

[www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

# THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



Detailed Report Focusing on Security, Domestic News and  
Developments that Impact the Central African Region

*Angola – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad- Republic of Congo –  
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Equatorial Guinea – Gabon – São Tomé and  
Príncipe*

SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 5, 2014

## About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by syndicate 2525 of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

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

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

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

References are always available.

More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

24 hr Contact Information:

Email: [operations@msrisk.com](mailto:operations@msrisk.com)

Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

---

MS Risk Limited, South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ.

Tel: +44 1624 626400

Directors: S.J. Bingham, V.K. Prentice, P.O.J. Tracy.

Registered in the Isle of Man No 007435V

---

# The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

*September 22 – October 5, 2014*



*Follow us on Twitter @ MS Risk\_Security for regular updates on topical security events and issues.*

## **Cameroon**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **24 September 2014** – Military authorities reported Wednesday that following the army's recent victories with air and ground attacks, hundreds of Islamic extremists have surrendered in Cameroon and Nigeria.

## **Central African Republic**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **2 October 2014** – Up to seven people were killed Thursday by French peacekeepers as they attempted to control clashes between armed groups in the Central African town of Bambari.
- **27 September 2014** – According to on the ground sources, displaced Central Africans attacked Post no. 1 of Doctors Without Borders on Saturday, taking covers, tables and medical equipment.

- **25 September 2014** – Suspected anti-balaka fighters from the CAR have kidnapped a dozen Cameroonians and are demanding the release of one of their leaders, along with ten others, who were detained in Cameroon's capital, warning that they will stage more attacks if he is not released within 72 hours.
- **23 September 2014** – A rebel spokesman confirmed Tuesday that four senior generals of the mostly Muslim Seleka rebel group, which continues to control the northern regions of the CAR, have quit, indicating that they disagreed with secessionist plans for its northern enclave.
- **22 September 2014** – Eyewitnesses reported Monday that Dianga Fidele, the mayor of the city of Ngaboko, in the southern CAR, was assassinated by unidentified militants.

## *Domestic News*

- **27 September 2014** – The CAR's interim President Catherine Samba Panza has requested that the United Nations consider modifying an arms embargo on the state to enable its security forces to be properly equipped in order to work alongside UN peacekeepers.

## *International Developments*

- **30 September 2014** – Diplomats disclosed Tuesday that European Union envoys have agreed in principle to extend the mandate of an EU peacekeeping mission in the CAR by three months in order to allow for more time for the transition of the newly deployed United Nations force.
- **24 September 2014** – International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have opened an investigation into allegations of murder, rape and the recruitment of child soldiers that reportedly has been occurring in the CAR over the past two years.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **1 October 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in the DRC raised the death toll from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) to 42 as the country continues to struggle to contain the second outbreak of the disease to occur in Africa this year.
  - Reports surfaced this week that more than 100 demobilised fighters and their relatives have allegedly died of starvation and disease in the DRC.
- **27 September 2014** – On Saturday, thousands of people protested in the DRC, calling on President Joseph Kabila to respect the country's constitution and step down when his second elected term in office ends in 2016.

## **Republic of the Congo**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **24 September 2014** – A diplomatic source disclosed Tuesday that the European Union (EU) will aid the Republic of Congo in the prevention of Ebola through the training of health workers and boosting capacity of the national laboratory to test the virus.

## **Equatorial Guinea**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **22 October 2014** – After implementing control measures in a bid to safeguard public health from the on-going Ebola outbreak, Equatorial Guinea has resumed regional flights to neighbouring African countries by its national air carrier, Ceiba International.

## Central Africa Report ~ Security Summary

**Angola** – MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

**Cameroon** – MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon.

**Central African Republic** – MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic

**Chad** - MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

**Republic of Congo** - MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo** - MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC, including Goma. The only exception to this is the town of Bukavu, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

**Equatorial Guinea** - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea, however officials have sent up preventative measures in a bid to stop the Ebola outbreak from affecting the country.

**Gabon** - There are currently no travel advisories for Gabon.

**São Tomé and Príncipe** - There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

# Angola

*Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to certain regions of Angola. Specifically, we advise against all but essential travel to the provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. We advise that all international companies and organizations operating throughout Angola have strict security rules and regulations for their staff.*

## Luanda

*There is a high level of crime in Luanda. Muggings, particularly to steal mobile telephones and other valuables, as well as armed robberies can occur in any area at any time during the day and night. It is advised that you avoid wearing jewelry or watches in public places. Do not change or withdraw large sums of money in busy public areas.*

*Areas that are popular with foreigners are particularly targeted. You should avoid walking around Luanda, especially after dark.*

*Theft from slow-moving or stationary cars is common, especially in central Luanda. It is advised to keep valuables out of sight and do not use mobiles or laptops while in traffic. When driving, we wary if another car signals you to pull over. Thieves use the pretext of a minor traffic incident to get you out of your car in order to either steal the vehicle or rob you. A high proportion of the civilian population is armed.*

*If you choose to travel outside Luanda, and the provincial capitals, it is advised that you do so in the company of persons or organizations experience in local conditions as conditions can be difficult. There is a widespread of poverty, social exclusion and disease.*



## Cabinda Province

*MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to Cabinda Province. There are regular violent incidents, including rape, murder and kidnappings that involve foreigners and Angolans. Groups claiming responsibility for these attacks have declared their intention to continue attacks against foreigners.*

## Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul

*MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the provinces of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. Angolan authorities are sensitive to the presence of foreigners in the diamond producing areas. Consequently all travellers to the region may be subjected to movement restrictions or detention by security forces.*

*The presence of diamonds also increases the threat of crime and banditry, particularly on roads that lead to and from these areas. Armed hold-ups do occur from time to time.*

# Cameroon

**Security Summary** ~ Following a deadly attack on a border police station, Cameroonian officials have partially closed a border crossing between Cameroon and Chad. Traffic has been authorized on the bridge, which straddles the Logoon River between Chad and Cameroon however local officials are warning that waiting times to cross the bridge may be long. Cameroon has closed, air, land and sea borders with countries affected by Ebola. This includes Nigeria. Flights and ships travelling from or via Ebola affected countries are banned. MS Risk advises all travellers to Cameroon to make sure your onward/return travel arrangements are flexible and to take account of these travel restrictions. These preventative measures have been taken in order to halt the further spread of Ebola.

MS Risk advises against all travel to within 40 kilometers (24 miles) of the border with Nigeria's Adamawa state and to within 40 kilometers (24 miles) of the border with Chad. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the rest of North and Adamaoua.



There have been a number of recent attacks in northern Cameroon, especially along the border with Nigeria. Officials have attributed these attacks and raids on villages to Boko Haram militants operating in Nigeria. On 27 July, attacks on Kolofata Town in Far North Province resulted in fatalities and a number of people taken hostage. Further such attacks are likely to occur in the coming weeks. MS Risk advises all travellers to Cameroon to avoid the northern regions of the country, specifically the areas that border with Nigeria as further attacks cannot be ruled out.



*With the kidnapping of two Italian priests and one Canadian nun during the early morning hours of 5 April 2014, MS Risk advises against all travel to the North and Far North regions of Cameroon. The threat of kidnapping and hostage taking remains high at this time, with further such incidents likely to occur. While officials in Nigeria have requested Cameroon to increase security along the shared border between these two countries, the border regions continue to be porous and remain a safe haven for Boko Haram militants seeking shelter from the ongoing military operation in northern Nigeria.*

*The killing of a Cameroonian police officer on 19 August has prompted officials in Cameroon to close its border with the Central African Republic (CAR). The death of the officer occurred after a number of Seleka fighters crossed over the border into Cameroon, where they were stopped by officers patrolling the border region. Despite being escorted over the border, the fighters returned and attacked the police. It is currently not known how long the border will be closed. Consequently MS Risk advises against all travel to the border regions with the CAR as it is highly likely that militant groups and pro-Seleka fighters may be patrolling the areas and may at times attempt to cross into Cameroon. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon. MS RISK advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the Ndian Division of the South West Province. We also advise against all travel to within 40km of the border with Chad in the North and Far North Provinces. This is due to a heightened risk of banditry and armed poachers in Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the North Province. There is currently a travel advisory north of Maroula in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future, which may cause strikes and civil unrest throughout the country. Finally, there have been attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, including the coastline of Cameroon around the port of Douala. Vessels travelling throughout this area have been advised to exercise extreme caution.*

## **On the Ground Reporting**

- **24 September 2014** – Military authorities reported Wednesday that following the army's recent victories with air and ground attacks, hundreds of Islamic extremists have surrendered in Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon's Defense Ministry has indicated that over the past three weeks, more than 300 Boko Haram fighters have surrendered, with spokesman Lt. Col. Didier Badjeck disclosing that the militants have given up their arms and are requesting asylum in Cameroon. Their fate however has not been decided. Fighters from neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad have been identified fighting alongside Nigeria's homegrown Boko Haram, which in recent weeks has been seizing a string of towns and has declared an Islamic caliphate in northeastern Nigeria. The militant group has also increased its attacks on border towns and villages in Cameroon. Nigeria's Defense Ministry has also disclosed that in recent weeks,

hundreds of insurgents have been killed in the country's northeastern region. A statement released by the Nigerian military Wednesday disclosed that several militant commanders were amongst the dead, including Mohammed Bashir, whom the Nigerian military identified as a double, posing in videos as Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau. The military is also claiming to have regained control of areas around the town of Konduga, which is located 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram.

# Central African Republic

**Security Summary** ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite French troops deploying into CAR in early December, the situation throughout the country has continued to deteriorate. There have been reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking across the country. The situation in the capital, Bangui, remains fragile with reports of continued isolated killings, looting and gunfire. There is also an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks can be indiscriminate, including in places that are visited by foreigners. The official curfew in the CAR is from 8PM to 5AM.

Despite the French military intervention, Operation Sangaris, being launched in early December, security throughout the CAR remains unstable. MS Risk strongly advises you not to travel around Bangui after dark. At other times, it is advised that you take extreme

care, and travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter several roadblocks, both official and unofficial, that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. We advise that you take particular care when approaching these.

## Crime

Incidents of theft and robbery occur regularly. Armed gangs are known to operate in the outlying areas of Bangui. You are advised to take personal security precautions and be vigilant in public places at all times. Avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry in public. Do not walk alone at night and avoid any isolated or poorer areas.



## On the Ground Reporting

- **2 October 2014** – Up to seven people were killed Thursday by French peacekeepers as they attempted to control clashes between armed groups in the Central African town of Bambari. According to a police source in Bambari, “violent clashes broke out on Wednesday and carried on into Thursday...the provisional toll is 16 dead and several injured. It could well increase given the violence of the attacks.” A spokesman for the French army headquarters in Paris confirmed that French soldiers killed “five to seven” armed individuals as they attempted to bring the violence under control. Colonel Gilles Jaron disclosed that French and African peacekeepers came under attack from an armed group using rocket-propelled grenade launchers, adding that while the armed group later retreated, they pillaged the offices of several NGO’s including the Red Cross. On the ground sources reported that calm had been restored to the town by Thursday, however Col. Jaron has reported that the region remains highly restive due to splits within the Seleka rebel group “between a branch that is more and more radicalized and another, which is more open to dialogue to exit the crisis.” The presence of other armed groups in the region has further complicated the situation. In recent months tensions amongst factions of the Seleka have been on the rise, resulting in a number of clashes between them as well as between the mostly Christian anti-balaka militia and armed Fulani tribesman. In June and July, clashes in Bambari left more than 100 dead and at least 200 injured, most of them civilians. Thousands fled as a result of the fighting. At the end of August, 11 people died when anti-balaka fighters attacked a Fulani camp in nearby Ngakobo.
- **27 September 2014** – According to on the ground sources, displaced Central Africans attacked Post no. 1 of Doctors Without Borders on Saturday, taking covers, tables and medical equipment. The centre is located near Bangui Airport, and in close proximity to the airport refugee camp. The centre closed down Friday, with officials indicating that the decision was made because of a marked decrease in the number of refugees coming to it.
- **25 September 2014** – Suspected anti-balaka fighters from the CAR have kidnapped a dozen Cameroonians and are demanding the release of one of their leaders, along with ten others, who were detained in Cameroon’s capital, warning that they will stage more attacks if he is not released within 72 hours. Governor Samuel Dieudonne Ivaha Diboua of Cameroon’s eastern region confirmed the incident, disclosing that suspected anti-balaka fighters were disguised as refugees when they kidnapped people in the border locality of Garoua Boulai earlier this week, adding that while the military immediately dispatched soldiers to the area, managing to free four of the hostages, a number of others are still being held captive. According to on the ground sources, the kidnappers are demanding the release of other anti-balaka militiamen, including one of the leaders, Abdoulaye Meskine, who was arrested by Cameroonian authorities a year ago while hiding in a border town. Meskine headed a breakaway faction of the Muslim Seleka rebel movement. While his faction initially joined forces with Seleka, it later broke ranks and was forced by its former allies to the northeastern region of the country. Meskine later fled to Cameroon,

where he was arrested in 2013 over fears that he may use the country as a base in order to further destabilize the CAR. The men are currently being held in a prison in Yaoundé. Cameroon shares an 800-kilometre long border with the CAR and currently has some 300,000 CAR refugees taking shelter from the on-going violence that is plaguing the CAR. In May, the same rebel group kidnapped eighteen Cameroonians near the same area in a bid to press their demand for Meskine's release. Some of the captives were later released following negotiations, while others were freed after Cameroonian security forces launched a rescue operation.

- **23 September 2014** – A rebel spokesman confirmed Tuesday that four senior generals of the mostly Muslim Seleka rebel group, which continues to control the northern regions of the CAR, have quit, indicating that they disagreed with secessionist plans for its northern enclave. According to the spokesman, the commanders, which includes Seleka's deputy military chief General Mahamat Al Khatim and its head of operations General Ali Daras, announced the decision after a meeting that was held in the town of Bambari, which is the rebel group's main headquarters. Hamata Nejad, a former spokesman for the Seleka rebel group, who joined the defectors, also indicated that the rebel group's leaders had no intentions of making peace with the interim government, noting that they planned to attack the southern capital city despite the presence of French and UN peacekeepers. While Nejad disclosed that the defectors are "...opposed to the idea of the partition of the Central African Republic and the idea of marching on Bangui," noting that it was "...no longer the time for war but peace and dialogue," he did warn that breakaway rebel generals would continue to fight "for the right of every Central African to live freely in this land," which is an apparent reference to attacks on Muslims by Christian militias in the southern region of the country, which have subsequently forced tens of thousands of people to flee to neighbouring countries.
- **22 September 2014** – Eyewitnesses reported Monday that Dianga Fidele, the mayor of the city of Ngaboko, in the southern CAR, was assassinated by unidentified militants. According to eyewitness reports, Fidele was killed by three militants believed to belong to the Seleka militia. Sources have disclosed that the assailants had followed the mayor until he reached a camp for displaced persons, where they gunned him down, however it remains unknown why they targeted him. This is the third major incident to occur in the city over the past month and follows the death of 11 people last week who were killed after anti-balaka militiamen attacked a camp of Fulani tribesmen. A subsequent revenge attack by the latter later left thirteen dead.

## Domestic News

- **27 September 2014** – The CAR's interim President Catherine Samba Panza has requested that the United Nations consider modifying an arms embargo on the state to enable its security forces to be properly equipped in order to work alongside UN peacekeepers. Speaking at the 69<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, President Samba Panza requested "the sanctions committee to ensure that the arms embargo imposed on the Central African Republic be reassessed

and re-examined,” noting that her government places “...great hope in the deployment of this mission, a mission which will contribute to – in an effective way – securing our country and sustainable development...it remains true, however, that the success of this mission will also hinge on the involvement at its side of the national security and defence forces likely to lend support to this mission as a result of their intimate knowledge of the ground.” After anti-balaka Christian militia took up arms last year, in response to months of looting and killing by mostly Muslim Seleka rebels after they toppled President Francois Bozize and seized power in March 2013, the Security Council in December 2013 imposed an arms embargo on the CAR and in May, the Council imposed sanctions on Bozize and two other men linked to the conflict. Despite French and African troops deployed to the country, thousands have been killed and more than a million people have been displaced by the violence. Last week, the UN took over the African Union peacekeeping mission and plans to double the force to 12,000 troops.

## **International Developments**

- **30 September 2014** – Diplomats disclosed Tuesday that European Union envoys have agreed in principle to extend the mandate of an EU peacekeeping mission in the CAR by three months in order to allow for more time for the transition of the newly deployed United Nations force. While the decision to extend the mission, until mid-March 2015, was taken by EU member state diplomats meeting in the EU’s Political and Security Committee, the decision still needs ministerial approval, which is likely to be given at the next foreign minister’s meeting on 20 October. In the wake of a coup in March 2013, France deployed 2,000 troops to the CAR in a bid to help some 6,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers restore order. In response to appeals by French President Francois Hollande for more European support, the EU agreed in January to deploy a peacekeeping force, which numbered around 850 soldiers, and which was authorized until mid-December. Earlier this month, the UN took over the AU peacekeeping mission, with plans to double the force to 12,000 troops in the coming months. The EU’s decision to extend the peacekeeping mission comes after France requested the extension to allow more time for the UN peacekeeping force to settle in and because the presence of the EU force in the capital city Bangui effectively enables French troops be stationed in other regions of the country.
- **24 September 2014** – International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have opened an investigation into allegations of murder, rape and the recruitment of child soldiers that reportedly has been occurring in the CAR over the past two years. According to a report issued by the Court on Wednesday, both sides in the conflict appear to have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, with prosecutor Fatou Bensouda disclosing “the list of atrocities is endless.” While no suspects have been named, prosecutors indicated in a statement that there was clear evidence that Seleka forces had targeted non-Muslim civilians, especially in the period since 2013. In turn, the mainly Christian anti-balaka forces opposing them had appeared systematically to target the Muslim population. The alleged crimes include murder, rape, persecution, pillage, attacks on

humanitarian missions and the use of child soldiers. Investigators will now gather further evidence that may lead to charges being filed against individuals suspected of having committed serious crimes. However processes similar to this have in the past taken several years to be completed. The CAR slid into chaos after mainly Muslim Seleka rebels ousted President Francois Bozize in March last year. While Seleka rebels were forced to step down in January 2014, and an interim government was elected, the rebel group continues to occupy much of the northern regions of the country, with violence continuing despite the deployment of French and African troops.

# Chad

**Security Summary** ~ Chad has cancelled all incoming flights from or via countries affected by Ebola, including Nigeria, as a prevention measure against the spread of the deadly virus to Chad. Chad has also cancelled all flights from or via Ghana. MS Risk advises all travellers to Chad to make sure your onward/return travel arrangements are flexible and to take account of these travel restrictions.

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake Chad, including the regions of Kanem and Lac to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of Cameroon from Lake Chad as far as Léré; the regions of Sila, Wadi Fira, Ennedi and Tibesti; the region of Ouaddaï except the town of Abéché; the region of Borkou except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to all remaining parts of the country, including the towns of Faya Largeau in Borkou region and Abéché in Ouaddaï region. Currently, MS Risk does not have any travel advisory for the capital city, N'Djamena.

MS Risk advises that you should only undertake travel to those parts of the country to which we advise against all but essential travel if:





- *You are confident that you have in place adequate security precautions to protect you from violent crime;*
- *The correct Chadian authorities are aware of your journey;*
- *You have in place the right permits if required;*
- *And you hold comprehensive travel insurance.*

*There is currently a low threat from terrorism.*

*Armed robberies, particularly from cars, in residential areas of N'Djamena are common, with foreigners sometimes being targeted. MS Risk advises all travellers to the capital city to remain vigilant and to take care particularly in the capital. Keep doors locked and windows closed at all times. Do not carry any large sums of money, jewelry, or other valuables. Avoid isolated or less developed areas of the city and do not travel alone at night.*

*There have been a number of kidnappings in eastern Chad involving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) workers and business people. Further such kidnappings are likely to occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to this region of Chad to be vigilant and take care at all times.*

*Nearly 350,000 Sudanese and Central African refugees and 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) are living in and around camps in eastern Chad. Although the Joint Border Force between Sudan and Chad has partially stabilized the situation, banditry and violent crime in eastern Chad continues to exist. Consequently the border between Chad and Sudan is subject to closures with minimal notice.*

*The area bordering Libya is also subject to closure and is heavily land-mined. The northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti continue to be unsafe.*

# Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

**Security Summary** ~ There is a confirmed Ebola outbreak in the DRC. The current outbreak is localized near the remote town of Boende, in Equateur province, however a further spread of the virus to other regions of the country cannot be ruled out. The death toll stands at 42, with over 70 cases reported. Outbreaks of Ebola have occurred in this region of Africa in the past and the current cases are not related to the on-going Ebola outbreak in West Africa. MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC. The only exception to this is the towns of Bukavu and Goma, to which MS Risk advises against all but essential travel. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. The security situation in eastern DRC remains unstable.



The security situation in eastern DRC, including Goma, remains unstable. Any foreigners in North Kivu, including Goma, are currently advised to keep their security situation under review. During fighting in the region in recent months, shells landed on Goma, causing a number of civilian deaths and injuries. There was also shelling around the border with Rwanda and explosions in the town of Gisenyi on the Rwandan side of the border. Further shelling may occur. You are therefore advised to avoid travelling alone and at night.

In the Katanga Province, there has been unrest and reports of fighting which occurred on 7 January 2014. The current situation remains tense across the province, particularly around the town of Pweto. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers to the region to exercise a high level of caution.

There were shooting incidents in Kinshasa on 30 December 2013. The incidents occurred around the national TV and radio station RTNC, the airport and the main army barracks and Ministry of Defence at Ngaliema.

*There were also reports of fighting in Lubumbashi, Katanga Province and in Kindu, Maniema Province. While the situation in Kinshasa now appears to be returning to normal, the situation remains to be fragile and security forces continue to be on alert.*

## **On the Ground Reporting**

- **1 October 2014** – On Wednesday, officials in the DRC raised the death toll from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) to 42 as the country continues to struggle to contain the second outbreak of the disease to occur in Africa this year. A statement released by Health Minister Felix Kabange Numbi indicated that some 70 cases of the deadly virus have been confirmed in a remote region near the town of Boende, which is located some 800 kilometres (500 miles) northwest of the capital Kinshasa. Currently, 42 people, including eight health workers, have died as a result of Ebola, with the current outbreak at a 60 percent mortality rate. According to the Health Minister, the last Ebola case in the DRC was confirmed on 24 September. According to officials at the World Health Organization (WHO) and authorities in Kinshasa, the Ebola outbreak in the DRC is not related to the worst ever epidemic of the virus, which has killed more than 2,000 people in West Africa since the start of this year. The Ebola virus was confirmed in the DRC a month ago, after government officials disclosed that 32 people had been killed in the outbreak, which is the seventh since the disease was first identified in the former Zaire in 1976.
  - Reports surfaced this week that more than 100 demobilised fighters and their relatives have allegedly died of starvation and disease in the DRC. According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW), 941 fighters from various armed groups surrendered in the volatile east and were sent to the isolated Kotakoli camp, in the north-western region of the country in September 2013, along with several hundred family members to await integration into military or civilian life. While this process was initially expected to take about three months, hundreds of fighters and their family members remain at the camp. Supplies ran out after three months and receiving more provisions proved difficult as the area is surrounded by dense forest and is almost inaccessible by road. Sources have reported that throughout this past year, the remaining fighters have received minimal food and health supplies, with some apparently surviving on crops stolen from farmers' fields. Research compiled by the HRW at the camp in September revealed 42 demobilised combatants, with at least five women and 57 children having died since December. While officials at the HRW have indicated that the army commander has allowed the disarmed militia members to go into Kotakoli village to try to find food and menial work, the remoteness of the area effectively means that there is little means of survival. The DRC's Defence Minister Alexandre Luba Ntambo however has stated that the accusations were irresponsible, noting that while there had been problems funding the government's demobilisation programme, "we did not purposely leave people die," adding that international donors had failed to deliver aid. The Minister further disclosed that a number of "...ambassadors and UN staff have already visited the camp and everyone

agrees that access is difficult, which is why the conditions are bad.” Officials from the UN have revealed that they are now deploying teams to the area in order to evaluate the needs of the camp and that help will soon be provided. Despite the end of the civil war more than a decade ago, numerous armed groups remain active in the DRC’s eastern region.

- **27 September 2014** – On Saturday, thousands of people protested in the DRC, calling on President Joseph Kabila to respect the country’s constitution and step down when his second elected term in office ends in 2016. While a march held in the capital city Kinshasa remained peaceful, as protesters demanded dialogue with the government over the holding of presidential elections in 2016, protesters in Goma, the largest town in the country’s volatile eastern region, were dispersed by tear gas. While President Kabila indicated last week at the United Nations General Assembly that he would stick to a calendar of local and national elections, which are due to take place in 2015 and 2016, critics of the current president say that he intends to alter the constitution in a bid to allow him to stand for a third elected term in office. A majority of DRC nationals are also speculating that the president is looking for ways to remain in charge of the vast, mineral-rich nation, which has been plagued by decades of conflict. These speculations have been further fuelled by the fact that a number of the president’s allies have already endorsed the idea of a third term. While the president himself has remained silent on the subject, despite pressure from American and other foreign officials to commit to stepping down in 2016, earlier this month, he reshuffled his top military command, a move seen by many as a bid to put loyalists in key positions as he prepares for a potentially volatile period.

# Republic of the Congo

---

**Security Summary** ~ MS Risk currently advises against all travel to the Likouala province. This is due to a large influx of displaced people coming in from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UNHCR currently estimates that there are around 110,000 refugees in Likouala province. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool region. There is currently a low level of terrorism in the Republic of the Congo.

Although crime levels are low in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, MS Risk advises all travellers to take sensible precautions in order to safeguard yourself and your belongings. We advise travellers to not walk in the streets after dark or to carry large amounts of money or valuables. The chance of being targeted by criminals is higher in the rural areas of the country. On 16 December 2013, there were reports of fighting and sporadic gunfire in Brazzaville. This is believed to have been an isolated incident as a result of resistance during a military arrest.



MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the Pool Region. This is due to sporadic rebel activity and armed banditry in the area. There is a very low risk of rebel attacks in the coastal town of Pointe Noire however travellers in vehicles and trains have been robbed by armed criminal gangs around the Pool region. Road travel in the Pool region requires a permit from the Congolese army.

## On the Ground Reporting

- **24 September 2014** – A diplomatic source disclosed Tuesday that the European Union (EU) will aid the Republic of Congo in the prevention of Ebola through the training of health workers and boosting capacity of the national laboratory to test the virus. After meeting in Brazzaville with the

country's Health Minister Francois Ibovi, head of EU delegation in Republic of Congo De Lange Saskia disclosed "we have agreed to continue exchanging views on what role the EU could play, especially with regards to training of health workers and reinforcing a national laboratory to test Ebola virus." In a statement released on Tuesday, the EU reiterated its determination to aid countries affected by Ebola in a bid to avert the spread of the virus by following the roadmap developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and coordinating efforts with concerned countries as well as the international community.

# Equatorial Guinea

**Security Summary** ~ While there are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea, officials in the country have cancelled all incoming and outgoing flights to and from Sao Tome et Principe, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Gabon as a preventative measure against the spread of Ebola to Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea currently has no confirmed cases of the deadly virus. Additionally, permission for vessels travelling to and from west, central or east Africa to berth or depart from Malabo port has been suspended. Equatorial Guinea has also suspended issuing visas for those intending to travel to the country from central and West Africa.

Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports of petty theft, which has affected both visitors and expatriates. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid walking around Malabo and Bata at night and to avoid travelling by road after dark. Although the political situation has been calm in recent years, you should be aware that political events can lead to an increased presence of police, military or security forces on the streets.

Consequently you should avoid any political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings. There is a low threat from terrorism; however you should be aware that attacks can occur at any time and place, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.



## On the Ground Reporting

- **22 October 2014** – After implementing control measures in a bid to safeguard public health from the on-going Ebola outbreak, Equatorial Guinea has resumed regional flights to neighbouring African countries by its national air carrier, Ceiba International. The temporary suspension of Ceiba International flights was taken as a precautionary measure adopted by the government, however flights have since resumed after the airline obtained equipment necessary to detect and confront any possible Ebola patients. According to sources, the flights were resumed in a bid to stop the isolation of the affected neighbouring countries, which require regular commercial air service in order to receive supplies and to maintain commercial ties with the rest of the continent. Equatorial Guinea's government has invested more than 1 million Euros in the acquisition of healthcare materials, including ambulatory hospitals, ambulances, thermographic cameras for Bata and Malabo airports, protection suits, disinfection material, waterproof boots, protection glasses, and laser thermometers, amongst other articles aimed at confronting a possible Ebola outbreak within its borders. Two quarantine areas, and specially equipped isolation chambers, have also been prepared in the cities of Bata and Malabo. After verifying the threat of the current Ebola outbreak, the government also created a special committee for the control and prevention of this disease and has organized a number of awareness tours on Ebola that have taken place across the country.



# Gabon

**Security Summary** ~ There is currently no travel advisory for Gabon. Gabon has closed land, air and sea borders with countries affected by Ebola. This includes Nigeria. Flights and ships travelling from or via Ebola affected countries are banned. MS Risk advises all travellers to ensure that onward/return travel arrangements are flexible. These preventative measures have been taken in order to stop the spread of Ebola to Gabon. There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

Crime is on the rise in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been robberies, armed attacks and rapes. Consequently MS Risk advises you to take sensible personal security precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. Avoid isolated or poorer areas of towns and walking alone at night. There have been a number of car-jackings in Libreville. There have been armed robberies of commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.



# São Tomé and Príncipe

**Security Summary** ~ There are currently no travel advisories for Sao Tome and Principe. However due to the current political situation, coupled with fears of a possible military coup, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant and to monitor reporting on the political situation.

Crime rates in Sao Tome and Principe are generally low however burglaries and armed robberies do occur. It is advised that you safeguard all valuables and cash.

Although Sao Tome and Principe is generally peaceful, economic difficulties and political rows over the handling of investments in the islands' development occasionally lead to civil unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings.

