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THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



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

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

OCTOBER 6 - 19, 2014

About MS Risk

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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

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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

October 6 - 19, 2014



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Cameroon

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 October 2014** – Authorities in Cameroon disclosed Friday that the country's army has killed 107 Boko Haram fighters, with a police officer disclosing that at least thirty civilians were murdered by the militant group before the ambush.
- **11 October 2014** – Cameroon's President confirmed Saturday that twenty-seven hostages, kidnapped earlier this year in raids blamed on Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram, have been released in Cameroon.
- **10 October 2014** – On the ground sources have reported that hundreds of Nigerian refugees in the town of Kereomafa in Cameroon were attacked by unidentified gunmen, resulting in the deaths of an unknown number.
- **6 October 2014** – According to security officials, at least eight people were killed and dozens injured in Cameroon on Monday in a rocket attack that has been blamed on Boko Haram militants.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 October 2014** – Violence erupted again in the CAR's capital city, with four civilians killed in a late night attack carried out by militia, and another four wounded when Cameroonian peacekeepers were fired on by Christian anti-balaka militiamen.
- **14 October 2014** – Polish officials disclosed Tuesday that a Polish Catholic missionary has been kidnapped by eight armed men in the CAR who are demanding the release of their leader in return for the priest's freedom.
- **12 October 2014** – Amidst a recent flare-up of violence, four UN peacekeepers were injured during an attack by unknown assailants who opened fire on a patrol northeast of the capital city.
- **10 October 2014** – After months of relative calm, over the past week violence has increased in the CAR with one United Nations peacekeeper killed on Thursday.
- **6 October 2014** – The Christian-dominated anti-balaka militia has demanded that the country's interim president resign and has asked anti-balaka members to quit the transitional government.

Domestic News

- **11 October 2014** – On Saturday, the CAR's interim President Catherine Samba Panza met with leaders of the Christian-dominated anti-balaka militia, who had earlier in the week called for her to resign.

International Developments

- **14 October 2014** – On Tuesday, a top UN official condemned the use of children in renewed sectarian violence that erupted in the CAR last week, which effectively drove 6,500 people from their homes.
- **13 October 2014** – According to a senior military official, Cambodia will deploy the first batch of 216 military personnel who will join the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the CAR later this month.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **17 October 2014** – At least twenty-two people, most of them women and children, were killed by Ugandan rebels in the troubled eastern region of the DRC, just days after a similar attack killed at least twenty-six.
- **16 October 2014** – Rebels killed at least twenty-six people in an attack in the eastern region of the DRC as authorities in Kinshasa demanded the recall of the top UN human rights official in the country.
- **15 October 2014** – A UN official revealed Wednesday that there has been a resurgence of rebel activity in the northeastern region of the DRC, with gunmen killing nine people while another group kidnapped forty-seven civilians.
- **10 October 2014** – At least nine civilians were killed after suspected members of a Ugandan militant group attacked a village in the eastern region of the DRC.

Domestic News

- **9 October 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nations requested the DRC government to launch judicial investigations into the atrocities committed by former rebels of the Movement of March 23 (M23) group in the country's volatile eastern region.

International Developments

- **9 October 2014** – On Thursday, the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed that former Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda, 40, will go on trial next year for war crimes including the use of child soldiers and sex slaves in his rebel army.

Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 October 2014** – Some 3,000 soldiers from ten member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are taking part in “Loango 2014” military training that will take place between October 15 – 19 in the Republic of Congo’s economic capital, Pointe Noire.

Equatorial Guinea

International Developments

- **10 October 2014** – The son of the President of Equatorial Guinea has agreed to sell US \$30 million worth of assets, which includes a mansion in Malibu, a Ferrari and part of his collection of Michael Jackson memorabilia, in order to settle an anti-corruption case in the United States.

Sao Tome and Principe

Domestic News

- **11 October 2014** – Voters in Sao Tome and Principe will be voting in the country’s parliamentary and local elections on Sunday 12 October. Twelve political parties are contending in the elections, with 263 polling stations set up across the entire country.

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 ~ 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

- **17 October 2014** – Authorities in Cameroon disclosed Friday that the country's army has killed 107 Boko Haram fighters, with a police officer disclosing that at least thirty civilians were murdered by the militant group before the ambush. A statement released by Cameroon's defence ministry indicated that the incident occurred late Wednesday and continued into Thursday after Boko Haram militants drove into the border towns of Amchide and Limani, where they killed at least thirty civilians prior to the army confronting them. Officials have indicated that at least eight Cameroonian soldiers were killed in the attack while a tank, a pick-up truck and a Peugeot car packed with ammunition and explosives were destroyed in the attack. On the ground sources have reported that the militants were aiming at attacking the camp where Cameroonian soldiers were garrisoned.
- **11 October 2014** – Cameroon's President confirmed Saturday that twenty-seven hostages, kidnapped earlier this year in raids blamed on Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram, have been released in Cameroon. According to a statement released by the office of President Paul Biya, "the 27 hostages abducted on May 16 in Waza and July 27 in Kolofata were released to the

Cameroonian authorities this night.” The ten Chinese citizens, and seventeen other local hostages, including the wife of Cameroon’s deputy prime minister, are all “safe and sound.” In mid-May, a group of ten Chinese construction workers was seized from a construction camp in Waza, in Cameroon’s Far North region near the border with Nigeria, in an attack that left one Cameroonian soldier dead. While in June, Cameroonian authorities had disclosed that six people had been arrested in connection to the kidnappings of the Chinese citizens, no further information pertaining to their whereabouts was released. The seventeen locals, including Françoise Agnes Moukouri, the wife of Vice Prime Minister Amadou Ali, were kidnapped in July during two simultaneous assaults that targeted their residence in the border town of Kolofata. A military spokesman had indicated at the time that as the fighters retreated with the hostages, they set fire to the residence, stole safes and vehicles and killed at least fifteen people. Both attacks were blamed on Boko Haram. A local religious leader who was also abducted in the July attack was amongst those released Saturday. Cameroon shares a border of more than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) with Nigeria, where Boko Haram has been waging a deadly insurgency since 2009. While the group did not specifically claim responsibility for these kidnappings, they have been involved in a number of other abductions, including the kidnapping of 200 schoolgirls from a remote village in northeastern Nigeria in April 2014, which sparked international outrage. The attacks and kidnappings in May and July also sparked concerns that the Nigerian-based insurgents were further expanding their operations into Cameroon as the government became increasingly involved in regional efforts to contain them. While Saturday’s brief statement pertaining to the release of the hostages did not provide any details about the conditions of their release, sources have disclosed that Cameroonian authorities paid at least US \$400,000 in ransom in order to secure the release of Françoise Agnes Moukouri, the wife of the vice prime minister. The deal to release them was apparently reached on Thursday, three days prior to their release. According to the source, who was part of the negotiations that led to the release of the hostages, the terms of the settlement included the payment of an undisclosed sum of money by the Chinese government for the release of the ten construction workers. On previous occasions, Cameroonian officials have denied paying ransoms for the release of hostages, indicating that the government does not pay ransoms in kidnapping cases.

- **10 October 2014** – On the ground sources have reported that hundreds of Nigerian refugees in the town of Kereomafa in Cameroon were attacked by unidentified gunmen, resulting in the deaths of an unknown number. Sources reported that the attackers stormed the camps of the refugees who were mainly from the neighbouring Gwoza town of Borno state in the night. One of the refugees who managed to escape the attack later reported that the gunmen were still in the vicinity of their camps and that they were continuing to look for those refugees who had escaped the attack.
- **6 October 2014** – According to security officials, at least eight people were killed and dozens injured in Cameroon on Monday in a rocket attack that has been blamed on Boko Haram militants. A local police officer has disclosed that Boko Haram militants fired the rocket from the Nigerian town of Banki and hit the town of Amchide in the far north of Cameroon. A Cameroon security

agent stated that the rocket landed on a road where many people were shopping. Boko Haram militants took control of Banki several weeks ago as part of their recent operations in northeastern Nigeria, which has seen the militant group take control of a number of key towns and villages around Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state. The militants have tried to make several incursions across the border into Amchide, which has prompted residents of the Cameroonian town to set up self-defence groups in a bid to fight off the Islamist militants.

Central African Republic

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

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

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

Crime

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



On the Ground Reporting

- **15 October 2014** – Violence erupted again in the CAR’s capital city, with four civilians killed in a late night attack carried out by militia, and another four wounded when Cameroonian peacekeepers were fired on by Christian anti-balaka militiamen. According to the city’s mayor, gunmen from the Christian militia attacked Bangui’s south-eastern 7th district after one of its members was killed there. According to Joseph Tagbalet, “the anti-balaka attacked with grenades and automatic weapons starting yesterday and so far at least four civilians have been killed, with many wounded and 27 houses burned.” Local residents reported Wednesday that barricades have gone up throughout the capital city, with some reporting a great deal of gunfire.
- **14 October 2014** – Polish officials disclosed Tuesday that a Polish Catholic missionary has been kidnapped by eight armed men in the CAR who are demanding the release of their leader in return for the priest’s freedom. The head of the organization that runs Poland’s overseas Catholic missions indicated that the men, who belong to a rebel group known as the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC), abducted Mateusz Dziejczak on the night of October 12 in the town of Baboua. He had been at the missionary since 2009. Tomasz Atlas, head of Poland’s Pontifical Mission Societies confirmed that the group “...said they wanted to exchange the kidnapped missionary for their leader, who is currently imprisoned in Cameroon,” adding that the FDPC had also recently kidnapped “a dozen or so” CAR citizens and eight Cameroonians, noting that the kidnapers had also attempted to kidnap a second priest along with Dziejczak but had given up “after negotiations.” Polish foreign ministry spokesman Marcin Wojciechowski disclosed that Dziejczak was being treated well and that he had spoken with other missionaries by telephone since his abduction. The FDPC, which is headed by Abdoulaye Miskine, is one of a number of armed groups that has fought the CAR’s government, and also each other, over the past decade. While it was initially allied with Seleka, a coalition of local rebels that toppled the government and seized the capital Bangui in March 2013, after falling out with the rebel group, Miskine fled to Cameroon, where he was arrested in September 2013.
- **12 October 2014** – Amidst a recent flare-up of violence, four UN peacekeepers were injured during an attack by unknown assailants who opened fire on a patrol northeast of the capital city. According to sources, the latest attack was carried out by “armed elements who opened fire on a MINUSCA police patrol...leaving four blue helmets injured,” adding that such attacks “must cease immediately.” In a statement released late Saturday, the new UN peacekeeping MINUSCA force condemned Friday’s attack, which occurred just one day after a UN peacekeeper was killed near Bangui, stating, “it is unacceptable that the blue helmets, who come from various places, should become the target of attack.” On Thursday, a UN peacekeeper from Pakistan was killed and nine others were injured near the capital city. It was the first peacekeeper death of the mission, which deployed last month to the CAR, effectively taking over from African-led troops deployed to the country shortly after a March 2013 coup plunged the country into chaos. The death of the UN peacekeeper comes as UN peacekeeping missions operating in Africa have been increasingly

targeted in past few weeks, with ten peacekeepers killed in Mali recently. The UN's 130,000 troops, police and civilian staff serving in missions worldwide are increasingly being drawn into more complex conflicts while being tasked with enforcing fragile peace deals.

- **10 October 2014** – After months of relative calm, over the past week violence has increased in the CAR with one United Nations peacekeeper killed on Thursday. According to UN officials, a UN peacekeeper from Pakistan was killed while another soldier was severely wounded after an ambush on a joint Pakistani-Bangladeshi convoy. Seven other soldiers sustained minor injuries. This is the first casualty of the mission, which deployed to the CAR last month, effectively taking over from African-led troops deployed to the country after a March 2013 coup plunged the CAR into chaos. The head of the UN mission in the CAR, Babacar Gaye, has strongly condemned the ambush, stating “this crime against the UN peacekeepers, who are here to help the people of the Central African Republic, is unacceptable and the perpetrators will be held accountable and brought to justice.” The capital city Bangui was also affected by an upsurge in violence this week. According to UN sources in the capital, at least seven people were killed and dozens wounded after clashes erupted between the city's Muslim and Christian populations. The fresh violence was apparently ignited by a grenade attack blamed on a Muslim assailant on a motorbike, followed by the murder of a taxi driver allegedly by Muslim gunmen who later set fire to several houses. On Wednesday, witnesses reported that an angry crowd killed a Muslim man over night, decapitating and burning his corpse. Sources have reported that the motorcyclist was chased by Christian anti-balaka militiamen in the northern suburb of Gobongo after they suspected that he had thrown a grenade at a market, injuring several civilians. According to a MINUSCA official, further violence erupted in Bangui's KM5 district on Wednesday when a “young taxi driver was killed by Muslims who then torched several homes.” A group of Muslim men then tried to advance on the capital's northern districts but were arrested by troops. An official in the gendarmerie has reported that the renewed tensions in Bangui have killed at least five people, including the motorcyclist, the taxi driver and three others. The tensions also come as the Christian-dominated militia requested that the country's transitional president step down. Heavy gunfire and explosions continued throughout the night and again on Thursday, resulting in many shops closing and residents opting to stay indoors. Officials from the Red Cross revealed Thursday that its workers have been unable to respond to calls for help after being threatened by gunmen. In a statement released Thursday, Jean-Francois Sangsue, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross's operations in Bangui, disclosed “the threats must stop. We are asking the population to facilitate the work of Red Cross volunteers. If the threats continue we will be obliged to cease all relief activities, leaving many victims to fend for themselves.” The Red Cross has urged all those involved in the renewed violence to let aid workers do their job. Since September 29, at least seven people have been killed in what is the latest inter-communal violence that has affected the capital city. Despite UN peacekeepers deployed throughout the city in a bid to restore calm, tensions have remained high throughout this week, with further incidents likely to

occur. The latest clashes are the fiercest to occur since the UN force took over peacekeeping duties last month.

- **6 October 2014** – The Christian-dominated anti-balaka militia has demanded that the country's interim president resign and has asked anti-balaka members to quit the transitional government. The 48-hour ultimatum to President Catherin Samba Panza was given shortly after media reported that US \$10 million of Angolan aid had been pilfered. According to Patrice Edouard Ngaissona, the national coordinator, "the coordinators of the anti-balaka movement are of the view that the transitional authorities no longer inspire confidence and ask all its representatives in government and in the cabinet of the prime minister to resign," adding "the anti-balaka movement gives President Samba Panza 48 hours to step down." A deadline for her resignation however was not indicted. After months of unrest, a transitional government was formed at the end of August 2013, comprising of representatives of civil society, political parties and the Seleka and anti-balaka alliances. Two ministers close to the anti-balaka movement hold the tourism and environment portfolios. The interim president, who was appointed in January 2014 after Michel Djotodia was forced to step down as president, has denied siphoning off Angolan funds.

Domestic News

- **11 October 2014** – On Saturday, the CAR's interim President Catherine Samba Panza met with leaders of the Christian-dominated anti-balaka militia, who had earlier in the week called for her to resign. The meeting also came after several days of violence that left at least ten dead. According to the president's spokeswoman Marie Antoinette Montaigne Moussa, Central Africans "can expect a gradual de-escalation of the violence over the next few days" given them "a break so people can start to live and attend to their business," noting that the President, who heads the transitional government in a country that is still reeling from the aftermath of last year's coup, has sought to ease tensions amongst the warring factions. A source close to the anti-balaka militia has indicated that militia leaders had been "well received" by the president and that they were no longer calling for her to step down. They did however submit five demands including the release of arrested members and the inclusion of others in a transition council. They also requested that anti-balaka members dismissed from civil service posts be reinstated and that the transitional government agree to not arrest and prosecute militia members. A fifth demand, requesting that the government formed in August by Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun resign, was dismissed. Earlier in the week, the anti-balaka militia had accused President Samba Panza of failing to meet the needs of Central Africans, adding that she had allegedly embezzled millions of dollars in cash that had been given to the CAR by the Angolan government. The president however has denied these claims. While Bangui was relatively calm Saturday, there were reports of gunfire in the city's northern districts in the morning hours. The city remained tense as food prices rose and drinking water became scarce in some neighbourhoods.

International Developments

- **14 October 2014** – On Tuesday, a top UN official condemned the use of children in renewed sectarian violence that erupted in the CAR last week, which effectively drove 6,500 people from their homes. Claire Bourgeois, the UN humanitarian chief in the CAR, has urged militia leaders in Bangui to stop targeting and using children after at least three were killed in the latest clashes that also left a UN peacekeeper dead. In a statement released Tuesday, Ms Bourgeois confirmed “...the brutal killings of at least three children, including two boys who had been accused of spying and an eight-year-old shot by a stray bullet,” adding that she condemned “...the recruitment and the use of children by armed groups.” After months of relative calm in the capital city at least ten people were killed in last week’s violence and up to 6,500 were forced to flee their homes after three straight days of clashes. While calm was restored in the capital city over the weekend, the UNHCR disclosed Tuesday that it was alarmed by the attacks, which targeted “civilians, humanitarian workers and United Nations peacekeepers. The latest surge in attacks has badly hampered humanitarian activities.”
- **13 October 2014** – According to a senior military official, Cambodia will deploy the first batch of 216 military personnel who will join the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the CAR later this month. Gen. Sem Sovanny, director-general of the Cambodian National Centre for the Peacekeeping Force has disclosed that some twenty leading forces of the group departed for the CAR on Monday in order to prepare shelters for the rest of the group, which will arrive on October 23, According to the General, “the group will conduct humanitarian activities in the Central African Republic, including demining, constructing roads and bridges, producing drinking water and providing medical treatment to civilians.” Cambodia first dispatched peacekeepers abroad in 2006 under the UN. Currently, Cambodian peacekeepers have been implementing their humanitarian duties in Lebanon, Mali and South Sudan.

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

- **17 October 2014** – At least twenty-two people, most of them women and children, were killed by Ugandan rebels in the troubled eastern region of the DRC, just days after a similar attack killed at least twenty-six. According to Amisi Kalonda, a local government official, the latest violence, which occurred Friday evening in the town of Eringeti, left ten women, eight children and four men dead, with most of the victims “killed with machetes, axes and hoes.” The latest attack has been blamed on rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces and National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), the only remaining militia that is active in the region. The attack has sparked calls for UN forces operating in the country to protect the local population. Eringeti is located about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the town of Beni, where twenty-six people were killed with machetes on Thursday in an attack that was also blamed on the rebel group.
- **16 October 2014** – Rebels killed at least twenty-six people in an attack in the eastern region of the DRC as authorities in Kinshasa demanded the recall of the top UN human rights official in the country. The massacre occurred Thursday in the Ngadai area on the northern edge of Beni, a town of half a million people, mostly from the Nande ethnic group. The town is a major hub for wood destined for Uganda and is located 400 kilometres from the North Kivu provincial capital of Goma. The attack calls into question claims made by authorities that Ugandan rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces and National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), who have been targeting regions in the eastern area of the country over the past two decades, were defeated. The attack also occurred as the government, which has been fighting the rebels alongside a contingent of UN peacekeepers, declared the UN’s top human rights official Scott Campbell “persona non grata,” after the UN on Wednesday published a report denouncing rights violations by the police. While the Congolese army, supported by UN peacekeepers from the MONUSCO stabilization mission, had dealt the rebels a series of severe blows earlier this year, civil society groups in the North Kivu region have recently warned of mounting violence by rebel groups operating in the region. On the ground sources have also reported that the rebels have begun to increasingly attack isolated villages in the region.

- **15 October 2014** – A UN official revealed Wednesday that there has been a resurgence of rebel activity in the northeastern region of the DRC, with gunmen killing nine people while another group kidnapped forty-seven civilians. According to Lt. Col. Felix Prosper Basse, spokesman for the UN peacekeeping mission, the Maimai-Simba group attacked a remote village in the northeastern region of the country last week, abducting forty women and seven boys. The rebels then pillaged the area, forcing many to flee the village, which is located far from the regional centre of Mambasa. Sources have reported that the rebels were seeking to control the mining in the area. Another rebel group, identified as the Allied Defence Forces from Uganda, killed nine people in Oicha in the DRC's North Kivu Province. Lt. col. Basse has indicated that in the wake of the recent upsurge in violence, the UN and the army are increasing their activity in the region. The DRC's northeastern region remains a hotbed of separatist rebel activity as well as for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which is known for kidnapping children and using them as child soldiers.
- **10 October 2014** – At least nine civilians were killed after suspected members of a Ugandan militant group attacked a village in the eastern region of the DRC. According to a statement released by the UN MONUSCO peacekeeping mission, "the attack took place during the night of the 8th and 9th October when the rebels invaded the town of Oicha and killed nine people belonging to two families, including the children." The latest attack to occur in the restive North Kivu province forced between 3,000 and 5,000 people to flee towards the town of Beni, which is located 30 kilometres south of Oicha. MONUSCO officials have indicated that the rebels may have come from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Ugandan Islamist group that has been targeted by the Congolese army and UN peacekeepers since the start of this year. While their operations in the region have weakened, a number of local civil society groups have warned of renewed attacks by the ADF in recent days. MONUSCO chief Martin Kobler disclosed Friday that he was "profoundly shocked" by the latest attack that "demonstrates once again the need to continue and reinforce the battle against all the armed groups in DRC." Over the past two decades, the DRC's North Kivu region, which borders Uganda, has been plagued by a number of armed groups that operate in the area, often feeding off the region's lawlessness and its rich mineral resources. In January 2014, Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers launched a major offensive against the ADF, which is accused of widespread human rights abuses, including murder, rape and the use of child soldiers.

Domestic News

- **9 October 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nations requested the DRC government to launch judicial investigations into the atrocities committed by former rebels of the Movement of March 23 (M23) group in the country's volatile eastern region. According to a statement released by the UN's human rights office, "in the light of documented breaches of human rights and international law, it is recommended that Congolese authorities open sweeping, thorough and fair judicial investigations on the crimes committed by civilians and fighters in M23 in North Kivu province." The UN has accused M23 members of killing, raping and torturing hundreds of people between

April 2012 and November 2013, adding that the actual number of victims is likely to be significantly higher and that in some cases, the atrocities could be considered as “war crimes and crimes against humanity.” Since 1999, fighting in the eastern region of the DRC has left some 60,000 dead, with fighting exacerbated by the wealth of the mineral resources located in the region, particularly gold and minerals that are used in electronic products. M23 emerged in April 2012, following a mutiny by ex-rebels who had been integrated into the DRC’s army. The group, which controlled the southern region of North Kivu, was defeated last November by UN and government troops. While an amnesty agreement, aimed at healing national wounds, which includes acts of war and rebellion that were committed between 2006 and the end of 2013, was adopted this February, the agreement does not cover grave human rights violations, with officials at the UN now urging that the government in Kinshasa punish the worst offenders.

International Developments

- **9 October 2014** – On Thursday, the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed that former Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda, 40, will go on trial next year for war crimes including the use of child soldiers and sex slaves in his rebel army. A statement released by the ICC disclosed, “the Trial Chamber scheduled the opening of the trial on June 2.” The Rwanda-born Ntaganda is facing thirteen war crimes and five counts of crimes against humanity for his role in a brutal civil conflict in the DRC’s volatile northeastern region a decade ago. Prosecutors allege that Ntaganda, who surrendered to the Court last year, was allegedly involved in raping children and women soldiers and keeping them as sex slaves. He has also been accused of using child soldiers from his Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC) in attacks, which prosecutors indicate at least 800 people were killed as warlords battled rival militias for control of the mineral-rich Ituri province. Ntaganda has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He is the founder of the M23 rebel group, which was defeated last November by government and UN troops after an eighteen-month insurgency in the eastern DRC’s North Kivu region. He is the first suspect to have voluntarily surrendered to the ICC after he walked into the US embassy in Rwanda’s capital a year-and-a-half ago, requesting to be sent to The Hague. While his motives for surrendering remain unclear, sources have disclosed that Ntaganda was possibly fearing for his life as a fugitive from a rival faction in the M23 movement. The ICC had previously issued two arrest warrants for Ntaganda, first in 2006 and then in 2012, which included additional charges. The charges were confirmed against him in June.

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

- **15 October 2014** – Some 3,000 soldiers from ten member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are taking part in “Loango 2014” military training that will take place between October 15 – 19 in the Republic of Congo’s economic capital, Pointe Noire.

Speaking on Tuesday in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo's National Defence Minister Charles Richard Mondjo disclosed that soldiers will be divided in different forces, including military police, gendarmes, air force, navy, as well as a civilian component for humanitarian missions, particularly peacekeeping operations, adding "the objective for training our troops and their civilian component is to enhance their capacity for rapid deployment in case of a crisis in the region." Mr Mondjo disclosed that the operation is being conducted under the auspices of the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC). One of the places where FOMAC has been useful is in the Central African Republic, where regional troops have intervened on a number of occasions since 2003.

Equatorial Guinea

Security Summary ~ There currently are no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea. Flights to/from Sao Tome et Principe, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Gabon have now been resumed after being cancelled as part of preventive measures against the spread of Ebola to Equatorial Guinea. Vessels travelling to/from west, central or east Africa are not being granted permission to berth or depart from Malabo Port. Equatorial Guinea has also suspended issuing visas for those intending to travel to the country from central and West Africa. Equatorial Guinea currently has no confirmed cases of the deadly virus.

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.



International Developments

- **10 October 2014** – The son of the President of Equatorial Guinea has agreed to sell US \$30 million worth of assets, which includes a mansion in Malibu, a Ferrari and part of his collection of Michael Jackson memorabilia, in order to settle an anti-corruption case in the United States. In what is the first case of its kind in the US, in which the family of a sitting head of state was targeted, the US Department of Justice (DoJ) announced the agreement with Teodor Nguema Obiang, the eldest son of President Teodor Obiang, late on Friday. While the settlement is half of what US officials were initially seeking, the details nevertheless are highly embarrassing for the president and his son. In a statement released late Friday, US assistant attorney-general Leslie Caldwell outlined the “relentless embezzlement and extortion” that effectively allowed Teodor to “shamelessly” loot his country to “support his lavish lifestyle,” adding “after raking in millions in bribes and kickbacks, Nguema Obiang embarked on a corruption-fuelled spending spree in the US.” The DoJ also revealed that while court documents had shown that Teodor received a salary of less than US \$100,000 a year, he had used his influence in government in order to amass more than US \$300 million worth of assets, adding that his assets were acquired with “funds earned in accordance with laws” of Equatorial Guinea and “through business dealings inside and outside” his country. Sources have indicated that Teodor decided to settle the case as it “...had become a significant distraction from my official responsibilities and an unnecessary irritant in the relationship between Equatorial Guinea and the US.” The government of Equatorial Guinea has welcomed the settlement. Many foreign diplomats in Malabo believe that Theodor will one day replace his father as president. The Obiang family controls all the levers of political power and business in Equatorial Guinea. Teodor is in charge of national security while the president’s youngest son, Gabriel Mbagha Obian, runs the oil ministry. The first lady’s brother is head of the state oil company.

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.



Domestic News

- **11 October 2014** – Voters in Sao Tome and Principe will be voting in the country's parliamentary and local elections on Sunday 12 October. Twelve political parties are contending in the elections, with 263 polling stations set up across the entire country. The African Union (AU) has approved the deployment of an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM), which will monitor the elections. Successful elections will be key to the country's stability as it hopes to start producing oil within the next year. While former Portuguese colony is surrounded by nations that have been producing oil for decades, Sao Tome and Principe's oil fields have so far failed to

produce any major finds. In April of this year, officials from Sao Tome and Principe and neighbouring Nigeria revealed that they planned to use non-conventional oil exploration technology in their joint offshore zone with the aim of launching production within eighteen months. Earlier this year, the country's government also short-listed four companies, including Portugal's Galp Energia, which will bid on two oil blocks in its exclusive economic zone. **Update (14 October 2014)** – Sao Tome and Principe's election commission announced Monday that the country's opposition ADI party won the parliamentary elections, winning an outright majority. According to the commission, the ADI party, which is led by ex-prime minister Patrice Trovoada, won thirty-three of 55 seats in Sunday's vote. Trovoada's party had won most of the votes in the 2010 election however it fell short of a majority and the government he led was defeated in a vote of no confidence in 2012. The rival MLSTP party came in second, winning sixteen seats; the PCD took five seats while the UDD won a single seat.