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West Africa Report

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

August 4 - 17, 2014



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 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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Summary

August 4 - 17, 2014



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Sahel Region

Regional Reporting

- **12 August 2014** – A World Health Organization (WHO) panel of medical experts ruled on Tuesday that it is ethical to offer unproven drugs or vaccines to those people infected or at risk because of the current Ebola outbreak, cautioning however that supplies will be limited.
- **11 August 2014** – Rwanda has placed a German student, who has developed Ebola-like symptoms, in isolation and is currently waiting for tests results to check for the deadly tropical disease.
- **9 August 2014** – On Saturday, officials in Zambia banned the entry of citizens from countries currently affected by the deadly Ebola virus.

- **6 August 2014** – New figures released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday indicate that the Ebola death toll has now reached 1,069, with nearly 2,00 cases recorded.
- **8 August 2014** – The World Health Organization (WHO) declared on Friday that the killer Ebola epidemic, which has been ravaging parts of West Africa over the past few months, has now developed into an international health emergency, with officials appealing for global aid in order to help the afflicted countries.
- **7 August 2014** – In the wake of the on going Ebola epidemic, the regional grouping, the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) has confirmed that it has temporarily suspended meetings that could bring representatives of its member states together.
 - Saudi Arabia's health ministry revealed Wednesday that a Saudi man, who was being treated for Ebola-like symptoms, has died at a hospital in Jeddah.
- **4 August 2014** – Officials at the World Bank confirmed Monday that they will provide up to US \$200 million to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to help the West African countries contain the deadly Ebola outbreak.

International Developments

- **13 August 2014** - On Wednesday, Canadian officials disclosed that between 800 and 1,000 doses of an experimental Ebola vaccine, which has so far only been tested on animals, will be donated to the WHO for use in West Africa.
- **7 August 2014** – During a historic US-Africa summit in Washington, US President Barack Obama revealed that the United States will increase its support for those African militaries that are battling Islamic extremists or conducting dangerous peacekeeping missions.
- **6 August 2014** – World Health Organization (WHO) experts are meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in a bid to discuss a response to the Ebola outbreak.
 - Meanwhile British Airways has temporarily suspended flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone until the end of August “due to the deteriorating public health situation in both countries.”
- **4 August 2014** – United States government agents at US airports are currently monitoring all travellers arriving from Africa for flu-like symptoms, which could be tied to the on-going Ebola outbreak.

Benin

- **7 August 2014** – Health officials in Benin disclosed Thursday that they have placed two patients with Ebola-like symptoms in isolation while they wait for test results to establish whether the pair are infected by the deadly tropical disease.

Burkina Faso

- **7 August 2014** – In the wake of the deadly Ebola outbreak, Burkina Faso's environmental ministry has banned special hunting for bats, which is the main carrier of the virus.

Ghana

- **4 August 2014** – Ghana's President John Mahama revealed Monday that the country has requested aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a bid to stem a plunge in its currency and to close a large fiscal deficit.

Guinea

- **13 August 2013** – Guinean President Alpha Conde has declared that the deadly Ebola outbreak, which has killed 377 in the West African nation is now a “health emergency.”
- **9 August 2014** – On Saturday, officials in Guinea confirmed that land borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone will be closed in a bid to halt the spread of the deadly virus, which has claimed hundreds of lives in the three West African countries.

Guinea – Bissau

- **12 August 2014** – Guinea-Bissau's Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira disclosed Tuesday that the country is closing its border with Guinea, which is one of the West African countries that has been the hardest hit by the current Ebola outbreak.

Ivory Coast

- **11 August 2014** – On Monday, Ivory Coast officials announced that they have banned all flights from countries currently affected by the Ebola outbreak.
- **8 August 2014** – On Friday, the Ivory Coast's government announced that President Alassane Ouattara has pardoned nearly a third of the West African country's prison population.

Liberia

- **16 August 2014** – Police disclosed late Saturday that a quarantine center for suspected Ebola patients in the Liberian capital Monrovia has been attacked and looted by protesters.
- **11 August 2014** – President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf disclosed Monday that the Liberian army has put a third province under quarantine in order to check the spread of the deadly Ebola virus.
- **6 August 2014** – As the West African region continues to struggle to contain the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, on Wednesday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf declared a state of emergency.
- **4 August 2014** – On Monday, Liberians took to the streets, blocking major roads across the capital to protest against dead bodies being left for days in houses and abandoned in the streets.
 - The Liberian government has ordered that all bodies of those killed by the Ebola virus must be cremated.

Mali

On the Ground Reporting

- **16 August 2014** – United Nations and Malian security sources confirmed Saturday that two UN peacekeepers from Burkina Faso were killed in a suicide car bombing in northern Mali.
- **13 August 2014** – French troops have arrested three people, believed to be al-Qaeda fighters, near the city of Timbuktu.
- **10 August 2014** – Over the weekend, French forces bombed a number of Islamist militant positions in northern Mali.
- **7 August 2014** – The leader of a jihadist group, driven from northern Mali by French troops, has reappeared in a video message for the first time in eighteen months and has called on Muslims to rise up against France, "which detests Islam."

Domestic News

- **13 August 2014** – According to officials in Algeria, peace talks between the Malian government and mainly Tuareg rebels will not resume until September 1, as both sides have requested more time in order to prepare.
- **7 August 2014** – On Thursday, Mali's President warned that a lack of air surveillance in the northern regions of the country could pose risks for the world by effectively enabling criminals to use that area as a base.

Mauritania

- **10 August 2014** – On Sunday, Mauritanian authorities announced their decision to deny entry to citizens arriving from those African countries that have been affected by the current Ebola outbreak.

Nigeria

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 August 2014** – According to local residents, suspected Boko Haram militants have abducted at least 97 men and boys from a village in Nigeria's northern Borno state.
- **13 August 2014** – Health officials in Nigeria disclosed Wednesday that a nurse, who contracted Ebola at a Lagos hospital, travelled to the eastern part of the country before falling ill, raising fears that the deadly outbreak may now spread outside of the southern city.
- **12 August 2014** - The Western African regional bloc disclosed Tuesday that an ECOWAS official has died from Ebola in Nigeria, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to three.
- **11 August 2014** – Nigeria on Monday confirmed a new case of Ebola in the financial capital Lagos, bringing the total number of people with the virus to ten.
 - Meanwhile the wives of Nigerian soldiers held a protest on Monday against their husbands being deployed to the northern area of the country to fight Boko Haram militants.
- **8 August 2014** – In the wake of an increase in Ebola cases, Nigeria's president declared a national emergency on Friday over the deadly virus, which has already claimed two lives in Africa's most populous country.
- **7 August 2014** – Following the death of one of its citizens, from the Ebola virus, in a Lagos hospital, the Liberian government has revealed that its citizens are being harassed and "stereotyped."
 - Nigerian public sector doctors on Thursday suspended a nearly five-week long strike over an Ebola outbreak, which has killed two people and infected five others in Lagos.
- **6 August 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in Nigeria confirmed a second death from the Ebola virus, adding that five new cases of Ebola have been reported in Lagos.
 - Residents have reported that Boko Haram gunmen attacked the town of Gwoza on Wednesday, leaving dozens dead in what is the latest violence blamed on the militant group.
- **5 August 2014** – Nigerian health authorities acknowledged Tuesday that they did not immediately quarantine a sick airline passenger who later died of Ebola.

International Developments

- **5 August 2014** – Amnesty International has accused Nigeria's military and its supporting civilian militia of "extensive human rights violations" in their fight against Boko Haram in the country's northeast.
 - The United Nations Humanitarian office (OCHA) revealed Tuesday that attacks by Boko Haram militants in Nigeria's crisis-hit northeast have forced nearly 650,000 people from their homes, an increase of nearly 200,000 since May.

Senegal

- **15 August 2014** – A student taking part in protest in Senegal's capital city Dakar was killed Thursday when demonstrators and police clashed.
- **9 August 2014** – A Malian national, who lives in northern Senegal, has been quarantined in a hospital after displaying Ebola-like symptoms.

Sierra Leone

- **11 August 2014** – Eight Chinese medical workers have been placed in quarantine in Sierra Leone.
- **9 August 2014** – More than 1,500 police and soldiers have been mobilized in Sierra Leone to enforce quarantine measures in those areas that have been affected by the deadly Ebola virus.
- **5 August 2014** – A statement released by Sierra Leone's presidential office has revealed that the country's government has deployed hundreds of troops to Ebola clinics in order to enforce the isolation of patients.
 - President Ernest Bai Koroma toured health facilities set up to combat Ebola in the capital Freetown on Tuesday.

Security Summaries for West African States

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[Gambia](#)

There is no travel advisory for Gambia, however MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance, in the southern region of Senegal. The Casamance region of south western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. An outbreak of the Ebola virus has been confirmed in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. While there have been no confirmed cases of the 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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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

On 8 August the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. The current Ebola outbreak affects Nigeria, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Some airlines have suspended flights to the affected countries due to the deteriorating public health situation. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to these countries. If you do decide to travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions.

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

- **12 August 2014** – A World Health Organization (WHO) panel of medical experts ruled on Tuesday that it is ethical to offer unproven drugs or vaccines to those people infected or at risk because of the current Ebola outbreak, cautioning however that supplies will be limited. A statement released by the WHO indicated that the panel has disclosed that any provision of experimental Ebola medicines would require “informed consent, freedom of choice, confidentiality, respect for the person, preservation of dignity and involvement of the community,” adding that the drugs should be properly tested in the best possible clinical trials. Last week, the ethics panel met in order to discuss whether various experimental drugs and vaccines being developed for Ebola may be used in the outbreak despite not having been fully tested or licensed. The meeting was called after experimental Ebola drug ZMapp, which is produced by US biotech company Mapp Biopharmaceutical, was given to two American health workers who were infected with Ebola while working in Liberia. Officials at the WHO have disclosed that so-called “first in man” trials – the first tests of the drug to be carried out on humans – will likely be conducted over the next two to four months however officials have cautioned that even after the trials prove to be successful, supplies of the drug would be limited, noting “it is ...likely that the number of doses available for further study and/or deployment from end 2014 onwards will remain insufficient to meet demand.”

- **11 August 2014** – Rwanda has placed a German student, who has developed Ebola-like symptoms, in isolation and is currently waiting for tests results to check for the deadly tropical disease. According to a statement released by the health ministry, “samples from the suspected case have been sent for testing to an internationally accredited laboratory for approval, results will be available in 48 hours.” Officials at the health ministry have disclosed that the patient is a German medical student who had recently spent time in Liberia. The patient is the first to be tested for the virus in Rwanda. Like many other nations across eastern Africa, Rwanda has put in place measures aimed at preventing the deadly Ebola virus from spreading within its borders. According to the health ministry, “surveillance systems and emergency management systems have been established,” while “health workers have been trained across the country and are vigilant.”
Update (12 August 2014) – Health officials in Rwanda confirmed Tuesday that a German man placed in isolation with fever has tested negative for the deadly tropical disease. A statement released by the Ministry of Health indicated “we would like to inform you that the suspected case of Ebola tested negative,” adding “there’s no Ebola in Rwanda.
- **9 August 2014** – On Saturday, officials in Zambia banned the entry of citizens from countries currently affected by the deadly Ebola virus. The ruling, which was announced by the health ministry, will target citizens from Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone and will also affect delegates confirmed to participate at conferences that have already been organized in Zambia. A statement released by Health Minister Joseph Kasone indicated that Zambians returning from travel to Ebola affected nations would be thoroughly screened and quarantined if they were seen to be at risk of carrying the virus.
- **8 August 2014** – The World Health Organization (WHO) declared on Friday that the killer Ebola epidemic, which has been ravaging parts of West Africa over the past few months, has now developed into an international health emergency, with officials appealing for global aid in order to help the afflicted countries. According to the WHO’s director-general, Dr Margaret Chan, defining the epidemic a public health emergency of international concern, a label that has been used twice before, during the H1N1 swine flu pandemic in 2009 and last May during the reemergence of polio, effectively “alerts the world to the need for high vigilance.” The decision came after a rare, two-day closed-door session of the UN health body’s emergency committee, which has urged exit screening of all people flying out of the affected countries. The WHO however stopped short of calling for global travel restrictions, instead urging airlines to take strict precautions but to continue flying to the affected areas. Officials also called on countries and airports around the globe to be prepared to “detect, investigate and manage” Ebola cases if they should arise. The WHO’s decision to declare an international health emergency comes in the wake of US health authorities admitting Thursday that the spread of Ebola beyond West Africa was “inevitable.” Dr Margaret Chan has also appealed for greater help for the worst hit countries, noting that while a state of emergency, currently in effect in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, was the first necessary step to bringing the outbreak under control, support for health workers and ensuring that they have proper protective equipment and training was also essential.
- **7 August 2014** – In the wake of the on going Ebola epidemic, the regional grouping, the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) has confirmed that it has temporarily suspended meetings that could bring representatives of its member states together. ECOWAS Commission vice president Toga McIntosh disclosed that the management of the 15-nation grouping has decided “to suspend all meetings that will bring us together coming from our various countries,” adding “except if the mission is so essential and well guided, we will approve. All other missions, meetings will be suspended for a while.” According to ECOWAS spokesman, the suspension will hold during the entire month of August, after which the situation will be reviewed and further actions will be taken as required. ECOWAS’ Lagos liaison office has also been

temporarily shut down, with sources indicated that it was clear that some ECOWAS officials had primary contact with Patrick Sawyer, the first Ebola patient to die of the disease in Nigeria, in the organization's Lagos office when he arrived.

- **6 August 2014** – New figures released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday indicate that the Ebola death toll has now reached 1,069, with nearly 2,000 cases recorded. A statement released by the WHO disclosed that “community resistance remains high” in Liberia, noting that many fearful family members are refusing to bring sick relatives to isolation centers instead preferring to treat them at home. Two weeks ago, the outbreak spread to a fourth country when a Liberian man, Patrick Sawyer, died of the virus in Lagos, Nigeria. On Wednesday, authorities in Nigeria disclosed that a nurse, who had treated Mr. Sawyer, has since died, adding that the country has now reported five suspected Ebola cases. The death of the unidentified nurse marks the second Ebola death in Nigeria, and has many health experts worried as the death occurred in Africa's most populous country, with Lagos being one of its largest cities. The growing number of cases in Lagos comes as authorities in Nigeria acknowledged that they did not treat Patrick Sawyer as an Ebola patient, resulting in the fact that they did not isolate him for the first twenty-four hours after he arrived in Nigeria last month. Meanwhile in Saudi Arabia, officials have disclosed that a man who was being tested for the Ebola virus, has died. The 40-year-old returned on Sunday from Sierra Leone. He was hospitalized in Jeddah after showing symptoms of the viral hemorrhagic fever.
 - Saudi Arabia's health ministry revealed Wednesday that a Saudi man, who was being treated for Ebola-like symptoms, has died at a hospital in Jeddah. The 40-year-old returned from a business trip in Sierra Leone, one of four countries affected by the outbreak, on Sunday. The health ministry has indicated that the man died of cardiac arrest and that he was being tested for Ebola however the ministry has not confirmed whether the tests had concluded that he had the disease. If confirmed, this would be the first-Ebola related death to occur outside the on-going outbreak in Africa, which has already killed more than 900 people this year. In April of this year, officials in Saudi Arabia announced that they would not issue visas this year to Muslim pilgrims from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The decision was made as a precaution to avoid the spread of the disease during the hajj pilgrimage, which sees massive crowds of people from around the world gather in Mecca.
- **4 August 2014** – Officials at the World Bank confirmed Monday that they will provide up to US \$200 million to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to help the West African countries contain the deadly Ebola outbreak. The funding will help provide medical supplies, pay medical staff and take care of other priorities in order to contain the epidemic and try to prevent any future outbreaks. A statement released by World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, who is an expert on infectious diseases, indicated that he had been monitoring the spread of the virus and was “deeply saddened” at how it was contributing to the breakdown of “already weak health systems in the three countries,” adding that he was “...very worried that many more lives are at risk unless we can stop this Ebola epidemic in its tracks. An initial estimate by the World Bank and IMP found that Guinea will likely lose one percentage point in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, dropping from 4.5 percent to 3.5 percent expansion in the year, due to the epidemic.

International Developments

- **13 August 2014** - On Wednesday, Canadian officials disclosed that between 800 and 1,000 doses of an experimental Ebola vaccine, which has so far only been tested on animals, will be donated to the WHO for use in West Africa. Canada however will keep a small portion of the vaccine for further research and in the event that an Ebola case appears. Even with Canada announcing that it will send doses of the

experimental vaccine to the WHO, experts are warning that it will likely take between four and six months in order to make a large enough quantity to have any real impact at preventing the illness. Officials at the WHO have disclosed that so-called “first in man” trials – the first tests of the drug to be carried out on humans – will likely be conducted over the next two to four months, however even if the trials of the drug prove to be successful, supplies of it will remain limited, noting “it is...likely that the number of doses available for further study and/or deployment from end 2014 onwards will remain insufficient to meet demand.”

- **7 August 2014** – During a historic US-Africa summit in Washington, US President Barack Obama revealed that the United States will increase its support for those African militaries that are battling Islamic extremists or conducting dangerous peacekeeping missions. According to President Obama, part of the US’ support will be to help African nations set up a rapid response force that will support United Nations and African Union (AU) peacekeeping missions and which will be dispatched rapidly. Speaking at a news conference shortly after the summit, President Obama disclosed that the US “...will join with six countries that have demonstrated a track record as peacekeepers,” noting that they will “...invite countries beyond Africa to joins us in supporting this effort because the entire world has a stake in the success of peacekeeping in Africa.” According to the president, the six countries involved in the effort will be Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. A statement released by the White House disclosed that the US will spend US \$110 million per year, for a period of three to five years, in order to support the creation of the new force, noting “African partner nations will commit to maintaining forces and equipment ready to rapidly deploy and state their intent to deploy as part of UN or AU mission.” The statement further disclosed that the US is “...also prepared to provide support, including training for headquarters staff and key enable functions, such as engineers.” Marking the end of the summit, which was attended by African leaders and officials representing fifty nations, President Obama noted that boosting Africa’s security would also help shore up its economic achievements. While tens of billions of dollars in investments and financial support have already been announced, President Obama indicated that the continent needs to redouble reform efforts in order to deepen growth and opportunity, warning that while African countries have achieved impressive economic strides, they need to dissolve corruption, improve human rights, especially those of women, and strengthen the rule of law in order to fully succeed.
- **6 August 2014** – World Health Organization (WHO) experts are meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in a bid to discuss a response to the Ebola outbreak. Sources have disclosed that the two-day meeting will decide on whether to declare a global health emergency. If such a public health emergency is declared, this could involve detailed plans to identify, isolate and treat cases as well as to impose travel restrictions on the affected areas. On Wednesday, officials at the WHO also indicated that they would convene a meeting of medical ethics specialists next week in order to decide whether to approve experimental treatment for Ebola. The move comes as some leading infectious disease experts have been calling for experimental treatments to be offered more widely in order to treat the disease. A statement released by the WHO on Wednesday revealed that 932 patients have died of the disease in West Africa, with a majority of the fatalities being reported in Liberia. Concern has also been rising over a number of new cases that have been reported in Nigeria, which is the region’s most populous nation. On Wednesday, a nurse who treated an Ebola patient became the second person to die of the disease there.
 - Meanwhile British Airways has temporarily suspended flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone until the end of August “due to the deteriorating public health situation in both countries.” The airline had been flying four times per week to the countries, travelling first to Freetown before continuing on to Monrovia. According to a statement released this week, “the safety of our customers, crew and

ground teams is always our top priority and we will keep the routes under constant review in the coming weeks.” BA customers with tickets on those routes are being offered refunds or the ability to rebook their flights for a later date.

- **4 August 2014** – United States government agents at US airports are currently monitoring all travellers arriving from Africa for flu-like symptoms, which could be tied to the on-going Ebola outbreak. Border patrol agents at Washington’s Dulles International and New York’s JFT airports in particular have been instructed to ask travellers about any possible exposure to the virus and to be on the lookout for anyone displaying symptoms, including a fever, headache, achiness, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, rash or red eyes. According to officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if a passenger is suspected of carrying the deadly virus, they would be quarantined immediately and evaluated by medical personnel. Health officials however have noted that the threat to Americans remains relatively small. Over the past decade, five people known to have a viral hemorrhagic fever, have entered the US. This includes a case last March in which a Minnesota man arrived in the US diagnosed with Lassa Fever after having travelled to West Africa. According to CDC spokeswoman Barbara Reynolds, in all five instances, US officials were able to contain the illness.

Benin

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Although there is currently no travel advisory for Benin, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant. There is currently an Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. While Benin currently has no confirmed cases of the Ebola virus, MS Risk advises all travellers to remain cautious, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **7 August 2014** – Health officials in Benin disclosed Thursday that they have placed two patients with Ebola-like symptoms in isolation while they wait for test results to establish whether the pair are infected by the deadly tropical disease. During a brief news conference deputy chief of staff at the health ministry, Moufaiilou Aboubakar, told journalists that the two patients were being treated as suspected cases of Ebola and that blood samples had been sent to foreign labs for conclusive results. Mr Aboubakar further noted that the health ministry “...cannot say today that the virus is in Benin,” noting “the patients are in isolation and under observation pending the results of the ongoing tests.” Officials have revealed that one patient has been identified as a Nigerian man who is being treated at a hospital in the capital Porto-Novo while the other patient is at a hospital in Cotonou. If the patients are confirmed to have Ebola, Benin will become the fifth country in West Africa to be hit by the outbreak. Benin shares a border with Nigeria, which has recorded seven Ebola cases, including two deaths, in its largest city Lagos. Cotonou is located just a few hours drive from Lagos and there is significant traffic between the two cities on a daily basis, especially amongst traders. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first identified in Guinea at the beginning of this year, however since then, the outbreak has spread quickly across the region, becoming the worst ever on record. Nearly 1,000 people have died from the virus since the start of the year, mostly in Liberia and Sierra Leone, which have both imposed emergency measures in recent weeks in a bid to contain the spread. **Update (11 August 2014)** - Tests on two patients in Benin have come back negative for Ebola. According to the country’s health minister, Dorothee Akoko Kinde-Gazard, “the samples that were sent to a specialist hospital in Lagos came back negative.”

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.

There is currently an Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. While there currently have been no confirmed cases of the Ebola virus in Burkina Faso, MS Risk advises all travellers to remain cautious, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene. As a precautionary measure, Burkina Faso's environmental ministry has banned all special hunting for bats, which is the main carrier of the deadly virus.

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



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to carry out kidnaps. MS Risk therefore advises against all travel to the areas of Burkina Faso north of the town of Boulsa, 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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **7 August 2014** – In the wake of the deadly Ebola outbreak, Burkina Faso's environmental ministry has banned special hunting for bats, which is the main carrier of the virus. A ministerial statement released Wednesday disclosed "the special hunt for bats which began on July 1 to August 31 has been suspended across the national territory due to risks associated with Ebola fever." The Ebola disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted to humans through bats or rats. It is very contagious and is transmitted through direct contact with patients and infected bodily fluids. While there have been no Ebola cases reported in Burkina Faso, the country's health ministry announced Monday that measures had been put in place in order to counter any eventual outbreak of the disease.

Ghana

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in Ghana. 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.

Domestic News

- **4 August 2014** – Ghana's President John Mahama revealed Monday that the country has requested aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a bid to stem a plunge in its currency and to close a large fiscal deficit. President Mahama, who is currently in Washington attending President Barack Obama's US-Africa Summit, has indicated that his country needs help in order to make structural adjustments, including to the huge government wage bill, so that it can balance its budget in the coming years. Despite long denying that Accra needed international assistance, sources indicated that following a crisis meeting with his economic team, Ghana's president turned to the IMF on Friday and officially requested help. According to Ghanaian Finance Minister Seth Terkper, "the ultimate objective is to stabilize the cedi in order that domestic prices will be brought under control." President Mahama has not provided any details on how

much money the country will seek from the IMF, which normally provides three-year loans while a country rights its finances. The IMF also has an emergency “Rapid Credit Facility,” which aids governments in addressing sudden financial problems. While Ghana was once an example of economic growth in Africa, over the past few years, the country has been struggling with high inflation while its currency, the cedi, has decreased 40 percent against the dollar this year alone. Despite large oil deposits and a wealth of raw materials, including gold and cocoa, Ghana’s growth has been affected by government overspending and inflation, which is now running at 15 percent. Sources have indicated that Accra’s budget deficit has widened to over 10 percent of economic output because of a sharp rise on current expenditure, which includes public sector wages and subsidies. Ghana is the second country in sub-Saharan Africa to request help from the IMF this year. In June, Zambia turned to the Washington-based body for financial aid.

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. On 13 August 2014, President Alpha Conde declared that the deadly Ebola outbreak is now a health emergency. The announcement came after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. Some airlines have suspended flights to the affected countries due to the deteriorating public health situation. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to Guinea. If you do decide to travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions. Due to the Ebola outbreak, general medical facilities throughout the country are currently under particular strain. Dedicated healthcare facilities for Ebola can also be under pressure and many medical facilities expect to be paid up-front. Enhanced screening measures have been introduced for outbound passengers at Conakry airport. Delays are likely to be experienced at Guinea's land border crossings, particularly those with Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is due to enhanced screening measures. Guinea-Bissau has closed its land borders with Guinea in a bid to prevent the deadly virus from spreading.

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

- **13 August 2013** – Guinean President Alpha Conde has declared that the deadly Ebola outbreak, which has killed 377 in the West African nation is now a “health emergency.” A presidential statement read out on state television disclosed “the World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency over Ebola. Considering that Guinea is a signatory to the WHO constitution I declare Ebola a national health emergency in Guinea.” The president also announced nine new measures, including strict controls at border points, travel restrictions and a ban on moving bodies “from one town to another until the end of the epidemic.” Additionally, all suspected victims will be automatically hospitalized until laboratory results are obtained, while all people who have been in contact with Ebola victims are “formally banned from leaving their homes until the end of their surveillance period.” The statement further indicated that anyone found in contravention to these measures would be considered “a threat to public health and will face the might of the law.” The current outbreak of Ebola, which is the worst since the disease was discovered in the Republic of Congo, then Zaire, four decades ago, was first detected in Guinea at the start of this year. It has so far claimed 1,069 lives and infected nearly 2,000 people in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.
- **9 August 2014** – On Saturday, officials in Guinea confirmed that land borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone will be closed in a bid to halt the spread of the deadly virus, which has claimed hundreds of lives in the three West African countries. According to government spokesman Albert Damantang Camara, “in order to better control contact” with people suspected of carrying the Ebola virus, “Guinea has decided to temporarily close its land borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone.” The decision, which was taken in consultation with the country’s two neighbors, was also made in order to prevent infected people from crossing into Guinea, where at least 367 people have died of Ebola since March.

Guinea - Bissau

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

There are currently no travel restrictions for Guinea-Bissau. An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia. While there currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea-Bissau, the country has taken preventative measures, including closing all land borders with Guinea. MS Risk advises all travellers to Guinea-Bissau to take the necessary precautions, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 August 2014** – Guinea-Bissau’s Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira disclosed Tuesday that the country is closing its border with Guinea, which is one of the West African countries that has been the hardest hit by the current Ebola outbreak. Speaking during a news conference, Prime Minister Pereira indicated “in light of information provided by the health ministry and after a series of consultations, the government of Guinea-Bissau has decided to close its southern and eastern borders with Guinea until further notice,” adding that the defense and interior ministries have been charged with “taking the necessary measures” in order to seal the border, which covers a 300 kilometer (186 mile) stretch between the two countries. While no cases of the deadly Ebola virus have been recorded in Guinea-Bissau, the country is taking extra precautions as Guinea has been one of the most severely hit countries in the latest outbreak, with 373 deaths. Officials have also announced a number of measures to prevent the virus from spreading in the country, including banning group gatherings at weddings, funerals and baptisms. Guinea-Bissau has also launched an emergency helpline, opened field hospitals, and put in place a procedure that would see any suspected cases immediately evacuated to certain health centers.

Ivory Coast

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia. While there currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in the Ivory Coast, the country has taken preventative measures, including banning all flights from countries that have been affected by the outbreak. MS Risk advises all travellers to the Ivory Coast to take the necessary precautions, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

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

On the Ground Reporting

- **11 August 2014** – On Monday, Ivory Coast officials announced that they have banned all flights from countries currently affected by the Ebola outbreak. It is the only country, after Saudi Arabia, to impose such a ban. The decision is part of a series of steps that have been taken to prevent the deadly virus from reaching the West African nation. A statement released by the government disclosed that officials have forbidden all “carriers from transporting passengers” from these countries,” adding that it had also decided “on the suspension until further notice” of flights by its national airline, Air Cote d’Ivoire, to and from these locations. The government has also decided to increase preventive measures at Abidjan airport where “all passengers on arrival will have to have their temperatures taken with an infrared thermometer.” The ban covers Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which are currently the worst affected by the outbreak. The ban however excludes Nigeria, where a tenth Ebola case was confirmed Monday. Although in recent weeks, the outbreak has spread to Nigeria, no cases of Ebola have surfaced in the Ivory Coast, which began implementing measures to prevent the spread of the disease in March. Other airlines that have suspended flights include British Airways, which on August 5 indicated that it has suspended flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone following concerns about the spread of the disease. Earlier this month, Dubai’s Emirates Airline suspended flights to Guinea. Chad has also suspended all flights to Nigeria.
- **8 August 2014** – On Friday, the Ivory Coast’s government announced that President Alassane Ouattara has pardoned nearly a third of the West African country’s prison population. Every 7 August, when the country marks its 1960 independence from France, the head of the state orders the release of a number of

convicted criminals. A statement released by the Cabinet indicated that this year, President Ouattara has pardoned more than 3,000 prisoners, adding “this concerns a category of sentenced inmates who, for the most part, present no particular danger to society,” noting that most of the offences are a result of acute poverty and “are considered minor.” Ivory Coast government spokesman Bruno Kone confirmed the pardons, stating “the aim is to give these people a second chance to make their way in society.” Mr Kone did note that people found guilty of military offences, human rights abuses, violent robbery, narcotic crimes, embezzling public funds, corruption, offending public morals and kidnapping children are not entitled to such pardons. No mention however was made of the jailed supporters of former President Laurent Gbagbo.

Liberia

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

On 8 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement following a meeting of the International Health Regulation Emergency Committee, declaring the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. 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 announced that all borders of Liberia have been closed, with the exception of major entry points including the Roberts International Airport, James Spriggs 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. On 5 August, British Airways announced that they were suspending flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone until 31 August. This is due to the deteriorating public health situation. Some other airlines have also suspended flights to Liberia. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to Liberia. If you do decide to travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions. Due to the Ebola outbreak, general medical facilities throughout the country are currently under particular strain. Dedicated healthcare facilities for Ebola can also be under pressure and many medical facilities expect to be paid up-front. The Liberian Airport Authority has 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

- **16 August 2014** – Police disclosed late Saturday that a quarantine center for suspected Ebola patients in the Liberian capital Monrovia has been attacked and looted by protesters. The incident occurred Saturday evening in the densely populated West Point township. At least twenty patients, who were being monitored for signs of the deadly virus, have left the center, with officials stating that bloodstained bedding that was looted from the center, now poses a serious infection risk to the capital city. A senior police officer confirmed the looting, stating that bloodstained mattresses, bedding and medical equipment were taken from the center. While the assistant to the health minister disclosed that protesters were unhappy that patients were being brought in from other parts of the capital city, other reports have suggested that protesters believed that the Ebola virus was a hoax and that they wanted to force the quarantine center to close. The center was set up in order to observe suspected Ebola patients and to then transfer them to a main center if their tests proved to be positive. It currently remains unknown if the center had patients infected with the virus however one report suggested that there were patients that had tested positive for the virus.
- **11 August 2014** – President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf disclosed Monday that the Liberian army has put a third province under quarantine in order to check the spread of the deadly Ebola virus. In a message to the nation that was broadcast over the radio, President Sirleaf indicated that “Lofa country in the north has been quarantined by the army,” adding that similar measures were already taken in the provinces of Boma and Grand Cape Mount. Such quarantine effectively means that no one will be able to enter or exit the specified regions. The president has indicated that the decision was made in a bid to “...protect areas that have not been yet affected.” In efforts already put in place to stem the outbreak of the Ebola virus from spreading further, the Liberian government had earlier quarantined Boma and Grand Cape Mount, which are the most affected northern provinces. The decision effectively cut off access to the areas with military roadblocks and restrictions on travel put in place. The quarantine has also meant that traders have been unable to travel to purchase food and farmers cannot harvest their crop, which has in turn caused shortages and raised prices, sparking fears that people could go hungry.
- **6 August 2014** – As the West African region continues to struggle to contain the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, on Wednesday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf declared a state of emergency. The move, which is set to be ratified by Liberia's parliament on Thursday, comes a week after Sierra Leone's government declared a state of emergency. Speaking on national television President Sirleaf disclosed that the state of emergency would come into effect as the epidemic now represented a threat to state security, noting that Liberia required “extraordinary measures for the very survival of our state and for the protection of the lives of our people.” The Liberian President further noted, “ignorance and poverty, as well as entrenched religious and cultural practices, continue to exacerbate the spread of the disease.” A statement released by the presidency has indicated that the state of emergency is effective as of 6 August and will last for a minimum period of ninety days. While the Liberian government has not yet disclosed the full effects of this state of emergency, sources have indicated that some civil liberties may have to be suspended as the country moves to contain the outbreak.

- **4 August 2014** – On Monday, Liberians took to the streets, blocking major roads across the capital to protest against dead bodies being left for days in houses and abandoned in the streets. According to one of the protesters, “no cars are allowed to pass on this road until the government can come and get the bodies that have been lying in the houses for four days.” The protester further added, “four people died in this community. Because the government says that we should not touch bodies, no one has gone to bury them. We have been calling the ministry of health hotline to no avail.” The country’s ministers have previously warned Liberians against touching the dead or anyone with Ebola-like symptoms, which include fever, vomiting, severe headaches and muscular pain and, in the final stages, profuse bleeding. Liberians have been advised to call the emergency number to ask for the removal of the dead body while soldiers on the streets are keeping areas clear of corpses, however many have complained that the overstretched health workers have been leaving bodies in the streets and in homes for days. Many now feel that the only way to get the attention of the government is to block the main road throughout the capital city. Such roadblocks first appeared across the major routes over the weekend, and have since been seen in a number of neighborhoods across Monrovia. While Liberia’s deputy health minister Tolbert Nyensuah has indicated that the government was doing its best to collect bodies as quickly as possible, stating, “we buried 30 people during the weekend in a mass grave outside the city. The government has purchased land from a private citizen and that land will be used to bury bodies,” it is likely that further protests by locals will continue in the coming days as there appears to be no end in sight to the epidemic. Liberia, along with neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone, are struggling to contain an epidemic that has infected 1,440 people and left 826 dead across the region since the start of the year. Last week, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf announced the closure of schools and placed all “non-essential” government workers on 30 days’ leave in a bid to halt the epidemic, which has killed 227 people in Liberia.
 - The Liberian government has ordered that all bodies of those killed by the Ebola virus must be cremated. On Monday, Liberia’s Information Minister Lewis Brown made the announcement on state radio. The decision comes after an incident that occurred over the weekend, in which a community refused to allow the burial of some bodies, most of whom were Ebola victims. On Sunday, thirty-four bodies were buried however protests resulted in twelve bodies being left out in the open for a day until it was decided that they would be cremated. According to health experts, cremation is not part of Liberia’s culture, however due to the fact that burial ceremonies have played a role in the transmission of the virus, the country’s authorities now feel that cremations are necessary and may aid in preventing the disease from spreading further. Mr Brown has also warned that businesses that did not install hand-washing facilities would be shut down.

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.



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 Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria. While there currently are no confirmed reports of Ebola cases in Mali, 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

- **16 August 2014** – United Nations and Malian security sources confirmed Saturday that two UN peacekeepers from Burkina Faso were killed in a suicide car bombing in northern Mali. According to a Malian security source, “jihadists carried out a car bombing at the MINUSMA (United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali) camp in Ber on Saturday,” adding that the car carrying the bomb had entered the camp “at high speed...there was a huge explosion.” The attack also wounded at least seven other peacekeepers. A statement released by a spokesman for UN leader Ban Ki-moon disclosed, “such attacks will not deter the United Nations from its efforts to support the Malian people in their search for peace in their country.”
- **13 August 2014** – French troops have arrested three people, believed to be al-Qaeda fighters, near the city of Timbuktu. A spokesman for the French military force in the region, Lt. Col. Michel Sabatier, confirmed Wednesday that French authorities are currently questioning the suspects and may hand them over to the Malian government. The spokesman disclosed that the three were arrested Sunday, noting that they suspects pose a significant threat to Mali and the region. No further details have been released.
- **10 August 2014** – Over the weekend, French forces bombed a number of Islamist militant positions in northern Mali. According to local sources, 4 – 5 bombs were dropped in the Essakane region, which is located west of the city of Timbuktu, on Sunday morning. The security operations were carried out in the wake of reports released by the UN which indicated that al-Qaeda militants remained active in the region. The operation also comes after the airport in Timbuktu came under rocket attack last month.
- **7 August 2014** – The leader of a jihadist group, driven from northern Mali by French troops, has reappeared in a video message for the first time in eighteen months and has called on Muslims to rise up against France, “which detests Islam.” Iyad Ag Ghaly, who led a Tuareg rebellion in the Sahara prior to setting up the armed group Ansar Dine, disappeared in January 2013, shortly after France launched military operations in Mali to prevent Islamist insurgents from moving further southward towards Mali’s capital Bamako and toppling the government.” During the 23-minute video in Arabic, which was posted online Tuesday, Ghaly signaled a return to combat, stating that his group was “ready to unite with out brothers on the ground to face up to the crusaders and infidels who have united to fight Islam in our land.” Flanked by a black jihadist flag and a Kalashnikov rifle, the video was intercut with images of French interests in Africa. Ghaly also accused the French and Malian armies of a number of atrocities against the people of northern Mali.

Domestic News

- **13 August 2014** – According to officials in Algeria, peace talks between the Malian government and mainly Tuareg rebels will not resume until September 1, as both sides have requested more time in order to prepare. The substantive round of negotiations had been due to take place in mid-August, under a timetable that had been agreed upon during preliminary talks that were held in Algiers in July. The Malian government in Bamako, along with six rebel groups signed a preliminary accord on July 24, which set out a roadmap for the negotiations. A ceasefire has been in force since May when the rebels seized a large region of northern Mali in a major offensive that crushed the Malian army. Since then tensions have continued to be on the rise despite the ceasefire. The talks in September are aimed at reaching a lasting peace agreement that will effectively give the Tuareg and Arab minorities considerable autonomy however the peace agreement will deny them outright secession of the desert north.

- **7 August 2014** – On Thursday, Mali's President warned that a lack of air surveillance in the northern regions of the country could pose risks for the world by effectively enabling criminals to use that area as a base. During a visit to Washington to attend the US-Africa summit, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita disclosed that while his government is committed to negotiating a peaceful solution with Tuareg separatists, after rebels and al-Qaeda-linked militants gained control of much of the north in 2012, he noted that the central government in Bamako lacked air surveillance in the vast Saharan area and that drug traffickers, jihadists or other undesirable elements could take advantage of this lack of control and use the area as a base to fly small aircraft. Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, President Kieta noted, "what is happening doesn't just matter for Mali. We're at a strategic nexus....If this becomes an area outside of the law and out of control...we can see all sorts of activity that is illicit, illegal and dangerous for the peace of the world. In turn, If Mali were to become a drug base, it would pose "a danger for the youth of Mali, Europe and the whole world." In January 2012, Mali descended into crisis when Tuareg separatists, who have waged a long-running, low-level insurgency, mounted a string of attacks against the Malian army, which was ill equipped and unable to defend Malian territory. A military coup in Bamako led to further chaos as Islamist militants seized the opportunity to capture large areas of the north. While a French-led military operation, launched in January 2013, ousted the extremists, periodic attacks have resumed and on Thursday, a video message of the leader of one of the jihadist groups driven out by the French offensive, emerged. After eighteen months of silence, Iyad Ag Ghaly, who later formed Ansar Dine, has called on Muslims to rise up against France, a threat that may further increase tensions and result in more attacks at a time when France is redeploying troops from Mali to the Sahara to combat the militant threat in the region.

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, Liberia, Nigeria 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. Mauritanian authorities have decided to deny entry to citizens arriving from those African countries that have been affected by the current Ebola outbreak.

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.

On the Ground Reporting

- **10 August 2014** – On Sunday, Mauritanian authorities announced their decision to deny entry to citizens arriving from those African countries that have been affected by the current Ebola outbreak. A statement released by the Health Ministry indicated that the decision applies to the citizens of Liberia and Sierra Leone, adding that the country has also stepped up health checks at its border with Mali and Senegal. So far there have been no suspicious cases detected in Mauritania. Although Guinea and Nigeria are also affected by the current Ebola outbreak, Mauritanian authorities have not disclosed whether citizens coming from those countries will also be affected by the ban.

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

On 8 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. Some airlines have suspended flights to the affected countries due to the deteriorating public health situation. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to Nigeria. If you do decide to travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions. Due to the Ebola outbreak, general medical facilities throughout the country are currently under particular strain. Dedicated healthcare facilities for Ebola can also be under pressure and many medical facilities expect to be paid up-front. The Nigerian government has introduced new protocols for arriving at all airports, including Ebola screenings. 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.

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

- **15 August 2014** – According to local residents, suspected Boko Haram militants have abducted at least 97 men and boys from a village in Nigeria's northern Borno state. According to one eyewitness, "the attack occurred on Sunday in Doron Baga village..." adding that the militants "...were shooting into houses..." Residents have reported that the militants abducted 97 men and boys from the village while at least six people were killed in the attack. The raid occurred during the early morning hours and forces many of the village's residents to go into hiding. **Update (16 August 2014)** – Security and human rights sources disclosed Saturday that Chadian troops have rescued around 85 Nigerians who were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants last weekend from a number of fishing communities in Nigeria's northeastern region. A statement released by a senior security official in Maiduguri indicated "we received communication from our Chadian counterparts of the interception of a convoy of buses carrying 85 Nigerians believed to have been kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists from Baga," adding "the convoy being led by six Boko Haram gunmen was stopped on the Chadian part of the border along Lake Chad for routine checks and the huge number of people in the convoy raised suspicion." The source further noted that suspicions had been raised after the suspects had provided conflicting information on the hostages they were accompanying and their destination. An official from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Maiduguri confirmed the operation, adding that 65 men and 22 women had been rescued however more than 30 are still suspected to be held by the extremists. The rescued civilians are currently being kept in custody by Chadian authorities and it remains unclear when they will be brought back to Nigeria. Witnesses reported earlier in the week that nearly 100 young men and several women had been kidnapped in a raid that was carried out by insurgents late on Sunday. The hostages were later ferried across the border into Chad. According to residents, the raid on Doron Baga, a fishing village located on the shores of Lake Chad, left 28 people dead and scores of homes burnt.

- **13 August 2014** – Health officials in Nigeria disclosed Wednesday that a nurse, who contracted Ebola at a Lagos hospital, travelled to the eastern part of the country before falling ill, raising fears that the deadly outbreak may now spread outside of the southern city. Health Minister Onyebuchi Chukwu has confirmed that the nurse had tested positive for Ebola, adding that she had “disobeyed medical instructions,” that were given to hospital staff, by travelling to Enugu, which is a major city located in the eastern region of Nigeria. Sources have disclosed that the nurse was infected with the tropical disease while caring for Patrick Sawyer, the Liberian government employee who brought Ebola to Lagos on July 20. He died five days later while under quarantine at the First Consultants hospital in Lagos. After contracting the virus in Lagos, the nurse travelled with her husband to Enugu, where she fell sick and was admitted to hospital. Medical staff in Enugu later transported her back to the special isolation unit in Lagos, where she is currently being treated. While so far there have been no confirmations that she infected anyone in the eastern city, Information Minister Labaran Maku has disclosed that “21 persons in Enugu are being watched,” including the nurse’s husband, who has not displayed any symptoms. Nigeria has recorded 10 Ebola cases, including three deaths. While all the cases are currently in Lagos, a spread of the deadly virus across the country will place immense strain on the already weak healthcare system.
- **12 August 2014** - The Western African regional bloc disclosed Tuesday that an ECOWAS official has died from Ebola in Nigeria, bringing the total number of deaths in the country to three. A statement released by ECOWAS indicated “Mr Abdulqudir, a protocol assistant, was amongst those who assisted the Liberian delegate, Mr Patrick Sawyer, to a regional meeting.” Sawyer from the Ebola Virus Disease at a Lagos hospital on 25th July 2014. The official had been quarantined since Mr. Sawyer was confirmed as having Ebola. As of August 9, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that there were 13 probable or suspected cases of Ebola in Nigeria, including two deaths. The Nigerian government however has released a lower figure, indicating that as of Monday, there were 10 confirmed cases, including two deaths, with more than a hundred people being monitored for signs of the disease.
- **11 August 2014** – Nigeria on Monday confirmed a new case of Ebola in the financial capital Lagos, bringing the total number of people with the virus to ten. Health minister Onyebuchi Chukwu has indicated that the latest confirmed case was a female nurse who had come into contact with a Liberian-American man who died of the virus in a Lagos hospital on July 25. The nurse is currently undergoing treatment while her husband has been placed under surveillance. As the number of Ebola cases in Africa’s most populous country continues to rise, Nigerian officials have announced a number of measures aimed at curbing the spread of Ebola. These measures include the declaration of a national emergency, which is in line with WHO advice to trigger disaster response procedures. President Goodluck Jonathan has also announced greater funding to stop the spread, including setting up additional isolation centers, border screenings and contact tracing.
 - Meanwhile the wives of Nigerian soldiers held a protest on Monday against their husbands being deployed to the northern area of the country to fight Boko Haram militants. The protest, which involved some 100 women and was held at the main Giwa military barracks in the northeastern city of Maiduguri, is just the latest sign of the country’s increasing dissatisfaction with the military top brass. Soldiers have on a number of occasions complained that Boko Haram militants have superior firepower and that they are not in a position to confront the militants. In May, this frustration led to some soldiers opening fire on their commander, Maj-Gen Ahmed Mohammed, at Maiduguri’s Maimalari barracks. At the time, the soldiers blamed him for the killing of their colleagues by Boko Haram fighters. Monday’s protests came as the Nigerian government vowed to retake control of the town of Gwoza, which was lost to the militant group last week. According to local sources, the

militants apparently retreated to Gwoza after losing control of Damboa town, located 70 kilometers (45 miles) away, to the army. The militants then carried out a brutal attack, forcing many residents to flee. On Monday, Nigeria's Interior Minister Abba Moro disclosed that the military is currently reorganizing itself with the aim of regaining control of the town.

- **8 August 2014** – In the wake of an increase in Ebola cases, Nigeria's president declared a national emergency on Friday over the deadly virus, which has already claimed two lives in Africa's most populous country. A statement released by the president's office indicated "President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Friday in Abuja declared the control and containment of the Ebola virus in Nigeria, a national emergency," adding "religious and political groups, spiritual healing centers, families, associations and other bodies should...discourage gatherings and activities that may unwittingly promote close contact with infected persons or place others at risk." The president has also warned against any movement of corpses in the country, stating, "every death should be reported to the relevant authorities, and special precautions should be taken in handling corpses." The president also approved the immediate release of 1.9 billion naira (US \$11.6 million) to fund measures against the spread of the virus. Amongst the measures that are to be undertaken include the setting up of additional isolation centers as well as implementing screenings at borders and contact tracing. This week, Nigeria confirmed five new cases of Ebola in Lagos, with a second death from the virus occurring Wednesday. This effectively brings the total number of infections to seven. Officials in Nigeria have also warned the public to desist from spreading false information about the virus, "which can lead to mass hysteria, panic and misdirection, including unverified suggestions about prevention treatment, cure and spread of the virus." The warning came after one such rumor, which suggested that a salt and hot water combination can prevent or possibly cure the deadly virus, went viral in chain messages on phones and on the Internet in the past twenty-four hours across Nigeria. On Friday, health experts disproved this claim.
- **7 August 2014** – Following the death of one of its citizens, from the Ebola virus, in a Lagos hospital, the Liberian government has revealed that its citizens are being harassed and "stereotyped." Speaking during a meeting with Nigerian Health minister, Onyebuch Chukwu, along with the heads of diplomatic missions in the country, Liberia's ambassador to Nigeria, Marin George, revealed, "the attention of our embassy has been brought to several cases of harassment of Liberians especially in Lagos and other places. This harassment borders on stereotyping and sometimes expression of collective guilt." The diplomat further added "just because the 'index case' came from Liberia, so 'all Liberians in Nigeria have Ebola.' That is the message and people are being harassed." The patient who brought the virus to Lagos on July 20, Liberian finance ministry employee Patrick Sawyer, was placed under quarantine at a private hospital. He died on July 25. On Wednesday, officials in Nigeria confirmed five new cases of Ebola in Lagos and a second death from the virus, a nurse who had been treating Mr Sawyer prior to his death. The total number of infections in Nigeria's largest city now stands at seven.
 - Nigerian public sector doctors on Thursday suspended a nearly five-week long strike over an Ebola outbreak, which has killed two people and infected five others in Lagos. The announcement comes just one day after Lagos state health commissioner Jide Idris appealed to striking doctors to resume work. A statement released by the National Medical Association union indicated "the incursion of Ebola into Nigeria" was the main reason for suspending the strike. The emergence of the deadly virus in Lagos, which is Nigeria's largest city with a population of more than 20 million, has resulted in further panic over what is now the worst ever outbreak of the deadly tropical disease. The city is densely packed and has a weak public health system, with experts warning that Lagos is poorly equipped if it were to manage a significant number of Ebola patients. In the wake of the outbreak in

Lagos, officials have warned that if the city sees more Ebola cases, public hospitals will need to be operational if Nigeria hopes to contain a spread of the virus.

- **6 August 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in Nigeria confirmed a second death from the Ebola virus, adding that five new cases of Ebola have been reported in Lagos. This brings the total number of infections in Nigeria to seven. According to health minister Onyebuchi Chukwu, “Nigeria has now recorded 7 confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD),” adding that those who died include a Liberian man who brought the virus to Lagos on July 20 and a nurse who treated him. Chukwu further noted that “all the Nigerians diagnosed with EVD are primary contacts” of Patrick Sawyer, who worked for Liberia’s finance ministry and who contracted the virus from his sister. He had travelled to Nigeria in order to attend a meeting of West African officials. Shortly after his arrival at the international airport in Lagos, Mr. Sawyer was transferred to the First Consultants hospital in the upmarket Ikoyi neighborhood. He died on July 25 while in quarantine, and the hospital has since been closed. The five Ebola patients are being treated in an isolation ward in Lagos.
 - Residents have reported that Boko Haram gunmen attacked the town of Gwoza on Wednesday, leaving dozens dead in what is the latest violence blamed on the militant group. According to local residents, the militants raided the town, located 135 kilometers (83 miles) from Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, before dawn, forcing residents to flee their homes. One local resident reported “dozens of our people have been killed by the attackers, some were slaughtered and many others shot with guns,” adding that the attackers also burnt down the divisional police headquarters, the local government secretariat and other public buildings in the town. Francis Mbala, a former vice chairman of the Gwoza local government confirmed that attack, stating that the militants “...scared hundreds of residents to flee to the mountains along Nigerian and Cameroon’s borders.” On the ground sources have indicated that there were no soldiers present in the town at the time of the attack while some residents have disclosed that the whereabouts of the Gwoza emir, Mohammad Idrissa Timta, remain unknown. The emir recently succeeded his father, Mustapha Idrissa Timta, who was killed by Boko Haram insurgents in May. **Update (7 August 2014)** - Security officials and eyewitnesses reported Thursday that Boko Haram fighters seized control of the northeaster town of Gwoza, a day after they overwhelmed soldiers based in the area before attacking the local residents.
- **5 August 2014** – Nigerian health authorities acknowledged Tuesday that they did not immediately quarantine a sick airline passenger who later died of Ebola. The Ebola outbreak, which was confirmed in March, spread to Nigeria in late July when Patrick Sawyer, a 40-year-old American of Liberian descent, flew from Liberia’s capital to Lagos. While authorities initially indicated that the risk of any exposure to others was minimal, as Mr. Sawyer had been placed into isolation directly after arriving at the airport with symptoms of Ebola, on Tuesday Lagos state health commissioner Jide Idris revealed that the nature of his disease “was not known” the first day and that only after further investigation did officials suspect Ebola. Tuesday’s announcement that Mr. Sawyer had not been immediately quarantined further underscored concerns that West African countries are not adequately equipped in order to contain such a disease. While the Ebola virus can spread only through bodily fluids, and after the patient begins to show symptoms, the incubation period can last up to three weeks. Consequently, some of the Nigerians who treated Mr. Sawyer are only now showing signs of illness.

International Developments

- **5 August 2014** – Amnesty International has accused Nigeria’s military and its supporting civilian militia of “extensive human rights violations” in their fight against Boko Haram in the country’s northeast. Officials at Amnesty International have disclosed that gruesome video footage, images and witness testimonies gathered during a recent research mission to Borno State have provided “fresh evidence of extrajudicial executions and serious human rights violations” that were carried out in the region as Nigerian troops were battling the extremist group. According to Salil Shetty, Amnesty’s secretary general, the footage includes images of detainees having their throats slit one by one and then being dumped into mass graves “by men who appear to be members of the Nigerian military and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), state-sponsored militias,” adding “the ghastly images are backed up by the numerous testimonies we have gathered which suggest that extrajudicial executions are, in fact, regularly carried out by the Nigerian military and CJTF.” Amnesty’s secretary general concluded, “these are not the images we expect from a government which sees itself as having a leadership role in Africa.” The video footage also depicts the aftermath of a Boko Haram raid on a village, in which the militant group killed nearly 100 people and destroyed scores of houses and buildings. According to Amnesty International, “more than 4,000 people have been killed this year alone in the conflict between the Nigerian military and Boko Haram, including more than 600 extrajudicially executed.” Officials are now calling on Nigerian authorities to ensure that the military stops committing such violations of human rights. They have also urged the government to carry out detailed investigations into the most serious alleged cases. Nigeria’s defense ministry responded quickly to the claims, stating that it took the allegations “very seriously” and that an investigation would be carried out. A statement released by the army disclosed “much as the scenes depicted in these videos are alien to our operations and doctrines, they have to be investigated to ensure that such practices have not crept surreptitiously into the system.” The statement further added that the military command has established a team of senior officers, legal and forensic experts who will study Amnesty’s footage and “allegations of infractions in order to ascertain the veracity of the claims with a view to identifying those behind the acts.” Amnesty International, along with local rights groups, have in the past often accused the Nigerian military and police of extrajudicial killings and human violations, however these charges have often been denied by officials.
 - The United Nations Humanitarian office (OCHA) revealed Tuesday that attacks by Boko Haram militants in Nigeria’s crisis-hit northeast have forced nearly 650,000 people from their homes, an increase of nearly 200,000 since May. According to new data released by the OCHA, 436,608 people have been displaced in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, the three northeastern Nigerian states that have been under emergency rule since May 2013. Another 210,085 have fled their homes in areas neighboring the state of emergency zone, effectively bringing the total number of people displaced by Boko Haram unrest to nearly 650,000. Thousands have fled Nigeria, seeking shelter in Chad, Cameroon and Niger. While relief workers have avoided setting up refugee or IDP camps, many now believe that the establishment of such camps, especially in Nigeria, is becoming necessary as security forces continue to struggle to contain the Islamist violence, which has escalated in recent months. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has also reported that about 1,000 people trying to escape the fighting have fled to an uninhabited island on Lake Chad, located across Nigeria’s northeastern border. The UNHCR has disclosed that “the group, mainly women and children, is in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medical care,” adding that they reached the remote island of Choua on Thursday after fleeing a Boko Haram attack in their home of Kolikolia. Chad has pledged to

deploy two helicopters to the island in order to help evacuate the Nigerian refugees to a nearby area where they can be temporarily settled with host communities. The UN refugee agency will also send staff to the area in order to coordinate the relief effort.

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

- **9 August 2014** – A Malian national, who lives in northern Senegal, has been quarantined in a hospital after displaying Ebola-like symptoms. According to Senegal's health ministry, the 27-year-old patient had just returned to the northern city of Ourosogui from a trip to Mali, where he had been in contact with a number of Guinean nationals. Blood samples have been sent to Dakar for analysis and results are expected to be available within 48 hours. While Senegalese Minister of Health, Awa Marie Coll Seck, confirmed Friday that there were no cases of Ebola in Senegal, she emphasized the need to adhere to prevention measures that

have been set up. In March, Senegal closed its border with Guinea in a bid to prevent the virus from spreading. The border was reopened in early May.

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

- **15 August 2014** – A student taking part in protest in Senegal's capital city Dakar was killed Thursday when demonstrators and police clashed. According to Higher Education Minister Mary Tew Niane, several students and officers were badly injured in the protest, which took place Thursday at the Cheikh Anta Diop University. Demonstrators were demanding that the government pay scholarships. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that police officers ransacked students' bedrooms, destroying their belongings, including

computers, mobile telephones and televisions. The prosecutor's office has stated that they are looking into the incident.

- **11 August 2014** – Eight Chinese medical workers have been placed in quarantine in Sierra Leone. The Chinese ambassador to Sierra Leone, Zhao Yanbo, reported to journalists that seven doctors and one nurse who had treated Ebola patients have now been placed under quarantine. The Ambassador however did not disclose whether the medical workers were displaying symptoms of the disease or whether they were placed in quarantine as a precaution. In addition, twenty-four Sierra Leonean nurses, most from the military hospital in the capital city, have also been placed under quarantine. According to the hospital's director, Dr. Sahr Foday, a senior physician at Freetown's Connaught Hospital had contracted Ebola and was responding well to treatment.
- **9 August 2014** – More than 1,500 police and soldiers have been mobilized in Sierra Leone to enforce quarantine measures in those areas that have been affected by the deadly Ebola virus. On Saturday, Defense Minister Palo Conteh disclosed that half the troops would be deployed in Kenema and Kailahun, two eastern districts that have been hardest hit by the outbreak and which were placed under quarantine on Thursday. The remainder of the troops will focus on the western region, which includes the capital Freetown, and the northern region of the country. Conteh told the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation "the general public should adhere to the advice of health personnel – don't move around unnecessarily...and cooperate with the security forces," adding that he has "...warned soldiers to show empathy as we are not going into combat. These are people who are stressed out, who have lost friends and relatives." Government sources have disclosed that a total of 2,000 soldiers were available for deployment, with Health Minister Miatta Kargbo indicating that the response to the quarantine measures has been positive so far.
- **5 August 2014** – A statement released by Sierra Leone's presidential office has revealed that the country's government has deployed hundreds of troops to Ebola clinics in order to enforce the isolation of patients. According to a presidential aide, the soldiers will "deter relatives and friends of suspected and Ebola patients from forcefully taking them from hospitals without medical consent." While the presidency has not given the exact numbers of soldiers that will be deployed, or their locations, it is likely that a majority will be deployed to Ebola clinics located in Kailahun and Kenema, which are the eastern districts hit the hardest by the current outbreak. Sierra currently has 646 cases, the highest number of any nation, and 273 deaths however the on going fight against its spread has been largely hampered by relatives discharging highly contagious patients and taking them back to their villages, where countless individuals may have contact with them. Furthermore, many indigenous people living in the forested border areas that straddle Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone believe that the virus was introduced deliberately or that it is a hoax fabricated by the West and designed to subjugate them. In Guinea, medical experts have been attacked by angry mobs while in Sierra Leone and Liberia, traditional communities have ignored warnings not to touch the bodies of the dead during funeral rituals.
 - President Ernest Bai Koroma toured health facilities set up to combat Ebola in the capital Freetown on Tuesday. A 20-bed treatment center is currently under construction in the western suburb of Lakka in Freetown. The center is the first to open in the city, which reported its first Ebola case nine days ago. Business returned to normal in the capital city after a "stay at home" day on Friday, which enabled authorities to reorganize their response to the outbreak. On Tuesday, many shops were screening customers' temperatures before allowing them to enter while others provided chlorinated water and soap for customers to wash their hands.



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