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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 Congo - Equatorial Guinea - Gabon - São Tomé and Príncipe*

NOVEMBER 17 - 30, 2014

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 - Interim Security
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 - Crisis Response
 - Business continuity management
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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

November 17 - 30, 2014



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Cameroon

On the Ground Reporting

- **27 November 2014** – A CAR rebel chief has been freed from a prison in Cameroon, just one day after militants loyal to him released a Polish priest they had taken hostage.
- **26 November 2014** – Cameroon's government disclosed Wednesday that an operation carried out by the country's army has freed sixteen hostages, including a Polish Catholic priest, who were abducted by rebels from the CAR.
- **25 November 2014** – Cameroonian officials have disclosed that Boko Haram attacks have led to the closure of at least 130 school near the country's northern border with Nigeria, adding that most of the students have left the area, fleeing to safer places in the country's interior.
 - At least eight Boko Haram militants were killed Tuesday and fifteen other's arrested by Cameroonian troops in the country's Far North Region.

- **17 November 2014** – Sources reported Monday that Cameroon’s army has detained 58 members of Boko Haram in an operation that was carried out over the weekend.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **20 November 2014** – At least six people were killed and around ten injured in western CAR after clashes erupted between Christian militia fighters and UN peacekeepers.

International Developments

- **20 November 2014** – At least six people were killed and around ten injured in western CAR after clashes erupted between Christian militia fighters and UN peacekeepers.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **26 November 2014** – The UN peacekeeping mission operating in the DRC has revealed that Congolese authorities detained six members of a Ukrainian aviation crew working for the UN peacekeeping force on Wednesday after Congolese military uniforms were found in their luggage.
 - Following the massacre of around 100 people last week, the Congolese army is searching for suspected Ugandan rebels in villages in the eastern region of the DRC.
 - According to the UN mission, on Wednesday authorities in the DRC began to transfer former Rwandan rebels from disarmament camps in the eastern region of the country to a northern transit camp in what is the first step towards their relocation in a third country.
- **21 November 2014** – At least fifty people have been killed in new violence that has erupted in the eastern region of the DRC. According to eyewitnesses, the latest attack occurred near the Ugandan border, around 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the town of Beni, where army and UN troops are stationed, and was carried out by men in uniforms posing as soldiers and carrying machetes and axes.
- **20 November 2014** –The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the DRC Ebola-free as 42 days have passed since the last case tested negative twice and was discharged from hospital.
- **18 November 2014** – On Tuesday, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused police in the DRC of summarily executing at least 51 people in an anti-gang operation, and being responsible for the disappearance of at least 33 individuals.
- **17 November 2014** – On Monday, a military tribunal in northeastern DRC convicted and sentenced to death a high-ranking border official over the killing of a military commander earlier this year.

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.

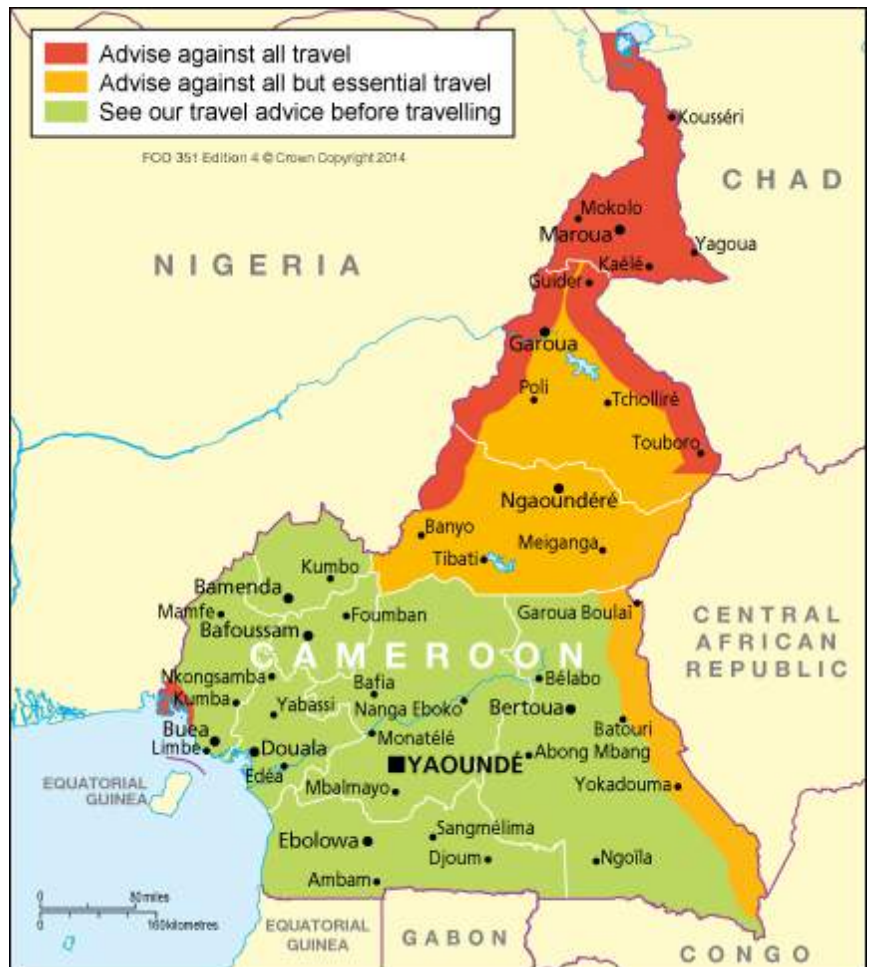
MS Risk advises against all travel to within 40 kilometers (24 miles) of the border with Nigeria's Adamawa state and to within 40 kilometers (24 miles) of the border with Chad. MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to the rest of North and Adamaoua.

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. 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.

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

- **27 November 2014** – A CAR rebel chief has been freed from a prison in Cameroon, just one day after militants loyal to him released a Polish priest they had taken hostage. While authorities have not disclosed any connections, the timing of the release of rebel chief Abdoulaye Miskine appears to be linked to talks that resulted in the release of Polish priest Mateusz Dziejdzic. Those behind Dziejdzic's 12 October kidnapping in western CAR were demanding the release of their leader. Miskine and Dziejdzic both appeared before journalists Thursday night at the airport in the Congolese capital Brazzaville. Both men are expected to meet with Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso, who has served as mediator in the crisis in the CAR. While Dziejdzic is expected to return to Poland in the coming days, it is unknown whether Miskine will be allowed to leave the Congo.
- **26 November 2014** – Cameroon's government disclosed Wednesday that an operation carried out by the country's army has freed sixteen hostages, including a Polish Catholic priest, who were abducted by rebels from the CAR. A statement released by the government disclosed, "a special operation of Cameroonian defence and security forces permitted the liberation last night of 15 Cameroonian hostages...as well as the Polish priest Mateusz Dziejdzic." The head of the organization that runs Poland's overseas Catholic mission had earlier indicated that a rebel group known as the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC) had abducted the priest on the night of 12 October in neighbouring CAR. The fifteen other hostages were Cameroonian nationals who had been abducted on 20 September and 24 October in eastern Cameroon. While

the Cameroonian government did not disclose the name of the group responsible for the kidnappings, shortly after Dzidzié's kidnapping, the FDPC, which is one of a number of armed groups that has fought against the CAR government, demanded that Cameroon release its leader Abdoulay Miskine. It remains unclear whether these demands were met.

- **25 November 2014** – Cameroonian officials have disclosed that Boko Haram attacks have led to the closure of at least 130 schools near the country's northern border with Nigeria, adding that most of the students have left the area, fleeing to safer places in the country's interior. Cameroonian education officials have confirmed that violent raids and kidnappings carried out by the Nigerian militant group Boko Haram are taking a toll. Monouna Fotso from Cameroon's Ministry of Secondary Education has disclosed that regular cross-border attacks have virtually halted academic activity in those regions that border with Nigeria's Borno state as Boko Haram militants have targeted schools in the area. Due to the on-going insecurity in the region, local authorities have been forced to advise students and teachers to relocate. Amongst those border areas that have been the hardest hit by Boko Haram's violence are Amchide, Fotocol, Kolofata and Kiti Matari. Local officials in Ashigashia reported two months ago that thirty percent of their schools have closed due to the on going violence. Despite deploying troops to its border regions with Nigeria, and cooperating with the Nigerian government, Boko Haram have increasingly staged deadly attacks in Cameroon in a bid to expand their territory.
 - At least eight Boko Haram militants were killed Tuesday and fifteen others arrested by Cameroonian troops in the country's Far North Region. According to sources Special Forces from "Operation Alpha," which was formed to fight Boko Haram militants attempting to cross the border from Nigeria into Cameroon, attacked one of the militant group's camps in the town of Bomeri in Cameroon. The military seized arms, ammunition and twenty motorbikes after the attack.
- **17 November 2014** – Sources reported Monday that Cameroon's army has detained 58 members of Boko Haram in an operation that was carried out over the weekend. According to a military official, the capture came at the end of a weeks-long military campaign aimed at tracking the militant group, which in recent weeks has increasingly crossed the border from Nigeria to stage deadly attacks. The militants were seized along with multiple long-range arms, and approximately US 14,000 dollars. They were captured in the Diamere area of Cameroon's Far North Region. The latest arrests come nearly a week after the Cameroonian army confiscated a load of arms, including rockets, rocket launchers, Kalashnikovs and munitions that were being transported into the country from Chad.

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.

In recent weeks, armed groups have increasingly targeted aid workers operating across the CAR. In November, medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres reported two incidents, in which an armed group, operating on the route that links Paoua in the north and the capital city Bangui, between the towns of Yaloké and Bossembélé, targeted a

transport trucks carrying medical and humanitarian supplies. Both vehicles were later released upon the payment of a ransom. Further such incidents are likely to occur in the area as the security situation across the country remains fragile.

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

- **20 November 2014** – At least six people were killed and around ten injured in western CAR after clashes erupted between Christian militia fighters and UN peacekeepers. According to on the ground sources, shooting erupted Wednesday afternoon in the town of Cantonnier, which is located on the border with Cameroon, around 600 kilometres (370 miles) west of the capital Bangui, when soldiers from the UN mission attempted to disarm anti-balaka fighters. The gunfire continued for several hours, with two anti-balaka fighters killed in the clashes and four civilians believed to have been struck by stray bullets.

International Developments

- **26 November 2014** – A United Nations panel has called for targeted sanctions against former CAR president Michel Djotodia, accusing him of trying to derail the political transition in Bangui. A panel of experts have listed Djotodia, who currently is living in exile in Cotonou, amongst about fifteen names of individuals who should be punished for obstructing peace efforts in the CAR. A UN sanctions committee is due to review the list in the coming weeks and will submit names to the Security Council, which will then decide on appropriate measures. Diplomats have cautioned that it remains unclear whether the Council will move quickly to impose sanctions or whether it will opt instead to place added pressure on Djotodia to encourage cooperation from his rebel movement. If the Council opts to impose targeted sanctions, they would include a visa ban and assets freeze. Djotodia rose to power in March 2013 after his Seleka rebel movement overthrew long-time leader Francois Bozize. He stepped down in January 2014 amidst continued violence and chaos in the CAR.

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 ~ The WHO has declared the DRC Ebola-free. An outbreak of the deadly disease, unrelated to the ongoing outbreak in West Africa, was first discovered in August near the remote town of Boende, in Equateur province.

The security situation in eastern DRC, including Goma, remains unstable. Ugandan rebels have killed over 100 people in and around the town of Beni. Officials have since imposed a overnight curfew on the town. 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

- **26 November 2014** – The UN peacekeeping mission operating in the DRC has revealed that Congolese authorities detained six members of a Ukrainian aviation crew working for the UN peacekeeping force on Wednesday after Congolese military uniforms were found in their luggage. According to Julian Paluku, the governor of North Kivu province, the Ukrainians were held after a search of their luggage was carried out at the airport in Goma, adding that a large number of uniforms that were found included some for the DRC's presidential guard. Mr Paluku has also indicated that an investigation into the matter has been opened. Charles Antoine Bambara, a spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force, confirmed Wednesday that UN officials are aware of the incident and that they are cooperating with Congolese authorities "to clarify what has really happened," adding if there was misconduct by the Ukrainians "all measures will be taken in accordance with the United Nations" which has a zero tolerance policy for misconduct. The UN peacekeeping mission, known as MONUSCO, has about 21,000 troops stationed in eastern Congo, where a number of armed groups have been competing to gain control of the region's vast mineral resources.
 - Following the massacre of around 100 people last week, the Congolese army is searching for suspected Ugandan rebels in villages in the eastern region of the DRC. According to officials, the army is currently following leads from locals around the town of Beni and near the sites of last Thursday's killings. Local officials reported Wednesday that the army has cordoned off the area where Thursday's massacre took place, adding that MONUSCO forces are patrolling the region. MONUSCO officials have also reported that on Monday the army arrested thirty-four armed men and ten civilians and recovered twenty-four weapons. Since October, officials have blamed Ugandan rebels for the deaths of more than 200 civilians in the restive North Kivu province, where Beni is located.
 - According to the UN mission, on Wednesday authorities in the DRC began to transfer former Rwandan rebels from disarmament camps in the eastern region of the country to a northern transit camp in what is the first step towards their relocation in a third country. Charles Bambara, a spokesman for the UN mission in the DRC, MONUSCO, confirmed that a government plane left North Kivu province with around 90 of the camp's more than 300 residents. The plane was bound for a Congolese military camp in Kisangani. Mr Bambara further disclosed that another plane is expected to transport former fighters and their families from a second disarmament camp in South Kivu province to Kisangani. Earlier this year, the DRC proposed a military base in the city of Kisangani as a transit camp for those former fighters and their families who do not wish to return to Rwanda. A third country, possibly in Africa, is currently being sought for relocation. Until now, the group has refused to relocate.

While they had offered no reason for their refusal, authorities believe that their relocation would result in a loss of influence on the ground in eastern DRC. Wednesday's transfer comes ahead of the 2 January deadline, which was issued in July by the Southern African Development Community and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to the FDLR to disarm or face military intervention by UN and Congolese forces. Last month, the UN Security Council along with other international bodies, noted a lack of progress towards the disarmament of the FDLR's estimated 1,500 fighters who remain in the region.

- **21 November 2014** – At least fifty people have been killed in new violence that has erupted in the eastern region of the DRC. According to eyewitnesses, the latest attack occurred near the Ugandan border, around 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the town of Beni, where army and UN troops are stationed, and was carried out by men in uniforms posing as soldiers and carrying machetes and axes. Government officials in the region have confirmed the attack and are blaming it on a Ugandan Islamist rebel group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). According to officials, since early October, more than 200 people have been killed in and around Beni by ADF rebels. UN officials, who in recent weeks have increasingly been criticized for failing to stem the violence, have indicated that they have increased their military presence in the area since October.
- **20 November 2014** –The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the DRC Ebola-free as 42 days have passed since the last case tested negative twice and was discharged from hospital. According to WHO recommendations, the end of an EVD outbreak in a country can be declared once 42 days have passed and no new cases have been declared. The 42 days represents twice the maximum incubation period for Ebola (21 days). The DRC reported a total of 66 EVD cases (38 confirmed and 28 probable). In total 49 deaths have been reported. The EVD outbreak in the DRC is separate to the on-going EVD outbreak in West Africa.
- **18 November 2014** – On Tuesday, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused police in the DRC of summarily executing at least 51 people in an anti-gang operation, and being responsible for the disappearance of at least 33 individuals. The newly released report, which is based on witness testimony, is the second high-profile inquiry into Operation Likofi, which was launched November 2013 in a bid to tackle criminal gangs in the capital Kinshasa. It accuses police involved in the operation of executing unarmed young men at home in front of family members, and in markets in an attempt to intimidate the local population. While the DRC government has not commented on the HRW's report, in October, Interior Minister Richard Muyej rejected a UN report, which had produced similar findings. At the time, the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNHJRO) in Congo accused the Congolese National Police of executing at least nine people in the operation, which ended in February. At the time, the minister had accused the reports' authors of attempting to destabilize the government. The government later expelled the head of the office, a move that angered the UN Security Council, which has reported threats against UNJHRO staff.
- **17 November 2014** – On Monday, a military tribunal in northeastern DRC convicted and sentenced to death a high-ranking border official over the killing of a military commander earlier this year. According to court documents, Lt. Col. Birocho Nzanu Consy, a former chief for border

intelligence in North Kivu province, received the harshest penalty in a trial that included 19 people in connection with the killing of Col. Mamadou Ndala, the military commander in the east who was killed in an ambush in January. Twelve of the 19 people were also convicted and seven defendants were acquitted. While under Congolese law, no appeals are available, those found guilty can appeal to the African Court on Human Rights in Ethiopia.

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.

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.



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.

