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# THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



Detailed Report Focusing on Security, Domestic News and  
Developments that Impact the Central African Region

*Angola – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad- Republic of Congo –  
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Equatorial Guinea – Gabon – São Tomé and  
Príncipe*

MARCH 10 - 23, 2014

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# The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

*March 10 - 23, 2014*



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## **Angola**

### *Domestic News*

- *18 March 2014* – Ministerial delegations from Angola and the Republic of Congo have agreed to resolve the border dispute between the two countries.

## Cameroon

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **19 March 2014** – A Cameroonian security source has confirmed that seven people were killed on Sunday after Boko Haram militants launched an assault in northern Cameroon.

### *Domestic News*

- **20 March 2014** – On Thursday, Cameroon's Defence Minister Edgard Alain Mebe Ngo'o announced that Cameroon will send 700 soldiers to its north-eastern border as part of a regional force to tackle armed groups in an area where Nigerian Islamist militant group Boko Haram is known to operate.

## Central African Republic

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **21 March 2014** – Witnesses in the CAR have reported that Burundian peacekeepers have fired on a crowd in the capital in a bid to disrupt anti-Muslim violence, injuring at least six people.
- **17 March 2014** – African peacekeepers announced Monday the seizure of a large weapons cache near Bangui airport in the capital city of the CAR.

### *Domestic News*

- **18 March 2014** – The CAR's defence minister has called on residents of the capital Bangui to hand in any weapons or be considered military targets.
- **10 March 2014** – State officials in the CAR were paid their first wage for six months on Monday, a small sign of normality in a country that has been paralyzed by war for over a year.

### *Regional Reporting*

- **7 March 2014** – On Friday, the world's top Islamic body named former Senegalese foreign minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio as a special envoy to the CAR.
- **28 February 2014** – African Union (AU) spokesman Eloi Yao has confirmed that a delegation from the AU will on Wednesday begin assessing the political and security situation in the CAR as part of the continental bloc's efforts to return the CAR to constitutional rule after a one-year transitional period.

### *International Developments*

- **21 March 2014** – French President Francois Hollande appealed on Friday for European countries to quickly provide enough troops for the delayed peacekeeping mission to the CAR.
- **20 March 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nation's human rights chief expressed horror at the level of

violence in the CAR, citing cannibalism, child decapitations and gruesome lynching's.

- **14 March 2014** – France has warned that the launch of a European Union military operation in the CAR, which is planned for next week, may not happen due to a lack of troops.
  - Meanwhile during a meeting in the capital with interim President Catherine Samba Panza, a European delegation on Friday announced 81 million euros (US \$112 million) in aid for the CAR.
  - On Friday, UN chief Ban Ki-moon called for a quick decision by the Security Council on deployment of 12,000 peacekeepers to the CAR.
- **10 March 2014** – Amidst fears of genocide and ethnic cleansing, a group of United Nations-mandated investigators launched a probe Monday into human rights violations in the CAR.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **17 March 2014** – The Congolese army indicated Monday that it had recaptured the eastern town of Lukweti, in which a small ethnic rebel group had controlled and used it as its headquarters for six years.
- **13 March 2014** – According to UN and Congolese officials, UN and government troops have attacked Rwandan Hutu rebels based in the DR Congo's eastern borderlands.
- **10 March 2014** - The Democratic Republic of Congo's army has indicated that it is determined to finish the job of clearing all armed groups out of the eastern region of the country, with the largest remaining faction being the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

## Equatorial Guinea

### *International Developments*

- **19 March 2014** – France has charged the son of Equatorial Guinea's President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of money laundering.

## Central Africa Report ~ Security Summary

**Angola** – MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

**Cameroon** – MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon.

**Central African Republic** – MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic

**Chad** - MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

**Republic of Congo** - MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo** - MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

**Equatorial Guinea** - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea

**Gabon** - There are currently no travel advisories for Gabon.

**São Tomé and Príncipe** - There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

# Angola

**Security Summary** ~ MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. We advise that all international companies and organizations operating throughout Angola have strict security rules and regulations for their staff.

## Luanda

There is a high level of crime in Luanda. Muggings, particularly to steal mobile telephones and other valuables, as well as armed robberies can occur in any area at any time during the day and night. It is advised that you avoid wearing jewelry or watches in public places. Do not change or withdraw large sums of money in busy public areas. Areas that are popular with foreigners are particularly targeted. You should avoid walking around Luanda, especially after dark.

Theft from slow-moving or stationary cars is common, especially in central Luanda. It is advised to keep valuables out of sight and do not use mobiles or laptops while in traffic. When driving, we wary if another car signals you to pull over. Thieves use the pretext of a minor traffic incident to get you out of your car in order to either steal the vehicle or rob you. A high proportion of the civilian population is armed.



*If you choose to travel outside Luanda, and the provincial capitals, it is advised that you do so in the company of persons or organizations experience in local conditions as conditions can be difficult. There is a widespread of poverty, social exclusion and disease.*

## Cabinda Province

*MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to Cabinda Province. There are regular violent incidents, including rape, murder and kidnappings that involve foreigners and Angolans. Groups claiming responsibility for these attacks have declared their intention to continue attacks against foreigners.*

## Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul

*MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the provinces of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. Angolan authorities are sensitive to the presence of foreigners in the diamond producing areas. Consequently all travellers to the region may be subjected to movement restrictions or detention by security forces.*

*The presence of diamonds also increases the threat of crime and banditry, particularly on roads that lead to and from these areas. Armed hold-ups do occur from time to time.*

## Domestic News

- **18 March 2014** – Ministerial delegations from Angola and the Republic of Congo have agreed to resolve the border dispute between the two countries. After meeting over the weekend in Angola's Cabinda province, officials announced that the two parties have agreed that Pangui village, which is located in Kimongo district, belongs to the Republic of Congo. Sources have indicated that aside from allowing the free movement of people between their neighbouring villages, they also agreed to set up a joint border demarcation committee of experts on border demarcation. The two parties, who are determined to peacefully resolve the border dispute, have also recommended holding the 7<sup>th</sup> session of Republic of Congo-Angola Joint Commission in Brazzaville as soon as possible. Speaking to reporters shortly after the meeting, Angola's Foreign Minister Georges Robelo Pinto Chikoti stated "the cooperation relations between Angola and the Republic of Congo dates back several years." His Congolese counterpart Basile Ikouebe also pointed out the importance of peace and good neighbourliness, urging border security officers to respect the mutual agreement. On 13 October 2013, about forty Congolese soldiers were arrested by their Angolan counterparts following a border dispute. After days of negotiations, officials in Angola agreed to send the soldiers back to Brazzaville.



# Cameroon

*Executive Summary ~ With the kidnapping, and later release, of a French priest in northern Cameroon in November 2013, MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North regions of Cameroon. The threat of kidnapping and hostage taking remains high at this time, with further such incidents likely to occur. While officials in Nigeria have requested Cameroon to increase security along the shared border between these two countries, the border regions continue to be porous and remain a safe haven for Boko Haram militants seeking shelter from the ongoing military operation in northern Nigeria.*

*The killing of a Cameroonian police officer on 19 August has prompted officials in Cameroon to close its border with the Central African Republic (CAR). The death of the officer occurred after a number of Seleka fighters crossed over the border into Cameroon, where they were stopped by officers patrolling the border region. Despite being escorted over the border, the fighters returned and attacked the police. It is currently not known how long the border will be closed. Consequently MS Risk advises against all travel to the border regions with the CAR as it is highly likely that militant groups and pro-Seleka fighters may be patrolling the areas and may at times attempt to cross into Cameroon. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamawa, 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 Ndian 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 Maroula in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. 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.*

## On the Ground Reporting

- **19 March 2014** – A Cameroonian security source has confirmed that seven people were killed on Sunday after Boko Haram militants launched an assault in northern Cameroon. Despite Cameroonian and Nigerian officials working together to increase security along their porous border, this latest attack has demonstrated Boko Haram’s capabilities of carrying out attacks anywhere and their easy movement within Nigeria and in neighbouring Cameroon. The attack also comes just days after Nigeria’s Information Minister Labaran Maku stated that much of the country’s problem with Boko Haram stemmed from its border with Cameroon. On Wednesday, the Information Minister called for an “increased partnership” from its northern neighbour. Nigeria has alleged that the Islamist militants have set up bases in the sparsely populated areas of its north-eastern neighbours, which includes Cameroon, Chad and Niger, in which they flee across the border after staging attacks in order to avoid military pursuit.

## Domestic News

- **20 March 2014** – On Thursday, Cameroon’s Defence Minister Edgard Alain Mebe Ngo’o announced that Cameroon will send 700 soldiers to its north-eastern border as part of a regional force to tackle armed groups in an area where Nigerian Islamist militant group Boko Haram is known to operate. The announcement comes after a two-day meeting, which was held in Cameroon’s capital Yaounde, where defence ministers from the six-nation Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) agreed to establish the multinational force to improve security in the lawless zone. According to Defence Minister Ngo’o, the details of the multinational forces will be established at a summit in Nigeria’s capital Niamey later this year. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he indicated “Cameroon has decided to provide a contingent of 700 soldiers for this unit of the LCBC,” adding “...we believe each country should keep its troops within its own borders.” The infiltration of Boko Haram militants into Cameroon’s Far-North region, which they use as a launch pad for attacks in Nigeria as well as an area of shelter after carrying out operations in northern Nigeria, has led to mounting insecurity there. The militants are also believed to be hiding amongst the influx of refugees from Nigeria. On Sunday, a number at least seven people were killed in northern Cameroon after Boko Haram militants launched an attack in the area. Furthermore, last month, a Cameroon soldier was killed by suspected Boko Haram militants in Fotokol in the Far-North region, close to the border with Nigeria. As well as the threat from Boko Haram, the area has become a crossroads for weapons trafficking to Nigeria, Sudan and Central African Republic. Cameroon’s military detained a man attempting to transport 655 guns to Nigeria in January.

# Central African Republic

**Security Summary** ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite French troops deploying into CAR in early December, the situation throughout the country has continued to deteriorate. There have been reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking across the country. The situation in the capital, Bangui, remains fragile with reports of continued isolated killings, looting and gunfire. There is also an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks can be indiscriminate, including in places that are visited by foreigners. The official curfew in the CAR is from 8PM to 5AM.

Despite the French military intervention, Operation Sangaris, being launched in early December, security throughout the CAR remains unstable. MS Risk strongly advises you not to travel around Bangui after dark. At other times, it is advised that you take extreme

care, and travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter several roadblocks, both official and unofficial, that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. We advise that you take particular care when approaching these.

## Crime

Incidents of theft and robbery occur regularly. Armed gangs are known to operate in the outlying areas of Bangui. You are advised to take personal security precautions and be vigilant in public places at all times. Avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry in public. Do not walk alone at night and avoid any isolated or poorer areas.



## On the Ground Reporting

- *21 March 2014* – Witnesses in the CAR have reported that Burundian peacekeepers have fired on a crowd in the capital in a bid to disrupt anti-Muslim violence, injuring at least six people. Congolese Maj. Flavien Mulumbe stated that his peacekeepers helped transport the injured to a hospital after the violence broke out in Bangui on Friday afternoon. He indicated that four of the six people injured in the incident were under the age of sixteen. Reports have indicated that the incident began when a Muslim man attempted to carry out a transaction at a bank but was attacked by an angry mob, prompting the peacekeepers to respond. No further information on the incident has been released.
- *17 March 2014* – African peacekeepers announced Monday the seizure of a large weapons cache near Bangui airport in the capital city of the CAR. According to a source in the MISCA force, who requested to remain anonymous, “this is an important arsenal that would be enough to keep a large part of Bangui under siege.” He noted that Chadian soldiers had found the weapons during an operation that lasted several hours late last Thursday. The operation was carried out after the forces received a tipoff from local residents. Sources have indicated that the weapons cache includes more than 10,000 rounds of 12.7 mm bullets, two anti-air missiles, three rocket-propelled grenades, six mortars, around 50 assault rifles and a score of anti-personnel mines. Currently MISCA officials are “...unsure of the origin of the arsenal.”

## Domestic News

- *18 March 2014* – The CAR’s defence minister has called on residents of the capital Bangui to hand in any weapons or be considered military targets. In a statement read out on state radio late Tuesday, Theophile Timango asked the population “to lay down your arms unconditionally and wait for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme,” adding that “as part of its mission to protect people and property, the army will treat violators as military targets.” The country’s defence minister has called for this latest disarmament drive to be jointly conducted by the Central African Republic’s regular forces along with French and African Union troops. The minister has also condemned the death of a low-ranking officer who he said was “coldly killed by armed individuals” on Tuesday in Bangui’s flashpoint PK5 district. Tensions have been high for days in the neighborhood, where witnesses reported that an intense exchange of fire broke out on Tuesday, causing many residents to flee their homes.
- *10 March 2014* – State officials in the CAR were paid their first wage for six months on Monday, a small sign of normality in a country that has been paralyzed by war for over a year. This is their first wage payment since September 2013. On Monday, huge lines of state employees, formed outside the major banks in the capital of Bangui. The payment of state salaries comes just weeks after French President Francois Hollande indicated during his trip to the CAR that state employees’ salaries would be paid quickly via agents in other countries. Although many were content with having their first salary payment in six months, many expressed discontent that banks were immediately taking back advances they had given during the months that civil servants were not being paid. The crisis has paralyzed the country’s administration, starting with its public finances, which has crippled the state’s ability to pay its employees.

## Regional Reporting

- *7 March 2014* – On Friday, the world’s top Islamic body named former Senegalese foreign minister Cheikh

Tidiane Gadio as a special envoy to the CAR. The Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) confirmed that Gadio, who served as Senegal's chief diplomat from 2000 until 2009, would bring "vast knowledge, skills" to the position. The OIC has 57 member nations, bringing together much of the Islamic world and often mediates in conflicts involving Muslims.

- *28 February 2014* – African Union (AU) spokesman Eloi Yao has confirmed that a delegation from the AU will on Wednesday begin assessing the political and security situation in the CAR as part of the continental bloc's efforts to return the CAR to constitutional rule after a one-year transitional period. According to Yao, there is a high level delegation from the political affairs division to assess the situation. During their stay, they will be meeting with various organizations, political leaders, religious leaders and government members," adding "with an election in 2015, the AU and its partners have to start early to engage the people, assess the situation and see under which conditions the election can take place." The AU spokesman also stated that the AU team will be joined by a group from the United Nations in order to assess the humanitarian conditions there following the violence that has displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes. According to Yao, the assessment is part of the AU's effort to help organize the country's election next year.

## International Developments

- *21 March 2014* – French President Francois Hollande appealed on Friday for European countries to quickly provide enough troops for the delayed peacekeeping mission to the CAR. Speaking during a press conference in Brussels shortly after a EU summit that was largely devoted to the Ukraine crisis, Hollande stated "five hundred personnel are needed. There are currently on 375, so more effort must be made," adding "I insisted to the heads of government that had already made gestures or promises that we have adequate forces by Monday." The delay in deploying a European force to the CAR has largely been due to the fact that European countries have so far been reluctant to mobilize forces or logistics for the EUFOR-CAR mission, which was due to deploy this week in a bid to bolster French and African forces in the conflict-raged Central Africa. The French President did note that its not "troops that are needed, but personnel that can deploy to assist with transport of African troops, for logistics and for health work." He also indicated that achieving the numbers was vital to "Europe's credibility." Despite his efforts, no countries came forward with fresh commitments on Friday. So far, the mission is largely dependent on the contribution of soldiers from Georgia, which is not a member of the European Union. According to a European official, many eastern European countries, which had initially been keen to contribute troops, have since had second thoughts. This has mainly been due to the outbreak of crisis in Ukraine, which they fear may have implications in their own territories. Meanwhile in the CAR, where brutal violence between Muslims and Christians broke out after a military coup last year, there were faint signs of reconciliation on Friday. The mostly Christian anti-balaka militia group, which has killed hundreds of Muslims and displaced tens of thousands in recent weeks, indicated Friday that it was ready to give up arms following a meeting with the government. Speaking to reporters, Emotion Brice Namsio, who presented himself as a coordinator of the group, indicated "those who carry out acts of violence are not real anti-balaka. We are determined to dispose of our weapons and to enter into a reconciliation with the Muslims," he added "we have chosen to liberate the Central African people and we believe that our objective has been achieved. Therefore, we should not continue to perpetuate actions that are contrary to our goals." Speaking alongside Mr Namsio, Minister of Communication Antoinette Montaigne Moussa stated that the government

welcomed the commitment to lay down arms, stating “I hope that what you have said today will not be immediately contradicted by acts of violence.” Despite this message of a possible peace and stability in the CAR, it remains to be seen whether such messages will filter down to the nebulous militias located on the ground. The CAR’s president Catherine Samba Panza is due to visit Brussels before the next EU-Africa summit on 2 – 3 April 2014.

- **20 March 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nation’s human rights chief expressed horror at the level of violence in the CAR, citing cannibalism, child decapitations and gruesome lynching’s. Speaking at a press conference in Bangui, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay stated “the inter-communal hatred remains at a terrifying level,” adding “this has become a country where people are not just killed, they are tortured, mutilated, burned, dismembered....Children have been decapitated, and we know of at least four cases where the killers have eaten the flesh of their victims.” Pillay further indicated that the military deployment had helped curb large-scale killings of the type witnessed in December and January however she warned that much more was needed in order to fully pacify the country. She indicated “people continue to be killed on a daily basis, especially by the anti-balaka groups.” The UN rights envoy indicated that foreign peacekeepers and aid workers faced “terrible dilemmas such as choosing between unwillingly aiding the ‘cleansing’ of trapped Muslim populations, or leaving them – against their will – in places where they are in real danger of being slaughtered en masse.” She also indicated that around 15,000 Muslims were trapped in little pockets of territory in Bangui and elsewhere in the country, under international protection. According to figures from the UN, and other relief agencies, nearly a quarter of the country’s population of 4.6 million has been displaced in more than a year of conflict.
- **14 March 2014** – France has warned that the launch of a European Union military operation in the CAR, which is planned for next week, may not happened due to a lack of troops. A joint statement released by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian indicated “if additional efforts are not made rapidly, it won’t be possible to launch, as planned, this essential operation next week.” Last month, the EU committed to deploying a military operation to assist the 8,000 French and African troops who are already stationed in the CAR. Although the EU has pledged to contribute somewhere between 800 to 1,000 troops, negotiations on which countries will provide them are still on going. According to the two French ministers, “the European Union must assume its responsibilities where international security is concerned.”
  - Meanwhile during a meeting in the capital with interim President Catherine Samba Panza, a European delegation on Friday announced 81 million euros (US \$112 million) in aid for the CAR. During a press conference, European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs stated “the Central African Republic and its people are facing unprecedented challenges, and it is more important than ever that we act now to put in place the foundations for stability and future development.” The commissioner, who travelled to the war-torn country along with ministers from France and Germany indicated that the EU bloc was determined to support President Samba Panza in her efforts to stem a cycle of killing and looting. Brussels has also granted Bangui 20 million euros to finance the elections, which are due to take place early next year.
  - On Friday, UN chief Ban Ki-moon called for a quick decision by the Security Council on deployment of 12,000 peacekeepers to the CAR. Ban, who spoke to the press following a briefing of the General Assembly, urged “the Security Council to act quickly on my recommendations for a United Nations peacekeeping operation.” The forces, which was recommended by Ban in a report to the council last week, would be the latest attempt to restore order and security in a country that has been plagued by

violence since a coup which was launched last March. According to a number of diplomats, France will submit the resolution to authorize the operation which it believes could be adopted before mid-April, however with the time required to mount such a measure, the force will not be deployed for another six months. When deployed, the additional reinforcements will support the approximately 6,000 African-led MISCA peacekeepers and 2,000 French soldiers from the operation who are already on the ground.

- *10 March 2014* – Amidst fears of genocide and ethnic cleansing, a group of United Nations-mandated investigators launched a probe Monday into human rights violations in the CAR. The three international investigators will spend two weeks travelling the country, speaking with victims, witnesses, and actors in the conflict, and expect to draw up a list of suspected perpetrators. According to Bernard Acho Muna, head of an international Commission of Inquiry that was appointed by UN leader Ban Ki-moon in January, “we have to put an end to the impunity.” Speaking to reporters in Geneva shortly before leaving for Bangui, the Cameroon Supreme Court lawyer and former deputy chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for Rwanda indicated that he hoped his mission could help ward off a feared genocide, stating “we are hoping that our presence and the investigations we are doing will be a signal (that will prevent) the people who are making this hate propaganda (from moving) to action.” Mr Muna also noted that the “hate propaganda” on the ground in the CAR was reminiscent of his time working with Rwanda, where a 1994 genocide left an estimated 800,000 people dead in the space of a few months. In terms of genocide and human rights violations, Mr Muna stipulated that “genocide starts always with propaganda, convincing the population that this group of people are evil, they are bad, they should be eliminated.” In terms of the crisis in the CAR, he stated that the messages of hate could be surfacing due to the complete lawlessness on the ground, adding “I hope that this is only noise and that when you can put the troops on the ground and law and order, this might disappear.” He further noted that if the international community shows it is ready to “take a firm stand to prosecute people who are already making hate propaganda and promoting indiscriminate tribal killings...I think it can be stopped. I really think so.” Mr Muna, along with fellow investigators Jorge Castaneda, a former Mexican foreign secretary, and Fatimata M’Baye, a lawyer and leading Mauritanian human rights activist, are set to arrive in Bangui on Tuesday. Prior to travelling to the interior of the country, the three investigators will spend about three days in the capital city. After the two week official visit, they are set to present an initial report to the UN Security Council in New York in June, with a final report to be released six months later.

# Chad

*Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.*

*MS Risk advises that you should only undertake travel to those parts of the country to which we advise against all but essential travel if:*

- *You are confident that you have in place adequate security precautions to protect you from violent crime;*
- *The correct Chadian authorities are aware of your journey;*
- *You have in place the right permits if required;*
- *And you hold comprehensive travel insurance.*



*There is currently a low threat from terrorism.*



*Armed robberies, particularly from cars, in residential areas of N'Djamena are common, with foreigners sometimes being targeted. MS Risk advises all travellers to the capital city to remain vigilant and to take care particularly in the capital. Keep doors locked and windows closed at all times. Do not carry any large sums of money, jewelry, or other valuables. Avoid isolated or less developed areas of the city and do not travel alone at night.*

*There have been a number of kidnappings in eastern Chad involving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers and business people. Further such kidnappings are likely to occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to this region of Chad to be vigilant and take care at all times.*

*Nearly 350,000 Sudanese and Central African refugees and 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) are living in and around camps in eastern Chad. Although the Joint Border Force between Sudan and Chad has partially stabilized the situation, banditry and violent crime in eastern Chad continues to exist. Consequently the border between Chad and Sudan is subject to closures with minimal notice.*

*The area bordering Libya is also subject to closure and is heavily land-mined. The northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti continue to be unsafe.*

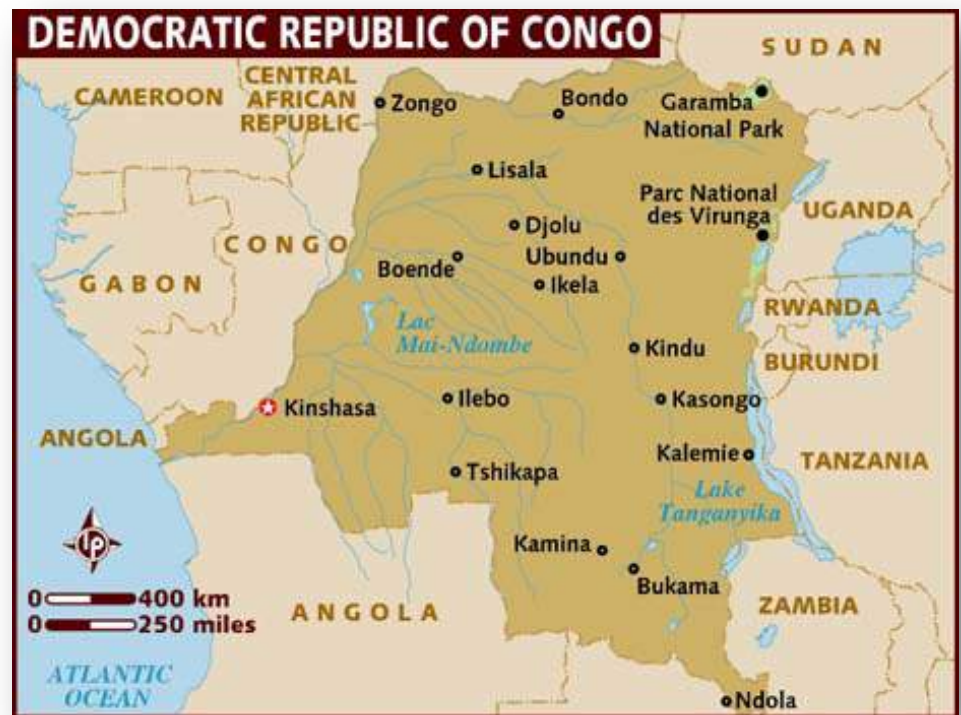
# Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

*Executive Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.*

*The security situation in eastern DRC, including Goma, remains unstable. Any foreigners in North Kivu, including Goma, are currently advised to keep their security situation under review. During fighting in the region in recent months, shells landed on Goma, causing a number of civilian deaths and injuries. There was also shelling around the border with Rwanda and explosions in the town of Gisenyi on the Rwandan side of the border. Further shelling may occur. You are therefore advised to avoid travelling alone and at night.*

*In the Katanga Province, there has been unrest and reports of fighting which occurred on 7 January 2014. The current situation remains tense across the province, particularly around the town of Pweto. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers to the region to exercise a high level of caution.*

*There were shooting incidents in Kinshasa on 30 December 2013. The incidents occurred around the national TV and radio station RTNC, the airport and the main army barracks and Ministry of Defence at Ngaliema. There were also reports of fighting in Lubumbashi, Katanga Province and in Kindu, Maniema Province. While the situation in Kinshasa now appears to be returning to normal, the situation remains to be fragile and security forces continue to be on alert.*



## On the Ground Reporting

- *17 March 2014* – The Congolese army indicated Monday that it had recaptured the eastern town of Lukweti, in which a small ethnic rebel group had controlled and used it as its headquarters for the past six years. According a spokesman for the Democratic Republic of the Congo's armed forces, "we finally dislodged" Janvier Buingo Karairi, leader of the rebel Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS). Lieutenant-Colonel Olivier Amuli further indicated that the army had recaptured Lukweti, which is located about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of the regional capital Goma, on Saturday night, noting that "there was fighting, but not of great intensity" before Karairi and his men fled the town. Lukweti lies in the Masisi region of the mineral rich North Kivu province where the Congolese army, backed by a special UN brigade, has been hunting down dozens of rebel groups. DR Congo troops have been battling APCLS fighters for weeks however their operation received crucial aerial backing from a UN attack helicopter on March 9. The APCLS, believed to number some 500 men, was founded in early 2008 and consists of almost exclusively of members of the Hunde ethnic group. Against a background of land ownership disputes, it battled against the presence of ethnic Tutsis in North Kivu, refusing to recognise their right to Congolese citizenship. One the ground source in the region reported that representatives of the APCLS and of two other armed groups, the Raia Mutomboki and a militia led by warlord Ntabo Taberi Sheka, met on Friday in a bid to form an alliance. Their goal is to prevent Congolese Tutsis, who had sought refuge in neighbouring Rwanda, from returning to the DR Congo. Congolese and UN forces are also battling fighters from the ADF-Nalu, a Ugandan Islamist group, and the FDLR, a Rwandan Hutu militia that includes some of the perpetrators from the 1994 genocide. The government forces' most significant victory came in November 2013 with the defeat of the M23, a mainly Tutsi rebel group of army defectors which had briefly occupied Goma. After the vanquished M23 announced the end of its rebellion, the Kinshasa government had stated that it would promote the return of Tutsi refugees. Such a measure could concern several hundred thousand people who fled to Rwanda, where some of them have lived since the beginning of the 1990s.
- *13 March 2014* – According to UN and Congolese officials, UN and government troops have attacked Rwandan Hutu rebels based in the DR Congo's eastern borderlands. Colonel Felix Basse, the military spokesman for the Congo mission, known as MONUSCO, indicated Wednesday that UN troops had deployed in the Virunga National Park in North Kivu province and were backing a Congolese offensive against the Hutus' FDLR. He stated that "since Sunday, we have deployed our men and we have had contact with FDLR in that zone," adding that two rebels had been killed in the fighting so far. He also indicated that the 3,000-strong UN Intervention Brigade, made up of troops from South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi, was taking part in the joint offensive, stating "these operations will continue. We have a mandate to protect the population and restore the authority of the state." The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) is made up in part of former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu militia who fled to the Congo after taking part in the killing of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus twenty years ago. They have been accused by rights groups of killing and raping civilians. While their numbers have dwindled to a few thousand in recent years, previous attempts to disarm the rebels have failed. They are considered to be one of the principal obstacles to durable peace in the mineral-rich zone. According to Congolese government spokesman Lambert Mende, "so far the FDLR have refused to disarm, which is why we have attacked. We will not stop until they lay down their arms," adding "we along, or with the support of our partners in MONUSCO, must put an end to this threat against our populations." In the late 1990's, Rwanda twice invaded the Congo in an attempt to wipe out Hutu fighters, helping ignite two regional wars

and countless smaller conflicts that killed millions of people. Kigali has been accused of backing armed groups in eastern Congo, most recently by a panel of UN experts who say Rwanda armed and organized the Congolese Revolution Army, also known as M23. Rwanda has denied this, stating that Congo's army is collaboration with the FDLR.

- *10 March 2014* - The Democratic Republic of Congo's army has indicated that it is determined to finish the job of clearing all armed groups out of the eastern region of the country, with the largest remaining faction being the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The group includes members of the Hutu militia, who have been in the DRC for the last 20 years, and who are responsible for carrying out the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The DRC's army officials have indicated that they will attack the FDLR, with the support of the United Nations, in the coming weeks if the armed groups do not surrender before then.

# Republic of the Congo

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*Executive Summary ~ MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.*

*Although crime levels are low in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, MS Risk advises all travellers to take sensible precautions in order to safeguard yourself and your belongings. We advise travellers to not walk in the streets after dark or to carry large amounts of money or valuables. The chance of being targeted by criminals is higher in the rural areas of the country. On 16 December 2013, there were reports of fighting and sporadic gunfire in Brazzaville. This is believed to have been an isolated incident as a result of resistance during a military arrest.*



*MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool Region. This is due to sporadic rebel activity and armed banditry in the area. There is a very low risk of rebel attacks in the coastal town of Pointe Noire however travellers in vehicles and trains have been robbed by armed criminal gangs around the Pool region. Road travel in the Pool region requires a permit from the Congolese army.*

# Equatorial Guinea

*Executive Summary ~ 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.



## International Developments

- **19 March 2014** – France has charged the son of Equatorial Guinea’s President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of money laundering. According to his lawyer and a judicial official, Teodorin Obiang has been charged as part of a corruption probe that was launched in December 2010 to determine whether three long-serving African leaders used corrupt means in order to acquire expensive properties in France. The investigation focused on Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso, late Gabonese president Omar Bongo Ondimba,

and the Obiang Family. According to officials, French authorities have already seized the Obiang family's six-storey mansion, which is located on Avenue Foch in Paris, along with a number of luxury cars. They also took away vanloads of possessions, including paintings by famous artists, a clock with an estimated three million euros (US \$4.2 million) and wines worth thousands of euros a bottle. Nine seized cars, including a Maserati, a Ferrari and a Rolls Royce were auctioned in July last year and netted 3.21 million euros.

# Gabon

*Executive Summary ~ There is currently no travel advisory for Gabon. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.*

*Crime is on the rise in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been robberies, armed attacks and rapes. 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 armed robberies of commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.*





# São Tomé and Príncipe

*Executive Summary* ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Crime rates in Sao Tome and Principe are generally low however burglaries and armed robberies do occur. It is advised that you safeguard all valuables and cash.

Although Sao Tome and Principe is generally peaceful, economic difficulties and political rows over the handling of investments in the islands' development occasionally lead to civil unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings.

