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West Africa Report

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

June 9 - 22, 2014



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

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

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

References are always available.
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Summary

June 9 - 22, 2014



Sahel Region

- **19 June 2014** – A UN envoy has told the Security Council that the growth of Islamist violence in the Sahel region is now threatening the stability of the entire region, with Mali, Libya and Nigeria the most affected.
- **13 June 2014** – On Friday, the United States posted US \$18 million in rewards for the capture of four African militants who have been involved in the kidnappings of foreigners as well as attacks on Western targets.
- **12 June 2014** - A panel of experts has called for minor drugs offences to be decriminalized in West Africa, where trafficking consumption and production is undermining development and causing a public health crisis.

Guinea

On the Ground Reporting

- **18 June 2015** – World Health Organization officials reported Wednesday that the death toll in West Africa's three-nation Ebola outbreak has now risen to 337.

Domestic News

- **9 June 2014** – On Monday, Guinea’s opposition party announced that it is pulling out of parliament and has threatened to carry out protests.

Guinea – Bissau

- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, the African Union (AU) has ended the suspension of Guinea-Bissau, and Egypt, from the grouping after the two countries elected new leaders.

Ivory Coast

- **12 June 2014** – The International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed Thursday that it will try Ivory Coast ex-president Laurent Gbagbo for crimes against humanity that were allegedly committed during a bloody 2010 – 2011 election standoff.

Liberia

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 June 2014** – Health officials in Liberia confirmed Tuesday that the deadly Ebola virus has killed seven people in the country’s capital city, Monrovia, bringing the number of people believed to have died from the virus to sixteen.
- **11 June 2014** – A defence lawyer has indicated that a court in Liberia has found thirteen men guilty of cross-border “mercenary activity” in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

International Developments

- **19 June 2014** – The lawyer representing former Liberian president Charles Taylor indicated Thursday that his client has stated that his imprisonment in Britain breaches his human rights, adding that he has applied to serve the rest of his jail term for war crimes in Rwanda.

Mali

On the Ground Reporting

- **18 June 2014** – The United Nations peacekeeping force in Mali will soon be receiving unmanned drones to help protect civilians and UN troops in the volatile north.
- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, Mali’s army chief of staff, General Mahame Toure, offered to step down on Thursday following the military’s failed attempt at seizing control of the town of Kidal.
- **16 June 2014** – At least two people were killed, and fifteen prisoners escaped, after a suspected Islamist militant detainee shot his way out of the main jail in Mali’s capital city Bamako.
- **15 June 2014** – Three armed groups from northern Mali announced in Algiers on Sunday that they have agreed to begin talks with the Bamako government, which will be aimed at resolving long-standing disputes.
- **13 June 2014** – According to a new report by UN Secretary General, the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali has deployed 8,280 soldiers on the ground, just 74 per cent of the number mandated a year ago, with the mission still lacking utility helicopters.
- **11 June 2014** – UN and government sources have confirmed that a suicide bomber killed four Chadian United Nations peacekeepers at a military camp in northeastern Mali on Wednesday.
- **9 June 2014** – Three armed movements from northern Mali have signed a joint statement in Algiers, declaring that

they are ready to work for peace with the Malian government.

Regional Reporting

- **16 June 2014** – Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra stated Monday that armed groups from northern Mali are ready to launch peace talks with Bamako in a bid to end the instability that has plagued the region.

International Developments

- **19 June 2014** – On Friday, officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicated that aid to Mali, which has been frozen since the country spend US \$40 million on a presidential plane, will remain suspended until at least September.
- **13 June 2014** – Amidst fears that militants will increase their attacks against international and Malian troops, along with threats to civilians, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned Friday that UN peacekeepers should expand further into the volatile northern regions of Mali.

Mauritania

- **22 June 2014** – Preliminary results indicated Sunday that Mauritania's incumbent leader Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has won the presidential polls with 81.89 percent of the vote.
- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, Mauritania's president accused the opposition of buying up people's identity cards in an attempt to prevent them from voting in the upcoming elections.
- **10 June 2014** – Responding defiantly to an opposition boycott of this month's presidential elections, Mauritanian president has called for a "100 percent" turnout in a vote that he is widely expected to win.
- **9 June 2014** – The African Union (AU) will send a 40-person team to observe the upcoming presidential elections, which are due to take place on June 21 in Mauritania.

Niger

- **15 June 2014** – On Sunday, thousands of opposition supporters took to the streets in Niger's capital Niamey, demanding that authorities respect civil liberties.

Nigeria

On the Ground Reporting

- **20 June 2014** – Local officials indicated Friday that suspected Boko Haram gunmen have killed ten people in raids on five villages in Nigeria's northeastern Adamawa state.
- **19 June 2014** – Government sources have indicated that militant Islamists are targeting Nigeria's capital of Abuja and plan to load bombs on petrol lorries that are headed into the city.
- **18 June 2014** – On Wednesday, Nigeria's police advised football fans to stay from public venues showing World Cup matches after a bomb attack killed at least twenty-one people in the northern region of the country.
- **17 June 2014** – Nigeria's military indicated Tuesday that they have detained more than 460 people travelling from the country's north to the south, with sources indicating that the detained are suspected of being members of Boko Haram.
 - Police and residents reported Tuesday that an explosion ripped through a football viewing center in Damaturu, northern Nigeria, as fans were gathering to watch a World Cup game.
 - Meanwhile Nigerian vigilantes reported Tuesday that they have killed eight suspected Boko Haram militants who attacked a village near Chibok, where more than 200 school girls were kidnapped by the militant group in April.
- **15 June 2014** – At least fifteen people were killed when suspected Boko Haram gunmen stormed a market in northern

Nigeria late on Sunday.

- Meanwhile Nigerian security forces in central Plateau state are searching for a British construction worker believed to have been kidnapped.
- **14 June 2014** – As the FIFA World Cup football tournament kicks off in Brazil, security warnings have been issued for a number of African countries, including Nigeria.
- **12 June 2014** – In a bid to end the increasingly deadly insurgency by Boko Haram's militants, Nigeria's military indicated Thursday that it could follow the example of Sri Lanka in fighting terror.
- **11 June 2014** - Nigerian officials have taken additional steps in order to prevent any World Cup related terrorist attacks from occurring.
 - Meanwhile Nigeria's main relief agency indicated Wednesday that over the past week, more than 6,000 people in the northeastern state of Borno have fled their homes in the wake of new Boko Haram violence.
 - At least eight people, including three security officers, were killed when gunmen raided three villages in Nigeria's central Plateau state.
- **10 June 2014** – Residents and Nigerian media reported Tuesday that suspected Boko Haram militants have kidnapped at least twenty women from nomadic settlements in the northeastern region of Nigeria, close to where the militant group abducted more than 200 schoolgirls in April.
- **9 June 2014** – On Monday, clashes broke out in Nigeria's second-largest city as hundreds of supporters of the newly appointed emir of Kano fought with backers of his main rival for the key post

Domestic News

- **22 June 2014** – On Sunday, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a military checkpoint in northeast Borno state, near the border with Cameroon.
- **18 June 2014** – On Wednesday, Nigeria's top military officer dismissed reports of a possible coup in a country that is currently gripped by a raging Islamist insurgency and unrest.
- **17 June 2014** – According to a national conference report, Nigeria is losing an estimated US \$35 million (£20.6 million) a day from oil theft and needs to put a "full, final stop" to the growing black market for crude export.
- **14 June 2014** – Nigeria's main opposition party has taken up the issue of Nigeria's ongoing insecurity and has criticized President Goodluck Jonathan's party for failing to stem the rising violence.

International Developments

- **11 June 2014** – Sources have indicated that the UN Security Council is set to sanction Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, along with the militant group's faction Ansaru.

Senegal

- **17 June 2014** – Prosecutors in France have dismissed a corruption investigation into the son of former Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade.

Sierra Leone

- **19 June 2014** – Sierra Leone's health minister indicated Thursday that the country, which is one of three facing an Ebola epidemic, has stepped up measures in order to fight the highly contagious and deadly disease.
- **12 June 2014** – Sierra Leone's government has announced a state of emergency in the district of Kailahun after the deadly Ebola outbreak has claimed seventeen lives in the region.

Security Summaries for West African States

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Benin

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

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Gambia

There is no travel advisory for Gambia, however MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance, in the southern region of Senegal. The Casamance region of south western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. An outbreak of the Ebola virus has been confirmed in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. While there have been no confirmed cases of the Ebola virus in The Gambia, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country maintain a high level of vigilance. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Due to the French military intervention in Mali, coupled with the Gambia's stated commitment to participate in the intervention, there is a possibility that retaliatory attacks against Western interests in the region may be carried out. Travellers to the country are warned to remain vigilant as attacks can take place at anytime and anywhere.

Ghana

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. While there have been no confirmations of the deadly disease in Ghana, officials are currently testing blood samples taken from a 12-year-old girl who recently died of a viral fever. MS Risk advises all travellers to or near the affected areas to take the necessary precautions, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

Although there is currently no travel advisory for Ghana, the country has seen an increase in violent robbery in 2013. In May, an expatriate's vehicle was stopped by an armed individual who forced his way into the car demanding money. On being paid, the individual left the vehicle. In a separate incident, an expatriate was robbed of her wallet while attempting to pay a taxi driver. There have also been reports of two Westerners being shot while driving alone at night. In a separate incident, two westerners were robbed at gunpoint while at a restaurant. Both incidents occurred in the Accra Area however there have been reports of robberies in the Tema area which in one case resulted in the death of a Westerner. There have also been reports of foreign nationals being held at gun-point in their homes and while walking in the street. Most armed robberies occur at night however there have been some reports of such incidents occurring during daytime. A common tactic has been to deliberately cause a minor road traffic accident in order to force the targeted vehicle to stop. As a result of ongoing local Chieftancy and land disputes, isolated inter-ethnic violence and civil unrest can occur at any time, including in the Northern, Upper East and Volta regions. A dusk to dawn curfew has been put in place on the Hohoe community in the Volta region. This is due to communal clashes over the exhumation of the Chief Imam of Hohoe. If you

are considering travelling to the Northern Region, MS Risk advises you to remain alert to the potential of new outbreaks of flooding which is common in the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions during the rainy season, which spans from March to November. We advise that you monitor the local weather reports and expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

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Togo

There is currently no travel advisory for Togo. Crime is on the rise in Lome. Local authorities warn of a rise in violent robberies and car-jacking incidents that target both foreigners and Togolese alike. Togolese authorities have also warned motorists to only stop for individuals in uniform, particularly after dark. You should avoid travelling alone where possible even within Lome city limits, especially after dark. There is a possibility of retaliatory attacks in Togo, due to its participation in the intervention in Mali.

Sahel Region

Security Summary

There is a very real threat of kidnap to westerners in the Sahel and surrounding regions. The Sahel region includes Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, however the kidnap threat extends to other countries, including Algeria, Cameroon, Libya and Nigeria. Following the military intervention in Mali, which was launched in January 2013, the threat of kidnap and terrorist attacks has increased, with further attacks highly likely to continue.

There are currently around six hostages being held in the Sahel and surrounding regions. Victims in the region have included construction workers, NGO workers, tourists and diplomats of various nationalities, primarily European. Some hostages have been killed.

- **19 June 2014** – A UN envoy has told the Security Council that the growth of Islamist violence in the Sahel region is now threatening the stability of the entire region, with Mali, Libya and Nigeria the most affected. In a new report presented to the Security Council on Thursday, Hirouté Guebré Sellassie, the new UN envoy for the Sahel, indicated Thursday that overall “terrorist acts” in the Sahel and the Maghreb have increased by 60% in 2013, with extreme poverty and unemployment part of the problem. In his report, the UN envoy also indicated that last year, there were 230 terror incidents in the Sahel and Maghreb region, adding that this was an “alarming increase” of 60% compared with 2012, and it was the highest annual total in the region for the past twelve years. He notes that the deteriorating political and security situation in Libya; the political impasse and security challenges in Mali along with increasing attacks and kidnappings by Boko Haram militants in Nigeria have continued to affect civilians and local economies. The increase in violence has coincided with a UN plan to tackle insecurity and underdevelopment in the region. The plan, which is known as the Integrated UN Strategy for the Sahel began two years ago.
- **13 June 2014** – On Friday, the United States posted US \$18 million in rewards for the capture of four African militants who have been involved in the kidnappings of foreigners as well as attacks on Western targets. According to the US State Department, some US \$5 million each is being offered for the former member of Nigeria’s Boko Haram and two founding leaders of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which is based in the Maghreb region. A fourth reward of US \$3 million has been set for an Egyptian extremist who has plotted against the US. A statement released by the agency’s Rewards for Justice programme indicated that Khalid al-Barnawi was named as the leader of the Nigerian based group known as Ansaru, which split from Boko Haram in early 2012. According to the State Department, “Ansaru originated as a faction of Boko Haram, has close ties to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and has sought to target Westerners, including US citizens.” The group was behind the kidnapping of seven foreigners in a raid on a construction site in northern Nigeria in February 2013. Their captors later executed the seven workers who were from Britain, Greece, Italy and Lebanon. Barnawi also reportedly helped plan the May 2011 kidnapping by Ansaru of a British and an Italian engineer. Both were killed ten months later. The agency also named Hamad el-Khairi and Ahmed el-Tilemsi as founding members of MUJAO, and former members of AQIM. According to the agency, Tilemsi took part in the kidnapping of two French nationals in Niamey, Niger in January 2011. The men were later executed in Mali after French Special Forces attempted to rescue them. As a military leader of MUJAO, Tilemsi also aided in the abduction of

three European aid workers from a refugee camp in Tindouf, Algeria in October 2011. At the time, MUJAO claimed to be behind the kidnapping. It was also the first time that the group emerged to the fore stating that it was an offshoot of AQIM. The three Europeans were released in July 2012 in Mali after an exchange for three Islamists held in Mauritania. While still a member of AQIM, Khairy planned attacks in Mauritania and took part in the December 2008 kidnapping of UN envoy and Canadian Ambassador Robert Fowler, who was abducted in Niger. He had also ordered the 2011 kidnapping of the three European aid workers in Algeria. Khairy has also claimed responsibility for the April 2012 kidnappings of seven Algerian diplomats in Mali, in which at least one of the hostages was killed while three were later freed. The agency is also offering US \$3 million for Egyptian explosives expert Abu Yusuf al-Muhajir, a former member of the Tawhid w'al Jihad Egypt, which is described as an extremist group that was active in the Sinai Peninsula from 2004 until 2006. According to the State Department, "Abu Yusuf was involved in the attack planning against a variety of targets in Egypt, including US interests."

- **12 June 2014** - A panel of experts has called for minor drugs offences to be decriminalized in West Africa, where trafficking consumption and production is undermining development and causing a public health crisis. On Thursday, officials from the West Africa Commission on Drugs (WACD) stated that current policies were fuelling corruption in a region where the cocaine trade alone, which is estimated to be at US \$1.25 billion a year, dwarfs the combined budgets of a number of countries. According to commission chairman Olusegun Obasanjo, a former president of Nigeria, "we call on West African governments to reform drug laws and policies and decriminalize low-level and non-violent drug offences," adding "West Africa is no longer just a transit zone for drugs arriving from South America and ending up in Europe but has become a significant zone of consumption and production." Mr Obasanjo also noted "the glaring absence of treatment facilities for drug users fuels the spread of disease and exposes an entire generation, users and non-users alike, to growing public health risks." The commission also highlighted the drug-fuelled instability in Guinea-Bissau, where drug traffickers have turned the country into a transit point for the international cocaine trade; and in Mali, which has been seen for years as a weak link in the fight against drugs and which was the scene of the November 2009 "drug-plane" affair, when a Boeing 727 carrying cocaine from Venezuela landed in the remote northeastern region of Gao. A recent statement released by the WACD, which was commissioned by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, also argues that the widespread criminalization of drug use has increased the prison population throughout West Africa. According to the report, inmates are rarely reformed and in many cases end up more criminalized or sick as a result of their time inside. The WACD's study is the culmination of 18 months of research and consultations with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of Western African States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and crime and several regional and national organizations. It describes the political, economic, and social challenges that the region must confront in order to prevent drug trafficking, production and consumption from undermining states and societies and destroying lives.

Burkina Faso

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Anyone traveling to, or residing in, Burkina Faso is urged to maintain a high level of security awareness at all times. While the political situation remains generally stable, since February 2011, there have been an increasing number of demonstrations.

Threats and Concerns

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

Kidnapping Threats

There is a heightened risk that terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA), may cross the northern borders from Mali and Niger into Burkina Faso in order to carry out kidnaps. MS Risk therefore advises against all travel to the areas of Burkina Faso north of the town of Boulouga, which is 25 km north of the capital of Ouagadougou. We particularly advise against all travel to the regions that border Mali and Niger. Since 2008, over 25 Westerners have been kidnapped in the Sahel region, and a number of these hostages continue to be held. AQIM operates directly or through criminal gangs who carry out kidnappings on their behalf or pass on their kidnap victims in return for payment.



Crime

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

MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Burkina Faso:

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

There is an increased Burkinabe military presence in the north of the country and companies should review their respective security situations and consider the following:

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

Companies relying on police escorts in the northern region of the country should ensure that travel patterns do not become predictable. Varying routes is difficult due to the limited road networks; therefore, it is even more important to vary the types of vehicles used as well as the times of the journeys and to avoid travel patterns becoming widely known. This is especially critical given the current tensions along the Mali border and the impending ECOWAS operations. All companies linked to the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation should familiarize themselves with the IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Security Forces. This applies to military, police or private security services.

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

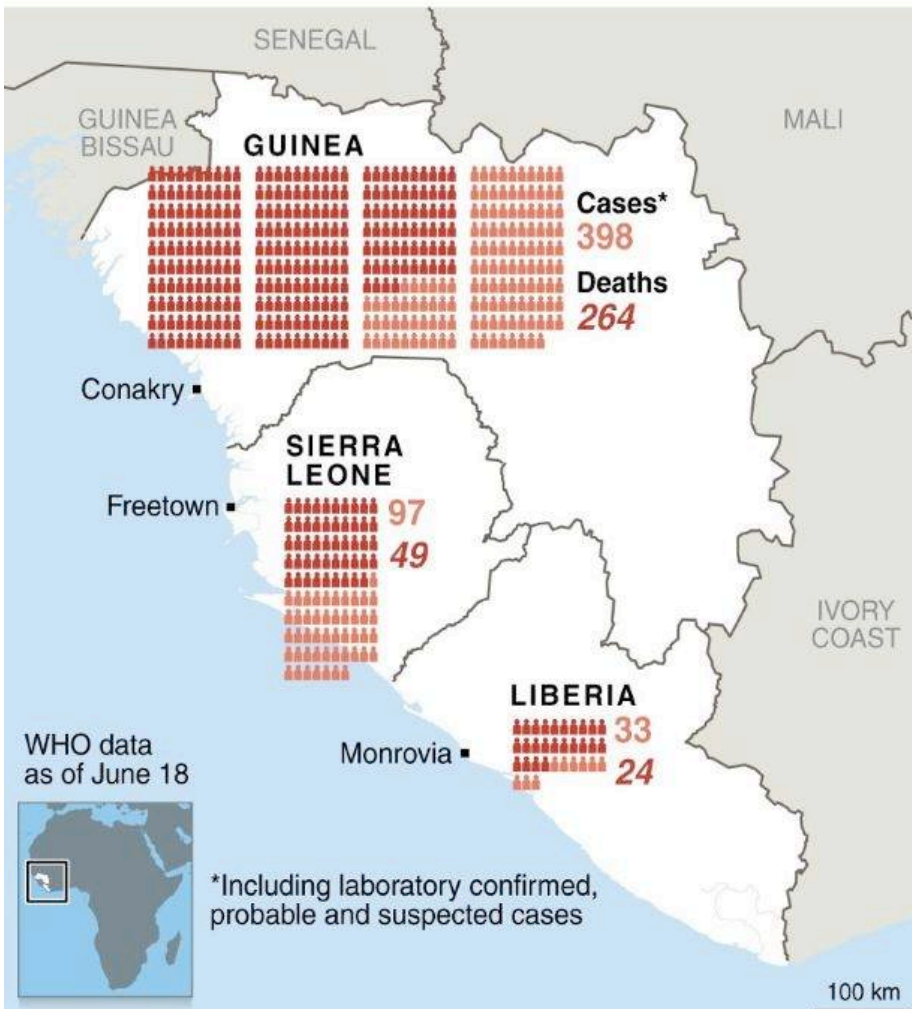
Guinea

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

The West Africa Ebola outbreak



An outbreak of contagious hemorrhagic fever, which has been identified as the Ebola virus, has been confirmed in the Forest region of south-eastern Guinea and in the capital city. Over the past few weeks, further deaths and cases have been confirmed, with health officials indicating that the outbreak has not been contained.

At least two deaths, several injuries and destruction of property were reported during riots that broke out in the eastern suburbs of Conakry on 18 February 2014. Since then, riots have continued throughout the capital city and in nearby towns. The riots and protests are a result of frequent power cuts. Further such violence is likely to continue over the coming weeks. Violence has broken out in Kankan, in the "Upper Guinea" region in the east of the country. At least three deaths have been reported since 14 December as well as a number of injuries and destruction of property. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid this region of the country as further instability is likely to continue.

There is currently a low threat from terrorism. Nearly 100 people were reported to have been killed in July in an outbreak of ethnic violence in the "Guinea Forestiere" region in the far

south-east of Guinea. A large number of injuries were also reported and properties destroyed. Areas of Guinea that border Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone are often tense and have an increased military presence. Therefore, MS Risk advises against all travel to the regions bordering the countries listed above. There have been regular reports of robberies on the routes Mamou, Faranah, Kissidougou, Guekedou, Macent and Nzerekore. MS Risk advises all travellers on these routes to remain vigilant and to avoid travel after dark. Official and unofficial checkpoints may be set up along these routes. Vehicles and passengers are submitted to checks on documentation and baggage. It is advised that you approach such checkpoints with caution, as corruption and extortion are common at roadblocks. Occasionally, checkpoints can be a pretext for armed robbery. Road travel is hazardous during the rainy season, which occurs from May to October. Torrential rains can cause floods and landslides. MS Risk advises you to monitor the local weather reports and expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

On the Ground Reporting

- **18 June 2015** – World Health Organization officials reported Wednesday that the death toll in West Africa's three-nation Ebola outbreak has now risen to 337. According to new data compiled by the United Nations health agency, the number of deaths in Guinea, which is the hardest-hit country, has reached 264. Sierra Leone has reported 49 deaths while Liberia has reported 24. The WHO has also indicated that 528 people across the three countries have contracted Ebola, with a majority of cases, 398 in total, having surfaced in Guinea. Sierra Leone has registered 97 cases in total while Liberia has seen 33. The new death toll effectively marks a more than 60-percent increase since the WHO released its last figures on June 4, which indicated that 208 people had died from the deadly virus. The WHO has described the epidemic in West Africa as one of the most challenging since the virus was first identified in 1976 in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Aid organizations have said that the current outbreak has been especially challenging since people in many affected areas have been reluctant to cooperate with aid workers and due to the practice of moving the dead to be buried in other villages. West African authorities have also been struggling to stop mourners from touching bodies during traditional funeral rituals.

Domestic News

- **9 June 2014** – On Monday, Guinea's opposition party announced that it is pulling out of parliament and has threatened to carry out protests. Aboubacar Sylla, opposition spokesman stated Monday that the reason behind the decision is that "the government refuses to dialogue with the political class, which risks an implosion in the country," adding "faced with this situation, we are quitting the parliament and will start demonstrating in the streets." The opposition party is accusing the government of violating a reconciliation agreement signed in July, which specified that local elections must be held within the first four months of 2014. The opposition's move to pull out of parliament will have a deep impact as it effectively paralyzes Guinea's parliament, which will not be able to vote on its basic laws or an upcoming mining agreement with British-Australian multinational Rio Tinto, which is worth billions.

Guinea – Bissau

No Travel Restrictions

Security Summary



There are currently no travel restrictions on Guinea-Bissau. Although the security situation is currently calm, the current political situation remains uncertain throughout the country and the possibility of civil or military unrest in Guinea-Bissau remains high. Presidential elections occurred peacefully and the results from the second round-off have been announced. While Jose Mario Vaz won the elections, his rival, independent Nuno Gomes Nabiam, has rejected the results. While political tensions in Guinea-Bissau remain calm, this could change at any moment. All travellers to the country are advised to monitor the political situation and remain vigilant at all times. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northwestern regions of the country, specifically those which border the Casamance region of Senegal, including the Sao Domingos/Mpack road.

Regional Reporting

- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, the African Union (AU) has ended the suspension of Guinea-Bissau, and Egypt, from the grouping after the two countries elected new leaders. After a military takeover, Guinea-Bissau held presidential elections in May 2014, with Jose Mario Vaz, a former finance minister and candidate for the dominant African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) being elected president. Suspension is the AU's usual response to any interruption of constitutional rule by a member.

Ivory Coast

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut-Sassandra, Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra. Since August 2012, there have been a number of shootings around the capital of Abidjan. Attacks have mainly occurred at night with the targets usually being police and military officials. Further such incidents cannot be ruled out at this time, consequently MS Risk advises those in the capital city to remain vigilant at all times. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by foreigners.

International Developments

- **12 June 2014** – The International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed Thursday that it will try Ivory Coast ex-president Laurent Gbagbo for crimes against humanity that were allegedly committed during a bloody 2010 – 2011 election standoff. In a statement of the much-anticipated decision, in which the court had to decide if there were “substantial grounds to believe that Gbagbo committed the crimes” and should be charged, the court indicated that the pre-trial chamber “confirmed by majority four charges of crimes against humanity against Laurent Gbagbo and committed him for trial.” The charges include murder, rape, and persecution and were committed during post-election violence, which claimed over 3,000 lives. Although Gbagbo was handed over to the ICC in November 2011, a confirmation of charges hearing in February 2013 requested that ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda provide additional evidence against him. Since then, the court has analysed statements from 108 witnesses and has reviewed more than 22,000 pages of documentary evidence as well as a large amount of audio and video material.

Liberia

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

On the 23 March 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified by the Ministry of Health in Guinea of confirmed cases of Ebola hemorrhagic fever. This is the first outbreak of Ebola reported in Guinea. Since then, cases have been reported in the forested areas of south-eastern Guinea, including in the Guekedou, Kissidougou, Macenta and Nzerekore districts. The deadly disease has now spread to Guinea’s capital, Conakry. There have been confirmed cases in areas of Liberia near the border with Guinea.

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to parts of Liberia, specifically those regions of the country that border with the Ivory Coast. There is a high level of crime in Monrovia, including armed robbery. The Liberian National Police has a very limited capability to prevent or detect crime, or to provide emergency response in any part of the country. Foreigners have been mugged in the Mamba Point and Sinkor areas of Monrovia (including Sinkor beach in broad daylight) where most international visitors stay. The roads from Monrovia to Roberts International Airport, the port town of Buchanan and to the border with Sierra Leone at Bo Waterside, and to the border with Guinea at Ganta, are mainly paved and in reasonable condition. Most other roads outside Monrovia are unpaved. Driving and road conditions will significantly deteriorate during the rainy

The West Africa Ebola outbreak



season, which occurs from May to November. Many roads during this time become impassable. MS Risk advises against all travel at night outside of Monrovia, except to or from Roberts International Airport. This is because roads are treacherous and all the roads are unlit. Furthermore, vehicles often do not have any lights. As a result, travellers after dark are more vulnerable to being robbed at an illegal barricade. Liberia has become increasingly stable since the internal conflict ended in 2003. However the security situation remains fragile. Furthermore, although Liberian President Charles Taylor is currently serving out a long prison sentence in the UK, following his conviction by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Taylor's supporters have warned that UK travellers in Liberia may be at risk of reprisal. Consequently MS Risk advises all British travellers to be extra vigilant and to avoid discussing any political issues. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks could be carried out in Liberia, this is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali. UNMIL peacekeepers are deployed to the main population centers around Liberia, and patrol the main roads.

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 June 2014** – Health officials in Liberia confirmed Tuesday that the deadly Ebola virus has killed seven people in the country's capital city, Monrovia, bringing the number of people believed to have died from the virus to sixteen. The deaths, recorded since June 8, are the first to be reported in the capital city since the outbreak of the contagious virus spread from Guinea into several West African states. They are also worrying, as no new cases had been confirmed in Liberia in about two months. Health officials have reported that among the dead are a nurse and four people from the same household, including a baby. Liberia's Deputy Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah stated that the nurse died on Saturday at the state-run Redemption Hospital in the densely populated township of New Kru Town, which is located west of Monrovia. He further indicated "when we knew that the nurse was confirmed to have the disease, we isolated her and started to provide protective treatment and supportive treatment and all of that to her. But unfortunately she died." Liberia's Deputy Health Minister also stated that a woman who came from Sierra Leone is also amongst those who died of the virus in Liberia's capital city, added that she infected "...some people in the household," causing the deaths of the baby and two other people. Guinea has been the worst effected by the Ebola virus with 208 deaths since the outbreak was first reported in January of this year.
- **11 June 2014** – A defence lawyer has indicated that a court in Liberia has found thirteen men guilty of cross-border "mercenary activity" in neighbouring Ivory Coast. Tiawan Gongloe stated Wednesday that the men were convicted for their role in attacks that targeted villages in western Ivory Coast between 2011 and 2012. After the 2011 postelection violence, eastern Liberia became a haven for fighters loyal to former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo. In 2012, Human Rights Watch (HRW) indicated that dozens of Gbagbo loyalists were staging attacks from the border region. An attack carried out in western Ivory Coast in June 2012 killed seven UN peacekeepers from Niger and sparked international pressure on Liberia to curb mercenary activity. This week's verdict was the first under the country's mercenary law, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

International Developments

- **19 June 2014** – The lawyer representing former Liberian president Charles Taylor indicated Thursday that his client has stated that his imprisonment in Britain breaches his human rights, adding that he has applied

to serve the rest of his jail term for war crimes in Rwanda. According to Taylor's lawyer, John Jones, "what he has applied for is for the revocation of the sentence to be served in the UK so that he can serve his sentence in Rwanda where all the other prisoners convicted by the special court for Sierra Leone are." Jones further noted "the UK has a duty to ensure family life, not just for him but for his family. It's a clear duty under international law and English domestic law," adding "if the UK is unable to make these family visits possible, no matter what he has been convicted of, he is going to serve a 50-year sentence, he has got a right to see his wife and children." Taylor's family, which reportedly includes fifteen children, has previously complained about conditions at HMP Frankland in northeast England, which is the maximum security prison where Taylor is being held at. Taylor's wife, Victoria Addison Taylor, stated last year "they took him to this prison where high-risk criminals, terrorists and other common British criminals are kept and he is being classified as a high-risk prisoner," adding "he is going through humiliation and you cannot treat a former head of state that way." In 2012, Taylor was jailed for 50 years on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity over acts committed by Sierra Leonean rebels he aided and abetted during the brutal 1991 – 2001 civil war. He was the first former head of state to be jailed by an international court, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague, since the Nazi trials at Nuremberg in Germany after World War II. Britain's Foreign Office and Ministry of Justice have not yet made any comments on a possible move.

Mali

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

Security Summary

Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the provinces of Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti, as well as parts of the provinces of Kayes, Koulikoro and Segou. Fighting in Kidal, in the northern region of Mali, broke out between rebel groups and government forces on 17 May 2014, resulting in casualties on both sides. While a ceasefire between the Malian government and three rebel groups was signed on 23 May 2014, the situation in the country remains tense. There have also been related violent protests that have occurred in the capital, Bamako, and there is a strong possibility of further unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to Mali to avoid large crowds and demonstrations.



There has been an outbreak of the Ebola virus which has been confirmed in south-eastern Guinea. While there were reports of suspected cases in areas of Mali, specifically near the border with Guinea, these cases have since tested negative for the Ebola virus. Nevertheless, if you are travelling near the border areas with Guinea, MS Risk advises that you take caution, maintain strict standards of hygiene and avoid eating bush meat.

MS Risk advises against all travel to Bamako. We also advise against all travel to the rest of Mali, especially to the northern regions of the country. Although Bamako is generally calm, the situation throughout the rest of the country is still volatile.

If you are in Bamako, MS Risk advises you to maintain a high level of vigilance, to keep a low profile and to stay alert to the local political developments. We also advise that you avoid sensitive areas, including military installations and large gatherings of people. Night time checkpoints continue to operate in Bamako, largely controlling access to military and government facilities. Checkpoints are in place from approximately 9PM until dawn.

During the rainy season, which runs from May until October, torrential rains can cause floods and landslides, and may result in houses collapsing. In late August, there were reports of flash flooding that occurred in Bamako. The neighborhoods of Bankoni, Taliko, Lafiabougou, Djicoroni Woyowayanko, Lafiabougou Bougouba and Bougoudani were all hit by floods during the rains storms which lasted most of the day. MS Risk advises anyone in the capital city to monitor the local weather reports and to expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

Terrorism

There still remains a high threat from terrorism in Mali. No curfew is currently in place however MS Risk advises those in the country to monitor the local media for reports of any new measures.

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

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

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

Kidnapping

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

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

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

Local Travel

Although the military intervention has regained control of the major northern cities in Mali, the situation remains tense in the region and there continues to be a high risk of retaliatory action by terrorist groups. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern region of Mali, especially to the cities/towns of Gao, In Khalil, Kidal, and Timbuktu as well as the surrounding areas. Landmines have been used by groups operating in the north and northeast of Mali.

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

MS RISK Guidance to Organizations in Mali:

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

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

On the Ground Reporting

- **18 June 2014** – The United Nations peacekeeping force in Mali will soon be receiving unmanned drones to help protect civilians and UN troops in the volatile north. On Wednesday, peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous confirmed the deployment, stating that the unmanned aerial vehicles will provide critical information for peacekeepers that are on the ground. The UN is already using similar unmanned drones in its peacekeeping operations in Congo, with Ladsous indicating last month that he would like to deploy drones in countries like the Central African Republic and South Sudan. Shortly after a UN Security Council meeting, Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop told reporters that the drones are not yet in service however the Malian government does want them to be operational "as soon as possible." The decision to deploy unmanned drones to the northern region of Mali comes in the wake of sharply increasing tensions, which rose last month when Mali's newly named Prime Minister Moussa Mara visited the key northern town of Kidal for the first time. Shortly afterwards, Tuareg rebels launched an assault on a number of government buildings, killing eight soldiers, six local government officials and two others in what the government described as a "declaration of war." While an uneasy cease-fire was mediated by the African Union (AU), according to Ladsous, "armed groups have now assumed effective military and, to an extent, administrative control over Kidal and other northern towns," adding "the tragic fighting in Kidal and its aftermath and the general insecurity caused by the persisting presence of terrorist groups across northern Mali highlight that much remains to be done to achieve stability" in the country. Last month's tensions have also sparked fears that al-Qaeda-linked militant groups may seek to regain control of northern Mali.
- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, Mali's army chief of staff, General Mahame Toure, offered to step down on Thursday following the military's failed attempt at seizing control of the town of Kidal. If his resignation is accepted by President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, General Toure will be the second senior official to resign after Defense Minister Soumeylou Boubey Maiga who resigned in the wake of recent fighting between Tuareg rebels and government troops.
- **16 June 2014** – At least two people were killed, and fifteen prisoners escaped, after a suspected Islamist militant detainee shot his way out of the main jail in Mali's capital city Bamako. According to Boya Dembele, a senior justice ministry official, 23 prisoners had initially escaped however eight were later recaptured. The dead included a guard and one of the prisoners who tried to escape. Dembele further added that the mass break out began during the afternoon when Mohamed Aly Ag Wadousene, a detainee accused of kidnap and believed to be a member of a terrorist group, took advantage of plumbers who were accessing cells, to start shooting at the guards. It remains unclear how the detainee became armed, or if other suspected militants successfully escaped, however the government has warned Malians to be on the look out as he is extremely dangerous.
- **15 June 2014** – Three armed groups from northern Mali announced in Algiers on Sunday that they have agreed to begin talks with the Bamako government, which will be aimed at resolving long-standing disputes. The announcement comes nearly a week after the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) signed the "Algiers Declaration" late Monday, demanding "inclusive" peace and political talks in their troubled country. Top leaders from the MNLA and HCUA have been in the Algerian capital since June 5. Although a ceasefire was signed with the Bamako government on May 23, on Sunday, initial discussions were concluded with the three groups signing a preliminary accord that will now be presented to the Malian government. In the document, the three groups agree to "engage with the government of Mali in a constructive manner on the path of dialogue and negotiations for a new government that responds to the

profound and legitimate aspirations of the people of north Mali.” Amongst their demands is the release of prisoners and “better conditions for the return of refugees once a definitive agreement is signed.” Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop is expected to arrive in Algiers in the coming days. His Algerian counterpart, Ramtane Lamamra has indicated that the talks between the three groups have allowed them to converge and clarify their positions. Lamamra has insisted on the necessity of an “inclusive” inter-Malian dialogue. Bert Koenders, the head of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Mali, known as MINUSMA, has stated that negotiations are now a priority, adding “the region will be in danger if there is no reconciliation.”

- **13 June 2014** – According to a new report by UN Secretary General, the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali has deployed 8,280 soldiers on the ground, just 74 per cent of the number mandated a year ago, with the mission still lacking utility helicopters. With security deteriorating in the northern region of the country, and attacks on international and Malian security forces on the rise, the UN mission has struggled to get troops into place as France seeks to draw down its force in the coming months. The newly released report from Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, which covers the period from March 24 to May 26, indicates that as of May 26, there were 8,280 UN soldiers of the 11,200 that were mandated a year ago. The report goes on to indicate that police deployments have also “strengthened significant,” with 979 officers on the ground, about 60 percent of the authorized total of 1,440, and calls on contributing states to accelerate the deployment of personnel or assets, stating that the force still lacks military utility helicopters, “seriously hampering its air mobility.” The call for more troops comes as tensions continue to rise in the northern regions of Mali. Over the past few weeks, Malian security forces and MINUSMA troops have been increasingly coming under attack as the situation in the north continues to deteriorate. Seven UN peacekeepers were injured in separate incidents and threats of retaliation against civilians, for their cooperation with the international community, have also been reported. On April 7, an improvised explosive device in Menaka, near the MINUSMA camp, was detonated by remote control. The incident effectively demonstrated “...the insurgents’ improved tactics and underscored the vulnerability of United Nations and humanitarian personnel.” In another incident on April 30, an IED was found 300 meters outside the MINUSMA camp in Kidal. While the report lists some of the political achievements that have been attained over the past year, it notes, “many important aspects of the stabilization of Mali, including most tasks included in MINUSMA’s mandate, are yet to be accomplished.” According to Ban, there is a need for a continued political process, without one, “terrorist groups will seize opportunities to target Malian and international forces and threaten civilians in the north.”
- **11 June 2014** – UN and government sources have confirmed that a suicide bomber killed four Chadian United Nations peacekeepers at a military camp in northeastern Mali on Wednesday. The bomber struck a car packed with explosives at the entrance to the barracks, which houses local soldiers as well as international troops from the UN’s MINUSMA peacekeeping force. The latest incident occurred in the town of Aguelhok, which is located 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Kidal in the Ifoghas mountain range. A statement released by the UN force confirmed the attack, stating “today at 3:30 PM, a suicide car exploded at the entrance of the MINUSMA camp....The attack killed four peacekeepers,” adding “in addition, the attack wounded 10 people who are currently being evacuated, including six from MINUSMA and four members of the Malian armed forces.” MINUSMA chief Bert Koenders has condemned what he called a “...cowardly and odious attack,” adding, “I am shocked that brave peacekeepers have again been targeted. This attack will not deter MINUSMA from its mission of peace and security in Mali.” This is the first major attack to occur in the region of Kidal since the Malian government and the three main rebel groups signed a ceasefire agreement to end days of fresh violence that erupted in the northern desert region last month.

Since deploying troops at the beginning of last year, around fifty Chadian soldiers have been killed. Despite the deployment of French and African troops to Mali, the security situation throughout the country, and particularly in the northern regions, continues to be a challenge. A roadside bomb struck a UN vehicle in northern Mali in April, wounding a peacekeeper from Guinea during a UN visit of foreign dignitaries. Two Senegalese peacekeepers were killed six months ago when a car filled with explosives crashed into a bank in Kidal's regional capital, which was being guarded by MINUSMA troops. Shortly after that attack, a Malian jihadist, Sultan Ould Badi, claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was revenge for African countries' military support for French operations on the continent. The UN has also acknowledged that it is struggling to get peacekeeping troops into place in Mali as France seeks to draw down its force. Almost eighteen months after France intervened in a bid to halt an Islamist move on Mali's capital city, the UN mission has just 7,520 of the 11,200 troops it intended to build up. While France is winding down its force from a peak of around 5,000 soldiers, it does intend to keep around 1,000 troops in Mali beyond July.

- **9 June 2014** – Three armed movements from northern Mali have signed a joint statement in Algiers, declaring that they are ready to work for peace with the Malian government. The top leaders of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for Unity of Azawad (HCUA) and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) have been in the Algerian capital since Thursday. An Algerian government statement issued Tuesday indicated that the MNLA, HCUA and the MAA signed the “Algiers Declaration” late Monday, effectively pledging their “good faith” to strengthen the process of reconciliation through dialogue. The statement also pledged to support a dialogue with the Malian government that “takes into account the legitimate desires of the local population while respecting the territorial integrity and unity of Mali.” The dialogue between the government and the armed groups however has yet to begin. The secular MAA, which seeks sweeping autonomy in Mali's part of the Sahara and the Sahel, has joined forces with the MNLA and HCUA in order to try and enhance “the momentum under way for peace.” The three groups have indicated that they are seeking a “definitive” solution to the decades of instability that have affected northern Mali by “taking account of the legitimate claims of the local population with full respect for the territorial integrity and the national unity of Mali.” Mali has been in turmoil since 2012, when Tuareg rebel groups seized control of the northern regions of the country. While the government regained control in 2013, with the help of French and African troops that intervened after al-Qaeda militants took over the Tuareg rebellion, tensions between the Malian government and the rebel groups have not declined. The government in Bamako continues to be an object of resentment, especially in the far northern town of Kidal. This was evidenced in May when clashes erupted between government soldiers and MNLA rebels, leading to a tense standoff.

Regional Reporting

- **16 June 2014** – Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra stated Monday that armed groups from northern Mali are ready to launch peace talks with Bamako in a bid to end the instability that has plagued the region. His comments, which occurred at a meeting of foreign ministers from six Sahel countries, also came a day after three armed movements from northern Mali announced in Algiers that they were ready to work with the central government. Lamamra further indicated that “the conditions are increasingly ripe for progress towards peace,” adding that there was a “very clear desire among the senior leaders of the movements in northern Mali to work for peace.” Algeria, which shares a long porous border with Mali, which is crisscrossed by jihadist movements, is helping to mediate in the conflict which not only affects Malian security, but regional stability and security. The Algiers meeting has brought together

representatives from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, along with Bert Koenders, the head of the UN peacekeeping force in Mali, and Pierre Buyoya, the African Union's (AU) representative for Mali and the Sahel. It follows talks in the Algerian capital among leaders of ethnic Tuareg and Arab groups who, since the 1960's, have campaigned for independence for a vast area of northern Mali they call "Azawad." On June 9, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) signed the "Algiers Declaration," an accord that demands "Inclusive" peace talks. After flying to Algiers, Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop reiterated the "firm willingness" of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita "to advance the process of peace, dialogue and reconciliation in order to reach a definitive peace accord as soon as possible.

International Developments

- **19 June 2014** – On Friday, officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicated that aid to Mali, which has been frozen since the country spend US \$40 million on a presidential plane, will remain suspended until at least September. The decision comes after officials at the IMF recently held discussions with Malian authorities about the recent purchase of the luxurious new aircraft with sources indicating that the discussions were to ensure that financial management "is being conducted in a manner consistent with the quantitative targets and commitments to good governance" undertaken by the Malian government. The IMF indicated Thursday that the Malian government had agreed to undertake "concrete measures" to address the financial management weaknesses, including an audit of the aircraft transaction and a US \$200 million state guarantee that would allow a company to purchase supplies for the army, noting that those steps must be taken before the next IMF mission to Bamako, which is scheduled for September. In December 2013, as the country was emerging from a security and political crisis, the IMF approved a US \$46.2 million Extended Credit Facility (ECF) for Mali. An ECF is a highly concessional type of loan given to poor countries that are facing prolonged balance-of-payment difficulties.
- **13 June 2014** – Amidst fears that militants will increase their attacks against international and Malian troops, along with threats to civilians, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned Friday that UN peacekeepers should expand further into the volatile northern regions of Mali. The warning comes days after four UN peacekeepers were killed in a suicide attack on their base in the northern town of Aguelhoc. In a new report to the UN Security Council on the MINUSMA peacekeeping mission in Mali, Ban stated that he is "...deeply concerned that in the absence of a political process, terrorist groups will seize opportunities to target Malian and international forces and threaten civilians in the north," adding "after initial improvements in 2013, the security situation in northern Mali has deteriorated since the beginning of 2014....The increase in incidents involving improvised explosive devices, mostly targeting Malian and international security forces contribute to an overall sense of insecurity." The UN chief further indicated that a strategic review recommended that the operation "expand its static and mobile presence in the north, within its means and capabilities." Despite the increasing need of troops in the northern regions of Mali, the one-year-old UN operation however is only at three-quarters of its mandated strength of 11,200 troops and 1,440 police. It also lacks the mobility and air cover that is required to expand beyond the population centers in the West African nation.

Mauritania

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary

Due to the current Ebola outbreak in Guinea, with cases also being reported in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mauritania has closed some of its southern border crossings. MS Risk advises all travellers to the area to check with local officials.

Presidential elections have been set for 21 June 2014. Campaigning begins on 6 June and will end on 19 June. During this time there may be some rallies that have been organized by supporters of the Presidential candidates. MS Risk advises all travellers to Mauritania to avoid any political gatherings and demonstrations. On 5 May 2014, the country's opposition party announced that it will boycott the upcoming elections. While there have been no reports of protests occurring in Nouakchott, are throughout the rest of the country, protests may occur as the election date draws near. MS Risk advises all travellers to Mauritania to be alert at all times and to avoid any large public gatherings as they may turn violent with minimal warning.



MS Risk advises against all travel to the provinces of Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant, Hodh el Chargui, Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Inchiri. We also advise against all travel to the northern and eastern regions of the country, especially the desert areas north of Oualata-Tichit-Ouadane-Zouerat line, as well as the border areas with Algeria, Mali and

Morocco. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the rest of the country, which includes travel along the Nouakchott-Nouadhibou corridor which comprises of the north-south arterial road that runs between these two cities and which passes through Nouamghar. This is due to extremist groups and armed smugglers that are active in these areas, which has resulted in high threats of terrorism as well as a heightened risk of banditry and kidnapping.

Since early 2012, there have been demonstrations in a number of locations across the country, including Nouakchott. In general, demonstrations have been peaceful however some have involved clashes with police, resulting in the use of tear gas. On 3 March 2014, one person died and at least 15 were injured in Nouakchott during a demonstration over an alleged case of apostasy. Protests have been located near the Presidency and the main market area. Smaller demonstrations have taken place in other towns, including Nouadhibou. There is a possibility that further such demonstrations will occur. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers to avoid all political gatherings and demonstrations.

Terrorism

Following the French military intervention in Mali there has been a heightened possibility of retaliatory attacks that may target Western interests in the region. Attacks could be indiscriminate and by occur in places that are frequented by foreigners. Consequently we advise vigilance.

Kidnapping

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

For companies with employees remaining in Mauritania, MS Risk advises you to arrange a trustworthy escort that is familiar with the country. The use of varied and unpredictable routes and schedules when moving from one location to another is also highly advised. Exercise a high awareness of personal security at all times and monitor the local developments. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamwa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon.

Domestic News

- **22 June 2014** – Preliminary results indicated Sunday that Mauritania's incumbent leader Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has won the presidential polls with 81.89 percent of the vote. According to results published by the national electoral commission, Abdel Aziz was firmly ahead of anti-slavery candidate Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid, who obtained 8.67 percent of the ballot. Turnout for the vote stood at 56.46 percent.
- **17 June 2014** – On Tuesday, Mauritania's president accused the opposition of buying up people's identity cards in an attempt to prevent them from voting in the upcoming elections. The president's spokesman has indicated that the government had received reports that the opposition was purchasing identity cards in order "to influence the participation rate." El-Houssein Ould Ahmed El-Hadi indicated Tuesday that the government is looking at "...an operation on a grand scale," adding "it is not only illegal, but also morally wrong, because it prevents citizens from freely voicing their preference." He has indicated that the electoral commission is looking into the reports. Mauritania's opposition, the National Forum for Democracy and Unity (FNDU), which is composed of a loose collection of lawmakers, has rejected the allegations. A party statement released Tuesday indicated "the reality is the FNDU doesn't need to confiscate citizens' identity

cards, they themselves are showing their disinterest in the elections...by abstaining from the campaign.” While President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz is seeking re-election in the vote, which is set to occur this Saturday, rival politicians have called for voters to boycott what they are calling a “sham” election. They have criticized the “dictatorial” character of Abdel Aziz’s regime and have accused him of organizing an “electoral mascaaed.” Four candidates, including an anti-slavery campaigner and Mauritania’s second ever female presidential hopeful, are running against the president. While Abdel Aziz is widely believed to win Saturday’s election, a weak turnout could be interpreted as a sign that the boycott has been a success.

- **10 June 2014** – Responding defiantly to an opposition boycott of this month’s presidential elections, Mauritanian president has called for a “100 percent” turnout in a vote that he is widely expected to win. Since campaigning began last week, President Abdel Aziz has urged “everyone to come out and vote” in the June 21 elections. He has criticized the boycott, by what he called the “radical” opposition, and has accused its members of “bringing the country to its knees.” President Abdel Aziz, an ex-army general who took control of the former French colony in a 2008 coup before being elected in 2009, has also stated that those seeking to boycott “refuse to acknowledge the great progress made for poor Mauritians” in recent years. The President’s remarks come in the wake of comments made Tuesday by Mauritania’s opposition National Forum for Democracy and Unity, which announced its intentions to boycott the upcoming elections and vowed to increase its protests against what it calls a “sham” election.
- **9 June 2014** – The African Union (AU) will send a 40-person team to observe the upcoming presidential elections, which are due to take place on June 21 in Mauritania. The AU Commission announced on Monday that former Tunisian Prime Minister Beji Caid Essebsi will head the team of election observers. The mission will be deployed to Mauritania from June 13th until June 28th and will present its preliminary findings shortly after the elections take place.

Niger

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

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



of Niamey. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. Banditry, smuggling and other criminal activity is common in border areas, especially after dark. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria, south of Zinder. MS Risk advises avoiding crossing the border with Nigeria during the hours of darkness.

Since May 2013, outbreaks of cholera have been reported in several places in Niger. As of 25 November 2013 a total of 577 cases, including 13 deaths, have been reported.

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 June 2014** – On Sunday, thousands of opposition supporters took to the streets in Niger’s capital Niamey, demanding that authorities respect civil liberties. The latest demonstrations follow the arrest of several opposition members last month. On Sunday, demonstrators carried signs reading ‘Down with Dictatorship,’ a sign of sharp criticism towards the government of President Mahamadou Issoufou, who was elected in 2011 following a democratic transition after a 2010 military coup. While organizers have indicated that some 15,000 – 20,000 people took part in the march, police have placed that figure at 3,500. Opposition leader and former premier Seini Oumarou, along with former president Mahamane Ousmane and Hama Amadou, the current speaker of parliament, also took part in the protest. Sunday’s protest came after the authorities had barred two previous planned protests, citing risks to public order and fears that they would be “infiltrated by terrorists.” Political tensions have risen sharply in the former French colony a head of the 2016 presidential elections. President Issoufou split acrimoniously with his ally Amadou Hama, the parliamentary speaker, in August last year while last month, some 44 members Amadou’s Nigerian Democratic Movement (MODEN) were arrested for allegedly being involved in attack on the ruling party’s headquarters and on the home of a legislator. After being questioned by a judge, all but six of them were released. The six, including a former government minister, were charged on June 4 with threatening state security. They are close to Amadou, who is seen by his supporters as being the principal challenger to President Issoufou in the 2016 presidential elections.

Nigeria

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary

We advise against all travel to Adamawa State, Borno State, Yobe State, Gombe State and Bauchi State. This is due to the frequent violent attacks, which have been occurring over the past months. More recent attacks have increasingly focused on public places, including bars and restaurants. These attacks have resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We also



advise against all travel to Kano City and Okene City, which has also seen a frequent number of high levels of violence. On 17 June, a bomb attack on a venue showing a football match in Damaturu killed over twenty people. Further attacks, targeting World Cup viewing centers, are highly likely to occur.

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

violent attacks. We also advise against all but essential travel to the non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States, Abia State, Kaduna City, Zaria City.

Northern Nigeria

Travelling anywhere in the northern region of Nigeria is extremely dangerous as there is a high risk of travellers being kidnapped or caught up in a terrorist or other violent incident. While taking the right precautions will aid in reducing the risks, this will not eliminate them all together. MS Risk advises all travellers to the northern region of the country to not maintain regular patterns of travel or movement.

If you live in northern Nigeria, you are advised to review your security regularly and to strengthen it accordingly. Due to the risks, particularly of terrorism, having increased in the past few years, good security two years ago is unlikely to be adequate now.

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

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

Kidnapping

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

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

Threats and Terrorism

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

On the Ground Reporting

- **22 June 2014** – On Sunday, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a military checkpoint in northeast Borno state, near the border with Cameroon. According to local residents, the attack which occurred in the early morning in Gwoza town, and which has been blamed on Boko Haram militants, killed three soldiers and injured three others. The attack in Gwoza, which is located 100 kilometers (60 miles) from state capital Maiduguri, occurred when the bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into the checkpoint outside a secondary school in the town that has come under repeated attack by the insurgents, leaving dozens dead. Although the attack occurred around 7:00 AM (0600 GMT), news of the incident took several hours to emerge, mainly due to the area's poor telephone network following the destruction of telecom masts in previous Boko Haram attacks.
- **20 June 2014** – Local officials indicated Friday that suspected Boko Haram gunmen have killed ten people in raids on five villages in Nigeria's northeastern Adamawa state. Maina Ularamu, Madagali local government council chairman stated Friday "we have confirmed that 10 people were killed in the attacks on the five villages by Boko Haram insurgents yesterday (Thursday). Many people sustained injuries while trying to escape." He further indicated that scores of gunmen, dressed in military uniform, stormed the villages of Imirsa, Shuwari, Yaza, Humabza and Anguwar Shuwa, burning homes and looting supplies, noting, "the attackers invaded these villages and destroyed everything in them after carting away food stuffs belonging to the villagers." About 15,000 people who fled their homes from the villages are now taking refuge in Gulak, which is the headquarters of the local government. According to Ularamu, "we have a humanitarian situation beyond our capacity to shoulder because we can't provide for this huge number of displaced people." In recent weeks, Boko Haram militants have intensified their deadly raids, and have targeted a number of villages in the northeast.
- **19 June 2014** – Government sources have indicated that militant Islamists are targeting Nigeria's capital of Abuja and plan to load bombs on petrol lorries that are headed into the city. In a statement released late on Wednesday, Mike Omeri, a senior Ministry of Information official, indicated "the Nigerian security services have received intelligence...to the effect that insurgents intend seizing petrol tankers and planting improvised explosive devices in the tankers and drive them to crowded places in Abuja." Separately, a military spokesman indicated Wednesday that security forces had discovered a senior Boko Haram member amongst a convoy of nearly 500 travellers that were arrested earlier this week in the southern state. If confirmed, the presence of a high-ranking militant in the southern region of the country will likely increase fears that the insurgents are planning expand their insurgency, moving from the northern regions of the country and into the mainly Christian south. It will also raise concerns that the militant group may eventually attempt to attack the oil-rich Niger delta.
- **18 June 2014** – On Wednesday, Nigeria's police advised football fans to stay from public venues showing World Cup matches after a bomb attack killed at least twenty-one people in the northern region of the country. National police spokesman Frank Mba told reporters in the capital Abuja "as a first choice, we are

advising Nigerians to actually avoid these viewing centers as much as possible,” advising Nigerians to watch the tournament at home with family and friends. Mba further stated that while individual states were within their rights to order closures, police were working with center operations and local agencies in a bid to improve security, especially in the restive north. If such centers are however choosing to remain open, police official advise better searches of customers, increased vigilance from locals as well as creating pedestrian-only zones between 50 and 100 meters from venues in order to prevent car bomb attacks. On Tuesday night, just minutes after a World Cup game began, a bomb, thought to have been hidden in a motorized rickshaw, exploded outside a viewing center in Damaturu, the state capital on Yobe State. According to medical sources, at least twenty-one people are believed to have been killed, however state police officials are setting the death toll at fourteen. While no group has claimed responsibility for Tuesday’s attack, previous deadly attacks targeting big screen venues in Nigeria have been blamed on Boko Haram militants. This has prompted officials in at least two states to close such centers on security grounds.

- **17 June 2014** – Nigeria’s military indicated Tuesday that they have detained more than 460 people travelling from the country’s north to the south, with sources indicating that the detained are suspected of being members of Boko Haram. Army spokesman Brigadier General Olijide Laleye confirmed that 462 people, including eight women, were being held in southern Abia state on Monday after being arrested as they were headed on thirty-six buses from northern states, such as Bauchi and Jigawa, to Port Harcourt. In the past, large groups of northerners have been held in the south on suspicion of belonging to Boko Haram. This has raised concerns among Muslim leaders, with many indicating that such arrests and detentions were the result of religious “profiling.” In January 2014, around 300 traders from the north were held in the southern Rivers state, with most of them being later released. Some 84 apprentices were also sent back to Katsina state during a training course that took place in Imo, in southeastern Nigeria. In 2012, police in southeastern Enugu state arrested 25 hunters, who were on an annual hunting expedition, from northwestern Zamfara state. There were held for a month on suspicions that they had links to Boko Haram.
 - Police and residents reported Tuesday that an explosion ripped through a football viewing center in Damaturu, northern Nigeria, as fans were gathering to watch a World Cup game. The blast, which occurred at the Crossfire venue, in the Nayi-Nawa area of the state capital of Yobe, occurred shortly after the tournament began at 8:00 PM (1900 GMT) and comes a week after al-Shabaab militants distributed leaflets to a number of viewing centers, cautioning them against opening and warning that attacks will occur. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that a suicide bomber has killed at least twenty-one people and wounded twenty-seven. Sanusi Ruf’ai, police commissioner for Yobe state, confirmed the attack, stating “there was an explosion outside a soccer viewing center here in Damaturu at around 8:15 PM....Our men have deployed to the scene but it’s too early for us to give details.” On the ground sources have reported that the area has been cordoned off and that police and soldiers are investigating, while eyewitnesses have indicated that the suicide bomber, who was in a tricycle taxi, detonated explosives as people were watching the match. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, suspicions have fallen on Boko Haram, as the militant group has previously targeted big screen venues showing soccer matches. The latest blast comes after at least two Nigerian states banned viewing centers on security grounds following previous similar attacks, which have been blamed on Boko Haram militants. Last week, authorities in Adamawa state closed viewing centers, where large crowds gather to watch the matches on large screens. The central state of Plateau followed suit days later. The decision by authorities to close the viewing centers is in response to repeated threats by the militant group and a blast that occurred

earlier this month. A bomb went off after a football match in the town of Mubi in Adamawa state. The incident killed at least forty people. In May, three people were killed in a blast outside a viewing center that was showing the European Champions League final in the city of Jos, the capital of Plateau state, while in April, suspected Boko Haram gunmen stormed a packed venue in Potiskum, in northeastern Yobe state, shooting dead two people as they watched the Champions League quarter-final matches. Boko haram's leader Abubakar Shekau has previously preached against football and has threatened to carry out attacks during this year's World Cup football tournament. In several video clips, he described football and music as a Western ploy to distract Muslims from their religion. While football is Nigeria's national sport, and has many followers, many residents living in the northern regions of the country have indicated that they will watch the World Cup at home because of fears of Boko Haram attacks.

- Meanwhile Nigerian vigilantes reported Tuesday that they have killed eight suspected Boko Haram militants who attacked a village near Chibok, where more than 200 school girls were kidnapped by the militant group in April. Adamsi Tar, the leader of a local vigilante group, confirmed Tuesday that the suspected militants had attacked a village, located 15 kilometers (10 miles) from Chibok, burning several homes and looting food, adding as the assailants tried to flee, vigilante members opened fire on them, killing eight. One was arrested while the rest manage to flee the area.
- **15 June 2014** – At least fifteen people were killed when suspected Boko Haram gunmen stormed a market in northern Nigeria late on Sunday. Villagers in the farming community of Daku, in Borno state, described how they were surrounded by at least twenty gunmen who fired indiscriminately and threw petrol bombs, engulfing the market in flames. According to one eyewitness, “Sunday is normally a market day and people from neighboring villages had gathered at the local market in Daku when the insurgents laid siege,” adding “scores of people escaped with bullet wounds while dozens of shops, stalls, houses, vehicles, motorcycles and assorted foodstuff were set ablaze by the rampaging attackers. The latest attack, which occurred at 11:15 AM (1015 GMT) is the first of its kind to occur in Daku. So far, neither the police nor the army have commented on the attack however a senior security source in the state capital Maiduguri confirmed that it took place. In recent months, attacks by Islamists extremists from Boko Haram have increased, with the Nigerian military incapable of preventing the almost daily bloodshed, which was exacerbated by the kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls in April.
 - Meanwhile Nigerian security forces in central Plateau state are searching for a British construction worker believed to have been kidnapped. According to Captain Ikedichi Iweha, spokesman for the Special Task Force (STF), the search was launched after the man failed to show up for work on Saturday morning however no further details about the case have been released. It currently remains unknown whether the alleged kidnappers are members of Boko Haram or just local bandits. While the kidnapping of expatriates by armed gangs seeking ransom money has long been an issue in the oil-producing southeastern region of Nigeria, abductions of foreigners in the northern regions of the country are mainly for ideological reasons and are becoming more common.
- **14 June 2014** – As the FIFA World Cup football tournament kicks off in Brazil, security warnings have been issued for a number of African countries, including Nigeria. Nigerian officials have taken additional steps in order to prevent any World Cup related terrorist attacks from occurring. Soldiers in the capital of Yola, Adamawa state, have shut down all venues preparing to screen live World Cup matches in the hopes to stave off attacks. The Nigerian government has also advised resident of the capital city, Abuja, to avoid public viewing centers. Minister Bela Mohamed has issued a directive for Abuja, ordering high vigilance in places such as motor parks, restaurants, markets, supermarkets, shopping malls, banks, churches,

mosques, hotels, viewing centers and hospital. While over the past five years, the states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa have seen a number of deadly terrorist attacks, in recent months, Boko Haram militants have carried out an increasingly bold series of assaults, which has included the kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls in April. Since then, the militants have carried out a number of attacks on villages, including a recent car bomb that was set off at a center in the settlement of Gavan, in the north-eastern state of Adamawa. On June 1, at least eighteen people watching a game on television were killed. A week before that incident, a suicide bomber set out for an open-air screening of a match in Nigeria's central city of Jos. His car blew upon the way, killing three people. Such assaults on television viewing centers across Africa have raised fears that militant groups will target supporters gathering to cheer on the global football contest.

- **12 June 2014** – In a bid to end the increasingly deadly insurgency by Boko Haram's militants, Nigeria's military indicated Thursday that it could follow the example of Sri Lanka in fighting terror. The statement came shortly after a high-ranking military delegation from the South Asian island nation, led by Chief of Defense Staff General Jagath Jayasuriya, was in the capital Abuja to meet with their Nigerian counterparts in a bid to share experience and expertise. A statement released by Nigeria's defense headquarters shortly after the meeting indicated that Jayasuriya had told delegates that there were similarities between the security situation in Nigeria and Sri Lanka at the height of the conflict with the Tamil Tigers. The statement further indicated that Nigeria's Chief of Defense Staff, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh also stated that they were "seriously considering the counter-insurgency experience of the Sri Lankan military with a view to identifying those areas that could be operationally beneficial to Nigeria in its battle to defeat terrorism," adding that Sri Lanka was "acclaimed as having achieved the reputation of effectively defeating terrorism in its territory." During the meeting, Sri Lankan officials also discussed with their Nigerian counterparts "total security," which was described as "the translation of all the nation's assets into military power to counter the scourge of terrorism." The visit by the Sri Lankan military delegation came days after Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain held talks with his counterpart, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. On Tuesday, the two leaders pledged greater co-operation in defense and counter-terrorism. While Sri Lanka, with Jayasuriya as army chief, brought its decades-long civil war with ethnic Tamil Tiger separatists to an end in May 2009, after a devastating military onslaught, the country's military has been dogged by allegations that it killed 40,000 Tamil civilians in the final days of the conflict. The military however denies that they committed war crimes. Nigeria's military has been criticized for the way it has handled Boko Haram's five-year insurgency, with the militants apparently being able to strike at will across large areas of northeastern Nigeria with minimal resistance. Human rights groups have also accused the military of committing atrocities, including the extra-judicial killing of Boko Haram suspects as well as abuses including the use of torture in detention facilities. **Update (16 June 2014)** - Officials at Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated Monday that Nigeria's military should not use the example of Sri Lanka's defeat of Tamil separatists in its war against Boko Haram militants. The statement came just days after Nigeria's Defense Ministry announced that Sri Lanka's top military brass had made presentations to Nigerian counterparts last week and that Nigeria was now "seriously considering" using the Sri Lankan model against Boko Haram militants who have killed thousands in a five-year insurgency that is now spreading across the country and rapidly developing into a regional threat. In response, HRW stated Monday that it is "hard to imagine a worse idea," noting that the United States is currently investigating both sides in Sri Lanka's conflict, which ended in 2009 with 40,000 civilians killed in the final months of conflict. Both countries' military have also been accused of abuses that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- **11 June 2014** - Nigerian officials have taken additional steps in order to prevent any World Cup related terrorist attacks from occurring. Soldiers in the capital of Yola, Adamawa state, have shut down all venues

preparing to screen live World Cup matches in the hopes to stave off attacks. The Nigerian government has also advised resident of the capital city, Abuja, to avoid public viewing centers. Minister Bela Mohamed has issued a directive for Abuja, ordering high vigilance in places such as motor parks, restaurants, markets, supermarkets, shopping malls, banks, churches, mosques, hotels, viewing centers and hospital. While over the past five years, the states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa have seen a number of deadly terrorist attacks, in recent months, Boko Haram militants have carried out an increasingly bold series of assaults, which has included the kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls in April. Since then, the militants have carried out a number of attacks on villages, including a recent car bomb that was set off at a center in the settlement of Gavan, in the north-eastern state of Adamawa. On June 1, at least eighteen people watching a game on television were killed. A week before that incident, a suicide bomber set out for an open-air screening of a match in Nigeria's central city of Jos. His car blew upon the way, killing three people. Such assaults on television viewing centers across Africa have raised fears that militant groups will target supporters gathering to cheer on the global football contest.

- Meanwhile Nigeria's main relief agency indicated Wednesday that over the past week, more than 6,000 people in the northeastern state of Borno have fled their homes in the wake of new Boko Haram violence. While officials at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) indicated that they had registered 6,227 internally displaced people (IDP) in the state capital, Maiduguri, adding "most of them came in the last four days, following the escalation of the crisis and threats," the total number of IDP's is expected to be higher, as others have escaped to neighboring Adamawa state or have cross the border into Cameroon. Amongst those who have fled their homes to Maiduguri were people from the remote Gwoza district of Borno, where last week militant fighters stormed at least four villages, killing hundreds. On Monday, Asabe Vilita, a Gwoza local government leader who is also Borno commissioner for commerce and investment, indicated that 1,290 people had fled the area, with many travelling to Maiduguri. The latest figures released by NEMA demonstrate the impact of the continued violence on civilians in the region. Last week, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) in Geneva indicated that Boko Haram attacks were forcing some 800 people to flee their homes every day, adding that at least 3,000 people have been killed since a state of emergency was imposed in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe last May.
- At least eight people, including three security officers, were killed when gunmen raided three villages in Nigeria's central Plateau state. According to local army and police officials, the gunmen launched pre-dawn attacks in the villages of Bachit, Rim and Jol. Plateau states' Army Special Task Forces (STF) spokesman Captain Ikedichi Iweha confirmed the attacks, stating "eight people, including three STF personnel, died in the gun battle. Many houses were burnt including a church....But the casualties would have been heavier but for the STF, who went there promptly to repel the unknown attackers. No arrest was made but intensive patrols are going on." Police spokesman Joseph Dominic Esin also confirmed that gunmen arrived in the villages simultaneously and started shooting sporadically, setting homes on fire. He added that five villagers were injured in the attacks, which occurred at about 1:30 am (1230 GMT). Plateau state lies in Nigeria's Middle Belt, which splits the mainly Muslim north and mostly Christian south, and is a region that is riven by ethnic and sectarian violence. While in rural areas, much of the bloodshed has been linked to disputes over grazing rights between mostly Christian farmers and Muslim Fulani herdsman, the state has also been affected by Boko Haram's insurgency. Last month, two suspected Boko Haram car bombs exploded in a crowded market in Jos, the state's capital. At least 118 people were killed and scores were injured.

- **10 June 2014** – Residents and Nigerian media reported Tuesday that suspected Boko Haram militants have kidnapped at least twenty women from nomadic settlements in the northeastern region of Nigeria, close to where the militant group abducted more than 200 schoolgirls in April. According to local residents, the militants arrived at the Garkin Fulani settlement, located eight kilometers (five miles) from Chibok, Saturday afternoon and forced the women to enter their vehicles at gunpoint. Alhaji Tar, a member of a local vigilante group, also confirmed the kidnappings, stating “available information revealed that the gunmen came around noon (1100 GMT) and abducted 20 women and three young men left to keep watch on the village,” adding “all the males in the settlement were away in the bush with their herd of cattle for grazing when the abductors came to the village.” There was no immediate indication of where the women were taken and there has been no contact from the kidnappers.
- **9 June 2014** – On Monday, clashes broke out in Nigeria’s second-largest city as hundreds of supporters of the newly appointed emir of Kano fought with backers of his main rival for the key post. On the ground sources have reported that hundreds of people turned out to support the new emir, the ousted former central bank chief Sanusi Lamido Sanusi. However as the group headed to the state government headquarters, they came under attack from a rival crowd out in support of Sanusi’s rival, the late emir’s eldest son, Aminu Ado Bayero. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that Bayero’s backers were armed with machetes, sticks and clubs. While no soldiers were seen in the area, unarmed traffic police and the city’s so-called “morality police,” the Hisbah, were present and attempting to restore order. The post of emir of Kano, the second-most senior Muslim leader in Nigeria, is important as it holds major influence across the northern regions of the country. Sanusi’s appointment, which was announced by the Kano state government Sunday, came just two days after emir Ado Abdullahi Bayero, 83, died Friday after a long battle with cancer. Although the position is a religious appointment, local and national politics were seen in the decision as Sanusi is a leading government critic and Kano state Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso is a member of the main opposition party. President Goodluck Jonathan’s ruling People’s Democratic Party (PDP) allegedly backed Bayero’s eldest son for the position while the APC lobbied for Sanusi. In February of this year, Sanusi was suspended as Central Bank of Nigeria governor for alleging corruption at the heart of government.

Domestic News

- **18 June 2014** – On Wednesday, Nigeria’s top military officer dismissed reports of a possible coup in a country that is currently gripped by a raging Islamist insurgency and unrest. Chief of Defense Staff Alex Badeh told reporters “...Those rumoring coups must be living elsewhere and not in Nigeria.” The on going Boko Haram uprising, which has killed thousands across Nigeria’s northern regions since 2009, combined with ethnic and sectarian strife as well as a weakened government, has led some to openly suggest that the situation may lead to a military takeover. In turn, the Nigerian military’s recent seizure and searches of national newspapers, on what it said were security grounds, has also prompted some media to claim that the government is trying to stifle free speech. In a statement issued by Nigeria’s National Orientation Agency, which promotes government programmes across the country, Air Chief Marshal Badeh also dismissed talks of a military takeover, stating “the armed forces are defenders of democracy. We are an arm of democracy. So how can an arm of democracy work against the democracy that we are part of?” Badeh also expressed surprise at the coup rumors and has called the military a professional group that “has no option but to love Nigeria.” Since gaining independence from Britain in 1960, Nigeria has experienced a number of coups, with the first one occurring in 1967, just six years after the country gained independence,

when a brutal civil war broke out over the secessionist aims of the Biafra people in the country's east. While there was a brief period of civilian rule, between 1979 and 1983, a succession of coups occurred in the mid 1980's until the late 1990's with Nigeria returning to democracy in 1999.

- **17 June 2014** – According to a national conference report, Nigeria is losing an estimated US \$35 million (£20.6 million) a day from oil theft and needs to put a “full, final stop” to the growing black market for crude export. In a report submitted this week, the energy committee of Nigeria's national conference indicated that the losses were “equivalent to US \$45 million each day,” or roughly a quarter of Nigeria's annual revenue. The energy committee has called on Abuja to “bring this racket to a full, final stop.” In the 71-page document, the committee also noted “the potential gains should clearly outweigh the cost of any intense security operation to stamp out this economic sabotage.” Delegates from around the country have been meeting in Abuja to attend the national conference, which was convened by President Goodluck Jonathan in March and which is aimed at examining longstanding problem's in Africa's most populous country. For years, Africa's largest economy, and top oil producer, has been struggling with the issue of oil theft, with much of the stolen crude leaving the country in tankers.
- **14 June 2014** – Nigeria's main opposition party has taken up the issue of Nigeria's ongoing insecurity and has criticized President Goodluck Jonathan's party for failing to stem the rising violence. On Friday, the All Progressives Congress (APC) party held its convention in Abuja and elected new national officers in the run-up to the crucial elections. Former governor of the southern state of Edo, John Oyegun, emerged as the party's new chairman, with the party deciding to select its presidential candidate in November. At the convention, former APC interim chairman Bisi Akande told thousands of party supporters that “our county is at its lowest moment since the end of the unfortunate civil war in 1970,” when a 30-month war broke out when the southeast Igbo people attempted a secede from Nigeria in a bid to form a Republic of Biafra. According to Akande, the inability of the current government to end Boko Haram's violence has made Nigeria, which used to be a regional military power, “a subject of some form of global assistance after it was apparently overwhelmed by security challenges.” President Goodluck Jonathan's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has controlled the federal government since Nigeria returned to civilian rule in 1999. The party however is currently facing unprecedented divisions in the run-up to the vote. Furthermore, while President Jonathan has so far refused to declare his plans for the upcoming election, he is widely expected to seek re-election despite being up against mounting pressure within his own party to stand aside. Former military ruler, and APC presidential hopeful Muhammadu Buhari, has described the upcoming 2015 polls as a “watershed” and has urged Nigerians to vote out the PDP, which he has accused of destroying the country. Former vice president Atiku Abubakar, who contested the 2011 elections but was ultimately defeated by Jonathan, has also stated that the ruling party has nothing to offer the country. Although Africa's most populous country, and largest economy, is set to go to the polls in February 2015 to elect a new president a parliament, the upcoming elections have largely been overshadowed by the on-going five-year Boko Haram insurgency, which has killed thousands and whose abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls two months ago has sparked global outrage.

International Developments

- **11 June 2014** – Sources have indicated that the UN Security Council is set to sanction Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, along with the militant group's faction Ansaru. If the decision is confirmed, this will be the first individual and entity to be designated by the world body since the militant group was blacklisted last month. While the process however has been delayed by Russia, which placed a technical hold on the

designations, diplomats have stated that the move was passed to allow Moscow more time to complete its review of the proposal, which was made by Nigeria to the Security Council al-Qaeda sanctions committee. A senior council diplomat has stated, “we would expect those listings to be approved and they would be sanctioned perhaps by the end of the week or early next week.” Once Russia lifts the hold, and the sanctions are approved, Shekau and Ansaru will be banned from international travel and have their assets frozen. Last month, at the request of Nigeria, the Security Council al-Qaeda sanctions committee blacklisted Boko Haram. The move followed global outrage when the militant group kidnapped more than 250 schoolgirls in remote northeastern Nigeria on April 14. In the UN listing, the Islamist militant group is described as an affiliate of al-Qaeda and the Organization of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). It is subjected to a travel ban, an asset freeze and an arms embargo.

Senegal

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

On 6 May 2014, Senegal's government reopened the border with Guinea, which was closed after an outbreak of the Ebola fever, which has claimed scores of lives in the neighboring country. The border crossings at Kolda and Kedougou, in the southern region of Senegal, had been previously affected by the closure order. Local elections are set to take place in Senegal on 29 June 2014. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid all outdoor rallies and demonstrations as they may turn violent. Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Senegal, MS Risk advises avoiding road travel in the Casamance region, to the west of Kolda. The Casamance region of south-western Senegal (between the southern border of Gambia and the northern border of Guinea-Bissau) remains affected by incidents involving armed separatist groups and banditry, particularly in the regions of Bignona and Sindian. There has been an increase in clashes between the Senegalese army and suspected elements of the armed separatist group Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC). MS Risk advises against all road travel in the Casamance region to the west of Kolda, other than on the main road from Ziguinchor to Cap Skiring (which is often used by groups of tourists during daylight hours) and on the road north of the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border, from Sao Domingos to Ziguinchor (N4 bis). If you travel on either of these roads, you should do so only during daylight hours and monitor the local security situation before travelling. Severe water shortages in Dakar have led to a number of demonstrations in the suburbs. Youths have blocked some roads with burning tyres and have clashed with police. MS Risk advises travellers to avoid all demonstrations and to leave any affected areas at the first sign that unrest may develop. There have been a number of deaths and injuries. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, authorities in Senegal have increased security in the capital city as well as along the border with Mali. MS Risk advises that al-Qaeda militants may cross the border into Senegal and they may target Western interests as well as foreigners.

International Developments

- **17 June 2014** – Prosecutors in France have dismissed a corruption investigation into the son of former Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade. Karim Wade is suspected of having corruptly acquired a multi-million-dollar fortune while his father was president. Karim, who has been in custody for over a year, was initially accused of having acquired companies, real estate and a fleet of luxury cars valued at US \$1.4 billion by corrupt means however that sum was later reduced. He is due to be tried in Senegal next month. Senegalese authorities had also launched an official complaint in France in 2012 as they believed that part

of Karim's alleged US \$242 million fortune may have been invested in the country. French prosecutors however have since dropped their probe into the case, citing a lack of sufficient proof. Karim's lawyers have described the charges against him as "fanciful," stating that he only has a fortune of around two million euros, much of which he earned as a trader before he became a minister under his father. Abdoulaye Wade, who was in office for twelve years, stood down in March 2012 after losing the presidential election to Macky Sall. Since then, Wade's party has accused the new regime of carrying out politically motivated legal attacks on his former officials, including the corruption case against Wade's son, which they believe was launched to prevent Wade from running in the 2017 presidential election against Sall.

Sierra Leone

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

Summary

The West Africa Ebola outbreak



On the 23 March 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified by the Ministry of Health in Guinea of confirmed cases of Ebola hemorrhagic fever. This is the first outbreak of Ebola reported in Guinea. Since then, cases have been reported in the forested areas of south-eastern Guinea, including in the Guekedou, Kissidougou, Macenta and Nzerekore districts as well as in the capital city, Conakry. There have been confirmed cases of the Ebola virus in Sierra Leone. These cases have been reported in the regions near the border with Guinea.

There is currently no travel advisory for Sierra Leone. Violent incidents have taken place under cover of crowds in the streets of Freetown. There are also occasional small riots between rival groups of youths in the central and eastern areas of Freetown. If you encounter such an incident, you should leave the area immediately. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks may be carried out in Sierra Leone. This is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali. During the rainy season, May to October, roads can become extremely difficult, even for off-road vehicles. On 9 August a bridge in the capital city of Freetown collapse due to a landslide caused by heavy rain. At least six people were killed in the accident. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers in the country to

exercise due caution when travelling by road throughout the season.

On the Ground Reporting

- **19 June 2014** – Sierra Leone’s health minister indicated Thursday that the country, which is one of three facing an Ebola epidemic, has stepped up measures in order to fight the highly contagious and deadly disease. On Thursday, Miatta Kargbo stated that the number of registered cases of hemorrhagic fever had risen to 246, in which of these, 103 were confirmed to be Ebola and 26 had died. Kargbo’s figures were higher than those released on Wednesday by the World Health Organization (WHO), which reported 92 cases of Ebola and 49 deaths. Kargbo told journalists that her figures demonstrated that health workers “have access to places they had difficulty to access” in the past, including the remote Koindu and Kissi Teng chiefdoms in the eastern region of the country. Checkpoints to screen potential Ebola cases are also now in place and “functional,” adding that the local population is now increasingly cooperative about taking tests. Thirteen checkpoints have been set up in the eastern towns of Kailahun, Kono, and Kenema. Four health workers stand at each checkpoint with equipment including safety gloves, chlorine, disposable thermometers and mobile phones. In some districts, local personnel are backed up by staff of the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, which is also helping out in Guinea and Liberia. The WHO is also providing Sierra Leone with technical support in fighting the epidemic
- **12 June 2014** – Sierra Leone’s government has announced a state of emergency in the district of Kailahun after the deadly Ebola outbreak has claimed seventeen lives in the region. According to government figures released Thursday, there are 46 confirmed cases and another 122 suspected cases in the district, which is located near the border with Liberia. A statement issued by the government has indicated that all schools in the district will be closed in a bid to minimize Ebola transmission. Public gatherings, including cinemas and nightclubs, will also be prohibited while vehicles entering and leaving the district will be screened at checkpoints. More than one month after Guinean President Alpha Conde told reporters that the Ebola outbreak, which had originated in his country, was under control, the death toll has continued to climb in Guinea, as well as in neighboring Liberia and Sierra Leone. The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that at least 231 people have died since the outbreak began in January with Guinea having recorded just over 200 deaths.



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