



# 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

June 24 – July 7, 2013



*Follow us on Twitter @ MS Risk\_Security for regular updates on topical security events and issues.*

### Security Summaries for West African States

#### Burkina Faso

*On Land*

- **28 June 2013** - Police in Burkina Faso fired tear gas in order to disperse demonstrators who were protesting against the creation of a Senate, which they say will enable President Blaise Compaore to extend his 26-year rule.

#### Cameroon

*Domestic News*

- **1 July 2013** - President Paul Biya announced on Monday that legislative and municipal elections will be held on 30 September 2013.

## Central African Republic

### *On Land*

- **29 June 2013** - Clashes between ex-rebels and armed civilians have killed six people in Bangui as anger has mounted over abuses by the Central African Republic's (CAR) new rulers.

## Guinea

### *Domestic News*

- **3 July 2013** - Guinea's opposition and ruling party have reached an agreement to hold the country's long-delayed legislative elections in September 2013.
- **2 July 2013** - After breaking off talks two weeks ago following an attack on one of their leaders, Guinea's opposition parties resumed negotiations with the government on Tuesday over the long-delayed legislative elections.
- **27 June 2013** - A court in Guinea has charged a government minister over his alleged role in a stadium massacre in which some 150 people were killed in 2009.

## Guinea-Bissau

### *Domestic News*

- **28 June 2013** - On Friday, officials in Guinea-Bissau announced that presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on 4 November 2013, effectively bringing to end a period of political instability which began with a coup in April last year.

## Ivory Coast

### *International Developments*

- **2 July 2013** - The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Ivory Coast has strongly condemned an attack on a disarmament convoy carrying its national authority head and has urged that all those responsible be brought to justice.
- **28 June 2013** - On Friday, United Nations leader Ban Ki-moon raised fears that followers of ousted Ivory Coast leader Laurent Gbagbo could step up their attacks on the country from neighboring Liberia.

## Mali

### *On the Ground Analysis*

- **27 June 2013** - The president of Mali's election commission has raised doubts over its ability to stage presidential polls on the planned date of July 28.
- **26 June 2013** - A top United Nations envoy has warned that there will be more Mali-style conflict in the Sahel region unless urgent action is taken to lift the African region out of poverty and desperation.

## Mauritania

### *International Developments*

- **26 June 2013** - Officials have indicated that a Canadian man who has been jailed in Mauritania on terrorism charges has stated to human rights officials that Mauritanian police beat him into confessing.

## Nigeria

### *On Land*

- **6 July 2013** - At least twenty-nine pupils and a teacher have been killed in a pre-dawn attack that was carried out by suspected Islamist militants on a school located in the northeastern region of Nigeria.
- **30 June 2013** - Prison officials have confirmed that gunmen shot dead two civilians and then used explosives in order to free 175 inmates from a prison in Nigeria's southern town of Akure.
- **24 June 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Nigerian authorities hanged four prisoners on Monday in what is believed to be the country's first known executions since 2006.

### *Domestic News*

- **1 July 2013** - A Nigerian committee set up to negotiate with insurgent group Boko Haram has urged Islamic leaders to help bridge the gap between the government and militants.
- **30 June 2013** - Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission indicated on Sunday that it has credible reports that security forces are killing, torturing, illegally detaining and raping civilians in a fight to end an Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria.

## Senegal

### *Domestic News*

- **5 July 2013** - Chad's chief prosecutor has confirmed that three top officials under former dictator Hissene Habre have been arrested and charged with torture.
- **30 June 2013** - Police in Senegal have arrested Chad's former leader Hissen Habre, who is wanted for alleged atrocities during his eight-year rule.

## Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

### *Piracy News*

- **24 June 2013** - Leaders from West and Central Africa, who are in Cameroon to discuss maritime security, have called for the deployment of an international naval force in the Gulf of Guinea as the waters of the coast of Western Africa have increasingly become pirate-infested.
- **27 June 2013** - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the adoption of a code on tackling insecurity in the waters off West Africa, calling on regional countries to implement it and to act on the progress that was made during a summit held in Cameroon earlier this week.

## About MS RISK

## Security Summaries for West African States

**Benin** - Although there is currently no travel advisory for Benin, MS Risk advises all travellers to the country to remain vigilant. There is currently a low threat from terrorism. There have been incidents of mugging, personal assault and car-jacking in Cotonou. Armed robberies have also been reported in other areas, most notably in those regions that border Nigeria.

**Burkina Faso** - [Click Here](#)

**Cameroon** - [Click Here](#)

**Central African Republic** - [Click Here](#)

**Equatorial Guinea** - There are currently no travel advisories for Equatorial Guinea. 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 clam 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** - There is a low threat from terrorism. Crime is increasing in Gabon, particularly in Libreville and Port-Gentil. There have been incidents of robbery, armed attacks and rape. 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 attacks of armed robbery on commercial shipping in the Gulf of Guinea.

**Gambia** - There is no travel advisory for Gambia, however MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid travel by road from The Gambia to the Casamance, in the southern region of Senegal. The Casamance region of south western Senegal remains affected by incidents involving presumed separatist groups and by incidents of banditry. There is an underlying threat from terrorism. Due to the French military intervention in Mali, coupled with The Gambia's stated commitment to participate in the intervention, there is a possibility that retaliatory attacks that target Western interests in the region, may be carried out. Travellers to the country are warned to remain vigilant as attacks can take place at any time and anywhere. Following a political disagreement between the government of The Gambia and the Europa Union, pertaining to the deterioration of human rights in The Gambia, there has been an increase of political tensions which may lead to unannounced demonstrations in Banjul as well as in other parts of the country. MS Risk advises all travellers to avoid all demonstrations.

**Ghana** - There is currently no travel advisory for this country, however over the past year, there has been an increase in violent robberies. In May of this year, an expatriates vehicle was stopped by an armed individual who forced his way into the car, demanding money. On being paid, the individual left the vehicle. During a separate incident, an expatriate was robbed of her wallet while trying to pay a taxi driver. There have been reports that two westerners were shot while driving along at night and of a further two westerners being robbed at gunpoint at a restaurant. Both incidents occurred in the Accra area. There was a separate report of a robbery occurring in the Tema area, which resulted in the fatality of a westerner. There have been other reports of foreign nations being held at gun-point in their homes and while walking in the street. Most armed robberies occur at night however some incidences have occurred during daytime. A common tactic is to deliberately cause a minor road traffic accident in order to force you to stop. As a result of ongoing local Chieftancy and land disputes, isolated inter-ethnic violence and civil unrest can occur at any time including in the Northern, Upper East and Volta Regions. A dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed on the Hohoe community in the Volta Region. This is due to communal clashes over the exhumation of Chief Imam of Hohoe. If you are considering to travel to the Northern Region, MS Risk advises you to remain alert to the potential of new outbreaks of fighting. There is an underlying threat from terrorism.

**Guinea** - [Click Here](#)

**Guinea-Bissau** - [Click Here](#)

**Ivory Coast** - [Click Here](#)

**Liberia** - MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to parts of Liberia. There is a high level of crime in Monrovia, including armed robbery. The Liberian National Police has a very limited capability to prevent or detect crime, or to provide emergency response in any part of the country. Foreigners have been mugged in the Mamba Point and Sinkor areas of Monrovia, where most international visitors stay. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks could be carried out in Liberia, this is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali.

**Mali** - [Click Here](#)

**Mauritania** - [Click Here](#)

**Niger** - MS Risk advises against all travel to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillaberi province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; areas within 40 km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder and Maradi provinces. MS Risk advises against all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city of Niamey. There remains a high threat from terrorism, including kidnapping, in Niger. On 1 June 2013, three guards were killed and twenty-two inmates escaped from the main prison in Niamey during an attack that was launched by suspected Islamist militants. Travellers in Niamey should continue to monitor developments and be alert to announcements and remain vigilant at all times. On 23 May 2013, a military barracks in the town of Agadez and a uranium processing facility near the town of Arlit, approximately 150 miles north of Agadez, were attacked. A number of people were killed and injured. The terrorist group which claimed responsibility for the two attacks has publicly threatened to carry out further attacks in Niger. On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in its northern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Both Borno and Yobe border southern Niger. Consequently there is a risk that instability may spill over the border from Nigeria to Niger. There is a high threat of kidnapping from terrorist groups including AQIM and MOJWA. These terrorist groups have kidnapped Westerners in Niger and in the wider Sahel region, including in Niamey and the north and west of Niger. Further kidnappings are likely to occur. There is a threat of retaliatory attacks in Niger, due to the country's participation in the French-led intervention in Mali. Levels of crime are high, especially in the capital city of Niamey. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. Banditry, smuggling and other criminal activity is common in border areas, especially after dark. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria, south of Zinder. MS Risk advises to avoid crossing the border with Nigeria during the hours of darkness.

**Nigeria** - [Click Here](#)

**Senegal** - [Click Here](#)

**Sierra Leone** - There is currently no travel advisory for Sierra Leone. Violent incidents have taken place under cover of crowds in the streets of Freetown. There are also occasional small riots between rival groups of youths in the central and eastern areas of Freetown. If you encounter such an incident, you should leave the area immediately. There is a low threat from terrorism. There is a possibility that retaliatory attacks may be carried out in Sierra Leone. This is due to the country's participation in the intervention in Mali.

**Togo** - There is currently no travel advisory for Togo. Legislative elections will be held on 21 July 2013. Consequently MS Risk advises you to avoid all demonstrations and large gatherings anywhere in the country as they could quickly become violent. In the past, demonstrators have targeted foreigners. There have previously been riots and protests in Lome in August 2012 and in April 2013. Crime is on the rise in Lome. Local authorities warn of a rise in violent robberies and car-jacking incidents that target both foreigners and Togolese alike. Togolese authorities have also warned motorists to only stop for individuals in uniform, particularly after dark. You should avoid travelling alone where possible even within Lome city limits, especially after dark. There is a possibility of retaliatory attacks in Togo, due to its participation in the intervention in Mali.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



Burkina Faso

### Security 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.

#### Threats and Concerns

There is a general threat from terrorism throughout the Sahel region. Given the on-going French military intervention in Mali, the threat of retribution against Western private sector interests, especially French, has increased. Although there are currently no known Islamist operatives in Burkina Faso, the country's shared border with Mali may enable such elements to gain access. Furthermore, such militants may have disguised themselves as refugees in an attempt to blend in and to cross the border without detection. The regional Islamist elements that could threaten Burkina Faso include: al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Ansar al Dine, Ansar al Sharia and Boko Haram.



#### Kidnapping Threats

Over the past several weeks, regional Islamist militants, such as members of AQIM, have specifically targeted Westerners for kidnapping for ransom in neighbouring countries. Although no known kidnappings have taken place in Burkina Faso, the instability throughout the region, specifically in Mali, has increased potential vulnerabilities. Intelligence reports have confirmed that terrorists are highly likely to be planning kidnap operations from Burkina Faso. Consequently there is a heightened risk that such 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, and a number of these hostages are still being held.

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

### ***MS RISK Guidance to Organisations in Burkina Faso:***

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

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

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

Media and public affairs contingency

Companies relying on police escorts in the northern region of the country should ensure that travel patterns do not become predictable. Varying routes is difficult due to the limited road networks, therefore, it is even more important to vary the types of vehicles used as well as the times of the journeys and to avoid travel patterns becoming widely known. This is especially critical given the current tensions along the Mali border and the impending ECOWAS operations. All companies linked to the World Bank/International Finance Cooperation should 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 suggest there is an elevated banditry threat 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 has been clarified. Companies with operations in the region are invited to report incidents to MS Risk to aid in assessing local conditions. Liaising with insurers to ensure appropriate cover is in place to meet special risks where needed is also strongly advised.

## On Land

- **28 June 2013** - Police in Burkina Faso fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting against the creation of a Senate, which they say will enable President Blaise Compaore to extend his 26-year rule. Thousands of protestors had descended onto the streets of the capital city of Ouagadougou before jumping security barriers. Police responded by firing tear gas. A number of other rallies took place throughout the country, including in Burkina Faso's second largest city, Bobo Dioulasso. According to opposition leader Zephirin Diabre, a number of people were injured however he did not give any further details. The government has indicated that its plan to introduce a Senate by September of this year is a way of improving democracy. It is one of a number of reforms announced after massive protests in 2011 almost toppled the leadership. However opposition leaders believe that President Compaore, who has been in power since 1987, will be able to use the new chamber to modify a key clause of the constitution which will limit presidential terms in time for the 2015 elections. Opposition leader Diabre has also noted that the government is pushing through with its plan "at any cost." The opposition party also states that a new Senate is too costly and an "unacceptable waste" for the impoverished West African country, where living costs are already high.



Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

## Security Summary

On 14 May 2013, the Government of Nigeria declared a state of emergency in the states of Adamwa, Borno and Yobe. Both Adamawa and Borno border Cameroon's far North, North and Adamaoua provinces. It is possible that military operations there might have an impact across the border in Cameroon.

MS RISK advises against all travel to the Bakassi Peninsula as well as within 20km of the border with Nigeria in the N'dian 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 which is as a result of the heightened threat of armed banditry and other threats that are associated with the borders of Chad and Nigeria. We also advise against all but essential travel to within 40 km of the border with the Central African Republic. Incidents of armed banditry have been reported in this area. The Government of Cameroon is expected to cut fuel subsidies in the near future which may cause strikes and civil unrest to occur 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.



## Domestic News

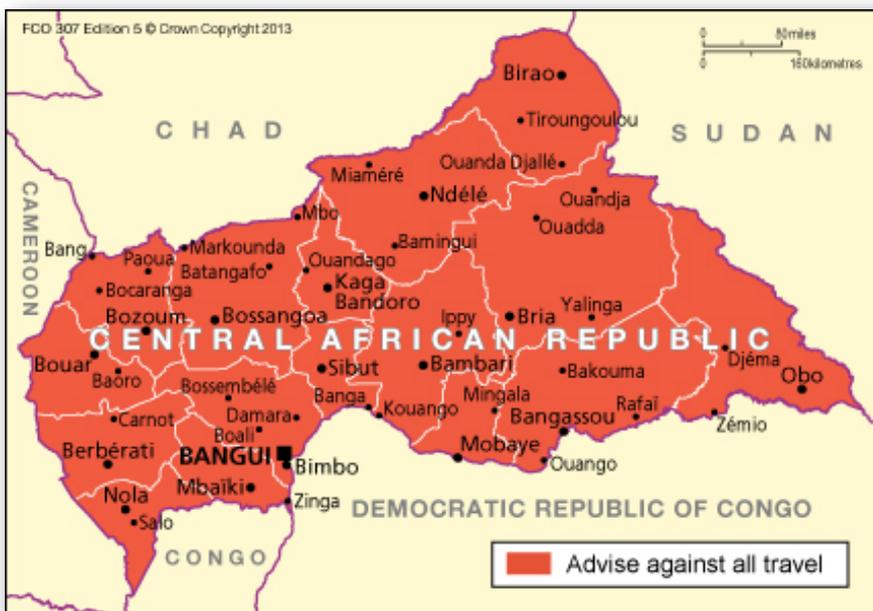
- 1 July 2013** - President Paul Biya announced on Monday that legislative and municipal elections will be held on 30 September 2013. President Biya has been accused of failing to adhere to a regular timetable for elections in order to ensure victory for his own People's Democratic Movement party, which holds a majority of seats in the national assembly and municipal bodies. The terms of the current cohort of deputies elected in the last elections in 2007 expired in 2012 however they have been extended on three separate occasions. Meanwhile the terms of the municipal deputies have been extended twice. Biya has served as president of Cameroon since 1982.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



## Security Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the Central African Republic (CAR). The armed rebel coalition Seleka has renewed its offensive against President Francois Bozize's government and has taken control of the capital, Bangui. Security throughout the country continues to rapidly deteriorate with gunfire, violence and widespread looting reported throughout the capital.



Armed rebels took control of a number of towns in the northern and central areas of the country in December 2012 and January 2013, stopping 75 km from Bangui. While a ceasefire agreement was made in Libreville, Gabon on 11 January 2013, the situation remained fragile and unpredictable. The rebels restarted their offensive in mid-March and took control of Bangui on 24 March.

Currently the government has very limited control over much of the country and there are reports of rebel activity, banditry and hostage-taking country-wide. Reports have also surfaced that hospitals throughout Bangui are running dangerously low on supplies and the situation there remains fragile, and a curfew is in place from midnight to 4am and the streets should be avoided during this time. At other times, MS Risk advises extreme care, and to travel in groups if possible. There are armed patrols at night in Bangui and roadblocks - both official and unofficial - that are likely to be manned by armed personnel and particular care should be taken when approaching these.

Any individuals in the country are advised to leave now. Anyone who remains should take all necessary precautions and stay in a safe place with sufficient stocks of food and water. If the situation deteriorates further, leaving the country by commercial means will likely become increasingly difficult. Currently regional country flights have been suspended. We advise anyone remaining in the country to keep up to date with local political developments and to avoid all political rallies, demonstrations and large public gatherings. Any individuals in the country are advised to leave now. Those who remain should take all the necessary precautions in order to stay in a safe place with sufficient stocks of food and water. If the situation deteriorates further, leaving the country by commercial means will likely become increasingly difficult. Currently regional country flights have been suspended. We advise those remaining in the country to keep up to date with local political developments and to avoid all political rallies, demonstrations or large public gatherings.

## On Land

- **29 June 2013** - Clashes between ex-rebels and armed civilians have killed six people in Bangui as anger has mounted over abuses by the Central African Republic's (CAR) new rulers. The violence broke out on Friday in a northern neighborhood of the capital when a student, believed to have been kidnapped by ex-rebels, was found dead. According to a police official, "protesters, most of them youths, set up barricades and started burning tires on the street to voice their anger over the discovery of the body of a student...who was abducted in broad daylight by Seleka forces." The police source further indicated that the ex-rebels then "opened fire on the protesters with live bullets, killing one person." According to reports, shots were fired back at the Seleka men, two of whom were killed while another three unidentified people were shot dead in the ensuing confusion. Twenty five people were also wounded. According to the police source, "this is a provisional toll that is likely to worsen because gunfire from heavier and automatic weapons was heard in the neighbourhood later on, soon spreading to much of the city." Witnesses have reported that a Protestant youth centre and a bank were also looted in the chaos which rapidly spread across the capital city.
- **28 June 2013** - Human rights and aid groups have stated that continued insecurity in the CAR has compounded a humanitarian crisis which is affecting the country's entire population of 4.6 million people. On Friday, nine aid agencies issued a joint statement indicating that there was an US \$80 million funding gap to address a deteriorating situation that has left 60,000 people facing severe food shortages. Human Rights Watch has confirmed attacks on thirty-four villages and towns since February, which have led to the deaths of at least forty civilians and the destruction of more than 1,000 houses. The rights group also noted that this week, many of the attacks were carried out by fighters from the Seleka rebel coalition, which ousted President Francois Bozize in March. However a minister in the transitional government has stated that Seleka fighters were not responsible.

## Domestic News

- **1 July 2013** - As tensions mount in the CAR, a minister from the former rebel coalition that seized power in March was arrested and dismissed on Sunday. According to Communications Minister Gazam Betty, Water and Forestry Minister Mohamed Dhaffane is accused of buying arms and

recruiting mercenaries. Mr. Dhaffane's arrest comes just days after rights groups accused fighters from the Seleka coalition of waging a brutal campaign of killing and pillaging in the landlocked nation. On Friday, six people were killed and many more were left wounded after fighting broke out between the former rebels and armed civilians in the capital of Bangui. In response, the minister's brother, Colonel Hamed Dhaffane, has dismissed the allegations against him, warning that "if he is not released, we will set Bangui on fire."



No travel restrictions for this country

*There is currently a low threat from terrorism. Due to the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, there is a possibility that retaliatory attacks targeting Western interests may be carried out in the region. Over the past several weeks, there has been extensive rioting and violence that has occurred in Conakry. Up to ten people are reported to have been killed in Conakry in the latest outbreaks of violence, on 25 and 25 May. The suburbs of Hamdallaye, Bambeto and Cosa have been especially affected. With Guinea's opposition parties pulling out of UN-mediated elections talks, and with the likelihood of elections being pushed back, it is highly likely that violent protests and demonstrations will continue to occur in the capital city. MS Risk advises to maintain extreme vigilance, and to monitor local media and to avoid large gatherings. 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

- 3 July 2013** - Guinea's opposition and ruling party have reached an agreement to hold the country's long-delayed legislative elections in September 2013. Under the watchful gaze of a United Nations special envoy, the two groups signed a deal on Wednesday. Aboubacar Sylla, a spokesman for a coalition of opposition parties, indicated on Wednesday that the two groups had agreed on several issues that had earlier been sticking points, including the use of a South African-based vendor which was charged with creating the voter ID's. The opposition parties had earlier claimed that Waymark was working closely with the ruling party and that it was planning to use the voting software in order to rig the vote. The newly signed accord calls for elections to be held between September 27 - 29 of this year.
- 2 July 2013** - After breaking off talks two weeks ago following an attack on one of their leaders, Guinea's opposition parties resumed negotiations with the government on Tuesday over the long-delayed legislative elections. Two weeks ago, the opposition coalition ended negotiations after it accused the police and youths of attacking Cellou Dalein Diall, the head of its main UFDG party. To

continue negotiations, the opposition party demanded guarantees for the security of its leadership. Following diplomatic pressure from Western governments and the United Nations, which sent its envoy Said Djinnit to mediate the discussions, opposition leader Mouctar Diallo indicated that the parties had reconvened in the capital city of Conakry and that talks would resume. In turn, Saliou Bella Diallo, a spokesman for President Alpha Conde's ruling coalition, stated that "security guarantees were granted to opposition leaders. Nothing now stands in the way of a comprehensive political agreement." The new talks could pave the way for the announcement of a new election date after the national electoral commission announced two weeks ago that an initial June 30 election would not be possible. The United Nations is mediating the talks which are aimed at securing opposition participation in the long-delayed polls. The vote is a means to complete the West African nation's transition to civilian rule following a 2008 coup. Over the past three months, more than fifty people have been killed during protests which have mainly been organized by the opposition party, which accuses President Conde of planning to rig the vote by filling the electoral roll with his ethnic Malinke supporters.

- **27 June 2013** - A court in Guinea has charged a government minister over his alleged role in a stadium massacre in which some 150 people were killed in 2009. On 28 September 2009, pro-democracy demonstrators were shot, stabbed, bludgeoned and trampled to death after they had gathered at a stadium for a rally against the military junta then in power. Furthermore, about 100 women were raped and tortured in public during the attack. Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Pivi, an influential member of the junta at the time, and now minister for presidential security, was charged on Thursday. Although he is the highest-ranking Guinean official to be charged in connection with the massacre, according to Thierno Maadjou Sow, president of the Guinean Organization for Human Rights, "this is not the first time a high-ranking officer has been charged after this tragedy. We expect concrete signals that all these cases will move forward." About six people, including senior army officers, have been charged in relation to the attack, however none has yet been put on trial. Rights groups have criticized President Alpha Conde of not moving fast enough to bring those responsible to justice. Although Guinea's government was not immediately available for comment, an official at the justice ministry confirmed that Lieutenant-Colonel Pivi has been charged. A United Nations-led investigation of the 2009 massacre concluded that abuses likely constituted crimes against humanity.

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



*There are currently no restrictions on travel to Guinea-Bissau. Although the security situation is currently calm, the current political situation remains uncertain throughout the country and the possibility of civil or military unrest in Guinea-Bissau remains high. MS Risk advises against all travel to the northwestern regions of the country, specifically those which border the Casamance region of Senegal, including the Sao Domingos/Mpack road.*

## Domestic News

- 28 June 2013** - On Friday, officials in Guinea-Bissau announced that presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on 4 November 2013, effectively bringing to end a period of political instability which began with a coup in April last year. A presidential decree, which stated that “November 4 will be the date for the general election,” was confirmed by the country’s election commission, with commission chief Joao Quintino Texeira stating that “the elections will take place simultaneously for financial and organizational reason.” Although the polls were originally set to take place in May, officials in the country indicated that the short time frame to hold the presidential polls was “technically” impossible. The election commission has also indicated that a nationwide poll would require US \$40 million for a revision of the electoral code and biometric census. Guinea-Bissau, which gained independence from Portugal in 1974 after a war with its colonial power lasting more than ten years, has suffered intermittent unrest since its liberation. The chronic volatility has fanned poverty in the country of 1.6 million people, with few resources other than cashew nuts and fish. This has attracted South American drug cartels, which have turned the country into a hub of cocaine trafficking in West Africa. There has also been a series of military coups. The latest coup, on 12 April 2012, overthrew the regime of former premier Carlos Gomes Junior. Coup leader Antonio Indjai, a former army chief of staff, agreed in May of last year to hand power over to a civilian transitional regime which is headed by Nhamadjo.



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

*MS RISK advises against all but essential travel to the western regions of Dix-Huit Montagnes, Haut- Sassandra, Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra as the situation in these regions remains unstable due to the intercommunity tensions as well as the presence of armed groups. All air, land and sea borders with Ghana have now re-opened following their closure on 22 September 2012. There have been a number of widely-reported shootings which occurred around Abidjan in August 2012. Although these attacks occurred mainly at night and targeted police and military installations, further incidents cannot be ruled out. Consequently the security situation in Abidjan could deteriorate at short notice. There recently was an attack that occurred in the Boufla CI concession, in which a group of armed men, numbering about ten, engaged in a banditry attack. According to on the ground sources, the attack lasted for a period of fifteen minutes in which the victims personal belongings were stolen from him. However no injuries were reported. The attack occurred during daylight hours. Consequently any individuals in this particular region are reminded to be extremely vigilant.*

## International Developments

- **2 July 2013** - The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Ivory Coast has strongly condemned an attack on a disarmament convoy carrying its national authority head and has urged that all those responsible be brought to justice. According to a statement, the UN Operation in the Ivory Coast (UNOCI) “calls on the competent Ivorian authorities to take all measures to identify the authors of the attack and bring them before the law.” On 1 July, a convoy of the national Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) was attacked on a stretch of road between the towns of Ferkessedougou in the north and Kong in the northwest. UNOCI has indicated that at least one person was killed and three others were wounded. Fidele Sarassoro, ADDR Director-General was in the convoy at the time of the attack but it does not appear he was injured. In its statement, the Mission supported the DDR’s activities in the country, stating that their progress is “indispensable” to the restoration of state authority and the return to normalcy in the West African country split by civil war in 2002. The UNOCI was established in 2004 by the Security Council to facilitate the peace process between the rebel-held north and Government-controlled south following the 2002 civil war. In the aftermath of the post-election violence that followed the 2010 presidential polls, the peacekeeping mission assisted with a number of key tasks, including the restoration of law and order, national reconciliation, the holding of legislative elections and economic recovery.
- **28 June 2013** - On Friday, United Nations leader Ban Ki-moon raised fears that followers of ousted Ivory Coast leader Laurent Gbagbo could step up their attacks on the country from neighbouring

Liberia. In a report to the UN Security Council, the Secretary General indicated that the UN has indications that cross-border attacks are being planned with the help of Liberian mercenaries, stating that “reports continued indicating that planning and organizing of further cross-border attacks may be underway with the support of Ivorians affiliated with the former regime living in Liberia and Liberian mercenaries, with funding from abroad.” Following a number of raids on villages in the Ivory Coast in recent months, extra Ivory Coast government forces and UN peacekeepers have been deployed to the border area. Such reports are a serious concern as border insecurity poses a threat to not only the Ivory Coast and Liberia, but also to other countries located within the region. Previous UN reports have also highlighted action by Gbagbo followers who have sought refuge in Ghana. Secretary General Ban has also lauded the “remarkable progress” made by President Alassane Ouattara to stabilize the country after the showdown with Gbagbo in 2010 in which about 3,00 people died. At the time, Gbagbo refused to acknowledge defeat in the election. He was eventually ousted from power through the assistance of UN and French forces. Gbagbo is now before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, where he faces charges of crimes against humanity. However the most recent UN report highlights that “networks affiliated to the former regime aiming to destabilize the government,” along with “mercenaries” and armed elements on the border continue to threaten the Ouattara government. The report also highlighted the “uncontrolled circulation of weapons,” organized crime and tensions between communities.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country



### Security Summary

#### Terrorism

Currently there is a high threat from terrorism in Mali. Although the Government of Mali declared a State of Emergency across the whole country on 12 January 2013, that state of emergency has now been lifted. No curfew is currently in place however MS Risk advises those in the country to monitor the local media for reports of any new measures.

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



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

•80 00 11 14

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

## *Kidnapping*

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

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

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

## *Local Travel*

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

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

## MS RISK Guidance to 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 Events

- **25 June** - The United Nations peacekeeping force will take charge of security in Mali from 1 July, however officials have indicated that plans to hold a presidential election next month face “major” obstacles. The UN Security Council met on Tuesday to discuss the Mali conflict, in which there was an “unanimous agreement” to deploy the UN’s third biggest peacekeeping operation. French forces are to formally hand over security duties to the UN peacekeepers on Monday, however at least 1,000 French troops will remain in the country on counter terrorism duties. The UN force, which will start with about 6,100 West African troops already in Mali, will take responsibility for securing a presidential election provisionally scheduled for July 28. However, UN envoy to Mali, Albert Koenders, has noted that there will be “major challenges” to holding the election on time. Problems include maintaining a “broad political consensus” in support of the poll, delivering election materials around the country and getting voting cards to hundreds of thousands of displaced people and refugees. France’s UN ambassador Gerard Araud has also indicated that it was important for the election to be “credible” however, he noted that France wants the elections to be held on time, if possible.
- **26 June** - Former junta chief Amadou Sanogo has asked for forgiveness by the Malian people for a coup which resulted in a destabilization of the West African nation. According to army spokesman Souleymane Maiga, the soldier “apologized to the people of Mali” during a ceremony of reconciliation between rival factions of the army at the presidential palace in Bamako. The ceremony was attended by Mali’s interim president Dioncounda Traore, along with representatives

of various religious communities. Sanogo, a captain in the Malian army, overthrew the regime of president Amadou Toumani Toure in a coup in March of last year. The coup eventually led to the fall of the country's northern region to armed Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda. The coup also deepened a division in the army amongst the Red Berets, who are loyal to Toure, and the Green Berets, who were broadly pro-junta. In May of last year, the Red Berets attempted a failed counter-coup and tried to seize the airport, national broadcaster, and a military barracks that had become the headquarters of the ex-junta. They were disbanded and a number of them went missing after being detained by security forces. After further violence in February of this year, Prime Minister Diango Cissoko held discussions with all parties involved in the crisis in the Malian armed forces, and it was decided to restructure the Red Berets to restore calm. The president announced at the ceremony that all soldiers arrested had been released.

## On the Ground Analysis

- **27 June 2013** - The president of Mali's election commission has raised doubts over its ability to stage presidential polls on the planned date of July 28. The interim government had confirmed one month ago that the elections would move forward at the end of July. However this announcement has raised a number of urgent questions over the possibility of free and fair elections in a nation that continues to recover from a coup that paved the way for Islamist rebels to seize control of the northern regions. Late on Thursday, Mamadou Diamountani announced that "it will be extremely difficult to organize the first round of the presidential election on July 28," nothing that there were still "many challenges to overcome" before a nationwide vote could take place. He further noted that "firstly, we have to recognize that the production of polling cards is way behind schedule. But this is the only document that allows the voter to vote. It isn't just an identity card, but also a voter registration card." Mr. Diamountani further added that it would be "extremely difficult" to get up to eight million cards to the electorate in a country where up to 500,000 people have been displaced by armed conflict in the last year, highlighting that "it will take more than a month for the cards to get to their owners, because the way the Malian ministry of administration operates is not convincing." In turn, instability in the northeastern desert town of Kidal continues to be an issue as the city remains to be occupied by armed Tuareg separatists and still has no army presence despite a ceasefire between the transitional government and the rebels being signed on June 18 in Burkina Faso. According to Mr. Diamountani, Kidal is "another reason making it extremely difficult, if not impossible" to hold the first round of elections on the specified date. According to a Malian minister, "everyone agrees" with Mr. Diamountani that the elections should be rescheduled because "we do not want botched elections." The decision to hold the first round of elections on July 28, possibly followed by a second round on August 11, was taken by the interim Malian government last month in response to growing pressure from the international community, especially from former colonial power France. But the Tuareg occupation of Kidal has been a major obstacle to organizing the election, seen as crucial to Mali's recovery from the conflict of the past fifteen months.
- **26 June 2013** - A top United Nations envoy has warned that there will be more Mali-style conflict in the Sahel region unless urgent action is taken to lift the African region out of poverty and desperation. Speaking five days before a UN peacekeeping force begins operations in Mali, Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister nominated by the UN to produce a strategy for the impoverished bloc of countries, stated to the UN Security Council that "success or failure in Mali will affect the entire region." Adding that "while focus and attention on Mali is critical, it should not be at the cost of the rest of the region." Prodi is highlighting the fact that time is running out to prevent a repeat of the Islamist militant upsurge in Mali from occurring in other countries in the region. Consequently, international efforts must be made to bolster transparent and honest governance, security, humanitarian assistance and development. The envoy indicated the need to set up a Sahel Action Fund to concentrate on Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. However, instead of just giving money, he noted that it will be important for wealthy nations to choose a project and to

commit to finishing it. Prodi's presentation to the UN Security Council comes shortly after he compiled a report for Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, which warned that turmoil in the vast region, which spans from Mauritania on Africa's west coast, to Eritrea in the east, will only worsen unless there is a joint effort to boost security and lift the fast-growing population out of poverty. The Sahel region includes conflicts in Mali and Sudan's Darfur and some of the world's poorest countries. There are regular climate crises and, according to the report, the population is set to "balloon" from 150 million to 250 million in 25 years.



Mauritania

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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

## Security Summary

### Summary

MS Risk advises against all travel to the northern and eastern regions of the country - especially the desert areas north of the Oualata-Tichit-Ouadane-Zouerat line, as well as the border areas with Algeria, Mali and Morocco. We also advise you to avoid Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant and Hodh el Chargui. This is due to extremist groups and armed smugglers that are active in these areas which has resulted in high threats of terrorism as well as a heightened risk of banditry and kidnapping. 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.

### Terrorism

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

### Kidnapping

There is a high risk of kidnapping throughout Mauritania and Westerners are the favoured target. In the past, hostages have been held captive for several months before being released. MS Risk advises



anyone traveling to Mauritania to take particular caution in the region of Inchire (Akjoujt is the capita) as well as in the areas that border Mali and Morocco.

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

## International Developments

- **26 June 2013** - Officials have indicated that a Canadian man jailed in Mauritania on terrorism charges has stated to human rights officials that Mauritanian police beat him into confessing. According to Alex Neve of Amnesty International Canada, 24-year-old Aaron Yoon has stated that he was kicked, punched and hit with wooden sticks to the point of losing consciousness, and that “these torture sessions are all about getting statements wrung out of prisoners.” Mr. Yoon has been in a Mauritanian prison since 2011 on terror-related charges, including a link to the January 2013 attack on an Algerian gas plant. He was arrested by police in December 2011 in the capital of Nouakchott. At the time, he was pursuing religious studies in an outlying area about 100 km from the capital city. He is accused by prosecutors of having links to the attackers who targeted an Algerian gas plant, an incident which resulted in the deaths of thirty-seven hostages and twenty-nine attackers. The attackers included two Canadians from London, Ontario, who were found dead at the plant after it was stormed by Algerian troops. Mr. Yoon has been accused of travelling to Morocco with Ali Medlej and Xris Katsiroubas, all of whom went to the same high school in London, Ont. However Mr. Yoon has argued that he went to the region for religious study and that he did not know how Medley and Katsiroubas became linked with the terrorists. Last July, Mr. Yoon was sentenced to two years in prison after being convicted of having ties to a terrorist group and of posing a danger to national security. However prosecutors in Mauritania want to increase Mr. Yoon’s sentence to ten years because of what they say are his links to the Algerian plot. Mr. Neve was amongst a number of representatives from Amnesty International who spent ten days in the West African nation where they interviewed a number of detainees. During interviews, Mr. Yoon told Amnesty researchers he had signed a bogus confession after a second round of torture by police. Mr. Yoon appeared briefly in a Mauritanian court last month and was told that a decision on whether to increase his sentence to ten years would be handed down on 9 June. However that decision was postponed. With respect to Mr. Yoon’s allegations, Mr. Neve stated that “they’re certainly credible and completely consistent with the wider pattern that we’ve known to be the case for quite some time in Mauritania. Torture is very commonplace during the early period of detention.” In a report released last month, Amnesty International documented a broader pattern of that type of abuse by Mauritanian officials, which is apparently aimed at combating a rise of terrorist activity in Northern Africa. The report indicates that after Mauritania adopted a new anti-terror law in July 2010, security forces were given extra powers to detain suspects in their battle against organizations, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). After their most recent interviews, the human rights agency concluded that police in Mauritania were using torture to coerce men, women and even children to confess crimes while in custody. Amnesty International also indicated that eleven children had told the human rights delegation that they had been tortured in police stations. One teenage boy alleged police officers hung him upside down and beat him with their batons until he lost consciousness.

Avoid ALL travel to part(s) of country

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



Nigeria

## Security Summary

### Summary

On 14 May, the Nigerian Government declared a State of Emergency in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Since the announcement, military operations have been going on in all three states and curfews have been put in place in parts of Maiduguri, Borno state and Adamawa state. Curfews can be imposed, amended and lifted at a short notice. Consequently you should be alert to announcements made by the respective State Governments and you are advised to monitor any developments in the affected states. There may be an increased threat of retaliatory attacks elsewhere in Nigeria following the commencement of military operations. MS Risk advises



against all travel to: the Riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States; Warri city, Kano city, Okene City.

We advise against all travel to Adamawa State, Borno State, Yobe State, Gombe State and Bauchi State. This is due to the frequent violent attacks which have been occurring over the past months. More recent attacks have increasingly focussed on public places, including bars and restaurants. These attacks have resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We also advise against all travel to Kano City and Okene City, which has also seen a frequent number of high levels of violence.

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

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

There is a high threat of terrorism occurring in Nigeria. A bomb attack that occurred at a bus station in Kano city on 18 March 2013 resulted in multiple casualties. 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.

### *Kidnapping*

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

- On 16 February 2013, after storming the compound of Lebanese-owned construction firm Setraco in Bauchi state, gunmen killed a security guard and abducted a Briton, an Italian, a Greek, two Lebanese and two Syrian workers. The British construction worker is believed to have been killed along with the six other foreign nationals. This was the worst case of foreigners being kidnapped in the mostly Muslim north of Africa's most populous country since an insurgency by Islamist militants intensified two years ago.
- In December 2012, a French national was kidnapped by armed men in Katsina State in northern Nigeria, reportedly from a residential compound.
- In 2012, a Lebanese national was kidnapped in Kaduna State. His Lebanese colleague was killed during the abduction

- In January 2012, a German national was killed in Kano city. He was killed on 31 May 2012.
- In May 2011, a British national and an Italian national were kidnapped together in Kebbi State. Both hostages were killed in Sokoto on 8 March 2012.

## *Threats and Terrorism*

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

## **On Land**

- **6 July 2013** - At least twenty-nine pupils and a teacher have been killed in a pre-dawn attack that was carried out by suspected Islamist militants on a school located in the northeastern region of Nigeria. According to eyewitness reports, some of the victims were burned alive in the attack which occurred in the town of Mamudo, in Yobe state. The state of Yobe is one of three states where President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in May. Thousands of troops were sent into the area at the time in order to combat Boko Haram militants. Reports from survivors have indicated that the suspected militants had arrived with containers full of fuel after which they proceeded to set the school on fire. Some students were burned alive while others were shot as they attempted to flee the area. Since 2010, dozens of schools have been burned in attacks that have been carried out by Islamist militants.
- **30 June 2013** - Prison officials have confirmed that gunmen shot dead two civilians and then used explosives to free 175 inmates from a prison in Nigeria's southern town of Akure. According to Prison Comptroller Tunde Olayiwola, "the unknown gunmen numbering over 20 came at about midnight into the Olokuta prison through the main gate after using dynamite...the gunmen shot and killed two people while trying to get in...some of the escaped prisoners have been re-arrested." He added that some of the prison staff injured in the gun battle were receiving treatment. While Boko Haram militants and al-Qaeda linked group Ansaru have been behind a number of prison raids in recent years, it currently remains unclear whether they were behind this jail break in Ondo state or whether they had members held there. Violence by Islamist groups is mostly confined to Nigeria's mainly Muslim north however there have been attacks as far south as Kogi state, which borders Ondo. **Update (1 July)** - A spokesman for the Nigerian Prisons Service has confirmed that Nigerian authorities have re-arrested 49 out of 175 prison inmates who escaped. However none of the assailants has been arrested and investigations are currently underway to clarify the circumstances surrounding the jailbreak. No further information was provided.
- **24 June 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Nigerian authorities hanged four prisoners on Monday in what is believed to be the country's first executions since 2006. The confirmation has drawn outrage from rights activists around the world. The justice commissioner in Edo state, which is located in southern Nigeria, confirmed the hanging of the four prisoners who, according to the commissioner, had been convicted of either murder or armed robbery. According to the commissioner, all their appeals had been exhausted and their death warrants were signed, adding that the executions were carried out by the prison service, a federal agency, and not the state government. A statement released by Amnesty International

indicated that it had received “credible reports that authorities in the state of Edo...have hanged four men in Benin City Prison on Monday - the first known executions in the country since 2006.” Amnesty deputy director for Africa, Lucy Freeman, further indicated in the statement that “if confirmed, these executions mark a sudden, brutal return to the use of the death penalty in Nigeria, a truly dark day for human rights in the country.” The human rights organization has urged Nigerian authorities to stop all executions immediately and to “return to the moratorium on executions in the country.” A fifth prisoner is also due to be executed, however his sentence dates back to the military era that ended in 1999 and which called for him to be killed by a firing squad. According to the commissioner, prison authorities are not yet prepared to execute him. Nigeria has faced international scrutiny over its death penalty, with concerns over whether suspects have received a fair trial in a country where corruption is widespread. Although these four executions mark the first official known executions since 2006, Nigerian security forces have been repeatedly accused of extra-judicial killings since then. These executions come in the light of President Goodluck ‘s recent call to state governors to sign death warrants, stating that it was their responsibility under the law. According to Amnesty International, around 1,000 people are thought to be on death row in Africa’s largest oil producer and most populous nation.

## Domestic News

- **1 July 2013** - A Nigerian committee set up to negotiate with insurgent group Boko Haram has urged Islamic leaders to help bridge the gap between the government and militants. However Islamic leaders have indicated that Boko Haram’s violence has been unfairly associated with the Muslim religion. On 24 April of this year, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan formally established his “Amnesty Committee,” which was tasked to find a way to negotiate with Boko Haram. Less than three weeks later, the President confirmed that Boko Haram militants had captured territory in the northern regions of the country, and effectively declared a state of emergency in three northeastern states, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Thousands of troops were sent in to fight the militant group. At a conference, held on Sunday in the northern city of Kaduna, Amnesty Committee Chair Kabiru Tanimu Turaki stated that since then, committee members have met with local governments and traditional leaders. In turn, they have attempted to encourage Boko Haram members to come forward by releasing women and children who had been imprisoned for Boko Haram-related crimes. However according to the Committee Chair, Boko Haram has not been very receptive, stating that “we are coming from the background where initially they said they do not want amnesty...they should be the ones to give amnesty. Again their chairman said they are not willing to enter into dialogue with any other person. We have to find a way of talking to them. We have to find a way of engaging them.” According to the Chair, the way to engage with Boko Haram, may be through the clergy. Speaking to hundreds of Islamic leaders during the conference, he asked them to convince Boko Haram leaders that negotiations are necessary and in accordance with Islam. The Committee Chair also responded to calls for compensation for Boko Haram victims, stating that “the government will not have capacity to be able to give compensation to all those who have been affected...if you consider in places like Borno, in places like Yobe, virtually everybody, virtually every family are victims...” Critics have indicated that the concept of granting amnesty and financial support to militants is an unsustainable solution because it is essentially paying criminals not to commit crimes. Supporters of negotiations say there is a tentative peace in the oil-rich southern Niger Delta solely because the government offered amnesty and small salaries to the tens of thousands of militants in 2009. Meanwhile, Nigeria’s Human Rights Commission recently released a report warning that a “foreseeable humanitarian crisis” could threaten recent security gains, stating that both Boko Haram and security forces may be responsible for the violence. The commission has indicated that a farming season has been lost, thousands of people have been displaced and prices are rapidly increasing. However with the emergency

zones continuing to be almost entirely cut off from communications, the Commission noted that it is hard to gauge exactly what is going on.

- **30 June 2013** - Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission indicated on Sunday that it has credible reports that security forces are killing, torturing, illegally detaining and raping civilians in a fight to end an Islamic uprising in northeast Nigeria. A report released by the commission states that troops retaliating against civilians have torched homes and have attempted to hide evidence of gross violations by disposing of bodies. In the most egregious case, troops went on a rampage in several villages after a soldier was killed in mid-April in the fishing village of Baga, the commission quoted police as stating that soldiers "started shooting indiscriminately at anybody in sight including domestic animals. This reaction resulted in loss of lives and massive destruction of properties." At the time the military indicated that thirty-six people were killed, alleging that most of them were extremist fighters, witnesses indicated that some 187 civilians had been killed. The commission also reported that the killings came after militants had ransacked an armory, with subsequent reports indicating that the extremists enjoyed an increase in the calibre and quantity of weapons and "had become both more organized and emboldened by their apparent successes despite the enhanced security presence." This has contradicted military reports that they have taken control of the region in an emergency covering three states and one-sixth of the sprawling country. Instead, they appear to have pushed the fighters into rocky mountains with caves where it is more difficult to flush them out. Consequently, the extremists now regularly attack towns and villages. The Commission, a government body, issued an interim report stating that it would finalize it when its investigators are able to visit the area where soldiers have cut mobile phone and Internet connections. The insurgency poses the biggest threat in years to security in Nigeria. According to the Commission, communities trapped between the Islamic militants and the security forces "reportedly live in desperate fear and destitution." It has also warned of an imminent public health emergency and food shortages as farmers have been forced from their fields. Food prices have skyrocketed, with a 50-kilogram (110 pound) sack of rice selling for up to 18,000 naira (US \$112.50) up from 7,000 naira (US \$44).



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

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. The Casamance region of south-western Senegal (between the southern border of Gambia and the northern border of Guinea-Bissau) remains affected by incidents involving armed separatist groups and banditry, particularly in the regions of Bignona and Sindian. There has been an increase in clashes between the Senegalese army and suspected elements of the armed separatist group Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC). MS Risk advises against all road travel in the Casamance region to the west of Kolda, other than on the main road from Ziguinchor to Cap skiring (which is often used by groups of tourists during daylight hours) and on the road north of the Guinea-Bissau/Senegal border, from Sao Domingos to Ziguinchor (N4 bis). If you travel on either of these roads, you should do so only during daylight hours and monitor the local security situation before travelling. This has resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. There is currently an underlying threat from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places that are frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. With the ongoing French military intervention in Mali, authorities in Senegal have increased security in the capital city as well as along the border with Mali. MS Risk advises that al-Qaeda militants may cross the border into Senegal and they may target Western interests as well as foreigners.

## Domestic News

- 5 July 2013** - Chad's chief prosecutor has confirmed that three top officials under former dictator Hissene Habre have been arrested and charged with torture. The arrests come just days after Mr. Habre himself was taken into custody in Senegal, where he had lived freely for more than two decades. Ousmane Mamadou Affono indicated that the men arrested in Chad included two directors of Habre's political force, which allegedly killed thousands during Habre's eight-year rule that ended in 1990. Mr. Habre currently faces trial at a special court in Senegal.
- 30 June 2013** - Police in Senegal's capital city of Dakar have arrested Chad's former leader Hissen Habre, who is wanted for alleged atrocities during his eight-year rule. Mr. Habre's lawyer confirmed that he was taken from his home in Dakar on Sunday by paramilitary police to an unknown location. The arrest comes just days after US President Barack Obama praised the efforts of Senegal's' current President Macky Sall to bring Mr. Habre to trial. The seventy-year old has been under a house arrest in Senegal since 2005, where he fled after being deposed in 1990. Last year, the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Senegal to place Mr. Habre on trial or to extradite him to face justice overseas. He however has denied killing and torturing tens of thousands of his opponents. Human rights groups have been

pushing Senegal to put Mr. Habre on trial for decades. MPs in Senegal passed a law in December allowing a special African Union tribunal to be created in the country to try the former leader. The charges against him date from 1982, when Mr. Habre came to power in a coup, until 1990, the year he was ousted. Although he was first indicted in Senegal in 2000, the country's courts ruled that he could not be tried there. His alleged victims then filed complaints under Belgium's universal jurisdiction law, which allows the country's judges to prosecute human rights offenses committed anywhere in the world. He was charged by Belgium with crimes against humanity and torture in 2005 however Senegal has refused four extradition requests. Plans in 2011 to repatriate Mr. Habre to Chad, where a court in 2008 sentenced him to death in absentia for planning to overthrow the government, were stopped following a plea from the UN. A trial in Senegal would set a historic precedent as until now African leaders accused of atrocities have only been tried in international courts. **Update (2 July)** - A judge in Senegal has formally charged Chad's former president with crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture and has remanded him custody pending trial. He was arrested in Dakar on Sunday where he has been living in exile for the past twenty-two years since he was overthrown in a 1990 coup in Chad. Human Rights Watch has stated that Mr. Habre will be held in a special ward of Dakar's main hospital for prisoners suffering from health problems, pending his trial. According to his lawyers, the inquiry, which will draw on extensive evidence collected by international human rights organizations and prosecutors in Belgium, is expected to last around a year. A trial, presided over by an African Union-appointed judge, could take a further seven months. Human rights groups hold Mr. Habre responsible for the torture or killing of up to 40,000 people during his 1982 - 1990 presidency.



## Piracy News

- **24 June 2013** - Leaders from West and Central Africa, who are in Cameroon to discuss maritime security, have called for the deployment of an international naval force in the Gulf of Guinea as the waters of the coast of Western Africa have increasingly become pirate-infested. The summit, held in Cameroon's capital Yaounde, has gathered eleven leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in order to deliberate on new proposals and a joint action plan to tackle piracy and maritime criminality in the region. The Gulf of Guinea, which includes waters off Nigeria, has emerged as a new danger-zone, with pirates targeting fuel cargo and loading it onto other ships in order to sell on the lucrative black market, rather than seeking ransoms in order to release the ships. Speaking at the summit, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara stated "I invite the international community to show the same firmness in the Gulf of Guinea as it has demonstrated in the Gulf of Aden, where the presence of international naval forces has allowed for a drastic reduction in maritime piracy. Chad's President Idris Deby has indicated that the proposed naval force could be part of the future emergency military force that was announced by the African Union (AU) last month. That emergency military force will be aimed at rapidly quelling conflict on the continent. According to a report that was released by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) last week, West Africa has now overtaken Somalia as the world's piracy hot-spot with 966 sailors attacked last year, compared with 851 in the waters off Somalia. IMB estimates that the costs of stolen goods in the Gulf of Guinea in 2012 were between 25 and 75 million euros (US \$33 million to US \$100 million). The summit is scheduled to end on Tuesday.
- **27 June 2013** - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the adoption of a code on tackling insecurity in the waters off West Africa, calling on regional countries to implement it and to act on the progress that was made during a summit held in Cameroon earlier this week. According to a statement that was issued by the Secretary General's spokesperson, "the Secretary-General welcomes the adoption of the Code of Conduct concerning the Prevention and Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illegal Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa." The statement further added that the code "defines the regional strategy and paves the way for a legally binding instrument." The Secretary General also commended the countries and organizations in the region for their high level of engagement and collective efforts to address and prevent piracy, noting that piracy "remains a serious threat to the security and economic activities of the affected countries." Meanwhile the UN chief encouraged all regional players to sign and implement the code and has called on international partners to provide the necessary resources in order to make this move more feasible. A summit of Central and West African countries, which



focused on maritime safety and security, was held in the Cameroonian capital of Yaounde earlier this week. During the event, leaders of eleven regional states adopted the code on fighting piracy.



## 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

24 hr Contact Information:

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

Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

---

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

Tel: +44 1624 626400

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

Registered in the Isle of Man No 007435V

---

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555  
[www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)