal, and Timbuktu as well as the surrounding areas. Landmines have been used by groups operating in the north and northeast of Mali.

Night-time checkpoints continue to operating Bamako. These checkpoints largely control access to military and Government facilities. Checkpoints are in place from approximately 9PM until dawn. MS Risk advises to keep vehicle and personal identification documents with you at all times while travelling by road. Furthermore, approach security checkpoints slowly and comply with instructions that are given.

### **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 Events**

- **8 July** - The United Nations named a Senegalese and an American as top deputies for its stabilization mission in Mali. Abdoulaye Bathily of Senegal and David Gressly of the United States will serve under the UN special representative for Mali, Bert Koenders of the Netherlands. Mr. Bathily is currently the minister of the presidency of Senegal, a post he has held since 2012. He served in various ministerial posts from 1993 to 2001, when he was elected to Senegal's national assembly. He was vice president of the assembly from 2001 to 2006. Mr. Gressly, a twenty-year veteran of the UN agencies, notably UNICEF, has been serving as Mr. Koenders' deputy on an interim basis. He will also serve as the UN coordinator for humanitarian affairs in Mali. Last year, he coordinated the UN's relief efforts in the Sahel.

- **12 July** - The governor of a city in northern Mali, which was under rebel control, has returned to Bamako amidst warnings from Tuareg separatists that he was unwelcome. Col. Adama Kamissoko left Kidal on Friday, just one day after his return to the northern town, however he has denied that his trip had anything to do with security issues, noting that he left his team in Kidal in order to distribute materials for the country's upcoming elections. Government officials were initially driven out of the city sixteen months ago by a mixture of rebel groups following the March 2012 military coup.
- **14 July** - According to medical sources, two Malian civilians are currently fighting for their lives after being shot in Kidal. A hospital source in Gao indicated that "two civilians seriously injured by gunshots from armed men were transferred on Tuesday to Gao. They are in very serious condition." The circumstances in which the two men were wounded currently remain unclear. Tension has been increasing just five days after troops entered the town in order to secure it for the upcoming nationwide elections. The violence came amidst intensified protests in the rebel stronghold, where the Tuareg separatist National Movement for the liberation of Azawad (MNLA) has allowed the Malian army to enter the town as part of a peace deal that was reached to pave the way for the July 28 elections. Meanwhile a US defence official has indicated that a US Reaper drone crashed in Mali in April of this year as it was carrying out a surveillance flight over the troubled West African state. According to the official, the robotic, unmanned aircraft went down due to "mechanical failure." Since February of this year, the United States has stationed two drones at an air base in Niamey in order to provide intelligence to French forces fighting in Mali. An initial deployment of a Predator drone was replaced by two MQ-9 Reaper drones, which can fly faster and have a longer range than the older Predator planes. Apart from sharing intelligence with the French military, the drones, along with more than 100 US Air Force troops, have also been stationed in Mali in order to help stem the flow of insurgents from neighbouring Mali into Niger, where authorities are increasingly concerned over the presence of regional militant groups.
- **18 July** - Nigeria announces that it will withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali as the troops are needed at home in order to tackle militant Islamists in the northern regions of Nigeria. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,600 African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July. The UN Force, which is known by its French acronym MINUSMA, is currently working with the Malian army to provide security for the elections. It is due to increase to 11,200 troops, plus an additional 1,400 police, by the end of this year.
- **19 July** - Officials have confirmed that at least one person was killed and several others left injured in ethnic clashes that occurred in the city of Kidal, which has complicated efforts to restore order ahead of the planned presidential elections which are set to occur next week. According to on the ground reports, the fight broke out late Thursday between a Tuareg, the lighter-skinned ethnic group which is dominant in Kidal and whose members tried to declare independence last year, and a member of the Songhai ethnicity, a dark-skinned, sub-Saharan ethnic group whose members support the Malian state. French forces, which are stationed in Kidal, shot into the air in order to disperse the two groups. Local military commander Colonel Didier Dako also confirmed that soldiers have been deployed in the town in order to quell the violence. Since arriving in Kidal last month, the soldiers have been confined to their barracks in order to avoid confrontation with the local population and the rebels. The fight between the separatists and those who back the Malian state has taken on a racial dimension in Kidal, as the city's dark-skinned inhabitants almost unanimously support the government. Earlier this year, in June, the Tuareg rebels rounded up dozens of black residents, accusing them of collaborating with the states. While dozens more fled southwards, to the more stabilized regions of the country for security reasons. **Update** - Local officials have indicated that election officials who were abducted by gunmen in northern Mali a week before the presidential elections have been freed. According to the officials, Tuareg rebels are suspected of having abducted the officials. According to Adama Kamissoko, the governor of the northern Kidal province, the workers has been kidnapped by fighters from a Tuareg rebel groups, with a number of officials indicating that the abduction was ordered by a member of the Tuareg

National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), who was arrested and who is now being questioned in Tessalit.

## On the Ground Analysis

- **16 July 2013** - The French foreign ministry announced on Sunday in Paris that the body of a French hostage, who was announced killed by his al-Qaeda captors back in March of this year, has “very likely” been found in Mali. The announcement was followed by French leaders vowing that “we will determine the cause of death and nothing will go unpunished.” While in Mauritania, a Canadian has been released after being charged with having links to al-Qaeda militants in Mali. Tests are currently being done in order to confirm if the body, which was found in early July, is in fact that of Philippe Verdon, who was kidnapped by militants belonging to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) from a hotel while on a business trip in northeastern Mali in November 2011. Foreign ministry spokesman Philippe Lallot indicated on Sunday that “there is a very strong possibility that a body recently found in northern Mali is unfortunately that” of Mr. Verdon. Earlier on Sunday, French President Francois Hollande also noted in an interview that Mr. Verdon had appeared to have been killed, stating that “we have the worst of news on Philippe Verdon...everything indicates that he died weeks ago.” According to reports, the body was found ten days ago in northern Mali. In March of this year, AQIM announced that it had killed 53-year-old Verdon, however French authorities had not officially confirmed his death at the time. With the announcement of a possible confirmation of the death of Philippe Verdon, it is necessary to note that AQIM is still holding eight Europeans hostage, including five French nationals. Thierry Dol, Daniel Larribe, Pierre Legrand and Marc Feret, who were mostly working for French public nuclear giant Areva and its subcontractor Satom, were kidnapped in Niger by al-Qaeda-linked militants on 16 September 2010. Francoise Larribe, wife of Daniel Larribe, was also captured, however she was released in 2011. The fifth French hostage, Serge Lazarevic, was kidnapped along with Mr. Verdon on the night of 24 November 2011 while they were staying at their hotel in Hombori. In late June of this year, AQIM indicated that the eight Europeans were still alive and that they would soon release a new video depicting the five Frenchmen. However no video has yet been released and their current whereabouts remain unknown. The families of the two men have insisted that they were no mercenaries or secret service agents however AQIM has firmly indicated that they were killed because of their role as spies for the French government. In response to the possible death of Mr. Verdon and the other hostages who remain in captivity, President Hollande indicated on Sunday that France was “doing everything” to bring the hostages back. **Update (17 July)** - According to sources on the ground in Paris, France, relatives and loved ones of Mr. Verdon gathered in a private room at Paris’s Charles de Gaulle airport in order to retrieve the body, which was flown back on an Air France plane that landed around 0700 GMT. An autopsy has been scheduled in order to determine exactly how he died. Mr. Verdon was known to have suffered from an ulcer and tachycardia when he had left for Mali in 2011. According Pascal Lupart, head of a support committee for Mr. Verdon, “for us, its possible that Philippe died because of his illnesses and that AQIM used this and staged a killing.” According to the Paris prosecutor’s office, Mr. Verdon was killed by a shot to the head. A statement released by the prosecutor’s office indicated that “after the return of the body to France, the autopsy...was able to establish that Philippe Verdon was murdered by being shot in the head.” The statement further noted that a preliminary investigation into the murder was opened. His body was found in the northern Mali town of Tessalit. AQIM has stated that he was killed in March in response to France’s military intervention in Mali.

## Domestic News

- **17 July 2013** - A presidential candidate, who called for the 28 July elections to be delayed, has withdrawn from the race. Mr. Tiebele Drame, from the Parena Party, stated to journalists in Bamako

that he had decided to pull out of the race as the voting process was flawed and thousands of people had been excluded from the electoral roll. He further noted that his withdrawal from the upcoming elections was due to his party's application to the Constitutional Court to postpone the vote, which had been met by a "deafening silence." He further indicated that the electoral process was flawed and that the country needed more time in order to recover from last year's coup. Although correspondents have indicated that Mr. Drame was not one of the leading presidential candidates, there are another twenty-seven on the ballot, and he is a respected long-time human rights activist and was a negotiator in the recent Tuareg peace deal, which saw Mali's army enter Kidal in order to secure the town prior to the upcoming presidential elections.

- **16 July 2013** - Mali's two main political parties have pledged to accept the results of this month's presidential election even though it was likely to be marred by technical problems as the West African country struggles to emerge from conflict. Tiemoko Sangare, a member of the Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADEMA), whose candidate Dramane Dembele is one of the leading contenders for the vote, has stated that "everyone is aware that there are shortcomings but at the same time everyone says it's important that we hold these elections as soon as possible." ADEMA party leader Dioncounda Traore is serving as Mali's interim president after last year's coup. Both local politicians and international advocacy groups have voiced their concerns that voting materials will not be properly distributed in time for the July 28 elections. In what is seen as an open race, twenty-eight candidates are contesting the presidency. A run-off will take place on August 11 if no one wins an outright majority during the first round. With just under two weeks left, interior ministry officials have said that 68 percent of Mali's 6.8 million registered voters have received their voting cards. However that rate falls to just 20 percent in the northern province of Kidal. Civilian administration only returned last week after a June ceasefire deal was reached with Tuareg rebels who captured the remote desert region after Islamist militants fled.
- **10 July 2013** - Mali's Interim President Dioncounda Traore has promised that the July 28 presidential elections will be fair. Speaking at a meeting on Tuesday with some candidates, Mr. Traore affirmed that "Maliens will not be denied the chance to elect a president of their choice," stressing that "you (the candidates) can be sure we shall not allow the elections to be rigged." The president also urged the candidates to adhere to the fundamental rules of democracy, especially in the area of elections where only one is chosen. He further noted that the task of the next Malian president will not be a picnic, and that on the contrary, his mandate will require the creation of opportunities and overcoming the many challenges facing the country. The meeting was attended by seventeen presidential candidates, while five others sent their representatives. Some of the leading candidates, including Soumaila Cisse of the URD party, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of the RPM party and Dramane Dembele of the ADEMA party were not present at the meeting.

## International Developments

- **15 July 2013** - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for the international community to respect the results of Mali's upcoming elections even if the vote is "imperfect." The Secretary General's statement comes amidst skepticism about the country's ability to stage the polls which are set to take place at the end of this month. Speaking in Paris, Mr. Ban told reporters that "the results, even if the election is imperfect, must be respected by all parties." After meeting with Mali's interim president Dioncounda Traore, along with French President Francois Hollande, Mr. Ban stated that he hoped the vote would be held "in a credible and peaceful manner, in a calm atmosphere." The first-round of presidential elections, which is due to be held on July 28, is seen as crucial to reuniting the deeply divided country after an 18-month political crisis that saw French forces intervene in January in order to push out Islamist rebels who had seized the northern region of the country. Much of the concern over the vote is focused on the northern town of Kidal. In turn, there are doubts about the authorities' ability to properly organize the vote in a country where 500,000 people have been displaced. While a number of critics have called for the elections to be delayed,

Mali's Foreign Minister Tieman Coulibaly indicated on Saturday that a delay would only prolong the political crisis, stating that "the elections will be credible and transparent, given our conditions - in other words, in a country that has experienced an occupation and where the population is traumatized."



## Security 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

- 16 July 2013** - Meanwhile in Mauritania, a court on Sunday freed a Canadian who was jailed for attempting to join an al-Qaeda training camp in neighbouring Mali. Aaron Yoon was serving two years in Nouakchott after he was convicted in July of last year, however his sentence was later reduced in an appeal brought by the prosecution who were asking for the term to be extended to ten years. According to a source, "the Canadian Aaron Yoon was

sentenced by an appeals court on Sunday to a year and a half in prison but he was already spent his time in jail and must therefore leave the penitentiary immediately." According to the indictment against him, Mr. Yoon was originally arrested in December 2011 when he attempted to visit the camps of AQIM in Mali. He however has denied any links to terrorism, stating that he had come to Mauritania from Morocco in order to study the Koran and to learn Arabic. However authorities in Mauritania have maintained that he had "strong links with AQIM terrorists and his plan to join the movement is indisputable." A judicial source further noted that "we cannot say how and when but he must leave the prison and will probably be removed from the country." There is currently no information as to whether Mr. Yoon will return to Canada.





Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking 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; areas within 40 km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder and Maradi provinces. MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city of Niamey. There remains a high threat from terrorism, including kidnapping, in Niger. On 1 June 2013, three guards were killed and twenty-two inmates escaped from the main prison in Niamey during an attack that was launched by suspected Islamist militants. Travellers in Niamey should continue to monitor developments and be alert to announcements and remain vigilant at all times. On 23 May 2013, a military barracks in the town of Agadez and a uranium processing facility near the town of Arlit, approximately 150 miles north of Agadez, were attacked. A number of people were killed and injured. The terrorist group which claimed responsibility for the two attacks has publicly threatened to carry out further attacks in Niger. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in its northern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Borno and Yobe border southern Niger. Consequently there is a risk that instability may spill over the border from Nigeria to Niger. There is a high threat of kidnapping from terrorist groups including AQIM and MOJWA. These terrorist groups have kidnapped Westerners in Niger and in the wider Sahel region, including in Niamey and the north and west of Niger. Further kidnappings are likely to occur. There is a threat of retaliatory attacks in Niger, due to the country's participation in the French-led intervention in Mali. Levels of crime are high, especially in the capital city of Niamey. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. Banditry, smuggling and other criminal activity is common in border areas, especially after dark. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria, south of Zinder. MS Risk advises to avoid crossing the border with Nigeria during the hours of darkness.

## On Land

- 8 July 2013** - In a statement that was published by online news agency ANI, an al-Qaeda splinter group, founded by Algerian jihadi mastermind Mokhtar Belmokhtar, has claimed that it is responsible for a deadly prison break that was carried out last month in Niger. Belmokhtar is a former leader of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which claimed responsibility for the May suicide bombings in Niger that killed at least twenty people. He left AQIM in late 2012 and formed a splinter group, known as the Signatories of blood, which claimed responsibility for the dramatic January seizing of a desert gas plant in Algeria in a siege that left thirty-seven hostages dead. The group has also claimed responsibility for the June Niger prison break that left three guards dead. According to a statement that was released by ANI, "combatants attacked prison guards and took

their weapons before seizing the armoury...to secure the prisoners' exit," On June 2, the Niger government confirmed that several terrorists had been among the twenty-two inmates who escaped the prison in Niger's capital Niamey. They included Cheibane Ould Hama who was convicted of killing four Saudis and a US citizen. The breakout occurred a little over a week after twin suicide bombings were carried out on an army base in Agadez and a French-run uranium mine in Arlit. Signatories in Blood has threatened to carry out further attacks in Niger and in any other country which has provided troops to the ongoing security operation in Mali.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Nigeria

## Security Summary

### Summary



On 14 May, the Nigerian Government declared a State of Emergency in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Since the announcement, military operations have been going on in all three states and curfews have been put in place in parts of Maiduguri, Borno state and Adamawa state. Curfews can be imposed,

amended and lifted at a short notice. Consequently you should be alert to announcements made by the respective State Governments and you are advised to monitor any developments in the affected states. There may be an increased threat of retaliatory attacks elsewhere in Nigeria following the commencement of military operations. 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 Adamawa State, Borno State, Yobe State, Gombe 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 focused 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 Land**

- **19 July 2013** - A diplomat and a private security source have indicated that a British national has been kidnapped by gunmen shortly after landing at the international airport in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. According to Wale Adebayo, spokesman at the Deputy High Commission in Lagos, "there was a kidnapping of a Briton and we are working with the Nigerian authorities." He declined to provide further details, including the day the attack occurred. A private security source familiar with the incident has indicated that the British man was abducted on Tuesday while travelling into the city after landing at the airport. According to the source, the attackers opened fire on the vehicle and "the driver was injured by a gunshot," before the Briton was seized. He further indicated that there were strong indications that the gunmen were seeking a ransom payment. This information however has not been confirmed by the UK's Foreign office, which has stated that "we are aware of reports of a missing person and we are liaising with the Nigerian authorities." There is typically heavy traffic well into the night on most of the roads that lead from the airport in the Ikeja neighbourhood towards central Lagos. However it currently remains unclear where the attack occurred or whether there were any witnesses nearby. The kidnaping for foreigners for ransom is common in Nigeria, particularly around the oil-rich southern coast. There has also been a rise of such incidents occurring in Lagos. In March of this year, a British man, working for the French energy company CGG, was kidnapped in the upscale Victoria Island area of the city. He was released days later. However officials refused to confirm reports that a ransom had been paid for his release. In the oil-producing Niger Delta region, foreigners working in the oil sector are often released following an armed abduction. Their employers and officials typically do not reveal details about ransoms. Foreigners have also been kidnapped in the northern regions of the country, however those attacks are considered different and have been blamed on Islamist extremists. A Briton was amongst seven foreigners kidnapped in February of this year from a construction site in the northern Bauchi state in an attack that was claimed by the Islamist group Ansaru. Ansaru later posted a video that appeared to show the corpses of some of the hostages. In 2010, 28-year-old Briton Chris McManus was abducted along with an Italian national, Franco Lamolianra, in the northern Kebbi state. They were both killed in the northwestern Sokoto State nearly a year later amidst a rescue operation which had been jointly planned by British and Nigerian authorities and authorized by British Prime Minister David Cameron. That attack was later blamed on Ansaru, a group which is seen as being an offshoot of Boko Haram.



- **18 July 2013** - Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara has announced that Nigeria is planning to withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali. Speaking at a summit of West African nations in the Nigerian capital Abuja, Mr. Ouattara stated that the withdrawal was “because of the domestic situation in Nigeria.” According to Mr. Ouattara, who is the head of the regional group ECOWAS, it remains unclear as to how many Nigerian troops will stay in Mali, where elections are due to be held on 28 July. According to reports, Nigerian soldiers are also being withdrawn from the joint UN-African Union mission in Sudan’s Darfur region. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,600 African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July. The UN Force, which is known by its French acronym MINUSMA, is currently working with the Malian army to provide security for the elections. It is due to increase to 11,200 troops, plus an additional 1,400 police, by the of this year.
- **14 July 2013** - Nigeria’s military claimed on Sunday that it rescued a number of women and children who were being held hostage in a Boko Haram Islamist stronghold, further indicating that its troops killed several insurgents during a number of gun battles which occurred in the area. The Bulabulin Nganaram area of the northeastern city of Maiduguri, where the recent fighting took place, is considered to be an enclave of the radical Islamist group. In a statement that was released by military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa, the military battled Boko Haram fighters in the area from July 3 to July 8, killing “some terrorists.” The statement further noted that “many abducted women, children and girls were rescued and handed over to their families.” Boko Haram has been accused of carrying out a series of abductions across the entire region. Colonel Musa also indicated that the military also discovered a series of bunkers that were dug by the insurgents at the site, noting that a number of bodies were found. The dead included people “killed by the terrorists” as well as the bodies of presumed Boko Haram fighters, which had been buried in the area. Although the Colonel mentioned “mass graves” that were found amidst the bunkers, no figures or details were provided. Although Nigeria’s military has repeatedly been accused of providing misinformation regarding to the Boko Haram conflict, including the number of casualties, Boko Haram combatants have been known to retrieve the bodies of members who have been killed in clashes. Consequently, the corpses allegedly found at the site may be those of Islamist fighters that were killed in previous battles and who were later buried by the group. Security forces in Nigeria continue to enforce a mobile phone shut down in much of the northeastern regions of the country, including Maiduguri. The communication blackout was imposed in mid-May to block Boko Haram fighters from coordinating their attacks amidst an ongoing offensive that is aimed at crushing the insurgency. Consequently with no mobile phone services, it has been difficult to verify or to corroborate the military’s accounts of any clashes.
- **12 July 2013** - A high court judge has refused bail for three Lebanese-Nigerian men who have been accused of stockpiling an arms cache in Nigeria’s troubled north for the Lebanese political party and militant movement Hezbollah. Judge Adeniyi Ademola Adetokunbo indicated on Friday that the men and quantity of arms discovered “pose national security challenges.” The judge at the Abuja Federal High Court also noted that the three would likely flee rather than stand trial on charges carrying a sentence of life imprisonment. A trial is set for July 29. In May, Nigerian soldiers recovered rocket-propelled grenades, land mines, hand grenades and assault rifle magazines in a bunker under a bedroom in the northern city of Kano.
- **10 July 2013** - Nigerian security forces fired tear gas on Wednesday in order to prevent hundreds of youths loyal to President Goodluck Jonathan, and his bitter rival Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi, clashing in the main oil hub of Port Harcourt. According to on the ground reports, around 2,000 youths from the two factions arrived in some thirty commercial buses at the Rivers state parliament in Port Harcourt, which is the main hub of Africa’s biggest energy industry in the Niger Delta. Historically, it is also a flashpoint for political violence. Police struggled to keep them apart until a Joint Task Force (JTF) composed of both military and police, stepped in, firing tear gas canisters and chasing away the crowds. One man was arrested. This latest event comes just weeks after police banned demonstrations from occurring in the area in order to prevent clashes.

Security officials and oil workers fear that Port Harcourt, which was once a fiefdom of militants, gangsters and kidnappers who targeted the oil industry, will once again become a battleground in this power struggle, as it has in the past. Mr. Amaechi and Jonathan have been embroiled in a dispute in the past few months which worsened when Mr. Amaechi was elected head of the National Governor's Forum grouping Nigeria's thirty-six states. President Jonathan, also from the oil-producing Niger Delta, and his backers have refused to recognize Mr. Amaechi because of his open opposition to the president seeking another term in an election that is scheduled for 2015. Although Mr. Jonathan has not officially declared that he will run for office again, his supporters have stated that he will. Many of Nigeria's governors, and a number of lawmakers, are in revolt against the current president over his expected plan to run, including many within his own People's Democratic Party (PDP).

- **9 July 2013** - Four alleged members of Boko Haram have been sentenced to life for their role in bomb attacks that killed nineteen people. These are the heaviest sentences given to any Boko Haram suspects. The convicted men were found guilty of potting and carrying out the 9 April 2012 attack on the electoral commission in Suleja, Niger state, which killed sixteen people, and a second attack on a church that killed three others in July 2012. A fifth man was sentenced to ten years in jail, while a sixth person was acquitted.
- **8 July 2013** - In recent weeks, Islamist extremists in Nigeria have massacred dozens of students in the northeastern regions of the country, effectively opening a new phase in their insurgency despite a nearly two-month-old military offensive against them. The latest attack occurred early on Saturday, when gunmen stormed a secondary boarding school in the village of Marmudo, where they rounded up students and staff in a dormitory, threw explosives and opened fire. Forty-two people were killed in the attack, in which almost all of them were students. This recent school shooting marks the third such attack to have occurred in the past three weeks. On 16 June, gunmen opened fire on a secondary school in Damaturu, which is the capital city of Yobe state. Seven students and two teachers were killed in that attack. According to the Nigerian army, two of the attackers were also killed. A day later, militants shot dead nine students as they sat an exam in a private school in Maiduguri. Two of the three recent attacks were carried out in the state of Yobe, prompting the state government to close all secondary schools until the new term which starts in September. The insurgents' reasons behind targeting schools remain unclear, however some observers have indicated that they may be seeking to generate as much attention as possible through such shocking tactics. In turn, a number of officials believe that attacking schools may be a symbol of their oppositions to Western education. Although Nigerians have grown accustomed to the mayhem that has been inflicted by Boko Haram militants, the gruesomeness of the school massacre has drawn widespread disgust. Although President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in the northeast on 14 May, stating that Boko Haram had managed to take control of a number of remote border areas, which was followed by a sweeping military offensive, some have called for the government to take a smarter approach in its efforts to end Boko Haram's four-year insurgency, warning that military force will not solve the problem and that instead, forces should focus more on on-the-ground intelligence which should later be accompanied by an honest attempt at dialogue. Over the past four years, Boko Haram's insurgency has played out in various phases, including assassinations of local leaders and security forces before moving on to more sophisticated attacks. The insurgents have during certain periods focused on attacking churches with suicide or car bombings. They have also carried out suicide attacks on UN headquarters in the capital city of Abuja and on one of the country's most prominent newspapers. Although a number of school attacks occurred in 2012, they mostly involved insurgents burning school buildings at night, which resulted in relatively few casualties.

## Domestic News

- **15 July 2013** - Nigeria's military announced on Monday that a two-month-old offensive in the northeastern regions of the country has "substantially achieved" the aim of destroying Islamist bases, as well as killing or capturing a number of fighters and freeing many victims who were being held as hostages. In a statement that was released by the government, defence spokesman Brigadier-General Chris Olukolade stated that "the mandate to the forces involves the destruction of all terrorist camps and apprehension of perpetrators...This mandate has been substantially achieved with destruction of terrorists' strongholds. A number of terrorists have been apprehended... Many of them have died in battle." The statement further indicated that twenty-three women and thirty-five children being held on charges of aiding Islamist militant group Boko Haram had been released as a gesture of peace to the group's more moderate sympathizers. Over the past few months, Nigerian forces have been carrying out their most concerted effort yet to end a four-year insurgency that has left thousands dead, many of which were killed in gun or bomb attacks.
- **12 July 2013** - Nigeria has stopped blocking the mobile phone signal in one of the three states where an emergency was declared because of an increase in militant attacks. According to the defence ministry, "positive indications" about the security situation in Adamawa state led to the service being restored. The restoration also comes after a senior official last week indicated that the lack of mobile services in the region had prevented civilians from alerting the authorities about an attack that was being carried out on a school. The signal however remains blocked in the neighbouring Yobe and Borno states.

## International Developments

- **8 July 2013** - Support for two extremists groups, Minbar Ansar Deen and Boko Haram, is to be made a criminal offence in the United Kingdom. The UK's Home Secretary Theresa May has requested that the two radical Islamist organizations be banned under the country's terrorism laws. If approved by Parliament, both groups will be banned from operating in the UK. Minbar Ansar Deen is based in the UK while Boko Haram operates in Nigeria. Minbar Ansar Deen, which is also known as Ansar al-Sharia UK, promotes terrorism by distributing content through a forum on its website, which encourages individuals to travel overseas to engage in extremists activity, specifically fighting. Boko Haram is a militant Islamist group that is based in Nigeria and which is led by the country's most wanted man, Abubakar Shekau. Its name means "Western education is forbidden" and it has waged an insurgency for more than a decade. If the two groups are banned, it will be illegal to support or become a member of either group, to arrange meetings or wear clothing in support of them. Offenders could face fines of up to £5,000 or up to ten years in prison.



## At Sea

### Hijacks

- **16 July 2013** - Armed pirates in two speedboats approached, boarded and hijacked a Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker, the Ocean Centurion, at 0430 LT, approximately 45 nautical miles south-east of Lome, Togo. They took hostage all the crew members on board the tanker, stole their personal belongings and ordered the Master to sail south and then north towards the Togo/Benin border where they disembarked and escaped via a speedboat, 12 nautical miles from the coastline. The Togo Navy was informed about the hijacking and a patrol boat was dispatched which escorted the tanker to the Lome anchorage for investigation. Two crew members on board the tanker were injured during the incident and were transferred to a clinic for medical attention.
- **14 July 2013** - Officials confirmed on Monday that pirates have seized a Malta-flagged, Turkey-owned tanker, the MV Cotton, off the coast of Port-Gentil, Gabon. The vessel has twenty-four crew members on board, all of which are Indian nationals.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

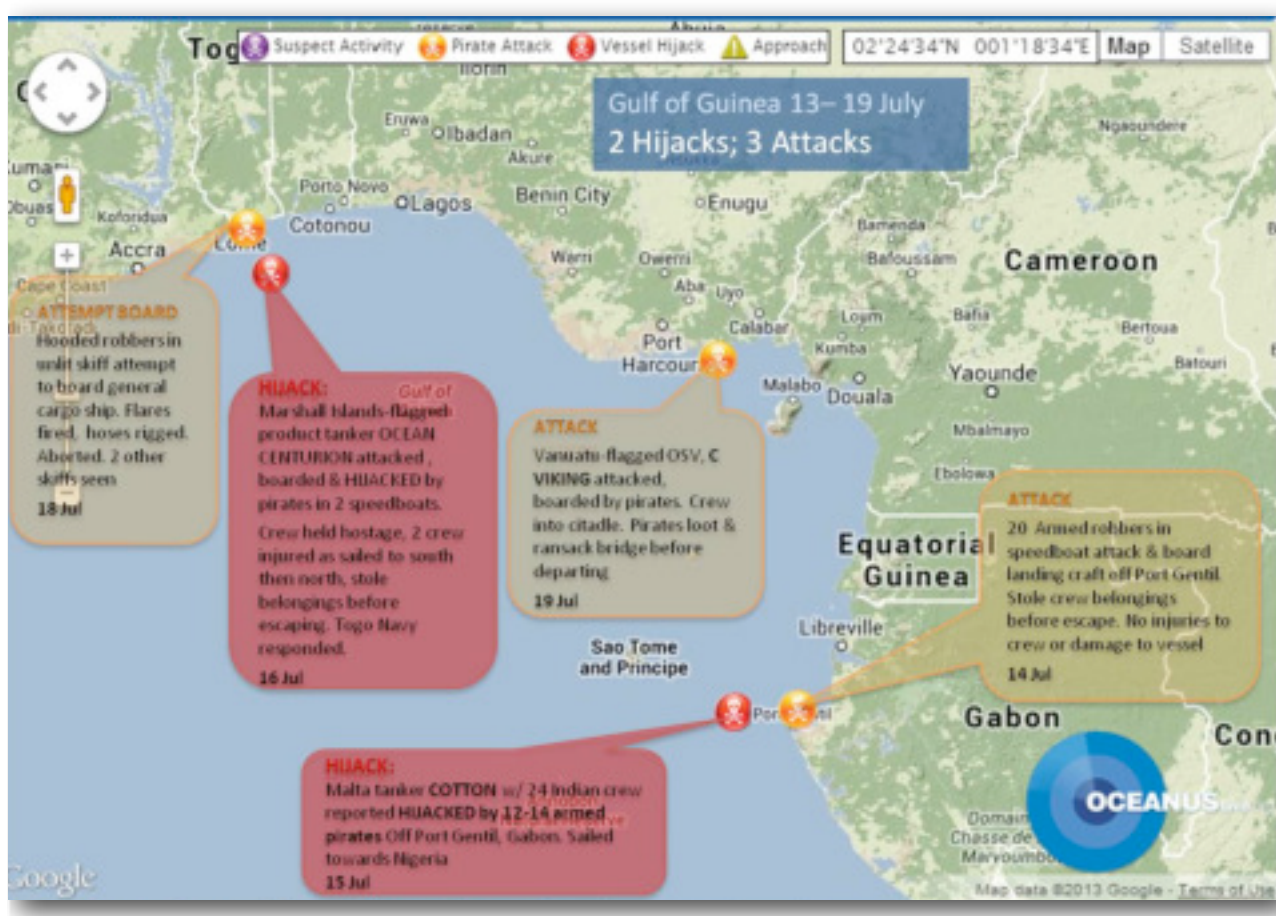
- **19 July 2013** - Vanuatu-flagged, US-operates OSV, the C Viking, reported being attacked by pirates at 01:00 LT near position 04:18 N - 007:46E, Usari field, offshore Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The crew members on board the OSV were mustered into the citadel; no injuries were reported. Pirates looted the vessel, including the bridge, and destroyed some bridge equipment before departing. This is reportedly the second time that the C Viking was attacked by pirates in the same area.
- **18 July 2013** - Duty Officer on board an anchored USA-flagged bulk carrier, the Liberty Grace, spotted an unlit skiff with 5 - 6 persons on board approaching the bulk carrier at 0150 UTC in position 06:05N - 001:17E, approximately 3 nautical miles off Lome breakwater, Togo. The Duty Officer directed the ship's search light towards the skiff, raised the alarm and activated the fire hoses. The Togo Navy was called. It was observed by the crew members on board the carrier that the robbers, who were wearing hoods pulled over their heads, were attempting to board the vessel using a pole and hook. Three flares were fired in the direction of the skiff. Seeing the crew members' alertness, the robbers aborted the attempt and moved away. During the incident, another two skiffs were observed close to the vessel. A Togolese Navy boat later arrived on location. The bulk carrier has been reported as safe.



- **14 July 2013** - Around twenty armed robbers in a speed boat approached and boarded a Gabon-flagged landing craft, the *Renovation*, while underway at 2246 UTC in position 00:29S - 008:51E, Port Gentil, Gabon. The robbers stole the crew's personal belongings and escaped. Port maritime authority was notified of the incident. No injuries to the crew members not any damage to the vessel was sustained during the incident.

## Suspicious Activity

- **10 July 2013** - Armed security personnel on board an anchored chemical tanker noticed a small boat with an unknown number of persons approaching at 0330 UTC while in position 06:17.8N - 003:21.2E, around 5.4 nautical miles south-west of Fairway Buoy, Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria. As the boat continued its approach to within 50 metres of the vessel, the armed team fired one warning shot, resulting in the boat moving away.



## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.





## About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by syndicate 2525 of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
  - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
  - Planning and management
  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
  - Crisis management
  - Business continuity management
  - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

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