



MS | RISK

West Africa Report

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

November 10 - 23, 2014

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 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis management
 - 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.
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Summary

November 10 - 23, 2014



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Sahel Region

Regional Reporting

- **17 November 2014** – On Monday, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) released a video purporting to show French and Dutch hostages who have been held in the Sahara since November 2011.
- **11 November 2014** – On Tuesday, health officials in Uganda declared the country free of the Ebola-like Marburg virus after suspected patients completed a 42-day surveillance period.

International Developments

- **16 November 2014** – The US government announced Sunday that it will add Mali to its list of countries whose travellers will receive special Ebola screening.

Burkina Faso

Domestic News

- **19 November 2014** – Michel Kafando, who has been sworn in as Burkina Faso's interim president to oversee a yearlong transition to civilian rule, has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida as prime minister.
- **17 November 2014** - On Monday, Burkina Faso announced the West African country's new interim leader who will lead the nation until the next presidential elections, which are due to occur November 2015.
- **14 November 2014** – Nearly two weeks after the ouster of president Blaise Compaore, Burkina Faso's army has reached an agreement with opposition parties, civil groups and religious leaders for a transition to civilian rule.

Regional Reporting

- **21 November 2014** – Burkina Faso's ousted former president Blaise Compaore has arrived in Morocco from Ivory Coast, where he has been in exile since his ouster in a popular revolt late last month.

The Gambia

- **14 November 2014** – The Gambia has reopened the country's border with those nations currently affected by the Ebola outbreak.

Guinea

- **21 November 2014** – Officials in Guinea disclosed Friday that roadside bandits have stolen a cooler containing blood samples that are believed to have Ebola.

Guinea-Bissau

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 November 2014** – The country's General Director of Prevention and Health Promotion, Nicholas Almeida, announced Saturday that the country will reopen its borders with Guinea in a bid to facilitate trade between the two countries.

International Developments

- **15 November 2014** – The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has requested that the Security Council extend its mission in Guinea Bissau by three months, until February 2015.

Ivory Coast

On the Ground Reporting

- **18 November 2014** – The Ivory Coast's Defense Minister Paul Koffi Koffi ordered soldiers to return to their posts Tuesday after they held up traffic in the main city Abidjan in a bid to claim outstanding bonuses that were promised under a 2007 peace agreement.

International Developments

- **17 November 2014** – The International Criminal Court (ICC) announced Monday that former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo will go on trial for crimes against humanity on 7 July 2015.

Liberia

On the Ground Reporting

- **13 November 2014** – On Thursday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson lifted the state of emergency initially imposed to control an Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the country
- **10 November 2014** – A government statement released Monday disclosed that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has ordered that four soldiers and their commanding officer be punished for their actions during a protest over an Ebola quarantine back in August.
 - The US has opened the first of 17 Ebola treatment units in Liberia.

Domestic News

- **17 November 2014** – On Sunday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf replaced her health minister, a move that is part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle and comes amidst widespread criticism of the Liberian government's response to the Ebola outbreak.
- **12 November 2014** – Liberia has urged the UN not to reduce its peacekeeping force deployed in the country, warning that the Ebola outbreak is threatening peace and social cohesion

International Developments

- **12 November 2014** – The United States announced Wednesday that its military will scale back its planned Ebola response deployments to Liberia from 4,000 troops to 3,000.

Mali

On the Ground Reporting

- **22 November 2014** – On Saturday Malian officials confirmed a new case of Ebola and indicated that two more suspected patients are being tested, raising concerns about a further spread of the disease in the country.
 - Suspected Islamist fighters kidnapped 10 children and killed two others who tried to escape near two towns in Mali on Saturday.
- **21 November 2014** – Health officials confirmed Friday that a doctor died of Ebola on Thursday after treating an imam who succumbed to the disease late last month. The doctor's death has brought the total toll in the West African country to seven.
- **14 November 2014** – Health officials in Mali confirmed Friday that the country is trying to trace at least 200 contacts linked to confirmed and probable Ebola victims in an effort to control its second Ebola outbreak.
- **13 November 2014** – In the wake of a second Ebola outbreak, Malian officials have indicated that they are reinforcing health controls at border posts, but have warned that they have no plans to close the country's borders after a man with Ebola arrived from Guinea and infected several others, including a nurse.

Niger

On the Ground Reporting

- **19 November 2014** – Military sources have reported that on Wednesday, Niger deployed army helicopters to its western border with Mali in a bid to repel unidentified militants who crossed over to attack the town of Bani-Bangou.

- **13 November 2014** – The mayor of Niger's capital city has dismissed the city's entire 204-strong municipal force after officers clashed with security forces during a protest over working conditions.

Domestic News

- **21 November 2014** – Niger's constitutional court declared Thursday that the post of parliament speaker is vacant after the incumbent, who had been named in a baby trafficking scandal, fled to France.

Nigeria

On the Ground Reporting

- **23 November 2014** – Boko Haram gunmen have killed 48 fish vendors in Borno State, near the border with Chad.
- **20 November 2014** – Nigerian troops, backed by civilian vigilantes, have reclaimed two towns seized by Boko Haram militants last week.
 - Officials and witnesses reported Thursday that at least 45 people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram attack in northeastern Nigeria.
- **16 November 2014** – A female suicide bomber set off an explosion in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 13 people and injuring 65.
- **14 November 2014** – In the past twenty-four hours, Boko Haram militants have invaded three towns in Nigeria's northeastern states of Adamawa and Borno after being ousted from a key town in the area by civilian vigilantes.
 - Nigeria's military disclosed Friday that three servicemen were killed in a military helicopter crash in the restive northeast region of the country.
 - At least six people, including three police officers, were killed in a suspected Boko Haram suicide at a petrol station in Kano City.
- **12 November 2014** – Police officials disclosed Wednesday that a female suicide bomber injured four people at a teacher training college in northwestern Nigeria, blowing herself up before she was able to reach her target.

Domestic News

- **21 November 2014** – On Thursday, Nigerian police fired teargas inside parliament in an apparent attempt to block opposition lawmakers, including the speaker of the lower house, from entering for a key security vote.

Senegal

- **10 November 2014** – Senegal has partially reopened its air and sea borders with Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Land borders will remain closed.

Sierra Leone

- **12 November 2014** – Hundreds of health workers involved in treating Ebola patients have gone on strike at a clinic in southern Sierra Leone.

Togo

- **21 November 2014** – Police in Togo's capital Lome on Friday fired teargas at protesters defying a government ban on marching to the country's parliament.

Security Summaries for West African States

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Benin

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

There is a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally from groups or individuals motivated by the current conflict in Iraq and Syria. Attacks could be indiscriminate and can occur in places where foreigners gather. There have been incidents of mugging, personal assault and carjacking in Cotonou. Armed robberies have also been reported in other areas, most notably in those regions that border Nigeria.

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Ghana

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali and Liberia. There currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in Ghana. MS Risk advises all travellers to Ghana to take the necessary precautions, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

Although there is currently no travel advisory for Ghana, the country has seen an increase in violent robbery in 2013. Throughout 2014, there have been a number of cases of violent robberies involving foreign nationals who have been attacked and robbed while travelling in taxis after dark. There have also been incidents where an assailant has been concealed in the trunk of the taxi. Recently, a number of foreign nationals in Tamale have been attacked and robbed by machete wielding individuals. MS Risk advises all travellers to the Tamale area to travel by private car and to avoid walking on the roads, or using a motor scooter or bicycle after dark.

Most armed robberies occur at night however there have been some reports of such incidents occurring during daytime. A common tactic has been to deliberately cause a minor road traffic accident in order to force the targeted vehicle to stop. As a result of ongoing local Chieftancy and land disputes, isolated inter-ethnic violence and civil unrest can occur at any time, including in the Northern, Upper East and Volta regions. A dusk to dawn curfew has been put in place on the Hohoe community in the Volta region. This is due to communal clashes over the exhumation of the Chief Imam of Hohoe. If you are considering travelling to the Northern Region, MS Risk advises you to remain alert to the potential of new outbreaks of flooding which is common in the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions during the rainy season, which spans from March to November. We advise that you monitor the local weather reports and expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

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Sahel Region

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

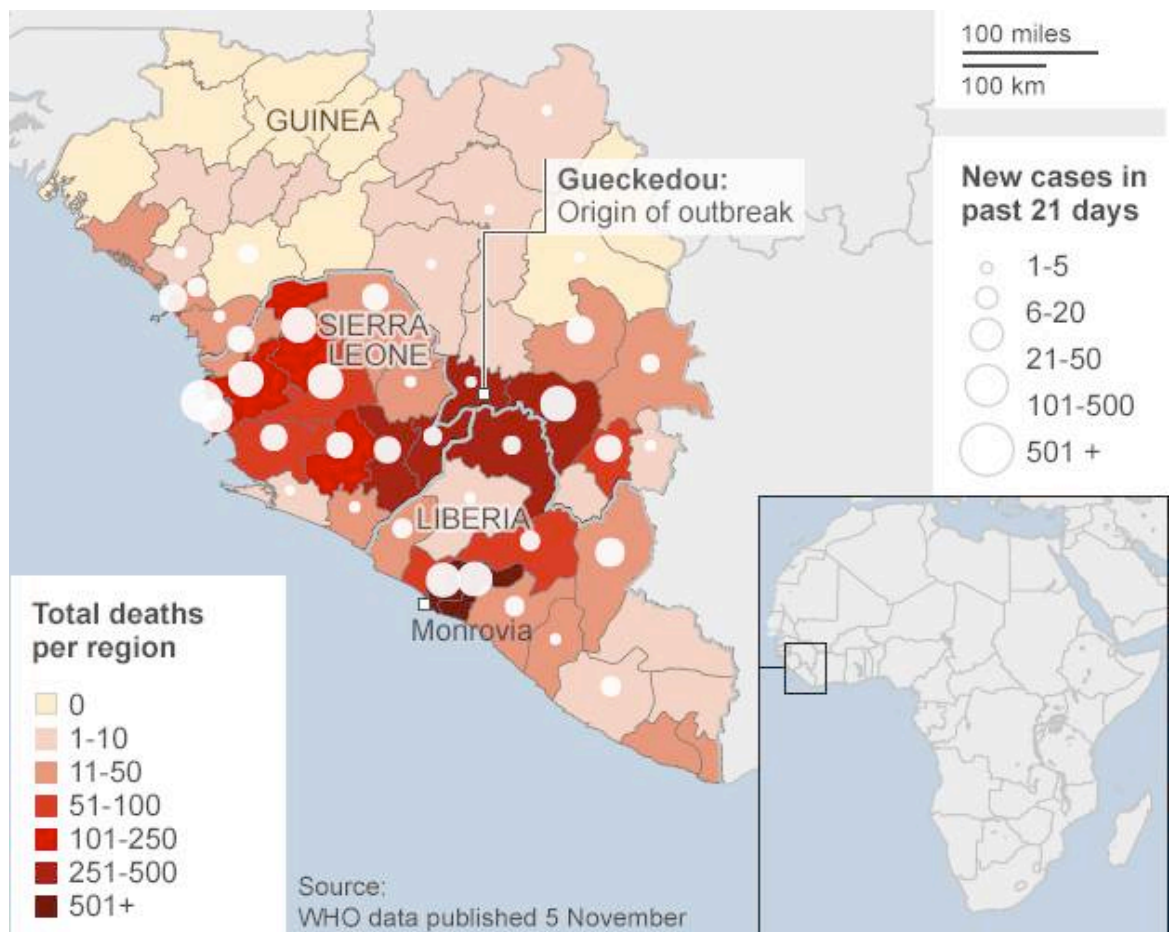


Security Summary

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

There is a very real threat of kidnap to westerners in the Sahel and surrounding regions. The Sahel region includes Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, however the kidnap threat extends to other countries, including Algeria, Cameroon, Libya and Nigeria. Following the military intervention in Mali, which was launched in January 2013, the threat of kidnap and terrorist attacks has increased, with further attacks highly likely to continue.

There are currently around six hostages being held in the Sahel and



surrounding regions. Victims in the region have included construction workers, NGO workers, tourists and diplomats of various nationalities, primarily European. Some hostages have been killed.

Regional Reporting

- **17 November 2014** – On Monday, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) released a video purporting to show French and Dutch hostages who have been held in the Sahara since November 2011. In the newly released video, French national Serge Lazarevic and a man identifying himself as Sjaak Rijke appeal to their governments to negotiate their release. While it remains unclear when the footage of Lazarevic was recorded, Rijke indicates in the video that he is speaking on September 26 this year, and makes reference to a US-Taliban prisoner exchange that was carried out in May. Lazarevic, who was kidnapped in the Malian town of Hombori in November 2011, indicates that he is gravely ill and urges President Francois Hollande to seek his release. Lazarevic last appeared in an AQIM propaganda video in June. The authenticity of this new video has been confirmed by French authorities, with a statement released by the presidential office indicating that the footage is “recent proof of life that was long overdue,” adding “the president is in permanent contact with the authorities of the countries in the region to use all forms of dialogue to achieve the release of our hostage.” Lazarevic is the last French hostage still being held world wide, after hiker Herve Gourdel was abducted in Algeria and beheaded in September by Islamic State-linked militants. Lazarevic was accompanying Frenchman Philippe Verdon on a business trip when the two men were kidnapped by armed men in Mali’s northern region. Verdon was found shot dead last year. The second hostage, who identifies himself as Rijke, also urges that his home government help free him. Rijke was kidnapped as a tourist in the Malian town of Timbuktu, in November 2011. He has appeared in several AQIM videos, most lately in September 2013. A spokesman for the Dutch foreign ministry disclosed that officials were aware of the latest video but that “in the interest of the family we will not be commenting.”
- **11 November 2014** – On Tuesday, health officials in Uganda declared the country free of the Ebola-like Marburg virus after suspected patients completed a 42-day surveillance period. A statement issued by a senior health ministry official confirmed, “the country is officially declared free of the Marburg virus epidemic.” On September 28, a 30-year-old medical technician died from Marburg, eleven days after falling ill in a Kampala hospital where he worked. His death sparked fear across the country. While officials monitored a total of 197 people, including eight who had displayed symptoms, none had the virus. All those who were monitored completed two 21-day incubation periods and have been cleared of the virus. Like the Ebola virus disease, the Marburg virus is also transmitted via contact with bodily fluids, with fatality rates ranging from 25 to 80 percent. A Marburg outbreak in Uganda in 2010 killed ten people.

International Developments

- **16 November 2014** – The US government announced Sunday that it will add Mali to its list of countries whose travellers will receive special Ebola screening. A statement released by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Homeland Security, enhanced screening will begin on 17 November for the 15 – 20 travellers who arrive daily from Mali.

Burkina Faso

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Burkina Faso has elected a new interim president, Michel Kafando, who took office on 21 November 2014. He has named Lieutenant Col. Isaac Zida his prime minister. The president will be in power until November 2015, when presidential elections are due to take place. While an interim civilian leader has been put in power, the security situation across the country remains fragile, and violent protests may occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to Burkina Faso to avoid all demonstrations and protests as they may turn violent with minimal notice.

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

Threats and Concerns

There is a general threat from terrorism throughout the Sahel region. Although there are currently no known Islamist operatives in Burkina Faso, the country's shared border with Mali may enable such elements to gain access. The



regional Islamist elements that could threaten Burkina Faso include: al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Ansar al Dine, Ansar al Sharia and Boko Haram.

Kidnapping Threats

There is a heightened risk that terrorist groups, including AQIM and MUJAO, may cross the northern borders from Mali into Burkina Faso in order to carry out kidnaps. MS Risk therefore advises against all travel to the areas of Burkina Faso north of the town of Boulsa, which is 25 km north of the capital of Ouagadougou. We particularly advise against all travel to the regions that border Mali and Niger. Since 2008, over 25 Westerners have been kidnapped in the Sahel region, and a number of these hostages continue to be held. AQIM operates directly or through criminal gangs who carry out kidnappings on their behalf or pass on their kidnap victims in return for payment.

Crime

There is a high risk of armed groups stopping vehicles, including public buses, in order to rob them. Such incidents have occurred in various parts of the country, particularly at night. Therefore, all travel between towns by road at night is to be avoided, especially from Ouagadougou to Po where there is a heightened risk. This is especially severe on market days when bandits often target merchants with stock or cash en route to and from the urban areas.

MS RISK Guidance to Organizations in Burkina Faso:

Although the biggest concern at this time remains in the northern areas of the country, specifically along the porous Mali border and at the junction of the Niger border, the attack and kidnapping in Algeria has demonstrated that such attacks can occur at any place and at any time. In addition, the attack on BP in Algeria came just days after Islamists announced that they would retaliate against French interests in the region. Consequently, it is highly likely that more attacks will take place over the coming months.

There is an increased Burkinabe military presence in the north of the country and companies should review their respective security situations and consider the following:

- Location and safety of personnel
- Security controls, communications and contingency plans at static locations
- Work tempo implications
- Journey management systems in place and working
- Liaison with the military - use of military escorts, coordination between multiple assets, confirmation that military escorts are coordinated and competent for the task.
- Reviewing all crisis management contingencies including but not limited to the following:
 - Kidnap (for ransom or ideological purposes)
 - Medical emergency and evacuation cycle for northern area
 - Interdiction of road moves for personnel and any convoys
 - Loss of communications with remote locations - enhanced comms options, access to stores if replenishment is restricted or cut off.
- Media and public affairs contingency

Companies relying on police escorts in the northern region of the country should ensure that travel patterns do not become predictable. Varying routes is difficult due to the limited road networks; therefore, it is even more important to vary the types of vehicles used as well as the times of the journeys and to avoid travel patterns becoming widely known. This is especially critical given the current tensions along the Mali border and the impending ECOWAS operations. All companies linked to the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation should familiarize themselves with the IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of

Security Forces. This applies to military, police or private security services.

Domestic News

- **19 November 2014** – Michel Kafando, who has been sworn in as Burkina Faso's interim president to oversee a yearlong transition to civilian rule, has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida as prime minister. According to a senior official, the deal has been agreed between politicians and army leaders. Lt Col Zida was put in power in the immediate aftermath of the uprising against longtime-leader Blaise Compaore late last month. The appointment of Lt Col Zida has received a mixed reception across the country. While earlier this week, he pleased part of the population by issuing several decrees, including one which entailed the dismissal of the director-general of the national electricity company, whose inability to ensure a continuous supply of power has been regularly criticized, for many, the presence of Lt Col Zida at the head of the government is a strong sign that the military intends to maintain a degree of influence within the transition process.
- **17 November 2014** - On Monday, Burkina Faso announced the West African country's new interim leader who will lead the nation until the next presidential elections, which are due to occur November 2015. The appointment of an interim leader will end weeks of uncertainty in the West African nation after mass protests brought down the 27-year regime of president Blaise Compaore, which resulted in the military seizing power. Veteran diplomat Michel Kafando has been chosen as Burkina Faso's interim president. The decision was made after several hours of negotiation, which had started the previous day. Lieutenant Colonel Issac Zida, the army-installed leader, had given the country's various parties a noon deadline Sunday in order to submit names to a panel of twenty-three mainly civilian electors. The panel later elected Mr Kafando after preferring him to other candidates, which included journalist Cherif Sy and sociologist and ex-minister Josephine Ouedraogo. While Mr Kafando has described the appointment as "more than an honour," his selection as interim president will now have to be ratified by the country's Constitutional Council. The election of a civilian interim president homes ahead of a deadline that was imposed by the African Union (AU) and which instructed Burkina Faso to establish interim institutions and to select an interim president by Monday or face sanctions. On Saturday, the military reinstated the country's constitution, which was suspended when the army filled the power vacuum that was created by the departure of Compaore. A "transition charter," effectively an interim constitution agreed upon between the military and civilian, opposition and religious figures last week, was officially signed on Sunday by the military. The signing of the interim constitution by Lieutenant Col Zida effectively marks his acceptance of Burkina Faso's return to civilian leadership. Under the agreement, the president will appoint a prime minister, either a civilian or military figure, who will head a 25-member transitional government. A civilian will also head a 90-seat parliament, which is known as the National Transitional Council. According to the document, no members of the interim regime will be allowed to stand in the November 2015 presidential elections. Mr Kafando previously served as the country's ambassador to the United Nations, between 1998 and 2011. Between 1981 and 1982, he was Burkina Faso's Foreign Affairs minister. AU chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has welcomed Mr Kafando's appointment and has praised the people of Burkina Faso "for their political maturity and sense of responsibility." The AU chief also called for "a smooth transition under the direction of civil authorities." Presidential elections are set to occur in November next year, and will effectively return the country to civilian rule after long-time president Blaise Compaore was ousted in late October.

- **14 November 2014** – Nearly two weeks after the ouster of president Blaise Compaore, Burkina Faso's army has reached an agreement with opposition parties, civil groups and religious leaders for a transition to civilian rule. On Friday, Henry Ye, president of the commission representing the main power players in the West African nation, disclosed that the different factions "unanimously voted" in favor of a transition charter. According to delegates at the talks, under the transition agreement, a special electoral college will choose an interim civilian president. The president will appoint a prime minister, either a civilian or a military figure, who will lead the 25-member transitional government. A civilian will also head a 90-seat parliament, known as the National Transitional Council. No members of the interim regime will be allowed to stand in the next presidential elections, which are scheduled to occur November 2015. The agreement has been backed by some of the country's politicians and leading civil society activists. Former president Compaore was forced to quit on October 31 in the wake of mass protests against his bid to extend his 27-year rule by altering the constitution. While days later the country's army installed Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida, the second-in-command of the presidential guard, as the new leader, the military faced mounting pressure from the international community to transfer power to an interim government. On November 3, the African Union (AU) pressed the Burkinabe army to return power to civilians, giving Lieutenant Colonel Zida a two-week deadline and warning that the country could face sanctions if the time limit was not met. That deadline is set to pass next week.

Regional Reporting

- **21 November 2014** – Burkina Faso's ousted former president Blaise Compaore has arrived in Morocco from Ivory Coast, where he has been in exile since his ouster in a popular revolt late last month. A statement released early Friday by the Moroccan foreign ministry confirmed that Mr Compaore arrived with five other people for a "fixed-term visit." The statement did not provide any specific time frame for how long he will be in the country. On 31 October, just hours after he was ousted from power, Mr Compaore fled to Ivory Coast at the invitation of close ally President Alassane Ouattara. Mr Compaore's presence in the West African country, which was facilitated by the French military, angered supporters of former Ivoirian President Laurent Gbagbo as Mr Compaore is widely seen by Gbagbo's camp as being behind a failed 2002 coup which sought to depose him, and which effectively plunged the Ivory Coast into a nearly decade long conflict.

The Gambia

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

There is no travel advisory for Gambia, however MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance, in the southern region of Senegal.

The Gambian government has reopened the country's border with those nations currently affected by the Ebola outbreak. Health officials will continue to screen people entering the country from Ebola affected countries. There are currently no confirmed Ebola cases in the Gambia.

The Casamance region of south-western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. An outbreak of the Ebola virus has been confirmed in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. While there have been no confirmed cases of the virus in The Gambia, as part of efforts to prevent the deadly virus from spreading into the country, Gambia's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has set up a task force to control the border areas. MS Risk is currently advising all travellers to the country to maintain a high level of vigilance. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Travellers to the country are warned to remain vigilant as attacks can take place at anytime and anywhere.

On the Ground Reporting

- **14 November 2014** – The Gambia has reopened the country's border with those nations currently affected by the Ebola outbreak. The border openings were confirmed by Sanna Sambou, head of disease control in the Gambia, who indicated that the decision was made in order to allow movement of people between the Gambia and its neighbors. Despite the restoration of border crossings, Sambou noted that health authorities will continue to screen people entering the country from Ebola affected nations.

Guinea

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



Security Summary

MS Risk currently advises against all but essential travel to Guinea, except for those who are involved in the direct response to the Ebola outbreak.

The transmission of Ebola in Guinea remains tense. Some airlines have suspended flights to the affected countries due to the deteriorating public health situation. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to Guinea. If you do decide to

travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions. Due to the Ebola outbreak, general medical facilities throughout the country are currently under particular strain. Dedicated healthcare facilities for Ebola can also be under pressure and many medical facilities expect to be paid up-front. Enhanced screening measures have been introduced for outbound passengers at Conakry airport. Delays are likely to be experienced at Guinea's land border crossings, particularly those with Liberia and Sierra Leone. This is due to enhanced screening measures. Guinea-Bissau has closed its land borders with Guinea in a bid to prevent the deadly virus from spreading.



Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone are often tense and have an increased military presence. Therefore, MS Risk advises against all travel to the regions bordering the countries listed above. There have been regular reports of robberies on the routes Mamou, Faranah, Kissidougou, Guekedou, Macent and Nzerekore. MS Risk advises all travellers on these routes to remain vigilant and to avoid travel after dark. Official and unofficial checkpoints may be set up along these routes. Vehicles and passengers are submitted to checks on documentation and baggage. It is advised that you approach such checkpoints with

caution, as corruption and extortion are common at roadblocks. Occasionally, checkpoints can be a pretext for armed robbery. Road travel is hazardous during the rainy season, which occurs from May to October. Torrential rains can cause floods and landslides. MS Risk advises you to monitor the local weather reports and expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

On the Ground Reporting

- **21 November 2014** – Officials in Guinea disclosed Friday that roadside bandits have stolen a cooler containing blood samples that are believed to have Ebola. Officials have warned the population of the risks and have vowed tighter security measures for the transportation of such potentially contagious cargo. According to national health officials, the vehicle was transporting test tubes containing the blood samples when the roadside robbery occurred Wednesday. The attack occurred while the vehicle was en route from Kankan prefecture in central Guinea to a test site in Gueckedou, in the southern region of the country. The bandits held up the minibus taxi, which at the time was carrying samples from a suspected Ebola patient. It remains unknown why they took the blood samples however officials have appealed on national radio for the thieves to return the samples.

Guinea Bissau

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

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

Although the security situation is currently calm, the current political situation remains uncertain throughout the country and the possibility of civil or military unrest in Guinea-Bissau remains high. While political tensions in Guinea-Bissau remain calm, this could change at any moment. All travellers to the country are advised to monitor the political situation and remain vigilant at all times. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northwestern regions of the country, specifically those which border the Casamance region of Senegal, including the Sao Domingos/Mpack road.

On the Ground Reporting

- **15 November 2014** – The country's General Director of Prevention and Health Promotion, Nicholas Almeida, announced Saturday that the country will reopen its borders with Guinea in a bid to facilitate trade between the two countries. Mr Almeida did however note that officials in Guinea-Bissau will continue to reinforce the preventative measures against the Ebola virus, adding that an emergency plan will still be in forced despite the lack of means to fully put it in place. Screening units have been set up at Simoes Mendes hospital in Bissau and across the country, with a health expert indicating that some forty entry points have been identified as requiring great attention.

International Developments

- **15 November 2014** – The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has requested that the Security Council extend its mission in Guinea Bissau by three months, until February 2015. Mr Ban's request was recently discussed during a Council meeting, which was attended by the Secretary General's Special Representative in Guinea Bissau, Miguel Trovoadá. The mission's conclusions and recommendations will be put forth in a report on the political, economic, social and military situation in Guinea Bissau, which will be submitted to the Council by Mr Ban in January.

Ivory Coast

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



Security Summary

An outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali and Liberia. While there currently are no confirmed Ebola cases in the Ivory Coast, the country has taken preventative measures and is at a particularly high risk as it borders Guinea, and Liberia, two countries that have been severely affected by the current outbreak. A previous ban on all flights from countries that have been affected by the outbreak has now been lifted. MS Risk advises all travellers to the Ivory Coast to take the necessary precautions, including maintaining strict standards of hygiene and avoiding eating bush meat.

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut-Sassandra, Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra. Since August 2012, there have been a number of shootings around the capital of Abidjan. Attacks have mainly occurred at night with the targets usually being police and military officials. Further such incidents cannot be ruled out at this time, consequently MS Risk advises those in the capital city to remain vigilant at all times. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by foreigners.



On the Ground Reporting

- **18 November 2014** – The Ivory Coast's Defense Minister Paul Koffi Koffi ordered soldiers to return to their posts Tuesday after they held up traffic in the main city Abidjan in a bid to claim outstanding bonuses that

were promised under a 2007 peace agreement. The protests began in Bouake, the West African country's second largest city, where eyewitnesses reported seeing soldiers erecting barricades. In Abidjan, soldiers and firefighters held up traffic in the central Plateau district, where several ministries as well as the presidential palace are located. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that soldiers fired into the air in Abengourou, which is located in the country's eastern region. **Update (19 November)** – Ivory Coast soldiers returned to their barracks on Wednesday after protests over a pay dispute in several cities that saw them storm a TV station and set up barricades. The country's defense and interior ministers have promised measures aimed at meeting the soldiers' demands, with a meeting set for late Wednesday between government officials and military representatives. A military officer later reported, "calm was returned in the barracks and throughout the country." Waves of protests involving hundreds of soldiers began in the second-largest city of Bouake on Tuesday before extending to the economic capital Abidjan, Ferkessedougou and Khorogo in the north and Bondoukiou and Abengourou in the east. In Bouake, unarmed soldiers took over the state TV and radio station in a bid to broadcast a message related to their demands. They also set up barricades on the streets. Tuesday's protests sparked concern in the Ivory Coast three years after the end of a long crisis that had for a period split the country in two.

International Developments

- **17 November 2014** – The International Criminal Court (ICC) announced Monday that former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo will go on trial for crimes against humanity on 7 July 2015. Mr Gbagbo, 69, faces four counts of crimes against humanity, which were allegedly committed at the end of his decade-long rule after he refused to accept defeat in the November 2010 presidential elections. In the wake of the elections, his supporters clashed mainly with those of President Alassane Ouattara, who was proclaimed the winner by the electoral commission. The five months of clashes resulted in the deaths of at least 3,000 civilians. Mr Gbagbo was arrested in April 2011 by pro-Ouattara forces, which had the backing of France and the United Nations. The following November, he was transferred to The Hague, effectively becoming the first former head of state to face prosecution at the ICC. He and several of his aides have been accused of "ordering, seeking, encouraging or contributing in any other way," to murders, rapes, inhuman acts and persecution. The ICC has also detained onetime student leader and military activist Charles Ble Goude, who served as Mr Gbagbo's right-hand man during his turbulent rule. Mr Ble Goude is suspected of crimes against humanity, and so is Mr Gbagbo's wife, Simone Gbagbo, whom the Ivorian authorities have refused to turn over to the international court. The ICC is currently deciding whether the two trials should be joined as one.

Liberia

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



Security Summary

MS Risk currently advises all but essential travel to Liberia, except for those who are involved in the direct response to the Ebola outbreak.

Cases of the Ebola virus have been confirmed across Liberia, including in the capital city. A nationwide curfew has been lifted.

On July 27, the government announced that all borders of Liberia have been closed, with the exception of major entry points including the Roberts International Airport, James Spriggs Payne Airport, Foya Crossing, Bo Waterside Crossing and Ganta Crossing. The Liberia Airport Authority has also introduced enhanced screening measures for both inbound and outbound travellers at airport facilities. In August, British Airways announced that they were suspending flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone until the end of this year. This is due to the deteriorating public health situation. Some other airlines have also suspended flights to Liberia. MS Risk advises all to carefully assess your need to travel to Liberia. If you do decide to travel, we advise that you make sure you have adequate arrangements in place for onward travel/exit and have adequate emergency health provisions. Due to the Ebola outbreak, general medical facilities throughout the country are currently under particular strain. Dedicated healthcare facilities for Ebola can also be under pressure and many medical facilities expect to be paid up-front.



The Liberian Airport Authority has introduced enhanced screening measures for both inbound and outbound travellers at airport facilities. MS Risk advises all travellers to maintain strict standards of hygiene, avoid contact with symptomatic and deceased patients, avoid contact with live or dead animals and avoid consumption of bush meat

MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to parts of Liberia, specifically those regions of the country that border with the Ivory Coast. There is a high level of crime in Monrovia, including armed robbery. The Liberian National Police has a very limited capability to prevent or detect crime, or to provide emergency response in any part of the country. Foreigners have been mugged in the Mamba Point and Sinkor areas of Monrovia (including Sinkor beach in broad daylight) where most international visitors stay. The roads from Monrovia to Roberts International Airport, the port town of Buchanan and to the border with Sierra Leone at Bo Waterside, and to the border with Guinea at Ganta, are mainly paved and in reasonable condition. Most other roads outside Monrovia are unpaved. Driving and road conditions will significantly deteriorate during the rainy season, which occurs from May to November. Many roads during this time become impassable. MS Risk advises against all travel at night outside of Monrovia, except to or from Roberts International Airport. This is because roads are treacherous and all the roads are unlit. Furthermore, vehicles often do not have any lights. As a result, travellers after dark are more vulnerable to being robbed at an illegal barricade. There is a low threat from terrorism.

On the Ground Reporting

- **13 November 2014** – On Thursday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson lifted the state of emergency initially imposed to control an Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the country. In a nationwide address, President Sirleaf disclosed that night curfews would be reduced and that weekly markets could take place across the country, adding that preparations were being made for the re-opening of schools. The Liberian president did however warn that the decision to lift the state of emergency did not mean, “the fight is over.” Although the World Health Organization (WHO) recently reported that “there is some evidence that case incidence is no longer increasing nationally in Guinea and Liberia,” some reports have suggested that new hotspots have emerged in Liberia, indicated that the outbreak is still far from over. Liberia’s state of emergency was imposed in August, and effectively allowed local authorities to curb movement in the country’s worst affected areas, including the capital Monrovia. The confirmed death toll from the Ebola virus is now at 5,160 people, with almost all of the deaths occurring in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- **10 November 2014** – A government statement released Monday disclosed that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has ordered that four soldiers and their commanding officer be punished for their actions during a protest over an Ebola quarantine back in August. During the protest, which was against a decision to impose a quarantine in the West Point neighborhood of the capital city Monrovia, one boy was shot dead and several others were injured when soldiers and armed police deployed to disperse the crowds following an attack on an Ebola holding center. While the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) initially denied responsibility for the violence, an inquiry board was later set up to investigate the incident. A statement issued late Sunday disclosed “the findings from the Disciplinary Board of the AFL conclude that a Platoon Commander and four enlisted men were guilty of indiscretion and exhibited indiscipline on August 20, 2014.” Sources have revealed that Lieutenant Aloysius Quaye was found guilty of conduct unbecoming of an officer and dereliction in the performance of duty. The Board recommended punishment, including demotion in rank and thirty days in correctional custody. Two soldiers under Lieutenant Quaye’s command were found guilty of assault and arbitrary use of force, while two others were convicted of making false statements. The Board recommended that the four soldiers receive sentences including thirty days in custody. A statement released by the president’s office indicated that President Sirleaf has ordered that the military justice system apply the board’s recommended punishments. The government has agreed to pay the victim’s family

compensation. Liberia is one of three countries currently affected by the worst Ebola outbreak on record. The West African country has been one of the hardest-hit.

- The US has opened the first of 17 Ebola treatment units in Liberia. The new clinic opened in Tubmanburg, which is located 60 kilometers (40 miles) north of the capital city Monrovia. The US has authorized the Pentagon to deploy up to 4,000 service members to Liberia in a bid to build the 100-bed units and to bring supplies into the country. The US will also help train medical workers and burial teams. While the number of people with Ebola appears to be declining in the capital city, according to a recent report released by the World Health Organization (WHO), more cases are appearing in other areas of the West African country. To date, Liberia has lost more than 2,700 people to the deadly disease.

Domestic News

- **17 November 2014** – On Sunday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf replaced her health minister, a move that is part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle and comes amidst widespread criticism of the Liberian government's response to the Ebola outbreak. In a statement read out on state radio, the president disclosed that Health Minister Walter Gwenigale will be replaced by George Warner, who was the head of the civil service, adding that "Dr Gwenigale...will continue to serve as adviser in the Ministry of Health and will continue to work with me on the presidential advisory Ebola committee until his planned retirement February." Liberia has recorded more than 2,700 confirmed, probable and suspected deaths as a result of the Ebola outbreak, more than any other country currently affected by the epidemic. Critics however have accused the Liberian government of conducting a heavy-handed but ineffective response, noting that journalists have been harassed, and that unrest erupted after officials attempted to quarantine a large neighborhood in the capital city.
- **12 November 2014** – Liberia has urged the UN not to reduce its peacekeeping force deployed in the country, warning that the Ebola outbreak is threatening peace and social cohesion. Liberia's UN Ambassador Marjon Kamara told the UN Security Council Wednesday that a strong international presence in the West African country is "a critical stabilizing factor in a situation where the social, political and economic environments are fluid and delicate." She has requested that the Council extend the mandate of the mission for another year. After the Ebola outbreak earlier this year, the Council backed a recommendation by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to extend the mission in Liberia until December 31 and to delay any cuts until then. In 2012, the Council ordered that the military force be reduced from 7,950 military personnel to 3,750 by July 2015. At the end of September 2014, the mission had just over 4,500 military personnel on the ground in Liberia.

International Developments

- **12 November 2014** – The United States announced Wednesday that its military will scale back its planned Ebola response deployments to Liberia from 4,000 troops to 3,000. Army Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky has disclosed that the troop total is expected to increase from the current 2,200 to 3,000 by mid-December, noting that because "there is a lot of capacity here that we didn't know about before," specifically citing private contracting capacity to build facilities that will support the treatment of Ebola patients, the US is now in a position where they can reduce its force, which was originally seen as necessary.

Mali

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary



On 23 October 2014, Mali's Health Minister confirmed the country's first Ebola case. The index case involves a two-year-old girl who recently travelled from Guinea to Bamako, where she stayed ten days before travelling to the western town of Kayes. The girl has since died of Ebola, and all contacts have been traced, with no Ebola cases reported.

A second outbreak of Ebola in Mali has occurred. On 11 November, a nurse based at the Clinique Pasteur hospital in Bamako died from Ebola, becoming the second confirmed case in Mali. The nurse had been treating a man who had travelled to Mali from Guinea, and who himself died in Bamako on 27 October. The deceased patient is also being regarded as a suspected case of Ebola. Malian authorities have closed the Clinique Pasteur in Bamako are seeking to trace all those who may have been in contact with the patient and the nurse. This includes clinic staff, family members and associates. The authorities are also seeking to establish whether the death in Bamako of an associate of the patient was also due to Ebola. On 21 November, the World

Health Organization (WHO) reported that all 6 known cases of Ebola in Mali have died, and that 327 contacts are being monitored. MS Risk currently advises all travellers to Mali to take caution, maintain strict standards of hygiene and avoid eating bush meat. There has been an outbreak of the Ebola virus, which has been confirmed in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

MS Risk advises against all travel to the provinces of Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti, as well as parts of the provinces of Kayes, Koulikoro and Segou. While a ceasefire between the Malian government and three rebel groups was signed on 23 May 2014, the situation in the country remains tense. There have also been related violent protests that have occurred in the capital, Bamako, and there is a strong possibility of further unrest. MS Risk advises all travellers to Mali to avoid large crowds and demonstrations.

MS Risk advises against all travel to Bamako. We also advise against all travel to the rest of Mali, especially to the northern regions of the country. Although Bamako is generally calm, the situation throughout the rest of the country is still volatile.

If you are in Bamako, MS Risk advises you to maintain a high level of vigilance, to keep a low profile and to stay alert to the local political developments. We also advise that you avoid sensitive areas, including military installations and large gatherings of people. Night time checkpoints continue to operate in Bamako, largely controlling access to military and government facilities. Checkpoints are in place from approximately 9PM until dawn.

During the rainy season, which runs from May until October, torrential rains can cause floods and landslides, and may result in houses collapsing. In late August, there were reports of flash flooding that occurred in Bamako. The neighborhoods of Bankoni, Taliko, Lafiabougou, Djicoroni Woyowayanko, Lafiabougou Bougouba and Bougoudani were all hit by floods during the rains storms which lasted most of the day. MS Risk advises anyone in the capital city to monitor the local weather reports and to expect difficulties when travelling to affected areas during this season.

Terrorism

There still remains a high threat from terrorism in Mali. No curfew is currently in place however MS Risk advises those in the country to monitor the local media for reports of any new measures.

Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. There is also a high threat of kidnapping in Mali by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and by the splinter group, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA). Although AQIM uses the northern region of Mali as an operating base, it has proven its capability of travelling long distances in order to carry out attacks, some of which have occurred in neighboring countries. As such the kidnap threat cannot be isolated within the northern regional stronghold. In turn, criminal gangs have previously been engaged to carry out kidnappings for terrorist groups in return for financial rewards. Subsequently attacks can take place throughout Mali.

There have been incidents of armed banditry, car-jacking, and kidnap in the northern regions of Mali. Bandits and smugglers are particularly active across the Mali-Algeria, Mali-Burkina Faso, Mali-Mauritania and Mali-Niger borders and pose a threat to travellers, especially after dark. Authorities in Mali have provided the following numbers in case of emergencies:

- 80 00 11 14
- 80 00 11 15
- 20 22 13 35
- 20 23 95 15

- 20 23 95 11

Kidnapping

In the past, a number of Westerners have been kidnapped by terrorists in Mali and in the Sahel region. Since 2008, over 25 Westerners have been kidnapped in the Sahel. Victims have included tourists, NGO workers and diplomats of a variety of nationalities, primarily European. These attacks have on occasion resulted in the murder of the hostages. The recent kidnapping of a French citizen in the western region of the country has come as a shock as the area where he was taken has been perceived as being stable and under governmental control. In the past, kidnap threats have typically emanated from the Azawad region in the north and east part of the county, as such this incident in the west has caused great concern. MS Risk forecasts that there will be an increased and sustained kidnap threat across Mali and in certain border-regions for some time to come. Incidents of kidnap are likely to occur for three primary reasons:

- For Ransom - insurgents will raise finances for future operations. With the impending ECOWAS operation, this is accelerating as a concern.
- Human Shields - Insurgents will kidnap persons in order to deter/reduce the risk of direct action by governmental forces against them.
- Ideological - Kidnappings will occur for political purposes.

Since the coup in March 2012, and due to the ongoing political unrest, MS RISK judges that there is a continued heightened threat of kidnap for ransom in Mali and as such further attacks and kidnappings are highly likely to occur. Furthermore, although it is difficult to forecast how severe this threat will emerge, all affected organizations are recommended to review their current operations and contingencies which is in line to the previous advice which has been given. MS RISK currently advises against all travel to Mali.

Local Travel

Although the military intervention has regained control of the major northern cities in Mali, the situation remains tense in the region and there continues to be a high risk of retaliatory action by terrorist groups. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern region of Mali, especially to the cities/towns of Gao, In Khalil, Kidal, and Timbuktu as well as the surrounding areas. Landmines have been used by groups operating in the north and northeast of Mali.

Night-time checkpoints continue to operate in Bamako. These checkpoints largely control access to military and Government facilities. Checkpoints are in place from approximately 9PM until dawn. MS Risk advises to keep vehicle and personal identification documents with you at all times while travelling by road. Furthermore, approach security checkpoints slowly and comply with instructions that are given.

MS RISK Guidance to Organizations in Mali:

With western diplomatic missions all warning against unnecessary travel to Mali, those companies with fixed interests in the country need to take measured precautions if they have not done so already. This is especially an issue for organizations with any interest in the so-called Azawad region - that portion of the country, which is under insurgent control. Preparations should include the following:

- Thinning out non-essential staff and dependents
- Restricting expat and local national internal travel

- Seeking advice from the security forces
- Ensuring journey management systems are in place and work
- Reviewing crisis management contingencies and carrying out exercises of these plans
- Registration of expatriates with relevant diplomatic missions and seeking advice on what support will be forthcoming (if any) if conditions deteriorate
- Liaison with insurers to know any exclusions or limits to existing cover

On the Ground Reporting

- **22 November 2014** – On Saturday Malian officials confirmed a new case of Ebola and indicated that two more suspected patients are being tested, raising concerns about a further spread of the disease in the country. A statement released by the Malian government Saturday disclosed that a patient who tested positive “was placed in an isolation center for intensive treatment.” No details further details about the patient were provided. Malian officials are currently monitoring 310 people. The country’s five confirmed Ebola deaths have been linked to a 70-year-old imam who was brought to the capital, Bamako, from Guinea.
 - Suspected Islamist fighters kidnapped 10 children and killed two others who tried to escape near two towns in Mali on Saturday. According to Lieutenant Colonel Diaran Kone, an official at Mali’s defense ministry, Saturday’s incident occurred in the morning at settlements outside the towns of Kidal and Aguelhod. The official further disclosed that the kidnappings were “...forced recruitment of child soldiers.” The kidnappings occurred a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a phosphate mine in the town of Bourem. According to a statement released Friday, no casualties were caused in that attack.
- **21 November 2014** – Health officials confirmed Friday that a doctor died of Ebola on Thursday after treating an imam who succumbed to the disease late last month. The doctor’s death has brought the total toll in the West African country to seven. According to the Malian health ministry, the doctor had been undergoing treatment for Ebola for nearly two weeks. A statement released by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that the deadly Ebola virus was “almost certainly re-introduced into Mali by a 70-year-old Gran Imam from Guinea, who was admitted to Bamako’s Pasteur clinic on 25 October and died on 27 October.” A total of five patients, all of whom have died, are now linked to the imam. This includes the doctor, a male nurse who had cared for the imam at Pasteur clinic, and a friend who came to visit the imam. Last month, in an unconnected case in the western Malian town of Kayes, a two-year-old girl also died from the disease. The health ministry indicated Friday that a total of 303 people were under surveillance.
- **14 November 2014** – Health officials in Mali confirmed Friday that the country is trying to trace at least 200 contacts linked to confirmed and probable Ebola victims in an effort to control its second Ebola outbreak. While an initial batch of contacts, linked to a 2-year-old from Guinea who died of Ebola last month, were close to the end of their 21-day quarantine period, earlier this week, Malian officials confirmed the country’s second case. Since then, there have been at least four more suspected Ebola deaths, all linked to an imam who entered Mali from neighboring Guinea and who died late last month with Ebola-like symptoms that

were not recognized. On Friday, Malian Health Ministry Spokesman Marakite Dow disclosed that a woman who had helped wash the imam's body had died on Thursday at the Gabriel Tour Hospital in Mali's capital city. The spokesman further indicated that an initial Ebola test for the woman had come back positive, effectively making her the fourth clinically confirmed Malian case. A World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman has confirmed that more than 250 contacts are currently being traced across four locations, including the Pasteur clinic, where the imam was treated, as well as a house in Bamako that he visited and the home of a nurse who treated him and who died earlier this week. **Update (17 November)** – Malian officials confirmed Monday that they have placed more than 440 people, who may have been exposed to Ebola, under surveillance. According to Samba Sow, of the Ebola emergency operations center, "the number of contacts followed by health services amounts to 442. They have all been placed under observation for health control," adding "the death toll has not changed since November 15, and remains three related to and including the Guinean patient's death and one death in Kayes." The official further indicated that a doctor who had contracted the virus at the Pasteur clinic was "being treated by specialized services." On Friday, a government official disclosed that two people who died after exposure to the body of an imam were also "highly suspected" of having contracted the deadly virus. The two cases however are not confirmed and they have not been counted among the official statistics.

- **13 November 2014** – In the wake of a second Ebola outbreak, Malian officials have indicated that they are reinforcing health controls at border posts, but have warned that they have no plans to close the country's borders after a man with Ebola arrived from Guinea and infected several others, including a nurse. The nurse's death on Tuesday prompted the quarantine of more than 90 people, including several UN peacekeepers. Mali's first Ebola case occurred last month, after a two-year-old girl, who had travelled from Guinea to Mali, died of the deadly disease. While Mali's initial group of people linked to the 2-year-old girl are set to complete a 21-day quarantine on Tuesday, with no further cases reported, the country's health officials will now have to trace those who had contact with the nurse and three others infected with Ebola. An imam, who had travelled from the border town of Kourmale, died of Ebola-like symptoms late last month, however he was never tested for the virus. In a series of rites that may have exposed many mourners to the deadly disease, his contagious body was washed in a mosque in Bamako before returning to Guinea for burial. The WHO has indicated that there were now three confirmed and probable Ebola deaths in Mali, adding that one was a person who had visited the imam while he was in hospital. A doctor at the Pasteur Clinic, where the nurse worked, is also suspected of having contracted Ebola. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has urged that the WHO and health services in Mali and neighboring countries set up a permanent information exchange in order to disseminate information about public health and hygiene.

Mauritania

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary

Due to the current Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone, Mauritania has closed some of its southern border crossings. MS Risk advises all travellers to the area to check with local officials. Mauritanian authorities have decided to deny entry to citizens arriving from those African countries that have been affected by the current Ebola outbreak.

MS Risk advises against all travel to the provinces of Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant, Hodh el Chargui, Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Inchiri. We also advise against all travel to the northern and eastern regions of the country, especially the desert areas north of Oualata-Tichit-Ouadane-Zouerat line, as well as the border areas with Algeria, Mali and Morocco. MS Risk also advises against all but essential travel to the rest of the country, which includes travel along the Nouakchott-Nouadhibou corridor which comprises of the north-south arterial road that runs between these two cities and which passes through Nouamghar. This is due to extremist groups and armed smugglers that are active in these areas, which has resulted in high threats of terrorism as well as a heightened risk of banditry and kidnapping.

Terrorism



Following the French military intervention in Mali there has been a heightened possibility of retaliatory attacks that may target Western interests in the region. Attacks could be indiscriminate and by occur in places that are frequented by foreigners. Consequently we advise vigilance.

Kidnapping

There is a high risk of kidnapping throughout Mauritania and Westerners are the favoured target. In the past, hostages have been held captive for several months before being released. MS Risk advises anyone traveling to Mauritania to take particular caution in the region of Inchire (Akjoujt is the capita) as well as in the areas that border Mali and Morocco.

For companies with employees remaining in Mauritania, MS Risk advises you to arrange a trustworthy escort that is familiar with the country. The use of varied and unpredictable routes and schedules when moving from one location to another is also highly advised. Exercise a high awareness of personal security at all times and monitor the local developments. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of 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.

Niger

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillaberi province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; areas within 40 km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder and Maradi provinces. MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city of Niamey. There remains a high threat from, including kidnapping, in Niger.

On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in its northern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Borno and Yobe border southern Niger. Consequently there is a risk that instability may spill over the border from Nigeria to Niger. There is a high threat of kidnapping from terrorist groups including AQIM and MOJWA. These groups have kidnapped Westerners in Niger and in the wider Sahel region, including in Niamey and the north and west of Niger. Further kidnappings are likely to occur. There is a threat of retaliatory attacks in Niger, due to the country's participation in the French-led intervention in Mali. Levels of crime are high, especially in the capital city of Niamey. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. Banditry, smuggling and other criminal activity is common in border areas, especially after dark. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria, south of Zinder. MS Risk advises avoiding crossing the border with Nigeria during the hours of darkness.



On the Ground Reporting

- **19 November 2014** – Military sources have reported that on Wednesday, Niger deployed army helicopters to its western border with Mali in a bid to repel unidentified militants who crossed over to attack the town of Bani-Bangou. Residents have disclosed that the attackers had arrived on trucks and motorcycles during the afternoon before exchanging fire with Niger's security forces. The fighting caused dozens of locals to flee the area. Nigerien military sources later reported that calm had returned to the area by late Wednesday evening, adding that there were at least two serious injuries on their side. Niger's poorly policed western border is close to Mali's desert north, where militants linked to al-Qaeda have been hiding in an attempt to regroup since a French-led military intervention ended their nine-month occupation of the region last year. In late October, at least twelve people, including nine members of Niger's security forces, were killed in attacks by unidentified insurgents in the nearby western Tillabery region.
- **13 November 2014** – The mayor of Niger's capital city has dismissed the city's entire 204-strong municipal force after officers clashed with security forces during a protest over working conditions. On Tuesday, during a 48-hour walkout, municipal policemen blocked access to Niamey's city hall, a move that prompted Mayor Assane Seydou to summon a detachment of the national security forces, which used truncheons and teargas in order to disperse the protesters. A statement released by the Mayor's office Thursday disclosed, "the municipal police agents of the city of Niamey...are dismissed...for serious misconduct, rebellion against municipal authorities and interruption of public service." The statement further indicated that the dismissed policemen would not receive severance pay, and ordered them to hand in their uniforms and equipment by Saturday. According to one of the officers involved in Tuesday's protests, "more than 20 municipal police officers were arrested by the national police during the strike and the violence." For the time being, national security forces have replaced the Niamey city police, who are not armed while on duty. Last year, Niger established municipal police forces in a bid to help protect mayors and town halls and to maintain order and collect municipal taxes.

Domestic News

- **21 November 2014** – Niger's constitutional court declared Thursday that the post of parliament speaker is vacant after the incumbent, who had been named in a baby trafficking scandal, fled to France. The court requested lawmakers to elect a new head within fifteen days, which is in line with the country's constitution. The former speaker, Hama Amadou, who had been seen as a leading challenger to President Mahamadou Issoufou in the upcoming presidential elections in 2016, left Niger on August 27 after lawmakers approved his questioning in the scandal. After arriving in Belgium, Amadou later traveled to Belgium, and is currently in France. At the end of September, Niger issued an arrest warrant for him. Seventeen people, 12 of them women, including one of Amadou's wives, were arrested in late June for their suspected involvement in a baby-trafficking ring between Nigeria, Benin and Niger. Amadou has maintained that the charges against him are politically motivated.

Nigeria

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Security Summary

Summary

On 20 October 2014, the World Health Organization declared Nigeria Ebola-free. An Ebola outbreak has been confirmed in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. While Nigeria has been declared Ebola-free, due to the intensity of the ongoing outbreak, a second outbreak of Ebola in Nigeria cannot be ruled out. MS Risk advises all travellers to the region to remain cautious.



Boko Haram's Islamic State

Over the past several weeks, Nigeria has been rapidly losing control of large areas of the northeast to Boko Haram, which is attempting to carve out an Islamic State. With reports surfacing on 12 September 2014 that the militant group has “completely surrounded” the city of Maiduguri, if the Nigerian military fails to carry out military operations to secure the area and reinforce the capital city, it is highly likely that Borno state, along with some areas of neighboring Adamawa and Yobe states, will fall to the militant group in the coming weeks. Boko Haram appears to be carrying out a two-pronged assault, from the northeast to the southeast, with militants likely to be reinforcing the captured areas prior to taking over Maiduguri.

Boko Haram was founded in Maiduguri in 2002, making the state capital a high value target for them. Boko Haram have seized territory along at least two of the main approaches to the capital city, while their control of towns and settlements to the south and near the border with Cameroon have effectively cut off the Nigerian military, preventing them from responding quickly and carrying out operations to recapture the area. In recent weeks, Boko Haram militants have destroyed several key bridges, including one on the road from Biu to Maiduguri, a bridge near Gamboru Ngala that links Nigeria to Cameroon, a bridge in Potiskum that links Maiduguri and Damaturu to Abuja and a bridge in Yobe that links to the southern areas of Borno and Adamawa. Some of the destroyed bridges were strategically linked to Maiduguri and have now made it difficult for the Nigerian military to reinforce Maiduguri and other towns in Borno state.

Further out, in Borno, Boko Haram are believed to have seized Gamboru Ngala, Dikwa, Gwoza and Marte. Bama has also been reported captured by the militants however the Nigerian military and some locals have contested these reports. Damboa, which was seized in July, has since been reported to have been retaken. In Adamawa state, Madagali has been captured while in Yobe, Buni Yadi has been taken. Other communities in the northeastern region of Nigeria, which are believed to have been seized or heavily contested, include Banki, Kerawa, Ashigashiy, Ngoshe, Pulka and Goniri. Further seizures of towns in the area, and which border Cameroon, cannot be ruled out at this time.

We advise against all travel to Adamawa State, Borno State, Yobe State, Gombe State and Bauchi State. This is due to the frequent violent attacks, which have been occurring over the past months. We advise against all but essential travel to Kano state, Kaduna State, Jigwa State, Katsina State, Sokoto State, Zamfara State, Kebbi State, Jos City, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas in Plateau State; Okene Region of Kogi State. These areas have witnessed an increase in violent attacks. We also advise against all but essential travel to Mubi Town in Adamawa State and the area north of Mubi Town that borders Borno State where there has also been a rise in violent attacks. We also advise against all but essential travel to the non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States, Abia State, Kaduna City, Zaria City.

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

Northern Nigeria

Travelling anywhere in the northern region of Nigeria is extremely dangerous as there is a high risk of travellers being kidnapped or caught up in a terrorist or other violent incident. While taking the right precautions will aid in reducing the risks, this will not eliminate them all together. MS Risk advises all travellers to the northern region of the country to not maintain regular patterns of travel or movement.

If you live in northern Nigeria, you are advised to review your security regularly and to strengthen it accordingly. Due to the risks, particularly of terrorism, having increased in the past few years, good security two years ago is unlikely to be adequate now.

Companies with workers in northern Nigeria, even in areas which are not subject to specific advice against travel, will require a high level of security. In light of the recent kidnappings of Westerners, employers are advised to review their security arrangements and to ensure that compounds are protected.

Kidnapping

Although recent incidents of kidnapping have mostly occurred in northern Nigeria, MS Risk advises that such kidnappings can take place anywhere in the country

Threats and Terrorism

Attacks by Islamist groups in northern Nigeria have become the biggest threat to stability in Africa's top oil producing country. This has been exacerbated by the fact that Western governments are currently concerned that militants may link up with groups elsewhere in the region, including al-Qaeda's North African wing, AQIM. These concerns have been further intensified by the conflict and military intervention in nearby Mali.

On the Ground Reporting

- **23 November 2014** – Boko Haram gunmen have killed 48 fish vendors in Borno State, near the border with Chad. According to Abubakar Gamandi, the head of the fish traders association, “scores of Boko Haram fighters blocked a route linking Nigeria with Chad near the fishing village of Doron Baga on the shores of Lake Chad on Thursday and killed a group of 48 fish traders on their way to Chad to buy fish.” He further indicated that the insurgents set up a barricade at Dogon Fili, 15 kilometer's (9 miles) from Doron Baga and stopped a convoy of fish vendors around midday, slaughtering some of them and drowning others in the lake. Doron Baga, which is located 180 kilometers from Maiduguri, is the base of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which comprises of troops from Nigeria, Chad and Niger, which are currently fighting the Islamist group. Gamandi's claimed that the assailants killed all of their victims without using their guns in order “...to avoid attracting attention from the multi-national troops.” A military officer in Maiduguri confirmed the attack, but noted that officials were still gathering information. News of the attack was slow to emerge due to the destruction of mobile phone towers in the area by Boko Haram militants in previous attacks.
- **20 November 2014** – Nigerian troops, backed by civilian vigilantes, have reclaimed two towns seized by Boko Haram militants last week. The re-capture of the towns of Gombi and Hong on Tuesday is the latest success the military has recorded against Boko Haram in recent days. Local residents have confirmed the recapture of both towns, indicating that the soldiers and vigilantes, backed by fighters jets, stormed the towns on Monday, engaging the militants in a fierce gunfight Tuesday before the militants fled the town. At least 10 soldiers and several militants were killed in the fighting. Boko Haram militants took over Gombi and Hong last Thursday after pushing out troops. The capture came shortly after the militant group was ousted from the commercial town of Mubi and forced hundreds of residents to flee the area, while others remained trapped. A statement released by the military Tuesday disclosed “the ongoing military operations in northeastern Nigeria is to clear all areas infested by terrorist,” adding that “many” militants were captured in the operation while others died in the assault and “weapons and equipment are also being recovered while a mopping-up exercise is ongoing in the areas.”
 - Officials and witnesses reported Thursday that at least 45 people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram attack in northeastern Nigeria. The attack occurred at about 12:00 PM (1100 GMT) Wednesday in the village of Azaya Kura in the Mafa area of Borno state. One resident reported that the heavily armed militants arrived on motorcycles and “...destroyed more than half of the houses in our village, burnt over 50 motorcycles and four cars before they took away foodstuff and animals.” Locals also reported that at least 50 people were injured in the attack, with some indicating that the militants had blocked exits to prevent people from fleeing. Mafa, which is located about 50 kilometers (30 miles) east by road from the Borno state capital, Maiduguri, and the surrounding area has been repeatedly attacked by the militant group in recent months. On 26 October, suspected Boko Haram fighters abducted about thirty boys and girls, some of them as young as 11 and 13. At the time, locals had indicated that many were forced to flee the region because of almost daily raids. Earlier this year

in March, some 29 people were killed after flyers were distributed in the area warning of an impending attack.

- **16 November 2014** – A female suicide bomber set off an explosion in northeaster Nigeria, killing at least 13 people and injuring 65. According to police officials, the bomber struck the market in Azare, which is located 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Bauchi.
- **14 November 2014** – In the past twenty-four hours, Boko Haram militants have invaded three towns in Nigeria's northeastern states of Adamawa and Borno after being ousted from a key town in the area by civilian vigilantes. Reports surfaced Friday that Boko Haram militants have seized control of the northeastern town of Chibok, which is home to more than 200 schoolgirls who were kidnapped by the insurgents in April. According to local residents, militants attacked and took control of the town on Thursday evening. Ali Ndume, a senator for Borno state, confirmed that Chibok is now under Boko Haram's control, adding that security forces posted in the town left the area as the insurgents attacked. The capture of Chibok came hours after the militant group seized control of two other towns in neighboring Adamawa state. According to local residents, the Islamist fighters raided the towns of Hong and Gombi, located some 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) from the state capital Yola after they were pushed out of the commercial hub of Mubi, which they seized two weeks ago. Locals in Mubi reported Friday that many of Mubi's residents have not yet returned to the town over fears that Boko Haram may launch further attacks in a bid to recapture the key town. Mubi, the second largest town in the northeastern Adamawa state, was the biggest town under the militants group's control and is the first it has lost since August, when Boko Haram's leader Abubakar Shekau declared a caliphate in the seized areas. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that vigilantes reclaimed the town of Maiha on Wednesday after a fierce battle, with scores of insurgents said to have been killed. Despite apparently losing control of Mubi, which Boko Haram had renamed Madinatul Islam, or "City of Islam in Arabic, the invasion of Hong and Gombi effectively see's the militant group moving closer to the state capital city, where thousands of residents have taken refuge in recent months. Local residents in Gombi have reported that since taking control of the town, Boko Haram militants have been patrolling the streets and firing heavy weaponry at random, with other locals disclosing that many are either staying indoors or have fled into the bush, adding that militants burnt down the police station, the local government secretariat and the town's market after they overpowered the local police. In Hong, which is located 20 kilometers away, the police station was also razed, with the militants reportedly raising their black flag outside the home of a retired military general. Boko Haram is believed to be in control of more than two dozen towns in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. As part of its goal of establishing a hardline caliphate in the region, in recent months Boko Haram has opted to attack and hold towns in the region, a move that was not previously seen in the militant group's five-year insurgency. **Update (16 November 2014)** – The Nigerian army disclosed Sunday that it has recaptured and "secured" the northeastern town of Chibok, indicating that troops had taken control of the town Saturday evening. According to sources, the town was re-taken in a joint operation carried out with local vigilantes, known as the Civilian Joint Task Force, who have backed the Nigerian military in several parts of the northeast where Boko Haram is active.
- Nigeria's military disclosed Friday that three servicemen were killed in a military helicopter crash in the restive northeast region of the country. The second crash to occur within a week happened late Thursday in Yola, the capital of Adamawa state. A statement released by the military indicated that the aircraft involved was a ground attack helicopter on an armed patrol, adding that an investigation into the incident will be carried out. Despite an increase in Boko Haram activity in the state in recent weeks, there was no immediate indication from officials that the militant group was involved in the

crash. On Monday, the military disclosed that another helicopter had made an emergency landing near Yola airport. No casualties were reported in that incident.

- At least six people, including three police officers, were killed in a suspected Boko Haram suicide at a petrol station in Kano City. According to Kano state police commissioner Adelenre Shinaba, “a man driving a Toyota Sienna drove into the filling station as if he was going to buy fuel. The vehicle exploded causing six deaths, including three policemen.” The attack, which occurred at about 7:30 pm (1830 GMT) at the Nagarshiku filling station in the Hotoro area of the city, has been blamed on Boko Haram however the militant group has not claimed responsibility.
- **12 November 2014** – Police officials disclosed Wednesday that a female suicide bomber injured four people at a teacher training college in northwestern Nigeria, blowing herself up before she was able to reach her target. Although students at the scene had initially reported that at least ten people were feared to have been killed in the blast, which occurred at the Federal College of Education in Kontagora, Niger state, state police spokesman Ibrahim Gambari later disclosed that only the bomber was killed, and that four civilians, including three students and a bystander, had sustained injuries. The latest suicide bombing came just two days after nearly sixty people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram suicide bombing that occurred at a school in Potiskum, in the northeastern state of Yobe. Wednesday’s bombing in Niger state however is of particular concern, as the state has not been touched by the insurgency in more than two years. Furthermore, Kontagora is located roughly 2,000 kilometers (1,200) miles from Boko Haram’s northeastern stronghold, with the latest attack likely to raise new security concerns if it is linked to the Islamist uprising. In recent months, Boko Haram militants have targeted a number of educational establishments in northeastern Nigeria, with some of the attacks carried out by female suicide bombers. On September 18, at least 13 were killed in Kano during a shootout between police and suspected suicide bombers. The incident occurred at a teacher training college. On July 30, a female suicide bomber killed six people when she detonated her explosives at a noticeboard on the campus of the Kano Polytechnic College. That attack was the fourth to be carried out by a female bomber in the city within a week. It also prompted local authorities to cancel public celebrations marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The bombings were linked to Boko Haram, which is opposed to so-called “Western education.”

Domestic News

- **21 November 2014** – On Thursday, Nigerian police fired teargas inside parliament in an apparent attempt to block opposition lawmakers, including the speaker of the lower house, from entering for a key security vote. In the midst of the chaos, lower house members rejected a government request to extend emergency rule in the northeast region, which has been hit by Boko Haram attacks, and announced that the special powers had expired. The country’s main opposition indicated Thursday that it opposed prolonging the state of emergency, describing it as a complete failure that had not curbed the Islamist violence. The decision to vote against the emergency ruling came as local government officials and residents reported that Boko Haram militants were suspected of killing at least 45 people on Wednesday in an attack on the village of Azaya Kura in the Mafa area of Borno state. Earlier in the week, the Nigerian government announced that it would seek to extend emergency rule in the restive northeastern region of the country for another six months, effectively meaning that the measures will likely be in force for February’s presidential elections. On Monday, Justice Minister Mohammed Bello Adoke confirmed that officials have “...reviewed the state of emergency declared in three states and the government will be requesting the national assembly to grant the extension,” adding that the extension request will likely be given to lawmakers on Tuesday. In May

2013, President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, stating that the military temporarily needed enhanced powers in order to end Boko Haram's uprising. Despite mounting evidence that the measures had done nothing in order to ease the crisis, lawmakers in November 2013 and May 2014 approved two extension requests. On Wednesday however Nigerian Senators demanded to hear testimony from top military brass before voting on the government's request for a third extension of the emergency rule. Many critics have indicated that the emergency rule has been a complete failure as violence has worsened since the emergency rule was imposed in May last year. Lawmakers in the upper house have so far refused to vote on the extension, with opposition senator Kabiru Gaya from northern Kano state telling journalists "I believe that we have to wait until we hear from the service chiefs, if they are able to answer our questions then we can take the next step." The speaker of the lower house, Aminu Tambuwal, later called on lawmakers from that body of government back from recess in order to hold an emergency vote on the extension on Thursday. The focus of the police aggression on Thursday appears to have been aimed at lower house speaker Aminu Tambuwal, whose defection to the All Progressives Congress (APC) party last month outraged the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). Since then, the PDP had attempted to remove Tambuwal from the speaker's chair and has stripped him of his security detail. On the ground sources reported that police repeatedly tried to stop Tambuwal, and 40 other lawmakers, from approaching the main gate of parliament. While the group managed to pass several police barricades, officers later locked the gate that leads into the parliament complex resulting in lawmakers pushing aggressively on the bars to force their way through, with some scaling the gate. According to police spokesman Emmanuel Ojukwu, officers were initially acting on reports that "hoodlums and thugs" had planned an "invasion" of parliament, adding that Tambuwal and his allies had defied police orders, assaulted officers and were to blame for the escalation in tensions. While Senate President David Mark ordered the immediate closure of both chambers over the teargas incident, with the chambers of the National Assembly remaining closed until Tuesday, House of Representatives spokesman Zakaria Mohammed later disclosed that the chamber had held a brief session before the parliament was shut down, where they decided to reject the extension of the state of emergency. The reluctance to sign off on the extension highlights the mounting criticism of the President's state of emergency policy, with opposition senators on Tuesday describing the strategy as "a failure." In recent months, the crisis in northeastern Nigeria has deepened, with Boko Haram capturing and holding several key towns in the states under the emergency rule. Boko Haram is now believed to be in control of roughly two dozen towns in the region and appears to be attempting to position itself as a rebel authority in certain areas. While President Jonathan's critics initially applauded the state of emergency, describing it as a sign that he was finally treating the Boko Haram threat with urgency, many now state that the President has over the past 18 months failed to back up the emergency rule, ignoring calls for sufficient troops and military hardware on the ground, amidst reports that Boko Haram militants are overrunning soldiers in many areas.

Senegal

No Travel Restrictions



Security Summary

On 17 October 2014, the World Health Organization declared Senegal Ebola-free. An Ebola outbreak has been confirmed in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. While Senegal has been declared Ebola-free, due to the intensity of the ongoing outbreak, a second outbreak of Ebola in Senegal cannot be ruled out. MS Risk advises all travellers to the region to remain cautious.

MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid all outdoor rallies and demonstrations as they may turn violent. Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Senegal, MS Risk advises avoiding road travel in the Casamance region, to the west of Kolda. The Casamance region of south-western Senegal (between the southern border of Gambia and the northern border of Guinea-Bissau) remains affected by incidents involving armed separatist groups and banditry, particularly in the regions of Bignona and Sindian. There has been an increase in clashes between the Senegalese army and suspected elements of the armed separatist group Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC). MS Risk advises against all road travel in the Casamance region to the west of Kolda, other than on the main road from Ziguinchor to Cap Skirring (which is often used by groups of tourists during daylight hours) and on the road north of the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border, from Sao Domingos to Ziguinchor (N4 bis). If you travel on either of these roads, you should do so only during daylight hours and monitor the local security situation before travelling. Severe water shortages in Dakar have led to a number of demonstrations in the suburbs. Youths have blocked some roads with burning tyres and have clashed with police. MS Risk advises travellers to avoid all demonstrations and to leave any affected areas at the first sign that unrest may develop. There have been a number of deaths and injuries. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, authorities in Senegal have increased security in the capital city as well as along the border with Mali. MS Risk advises that al-Qaeda militants may cross the border into Senegal and they may target Western interests as well as foreigners.

On the Ground Reporting

- **10 November 2014** – Senegal has partially reopened its air and sea borders with Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Land borders will remain closed. The announcement was made Sunday by Senegalese President Macky Sall who disclosed that his country's decision had come in line with recommendations put forth by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to reopen borders with states affected by Ebola. Despite closing its borders with Guinea in August, Senegal confirmed its first case of the virus just days after the closure. A young Guinean who later recovered imported the virus. No additional cases were reported. In mid-October, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Senegal Ebola-free.

Sierra Leone

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



Security Summary

MS Risk currently advises all but essential travel to Sierra Leone, except for those who are involved in the direct response to the Ebola outbreak.



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

Violent incidents have taken place under cover of crowds in the streets of Freetown. Over the weekend of 25 – 27 July, there were reports of demonstrations and local disturbances occurring in Kenema and Freetown. These events were related to the Ebola outbreak. Further such demonstrations and disturbances cannot be ruled out. MS Risk advises all travellers to Sierra Leone to follow local news reports, be alert to any developments and void all large crowds and demonstrations as they may turn violent. There are also occasional small riots between rival groups of youths in the central and eastern areas of Freetown. If you encounter such an incident,

you should leave the area immediately. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks

may be carried out in Sierra Leone. This is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali. During the rainy season, May to October, roads can become extremely difficult, even for off-road vehicles. MS Risk therefore advises all travellers in the country to exercise due caution when travelling by road throughout the season.

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 November 2014** – Hundreds of health workers involved in treating Ebola patients have gone on strike at a clinic in southern Sierra Leone. According to sources, the staff members are protesting about the government's failure to pay the agreed weekly US \$100 (£63) "hazard payment." A few staff members are said to be still working at the clinic, which is located in Bandajuma near Bo. It is the only Ebola treatment center in the southern region of the country. Those on strike, who are protesting outside the clinic, have indicated that while the government agreed to the "hazard payments" when the facility was first opened, it has failed to make any payments since September. The money was due to be paid in addition to the salaries the staff members received from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The Bandajuma clinic is run by MSF, which has disclosed that it will be forced to close the facility if the strike continues. While the clinic does have a certain number of international staff members, they will be unable to keep the clinic open on their own. According to MSF emergency coordinator in Sierra Leone, Ewald Stars, about sixty patients have been left unattended at the clinic because of the strike. Those on strike include cleaners, nurses and porters.

Togo

No Travel Restrictions

There is currently no travel advisory for Togo. Crime is on the rise in Lome. Local authorities warn of a rise in violent robberies and car-jacking incidents that target both foreigners and Togolese alike. Togolese authorities have also warned motorists to only stop for individuals in uniform, particularly after dark. You should avoid travelling alone where possible even within Lome city limits, especially after dark. There is a possibility of retaliatory attacks in Togo, due to its participation in the intervention in Mali.



On the Ground Reporting

- **21 November 2014** – Police in Togo's capital Lome on Friday fired teargas at protesters defying a government ban on marching to the country's parliament. According to on the ground sources, police resorted to the gas in order to push back thousands of demonstrators, most of them from the main opposition, as they approached to within 400 meters of the National Assembly. The government of President Faure Gnassingbe had previously ordered the marchers away from the parliament and told all schools in the capital to close in case of civil unrest. According to Jean-Pierre Fabre, the head of the National Alliance for change, "we have come out to put pressure on the government and the powers that be to ensure that political reform is implemented...We are going to keep up the pressure to have all these reforms before the presidential elections in 2015." A meeting between the President and Mr Fabre has been scheduled for Saturday.



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