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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*

MAY 6 - 18, 2014

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 - Interim Security
 - Training
 - Special Assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis Response
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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

May 6 - 18, 2014



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Angola

- **9 May 2014** – As Chinese Premier Li Keqiang embarked on a two-day visit, the president of Angola has called for broader economic ties with Beijing.

Cameroon

- **16 May 2014** – Police officials confirmed Saturday that a Chinese national was killed and then others are feared kidnapped after an overnight attack in northern Cameroon, which is believed to have been carried out by Boko Haram militants from Nigeria.

- **9 May 2014** - The bombing and destruction of a small bridge, which links Nigeria with Cameroon in Borno State, on Thursday, has caused mass destruction.
- **8 May 2014** – The Catholic bishops’ conference of Cameroon has demanded the release of two Italian priests and a Canadian nun.
- **6 May 2014** – Following a deadly attack on a border police station on Monday, which Cameroonians officials have blamed on Nigeria’s Boko Haram militant group, a border crossing between Cameroon and Chad has been closed.
- **5 May 2014** – Cameroon’s state television reported on Monday that the country’s army has freed eighteen civilians seized in the country’s east last week by rebels from neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR).

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 May 2014** – Nearly ten people, most of them civilians, have died after rival militias clashed earlier this week in the centre of the strife-torn CAR.
- **13 May 2014** – In a statement released Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande confirmed that a French journalist has been killed while on a reporting assignment in the CAR.
 - Meanwhile a police source indicated Tuesday that at least thirteen people were burned alive in the CAR over the past weekend when they were rounded up by armed men and barricaded inside a home that was set alight.
- **9 May 2014** – At least two civilians and several militants were killed during fighting between the DRC’s armed forces and the Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba militia.
- **8 May 2014** – International Criminal Court (ICC) investigators arrived in Bangui Thursday to begin probing the relentless violence that has plagued the CAR for the past eighteen months.
- **6 May 2014** – The military chief of staff in Paris, France confirmed Tuesday that French troops stationed in the CAR had to call for air backup to battle off an assault by well-armed militants, in clashes that left several gunmen dead.
- **5 May 2014** – As Charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced that it would reduce its work after a bloody attack on a hospital, more than 100 people have been killed in fierce fighting in the past ten days in the CAR.

Domestic News

- **9 May 2014** – The CAR’s interim leader has blamed the relentless sectarian violence on the inability of international forces to disarm rival militias.
 - Meanwhile according to one rebel, Muslim fighters in the CAR have chosen a new leader amidst fears that the movement is gathering strength again.

- **6 May 2014** – In addressing mounting criticism of the CAR's government's failure to stem religious violence that has displaced nearly 1 million people, the CAR's interim president pledged on Tuesday to overhaul her government and make it more representative.

International Developments

- **13 May 2014** – On Tuesday, United States President Barack Obama imposed sanctions against the former CAR leaders Francois Bozize and Michel Djotodia, along with three other officials.
 - Meanwhile on Tuesday, the European Union's (EU) forces operation commander indicated that the EU expects to have more than 800 troops on the ground in the CAR by mid-June, where they will secure parts of the capital before handing over to a UN force later this years.
- **9 May 2014** – On Friday, the United Nations Security Council ordered sanctions against three CAR leaders, including former president Francois Bozize.
- **6 May 2014** – According to a UN official, the United Nations is considering the use of unarmed drones ahead of the deployment of 12,000 peacekeepers in September.

Chad

- **12 May 2014** – On Monday, officials in Chad announced that they were closing down the country's southern border with the Central African Republic until the conflict in the neighbouring state was resolved.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **6 May 2014** – Marking a key step in peace efforts, the leader of a rebel group announced Tuesday that defeated Democratic Republic of Congo rebels, who fled to Uganda, have signed amnesty papers, effectively vowing not to fight again.
- **5 May 2014** – A mass trial of 39 soldiers in the DRC has ended with two being convicted of rape and thirteen others cleared.

Regional Reporting

- **9 April 2014** – Officials announced Sunday that Jules Mutebusi, a former DR Congo rebel leader often described as a Rwandan proxy, has died in Kigali where he had been exiled for a decade.

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.

International Developments

- **9 May 2014** – As Chinese Premier Li Keqiang embarked on a two-day visit, the president of Angola has called for broader economic ties with Beijing. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has indicated that there was scope to deepen and broaden ties with the Asian economic superpower, by shifting away from infrastructure and other projects. The president stated that “its possible to increase and diversity economic relations between Angola and China, giving more weight to direct investment from Chinese firms to produce basic consumer goods, instead of services or public works.” The Angolan president also called for Chinese firms to look for “mutually beneficial partnerships with Angolan businesses.” For his part, Mr Li stated that the two countries could pursue “pragmatic cooperation in the fields of energy, finance, infrastructure, agriculture, urban construction and industry.” China currently purchases nearly 40 per cent of Angola’s crude oil output and Angola is its leading destination for investment in Africa. A US \$14.5 billion Chinese credit line has fuelled an Angolan construction boom that has seen a football stadium, airports and hundreds of kilometres of roads throughout the country. However there is local anger that these projects have brought up to 300,000 Chinese workers to the country despite high levels of domestic unemployment and poverty. The Chinese premier is on a four-country tour of Africa, his first since taking office last year, with the world’s second largest economy keen to boost its presence on the continent to find new markets and opportunities.

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

- **16 May 2014** – Police officials confirmed Saturday that a Chinese national was killed and then others are feared kidnapped after an overnight attack in northern Cameroon, which is believed to have been carried out by Boko Haram militants from Nigeria. According to a local police chief, “Boko Haram Islamists attacked a camp of road workers. A Chinese was killed. Ten Chinese cannot be found since the attack. We think they have probably been kidnapped.” He further indicated that Cameroonian soldiers retaliated and the fighting lasted until 3:00 AM (0200 GMT),” adding “Boko Haram militants were heavily armed, they came in five vehicles.” Another officials has stated that the camp where the Chinese road workers stayed was usually guarded by soldiers from Cameroon's elite Rapid Intervention Battalion however “their numbers were thinner these past few days because many of them had gone down to Yaounde” for the traditional military parade which marks National Day on May 20. The cross-border attack comes as Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan is on a visit to Paris to attend a meeting with leaders of neighbouring states on forging a regional strategy against the Islamist group. **Update (18 May 2014)** – Police officials announced Sunday that the ten Chinese workers abducted by Boko Haram gunmen in Cameroon have most likely been taken back across the border into Nigeria. According to on police official “we are almost certain that the 10 Chinese have been kidnapped and transferred to Nigeria. We have no fresh news about them,” however “the search continues in Cameroon but apart from small pieces of information I can't see what could come out of it since the attackers have left the country.” The official also indicated that all the helicopters that may have been used to survey the border area and aid in the search are currently in the capital Yaounde ahead of the May 20 National Day military parade. The upcoming celebrations are also the reason why the unit of elite Cameroonian troops, which usually guards the group of Chinese workers attacked late Friday, was not up to its usual strength. According to local officials, a large group of heavily armed Boko

Haram militants in five vehicles stormed the Chinese encampment and engaged the Cameroonian soldiers.

- **9 May 2014** - The bombing and destruction of a small bridge, which links Nigeria with Cameroon in Borno State, on Thursday, has caused mass destruction. According to local sources, the bombing occurred on the outskirts of Gamboru Ngala, site of the attack by Boko Haram which claimed the lives of over 100 people on Monday. At least thirty people were killed during the late afternoon hours on Thursday, the same day of a mass burial in the town of Gamboru Ngala. The bridge links the immigration checkpoints of both Cameroon and Nigeria.
- **8 May 2014** – The Catholic bishops’ conference of Cameroon has demanded the release of two Italian priests and a Canadian nun. In a statement released May 5, and signed by the conference president, Archbishop Samuel Kleda of Douala, the bishops of Cameroon “strongly condemn these inadmissible attacks from extremist groups on Church officials and all acts of violence which pose a threat to the dignity of the human person.” According to the statement, the April 5 overnight abduction by “well-armed, unidentified people” had “raised fear and consternation within the Catholic Church.” Canadian Notre Dame Sister Gilberte Bussiere along with Frs. Gianantonis Allegri and Giampaolo Marta, both from Italy’s Vicenza Diocese, were kidnapped at their parish in Tchere, near Cameroon’s border with Nigeria. All three had worked in the central African country for many years. Since the kidnapping, which has been blamed on Boko Haram militants, Church sources have indicated that security at religious sites has been tightened. The kidnapping is the second involving Church personnel from the Marou-Mokolo Diocese to be attributed to Boko Haram, which freed a French priest, Fr. Georges Vandenbeush, in January 2014.
- **6 May 2014** – Following a deadly attack on a border police station on Monday, which Cameroonian officials have blamed on Nigeria’s Boko Haram militant group, a border crossing between Cameroon and Chad has been closed. Cameroonian media sources have reported that the crossing, which links the northernmost city of Kousseri to Chadian capital N’Djamena, was closed after militants attacked the Kousseri police station, leaving two people dead. According to local media reports, armed men stormed the police station before freeing a prisoner and killing two policemen. **Update (9 May 2014)** - The border between Cameroon and Chad has been partially reopened after it was closed earlier this week following an attack on a gendarmerie brigade in Kousseri by Boko haram militants. Local sources have indicated that traffic has been authorized on the bridge, which straddles the Logoon river between Chad and Cameroon.
- **5 May 2014** – Cameroon’s state television reported on Monday that the country’s army has freed eighteen civilians seized in the country’s east last week by rebels from neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR). According to a statement, the hostages were freed during an overnight operation. No further details have been released. Last week, state radio in Bertoua, the capital of Cameroon’s East Region, had reported that the group was captured in the border zone between May 1 – 2. Fifteen people were seized while travelling in three vehicles on a local road while the other three were captured in a nearby village. At the time, the state radio had reported that the captors were demanding the release of their leader, Abdoulaye Miskine, who is in detention in the

capital, Yaounde. Miskine's Democratic Forces for the Central African People were aligned to the mostly Muslim rebel group, known as Seleka, which overthrew President Francois Bozize in March 2013 before being forced to cede power themselves in January. In recent months, thousands of people have been killed in inter-communal violence, with close to a million having been displaced from their homes and many others fleeing over the porous border into Cameroon.

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

- **15 May 2014** – Nearly ten people, most of them civilians, have died after rival militias clashed earlier this week in the centre of the strife-torn CAR. According to a source from the African force in the CAR, MISCA, the clashes erupted Wednesday near Dekoa between the mainly Christian “anti-balaka” force and the Seleka, a former rebel group. According to the source, following the clashes, ex-Seleka members carried out reprisal attacks in villages between Dekoa and Kaga Bandoro, adding that some villages were shot dead or wounded while looting took place. In the mainly Christian town of Boda, which is located in the southern region of the country, an armed man shot and killed a 12-year-old Muslim girl on Wednesday while also shooting and wounding a six-year-old girl and a baby. According to police officials, the shooting occurred while a government delegation sought to mediate between Muslims and Christians who have been locked in sectarian violence that left nearly 100 dead at the end of the January.
- **13 May 2014** – In a statement released Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande confirmed that a French journalist has been killed while on a reporting assignment in the CAR. The statement indicated that “the president learned with great sadness about the death of journalist Camille Lepage, who was reporting from the Central African Republic,” adding “the body of Miss Lepage was found by a patrol of Sangaris troops while checking a vehicle driven by anti-Balaka militia in the region of Bouar” in the west of the country. French military sources have indicated that she was with the anti-Balaka militia for her reporting when they were ambushed by armed groups in the region two days ago, adding “she was killed by gunfire and her body was recovered by the anti-Balaka along with those of their comrades.” The death of Miss Lepage comes six months after two French journalists were killed in Mali. The French president has vowed to make every effort in order to shed light on the murder. Hollande, who is currently on a visit to Georgia, has ordered the immediate dispatch of a French team as well as African police deployed in CAR to the scene to ensure that “all necessary measures” are taken to “shed light on the murder and to find the murders of our compatriot.” **Update (14 May 2014)** – According to police sources, Ms Camille Lepage died in a shoot-out between rival militia in which at least ten fighters died. Details of the incident, which occurred in the village of Gallow in the western region of the country, emerged as the UN Security Council condemned the killing of the 26-year-old, vowing that those responsible will be brought to justice. Ms Lepage had been in the CAR since September. The UN Security Council has condemned the killing of a French journalist in the CAR, stating that those responsible “shall be held accountable.” A statement released by the UN Security Council indicated that according to international humanitarian law, journalists in a conflict zone should be treated as civilians. The Council has also called on the CAR government to investigate the incident.
 - Meanwhile a police source indicated Tuesday that at least thirteen people were burned alive in the CAR over the past weekend when they were rounded up by armed men and barricaded inside a home that was set alight. According to the source, the attacks were carried out by

men believed to be linked to former rebels of the Seleka rebel group and the Fulani ethnic group in the region of Kaga Bandoro in the country's centre. The source indicated "one resident who tried to escape through a window was riddled with bullets. All were burnt to death in the house fire," adding that "many other residents, who managed to flee, arrived horrified at Kaga Bandoro, where they took refuge in St. Theresa Cathedral." An official from the former Seleka rebels has indicated that the rebels for a long time had not visited the region, instead blaming the violence on members of the Fulani tribe, whose animals were stolen by anti-Balaka militias, and villagers conducting reprisals.

- **9 May 2014** – At least two civilians and several militants were killed during fighting between the DRC's armed forces and the Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba militia. According to officials, the national army had launched an offensive against rebel positions on Tuesday, killing several fighters of the Yakutuma militia, which is allied to the People's National Coalition for the Sovereignty of Congo. Authorities in the 10th military region indicated that an assailant was killed and that three people, including two children, were injured. Col. Anaphos Baburwa, the military commander of the 10th military region, confirmed the incident on Thursday, adding, "there were no deaths nor injuries in our ranks." He also indicated that the militia had fled into the neighbouring Ngandja forest, adding "they were pushed at least 20 km south of Baraka locality with several people whom they are using as human shields."
- **8 May 2014** – International Criminal Court (ICC) investigators arrived in Bangui Thursday to begin probing the relentless violence that has plagued the CAR for the past eighteen months. The ICC's first fact-finding mission, since a preliminary probe was launched earlier this year, comes amidst unabated ethnic and religious violence that has prompted warnings that a possible genocide is immanent. During a news conference in the CAR's capital city, ICC head of international cooperation Amadi Bah stated "serious crimes have been committed since 2012 in Central Africa." The ICC team will be investigating possible war crimes by members of both the officially disbanded Seleka rebel group and the so-called "anti-balaka" militias. In February 2014, officials at the ICC announced that it they had opened an initial probe into the violence. At the time, the court's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda indicated "my office has reviewed many reports detailing acts of extreme brutality...and allegations of serious crimes being committed." Her announcement came two days after a gruesome lynching that saw government soldiers stab, trample and pelt a suspected ex-rebel moments after a military ceremony which was attended by the new interim president. Several other cases of lynching's and mutilations have been reported in recent months. Among the scores of people confirmed to have been killed this month were several children eyewitnesses said had been thrown alive onto fires. A coalition of mainly Muslim rebels launched an offensive in late 2012, eventually seizing power from President Francois Bozize in March of last year. Some of the fighters later went rogue and the abuses they committed spurred majority Christians into creating vigilante groups, which have in turn carried out a number of atrocities. The daily looting, killing and raping has raised fears of a new Somalia-style "failed state, a concern that sparked the launch in December 2013 of a military operation by former colonial power France.

In the past eighteen months, thousands have been killed while around a quarter of the country's 4.6 million people have been displaced.

- **6 May 2014** – The military chief of staff in Paris, France confirmed Tuesday that French troops stationed in the CAR had to call for air backup to battle off an assault by well-armed militants, in clashes that left several gunmen dead. According to spokesman Colonel Gilles Jaron, around forty heavily armed militants on motorcycles and pick-up trucks swarmed the French soldiers on a road leading to the village of Boguila in the north-western region of the country. The spokesman stated “faced with aggressiveness of this adversary, the French force resorted to heavy arms, mortars and anti-tank missiles,” adding “there was air backup from fighter jets from N’Djamena” in neighbouring Chad. The battle, which lasted for about three hours and ended as darkness fell, destroyed part of the militant convoy and left several of the attackers dead. No casualties were reported on the French side.
- **5 May 2014** – As Charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced that it would reduce its work after a bloody attack on a hospital, more than 100 people have been killed in fierce fighting in the past ten days in the CAR. Amongst those killed were many civilians, with one eyewitness claiming that children had been thrown onto fires alive, these reports however have not been confirmed. An officials with the African peacekeeping force indicated Monday that some seventy-five people died in fighting close to the country's northern border with Chad, adding that the clashes pitted fighters from the former rebel Seleka coalition against members of the Fulani tribe. Another military official indicated around fifty-five people were killed near the town of Paoua, while another twenty perished near Markounda. Both towns are located close to the border with Chad. The official added that the killings were carried out over a period of “several days” in an area that is patrolled by armed fighters from the Seleka rebels and Fulani tribe, adding, “they attacked nearly 10 villages around Markounda between Wednesday and Friday. They also attacked more than 40 villages near Paoua on the Chadian border.” News of the deadly clashes in the north came as it was announced that almost thirty people were also killed in fighting in the Mala region, which is located 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of the capital Bangui. According to an official from the African peacekeeping force MISCA, the deaths in the Mala region were the result of fighting between Seleka rebels and the Christian vigilante groups known as the anti-balaka. Local residents have indicated that Seleka fighters are still occupying the Mala region. Meanwhile in what appears to be a sign that the situation in the CAR is continuing to deteriorate, despite the presence of international forces, international charity Doctors Without Borders announced Monday that it would temporarily cut back its work in the country after a bloody attack on a hospital last month, which left 22 people dead, including three of its own workers. A statement released by MSF indicated “in protest against the brutal killing of civilians, including three of its humanitarian workers at Boguila Hospital on 26 April, MSF is reducing its activities in CAR and related projects in neighbouring countries for one week to emergency medical care only.” MSF also expressed shock over the transitional government's and spokesman for armed groups failure to publicly condemn the massacre and other daily atrocities.

Domestic News

- **9 May 2014** – The CAR’s interim leader has blamed the relentless sectarian violence on the inability of international forces to disarm rival militias. In an interview published Friday, President Catherine Samba Panza stated, “insecurity persists first of all because the disarmament has not been done correctly. It was difficult for the international forces amid the violence to carry out an extensive disarmament.” She added that while she thought the armed groups were trying to position themselves before entering negotiations and that the ex-Seleka rebels waging deadly attacks in the north “are showing their desire to partition the country.” While some 5,000 troops in the African MISCA force, along with 2,000 French soldiers under a UN mandate, have been deployed to help restore order in the CAR, a cycle of revenge attacks between the Muslim ex-rebels and vigilante groups from the Christian majority have led to unabated killings and lootings, and have caused a major humanitarian crisis. Although security in the capital city, Bangui, has improved, the CAR’s president has indicated that there were deep concerns about the situation in the central regions of the country, stating “we have to restore the authority of the state...bring back the administration. Then a reconciliation process must take place, the communities must learn again how to get along.” Her comments come as investigators of the International Criminal Court (ICC) began their first fact-finding mission probing the “unprecedented atrocities” that have been committed in the CAR, which have prompted warnings of a possible genocide.
 - Meanwhile according to one rebel, Muslim fighters in the CAR have chosen a new leader amidst fears that the movement is gathering strength again. According to Col. Mahamat Deya, the group known as Seleka appointed Gen. Joseph Zindeko, who was once commander of a rebel base in the capital. The rebels have also indicated that their gathering this week is intended to help them create a political wing so that they can participate in reconciliation talks. While they have been in disarray since they were forced from power, they have recently begun to regroup in the northern regions of the country and have staged a series of attacks on towns in recent weeks. Last week, a group of Seleka rebels opened fire at a hospital in the country’s northwest, killing more than a dozen people.
- **6 May 2014** – In addressing mounting criticism of the CAR’s government’s failure to stem religious violence that has displaced nearly 1 million people, the CAR’s interim president pledged on Tuesday to overhaul her government and make it more representative. In a speech to mark her first 100 days in office, President Catherine Samba-Panza acknowledged there was widespread anger at her government’s lack of progress and accepted that her decision to appoint a majority of minister from her own eastern region had stirred resentment in the former French colony. In a speech to the National Transitional Council, President Samba-Panza stated “the government will be reshuffled to be more inclusive and representative,” adding “voices were being raised to demand the urgent organization of an inclusive political dialogue.” With international frustration also rising at her government’s record, President Samba-Panza indicated that many of the

criticisms were “legitimate” but added that three months were not enough to respond to the scale of the challenge.

International Developments

- **13 May 2014** – On Tuesday, United States President Barack Obama imposed sanctions against the former CAR leaders Francois Bozize and Michel Djotodia, along with three other officials. According to a White House Statement, the sanctions aim to send “ a powerful message that impunity will not be tolerated, and that those who threaten the stability of the CAR will face consequences.” In addition to Bozize and Djotodia, the US sanctions also target the leader of the anti-Balaka militia, Levy Yakete; the Seleka militia’s number two Nourredine Adam; and Abdoulay Miskine, also of the Seleka. All five will have any assets in the US frozen. The move comes on the heels of UN sanctions announced Friday by the Security Council. The UN sanctions are against three of the same five men: Bozize, Yakete and Adam. President Obama has also put in place a framework for potentially wider sanctions. In a letter to Congress about the measures, the president called the situation in the CAR a “threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States” adding “the United States continues to work with the international community, regional partners, and CAR’s transitional authorities to help set the country on a path toward recovery.” The statement also indicated that the US “...strongly support the African Union, French and European Union forces who have been working to reestablish security for the people of the CAR, and the UN peacekeepers who will continue their heroic work,” adding “we urge all parties to end the violence, to ensure justice and accountability for perpetrators of human rights abuses.”
 - Meanwhile on Tuesday, the European Union’s (EU) forces operation commander indicated that the EU expects to have more than 800 troops on the ground in the CAR by mid-June, where they will secure parts of the capital before handing over to a UN force later this years. The six-month deployment comes amidst mounting concern that French and African peacekeepers stationed on the ground need more help to secure the near-anarchic country before the UN force deploys in September. The EU force, which is known as EUFOR, already has 235 troops in the CAR’s capital city. The troops have been tasked with securing the airport and a nearby area, which is intended to house the remaining troops when they arrive. According to Maj. Gen. Philippe Ponties, the European force will concentrate on Bangui airport and two districts of the capita, five and three, where tensions are the highest. Maj. Gen. Ponties further noted that “the idea is that we will manage to achieve this minimum level of security that will allow the population to return, to allow the humanitarian workers to put into action the projects they want to...and create the conditions for the return of the refugees,” adding that this would free up the French and African Union troops who would then begin to operate across a border area.

- **9 May 2014** – On Friday, the United Nations Security Council ordered sanctions against three CAR leaders, including former president Francois Bozize. The leader of the anti-balaka militia Levy Yakete and the Seleka militia's number two Nourredine Adam were also targeted. These targeted sanctions, which include an asset freeze and travel ban, were anticipated in a January 28 UN resolution that was proposed by the United States and France. The decision taken by the Security Council's Sanctions Committee was delayed for several weeks by China and Russia, who requested time to examine the case before finally giving the green light. The Sanctions Committee has accused the three men of "engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR. According to the Committee, former CAR president Francois Bozize, who was overthrown by Seleka rebels in March 2013, "provided material and financial support to anti-Balaka and former army officers who are working to destabilize the on-going transition and bring him back to power. The Committee also indicated "forces loyal to Bozize have become involved in reprisal attacks against CAR's Muslim population." Yakete is accused of having ordered the arrest of people with ties to the Seleka and of having organized the distribution of machetes to young, unemployed Christians to attack Muslims. Meanwhile Adam, who headed the intelligence services under the new regime, is accused of arbitrary arrests, torture and summary executions. According to the Sanctions Committee, he also "actively directs ex-Seleka...and directs operations against Christian neighbourhoods," adding that he had a part in diamonds trafficking between the CAR and Chad.
- **6 May 2014** – According to a UN official, the United Nations is considering the use of unarmed drones ahead of the deployment of 12,000 peacekeepers in September. Speaking to reporters in Bangui, UN under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, Herve Ladsous, has indicated that the drones would be used to monitor sectarian violence in the CAR and that "...this is a very useful instrument in this type of territory." The UN under-secretary-general's three-day visit to the CAR came just over three months after new President Catherine Samba-Panza took over, with reconciliation between the country's Christian and Muslim communities looking more and more unlikely despite international peacekeeping efforts.

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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 May 2014** – On Monday, officials in Chad announced that they were closing down the country's southern border with the Central African Republic until the conflict in the neighbouring state was resolved. A statement released on President Idriss Deby Itno's website confirmed "Chad is closing its common borders with the Central African Republic." The announcement comes as the Chadian president was on a tour of the southern regions, which border with the CAR. The statement further added that "for any Chadian who wishes to return home with his property, we will open the border wide. But apart from this precise case, nobody is authorised to cross the border until the Central African crisis is solved." The president also promised "to increase substantially the number of defence and security forces in this southern zone the better to ensure the safety of the population." In recent months, fighters from the CAR have regularly been accused of crossing into Chadian territory, however armed groups from Chad are also accused of crossing the other way in a bid to stir up trouble in the CAR. The announcement of the border closure comes nearly one month after Chad withdrew more than 800 troops, who played a key role in an international African peacekeeping force in the CAR, known as MISCA. The Chadian president ordered the pull out after the United Nations stated that Chadian troops had opened fire in a crowded market in the CAR capital Bangui on March 29 in an attack that left around thirty people dead "without any provocation." Chad responded by stating that this allegation was defamatory.

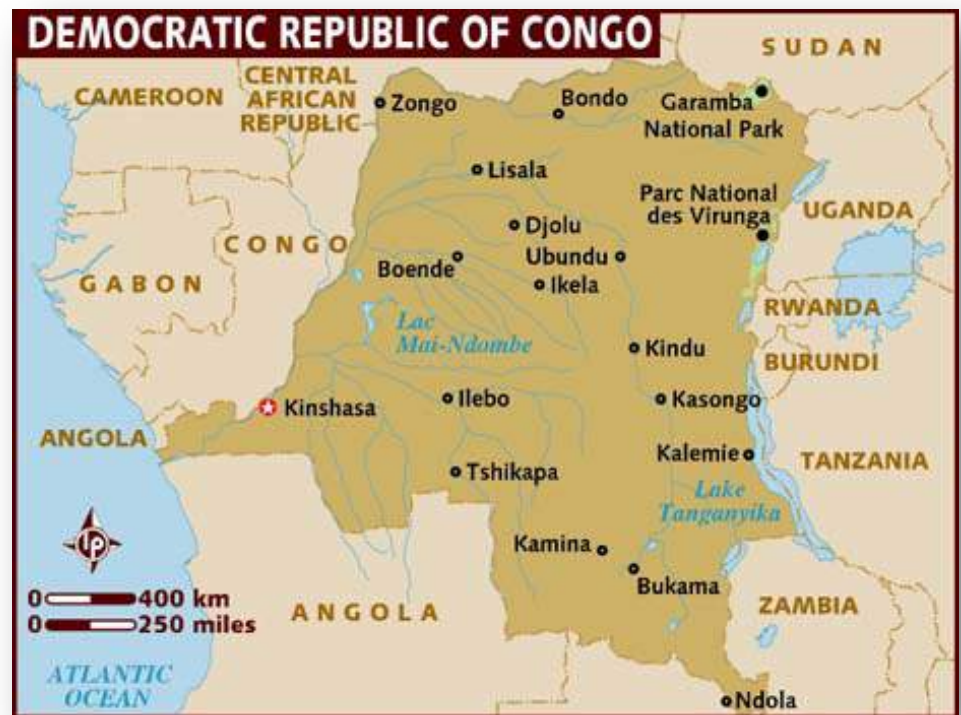
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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

- **6 May 2014** – Marking a key step in peace efforts, the leader of a rebel group announced Tuesday that defeated Democratic Republic of Congo rebels, who fled to Uganda, have signed amnesty papers, effectively vowing not to fight again. According to the political head of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group Bertrand Bisimwa, “it’s a commitment not to take up arms again against the republic.” According to Bisimwa, several hundred M23 fighters in Rwanda are also expected to sign similar papers in the coming days. Ugandan military spokesman Paddy Ankunda confirmed the amnesty agreement, stating that 1,295 ex-rebels, who are confined to a camp that is under Ugandan army guard, had signed the forms. DRC President Joseph Kabila had announced the amnesty in February to cover “acts of insurgency, acts of war and political offences,” however more serious transgressions, including crimes against humanity, torture, sexual violence, child conscription, embezzlement and looting, are excluded from the amnesty. M23’s 18-month long rebellion was crushed in November 2013 by government troops and UN peacekeepers. This resulted in many of the fighters fleeing to neighbouring countries, such as Rwanda and Uganda. The United Nations and Kinshasa have accused both Rwanda and Uganda of actively backing the rebellion that was launched by mutinous soldiers. These claims however have been denied by both Kigali and Kampala.
- **5 May 2014** – A mass trial of 39 soldiers in the DRC has ended with two being convicted of rape and thirteen others cleared. On Monday, a military court in the DRC handed down two rape convictions in a mass trial of 39 soldiers who were linked to atrocities that were committed during a 2012 army offensive. The court’s presiding judge sentenced a lieutenant colonel to live in prison while a corporal received a sentence of ten years for rape during the military operation against rebels in eastern South Kivu province. Another soldier was jailed for life for murder however he was acquitted on a rape charge. Twenty-five of the 39 soldiers faced rape charges before the North Kivu court, which also imposed jail sentences of between ten and twenty years against 22 soldiers for “violating instructions, looting and distributing ammunition.” Thirteen officers were acquitted of dereliction of duty. Lawyers for the victims called the ruling an “insult.” The charges date to November 2012, when rebels of the now defunct March 23 Movement (M23) captured the regional mining hub Goma, the North Kivu capital, and held it for ten days. The soldiers were accused of committing the atrocities as they fled their positions in and around the South Kivu city of Minova in the face of the M23 onslaught. The trial of the thirty-nine soldiers began in November 2013 after months of international pressure and just three weeks after the UN-backed Congolese army defeated the M23. At the time, the United Nations had threatened to stop funding army units suspected of abuses. According to a UN report, the soldiers had perpetrated “135 cases of sexual violence, as well as other serious human rights violations including murders and massive looting” between November 20 and 30. The joint investigation by the UN peacekeeping force in the country and the UN human rights agency also identified 59 cases of sexual violence committed by M23 fighters in the Goma area during the same period. Although the DRC government signed an

accord with the UN in April 2013 to step up the fight against sexual abuse by armed groups and soldiers, such abuse remains widespread in the eastern region of the country, where an number of armed groups continue to be active. Sexual violence has also been rampant in the DRC for two decades. Last year, the Congolese government reported 15,352 cases in seven provinces, with data indicated that armed groups committed more than half of the assaults. A UN report released last month, which documented 3,635 cases between 2010 and 2013, indicated that just over half were committed by members of armed groups that operated in the eastern DRC. The rest were attributed to state agents, including soldiers, who were implicated in around one in three rapes.

Regional Reporting

- **9 April 2014** – Officials announced Sunday that Jules Mutebusi, a former DR Congo rebel leader often described as a Rwandan proxy, has died in Kigali where he had been exiled for a decade. According to one family member, Mutebusi “...died on Friday evening in a Kigali hospital. He was 54. It looks like he had been sick, that’s what Rwanda is saying.” While the exact cause of his death remains unclear, with no official word from Rwanda and divergent statements from Mutebusi’s family and the government in Kinshasa, DRC government spokesman Lambert Mende has stated that Mutebusi “...had been sick for some time....We have not been provided with a medical certificate but officials from his home region have spoken of AIDS.” Mutebusi, from the ethnic Tutsi group in the DRC’s South Kivu region, known as Banyamulenge, was a top military leader of the Rall for Congolese Democracy (RCD). In 2004, Laurent Nkunda, another defecting Tutsi Congolese officer, and Mutebusi jointly captured Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu, on the grounds that the local population was being persecuted. After the Congolese army and its allies recaptured the lakeside city, fierce fighting pitted the RCD rebels against loyalist forces in the Kamanyola region. When his forces were defeated, Mutebusi and 300 of his men fled to Rwanda, which Kinshasa had accused of backing the RCD rebellion, including by providing armoured vehicles. Sources have indicated that Mutebusi had recently expressed fears for his own safety because he had not supported M23, another Tutsi Congolese group that has been often described as the latest incarnation of the RCD.

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.

