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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*

JUNE 2 - 15, 2014

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 - Crisis Response
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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

June 2 - 15, 2014



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Cameroon

- **8 June 2014** – Cameroon’s government confirmed Sunday that while suspected Boko Haram militants from Nigeria attacked a town in Cameroon’s far north on Saturday, local security forces fought them off.
- **4 June 2014** – Officials in Cameroon have indicated that six people have been arrested over the kidnapping of ten Chinese workers in northern Cameroon, in a raid that has been blamed on Nigerian Boko Haram militants.
- **2 June 2014** – Sources have indicated that Cameroon’s military has killed at least forty Boko Haram militants who crossed over from Nigeria in an attempt to seek refuge.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **11 June 2014** – The CAR's Prime Minister has called for a pause in the country's devastating sectarian violence so that the population can enjoy the World Cup football tournament, which begins Thursday.
 - Meanwhile violence in the CAR has continued, with twenty-one people killed so far this week, including two who were publicly executed in front of a courthouse.
- **9 June 2014** - While the Central African Republic's interim government collected several hundred weapons in a disarmament drive on Sunday, officials have admitted that a modest amount was collected despite months of rampant arms proliferation in the crisis-hit country.
- **4 June 2014** – In a move aimed at helping to restore security, authorities in the CAR have banned the use of mobile phone text messages.

Domestic News

- **11 June 2014** – The Central African's government confirmed Wednesday that it has requested that the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigate the most serious crimes committed during more than a year of violent unrest.
- **1 June 2014** – On Sunday, the CAR's Prime Minister called for a voluntary national disarmament, to be held next week, in a bid to halt the worsening cycle of violence.

Regional Reporting

- **8 June 2014** - On Sunday, officials from Chad rejected claims put forth in a recent United Nations report that indicated Chadian troops had supported Seleka rebels when they seized control of the CAR in March 2013.
- **5 June 2014** – Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza has confirmed that his country is ready to send hundreds more troops to the CAR.

International Developments

- **5 June 2014** – UN investigators have indicated that while it is too premature to discuss genocide or ethnic cleansing in the CAR, there is evidence that war crimes and crimes against humanity exists on both sides.
- **4 June 2014** – The United Nations food aid and refugee agencies appealed for funds to cope with the growing humanitarian crisis in Cameroon that has been caused by thousands of refugees who have fled the CAR.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **11 June 2014** – Military and government officials have confirmed that five Congolese soldiers have been killed in clashes with Rwandan troops on Wednesday.
- **6 June 2014** – According to local sources, at least thirty men, women and children were killed in inter-ethnic violence in the eastern regions of the DRC overnight, with reports indicated that most of them were killed as they slept in a church.
- **5 June 2014** – At least two people were killed and seven injured Thursday when 301 inmates staged a dawn jailbreak from a prison in the eastern region of the DRC.

Regional Reporting

- **7 June 2014** – After being accused by a rights group of pursuing two journalists in the eastern region of the DRC, Burundian officials denied Saturday that any of its troops were operating in the region.

International Developments

- **9 June 2014** – Officials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed Monday that the court has filed charges against former warlord Bosco Ntaganda for war crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **4 June 2014** – Amidst rising concerns that president Joseph Kabila will seek a third presidential term, a high-powered group of special envoys has urged the DRC to set a date for the 2016 presidential polls.

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.

Cameroon

Executive Summary ~ Following a deadly attack on a border police station, Cameroonian officials have partially closed a border crossing between Cameroon and Chad. Traffic has been authorized on the bridge, which straddles the Logoon River between Chad and Cameroon however local officials are warning that waiting times to cross the bridge may be long.

With the kidnapping of two Italian priests and one Canadian nun during the early morning hours of 5 April 2014, 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

- **8 June 2014** – Cameroon's government confirmed Sunday that while suspected Boko Haram militants from Nigeria attacked a town in Cameroon's far north on Saturday, local security forces fought them off. The attack, which occurred in the Mayo Tsanaga Division in the Far North Region, has left at least two gunmen dead however the Cameroonian government has not indicated whether any of its troops were wounded or killed in the fighting. Cameroon government spokesperson Issa Tchiroma Bakaray stated that a raid was carried out early Saturday morning by fifty well-armed gunmen believed to be Boko Haram members, adding "our defense and security forces fought back immediately. They killed two of the assailants, seized one of their vehicles and a Kalashnikov war weapon, forcing them to run back, crossing the border into the Nigerian territory." In light of recent accusations by Nigerian officials, who have accused Cameroon of not doing enough to tackle the Boko Haram threat, Cameroon recently deployed 1,000 troops to the far north. Saturday's attack is just the latest in a series of clashes that have occurred between Cameroon's security forces and the militants. Last week, Cameroonian security forces killed at least forty militants.
- **4 June 2014** – Officials in Cameroon have indicated that six people have been arrested over the kidnapping of ten Chinese workers in northern Cameroon, in a raid that has been blamed on Nigerian Boko Haram militants. A source close to the case confirmed that "six people have been taken in for questioning in Waza" as part of the on going investigations. Three Nigerians living in Waza are believed to be amongst those taken in for questioning. The kidnapping on 17 May occurred in the town of Waza, which is located near the border with Nigeria. Militants in the middle of the night raided the worker's construction camp, with one Cameroonian soldier killed in the attack.

- **2 June 2014** – Sources have indicated that Cameroon’s military has killed at least forty Boko Haram militants who crossed over from Nigeria in an attempt to seek refuge. The militants, who were reportedly killed in the village of Dabanga in the far north of Cameroon, crossed over from Borno state in Nigeria. Fonka Awah, the governor of the far north region of Cameroon confirmed Monday that his office had received information that some Boko Haram militants were believed to be hiding in Cameroonian villages. This prompted Cameroonian soldiers to be deployed to the area to search for the militants.

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

- **11 June 2014** – The CAR's Prime Minister has called for a pause in the country's devastating sectarian violence so that the population can enjoy the World Cup football tournament, which begins Thursday. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke stated that the football tournament, along with the upcoming month of Ramadan, which begins at the end of June, are an opportunity to step back from the brutal attacks that have killed thousands over the past year. Speaking at a press conference in the capital Bangui, Prime Minister Nzapayeke stated, "many people have agreed to an end or a suspension of the social unrest, to allow the population and particularly the young, to fully enjoy this event that happens only once every four years." The CAR however will not be taking part in the games as the group failed to qualify for the World Cup finals in Brazil, losing in the second round of African qualifiers. During the press conference, Prime Minister Nzapayeke also referred to the Muslim festival of Ramadan, which begins on June 28, which he called "a time of peace and love, a time when we help each other..."
 - Meanwhile violence in the CAR has continued, with twenty-one people killed so far this week, including two who were publicly executed in front of a courthouse. According to residents and eyewitnesses, the latest clashes erupted after villagers in Liwa, which is located 10 kilometres outside of the central town of Bambari, killed two Muslim men on a motorcycle on Monday. In response, fighters descended on both Liwa and Bambari, throwing grenades and burning more than 100 houses. They later took four people hostage, executing two in front of the Bambari courthouse, has been used as a headquarters by the Seleka rebel. Hours later, French and African forces arrived in Liwa to restore calm and to launch an investigation into the incidents. Tensions however remain high throughout the village.
- **9 June 2014** - While the Central African Republic's interim government collected several hundred weapons in a disarmament drive on Sunday, officials have admitted that a modest amount was collected despite months of rampant arms proliferation in the crisis-hit country. The voluntary disarmament day, which was called by Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke last week, focused on eight districts in the capital Bangui along with two neighbouring areas. In the PK-5 districts, which are the last holdouts for the capital's remaining Muslim population, French and African peacekeepers collected 69 grenades, 13 bows, 62 arrows, 15 guns and some 200 munitions from around 192 individuals. Meanwhile in Boy-rabe, which is a stronghold of the anti-balaka mainly Christian militant group that has spearheaded attacks against the Muslim population, only fifteen people responded to the call, with just three rockets, three mortars, three grenades and a few dozen munitions being collected. In other areas of the capital city, the collection was even more modest. Despite the low turnout however the CAR's interim Prime Minister stated, "I feel a great sense of satisfaction, there is a commitment of the people," adding that the operation was aimed at "reviving the civil spirit of Central Africans." The Prime Minister however did admit, "the satisfaction comes from the popular enthusiasm and not from what was collected, since three times the amount could return in the night."

- **4 June 2014** – In a move aimed at helping to restore security, authorities in the CAR have banned the use of mobile phone text messages. The move comes after days of violent demonstrations in the capital Bangui along with a mass text campaign calling for a general strike. A statement released by the telecommunications ministry indicated “on the instruction of the prime minister...in order to contribute to the restoration of security in the country, the use of SMS by all mobile phone subscribers is suspended.” Since Tuesday, mobile phone users in the CAR have been receiving a text message written in French stating “SMS not allowed.” Orange, Moov, Telecel and Azur are the main phone providers in the CAR. Sources have indicated that a letter was sent these mobile phone operators ordering them to suspend their SMS texting service until further notice. It currently remains unknown when the SMS service in the CAR will be up and running again.

Domestic News

- **11 June 2014** – The Central African’s government confirmed Wednesday that it has requested that the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigate the most serious crimes committed during more than a year of violent unrest. A statement released by Minister of Justice Isabelle Gaudeville indicated “the intervention of the International Criminal Court appears to us indispensable in seeking the prosecution and conviction of those who have carried out the most serious of these crimes, which will not go unpunished.” According to the statement, the government lodged an official request with the ICC on May 30 in order “to investigate the situation that has been continuing in CAR since August 1, 2012.” The statement further indicated that the “CAR is confronted by cycles of violence and reprisals that never seem to stop. Unfortunately, our determination to get on with the task is greatly undermined,” adding that the years of unrest and violence had left local courts unable to effectively carry out the investigations. The ICC’s prosecutor Fatou Bensouda launched a preliminary investigation on 7 February of this year into the abuses committed between March 2013 and January 2014, when the Seleka rebel group had temporarily seized control of the country. This resulted in an ICC team visiting the country in May in order to carry out an investigation. At the time, the team was looking into violence committed by the mostly Christian anti-balaka militia that has led reprisals against the Seleka and wider Muslim community. While the ICC has already carried out investigations into previous periods of unrest in the CAR, the current unrest however is of an unprecedented scale.
- **1 June 2014** – On Sunday, the CAR’s Prime Minister called for a voluntary national disarmament, to be held next week, in a bid to halt the worsening cycle of violence. In a televised address, Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke declared that June 8 will be a day for all citizens to hand in their weapons. In his speech, Prime Minister Nzapayeke stated “everyone who has a firearm is called upon to return it voluntarily to the town hall of their neighbourhood,” adding that he hoped this will encourage all neighbourhoods, Christian and Muslim alike, to disarm at the same time. Muslims living in the capital city however have expressed their anger, stating that previous attempts at disarmament had left them prey to the anti-balaka Christian militia. The move comes

amidst a spike in sectarian tensions in the majority-Christian capital Bangui, following an attack on a church by Muslim gunmen on Wednesday. The attack, in which according to UN officials killed at least seventeen people, sparked two days of violent protests in the capital city, with thousands taking to the streets, demanding the departure of African Union peacekeepers and the resignation of Interim President Catherin Samba-Panza. **Update (8 June 2014)** - While the CAR's interim government collected several hundred weapons in a disarmament drive on Sunday, officials have admitted that a modest amount was collected despite months of rampant arms proliferation in the crisis-hit country. The voluntary disarmament day was called by Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke and focused on eight districts in the capital Bangui and two neighbouring areas. In the PK-5 districts, which are the last holdout for the capital's remaining Muslim population, French and African peacekeepers collected 69 grenades, 13 bows, 62 arrows, 15 guns and some 200 munitions from around 192 individuals. Meanwhile in Boy-rabe, which is the stronghold of the anti-balaka mainly Christian militant that has spearheaded attacks against the Muslim population, only fifteen people responded to the call, with just three rockets, three mortars, three grenades and a few dozen munitions. In other areas of the capital city, the collection was even more modest. Despite the low outturn, the CAR's interim Prime Minister stated, "I feel a great sense of satisfaction, there is a commitment of the people," adding that the operation was aimed at "reviving the civil spirit of Central Africans." The Prime Minister however did admit that "the satisfaction comes from the popular enthusiasm and not from what was collected, since three times the amount could return in the night."

Regional Reporting

- **8 June 2014** - On Sunday, officials from Chad rejected claims put forth in a recent United Nations report that indicated Chadian troops had supported Seleka rebels when they seized control of the CAR in March 2013. An international enquiry, which was set up by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, reported its findings Thursday, stating that "enough proof exists to think that" the rebels "received financial and military support from the government of Chad" to overthrow former president Francois Bozize last year. Chad however has firmly rejected these accusations. In a statement released Sunday, the Chadian government indicated that the UN's accusations were "fantasies" and has called on the body "to stop once and for all its gratuitous campaign against Chad."
- **5 June 2014** - Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza has confirmed that his country is ready to send hundreds more troops to the CAR. During a recent visit to Paris, President Nkurunziza stated "we have been asked by the African Union and the United Nations to raise the number of our troops in the CAR," adding "we are ready to deploy 450 troops and have prepared two police units of a total of 280 officers." The Burundian president also indicated that Burundi was now looking for necessary equipment and support from its partners in order to see the mission through. Burundi currently has 850 men in the 6,000-strong African peacekeeping force, known as MISCA,

which is trying to contain the crisis along with about 2,000 French troops. In September, MISCA will be gradually replaced by a 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force.

International Developments

- **5 June 2014** – UN investigators have indicated that while it is too premature to discuss genocide or ethnic cleansing in the CAR, there is evidence that war crimes and crimes against humanity exists on both sides. UN chief Ban Ki-moon appointed the international commission of inquiry in January 2014 and interim report submitted to Security Council members on Thursday indicated “ample evidence exists to prove that individuals from both sides of the conflict perpetuated serious breaches of international humanitarian law and crimes against humanity as well as war crimes.” The report further indicated that while talk of an international armed conflict, genocide or ethnic cleansing “at this point in time is premature....If the international community does not react with speed and determination by sending more peace keeping forces to CAR, we may soon face a situation which will rapidly deteriorate and bring about genocide and ethnic cleansing.” In February of this year, rights group Amnesty International (AI) described the conflict in the CAR as one of ethnic cleansing and criticised the international community’s “tepid response” to the crisis.
- **4 June 2014** – The United Nations food aid and refugee agencies appealed for funds to cope with the growing humanitarian crisis in Cameroon that has been caused by thousands of refugees who have fled the CAR. On Wednesday, the World Food Programme and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees indicated that up to 2,000 people a week were crossing into neighbouring Cameroon, many of them wounded in sectarian clashes and suffering from malnutrition after spending weeks hiding in the bush. UN refugee chief Antonio Guterres stated “people are arriving in absolutely tragic circumstances and in a context in which support for humanitarian organisations is reduced, because this is a forgotten crisis.” The UN refugee chief further indicated “the appeals we have launched have been financed to a level of around 10 per cent,” warning that there is currently “a real risk of regional spill over” from a conflict that has increasingly taken ethno-religious tones. The WFP’s executive director Ertharin Cousin has stated that the refugee crisis has brought to a record level of four the number of top-level humanitarian emergencies that her agency was currently dealing with. These include humanitarian emergencies in Cameroon, Central Africa, South Sudan and Syria. The WFP’s executive director further added “our inability to provide food assistance where people need it because of lack of resources, a lack of access, is forcing more people to move into the neighbouring countries.” Since December 2013, an estimated 90,000 refugees have cross into Cameroon along a 700-kilometre stretch of border. Since May WFP has provided rations to 44,7000 refugees and is scaling up its operations, with the second of two chartered planes carrying supplies reaching Cameroon on Sunday. However Denise Brown, WFP’s emergency coordinator for CAR and Cameroon has stated that the agency is “extremely concerned,” particularly about malnutrition rates among child refugees. According to Brown, “the acute malnutrition rates are estimated to be 11 per cent and anything over two per cent is an emergency,” adding “about one third of them are already in a state of what is basically starvation.”

The WFP has received US \$83 million in donations out of an overall target of US \$160 million announced in December, however its officials have warned that the required amount will increase “very quickly” because of the deteriorating refugee situation.

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

- **11 June 2014** – Military and government officials have confirmed that five Congolese soldiers have been killed in clashes with Rwandan troops on Wednesday. Sources have reported that machine gunfire broke out at dawn along the border. The Congolese army has indicated that the fighting broke out after the abduction of one of their soldiers by Rwandan troops who had crossed the border into the restive province of North Kivu. The clashes later escalated, with Congolese military officials stating that both sides traded heavy weapons fire. Local residents also reported “mortars and even rockets” being used throughout the afternoon. A DRC government spokesman has confirmed that the abducted corporal has been killed, blaming Rwandan troops for the incident. However officials in Kigali responded by accusing DRC soldiers of crossing the border into its territory and opening fire on Rwandan soldiers in bloody battles that left four more dead. A statement issued by the government indicated “on Wednesday...a section of the DRC army crossed the border to Rwanda where they opened fire on a Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) patrol,” adding “the attacks in the morning were followed by a second attempt: a deployment of two FARDC (Congolese) platoons to Rwanda, which led to a new fire fight that killed four FARDC soldiers.” While Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo stated that Rwanda stood “ready to act to protect its citizens” against further attacks, Western officials have sought to play down the escalating tensions between the neighbouring countries, which have been locked in a decades-long conflict. A senior UN official stated Wednesday “we are in contact with both governments and are trying to understand what happened....This is to reduce the tensions.” Although this latest violence could undermine international efforts to bring stability to the DRC’s mineral rich but unstable eastern region after years of conflict, tensions between Kigali and Kinshasa have long existed, with Rwandan officials repeatedly accusing the United Nations and its neighbour of backing the M23 rebels. Last year, Rwanda accused the Congolese army of firing rockets and mortar shells on its territory and massed troops along its border in response.
- **6 June 2014** – According to local sources, at least thirty men, women and children were killed in inter-ethnic violence in the eastern regions of the DRC overnight, with reports indicated that most of them were killed as they slept in a church. A local official has reported that the attack, which occurred late Friday in Mutarule, which is located 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Bukavu. Sources have indicated that the victims were ethnic Bafuliru, with most of them either shot or stabbed to death as they were sleeping in a Protestant church after taking part in a parish meeting. Once local councillor stated that in all, “eight men, 14 women, 10 children and a soldier” were killed while twenty-eight more were injured. Late Saturday, the UN mission in the DRC, MONUSCO, issued a statement indicating that “fierce fighting” had taken place the night before between the Bafuliru on the one side and ethnic Barundi and Banyamulenge on the other. The Barundi and Banyamulenge are Tutsis originally from Burundi but who have been living in Sud-Kivu province for generations. Conflict between the Bafuliru and the Barundi, which has existed for a dozen years, has typically stemmed from property and custom issues. According to South

Kivu's Interior Minister Jean-Julien Mirhuo, the latest attack was likely in revenge for cattle raids in the region. Local sources have confirmed that there had been a problem of stolen cattle in the region. UN peacekeepers have been deployed to Mutarule in order to evacuate the wounded and to help the local authorities and Congolese army restore calm in the area. **Update (10 June 2014)** – Government officials indicated Tuesday that a total of thirty-eight people died in ethnic violence that erupted in the eastern DRC over the weekend, adding that many of them died when a church was set ablaze. Although earlier, local sources had indicated the toll was at least 30 men, women and children, and that most of the victims were ethnic Bafuliur, an official statement issued after a meeting of government ministers indicated that the violence was sparked by the theft of livestock, which resulted in retaliation “that led to carnage, causing the deaths of 38 people.” The statement added “fifteen of the victims of this massacre by an armed group were burnt alive in a fire...lit deliberately by unidentified assailants in a church. The government strongly condemns this crime and does not intend to let it go unpunished.”

- **5 June 2014** – At least two people were killed and seven injured Thursday when 301 inmates staged a dawn jailbreak from a prison in the eastern region of the DRC. According to residents, gunfire rang out shortly before sunrise at the prison, which is located in the city of Bukavu, with inmates managing to force their way through the main gate a short while later. A police officer confirmed the jailbreak, stating that “...there were a total of 301 escapees, but 35 have already been recaptured.” The officer further indicated “the provisional toll this afternoon is two dead, a civilian and a soldier, and seven injured including three civilians and four soldiers.” The officer explained that prison wardens had been overcome by the inmates who “took weapons and managed to open the prison door.” It has been reported that at the time of the prison break, there were “at least 1,600 prisoners in this prison.” **Update (6 June 2014)** – The provincial justice minister confirmed Friday that at least four people were killed when 301 inmates broke out of the main prison in Bukavu on Thursday. Gisele Balegamire, minister of justice and human rights in South Kivu province, where Bukavu is the capital, confirmed “the current toll is four people dead, two soldiers on guard duty and two inmates who were trying to escape.” In all, 54 of the escaped detainees had been rounded up by Friday morning, but “three of them are badly wounded and in hospital for treatment.” According to a police officer, at first light Thursday, inmates overpowered wardens on duty, “took weapons and managed to open the prison gate.” Balegamire has indicated that the jailbreak is believed to be connected to “the suspension of the former head of the prison...accused of several offences, particular extorting payment for visits to inmates, opening the way for the torture of certain detainees by soldiers and the embezzlement of funds allocated to the prison. She further noted that a staff of the justice division in South Kivu, a province in the DRC that has seen more than 20 years of unrest and which is rife with armed groups, helped the former prison governor steal the funds, adding “several secret meeting have been held...to avenge the suspended prison chief and to show that the new chief, who is experienced since he has already run the jail in Uvira, is incompetent. These people...cooperated with some detainees to organize the breakout.”

Regional Reporting

- **7 June 2014** – After being accused by a rights group of pursuing two journalists in the eastern region of the DRC, Burundian officials denied Saturday that any of its troops were operating in the region. On Friday, the Kinshasa-based press freedom group, Journaliste en Danger (JED), stated that two reporters in the area had been investigating whether members of the youth wing of Burundi's ruling party were being given military training in the DRC's eastern Kivu region. While the group has alleged that the two journalists, from Radio Ondes FM, had been visited several times by soldiers suspected of being members of Burundi's army, and voiced fears for their safety, Burundian army spokesman Colonel Gaspard Baratuza stated Saturday "we categorically deny this report." He further noted that "if any Congolese journalists have been harassed by soldiers, they are not Burundian soldiers," stressing that Burundian troops were only on their side of the border. Allegations that Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza ruling and Hutu majority CNDD-FDD party has been arming its youth wing first emerged in April 2014 following the leaking of a United Nations report. At the time, the Burundian government denied the allegations and ordered a top UN official to leave the country.

International Developments

- **9 June 2014** – Officials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed Monday that the court has filed charges against former warlord Bosco Ntaganda for war crimes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to a statement, the judges "unanimously confirmed charges consisting in 18 counts of war crimes...and crimes against humanity," against Mr Ntaganda. The judges examined over 69,000 pages of evidence before concluding that there were clear grounds to charge Ntaganda with "a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population" between 2002 and 2003 when he was military chief of the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC). The charges against Ntaganda include rape, sexual slavery and conscription of child soldiers and are focused on two specific incidents: one in the area of Banyali-Kilo between November and December 2002 and one in Walendu-Djatsu in February 2003. The FPLC, which was drawn from the Hema ethnic group in the eastern region of the country, carried out brutal sectarian attacks against non-Hema groups, including the Bira, Lendu and Nande. Since 1999, fighting in eastern DRC has killed some 60,000 people, with fighting exacerbated by the wealth of mineral resources in the region, particularly gold and minerals used in electronic products. Ntaganda, 41, was one of the most sought-after fugitives in the Great Lakes region of Africa until he handed himself in voluntarily in March 2013. Prior to his decision to hand himself in, he had moved between several militant groups. For three years he served as an army general however in April 2012, he mutinied and formed the M23 rebel group, which temporarily seized control of parts of eastern DRC. When the M23 split into opposed factions, and effectively lost the outside

support of the Rwandan government, Ntaganda fled for his life to the US embassy in Rwanda where he requested to be transferred to the ICC.

- **4 June 2014** – Amidst rising concerns that president Joseph Kabila will seek a third presidential term, a high-powered group of special envoys has urged the DRC to set a date for the 2016 presidential polls. UN envoy and former Irish president Mary Robinson stated at a press conference late Tuesday that “we already have a calendar for local elections, we really want to have a global election calendar until December 2016,” adding that the envoys are determined to “support the government in the intention to hold good and open elections.” Envoys from the African Union, European Union, United Nations and United States have ended their two-day trip aimed at evaluating the peace process in the Great Lakes region with a meeting with election commission chief Father Apollinaire Malu-Malu. On Monday, the emissaries held a two-hour meeting with President Kabila, who many in the opposition fear is being urged by his inner circle to seek a third term in office. The DRC has been affected by shattered decades of strife and human rights abuses, particularly in the eastern region. At the end of May, the DRC’s election commission announced delays to planned municipal, city and local elections, which will take place on June 14, August 29 and October 15 next year.

Republic of the Congo

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.



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.

