



The West Africa Report

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

The West Africa Report ~ SUMMARY

February 4 – 17, 2013



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Burkina Faso

- **13 February 2013** - a French member of parliament has called on the French government to shed light on the assassination of Burkina Faso president Thomas Sankara who was killed in a coup d'état twenty-five years ago.

Equatorial Guinea

- **5 February 2013** - South Africa's Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry, Elizabeth Thabethe, along with her delegation, are currently in Equatorial Guinea throughout this week in order to explore business opportunities as well as to enhance bilateral relations.

Gambia

- **4 February 2013** - The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the British Army has stated that the UK Government is committed to supporting Gambia and other allies in West Africa, with ways and means that would aid the countries in their possible international peacekeeping missions in northern Mali.

Ghana

- **11 February 2013** - It has been confirmed that a Canadian official, who was travelling in Ghana on federal government business, died in Accra last month.

Guinea

- **13 February 2013** - Guinea has given honours to the eleven officers who died in a plane crash in Liberia. The men were honoured during a state funeral which was presided over by the West African country's president.
 - Meanwhile following the deaths of the country's army chief and ten officers, Guinea's opposition parties have agreed to postpone national protests against what they say are flawed preparations for legislative elections.
- **11 February 2013** - Officials in Guinea have confirmed that the head of Guinea's armed forces has been killed in a plane crash that occurred in neighbouring Liberia.

Guinea Bissau

- **8 February 2013** - Guinea-Bissau has arrested its former Finance Minister, Jose Mario Vaz, on suspicion of embezzlement.

Liberia

- **14 February 2013** - Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), who are expected to take up a military assignment in Mali, are currently undergoing pre-deployment training at Camp Ware Military Barracks.

Mali

- Travel Summary
- MS RISK guidance to organizations in Mali
- Breakdown of the Mali Intervention
- Breakdown of the Numbers

Domestic News

- 8 February 2013 - A former US ambassador to Mali is stating that due to the fact that France paid ransom money in order to free hostages, the funds ended up bolstering the same Islamist groups that it is now fighting.

Mauritania

- Travel Summary
- **12 February 2013** - The eleventh session of the Mauritania-Senegal Joint Commission began on Monday under the joint chairmanship of the Foreign Ministers of both countries.
- **8 February 2013** - France has announced that it will be giving Mauritania €1.5 m in food aid through the World Food Programme (WFP).

Niger

- Travel Summary
- **14 February 2013** - France's unilateral military mission in Mali has highlighted the need of all nations to secure access to their economic strategic assets.

- **13 February 2013** - Analysts are beginning to warn that with French and Malian forces recapturing all the northern cities from the Islamist militants, Niger may be a possible next target for the ousted militant groups as Tuareg rebels living in the country continue to be disenfranchised despite a 2009 peace deal.

Nigeria

- Travel Summary
- MS RISK guidance to organizations in Nigeria

At Sea

- Over the course of eight days, pirates operating off the coast of Nigeria attacked three vessels, resulting in the death of one person.
- **11 February 2013** - A Hong Kong, China-flagged general cargo ship, the **Safmarine Sahel**, noticed a speed boat approaching on its port side at 0635 LT in position 04:006.68N - 006:52.57E, just 13 nautical miles south of Nigeria's coastline.
- **10 February 2013** - Twelve heavily armed pirates approached, fired upon and boarded an offshore supply vessel, the **Walvis-7**, while it was underway at 1830 UTC in position 03:33:55N - 006:35.39E, around 45 nautical miles off Bonny Fairway Buoy, Bonny River, Nigeria.
- **7 February 2013** - Pirates have attacked a British-flagged cargo ship off the West African coast and have kidnapped three crew members.
- **6 February 2013** - Owners of a French-owned ship that was seized by pirates off the Ivory Coast on Sunday have confirmed that the vessel has been freed.
- **4 February 2013** - Meanwhile the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines (DFA) has confirmed that one Filipino crewman has been fatally shot by a Nigerian pirate on board the chemical tanker PYXIS DELTA.

On Land

- **17 February 2013** - Gunmen in northern Nigeria have kidnapped seven workers, including two foreigners, at a Lebanese-owned construction site.
- **12 February 2013** - Three Nigerian journalists have been charged in court with the killing of nine female polio vaccinators in northern Kano state.
- **10 February 2013** - Officials have confirmed that three doctors from South Korea have been killed in the north-eastern Nigerian state of Yobe.
- **8 February 2013** - Gunmen on Friday killed at least ten people in two polio clinics in Nigeria.

Domestic News

- **7 February 2013** - Nigeria's four main opposition parties have merged in an attempt to challenge current President Goodluck Jonathan's bid in the 2015 general elections.

Senegal

- **8 February 2013** - A new internationally-backed court is set to open on Friday in Senegal in which its judges will begin to prepare a case against the former ruler of Chad, Hissene Habre.
- **6 February 2013** - Amidst the ongoing insecurities in Mali, Senegal has increased its security in the capital city of Dakar as well as in some of the cities located along the border with Mali.

About MS Risk

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



Travel Summary:

Any citizens traveling to, and residing in, Burkina Faso are urged to exercise and maintain a high level of security awareness at all times. There remains to be a general threat from terrorism in the Sahel region. With the recent French military intervention in Mali, there is a heightened threat of retaliatory attacks that could target Western, especially French, interests throughout the region. Similarly, al-Qaeda-linked militants, who are reportedly taking shelter in the northern region of Mali, may have also crossed the border into neighbouring countries, including Burkina Faso. These men may have disguised themselves as refugees in an attempt to blend in.

Intelligence reports have confirmed that terrorists are highly likely to be planning kidnap operations in Burkina Faso. Consequently there is a heightened risk that kidnap activity may cross the northern borders from Niger and Mali into Burkina Faso. MS RISK advises against all travel to the northern



region of Burkina Faso, specifically north of the town of Boulsa, which is located 25km north of the capital city of Ouagadougou. This includes the border provinces of Lebara, Kenedougou, Banwa, Kossi, Sourou, Yatenga, Loroum, Soum, Oudalan, Seno, Yagha, Komondjari and Tapoa. Since 2008, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has captured over 25 hostages of a variety of nationalities, primarily European, in which a number of these hostages are still being held.

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

MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Burkina Faso:

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

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

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

Companies that rely on police escorts in the northern region of the country should ensure that travel patterns do not become predictable. Varying routes are difficult due to the limited road networks, as such, it is even more important to vary the types of vehicles that are used as well as to time the journeys and to avoid travel patterns becoming widely known. This is especially critical given the current tensions that are occurring along the Mali border and the impending ECOWAS operations. All companies that are linked to the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation should familiarise themselves with the IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Security Forces. This applies to military, police or private security services.

Finally, unconfirmed reports have suggested that there is an elevated banditry threat that exists on the main routes south and east of the town of Fada N’Gourma en route to Pama and Diapala respectively. Road moves to these areas should be risk assessed and liaison with police should occur until the nature of the threats have been clarified. Companies with operations in the region are invited to report incidents to MS Risk in order to aid in assessing the local atmospherics.

Domestic News:

- **13 February 2013** - A French member of parliament has called on the French government to shed light into the assassination of Burkina Faso president Thomas Sankara who was killed in a coup d'état twenty-five years ago. Communist MP André Chassaigne has called for a commission of inquiry in order to investigate the coup that was supported by Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Libya, the US and France. The MP's remarks stem from demands which were made by twelve Burkinabe MP's who are demanding a parliamentary inquiry into Sankara's death. Mr. Chassaigne has indicated that now would be a good time for France to take the initiation for such an inquiry to occur as "France, to an as-yet known extent, is responsible for this assassination." Further stating that "I believe that France, which today claims to behave differently towards Africa under what I personally would call a virtuous circle must tell the truth. We cannot leave the people of Burkina Faso and

more broadly speaking, the people's of Africa in the dark about what really happened." He further noted that such an inquiry would aid in improving relation with African countries. So far there have been no comments made by the French government in relation to a possible investigation of this matter.



No restrictions in this travel advice

Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Equatorial Guinea, MS Risk advises to remain alert and to take sensible personal security precautions. Roadblocks and unannounced identification checks are likely to occur. As such, you are advised to carry the appropriate form of identification (such as a passport or residence card) with you at all times.

Domestic News:

- 5 February 2013** - South Africa's Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry, Elizabeth Thabethe, along with her delegation, are currently in Equatorial Guinea throughout this week in order to explore business opportunities as well as to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. There are a total of thirteen representatives from a number of South African companies who are participating in this delegation. Upon her arrival, the Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry indicated that "this mission will be taking place within the context of South Africa's strategic engagement with the rest of the continent, aimed at supporting Africa's economic revival, socioeconomic development and promoting intra-Africa trade. During the week, the delegates are expected to meet with Equatorial Guinean business representatives. They will also be participating in a trade and investment seminar which will specifically focus on sectors such as agro-processing, infrastructure, electro-technical and capital and mining equipment. In recent months, Equatorial Guinea's President Obiang has been working to enhance the cooperation between African countries in a variety of sectors. In 2011, President Obiang visited South Africa in order to improve trade and investment relations. The exchange reflects the growing cooperation between African countries, especially South Africa and Equatorial Guinea. The group, which arrived on 4 February, will be departing on Friday, February 8.

No restrictions
in this travel
advice



Although there are no restrictions on travel to Gambia, due to the French military intervention in Mali, there is a possibility of retaliatory attacks targeting Western interests in the region. MS Risk advises those who are in the country to remain vigilant at all times. There has been an increase in political tensions which may lead to announced demonstrations occurring in Banjul and in other regions of the country.

Domestic News:

- **4 February 2013** - The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the British Army has stated that the UK Government is committed to supporting Gambia and other allies in West Africa, with ways and means that would aid the countries in their possible international peacekeeping missions in northern Mali. Within the following ten days, Britain is expected to send a team to Gambia in order to help train Gambian soldiers who will be deploying to Mali. The UK's Chief of defence Staff, General Sir David Richards, who is currently travelling to four African states as part of a mission to stabilize the situation in Mali, arrived in Banjul on Friday morning, where he met with Vice President Isatou Njie--Saidy. Speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting with the Vice President, General Richards indicated that the purpose of his visit was to further cement and enhance relations between the UK and Gambia, with a particular focus on assisting Gambia's armed forces in terms of capacity building.



No restrictions
in this travel
advice

Although there are currently no restrictions on travel to Ghana, the French military intervention in Mali has increased the possibility of retaliatory attacks occurring, such as the attack and kidnappings that have occurred in Algeria over the past few days. As such MS Risk advises to remain vigilant as such attacks will most likely target Western interests in the region.

Domestic News:

- **11 February 2013** - It has been confirmed that a Canadian official, who was travelling in Ghana on federal government business, died in Accra last month. Darrel Prokopetz, 54, died in Accra on Jan. 30 after being found in his room at the Golden Tulip Hotel, which is a popular spot for foreign visitors. Citing reasons of privacy, the Canadian government has provided very few details in regards to their investigation, however they have confirmed the death and have extended their condolences to friends and family. John Babcock, a spokesman for the foreign affairs department indicated in a statement that was released to the Canadian media that "Canadian consular officials in Accra are in contact with local authorities to gather additional information and are providing consular assistance as required." Mr. Prokopetz, who was the assistant director of international strategy delivery at the Canada School of Public Service, which is based in Gatineau Quebec, was involved in a project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency which was devoted to professional development for public servants in Ghana. However Canadian authorities have not confirmed if Mr. Prokopetz was in Accra for that reason. Although International Trade Minister Ed Fast was in Ghana at the time of the incident, Mr. Babcock has confirmed that he was not a part of Mr. Prokopetz' delegation. According to relatives of the deceased man, hotel security officials entered his room after he did not show up for a meeting that morning. They found him in bed in critical condition. He died later in hospital and preliminary autopsy reports are suggesting that his death was caused by heart failure.

No restrictions
in this travel
advice



Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Guinea, there is a heightened risk of spontaneous riots and violent demonstrations that may take place in the capital city and throughout the country. The country's main opposition party has announced that it will be holding protests and a national strike on 18 February. MS Risk therefore advises any citizens in the country to remain vigilant over the coming days as such protests may turn violent. There is currently a low threat from terrorism, however with the on-going French military intervention in Mali, there is a heightened risk of retaliatory attacks targeting Western interests in the region. Guinean authorities maintain police and local militia checkpoints throughout the entire country as such you are advised to carry the appropriate form of identification (such as a passport or residence card) with you at all times.

Domestic News:

- 13 February 2013** - Guinea has given honours to the eleven officers who died in a plane crash in Liberia. The men were honoured during a state funeral which was presided over by the West African country's president. Gen. Souleymane Kelefa Diallo, chief of the Guinean army, was killed along with ten other individuals when they were flying to Liberia in order to attend the Armed Forces Day celebrations. Their plane crashed early Monday, about 45 km (28 miles) south of Monrovia, the Liberian capital. Guinea is observing three days of mourning for the officers. Guinean President Alpha Conde posthumously promoted Gen. Diallo to the rank of Dignity of Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit of the Republic of Guinea. The ten officers were named as Commanders of the National Order of Merit.

 - Meanwhile following the deaths of the country's army chief and ten officers, Guinea's opposition parties have agreed to postpone national protests against what they say are flawed preparations for legislative elections. The government declared three days of national mourning following the plane crash which occurred on Monday near the Liberian capital. Sidya Toure, an opposition leader, has confirmed that the protests and a national strike, which were originally planned for this Wednesday, will be delayed until 18 February in order to respect the mourning period. This is the second time that the protests have been postponed. Initially, they had been scheduled for the 7th of February however they were banned by authorities as they coincided with a visit by Sepp Blatter, the president of the world soccer body FIFA. The long-delayed election is intended to be the last stage in the country's transition to civilian rule after the 2008 military coup. However the country's opposition parties are currently seeking to protest about the two firms that have been chosen by the government in order to update the country's voter role. They are citing that the firms are skewing the list to favour President Conde and are calling the government to replace them. President Conde was elected in 2010 in the first free elections after 50 years of one-man rule. The army had seized power in 2008 after the death of veteran leader Lansana Conte. Guinea then endured two years of often violent military rule. Initially the parliamentary poll was due in 2011 however it has already been delayed four times by the sometimes violent political bickering. Currently, opposition parties are rejecting the proposed

May 12 elections. The European Union, one of Guinea's major donors, warned in November of last year that it required a credible and detailed timeline for the election in order to unblock €174m in aid. The ongoing political deadlock and violence has also contributed to doubts amongst many investors who are keen to tap into the country's vast iron ore, bauxite and gold reserves.

- 11 February 2013** - Officials in Guinea have confirmed that the head of Guinea's armed forces has been killed in a plane crash that occurred in neighbouring Liberia. Gen. Souleymane Kelefa Diallo was leading Guinea's delegation to mark Liberia's annual Armed Forces Day. The plane was carrying eleven military officials and five crew members. No one survived the crash which happened in Charlesville, near Monrovia's international airport. During the ceremony for the annual Armed Forces Day, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf dedicated a minute's silence to those who died "in the tragic plane crash." Later that day, she visited the site where the Casa CN-235 came down near the Roberts International Airport about 45 km (28 miles) south of Monrovia. Guinea has announced a three day mourning period.



No restrictions
in this travel
advice

There are currently no travel restrictions in place for Guinea-Bissau. In April 2012, the country's armed forces staged a coup in the capital city of Bissau. Although the current security situation remains calm, the political situation can change unexpectedly. There remains to be an underlying threat from terrorism.

Domestic News:

- 8 February 2013** - Guinea-Bissau has arrested its former Finance Minister, Jose Mario Vaz, on suspicion of embezzlement. According to the office of the attorney-general, Mr. Vaz has been detained in the capital city since February 4 as an on-going investigation is taking place in order "to find out what happened with US \$12.5 million which was donated by the Angolan government for budget support." Mr. Vas, who was the finance minister from 2009 until a coup in April of last year, is set to appear before a criminal court. Angola suspended aid and military training to the former Portuguese colony after the overthrow of interim President Raimundo Pereira, who was deposed two weeks after elections were due to take place.

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



There currently is a tense and unpredictably security environment in Liberia, and there is a risk of serious crime. Liberia is still in the process of recovering from a devastating civil war that ended in August 2003 and which left the country with little or no infrastructure. Although there is a large deployment of UN peacekeepers and police advisers in the country, the security situation remains unpredictable. There is a potential for unrest and violence is high due to the ongoing political and social tensions. There are large numbers of displaced people and armed groups in the areas bordering Cote d'Ivoire. This border area has been unstable in recent months as cross border attacks that occurred during the second half of 2012 have increased the risk to travellers. Consequently MS RISK advises against all but essential travel to the Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties in Liberia as well as any other counties where there have been reports of armed groups living in areas that border the Ivory Coast. We also advise against all night travel outside Monrovia, with the exception of the Roberts International Airport. There is currently a low level of threat from terrorism.

Domestic News (12):

- **14 February 2013** - Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), who are expected to take up a military assignment in Mali, are currently undergoing pre-deployment training at Camp Ware Military Barracks. The move, which was confirmed by Defence Minister Brownie Samukai, is seen as an indication that the country is now ready to deploy its restructured army on a peacekeeping mission abroad. Minister Samukai made the announcement in Monrovia on Thursday during regular Ministry of Information press briefing. According to the Minister, the soldiers have already completed their medicals, and their pre-deployment exercises are focusing on Mali's geography, culture and the predispositions of the militants they will be combating. The Minister also addressed a number of other issues including the AFL deployment to Mali, a pending recruitment exercise to increase the strength of the army amidst reports of a high level of attrition within the military as well as preparations for the renovation of the Camp Todee Military Barracks. In January of this year, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had sent a proposal to the National Legislature for its approval in the AFL's participation in Mali's peacekeeping operations where French and Malian troops are fighting to dislodge al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants. Although no deployment date has been announced, credible sources have indicated that the Mali-AFL deployment is set for March 2013.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

Travel Summary:

MS Risk advises against all travel to Mali. If however you remain in the country, we advise you to closely monitor the daily developments which are available in English through the BBC World Service (88.9 FM in Bamako). The Government of Mali declared a State of Emergency across the whole country which became effective from midnight on 12 January 2013. This effectively enables the government to take extraordinary measures to deal with the crisis in the North and elsewhere. Although currently no curfew has been established, changes could be announced at any time.

On the ground and air assaults by French forces are ongoing in the northern regions, you are therefore advised to avoid the regions north of Timbuktu. The Malian government has also placed severe restrictions on travel north of Segou towards the town of Mopti. Consequently, we advise everyone to monitor the local media for reports of any new measures. In view of the deteriorating security situation in Mali, MS Risk recommends that unless you have pressing reasons to remain, you should now leave the country by commercial means. Bamako International Airport remains open.



Currently there is a high threat from terrorism in Mali. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the first suicide bombing occurring this week in Gao, it is highly probable that such

attacks will continue to be staged in the major cities and former strongholds of the al-Qaeda-linked groups.

There is also a high threat of kidnapping in Mali by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and by the splinter group, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA). Although AQIM uses the northern region of Mali as an operating base, it has proven its capability of travelling long distances in order to carry out attacks, some of which have occurred in neighbouring countries. As such the kidnap threat cannot be isolated within

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

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

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

MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Mali:

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

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

The most extreme risks will be in the Azawad region. There is expected to be military clashes there between the various insurgent groupings against the ECOWAS-bolstered Mali army force in line with the UN Security Council authorization to use force. Despite the obvious threats in the Azawad, organisations in Mali should be braced for nuisance attacks and isolated terrorist attacks in the capital of Bamako. When al-Shabaab was weakened in Somalia, these types of attacks were experienced in Uganda and Kenya. Although the two conflicts are not connected, it is logical to predict that similar tactics may evolve and be witnessed in Mali and inside contributing nations.

Breakdown of the Mali Intervention:

- **4 February 2013** - Tuareg rebels in northern Mali have confirmed that they have captured two senior Islamist insurgents who were fleeing French airstrikes. One of their patrols seized Mohamed Moussa Ag Mohamed, an Islamist leader who imposed harsh Sharia law in Timbuktu. Oumeini Ould Baba Akhmed, who is thought to be responsible for the kidnapping of a French hostage by al-Qaeda splinter group MUJWA, has also been captured. They were captured near the Algerian border. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius confirms that warplanes are continuing to bomb the northern regions of Mali in an attempt to destroy the militant's supply lines and to flush them out of the remote areas. Since Friday, French jets and attack helicopters have hit 25 targets in Kidal as well as in the areas surrounding Aguelhod and Tessalit. Five hundred French soldiers have left Timbuktu, effectively beginning the staged withdrawal from the city. French troops will be replaced by the Malian army, who will be supported by soldiers from other African countries, in order to assume the responsibility for security in the northern town. Amidst continued threats to Western-interests in the region, Algeria's army has increased its positions along the shared border with Mali in order to prevent any militants from crossing the border. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden meets with French President Francois Hollande in Paris where he praised France's military intervention in Mali.
- **5 February 2013** - Some 1,800 troops from Chad have entered the town of Kidal, which was the last major town in northern Mali that was captured from Islamist militants. Problems have arisen in Kidal ever since French special forces gained control of the city's airport last week. Tuareg rebels have stipulated that they do not want Mali's army to enter Kidal, accusing them of having killed Tuareg civilians in towns across the country. Governments and international organizations meet in order to find ways to reinforce the military gains against the Islamist militants in northern Mali. The international support group, which comprised of the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union and the West African states, met in Brussels in order to discuss funding, equipping and training of the 8,000-strong African force which is expected to take over from the French troops in the coming months.
- **6 February 2013** - A landmine blast which occurred between the northern towns of Gao and Douentza has killed four civilians. Reports have indicated that Malian government soldiers have fought mutinous paratroopers in the capital city of Bamako. Fighting erupted as soldiers attacked a camp of elite paratroopers who are loyal to ex-President Amadou Toumani Toure, who was ousted in the March 2012 coup. It is believed that the incident broke out after the paratroopers refused to be absorbed into the other units in order to begin movement towards the northern frontline. The violence comes on the same day that the first European Union (EU) military trainers are expected to arrive in Bamako in order to begin further training of the Malian army. Reports have indicated that the secular National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad has claimed that they are in control of a number of small settlements in the northeastern region of Mali. France announces that its troops will be withdrawing from Mali in the coming weeks despite ongoing attacks by Islamist militants. France currently has 4,000 troops on the ground, a deployment number which is far higher than the 2,500 soldiers that France had initially projected for the military intervention.
- **7 February 2013** - During a two-day summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, leaders of a number of Muslim nations declared their support for the unity and territorial integrity of Mali and have condemned the terrorism which has taken place in the west African state.
- **8 February 2013** - A suicide bomber blew himself up in the northern town of Gao, sparking the first such incident to occur since France launched its military intervention. The attack occurred when the suspect, who was on a motorbike at the time, approached a checkpoint located on the outskirts of Gao at about 6:30 GMT. The bomber, who is believed to be a young Tuareg, then detonated an explosive belt. Reports have indicated that he was carrying a larger bomb which failed to detonate. The attack left one soldier injured. This attack signifies that the Islamist rebels have resorted to guerrilla warfare as a means of demonstrating that despite being ousted from their strongholds in northern Mali, they are still able to carry out hit and run attacks. Meanwhile French forces have

confirmed that they have captured the town of Tessalit, which is located near the Algerian border, from rebel Islamic insurgents. The capture of Tessalit is significant to French forces as the town is a gateway into the mountainous region in northern Mali. It is believed that a number of al-Qaeda-linked Islamists have fled to this region in order to regroup.

- **11 February 2013** - French and Malian forces have regained control of Gao after two days of instability and heavy fighting with Islamist rebels. Over the weekend, soldiers cordoned off Gao and were conducting house-by-house searches in order to locate any remaining fighters. Rebels had invaded the city over the weekend after they launched a surprise attack. U.S. President Barack Obama approves US \$50 million from the Pentagon's budget in order to assist Chad and France in their efforts to combat militants in Mali.
- **13 February 2013** - French soldiers recovered an enormous stash of explosives that authorities believe were used by radical Islamist fighters in order to make bombs for hit and run attacks targeted at Gao. Malian military spokesman Daouda Diarra has confirmed that the French military removed some 800 kilograms (1,700 pounds) of explosive materials from a house in Gao. The find has raised further fears that jihadists may be preparing to stage a number of suicide attacks throughout their former strongholds. Meanwhile government officials in Russia have confirmed that they are delivering military hardware and light weapons to the Malian government.
- **15 February 2013** - The Interim government's territorial administration minister announces that Mali will hold nationwide presidential elections on 7 July 2013.

On The Ground Events:

- **8 February 2013** - A former US ambassador to Mali is stating that due to the fact that France paid ransom money in order to free hostages, the funds ended up bolstering the same Islamist groups that it is now fighting. US ambassador Vicki Huddleston has stated that in 2010, France paid US \$17 million (£10.75m) to free the hostages that were seized from a uranium mine in Niger, further noting that other European countries, including Germany, had also paid ransoms which amounted to nearly US \$90m.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Travel Summary:



Intelligence reports have indicated that some Islamist rebels may have disguised themselves and crossed over into Mauritania with a group of refugees. They may have crossed the border in order to regroup and protect themselves from the ongoing ground and air strikes that are occurring in northern Mali. Likewise, they may attempt to carry out hit and run attacks in Mauritania as well as target foreigners for kidnappings.

MS Risk advises against all travel to the eastern and northern provinces of the country - specifically to Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant and Hodh el Chargui. This is due to the continuing high threat from terrorism. We also advise against all travel to the western provinces of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou and Inchiri. This includes the road from the port of Nouadhibou to Nouakchott. We advise against all but essential travel to the rest of the country.

Following the French military intervention in Mali there is a heightened possibility of retaliatory attacks that will target Western interests in the region. Consequently we advise vigilance. There have been

intelligence reports indicating that al-Qaeda linked Islamists may have disguised themselves as refugees and have crossed the border in Mauritania. Given its geographic positioning, as the country that shares a 2,300km border with Mali, Mauritania has been one of the country that has suffered greatly due to the impact of the counter-offensive that has been conducted in Mali over the past several weeks. Over the last several centuries, those communities who have been living on the borders of the two countries have cultivated economic, religious and cultural relations, which in part have facilitated the ease of movement of armed Islamists from one side of the border to the other over the last several years. In turn, the presence of militant groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) or Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), has also considerably affected the country over the past several years. Mauritania has bared witness to a number of terrorist attacks. In turn, the Mauritanian army has been targeted in terrorist attacks which have left several soldiers dead in the northern regions of Lemgheitty, Ghalouiya and Tourine. Similarly, these terrorist groups have also carried out a number of

abductions of Western nationals within Mauritania's territories. Since then, these attacks and abductions have had a disastrous impact on the country. Faced with this growing situation, in 2010 authorities in Mauritania implemented a new strategy in order to ward-off these terrorist threats. The strategy was based on preventive strikes that would mostly take place on Malian territory and which would work in order to keep danger out of Mauritania. These preventive strikes were carried out by special anti-terrorism units which were trained by Mauritania's partner states including France, the United States, Spain and Britain. These measures have greatly helped in stopping the activities of terrorist groups within Mauritania. However for its neighbour, the terrorists groups continued to operating within the northern regions of Mali. The crisis in Libya only worsened the situation as it effectively enabled the terrorist groups to acquire heavy weapons which would then be used to aid the capture of towns in northern Mali. Today however the situation has greatly evolved, in part due to operation Serval which has brought together the Malian and French forces in their bid to stop the advancement of rebels towards the southern region of Mali. Following the French offensive, authorities in Mauritania ruled out the possibility of the country participating in the war however they did promise that they would ensure the protection of its borders, a position which appears to be similar to that of Algeria.

On The Ground Events:

- **12 February 2013** - The eleventh session of the Mauritania-Senegal Joint Commission began on Monday under the joint chairmanship of the Foreign Ministers of both countries. Mauritania is represented by Foreign Minister Hamadi Ould Hamadi while Foreign Minister Mankeur N'Diaye will represent Senegal. Official sources have confirmed that the meeting is geared towards consolidating cooperation amongst the two neighbouring countries, where inhabitants of the 700-kilometer border belong to the same ethnic and religious groups. The meeting is also set to discuss the follow-up recommendations which were made during the tenth session that was held in Dakar in August 2010. The 2010 meeting had recommended cooperation in the areas of energy, gas, transborder security, movement of people and goods, fisheries, transportation, agriculture, cattle-breeding and attempts to raise funds for the construction of the Rosso border bridge.
- **8 February 2013** - France has announced that it will be giving Mauritania €1.5m in food aid through the World Food Programme (WFP). The grant is meant to assist those who have been affected by the nation's food crisis. The WFP will also benefit from €750,000 aid under the project, which is aimed at improving food security and nutritional status of people affected by the 2012 food and nutrition crisis. According to the French Embassy, the project will also aim to provide nutritional assistance to children and women in seven regions across Mauritania. According to the French Embassy, the €750,000 will be earmarked for the NGO Solidarity Internationale to enable it to support the implementation of a project that is aimed at improving the resilience of people affected by drought in eastern Hodh, which is located in the eastern region of the country.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

Travel Summary:

MS Risk advises against all travel to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province, north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillaberi province north of Niamey, including the road from Naimey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka.



We advise against all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city of Niamey.

Due to the French military intervention in Mali, there is a possibility of retaliatory attacks that may target Western interests in the region. We advise vigilance. There is a high threat of terrorism occurring throughout the country. Attacks could be indiscriminate and can occur in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. Terrorists have also been involved in kidnaps in the region and MS Risk believes that further kidnap attacks, such as the ones that occurred in Algeria over the past few days, are likely.

All companies that are currently operating in the north and north-west regions of the country should be aware of the increased security threats. Companies attempting road moves should coordinate them with local authorities. MS Risk does not recommend unescorted road moves east of Tahoua. There have been several military escorts operating from Tahoua to the north and north-eastern regions of the country which companies should liaise with for increased protection.

Domestic News:

- **14 February 2013** - France's unilateral military mission in Mali has highlighted the need of all nations to secure access to their economic strategic assets. In the case of France, this would be its uranium assets which are located in Niger. The region of Kidal in Mali borders the northwestern region of Niger, where Areva, France's nuclear power giant, has been mining uranium for the past half century. In light of a 2010 al-Qaeda-linked kidnapping which occurred at the site in Arlit, Areva has increased its security at both its Arlit and Imouraren mining operations with the deployment of French special forces. France's deployment of its special forces to protect these uranium assets signifies the nation's heightened priorities in ensuring access to a steady and reliable supply of uranium. The country relies on nuclear power in order to generate about seventy-five percent of its electricity. According to a parliamentary report, France acquires about eighteen percent of its nuclear fuel from Niger which is the world's fifth-largest uranium producer.
- **13 February 2013** - Analysts are beginning to warn that with French and Malian forces recapturing all the northern cities from the Islamist militants, Niger may be a possible next target for the ousted militant groups as Tuareg rebels living in the country continue to be disenfranchised despite a 2009 peace deal. Some members of the Tuareg group may also have fled to Niger as French and Malian troops began to push further north in Mali. Consequently given Niger's weakened government structures, they may in the near future pose a serious threat to the country as a whole. This new report is in line with last month's warning which was issued by the US State Department which cautioned US citizens to exercise extreme caution if travelling to Niger because of a threat of spillover from Mali. Since deploying troops to Mali, Niger's government has ordered round-the-clock military patrols in the capital of Niamey. They have also increased security around hotels and foreign embassies.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Nigeria

Travel Summary:

MS Risk advises against all travel to: Borno State; Yobe State; Riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States; Warri City; and Kano City. In light of the recent kidnappings, we advise against all travel to Bauchi state. We advise against all but essential travel to: Jos City, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas in Plateau State; Gombe State; Mubi Town in Adamawa State and the area north of Mubi Town that borders Borno State; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States; Abia State; Kaduna City; and Zaria City.

Following the French military intervention in Mali, there is a heightened possibility of retaliatory attacks targeting Western interests in the region, especially with the fact that Nigeria will be leading the African forces. It is therefore likely that militants from Mali may cross into Nigeria in order to carry out attacks and suicide bombings.



Similarly, militants of Boko Haram may increase their attacks on Christian places of worship, as well as other sites, in protest of the intervention in Mali. France has advised its citizens to leave the northern regions of the country as well as the areas surrounding the capital of Abuja. This is due to threats relating to the military intervention in Mali. French diplomatic sources have indicated that the threat of kidnappings, coupled with Nigeria's support for France's actions in Mali, has raised the risks for French nationals.

There is a high threat of terrorism occurring in Nigeria. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including government, security and educational institutions, international organisations as well as public venues and areas such as restaurants, bars, markets, hotels, shopping centers, places of worship and other areas that are frequented by expatriates, foreign tourists and

business travelers. Terrorist attacks have been known to occur on religious and public holidays. There have been regular attacks on churches in northern Nigeria at times of worship. The US government has published an Emergency Message for US citizens, detailing information that Boko Haram may be planning attacks in Abuja. This information has been assessed as being credible and attacks could occur at any time, including against international hotels that are frequently visited by Westerners. There is also an increased level of kidnap threat in Nigeria in which foreign nationals have typically been the targets of such kidnaps. MS RISK advises against all travel to Borno State; Yobe State; the Riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River States; Warri city and Kano city. We advise against all but essential travel to Bauchi State; Jos city; Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government areas in plateau State; Gombe State; Mubi Town in Adamawa State and the area north of Mubi Town which borders Borno State; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States; Abia State; Kaduna City; and Zaria City.

At Sea:

- Over the course of eight days, pirates operating off the coast of Nigeria attacked three vessels, resulting in the death of one person. Attacks on merchant vessels transiting the region have proved

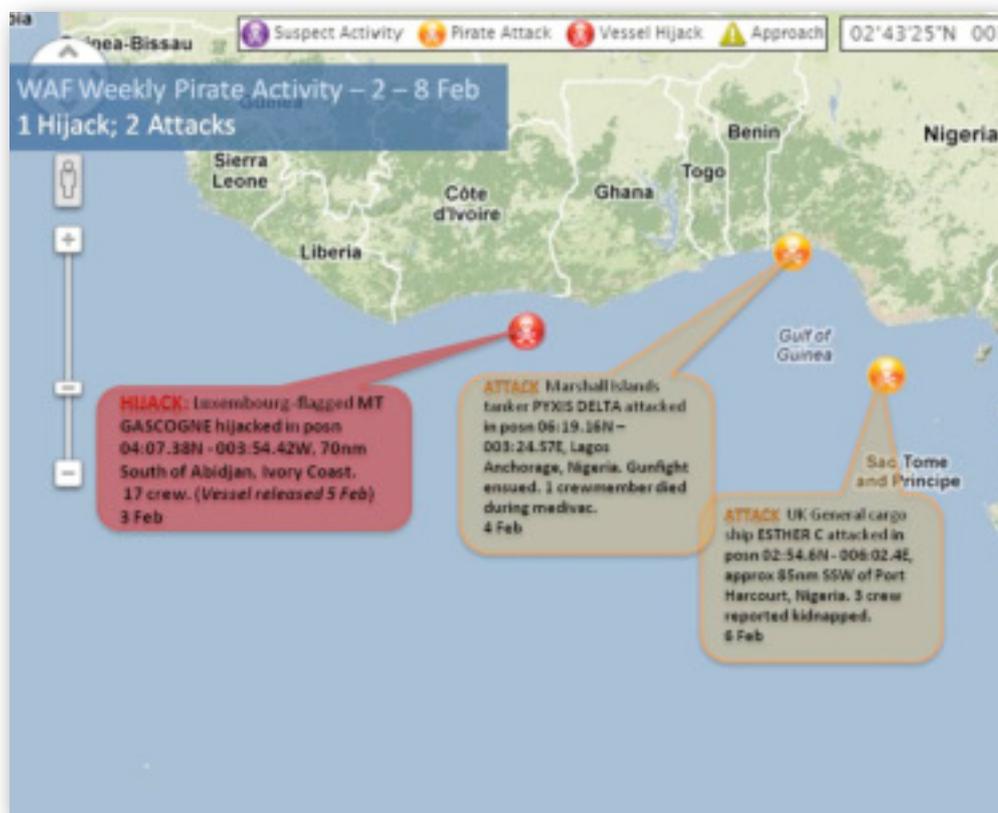


to be a sign that the security situation off Africa's largest oil exporter is rapidly deteriorating. The attacks that occurred over the past two weeks include gunmen killing a crew member when they attacked a chemical tanker that was carrying out a ship-to-ship transfer at Lagos port. The tanker that was involved in the incident was the Dubai-managed Pyxis Delta and the crew member who was killed was from the Philippines.

•11 February 2013

- A Hong Kong, China-flagged general cargo ship, the **Safmarine Sahel**, noticed a speed boat approaching on its port side at 0635 LT in position 04:006.68N - 006:52.57E, just 13 nautical miles south of Nigeria's coastline. The vessel subsequently increased its speed and initiated evasive maneuvers. The speed boat came alongside and pirates attempted to board the vessel. Weapons were fired at the vessel. However due to the anti-piracy measures that were enforced, the pirates later aborted the attempt and moved away. The crew and vessel are safe and proceeded to a safe port after the attack.

- 10 February 2013** - Twelve heavily armed pirates approached, fired upon and boarded an offshore supply vessel, the **Walvis-7**, while it was underway at 1830 UTC in position 03:33:55N - 006:35.39E, around 45 nautical miles off Bonny Fairway Buoy, Bonny River, Nigeria. The alarm was raised and most of the crew were moved to the citadel. The Master (from Honduras) and C/E (from the Ukraine) were kidnapped by the pirates who escaped with cash and personal belongings. The remaining 18 Nigerian crew members were safely sailed into port.
- 7 February 2013** - Pirates have attacked a British-flagged cargo ship off the West African coast and have kidnapped three crew members. In a statement that was released by the vessel's owners, Carisbrooke Shipping Ltd., the "2008 built, UK flag...general cargo ship '**MV Esther C**' was boarded by pirates on the evening of February 7 whilst in international waters south in the Gulf of Guinea. Having stolen personal possessions, the pirates departed the vessel taking three crew members as hostage." The released statement did not provide any further details pertaining to the location of the attack or the nationalities of the hostages. The nine crew members who are remaining on the vessel are reported to be safe and well.
- 6 February 2013** - Owners of a French-owned ship that was seized by pirates off the Ivory Coast on Sunday have confirmed that the vessel has been freed. The diesel tanker was seized off the Ivory Coast's port city of Abidjan. Sea Tankers confirmed that two of the seventeen crew members on board the **M/T Gascogne**, are currently receiving medical attention after having been injured during the hijacking. The crew members were comprised of seven sailors from Togo, four from Benin, two from the Ivory Coast, two from Senegal and one each from China and South Korea. Although the firm has not indicated how the M/T Gascogne was



freed or what the motive of the hijackers was, it did indicate that they thanked the naval forces and state authorities for helping to secure the vessel's release. The vessel was underway at 0659 LT in position 04:07.38N - 003:54.42W, 70 nautical miles South of Abidjan, Ivory Coast in international waters when it was hijacked. The vessel was then sailed to Nigeria, where pirates stole the oil cargo and the crew's and vessel's valuables.

- 4 February 2013** - Meanwhile the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines (DFA) has confirmed that one Filipino crewman has been fatally shot by a Nigerian pirate on board the chemical tanker **PYXIS DELTA**. The DFA has indicated that the crewman was pronounced dead upon arrival at a nearby hospital. The PYXIS DELTA was attacked on Monday off Nigeria's coast.

The remaining eight Filipino crew members are currently safe on board the vessel, which is anchored. They are currently awaiting their repatriation back to Manila. At present, the exact details of the incident remain to be vague. The Philippine government is working continuously with the ship's owners and operators in order to secure the freedom of the Filipinos. There are at least 23 Filipino crewmen that remain in the hands of Somali pirates. Piracy and ransom kidnappings of Filipino sailors continues to be a problem for the Philippine government as it lacks the capabilities to monitor their movements when at sea. Furthermore, as a policy, the Philippine government does not negotiate nor does it pay ransoms to the kidnappers however it does give the ship's owners the free hand in negotiating for the release of any abducted Filipino sailors. The PYXIS DELTA is an oil/chemical tanker that was built in 2006 at Hyundai Mipo Dockyard in South Korea. It is flagged by the Marshall Islands and is classed by DNV. Dubai-based ITM Holding owns and manages the vessel. The PYXIS DELTA was formerly known as the GAN VENTURE until its name was changed in March 2010.

On the Ground Events:

- 17 February 2013** - Gunmen in northern Nigeria have kidnapped seven workers, including two foreigners, at a Lebanese-owned construction site. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that the nationalities of those who have been kidnapped are British, Greek, Italian and Lebanese. Police reports have indicated that the compound's security guard was shot dead during the attack which occurred at the Setraco construction company site in Jama'are town (in Bauchi State). Mohammed Ladan, state police chief, has indicated that these are the same gunmen who earlier had attacked the prison and police station in Jama'are, which lies about 200 km (125 miles) from the state capital Bauchi city. They however were repelled.



On Saturday, there was a similar attack by gunmen on a police station in Kafin Maddaki town, which is located about 40 km from Bauchi city. That incident resulted in a shootout. Setraco Nigeria, a construction and civil engineering company, is a subsidiary of Setraco International Holding Group. The Nigerian company, which was established in 1977, is currently working on expanding a major road in northern Nigeria.

- 10 February 2013** - Officials have confirmed that three doctors from South Korea have been killed in the north-eastern Nigerian state of Yobe. Reports from local residents indicate that the three men were killed during the night in the town of Potiskum. Two of them had their throats slit while the third was beheaded. Officials have indicated that they were working at a government-run hospital. So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack however Boko Haram is known to be active in this region. Yobe state police commissioner Sanusi Rufai has indicated that the victims were found inside their flat on Sunday morning after local residents became worried that they were not answering the door. An official at the General Hospital where they were working stated that the block of flats where the three men lived in had no security guards. Furthermore, they were known to routinely travel throughout the town in taxis without a police escort. This recent incident comes just days after nine polio workers were shot dead in northern Nigeria on Friday (See Below).

President Goodluck Johathan has condemned both of the killings and has vowed that the campaign to eradicate polio throughout the country will carry through to a successful conclusion.

- **8 February 2013** - Gunmen on Friday killed at least ten people in two polio clinics in Nigeria. The attacks occurred in the northern city of Kano and come shortly after a local cleric denounced the polio campaigns, citing that the programme was a Western plot to harm Muslims in the country. Those killed in the first attack included a man and two women while the second attack involved the killing of seven women. The two clinics are located about five kilometers (three miles) apart from one another. Such conspiracy theories have long been in existence throughout Nigeria, which is one of three countries, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, that is still considered to have endemic polio. These theories have also been fueled by local politicians in many areas of the northern region of Nigeria, which comprises of a mainly Muslim population. Last year, gunmen killed two Nigerian police officers who at the time were guarding polio vaccination workers. However it remains unclear whether the attacks were linked to the polio campaign. In 2003, Kano's state government suspended the polio immunizations for a period of thirteen months. The then governor cited that claims on its harmful effects needed to be further investigated. The suspension followed allegations by some Muslim clerics that the vaccine had been laced with substances that could make girls infertile as part of a US-led Western plot to depopulate Africa. Although polio immunizations resumed in Nigeria, polio has not been eradicated in the state of Kano as many parents still reject the vaccine. So far, local police have declined to state who they believe is behind these recent attacks. Although Boko Haram has carried out a number of attacks in Kano, many gangs who are linked to local politics also operate in this region.

Domestic News:

- **7 February 2013** - Nigeria's four main opposition parties have merged in an attempt to challenge current President Goodluck Jonathan's bid in the 2015 general elections. According to a press release, the parties have indicated that they have formed the All Progressive Congress (APC) party as they feel that the need for radical changes in Nigeria has never been more urgent. In response, Mr. Jonathan's People's Democratic Party (PDP) has stated that they do not see the formation of this new coalition as a threat to its power. Since the end of a military rule in 1999, the PDP and its presidential candidate have won every election. The new coalition involves the merger of the ACL, which is led by Nigeria's former anti-corruption chief Nuhu Ribadu, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), headed by former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari, as well as the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) and the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA)



No restrictions
in this travel
advice

Although there are currently no travel restrictions for Senegal, MS Risk advises to avoid road travel in the Casamance region to the west of Kolda. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, authorities in Senegal have increased security in the capital city as well as along the border with Mali. MS Risk advises that al-Qaeda militants may cross the border into Senegal and may target Western interests as well as foreigners.

Domestic News:

- **8 February 2013** - A new internationally-backed court is set to open on Friday in Senegal in which its judges will begin to prepare a case against the former ruler of Chad, Hissene Habre. For the past twenty-two years, after being toppled by current Chadian President Idriss Deby, he has been living in exile in Senegal. Three countries have indicted Mr. Habre, 70, for crimes against humanity. Chad sentenced him to death for the killings and tortures that were carried out during his rule from 1982 to 1990. Some 40,000 people were killed and tortured during his rule. Mr. Habre is accused of using his feared secret police, the Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS), as a mechanism of targeting political opponents and rival ethnic groups after he seized power in a military coup. Senegal's president, Macky Sall, has agreed to set up the ad hoc court in the capital city of Dakar, where Mr. Habre is to be tried by African judges under Senegalese law. European countries are paying two-thirds of the court's US \$10 million budget, an amount which has resulted in the African union being criticized as it is only contributing ten percent to the court's total costs.
- **6 February 2013** - Amidst the ongoing insecurities in Mali, Senegal has increased its security in the capital city of Dakar as well as in some of the cities located along the border with Mali. Throughout the capital city, armored cars and police vehicles have been spotted while police have been carrying out checks on motorists in various parts of the capital city. According to police sources, there are patrols with joint operations between the police and the paramilitary police in order to secure the city. In turn, sites where foreigners work and live have also been closely monitored in both Dakar and the city of Saint-Louis, which is located near the border with Mauritania. Senegal has pledged 500 soldiers for Mali as part of an African force to take over the military intervention from France.



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 management
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests

- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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