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# THE CENTRAL AFRICA REPORT



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

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

MAY 4 - 17, 2015

## About MS Risk

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

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

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- Security Consulting
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  - Planning and management
  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim Security
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  - Special Assignments
- Crisis Response
  - Crisis Response
  - Business continuity management
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- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

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

24 hr Contact Information:

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

Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

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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

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# The Central Africa Report ~ Summary

*May 4 - 17, 2015*



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## **Angola**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **7 May 2015** – On Thursday, the defamation trial of Angola’s anti-corruption activist Rafael Marques resumed after he failed to reach a negotiated settlement with the military generals who are suing him.

## **Cameroon**

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **12 May 2015** – Security sources reported Monday that two Cameroonian soldiers have been killed and at least two others wounded in an attack carried out by Boko Haram militants near the Nigerian border.

## Central African Republic

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **14 May 2015** – Armed groups in the CAR have released 350 child soldiers on Thursday, effectively honouring a deal signed with UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency.
- **12 May 2015** – On Tuesday, several hundred people, including some in military uniforms, demonstrated in the capital over a peace forum's recommendation that upcoming general and presidential elections be delayed.
- **11 May 2015** – On Monday, UN peacekeepers shot in the air and used tear gas to disperse gunmen who tried to disrupt a forum aimed at helping restore peace to the country.
- **10 May 2015** – On Sunday, rival armed groups in the CAR agreed to a peace accord, which effectively requires them to disarm and potentially face justice for war crimes that were committed during two years of conflict.
- **6 May 2015** – On Wednesday, the CAR's justice minister confirmed that officials will take legal action against French soldiers accused of raping children in exchange for food at a refugee camp.
- **5 May 2015** – According to UNICEF, leaders of armed groups in the CAR have agreed to release thousands of child soldiers and to end underage recruitment.

### *Domestic News*

- **12 May 2015** – A reconciliation forum, which is seeking to restore peace in the CAR, has called for the country's upcoming legislative and presidential elections to be delayed in order to give the transitional authorities more time to organize the closely watched polls.
- **4 May 2015** – On Monday, politicians and militia groups in the CAR opened a national reconciliation forum, which is aimed at ending a cycle of conflict in the Central African nation that has killed thousands and displaced more than a million people from their homes.

### *International Developments*

- **7 May 2015** – France's state prosecutor announced Thursday that judges in France will investigate claims that French soldiers raped children in the CAR.
- **6 May 2015** – A United Nations tribunal has ordered the reinstatement of Swedish official Anders Kompass, who was suspended for leaking a report to France pertaining to child abuse carried out by French soldiers deployed to the CAR in 2014.

## Chad

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **12 May 2015** – Chadian President Idriss Deby has called for better coordination between coalition forces who are fighting Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria, warning that while the militant group has been affected by the on going military operations, it has not been defeated.

### *International Developments*

- **7 May 2015** – According to a UN official, Chad and Niger, which are two of the world's poorest countries, are getting little attention from donors as they struggle to cope with refugees, a food crisis and poverty.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **14 May 2015** – According to a regional official, twenty-three people have been killed in two new massacres that have been blamed on Ugandan rebels in the eastern DRC.
  - According to charity group Doctors Without Borders, members of an armed militia raped women on masse in the DRC earlier this month after they attacked and looted a town in the eastern region of the country.
- **13 May 2015** – According to a United Nations report published on Monday, a Ugandan Islamist rebel group committed human rights abuses in the eastern DRC last year that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- **12 May 2015** – According to officials, five people were killed in a new attack near Beni, which has been blamed on Ugandan rebels.
  - On Tuesday, hundreds of Beni residents marched through the streets of the trading town, accusing the authorities of doing nothing in order to protect the local population.
- **11 May 2015** – On Monday, ex-militia leader Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui arrived back in the DRC after a failed Dutch asylum attempt following his acquittal by the International Criminal Court (ICC) earlier this year.
  - The DRC has deployed a delegation to Tanzania to request the extradition of the leader of a Ugandan Islamist group, which has been blamed for massacres in the eastern DRC.
- **9 May 2015** – On Saturday, local authorities reported that at least seven bodies have been found in an eastern region of the DRC, where a series of massacres has left more than 300 people dead in seven months.
- **8 May 2015** – The UN peacekeeping chief announced Thursday that UN troops are preparing an offensive against Hutu rebels in the DRC after plans for a joint operation with the Congolese army fell through.
- **7 May 2015** – The UN has deployed reinforcements to its DRC peacekeeping force near the eastern town of Beni, after two soldiers were killed and thirteen others wounded in an ambush on Tuesday.
- **6 May 2015** – A spokesman for the UN mission in the DRC disclosed Wednesday that four missing UN peacekeepers have been found following an attack, which left two others dead.
- **5 May 2015** – A military spokesman announced Tuesday that troops in the DRC have killed sixteen Ugandan rebels in two days of clashes in the northeastern region of the country.
  - An ambush in the eastern DRC has left two UN peacekeepers dead. Beni.

## Gabon

### *On the Ground Reporting*

- **5 May 2015** – Gabonese opposition leader Andre Mba Obame, who died last month in Cameroon, has been buried in his home village of Medouneu, which is located near the border with Equatorial Guinea.

## 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.*

## **On the Ground Reporting**

- **7 May 2015** – On Thursday, the defamation trial of Angola’s anti-corruption activist Rafael Marques resumed after he failed to reach a negotiated settlement with the military generals who are suing him. The outspoken activists, who is also a journalist, has been accused of defaming several generals after he published a book in 2011, which exposed alleged corruption, torture and other rights violations linked to the country’s lucrative diamond mining industry. While at his last hearing, held on 23 April, Marques disclosed that he was in discussions with the generals in a bid to try and resolve the matter “amicably,” on Thursday he indicated that there was “no agreement with the generals.” In his book, which was published in Portugal, Marques accused the generals of orchestrating the torture and killings that were carried out by soldiers and private guards hired in order to protect diamond concessions in the northeastern Lundas region. The generals who are suing Marques, including one of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos’ closest allies, are claiming US \$1.2 million in damages.



# 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**

- **12 May 2015** – Security sources reported Monday that two Cameroonian soldiers have been killed and at least two others wounded in an attack carried out by Boko Haram militants near the Nigerian border. According to a Cameroonian military officer, two troops were killed and an officer and a soldier were injured in clashes with the militants on Saturday. Another security source reported that the troops had been ambushed while they were patrolling Krawa-Maffa, a northern village located 1 kilometer (less than a mile) away from the Nigerian border. The security source further disclosed that on the other side of the border, “the Nigerian army is striking Boko Haram’s positions almost every day, while the terrorists are trying their hardest to cross over to our side.” While the Nigerian army has claimed a series of major victories, after military operations were launched in February, the militant group continues to hold key positions along the Cameroonian border with Nigeria, as well as in the Sambisa Forest and Mandara mountains. Nigerian authorities recently announced that they aim to recapture the group’s Sambisa stronghold by 29 May, when president-elect Muhammadu Buhari is due to take office.

# 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.

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**

- **14 May 2015** – Armed groups in the CAR have released 350 child soldiers on Thursday, effectively honouring a deal signed with UNICEF, the United Nations children’s agency. UNICEF’s

representative in Bangui, Mohamed Malick Fall, confirmed the release of the children stating, “after two years of heavy fighting, the release of children by these groups...is a real step towards peace... This was the start of a process that we hope will result in the release of thousands of children associated with armed groups in the Central African Republic.” Fall noted, “each of them will require extensive support and protection so that they can rebuild their lives and resume their childhood.” The UN children’s agency estimates that between 6,000 and 10,000 children are held by armed factions in the CAR.

- **12 May 2015** – On Tuesday, several hundred people, including some in military uniforms, demonstrated in the capital over a peace forum’s recommendation that upcoming general and presidential elections be delayed. The protesters, who erected barricades and burnt tyres on major roads, including the road that links Bangui to the airport, also demanded that the country’s interim President Catherine Samba Panza step aside. Police officers later moved in to disperse the demonstrators.
- **11 May 2015** – On Monday, UN peacekeepers shot in the air and used tear gas to disperse gunmen who tried to disrupt a forum aimed at helping restore peace to the country. According to officials, the incident took place as the Bangui Forum was coming to an end and has highlighted the continued tensions across the country. Former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel group and members of the Christian anti-balaka militia paralyzed central Bangui to protest that the peace forum had not resulted in the freeing of members who have been detained by the government. Several hundred protesters gathered in the capital, with some calling for the resignation of President Catherine Samba Panza. No injuries were reported.
- **10 May 2015** – On Sunday, rival armed groups in the CAR agreed to a peace accord, which effectively requires them to disarm and potentially face justice for war crimes that were committed during two years of conflict. The agreement, which was signed between the CAR’s Defense Ministry and ten armed groups during a peace forum in the capital city, states that “the fighters of all the armed groups accept and commit to putting a definitive end to the armed conflicts in Central African Republic,” adding “they are committed to disposing their arms and renouncing armed fighting as a means of making political claims and to enter into the process of Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reinsertion and Repatriation (DDRR).” The UN peacekeeping mission will support the process, which effectively envisages some members of the armed factions being absorbed into the army.
- **6 May 2015** – On Wednesday, the CAR’s justice minister confirmed that officials will take legal action against French soldiers accused of raping children in exchange for food at a refugee camp. Justice Minister Aristide Sokambi confirmed that he has “...instructed the public prosecutor to open a probe and seek the evidence already at the disposal of the French,” adding “we regret the fact we were not brought into these investigations despite the cooperation agreements we have with France.” He has insisted that his nation was not targeting France but individual soldiers. Seven children, in which the youngest is nine years old, allege that fourteen soldiers deployed to the CAR as part of a peacekeeping force, sexually abused some of them in exchange for food.”

France deployed troops to the CAR in December 2013 in a bid to help African Union (AU) peacekeepers restore order. Hundreds of troops were stranded at Bangui airport, which has been transformed into a large refugee camp.

- **5 May 2015** – According to UNICEF, leaders of armed groups in the CAR have agreed to release thousands of child soldiers and to end underage recruitment. The agreement to release them was signed this week during a reconciliation forum held in the capital Bangui, which is backed by UNICEF and its partners and aims to restore peace to the country. A statement released by UNICEF representative Mohamed Malick Fall indicated “the Central African Republic is one of the worst places in the world to be a child, and UNICEF is eager to work with local authorities to help reunite these children with their families,” adding that more than two years of conflict in the CAR has led to “one of the world’s worst – and least visible – humanitarian crises.” According to the United Nations children’s agency, there are an estimated 6,000 – 10,000 children being held by various armed group. Children involved in the armed groups include those serving as combatants, those used for sexual purposes as well as those who work in roles such as cooks and messengers. The agency welcomed Tuesday’s announcement, stating that it is a “major step forward” in the country. It has stated that the parties that have signed the accord will now agree on a schedule to release the children, however UNICEF has warned that this will place new demands on the already limited funding available. Last week, the UN warned that it had received only a fraction of the funds needed to address the crisis in the CAR. The country’s transitional government remains almost entirely dependent on foreign funds as it attempts to reconstruct the ruined administration.

## Domestic News

- **12 May 2015** – A reconciliation forum, which is seeking to restore peace in the CAR, has called for the country’s upcoming legislative and presidential elections to be delayed in order to give the transitional authorities more time to organize the closely watched polls. Under the current schedule, the presidential and legislative elections are due to be held in July and August however preparations are reportedly running behind schedule. The reconciliation forum has urged the heads of state of the Central African ECCAS grouping to “respond favourably” to their request for a postponement, given “the poor mobilisation of donors to finance the electoral process.” While a statement released by the forum did not disclose when the elections should take place, the CAR’s interim President Catherine Samba Panza, whose mandate is due to end in August, stated at the closing ceremony that “the elections should be held at the latest by the end of the year.” The forum also called for an “exceptional extension” of the mandate of the interim government so that it could adequately prepare for the elections, which are seen by the international community as being critical to the Central African nation’s recovery from a spiral of violence that was triggered by a 2013 coup. The recommendation was made at the end of a week of talks at a reconciliation forum that was held in the capital Bangui and which was attended by armed groups, political and religious figures and civil society members. In a statement released by the UN, Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon disclosed that the forum's recommendations "reflect the aspirations of the people of CAR to put conflict behind them once and for all and to build a more peaceful and democratic country," adding that the recommendations should be implemented without delay.

- **4 May 2015** – On Monday, politicians and militia groups in the CAR opened a national reconciliation forum, which is aimed at ending a cycle of conflict in the Central African nation that has killed thousands and displaced more than a million people from their homes. Sources have disclosed that 580 delegates, along with representatives of neighbouring countries, the African Union, France and the United Nations, will attend the forum, which is due to end on 11 May. The topics that will be discussed will include security, justice and governance. A key demand of civic and religious groups is the disarmament of militias, with Igor Lamaka, spokesman for the anti-balaka militia, stating "the fact that we are here provides that we are ready to disarm. The war is over. Now we must think of reconciliation."

### **International Developments**

- **7 May 2015** – France's state prosecutor announced Thursday that judges in France will investigate claims that French soldiers raped children in the CAR. In a statement released Thursday, prosecutor Francois Molins disclosed that the case has been opened "against unnamed persons for carrying out the rape of minors" and "abusing the authority conferred by their functions." Following statements by six children, aged between 9 – 13, that some were sexually abused by French peacekeepers between December 2013 and June 2014, fourteen soldiers have been placed under investigation. Although it has been almost a year since French authorities opened an initial investigation, after they received a leaked internal UN report in July 2014, no children or soldiers were questioned and the allegations were never made public despite officials deploying police to the CAR in August in order to carry out an investigation. It was only after The Guardian newspaper last month revealed the allegations that a full investigation was launched. Both the French government and the UN have now denied attempting to cover up the potentially devastating scandal. On Thursday, the French prosecutor disclosed that he wanted to wait until he had spoken with the UN aid worker who leaked the report, Swedish national Anders Kompass, before launching an investigation, adding that the UN had refused to lift his diplomatic immunity status as is required in order for a formal interview to take place.
- **6 May 2015** – A United Nations tribunal has ordered the reinstatement of Swedish official Anders Kompass, who was suspended for leaking a report to France pertaining to child abuse carried out by French soldiers deployed to the CAR in 2014. According to a spokesman for the UN human rights office, the ruling of the internal tribunal was delivered on Tuesday, adding that Mr Kompass "has thus resumed his service." The spokesman further disclosed that Mr Kompass will however continue to face an internal UN probe following accusations that he passed on confidential information, which included the names of the alleged victims, without attaining permission from his superiors. According to the spokesman, "we remain extremely concerned that copies are circulating of the confidential unredacted preliminary notes of the interviews with the children."

Mr Kompass, a director of operations at UNHCR, was placed on administrative leave with full pay on 17 April for having passed on the confidential report to France in July 2014. According to a copy of the UN tribunal's ruling, Mr Kompass disclosed that he had received a copy of the report pertaining to the alleged abuse in mid-July and that he spoke to a French diplomat about it on 23 July. He further indicated that he had spoken to one of his bosses about this shortly afterwards and that he passed on a copy of the report to French authorities on 7 August. The UN however has rejected this version of events, with the UN human rights office disclosing that it was only aware of the leak on 6 March this year. Mr Kompass was asked to resign on 12 March. After refusing to do so, he was suspended on 17 April.

# Chad

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

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



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



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

*There is currently a low threat from terrorism.*

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

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

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

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

## **On the Ground Reporting**

- **12 May 2015** – Chadian President Idriss Deby has called for better coordination between coalition forces who are fighting Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria, warning that while the militant group has been affected by the on going military operations, it has not been defeated. Speaking Monday during a visit to Nigeria's capital Abuja, where he is due to meet with outgoing President Goodluck Jonathan, President Deby stated, "if we still have to fight and catch (Boko Haram leader) Abubakar Shekau, the armies have to work together," adding "Boko Haram has been broken but isn't finished... Our weak point is we haven't been able to coordinate operations on the ground." Since early February, Nigeria's army has been assisted by the militaries of neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Niger, which has led to a series of successes against the militant group. However officials from Chad and Niger have complained that the Nigerian militia has not stepped in to take over security after their soldiers recaptured towns in the border regions. There have also been reports of Abuja wanting the neighbouring armies to withdraw from its territory, which has resulted in the militants to regroup and retake some of the liberated areas. President Deby has

indicated that Boko Haram's leader has effectively exploited this situation, which has also allowed him to remain free from capture.

## International Developments

- **7 May 2015** – According to a UN official, Chad and Niger, which are two of the world's poorest countries, are getting little attention from donors as they struggle to cope with refugees, a food crisis and poverty. UN aid official John Ging has disclosed that only 17 percent of the US \$527 million appeal for Chad has been pledged while donors have come up with only 25 percent of the US \$375 million needed for Niger, adding that it is "shameful" that so little aid is flowing to the two countries, which are currently hosting 850,000 refugees from a number of regional conflicts, including the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and on going fighting in the Central African Republic. Speaking shortly after returning from a visit to the two countries, Mr Ging noted that Niger and Chad are "islands of stability" in a region rife with conflict, adding, "it is imperative that we do not allow these two countries to be forgotten." On the UN's development index, Chad ranks two points up from the bottom, while Niger ranks last. This indicates that there are high levels of poverty, low life expectancy and poor access to education in both countries. In Chad, one in four people, effectively 3 million, are in need of aid, with 2.4 million people facing food shortages. In Niger, 2.6 million people are food insecure.

# Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

*Security Summary ~ MS Risk advises against all travel to eastern and north-eastern DRC. The only exceptions to this are the towns of Bukavu and Goma, to which MS Risk advise against all but essential travel. We currently advise against all but essential travel to the remainder of the DRC.*

*The security situation in eastern DRC remains unstable. Throughout this year, there has been a series of kidnappings that have occurred in North Kivu, specifically in the area around Goma. Additionally military operations against armed groups in the region are ongoing. MS Risk advises all travellers to this region to exercise a heightened level of vigilance, to consider travelling in convoy on trips outside Goma and Bukavu and to avoid making any journey that would involve travel after dark.*

## On the Ground Reporting

- **14 May 2015** – According to a regional official, twenty-three people have been killed in two new massacres that have been blamed on Ugandan rebels in the eastern DRC. Regional administrator Amisi Kalonda has disclosed that the latest massacres occurred near the town of Mbau, which is located not far from Beni.
  - According to charity group Doctors Without Borders, members of an armed militia raped women on masse in the DRC earlier this month after they attacked and looted a town in the eastern region of the country. Officials from the charity indicated that they had treated 127 rape victims between the ages of 14 and 70 who came forward shortly after the 1 May attack



on the town of Kikamba in South Kivu province. According to the victims, they had been raped the next morning as about sixty armed men looted homes, assaulted men and women and forced thirty children to help them load up the stolen items. Francisco Otero, head of the aid group's mission in South Kivu disclosed that "many victims came forward very quickly looking for medical assistance," adding "this is not the norm, as victims usually don't report this type of aggression for fear of retaliation by armed groups or rejection by their own community." Additionally, the charity indicated that two victims were treated for gunshot wounds.

- **13 May 2015** – According to a United Nations report published on Monday, a Ugandan Islamist rebel group committed human rights abuses in the eastern DRC last year that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In its statement, the UN human rights office disclosed that the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) killed at least 237 civilians, including 65 women and 35 children, in the last quarter of 2014. The UN human rights office reported, "in total, ADF combatants attacked 35 villages. Attackers used machetes, hammers and knives, among other weapons, to wound or execute civilians. Some had their throats slit, were shot at while trying to flee, or were burned alive in their homes," adding "These violations, which were both systematic and extremely brutal, may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity."
- **12 May 2015** – According to officials, five people were killed in a new attack near Beni, which has been blamed on Ugandan rebels. Officials have disclosed that the latest murders occurred late Monday at Mavivi, which is located close to Beni and which lies 250 kilometres (155 miles) north of the capital, Goma. Regional official Amisi Kalonda confirmed, "we found the bodies of five people killed with axes, and seven injured." He further disclosed that the victims had been coming back from the fields at nightfall when they were set upon by men "presumed" to be from the ADF. Major Victor Masandi, spokesman for the Congolese military operation against the rebels, confirmed the attack, stating that one group of guerrillas attacked an army position while another set upon the civilians. During seven months of massacres in the troubled North Kivu province, more than 300 people have been killed, most of whom have been hacked to death.
  - On Tuesday, hundreds of Beni residents marched through the streets of the trading town, accusing the authorities of doing nothing in order to protect the local population. On the ground sources have reported that police fired in the air in a bid to disperse students and other demonstrators near the city hall. Tuesday's widespread protests brought usual business in Beni to a halt. On Monday, the Civil Society of Beni, which is an association of civic bodies, called for strikes and protests until further notice, however acting mayor Angele Nyirabituro urged people to return to work. At a separate rally on Tuesday, eyewitnesses reported that police opened fire with tear gas. Over the past week, the security situation in the region has dramatically deteriorated.
- **11 May 2015** – On Monday, ex-militia leader Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui arrived back in the DRC after a failed Dutch asylum attempt following his acquittal by the International Criminal Court (ICC) earlier this year. According to on the ground sources, Ngudjolo arrived in Kinshasa's international

airport and was escorted by five European police officers before leaving the airport with friends and family. In February, the former leader of the Nationalist Integrationist Front (FNI) militia was the first person to be tried and acquitted by The Hague-based ICC. He was accused of war crimes for playing a commanding role in the 2003 attack by ethnic Lendu forces on Bogoro village in the northeastern Ituri region. That attack left more than 200 villagers dead. While Ngudjolo had applied to stay in the Netherlands, over fears for his safety, Dutch authorities dismissed his application. Justice Ministry spokesman Jaap Oosterveer confirmed that "... Mr Ngudjolo Chui has been deported from the Netherlands and sent back to the Democratic Republic of Congo this afternoon." A statement released by Human Rights Watch (HRW) indicated that they "and other will be looking to the Congolese authorities to ensure Mathieu Ngudjolo's safety and security."

- The DRC has deployed a delegation to Tanzania to request the extradition of the leader of a Ugandan Islamist group, which has been blamed for massacres in the eastern DRC. According to DRC Justice Minister Alexis Thambwe, "there is a delegation that left for Tanzania yesterday with the dossier," adding that he has assured the Tanzanian government that Jamil Mukulu will not be executed. In late April of this year, Mukulu, who is the head of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), was arrested in Tanzania. A Ugandan team is also in Tanzania in a bid to lobby for Mukulu's extradition. Ugandan security sources however have disclosed that while they were not aware of the DRC's wish to extradite Mukulu, they have indicated that they would be willing to discuss the issue. While Mukulu, who has been under UN sanctions since 2011, is a Ugandan national, Thambwe has indicated that he should be extradited to the DRC because he had committed his most serious crimes there.
- **9 May 2015** – On Saturday, local authorities reported that at least seven bodies have been found in an eastern region of the DRC, where a series of massacres has left more than 300 people dead in seven months. The governor of North Kivu province, Julien Paluku, confirmed that seven bodies had been found in Matembo, which is located a few kilometres from Beni. According to the governor, all of the victims were hacked to death by axes and machetes, adding that officials "...do not know yet" whether the killing was committed by Uganda ADF rebels.
- **8 May 2015** – The UN peacekeeping chief announced Thursday that UN troops are preparing an offensive against Hutu rebels in the DRC after plans for a joint operation with the Congolese army fell through. Speaking to reporters following a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council, Herve Ladsous disclosed that the UN mission MONUSCO would carry out unilateral operations aimed at driving out the Hutu militia, which is based in the eastern region of the DRC. In February, the UN pulled its support for the joint operation against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels after Kinshasa named two generals, who are on a UN blacklist of serious rights violators, to lead the offensive. While at the time, UN officials demanded that the two generals be dismissed, the DRC government refused, with Ladsous stating that the Congolese government "doesn't want to create conditions" that would allow MONUSCO to carry out joint operations with the armed forces. While the peacekeeping chief has not disclosed the details pertaining to the UN mission's planned offensive, he did disclose that it will require some

cooperation with the army.

- **7 May 2015** – The UN has deployed reinforcements to its DRC peacekeeping force near the eastern town of Beni, after two soldiers were killed and thirteen others wounded in an ambush on Tuesday. According to Felix Prosper Basse, spokesman for the UN's MONUSCO mission in the DRC, "this morning we sent reinforcements to the Beni area – a rapid response unit to back up those caught in the ambush." The deployment came a day after two Tanzanian peacekeepers and two civilians were killed near Beni. The attack was the second to occur with 48 hours on UN personnel in the country. On Monday, a UN helicopter carrying MONUSCO's military leader, Brazilian General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, was fired upon by unknown gunmen and forced to make an emergency landing.
- **6 May 2015** – A spokesman for the UN mission in the DRC disclosed Wednesday that four missing UN peacekeepers have been found following an attack, which left two others dead. Felix Prosper Basse confirmed that the four Tanzanian peacekeepers, who went missing during the attack, have been located, noting that while it remained unclear which of the many armed groups that operate in the eastern DRC was responsible for the killings, officials have indicated that members of a Ugandan rebel group may have carried out the attack.
- **5 May 2015** – A military spokesman announced Tuesday that troops in the DRC have killed sixteen Ugandan rebels in two days of clashes in the northeastern region of the country. According to Major Victor Masandi of operation Sokola 1, which has been tasked with finding foreign rebels, "the provisional toll is 16 dead on the rebel side and two injured in the (Congolese army). Six AK-47's were recovered." Major Masandi disclosed that the fighting, which began on Sunday, occurred near Kokola and Mayimoya when Ugandan "ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) rebels attacked the army" about 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of the major trading town of Beni in North Kivu province. He further indicated that the clashes entailed "intensive firing with heavy weapons and light arms," while the Ugandan rebels on Monday "shot at a UN helicopter" that was part of the UN peacekeeping force deployed in the DRC. In a statement released late Monday, Martin Kobler, the head of the UN mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), disclosed that "I strongly condemn the firing at one of our helicopters in Beni territory," adding the attack "by a group of unidentified armed men" took place at the Oicha area, 20 kilometres north of Beni. While he disclosed that the UN aircraft had landed safely, he vowed that the UN "... will not be deterred in our active protection of civilians. The attackers will be pursued with maximum efforts and minimum tolerance within the rules of engagement." The UN Security Council has mandated troops in a Special Force Intervention Brigade to take the offensive against the many armed groups that remain active in the eastern region of the DRC.
  - An ambush in the eastern DRC has left two UN peacekeepers dead. According to Martin Kobler, the head of the UN mission in the DRC, "it is with sadness and anger that I have just learned of the deaths of peacekeepers in an ambush near Beni," which is a trading hub in the North Kivu province. Kobler confirmed that an investigation into the incident is currently underway. A spokesman for the force, known as MONUSCO, also confirmed that two

peacekeepers were killed, noting that the number of wounded was not yet clear. According to local administrator Amisi Kalonda, Ugandan rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) staged the ambush in an area around Oicha, which is located 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Beni.

# Republic of the Congo

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

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

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





# Equatorial Guinea

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

Compared with other countries in the region, the level of violent crime is low; however there are regular reports

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



# Gabon

**Security Summary** ~ While there is currently no travel advisory for Gabon, on 12 April, violent protests erupted in the capital city Libreville. Protesters burned cars and buildings, including Benin's Embassy. The protests have been linked to the sudden death of prominent opposition figure Andre Mba Obame. Further protests in the coming weeks may occur. MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to avoid large gatherings and demonstrations, as they may turn violent with minimal notice. We advise that you monitor the local news and adhere to advice given by local security officials.



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.

## On the Ground Reporting

- **5 May 2015** – Gabonese opposition leader Andre Mba Obame, who died last month in Cameroon, has been buried in his home village of Medouneu, which is located near the border with Equatorial Guinea. According to Jean-Pierre Owono, a senator and member of Mba Obame's political party, around 1,000 people, including former Prime Minister Casimir Oye Mba and ex-African Union commission president Jean Ping, attended a mass, which was followed by the funeral. Mba Obame, who died on 12 April, was buried at the entrance to the village, where authorities are planning to transform the tomb into a mausoleum and museum. Both Oye Mba and Ping, like Mba Obame, are opponents of Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

# 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.

