

www.msrisk.com

THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



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

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

MARCH 23 – APRIL 5, 2015

About MS Risk

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

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

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

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

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

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com

Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

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

Tel: +44 1624 626400

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

Registered in the Isle of Man No 007435V

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555
www.msrisk.com

The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

March 23 – April 5, 2015



Follow us on Twitter @ MS Risk_Security for regular updates on topical security events and issues.

Cameroon

On the Ground Reporting

- **29 March 2015** – A local official reported Sunday that residents of eastern Cameroon killed several suspected fighters from a Central African Republic rebel group who were attempting to carry out a large-scale kidnapping.
- **26 March 2015** – According to a new United Nations survey, the number of people in northern Cameroon who have fled the region over growing fears of violence spreading from neighboring Nigeria doubled in March to 117,000.

Central African Republic

On the Ground Reporting

- **26 March 2015** – The United Nations Security Council has increased the number of peacekeepers in the CAR by

more than 1,000.

- **25 March 2015** – The CAR’s prosecutor disclosed Wednesday that a minister was arrested this week on charges of raping a teenager earlier this year.

Chad

On the Ground Reporting

- **3 April 2015** – Security sources revealed Friday that Boko Haram fighters fleeing an offensive by soldiers from Chad and Niger launched an attack on Chadian soil, killing seven people.
- **2 April 2015** – The Chadian army disclosed Thursday that nine Chadian soldiers were killed and sixteen wounded after Boko Haram fighters in northeastern Nigeria ambushed them.
- **31 March 2015** - Military officials disclosed Tuesday that troops from Chad and Niger attacked Boko Haram militants on islands on Lake Chad, which the insurgents have been using as a safe haven in the wake of ongoing military operations to force them out of captured territory in northeastern Nigeria.
 - Soldiers from Chad and Niger have recaptured a border town from Boko Haram.
 - Nigerien officials disclosed Tuesday that soldiers fended off an attack on a border town in Niger by Boko Haram just days after they destroyed a base that was being used by the militants inside neighboring Nigeria.
- **27 March 2015** – Chadian President Idriss Deby has accused Nigeria of downplaying the threat from Boko Haram, adding that the West African nation has failed to cooperate with the regional coalition that is fighting the insurgents and that there has been no contact between the armies.
- **25 March 2015** – On Wednesday, a special court in the capital N’Djamena found twenty current and former security agents, who served under ousted Chadian leader Hissene Habre, guilty of committing several atrocities, including war crimes and torture, that were carried out during his rule in the 1980’s.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the Ground Reporting

- **30 March 2015** – Amnesty International has launched a campaign for the release of a group of activists who are being held incommunicado in the DRC since their arrest during a protest two weeks ago.

International Developments

- **1 April 2015** – United States President Barack Obama has urged DRC President Joseph Kabila to respect his country’s constitution, as it increasingly appears that the Congolese president may seek to extend his 14-year rule.
- **25 March 2015** – On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council is expected to vote on a draft resolution that would effectively cut the UN peacekeeping force in the DRC by 2,000.

Republic of Congo

Domestic News

- **27 March 2015** – On Friday, President Denis Sassou Nguesso stated that he expects a referendum on a change to the constitution that would effectively allow him to stand next year for a third term in office.

Central Africa Report ~ Security Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gabon - There are currently no travel advisories for Gabon.

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

Angola

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

Luanda

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

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

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

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



Cabinda Province

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

Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul

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

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

Cameroon

Security Summary ~ On 31 March, as a prevention measure against the spread of Ebola, Cameroonian officials closed land, air and sea borders with Ebola affected countries. Flights and vessels travelling from or via Ebola affected countries have been banned. MS Risk advises all travellers to ensure that your onward/return travel arrangements are flexible and that you have taken into account these travel restrictions.

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

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

The threat of kidnapping and hostage taking remains high at this time, with further such incidents likely to occur. While officials in Nigeria have requested Cameroon to increase security along the shared border between these two countries, the border regions continue to be porous and remain a safe haven for Boko Haram militants seeking shelter from the ongoing military operation in northern Nigeria.

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. MS Risk



advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the Ndian Division of the South West Province. We also advise against all travel to within 40km of the border with Chad in the North and Far North Provinces. This is due to a heightened risk of banditry and armed poachers in Bouba Ndjidda National Park in the North Province. There is currently a travel advisory north of Maroula in the Far North Province resulting from the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future, which may cause strikes and civil unrest throughout the country. Finally, there have been attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, including the coastline of Cameroon around the port of Douala. Vessels travelling throughout this area have been advised to exercise extreme caution.

On the Ground Reporting

- **29 March 2015** – A local official reported Sunday that residents of eastern Cameroon killed several suspected fighters from a Central African Republic rebel group who were attempting to carry out a large-scale kidnapping. On the ground sources have disclosed that the incident occurred Saturday night near the border town of Garoua-Boulai. According to Samuel Dieudonne Ivah Diboua, fifteen heavily armed men initially seized eight people before the town's residents, armed with guns and machetes, attacked. The eight would-be hostages were released, and a number of the fighters were killed while the local population is holding two others. Ivaha Diboua disclosed that as the area is remote, it has been impossible to confirm how many fighters were killed and whether or not any residents were killed, adding, "some residents were wounded in the ambush and we are still finding out if the attackers killed some." Since the former Seleka rebel group toppled the CAR's president in 2013, the Central African country has experienced widespread and brutal fighting, which in some instances has overflowed into neighboring Cameroon. Earlier this month, fighters from the CAR attacked a bus in Cameroon, kidnapping sixteen people, including local politicians and clergy. That incident also occurred near the border region and resulted in the assailants driving the bus over the border into the CAR. While no one has claimed responsibility for either attack, officials believe that the perpetrators are members of the Democratic Front of the Central African People, a rebel group that was once linked to Seleka. Last year, the group kidnapped a number of Cameroonians and a Polish priest in an attempt to win the release of their leader from a Cameroonian jail.
- **26 March 2015** – According to a new United Nations survey, the number of people in northern Cameroon who have fled the region over growing fears of violence spreading from neighboring Nigeria doubled in March to 117,000. UN Sahel coordinator Robert Piper disclosed Thursday that there are now some 117,000 displaced people in the northern region of Cameroon, almost double the 60,000 that were recorded a month ago, noting "the northern part of Cameroon was already under severe strain due to deteriorating climate conditions over the last three years. The growing insecurity has further exacerbated that situation." Since 2012, food insecurity has increased by 300 percent, with three-quarters of those affected residing in the northern region of the country. The

UN has indicated that some 228,000 Cameroonian children are believed to be malnourished, with 80 percent of them located in the north. Cameroon's Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry has warned that in the coming months, the Far North Region may experience a famine as many of those displaced by the growing threat have abandoned farms, opting to relocate away from the border regions for their safety. The Cameroon government has estimated that some 66,000 refugees have fled northern Nigeria, entering Cameroon in a bid to escape Boko Haram's six-year insurgency. The Central African nation has an additional 250,000 refugees located in the east as a result of the ongoing insecurity in neighboring Central African Republic. This has placed further pressure on the region and prompted UN agencies and charities in December to prioritize Cameroon as an emerging crisis in 2015 due to the combination of conflict and climate-related problems in the region. The UN has indicated that since January 2014, Boko Haram has killed around 6,400 people in 337 incidents.

Central African Republic

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

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



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

MS Risk strongly advises you not to travel around Bangui after dark. At other times, it is advised that you take extreme care, and travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and you may encounter several roadblocks, both official and unofficial, that are likely to be manned by armed personnel. We advise that you take particular care when approaching these.

Crime

Incidents of theft and robbery occur regularly. Armed gangs are known to operate in the outlying areas of Bangui. You are advised to take personal security precautions and be vigilant in public places at all times.

Avoid carrying valuables or wearing jewelry in public. Do not walk alone at night and avoid any isolated or poorer areas.

On the Ground Reporting

- **26 March 2015** – The United Nations Security Council has increased the number of peacekeepers in the CAR by more than 1,000. On Thursday, the Council unanimously approved the request made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for an additional 750 troops and 280 police. The request effectively brings the mandated strength of operation to nearly 13,000 uniformed personnel. The Council also approved an additional twenty corrections officers in a bid to help reopen prisons located outside of the capital Bangui. The request for additional peacekeepers comes in the wake of a rise in violence in Bangui late last year, with the Secretary General indicating that the violence resulted in more troops being dedicated to securing the capital and critical infrastructure, while police had to be deployed in order to protect senior CAR officials. This in effect left fewer troops to be deployed outside of the capital city, including in the ex-Seleka stronghold.
- **25 March 2015** – The CAR's prosecutor disclosed Wednesday that a minister was arrested this week on charges of raping a teenager earlier this year. Romaric Vomitiade, the minister for tourism, arts and culture, was arrested Monday evening and has since been charged. Prosecutor Maurice Dibert Dollet disclosed Wednesday that the minister, who will soon be presented to a judge, is accused of raping a 16-year-old while visiting Yaloke, in the north-western region of the country, in January. The minister has denied the accusations, stating that they are politically motivated. His arrest comes in the wake of President Catherine Samba Panza lifting the minister's diplomatic immunity last month.

Chad

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

On 13 February, Boko Haram militants launched an attack on the Chadian village of Ngouboua – the first such assault to take place on Chadian soil. Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, has threatened Chad with further attacks if it continues to participate in the regional force combatting the militant group. MS Risk advises all travellers to Chad to remain vigilant at all times.

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following areas: areas within 30 kilometers (18 miles) of the border with Libya, Nigeria, Niger and the Central African Republic; areas bordering Lake

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



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

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

There is currently a low threat from terrorism.

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

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

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

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

On the Ground Reporting

- 3 April 2015** – Security sources revealed Friday that Boko Haram fighters fleeing an offensive by soldiers from Chad and Niger launched an attack on Chadian soil, killing seven people. According to a Chadian security source, “some Boko Haram militants fleeing Malam Fatori towards Lake Chad attacked Maidogo, near Ngouboua, on Thursday, killing seven people.” The attack on Maidogo, which is located on an island in Lake Chad, was confirmed by other military sources.
- 2 April 2015** – The Chadian army disclosed Thursday that nine Chadian soldiers were killed and sixteen wounded after Boko Haram fighters in northeastern Nigeria ambushed them. According to a military spokesman, fighting took place on Wednesday about 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the town of Malam Fatori, which was retaken by regional forces earlier this week. Colonel Azem Bernandoa Agouna disclosed, “elements of the Chad-Niger (military alliance) were killed in a

pocket of resistance... After heavy fighting, the armed forces of Chad and Niger totally cleaned up the zone.” According to a statement released by the military, the allied troops killed “more than 100” members of Boko Haram, adding that large quantities of equipment were also seized by the soldiers. While regional forces captured Malam Fatori on Tuesday, and were met with no resistance as Boko Haram fighters had already fled the town, some insurgents remained in the vicinity, launching an attack on Wednesday between Malam Fatori and the border town of Bosso in Niger. The capture of Malam Fatori is crucial for the regional coalition as the town, which is located close to Nigeria’s northeastern border, had become known as the militant group’s main refuge in the region whenever its fighters fell back after defeats. Chadian and Nigerien troops had made the town a primary target when they entered Nigeria on 8 March.

- **31 March 2015** - Military officials disclosed Tuesday that troops from Chad and Niger attacked Boko Haram militants on islands on Lake Chad, which the insurgents have been using as a safe haven in the wake of ongoing military operations to force them out of captured territory in northeastern Nigeria. Sources have disclosed that Chadian and Nigerien militaries have bombed the islands, with a number of fighters reportedly killed. Nigerian forces were not involved in Monday’s operations and there has been no comment from Nigeria.
 - Soldiers from Chad and Niger have recaptured a border town from Boko Haram. According to the Chadian government and army spokesman, the town of Malam Fatori, which was seized by the militant group in November, has been recaptured. While military sources in January had falsely claimed to have retaken the border town, on Tuesday, Chad’s Communications Minister Hassan Sylla Bakari disclosed that this time there was no doubt who controlled the town. Nigerien military sources have disclosed that the forces launched airstrikes before an offensive by ground troops captured the town and the nearby village of Abadam, adding that several Boko Haram fighters were killed in the clashes.
 - Nigerien officials disclosed Tuesday that soldiers fended off an attack on a border town in Niger by Boko Haram just days after they destroyed a base that was being used by the militants inside neighboring Nigeria. According to a statement from Niger’s Defense Ministry, on Monday the militants tried to attack the town of Bosso, Niger, which is located just over the border with Nigeria. Troops from Niger and Chad intervened, killing forty-seven militants and destroying several of the vehicles and mortars. The troops also captured a cache of weapons and ammunition. On Saturday, troops from Niger and Chad destroyed another Boko Haram base inside Nigeria, also close to the Niger border. According to the Defense Ministry statement, fifty-four militants were killed in the raid, which occurred near the town of Talagam. Three troops from Niger were also wounded.
- **27 March 2015** – Chadian President Idriss Deby has accused Nigeria of downplaying the threat from Boko Haram, adding that the West African nation has failed to cooperate with the regional coalition that is fighting the insurgents and that there has been no contact between the armies. In an interview, President Deby disclosed “the whole world is asking why the Nigerian army, which is a big army...is not in a position to stand up to untrained kids armed with Kalashnikovs.” The

Chadian president further indicated that he was perplexed by the Nigerian government's lack of cooperation with the offensive, stating "two months after the start of this war, we have not had any direct contact with the Nigerian army units on the ground," adding "we would have hoped to have at least one Nigerian unit with us. It was even a direct request to the Nigerian government, but for reasons that escape us, up to now we have been unable to work together." Chad has not wanted to be seen as a foreign occupier. As a result, Chadian troops have had to abandon towns they had recently recaptured from Boko Haram militants, with the president indicating that this has resulted in Chadian forces having "...to retake certain towns twice... We are forced to abandon them and Boko Haram returns, and we have to go back. That has a human and material cost." The Chadian president also criticized his counterpart, Goodluck Jonathan in the manner in which he has handled the crisis, stating "I told President Goodluck not to open negotiations with terrorists...but it was a political choice." The Chadian president has now called for a mixed multi-national force, which would have the backing of the United Nations and African Union, to be established as quickly as possible. He also noted that he hopes that a conference of Central and West African nations in early April will lead to a larger coalition.

- **25 March 2015** – On Wednesday, a special court in the capital N'Djamena found twenty current and former security agents, who served under ousted Chadian leader Hissene Habre, guilty of committing several atrocities, including war crimes and torture, that were carried out during his rule in the 1980's. Amongst those jailed is the ex-head of the political police Saleh Younous and Mahamat Djibrine, who investigators indicated was one of the "most feared torturers" under Habre's eight-year dictatorship. The trial was the first in Chad of any of Habre's accomplices. Habre is currently awaiting trial for war crimes and torture by a special court formed under an agreement between the African Union (AU) and Senegal, where he has been living in exile for over twenty years. Following a 19-month investigation, the tribunal indicated last month that it had enough evidence to try Habre. His trial is expected to open in either May or June.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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

A draft electoral reform bill was introduced to parliament on 12 January. On 19 January, violent demonstrations erupted outside parliament and quickly spread to other areas of the capital Kinshasa, including at city's main university. Shots were fired in several neighborhoods of the capital city. Protests continued on 20 and 21 January, resulting in troops being deployed to the streets of Kinshasa in a bid to maintain order. The ongoing protests have led to several schools being closed and movement around Kinshasa being restricted. Credible reports indicate that between 5 and 30 people have been killed as a result of the violence, including two members of the police. There have also been violent demonstrations, looting and general unrest in other areas of the country, including in Bukavu, Bas-Congo, Equator, Goma, Mbandaka and South Kivu. While the airport in Kinshasa remains open, some flights were cancelled on 20 January and there may be further cancellations. In the event of escalating tensions and civil unrest, further commercial flights may be suspended and borders may be closed. MS Risk advises all travellers to check your airline before travelling. Further demonstrations are likely to occur around parliament in Kinshasa, and elsewhere. MS Risk advises all travellers to remain vigilant and to monitor the situation in your area closely. We advise you to avoid unnecessary journeys during periods of potential unrest. We advise that



you avoid the area around the parliament in Kinshasa and stay away from gathering crowds as protests may quickly turn violent without warning.

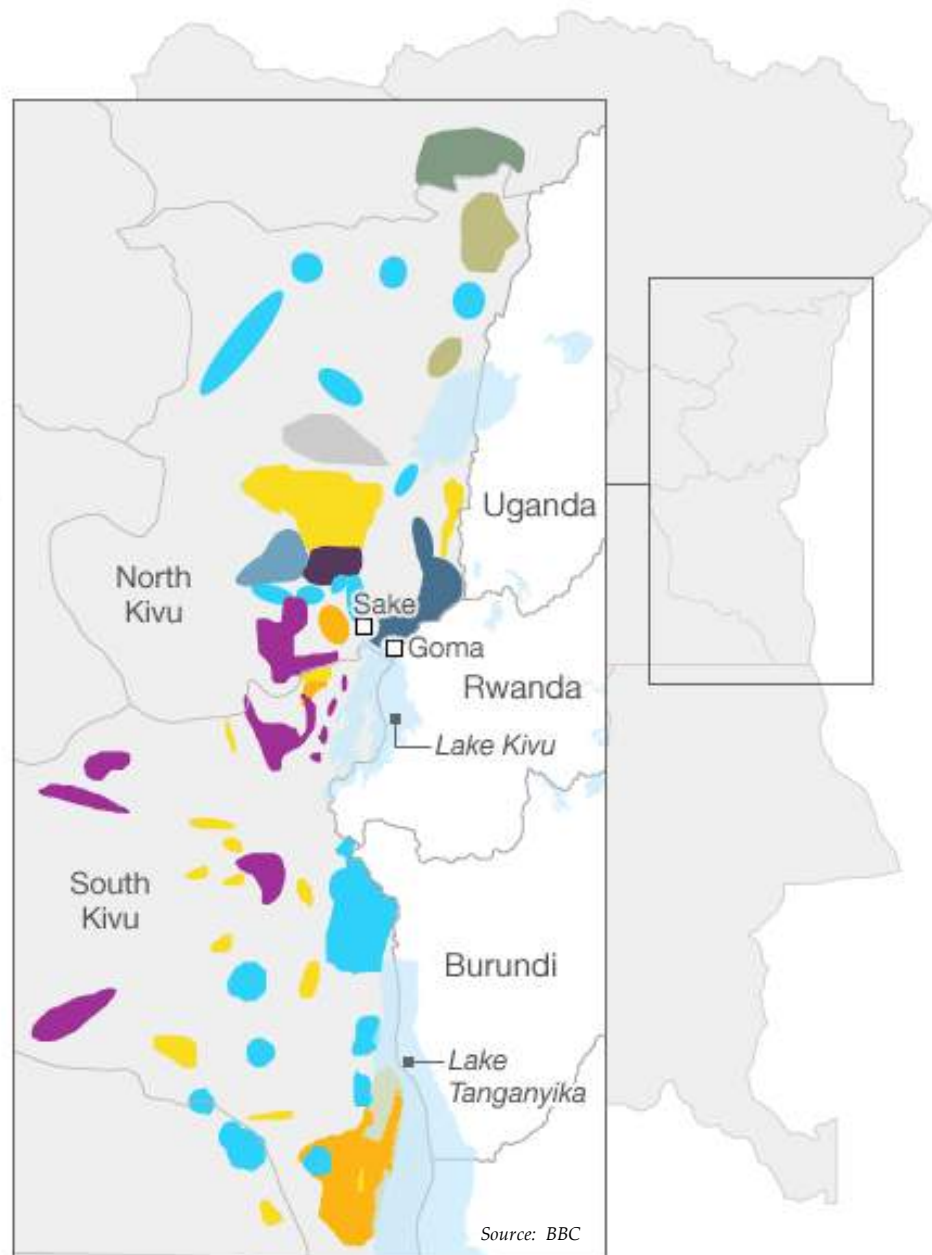
The security situation in eastern DRC, including Beni and Goma, remains unstable. Ugandan rebels have killed over 100 people in and around the town of Beni. Officials have since imposed a overnight curfew on the town. Any foreigners in North Kivu, including Goma, are currently advised to keep their security situation under review. During fighting in the region in recent months, shells landed on Goma, causing a number of civilian deaths and injuries. There was also shelling around the border with Rwanda and explosions in the town of Gisenyi on the Rwandan side of the border. Further shelling may occur. You are therefore advised to avoid travelling alone and at night.

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

REBEL GROUPS

UN forces and the Congolese army are present in large towns

- ADF-NALU**
Ugandan-led Islamists
- APCLS**
Mai Mai group
- FDLR**
Mostly Hutu Rwandan rebels
- FRPI**
Based in gold-rich Ituri region
- M23**
Mostly Tutsi, said to be Rwandan-backed
- Rai Mutomboki**
Anti-FDLR group
- Sheka**
Mai Mai group
- UPCP**
Loose coalition of smaller nationalist groups
- Mai Mai groups**
Local forces claiming to act in self-defence
- Other armed groups**



Source: BBC

On the Ground Reporting

- **30 March 2015** – Amnesty International has launched a campaign for the release of a group of activists who are being held incommunicado in the DRC since their arrest during a protest two weeks ago. According to Amnesty officials, members of the rights watch dog along with its supporters will petition the DRC government for the activists' release and "send solidarity tweets to those detained." On 15 March, around thirty people were detained during a pro-democracy rally in the DRC's capital Kinshasa. While a US diplomat, a group of foreign journalists and six Congolese detainees have since been released, at least six Congolese detainees are still being held, including prominent activist Fred Bauma, of the Struggle for Change (Lucha) organization. A handful of activists from Burkina Faso and Senegal have also been expelled from the DRC after being accused of a "campaign to destabilise" the central African nation. Human rights lawyer Sylvain Lumu has indicated that he has lodged a complaint over the "abduction, arbitrary arrest, detention and illegal searches and violation of the rights guaranteed to individuals." Amnesty officials have indicated that their campaign aims to send a message that "infringement of fundamental rights to liberty and freedom from torture and ill-treatment are not acceptable." A parliamentary fact-finding mission is expected to begin looking into the case on Monday.

International Developments

- **1 April 2015** – United States President Barack Obama has urged DRC President Joseph Kabila to respect his country's constitution, as it increasingly appears that the Congolese president may seek to extend his 14-year rule. Following a phone call between the two leaders on Tuesday, the White House disclosed, "the president emphasized the importance of timely, credible and peaceful elections that respect the DRC's constitution." The White House further indicated that Obama noted that "President Kabila's legacy as a leader who brought the DRC out of war and set it on a path of continued democratic process would be consolidated by free and fair elections in 2016." Elections are expected to take place in the DRC in November 2016. President Kabila came to power in 2001 after the assassination of his father Laurent. While he is now approaching the end of the two full terms in power permitted under the country's constitution, Kabila and his party had made some efforts to amend electoral laws in a bid to allow him to stand for a third term in office. These moves have prompted deadly protests and accusations that he is attempting to hold on to power. The opposition has stated that while efforts to change the law have failed, the president may still be attempting to exploit other means in a bid to stay in office.
- **25 March 2015** – On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council is expected to vote on a draft resolution that would effectively cut the UN peacekeeping force in the DRC by 2,000. This number however is far less than the one that was previously requested by President Joseph Kabila, who wants the UN's largest peacekeeping force to shrink by at least 7,000 troops. Thursday's vote comes amidst weeks of tensions after the UN backed out of a planned joint operation with Congo's military against a rebel group. At the time, UN officials indicated the mission could no longer

participate in the operation, as two Congolese generals in charge have been involved in “massive human rights violations.” Last week, Foreign Minister Raymond Tshibanda told the Security Council that the time had come for the Central African nation to “assume full responsibility” for its own security, effectively indicating that his country wants the peacekeepers to leave. While the top UN envoy to the DRC, Martin Kobler, has warned that it is too early for the peacekeeping mission to leave Congo, noting that such a move would be disastrous, Congo officials appear to be ignoring these warnings, maintaining that the country is able to handle its own security. **Update (26 March)** – The UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution that will decrease the UN peacekeeping force in the DRC by 2,000. The resolution indicates that the cut of 2,000 peacekeeping troops will be made permanent only after “significant progress” in the fight against the FDLR. The DRC’s ambassador, Ignace Gata Mavita wa Lufuta, told the Council Thursday that he objected to language in the resolution that ‘accuses the Congolese army of collaborating with the FDLR.’ He however thanked the UN for its overall efforts in helping to bring peace to the region. The ambassador further noted that the resolution gives room to discuss the “misunderstandings” between the UN and his country.

Republic of the Congo

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

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

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



Domestic News

- **27 March 2015** – On Friday, President Denis Sassou Nguesso stated that he expects a referendum

on a change to the constitution that would effectively allow him to stand next year for a third term in office. In an interview, the president declined to confirm whether he would in fact bid for another term, however he did acknowledge that a referendum would be sought in order to make it possible for him to stay in power. Speaking at the presidential palace in the capital Brazzaville, President Sassou Nguesso stated “a moment will come when we will decide for the people to pronounce (on a constitutional revision) by referendum,” noting “we must not link my candidature to the debate over the constitution. The debate over the constitution is going to take place and the moment will come when I will pronounce.” Under the country’s current 2002 constitution, the number of presidential terms are limited to two. The constitution also excludes candidates of more than 70-years of age from running for office. This effectively rules out the 71-year-old president, a former military commander who took office in 1997 at the end of a civil war before winning disputed elections in 2002 and 2009. The Republic of Congo’s neighbour, the Democratic Republic of Congo, is led by President Joseph Kabila, who is due to stand down next years. Many however believe that he is looking at extending his time in power. Analysts have warned a number of leaders on the African continent to not seek any constitutional changes in a bid to extend their power, stating that they risked political turmoil similar to what Burkina Faso experienced late last year. After attempting to alter the constitution to remain in power, former long-time president Blaise Compaore was forced to step down in late October after massive protests erupted across the country against a plan to change Burkina Faso’s constitution to allow him to stand for a third term.

Equatorial Guinea

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

Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports of petty theft, which has affected both visitors and expatriates. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid walking around Malabo and Bata at night and to avoid travelling by road after dark. Although the political situation has been calm in recent years, you should be aware that political events can lead to an increased presence of police, military or security forces on the streets. Consequently you should avoid any political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings. There is a low threat from terrorism; however you should be aware that attacks can occur at any time and place, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.



Gabon

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

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



São Tomé and Príncipe

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

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

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

