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West Africa Report

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

July 21 – August 3, 2014



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 - Crisis management
 - Business continuity management
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Summary

July 21 – August 3, 2014



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Sahel Region

Regional Reporting

- **31 July 2014** – The head of the World Health Organization, along with the presidents of those West African states affected by the current Ebola outbreak, are due to meet in Guinea Friday in order to launch a US \$100 million (£59 million) emergency joint response plan.
- **30 July 2014** – New figures released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday indicate that the death toll in West Africa's Ebola outbreak has risen to 729, with the number of reported cases now at 1,323.

International Developments

- **31 July 2014** – Despite several African heads of state unable to attend next week's US-Africa summit, White House officials have stated that the ongoing health crisis in West Africa will not affect the upcoming three-day summit.
- **30 July 2014** - With medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warning earlier this week that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is likely to get worse, fears have mounted that the deadly disease may spread to other continents, prompting officials across Europe and Asia to be on high alert.

Ghana

- **1 August 2014** – Following an Ebola death in Nigeria, Ghana has banned flights from other West African countries.
- **26 July 2014** – Ghana's eastern border with Togo was closed for several hours Saturday following violence that erupted in the neighboring country.
- **24 July 2014** – Thousands of workers across Ghana have taken to the streets to protest the rise in the cost of living. In Accra, protesters marched for about four hours, creating traffic jams in the city center.

Guinea

- **31 July 2014** – Police in Guinea have arrested four people on Thursday over a stampede at a seafront concert that left thirty-four people, including eleven children, dead.
- **30 July 2014** – At least thirty-four people died and dozens were injured in a stampede at a concert on a beach in Conakry.

Liberia

- **30 July 2014** – Just days after Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ordered the closure of most of Liberia's border crossings and implemented strict quarantines for those communities affected by the Ebola outbreak, Liberia's government announced Wednesday that it will close down all schools across the country in a bid to stop the spread of the deadly virus.
- **28 July 2014** – In a bid to halt the continuing spread of the deadly virus, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has ordered the closure of most of Liberia's border crossings and has ordered strict quarantines for those communities affected by the Ebola outbreak.
- **26 July 2014** – One of Liberia's most high-profile doctors died of the Ebola virus on Saturday.

Mali

On the Ground Reporting

- **31 July 2014** – French military forces in Mali have arrested a former jihadist leader in the northern Malian town Gao.
- **29 July 2014** – An Air Algerie jetliner, carrying 116 people on board, crashed Thursday (24 July) in a rainstorm over Mali.

Domestic News

- **24 July 2014** – The Malian government and six rebel groups have signed an accord to end hostilities, with sources indicating that the two sides also signed a roadmap aimed at "putting in place a framework for the peace talks to allow the emergence of a comprehensive negotiated settlement."

International Developments

- **28 July 2014** – On Monday, the United Nations Security Council welcomed the agreement of a roadmap for negotiations between the Malian government and Tuareg separatists, calling on both sides to engage in follow-up peace talks that are set to begin 17 August.

Mauritania

- **2 August 2014** – In the presence of a number of fellow African leaders, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was sworn in for a second term on Saturday.

Nigeria

On the Ground Reporting

- **31 July 2014** – A Nigerian health official disclosed Thursday that two people, who had “primary contact” with a man who died of the Ebola virus in Lagos last week, have been quarantined.
- **30 July 2014** – On Wednesday, a female suicide bomber killed six people at a college campus in Kano city.
 - Security forces disclosed Thursday that they had stopped a car in Kano’s neighboring state of Katsina and arrested three suspected Boko Haram members.
- **29 July 2014** – Officials in the Nigerian city of Lagos have closed and quarantined a hospital where a Liberian man died of the Ebola virus, the first recorded case of the highly infectious disease in Africa’s most populous country.
 - Eyewitnesses reported Tuesday that insurgents have blown up a bridge in northern Nigeria, killing eight people and resulting in soldiers, stationed nearby, to flee.
 - On Tuesday night, suicide bombers attacked two mosques in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least six people and injuring several others.
- **28 July 2014** - In the wake of the first confirmed Ebola death in Nigeria, officials in the country have placed all entry points on red alert.
 - Two blasts on Monday, carried out by female suicide bombers, have killed at least three people and injured 13 in Nigeria’s Kano city, bringing the number of attacks this week in the area to five and overshadowing festivities marking the end of Ramadan.
- **27 July 2014** – Police officials have confirmed that a female suicide bomber blew herself up outside a university in Kano after police officers had prevented her from carrying out an attack.
 - At least five people were killed and eight others injured on Sunday when a bomb erupted in front of a Catholic church located in a mainly Christian neighborhood of Kano.
- **26 July 2014** – During the early morning hours on Saturday, suspected Boko Haram militants targeted the village of Sigal, located just seven kilometers (4 miles) from Rann, which was attacked the day before.
- **25 July 2014** – Nigerian forces are increasing security across the entire country ahead of Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim celebration that marks the end of Ramadan.
 - Meanwhile on Friday dozens of Boko Haram gunmen were met with fierce resistance from local residents after they raided the town of Rann, located in Borno state near the border with Cameroon.
- **24 July 2014** – Nigerian officials disclosed Thursday that a Liberian man has been hospitalized in Lagos with Ebola-like symptoms, however it remains unclear whether the patient has been infected with the deadly virus.
 - Meanwhile at least one person was killed and eight other injured after a blast ripped through a crowded bus station in Kano on Thursday.
- **23 July 2014** – Boko Haram militants are suspected of having blown up a major bridge in northeastern Nigeria, effectively disrupting transport links with neighboring Cameroon.
 - Police officials confirmed on Wednesday that two explosions have targeted the northern Nigerian city of

Kaduna, with at least fifty people killed in the attack.

- According to local residents, Boko Haram militants have executed twelve people, including a village chief, in a remote part of northeastern Nigeria.
- **22 July 2014** – One hundred days after more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped, the relatives scarred by Boko Haram's mass abduction recounted their nightmare to President Goodluck Jonathan on Tuesday in what is the first meeting since the shocking kidnappings.
- **21 July 2014** – According to a local vigilante leader, Nigeria's militant Islamists are in control of the key town of Damboa in northeastern Nigeria, disclosing that in the wake of the local vigilante group fleeing the town on Sunday, Boko Haram militants have entered the town, with the militant group's black flag now flying over Damboa.
 - Meanwhile a Nigerian helicopter crashed Monday in an area where the military is battling Boko Haram.
 - A recent massive assault carried out by Boko Haram militants in the northeaster Nigerian town of Damboa has displaced more than 15,000 people.

Senegal

- **31 July 2014** – The trial of the son of former Senegalese leader Abdoulaye Wade, who is accused of accumulating a multi-million dollar fortune through corruption while in office, began on Thursday with an opening statement by the accused, who told the anti-corruption court that he was a "political prisoner."

Sierra Leone

On the Ground Reporting

- **31 July 2014** – In a bid to curb the deadly Ebola outbreak, Sierra Leone's President has declared a public health emergency.
- **29 July 2014** – Sierra Leone's health chief disclosed Tuesday that a doctor, in charge of an Ebola treatment center in the country, has become the latest victim of the deadly virus.
- **28 July 2014** – On Monday, Sierra Leone's President toured the epicenter of his country's Ebola outbreak as West African leaders stepped up their efforts in a bid to contain the spread of the deadly virus.
- **25 July 2014** – Officials in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, have launched a search for a woman infected with the Ebola virus who was forcibly removed from hospital by her relatives.
- **23 July 2014** – A statement issued by Sierra Leone's presidency has disclosed that the doctor leading the fight against the current Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone is now being treated for the deadly virus.
- **21 July 2014** – On Monday, dozens of nurses at the government hospital in Kenema town, which is currently treating all the Ebola cases in the district, went on an indefinite strike following the death of three of their colleagues on Sunday.

Security Summaries for West African States

Sahel Region – Page 9

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.

Burkina Faso – Page 11

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 virus in The Gambia, as part of efforts to prevent the deadly virus from spreading into the country, Gambia's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has set up a task force to control the border areas. MS Risk is currently advising all travellers to the country to maintain a high level of vigilance. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Travellers to the country are warned to remain vigilant as attacks can take place at anytime and anywhere.

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Guinea-Bissau

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. 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.

Ivory Coast

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut-Sassandra, Moyen-

Cavally and Bas-Sassandra. 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.

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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

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

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.

Regional Reporting

- **31 July 2014** – The head of the World Health Organization, along with the presidents of those West African states affected by the current Ebola outbreak, are due to meet in Guinea Friday in order to launch a US \$100 million (£59 million) emergency joint response plan. According to a statement released Thursday by WHO Director General Margaret Chan, “the scale of the Ebola outbreak, and the persistent threat it poses” requires the WHO, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone “to take the response to a new level,” adding that “several hundred” medical personnel need to be deployed to the affected countries in order to help the overstretched workers and facilities that are struggling with the epidemic, which has so far claimed 730 lives. According to WHO officials, those most urgently needed are “clinical doctors and nurses, epidemiologists, social mobilization experts, logisticians and data managers,” noting that the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response Plan in West Africa will aim to fill these gaps “as part of an intensified international, regional and national campaign to bring the outbreak under control.” Sources have indicated that the plan will also bolster efforts to prevent and detect suspected cases, encourage better border surveillance and reinforce the WHO’s sub-regional outbreak coordination center, which was established in Guinea. New WHO figures released Thursday indicated that 729 people have died from Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. There are currently 1,323 cases recorded.
- **30 July 2014** – New figures released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday indicate that the death toll in West Africa’s Ebola outbreak has risen to 729, with the number of reported cases now at 1,323. Between July 24 – 27, fifty-seven deaths were recorded in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, with officials adding that 122 new cases were detected over the four days. A statement released by the UN health agency has indicated that the trend in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone “remains precarious with ongoing...transmission of infection.” Guinea has suffered the worst from the disease, with officials

reporting another twenty deaths apparently from Ebola in the last four days of last week, taking its national fatality figure to 339. Liberia saw 27 deaths, bringing its total national death toll to 156 while Sierra Leone reported nine deaths, bringing the total to 233. During this period, Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous country, reported its first death from Ebola.

International Developments

- **31 July 2014** – Despite several African heads of state unable to attend next week's US-Africa summit, White House officials have stated that the ongoing health crisis in West Africa will not affect the upcoming three-day summit. White House spokesman Josh Earnest indicated Thursday that "we certainly understand the decision that was made by some of these African leaders to not participate...they obviously have some very pressing items of business to handle in their own countries." The comments came shortly after the presidents of Liberia and Sierra Leone, two of the three countries affected by the current Ebola outbreak, cancelled their official visits to Washington. It currently remains unclear whether Guinean President Alpha Conde will attend the conference however White House officials have disclosed that other representatives from Liberia and Sierra Leone will be attending the summit. While the US-Africa summit was set to focus on boosting Africa's ability to address its own challenges and to elevate US engagement on the continent, the Ebola outbreak has threatened to cast a shadow over the summit, which was billed by the White House as a historic gathering of African leaders in the US capital. Nearly fifty leaders are scheduled to attend the talks, which will also focus on regional security and supporting the next generation of African leaders.
- **30 July 2014** - With medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warning earlier this week that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is likely to get worse, fears have mounted that the deadly disease may spread to other continents, prompting officials across Europe and Asia to be on high alert:
 - Officials in Brussels have disclosed that the European Union is equipped and ready to treat any victims should the deadly virus spread to anyone of the twenty-eight member states. An EU source has indicated that the isolation and negative testing of a suspected case in Valencia, Spain demonstrated that the "system worked," adding "we cannot rule out the possibility that an infected person arrives in Europe but the EU has the means to track and contain any outbreak rapidly."
 - In the UK, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond chaired the government's COBRA crisis management committee in order to assess the situation. One person in the UK has tested negative for the disease.
 - Hong Kong has announced quarantine measures for suspected cases. One woman who arrived from Africa with possible symptoms has since tested negative.
 - Australia has warned against travel to all countries affected by the outbreak, adding that it is well prepared in the unlikely event that the virus should reach its shores.
 - Authorities in Thailand have ordered all hospitals to monitor patients, especially nationals or foreign tourists who have travelled to the affected areas, for any symptoms.
 - US Peace Corps has announced that it is temporarily withdrawing 340 volunteers from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Two of its volunteers have been isolated after being exposed to someone who later died from the virus however a spokesman for the Peace Corps has disclosed "these volunteers are not symptomatic and are currently isolated and under observation."
 - The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has held talks with global health officials on potential measures to halt the spread of the disease.

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.

Ghana

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in the country. In April, health officials confirmed that a girl suspected of having Ebola tested negative. MS Risk advises all travellers to Ghana 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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **1 August 2014** – Following an Ebola death in Nigeria, Ghana has banned flights from other West African countries. The decision is part of new elaborate measures that Ghana's authorities are implementing in a bid to contain the virus. Ghana's Health Ministry has also confirmed that efforts are currently underway to establish Ebola treatment centers across the country, with centers located in Accra, Kumasi and Tamale which will cater for the southern, middle and northern zones of Ghana. Additionally, restrictions have been imposed on the movement of Liberian refugees at the Buduburam Refugee Camp. Despite a suspected fever case, reported at a clinic in Ghana earlier this year, testing negative, Ghanaians have expressed their fears over the possible spread of the disease in the country due to the closeness to the other four African

states that are currently battling the deadly virus. These nationwide concerns have also generated concern over the readiness of local agencies and the government to contain the disease should a case be recorded in Ghana.

- **26 July 2014** – Ghana's eastern border with Togo was closed for several hours Saturday following violence that erupted in the neighboring country. According to a local official, police clashed with a number of youths protesting the arrest of a young man. While it remains unclear why the man was arrested, on the ground sources have reported that clashes erupted after Togolese police began pelting the youth with stones, later firing tear gas and rubber bullets in a bid to disperse the crowd. This prompted the youth to resort to the burning of tires on the roads located next to the border with Ghana. The incident, which began around 10:00 AM local time, prevented a number of traders from crossing the border, which remained closed for several hours, as authorities attempted to restore calm in the area. Sources have indicated that the border was opened by late afternoon.
- **24 July 2014** – Thousands of workers across Ghana have taken to the streets to protest the rise in the cost of living. In Accra, protesters marched for about four hours, creating traffic jams in the city center. The protest resulted in Haruna Iddrisu, the minister of employment and labor relations, addressing the crowds, stating that the government will work "fastidiously to invigorate the economy to make life easier not harder for the working people and citizens of Ghana." The nationwide strike was organized by the country's largest trade union congress, which has indicated that the Ghanaian government is mismanaging the economy, noting that inflation is currently close to 15% and that the national currency, the cedi, has depreciated against the US dollar by more than 27% this year. According to sources, this decline in the currency has resulted in an increase in the price of consumer goods, such as fuel and sugar, noting that taxes have also gone up while utilities have increased by more than 50%. Protesters are calling on President John Dramani Mahama to restore the 23% subsidy that has been removed from petroleum products.

Guinea

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

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

- **31 July 2014** – Police in Guinea have arrested four people on Thursday over a stampede at a seafont concert that left thirty-four people, including eleven children, dead. According to local officials, the victims were trampled as thousands surged to the narrow exits at the end of the concert, which was held at a beach in Conakry on Tuesday to mark the end of Ramadan. A judicial source has disclosed that an investigation into the accident has been launched and that “there have been four arrests.” The detained suspects include two of the show’s organizers along with a public official in charge of managing the beach and the

suspended head of the Guinean government agency, which was in charge of public events. Public prosecutor Aboubacar Sylla confirmed that police interviewed the four on Thursday, noting, “all authors and makers of the crisis will be...tried so that the people of Guinea know what happened.” In the wake of this tragedy, Guinea has been observing a week of national mourning while the government has banned all seafront public events.

- **30 July 2014** – At least thirty-four people died and dozens were injured in a stampede at a concert on a beach in Conakry. Authorities have not disclosed on how the stampede occurred on Rogbane beach, in the city’s northern Ratoma suburb, however an investigation has been launched and the official in charge of organizing such events has been suspended. A statement released by the government indicated that the West African country had suffered a “tragedy” a day after Guineans celebrated the Eid al-Fitr holiday ending the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The statement further indicated that the country would mark a week of national mourning. The tragedy, which is not the first of its kind to occur in the capital city, also comes as the country struggles to cope with the deadly Ebola outbreak.

Liberia

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

Cases of the Ebola virus have been confirmed in a number of areas of Liberia, including in the capital city. While there are currently no travel restrictions for Liberia, on July 27, the government of Liberia announced that all borders of Liberia have been closed, with the exception of major entry points including the Roberts International Airport, James Sprigs Payne Airport, Foya Crossing, Bo Waterside Crossing and Ganta Crossing. The Liberia Airport Authority has also introduced enhanced screening measures for both inbound and outbound travellers at airport facilities. MS Risk advises all travellers to maintain strict standards of hygiene, avoid contact with symptomatic and deceased patients, avoid contact with live or dead animals and avoid consumption of bush meat

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 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

- **30 July 2014** – Just days after Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ordered the closure of most of Liberia's border crossings and implemented strict quarantines for those communities affected by the Ebola outbreak, Liberia's government announced Wednesday that it will close down all schools across the country

in a bid to stop the spread of the deadly virus. The latest measures are the toughest to be implemented by a West African government in a bid to halt the worst Ebola outbreak on record. The new plan also includes the closure of all border markets. All non-essential government workers will be sent home for a period of thirty days while Friday 1 August has been declared a non-work day in Liberia to allow for the disinfection of all public facilities. Liberia's security forces and army have been ordered to enforce the new measures. Meanwhile the Finance Ministry has placed a number of senior officials under observation for three weeks after a top ministry official died from the virus last week. Patrick Sawyer, who was travelling to attend a conference in Nigeria last week, began to show symptoms of the disease after arriving in Lagos via the Togolese capital Lome. He died soon after being quarantined at a private hospital.

- **28 July 2014** – In a bid to halt the continuing spread of the deadly virus, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has ordered the closure of most of Liberia's border crossings and has ordered strict quarantines for those communities affected by the Ebola outbreak. The latest measures come just one month after the Liberian President warned that anyone caught hiding suspected Ebola patients would be prosecuted. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has announced the closure of most of Liberia's land borders adding that stringent medical checks are being increased at those airports and major trade routes that will remain open. A statement released by the government indicated, "all borders of Liberia will be closed with the exception of major entry points," adding that all these entry points will have preventive and testing centers. Three major border crossings, a provincial airport and Monrovia's international airport are exempted from the closures. The government has also banned public gatherings of any kind, including events and demonstrations. Authorities have not disclosed how long these closures will remain in place. The announcement, which occurred late Sunday, came just one day after the Liberian President formed a new taskforce charged with containing the disease that has already killed 129 in the country and more than 670 in the West African region. According to a statement released by the President's office, the special Ebola task force will ensure that "communities that are seriously affected will be quarantined and travels in and out of such communities restricted." The new orders include strict observation at the international airport of all outgoing and incoming passengers, who are now liable for inspection and testing. All government facilities and public places will also install public access for washing of hands while all hotels, restaurants, and film centers are to play a five-minute information clip on Ebola awareness and prevention. While Guinea has borne the brunt of the outbreak, in recent weeks, Liberia has seen a sharp rise in Ebola cases and deaths. Amongst those killed by the deadly virus is prominent Liberian doctor Samuel Brisbane, who died this past weekend after a three-week battle with the virus. Two American aid workers have also fallen ill. Samaritan's Purse, a Christian charity, confirmed Sunday that its physician Brantly was in stable condition and had been isolated at the group's Ebola treatment center at the ELWA hospital in Liberia's capital Monrovia. The charity further disclosed that Nancy Writtebol, a missionary with the SIM Christian charity that runs that hospital, is also in stable condition. Ms Writtebol had been working as a hygienist responsible for detoxifying protective suits worn by those entering and exiting Ebola isolation centers. Dr Brantly is the medical director of the Samaritan's Purse Ebola case management center in Liberia, where the agency is continuing to work with Liberian and international health officials in a bid to contain the outbreak. He began working with the group's Liberia team in October and since June, he has been focusing on Ebola patients. **Update (2 August 2014)** – Dr Kent Brantly, the US doctor infected with the Ebola virus, has arrived in the United States for treatment at a specialized unit in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr Brantly arrived at a military base Saturday in a specially equipped private plane before being driven to Emory University Hospital. A fellow aid worker who has also been infected by the virus, Nancy Writtebol, is

expected to arrive in the US in the coming days. The specialized unit was opened twelve years ago to care for federal health workers who have been exposed to some of the world's most dangerous diseases.

- **26 July 2014** – One of Liberia's most high-profile doctors died of the Ebola virus on Saturday. His death comes as officials confirmed that an American physician and an American missionary working are being treated for the deadly risk. These three cases have highlighted the risks that health workers are facing in trying to combat an outbreak that has killed more than 670 people in West Africa – the largest ever recorded. Dr. Samuel Brisbane, a top Liberian health official was treating Ebola patients at Liberia's largest hospital, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medical Center in Monrovia, where he fell ill. Tolbert Nyenswah, an assistant health minister, confirmed that he passed away Saturday. Earlier this month, a Ugandan doctor also died as a result of the deadly virus.

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

- **31 July 2014** – French military forces in Mali have arrested a former jihadist leader in the northern Malian town Gao. Malian military spokesman Modibo Traore has confirmed that Yoro Ould Daha, who was a member of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which controlled Gao for nearly a year, was arrested at his home earlier this week. Ould Daha was the MUJAO official who announced the death of French hostage Gilberto Rodriguez-Leal, who was captured in November 2012 while travelling in Mauritania and Mali. Ould Daha has also taken responsibility for the kidnapping of five humanitarian workers who were later released.
- **29 July 2014** – An Air Algerie jetliner, carrying 116 people on board, crashed Thursday (24 July) in a rainstorm over Mali. The plane, owned by Spanish company Swiftair and leased by Algeria's flagship carrier, disappeared from radar less than an hour after taking off from Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou. The plane was headed for Algiers. French fighter jets, along with UN peacekeepers located the wreckage of the MD-83 about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the border with Burkina Faso, near the village of Bouloukessi in Mali. According to Gen. Gilbert Diendere, a close aide to Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore and head of the crisis committee set up to investigate the incident, on sight rescuers have indicated that local residents reported seeing the plane go down about 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the Malian town of Gossi. On Friday (25 July) French President Francois Hollande confirmed that the plane's wreckage, along with the black box flight recorder, had been located. During a televised statement, the President also disclosed that "there were no survivors" of flight AH5017, which had 110 passengers and 6 crewmembers, including 51 French nationals, 24 Burkinabe, eight Lebanese, six Algerians, six Spanish, five Canadians, four Germans and two Luxembourg nationals. French officials have disclosed that a "French military unit has been sent to secure the site and gather the first elements of information."

Domestic News

- **24 July 2014** – The Malian government and six rebel groups have signed an accord to end hostilities, with sources indicating that the two sides also signed a roadmap aimed at "putting in place a framework for the peace talks to allow the emergence of a comprehensive negotiated settlement." A short statement released by Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra indicated that the signature of the two documents marked "a satisfactory result with which to crown the initial phase of the dialogue." The agreement was signed as part of on going peace talks that were launched in neighboring Algeria last week. The talks, which opened on July 17, are due to resume next month with the aim of reaching an agreement pertaining to power sharing by the autumn. Although separatist demands have officially been dropped by those rebel Tuareg groups attending the peace talks, the groups are still demanding greater autonomy or a special status for the northern region of Mali, which they call Azawad. Tensions between the rebel groups and the Malian government sharply increased in May when the Tuaregs inflicted a "major defeat" on the Malian army in Kidal. While a ceasefire between the mainly Tuareg and Arab rebel groups has been in place since the clashes erupted, the rebels now occupy nearly two-thirds of the country's territory, with Algerian officials noting that this occupation effectively enables the group to have greater strength in the on going peace talks.

International Developments

- **28 July 2014** – On Monday, the United Nations Security Council welcomed the agreement of a roadmap for negotiations between the Malian government and Tuareg separatists, calling on both sides to engage in follow-up peace talks that are set to begin 17 August. The Council further reiterated its strong concern pertaining to the fragile security situation in northern Mali and has called on all parties “to immediately and fully respect a cease-fire,” signed on May 23. The Algerian capital Algiers hosted peace talks from July 16-24, where Malian government representatives, six Tuareg groups and officials from the United Nations, African Union, the regional group ECOWAS and the European Union converged to discuss restoring stability in northern Mali. The talks resulted in the adoption of a roadmap that was signed by all parties present. Follow-up talks are set to take place in Algiers on 17 August, and the Security Council has urged all parties to fully comply with the commitments in the roadmap, including by engaging in the comprehensive peace talks.

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.

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

- **2 August 2014** – In the presence of a number of fellow African leaders, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was sworn in for a second term on Saturday. In the June 21 presidential elections, Abdel Aziz won a second term in office after gaining 82 percent of the vote, which was boycotted by a large majority of the opposition. During his speech at the Olympic Stadium in the capital Nouakchott, Abdel Aziz vowed to address the problems of the northwest African nation's poor, promising to "fight corruption and mismanagement," and pledging to tackle racism and extremism, noting that he would taken on terrorism and organized crime by strengthening the country's army. The swearing in ceremony was attended by the heads of state of the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Chad and Senegal, along with a number of diplomats and dignitaries from other countries.

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.

Nigeria

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary

A Liberian man has died of Ebola while being quarantined at a hospital in Lagos. Two people have been quarantined while a further sixty-nine have been placed under medical surveillance. MS Risk advises all travellers to maintain strict standards of hygiene, avoid contact with symptomatic and deceased patients, avoid contact with live or dead animals and avoid consumption of bush meat.



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.

There is currently a high threat from terrorism. Over the past few weeks there have been a number of explosive attacks in Damaturu, Kano, Jos, Kaduna, Abuja and Lagos. Further such attacks are highly likely to occur. MS Risk currently advises all travellers in

Nigeria to avoid public places, especially where crowds gather.

On 16 July 2014, a German national was kidnapped near Gombi, in northeastern Nigeria. While no group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, officials in the region are blaming Boko Haram.

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

- **31 July 2014** – A Nigerian health official disclosed Thursday that two people, who had “primary contact” with a man who died of the Ebola virus in Lagos last week, have been quarantined. Speaking to reporters in Abuja, Nigeria's Health Minister Onyebuch Chukwu revealed that “staff or persons who took care of him before the diagnosis” were in quarantine while another sixty-nine people have been placed under medical surveillance adding “we are tracking all those with primary contact with a view to deciding who must be quarantined and those who will just remain under surveillance.” Chukwu noted that the medical surveillance will last at least three weeks. Patrick Sawyer, a 40-year-old Liberian, died while under quarantine in a private hospital in Lagos on Friday. His death sparked fears across the continent, as well as in Europe, Asia and the US, that the deadly virus could spread from the continent.
- **30 July 2014** – On Wednesday, a female suicide bomber killed six people at a college campus in Kano city. This is the fourth incident of a female bomber carrying out an attack in northern Nigeria in the past several days. According to eyewitnesses, at about 2:30 PM (1330 GMT) on Wednesday, an assailant blew herself up at a noticeboard on the campus of the Kano Polytechnic College. Government spokesman Mike Omeri confirmed the attack, stating that six people were killed and another six were injured. He also confirmed that a female suicide bomber, whose age was not immediately known, was responsible for the bloodshed. This was the fourth attack carried out by a female bomber in Kano since the weekend. On Sunday, a young woman injured five police officers after she blew herself up at another campus in the city. The following day, two young women, believed to be in their late teens or early 20's, separately attacked a petrol station and a shopping center. The two attacks killed at least three people and injured thirteen. Although this new tactic of deploying young women and girls is likely being used by the militant group as a means of lowering their profile in being targeted by security officials, it will likely spur further outrage as the country continues to be unable to contain the violence. Furthermore, it currently remains unclear whether the group is recruiting female bombers or forcing kidnapped girls to carry out suicide missions, however Nigerian officials increasingly fear that Boko Haram may be using those girls who were abducted during a raid in April on a boarding school in Chibok.
 - Security forces disclosed Thursday that they had stopped a car in Kano's neighboring state of Katsina and arrested three suspected Boko Haram members. Government spokesman Mike Omeri has disclosed that the group, which was arrested on Tuesday, included one male and two girls, aged 18 and 10, adding that while the older two attempted to flee the scene, the “10-year-old...was discovered to have been strapped with an explosive belt.”

- **29 July 2014** – Officials in the Nigerian city of Lagos have closed and quarantined a hospital where a Liberian man died of the Ebola virus, the first recorded case of the highly infectious disease in Africa's most populous country. Patrick Sawyer, a consultant for Liberia's Finance Ministry, collapsed upon arriving at the Lagos airport on July 20. He was placed in isolation at the First Consultants Hospital in Obalende, which is one of the most crowded areas of the city that is home to 21 million people, however he died on Friday. During a news conference on Monday, Lagos state health commissioner Jide Idris disclosed that "the private hospital was evacuated and the primary source of infection eliminated. The decontamination process in all the affected areas has commenced," adding that the hospital will remain closed for a week and that staff members will be closely monitored. Sources have indicated that authorities are currently monitoring 59 people who were in contact with Sawyer, including airport contacts. The current Ebola outbreak has killed 672 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since it was first diagnosed earlier this year. While the fatality rate of the current outbreak is around 60 percent, the disease can kill up to 90 percent of those who catch it.
 - Eyewitnesses reported Tuesday that insurgents have blown up a bridge in northern Nigeria, killing eight people and resulting in soldiers, stationed nearby, to flee. This is the fifth bridge to be targeted by the militants in the past three months. As a result of this attack, sources have indicated that during the rainy season the road will now be impassable, effectively further isolating those areas that have come under constant attack in recent months. One resident of Yobe state also reported that soldiers guarding the bridge were outnumbered and outgunned by suspected Boko Haram militants, adding that they have fled the area.
 - On Tuesday night, suicide bombers attacked two mosques in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least six people and injuring several others. Both attacks, which have been blamed on Boko Haram insurgents, occurred in Yobe state. The first explosion, which occurred around 7:55 PM (1855 GMT), targeted an open air mosque belonging to a Shiite Muslim sect in the Dogo Tebo area of the town of Potiskum, and left four people dead. The second blast occurred five minutes later at a mosque within the compound of the chief imam in the town's Anguwar Bolawa area. At least two worshippers were killed in that attack. Local officials have confirmed the two bombings, disclosing that the town has been on lockdown, with residents ordered to remain indoors. Soldiers are currently patrolling the area. Although over the past four years Potiskum, Yobe state's commercial hub, has been the scene of repeated deadly attacks, in recent months, the situation in the city has calmed, with attacks becoming rare.
- **28 July 2014** - In the wake of the first confirmed Ebola death in Nigeria, officials in the country have placed all entry points on red alert. Nigeria's Health Minister Onyebuch Chukwu has confirmed that surveillance has been increased at all "airports, seaports and land borders," adding that health specialists have been deployed at all entry points into the country. Nigeria's largest airline, Arik Air, has also suspended all flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone. The company has disclosed that the decision to halt flights is a precautionary measure. A statement released by the airline, which operates routes across West Africa, indicated "we feel especially compelled to take the business decision to immediately suspend flight services into the two Ebola affected countries due to our interest in the well-being of Nigerians," adding "we humbly suggest that as a first step, all inbound flights into Nigeria which originate from any of the Ebola affected countries, be immediately suspended."
 - Two blasts on Monday, carried out by female suicide bombers, have killed at least three people and injured 13 in Nigeria's Kano city, bringing the number of attacks this week in the area to five and overshadowing festivities marking the end of Ramadan. The latest attacks come after a weekend of

violence that has forced authorities to cancel festivities marking the end of Ramadan. Kano police spokesman Musa Magaji Majia confirmed the first attack, stating that the blast went off at roughly 10:30 AM (0930 GMT). Officials later disclosed that the attacker had strapped herself with a “low-caliber explosive, which is why the casualties were minimal,” adding she had targeted women who had lined up to purchase kerosene at a petrol station in the Hotor area, which is located on the outskirts of Kano, Nigeria’s second largest city. Eyewitnesses have reported that at the time of the incident, the queue was long as the widely-used cooking gas is often in short supply, noting that when a new shipment arrives, women typically rush to their local vendor to purchase it. Roughly three hours after the first attack, another female suicide bomber approached the Trade Fair Complex, located in the key commercial district of the city. According to Kano state police chief Adererele Shinaba, the woman was stopped at the gate and blew herself up, adding, “it was the same modus operandi...six people were injured, including two police officers.” The target holds symbolic importance in the city as the attack occurred near the brand new Ado Bayero Shopping Center, which opened in March. The launch of the modern shopping complex, which includes the only northern Nigerian outlet of South African retailer Shoprite, was seen as a sign that the city was still attractive to investors, despite the on going violence. Monday’s bombings followed two separate blasts that occurred Sunday, which have given further indication that Boko Haram militants are seeking to increase their attacks outside of their stronghold, and are now focusing on attacking key urban centers like Kano.

- **27 July 2014** – Police officials have confirmed that a female suicide bomber blew herself up outside a university in Kano after police officers had prevented her from carrying out an attack. According to police spokesman Frank Mba, “a female suicide bomber was isolated as she was walking towards the gate of the university,” because she was behaving strangely. The attack occurred when the police officers were about to ask a female colleague to body search the woman when she detonated the bomb, killing herself and injuring five police officers. According to Mba, the bomb was hidden under her “long black hijab.”
 - At least five people were killed and eight others injured on Sunday when a bomb erupted in front of a Catholic church located in a mainly Christian neighborhood of Kano. According to police spokesman Frank Mba, the attack occurred shortly after mass ended at the Saint Charles Catholic church, adding that police investigators “...suspect an IED was thrown from across the road,” at the church, which is located in Kano’s Sabon Gari district. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, the district of Sabon Gari has previously suffered a number of attacks carried out by Boko Haram.
- **26 July 2014** – During the early morning hours on Saturday, suspected Boko Haram militants targeted the village of Sigal, located just seven kilometers (4 miles) from Rann, which was attacked the day before. According to local sources, the militants raided the village and abducted a police officer from his house.
- **25 July 2014** – Nigerian forces are increasing security across the entire country ahead of Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim celebration that marks the end of Ramadan. Emmanuel Okeh, a spokesman for the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, confirmed that Nigeria is deploying 50,000 troops and counterterrorism units, including special forces, a nuclear, biological, chemical and radioactive squad and “sniffer dogs,” adding that the troops will patrol gathering spots, highways and other “strategic places. Since Wednesday, at least fifty-seven people have been killed in four separate attacks believed to have been carried out by Boko Haram militants. Security officials are now fearing that Boko Haram has “perfected plans to launch multiple bomb explosions in Maiduguri,” which are meant to coincide with celebrations marking the end of Ramadan. Starting Monday, local authorities will be implementing a three-day ban on “all vehicular movement” throughout Maiduguri. Despite large areas of Nigeria’s northeast currently under emergency rule, this week’s violence has resulted in all but 12 of the victims killed outside of the security zone, a figure

that is demonstrating that Boko Haram's on going five-year insurgency is spreading from the north and into the southern areas of the country.

- Meanwhile on Friday dozens of Boko Haram gunmen were met with fierce resistance from local residents after they raided the town of Rann, located in Borno state near the border with Cameroon. No casualties have been reported in the latest raid however the insurgents managed to throw explosives into the police station, setting it ablaze. They also bombed a local administrative building and a government lodge. According to a local resident, the militants "...came into town around 6:00 PM and made straight for the police station where they opened fire and the police responded, resulting in a shootout that lasted for one hour."
- **24 July 2014** – Nigerian officials disclosed Thursday that a Liberian man has been hospitalized in Lagos with Ebola-like symptoms, however it remains unclear whether the patient has been infected with the deadly virus. According to Yewande Adesina, the special advisor on health for the Lagos state government, the 40-year-old Monrovia resident arrived in Lagos on Sunday and was admitted to hospital on Tuesday, adding that the patient was "detained for possible Ebola infection while blood samples were sent to the Virology Reference Laboratory in Lagos as well as to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Dakar." In the wake of a possible confirmed Ebola case in Nigeria, the Lagos government has begun to roll out an emergency response in a bid to contain any potential spread of the virus across the city of more than 20 million. Extra precautions are also being taken by the hospital. The patient had travelled from Monrovia to Lagos via Togo's capital Lome. So far, WHO officials have recorded more than 900 cases of Ebola in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia however this is the first suspected case that has emerged in Nigeria. In a meeting between WHO officials and eleven West African health ministers, officials warned that this latest Ebola epidemic, which is the first to hit West Africa and the worst, may spread to neighboring countries and that the outbreak is likely to last several months. **Update (25 July 2014)** – On Friday, officials in Nigeria disclosed that the Ebola virus has caused the death of a Liberian national who died while in quarantine in Lagos. The announcement confirms that the worst-ever outbreak of the virus has now spread to Africa's most populous country, which is already battling a deadly militant insurgency in the north. Nigeria's Health Minister Onyebuch Chukwu told journalists that "thorough medical tests" had confirmed "the virus of Ebola" as the cause of death. The 40-year-old Liberian national, who died overnight, had worked for the Liberian government and had travelled to Nigeria from Monrovia by air via Togo's capital Lome. According to the Liberian government, the man's final destination had been the southern city of Calabar, where he was scheduled to attend a meeting organized by the west African bloc ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). While fears are growing that the Ebola virus may rapidly spread in the populous city of Lagos, Nigeria's Health Minister has attempted to calm local citizens, noting that upon the man's arrival, he was transported directly to hospital, noting that the patient "avoided contact with the general public and that there was no time for him to mingle in Lagos." According to Chukwu, "all the passengers that the patient came in contact with have been traced and are being investigated," insisting that health officials have made direct contact with everyone on board the flight and are now monitoring their conditions. The patient had been flying on Togo-based ASKY Airlines.
- Meanwhile at least one person was killed and eight other injured after a blast ripped through a crowded bus station in Kano on Thursday. According to police officers and eyewitnesses, the explosion occurred at about 3:00 PM (1400 GMT) at the New Motor Park in the predominately Christian Sabon Gari neighborhood, which has in the past been targeted by Boko Haram militants. Kano state police commissioner Adelere Shinaba confirmed that attack, disclosing, "it was an IED. The explosive was concealed in a water dispenser and brought into the motor park by unknown

people....A woman was killed and eight other people were injured and have been taken to hospital....Our forensics experts are combing the scene for clues. We have already commenced an investigation.” The police commissioner has indicated that there was no immediate claim of responsibility and no arrests have been made. The latest violence comes after two bombings in the northern city of Kaduna on Wednesday left at least forty-two people dead in an attack that has prompted the state’s authorities to introduce a twenty-four hour curfew. In recent weeks, the northern city of Kano has been targeted a number of times. On June 23 a bomb blast at a public health college in the city killed at least eight people while on May 19, a suicide car bomb attack in Sabon Gari killed at least four people, including a young girl. On 29 July 2013, at least four strong explosions rocked the same area, killing twelve people. All of these attacks have been attributed to the Islamist militants who have been waging a violent insurgency since 2009.

- **23 July 2014** – Boko Haram militants are suspected of having blown up a major bridge in northeastern Nigeria, effectively disrupting transport links with neighboring Cameroon. According to local residents, cars and lorries loaded with goods are currently stranded on the highway, unable to cross the Ngala Bridge. The destruction of the bridge will make it more difficult for the Nigerian army to move around. The attack also cuts off the Gamboru Ngala district, where 300 people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram raid in May, from Maiduguri, which is the capital of Borno State. Residents of Gamboru Ngala rely on Maiduguri for their supply of goods, with some on the ground sources indicating that this latest incident appears to be further punishment for residents of Gamboru Ngala for setting up a vigilante group to fight Boko Haram. The blowing up of the bridge also damages the regional economy, as goods can no longer be easily transported between Nigeria and Cameroon. Although Boko Haram has not confirmed that its militants are responsible for blowing up the bridge, the militant group has been blamed for similar attacks in the past. Furthermore, the nighttime attack demonstrates the growing threat posed by the Islamist militants, and that they have the necessary capabilities to carry out deadly attacks at any time.
 - Police officials confirmed on Wednesday that two explosions have targeted the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna, with at least fifty people killed in the attack. In the wake of the latest attack, the state government has imposed a 24-hour curfew. According to local sources, the first explosion targeted moderate Islamic cleric Dahiru Bauchi while the second one targeted senior opposition leader and former president Muhammadu Buhari. Both officials escaped unhurt. Kaduna police chief Shehu Umar confirmed the attacks, stating that Mr Bauchi had completed a preaching session in the nearby Murtala Muhammed square and was driving through the area in an open-roofed vehicle, greeting well-wishers, when he was targeted. Followers of the renowned cleric have reacted angrily, throwing stones at security forces and accusing them of failing to protect Nigerians. On the ground sources have reported that security forces in the area retaliated by firing tear gas. About 90 minutes after the first incident, a second explosion ripped through the crowded Kawo area, targeting the motorcade of Gen Buhari, a former military ruler of Nigerian and a senior member of the All Progressive Congress (APC) opposition party. On the ground sources have reported that gunmen rammed a vehicle into his convoy, firing shots at it. Two of Gen Buhari’s bodyguards were wounded in that attack. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, Nigerian officials are blaming Boko Haram, as the militants have carried out a number of assassinations that have targeted security officials, clerics and government officials. In May, the emir of the northern area of Gwoza, Shehu Mustapha Idris Timta, was shot dead in an attack blamed on Boko Haram while in January 2013, the then-emir of Kano, Al Haji Ado Bayero, survived an assassination attempt. **Update (25 July 2014)** – Officials have disclosed that they are holding one man connected to the Wednesday’s double bombings in Kaduna,

which targeted a former head of state and a prominent moderate Muslim cleric. According to a statement released by the defense ministry, the unnamed suspect, a young man dressed as a woman, was arrested immediately after the attempted assassination of former military head of state Muhammadu Buhari, which occurred in a crowded marketplace in Kaduna.

- According to local residents, Boko Haram militants have executed twelve people, including a village chief, in a remote part of northeastern Nigeria. Local sources have reported that the attackers entered the village of Garubula, in Biu district, late Wednesday, and dragged their victims out of their homes prior to shooting them.
- **22 July 2014** – One hundred days after more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped, the relatives scarred by Boko Haram's mass abduction recounted their nightmare to President Goodluck Jonathan on Tuesday in what is the first meeting since the shocking kidnappings. President Jonathan, whose handling of the hostage crisis has been fiercely criticized by Nigerians, held talks in the capital Abuja with the families of the schoolgirls who are still missing and some of those girls who managed to escape their captors. Reports have indicated that a total of 177 people, including 51 of the girls who managed to escape Boko Haram's captivity, attended the meeting after the government chartered a plane for them. While the talks were closed to the media, speaking shortly afterwards, one of the relatives stated that the meeting was cordial, adding that the President "said he would use every capability for the girls to come back..." Prior to the meeting, there had been fears that it could turn hostile amidst on going outrage over the government and military's response to the April 14 raid in Chibok, which saw 276 girls taken away on trucks from their school. Fifty-seven girls have since escaped, however 219 remain hostage. The parents of eleven of the kidnapped girls have died since their abduction. In the weeks since the kidnapping, President Jonathan has hardly commented on the attack, while the military has failed to launch a significant search-and-rescue operation and had to retract a statement claiming that all but eight of the girls had been freed. While Nigeria has accepted Western military and technical assistance with the rescue effort, there have been minimal signs of progress.
- **21 July 2014** – According to a local vigilante leader, Nigeria's militant Islamists are in control of the key town of Damboa in northeastern Nigeria, disclosing that in the wake of the local vigilante group fleeing the town on Sunday, Boko Haram militants have entered the town, with the militant group's black flag now flying over Damboa. On Friday, Boko Haram militants attacked Damboa, with on the ground sources reporting that at least forty people were killed in the attack. While Boko Haram has in the past seized control of a number of towns and villages, they have typically been driven out by the Nigerian military. However on the ground sources are reporting that in the days since the attack on Damboa, government forces have failed to launch an offensive to recapture the town.
 - Meanwhile a Nigerian helicopter crashed Monday in an area where the military is battling Boko Haram. According to a statement released by defense spokesman Chris Olukolade, "one of the pilots of the crashed Nigerian Air Force Mi-35 Helicopter on a training mission...has been recovered alive while the second one as well as the technician on board the 3 – member crew flight died in the crash," adding that a rescue operation was "ongoing." Olukolade has indicated that the helicopter crashed due to technical fault in Bama, which is one of the areas in the restive northeast that has repeatedly been attacked by the Islamist insurgents. Although Boko Haram is known to have anti-aircraft weapons technically capable of bringing down a helicopter, there was no immediate evidence suggesting that the helicopter was brought down by force.
 - A recent massive assault carried out by Boko Haram militants in the northeaster Nigerian town of Damboa has displaced more than 15,000 people. The attack on Damboa began late Thursday and

continued throughout the weakened, with local residents reporting that civilians have been left defenseless as Nigerian security forces withdrew from the area earlier this month. While officials from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) are struggling to establish a death toll, Abdulkadir Ibrahim of NEMA has indicated that at least 15,204 people had fled Damboa to escape the Islamist onslaught, adding “the number of displaced in Biu is 10,204. We have 3,000 in Maiduguri and 2,000 in Goniri.” A number of sources have indicated that Boko Haram fighters are now occupying the town, with the militant group’s black flag flying above a public building. Some reports have also indicated that the militant group is seeing to establish themselves as the local authority, a move that the Nigerian Islamists are not widely known to do. In response to these reports, Chris Olukolade has stated that the Nigerian officials “...are not conceding any portion of this country to any terrorist group,” adding “security agencies are firming up deployment of troops in the entire area...We are also going to reverse every form of insecurity in that area very soon.” Over the past number of months, Boko Haram militants have relentlessly targeted civilians across the northeastern region of Nigeria, staging brazen attacks on the security forces and killing more than 2,000 already this year. If reports are confirmed, and the militant group proves to be capable of holding their ground in Damboa in the face of a military assault, this will be a major embarrassment for the security forces and will mark a significant setback in Nigeria’s efforts to crush the on going five-year uprising.

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.

Domestic News

- **31 July 2014** – The trial of the son of former Senegalese leader Abdoulaye Wade, who is accused of accumulating a multi-million dollar fortune through corruption while in office, began on Thursday with an opening statement by the accused, who told the anti-corruption court that he was a “political prisoner.” Wade, 45, is alleged to have acquired by corrupt means companies and real estate worth US \$240 million (£140 million), however his lawyers state that the real amount linked to Wade is closer to US \$2.7 million, a sum he earned legitimately as a European trader before he entered government. While prosecutors are

claiming that the money he made is in Monaco and Singapore, which are seen as tax havens, his lawyers have demonstrated that almost half of the money is located in a Singapore account that does not belong to Wade. Wade's legal team has also complained about "a gross manipulation" of facts in the case, stating that their client is being set up as part of a conspiracy aimed at preventing him from running in the upcoming presidential elections in 2017. The former ruling Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) has accused the regime of current President Macky Sall, who ended the 12-year rule of Wade's father in the 2012 presidential elections, of conducting what many have called a "witch hunt" that has targeted the PDS hierarchy since the party came to power. Sources have indicated that shortly after his inauguration, President Sall launched a number of audits into the finances of a number of political rivals. Since then, several leaders of the Wade regime have been questioned by police and judges.

Sierra Leone

No Travel Restrictions

Security Summary



On 30 July, President Koroma declared a State of Public Emergency over the current Ebola outbreak. A number of measures have been implemented throughout the country. The government has closed all schools and banned public gatherings in Kailahun district. All vehicles and their passengers entering and leaving Kailahun district must undergo screening by the authorities at checkpoints. MS Risk advises all travellers to maintain strict standards of hygiene, avoid contact with symptomatic and deceased patients, avoid contact with live or dead animals and avoid consumption of bush meat

There is currently no travel advisory for Sierra Leone. Violent incidents have taken place under cover of crowds in the streets of Freetown. Over the weekend of 25 – 27 July, there were reports of demonstrations and local disturbances occurring in Kenema and Freetown. These events were related to the Ebola outbreak. Further such demonstrations and disturbances cannot be ruled out. MS Risk advises all travellers to Sierra Leone to follow local news reports, be alert to any developments and void all large crowds and demonstrations as they may turn violent. 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

- **31 July 2014** – In a bid to curb the deadly Ebola outbreak, Sierra Leone's President has declared a public health emergency. A statement released by President Ernest Bai Koroma has indicated that the epicenters of the outbreak in the eastern region of the country will now be quarantined, with security forces enforcing the measures. Amongst the new measures, travellers at airports will now be required to wash their hands with disinfectant and have their temperatures checked. The president has also banned all public meetings that are not related to Ebola and has cancelled all upcoming foreign trips by ministers and other government officials, exempting only "absolutely essential engagements." The measures will be in place for an initial 60 – 90 days at which point they will be reassessed. The new procedures come in to effect just days after new tough anti-Ebola policies were introduced in Liberia, where schools have been closed and some communities have been quarantined. Both President Koroma, and his Liberian counterpart Ellen

Johnson Sirleaf, have cancelled visits to Washington for the US-Africa summit which takes place next week, however the Sierra Leonean President is expected to travel to neighboring Guinea for a regional summit on the crisis which will also include the heads of Liberia, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. According to new figures released by the United Nations, more than 670 people in West Africa have died of the Ebola virus since February, with 224 of them in Sierra Leone. This includes the death of Dr Sheik Omar Khan, who led Sierra Leone's fight against the virus. He passed away earlier this week.

- **29 July 2014** – Sierra Leone's health chief disclosed Tuesday that a doctor, in charge of an Ebola treatment center in the country, has become the latest victim of the deadly virus. Brima Kargbo, the head of Sierra Leone's health services, confirmed that "Dr Omar Khan died at 2:00 PM," while Health Minister Miatta Kargbo called Dr Khan a "national hero," and praised his "tremendous sacrifice" in working to save the lives of others. Dr Khan had been admitted to an anti-Ebola treatment facility, run by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF), last week after he tested positive for the virus. He had been in charge of the main Ebola treatment center in Kenema, which is located 320 kilometers (200 miles) east of the capital Freetown. Three nurses at the facilities have also died of the disease. The latest figures released by the country's health ministry Tuesday indicate that 489 Ebola cases have been recorded in Sierra Leone, with 159 deaths.
- **28 July 2014** – On Monday, Sierra Leone's President – toured the epicenter of his country's Ebola outbreak as West African leaders stepped up their efforts in a bid to contain the spread of the deadly virus. President Ernest Bai Koroma visited the northeastern district of Kenema for the first time since the outbreak was discovered in Guinea. During his visit he promised that he will pay a visit to Sheikh Omar Khan, who is the country's leading Ebola doctor. Dr Khan tested positive for the virus last week and is currently a patient at an Ebola treatment center run by French charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Kailahun. A statement released by the Presidential office on Saturday indicated that Sierra Leone's government is planning to "intensify activities and interventions in containing the disease," with a view of ending the outbreak within 60 to 90 days. According to sources connected with the government, the new strategy will focus on contact tracing, surveillance, communications and social mobilization as well as social services, logistics and supplies. While Guinea has over the past few months borne the brunt of the outbreak, Sierra Leone now has the highest number of Ebola cases, 525, and has surpassed neighboring Guinea where the virus was first reported in February. Last week, the virus spread to a fourth country after a Liberian man died of the disease in Nigeria.
- **25 July 2014** – Officials in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, have launched a search for a woman infected with the Ebola virus who was forcibly removed from hospital by her relatives. On Friday, radio stations across the country appealed for help to find the 32-year old who is being described by health officials as a "risk to all." The woman, who is an apprentice hairdresser, is the first Freetown resident to have tested positive for the virus. Sources have indicated that she resides in the densely populated area of Wellington, in the eastern region of the city. Previous Ebola cases in Sierra Leone centered in the country's eastern districts of Kenema and Kailahun, which are located along the border region and near the Guinean region of Gueckedou, which is where the outbreak began. Sidi Yahya Tunis, a spokesperson for Sierra Leone's ministry of health confirmed the woman's disappearance, adding that the patient's family had stormed the King Harman Road Hospital on Thursday where the patient was being treated for the deadly disease.
Update (26 July 2014) – A woman suffering from the first confirmed case of Ebola in the country's capital city died Saturday after her parents forcibly took her from hospital. According to a statement released by the health ministry, Saudatu Koroma was admitted to a clinic on July 23 and had tested positive for the disease, adding "her father and mother forcibly took her away from the hospital" just two days after she was

admitted. Although her disappearance had prompted authorities in Freetown to broadcast a nationwide television and radio alert, which eventually persuaded her to return for treatment, Ms Koromo died on Saturday while on her way to an Ebola treatment center in the country's east. According to an official, Koroma "...was severely dehydrated and weak and could hardly speak," adding, "blood samples taken from both the father and mother are now being tested." The house where Ms Koroma had lived in, in the eastern area of Freetown, has been quarantined over the past twenty-one days.

- **23 July 2014** – A statement issued by Sierra Leone's presidency has disclosed that the doctor leading the fight against the current Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone is now being treated for the deadly virus. Officials have confirmed that Sheik Umar Khan has tested positive for the virus and is being treated at a hospital in Kailahun, the epicenter of the outbreak. The Ebola cases in Sierra Leone are centered in the country's eastern districts of Kailahun and Kenema. Figures released by the United Nations have indicated that more than 630 people have died from Ebola in the three West African states affected by the current outbreak, which began in Guinea earlier this year, with 206 people dead in Sierra Leone.
- **21 July 2014** – On Monday, dozens of nurses at the government hospital in Kenema town, which is currently treating all the Ebola cases in the district, went on an indefinite strike following the death of three of their colleagues on Sunday. All three are suspected to have been infected with the deadly virus. Mohamed Sheriff, a spokesman for the nurses, confirmed the strike, adding that the nurses are demanding, among other things, the "immediate relocation of an isolated area of the Ebola ward and its takeover by the French medical agency, MSF." The Kenema hospital has the only testing center for the hemorrhagic fever in the country and currently holds the highest number of patients affected by the outbreak. Striking workers are stating that the Ebola wards pose a risk not only to them, but also to the non-Ebola patients at the hospital. Sierra Leone's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Brima Kargo, has confirmed that the government is looking into the nurses' grievances. Last week, dozens of laboratory technicians at Sierra Leone's only Ebola-testing facility went on strike over a US \$20 monthly risk premium, which they were promised but never paid. **Update (24 July 2014)** – A sit-down strike by dozens of nurses at the government hospital in Kenema town has been suspended following assurances by the government that they will look into their demands. The nurses began the sit-down strike on Monday, following the deaths of three of their colleagues who are suspected of having contracted the Ebola virus. The nurses are demanding the relocation of the Ebola ward from the hospital and the takeover of its operations by the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).



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