

# Mediterranean Review



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## ABOUT THE CFC

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*This document provides an overview of developments in the Mediterranean Basin and other regions of interest from 25 September – 01 October, with hyperlinks to source material highlighted and underlined in the text. For more information on the topics below or other issues pertaining to the region, please contact the members of the Med Basin Team, or visit our website at [www.cimicweb.org](http://www.cimicweb.org).*



### *In Focus: A Synopsis of the Humanitarian Crisis along the Sudan / South Sudan Border* By Angelia Sanders

#### *Background on Conflict*

Fighting and insecurity in the Sudanese border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan have created a [humanitarian crisis](#), with the UN reporting that more than [650,000 people](#) have been displaced or severely affected by the fighting over the last year. The driving force behind the crisis is the fighting between the government's Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebel group, a group that was once aligned with South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) during South Sudan's fight for independence. The SPLM-N movement has stated that they are fighting for the [overthrow](#) of the Sudanese government and the establishment of a democracy. Khartoum has accused South Sudan of [supporting the rebels](#), something South Sudan denies, but international observers admit is likely to be true. Fighting first broke out in [South Kordofan](#) in June 2011 and then in [Blue Nile](#) in September 2011.

In interviews conducted by Human Rights Watch, witnesses described "[indiscriminate bombings](#) in civilian areas, killings, and other serious abuses by Sudanese armed forces" in addition to "extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and mass looting and destruction of property". In March 2012, Peter Grete, an *al Jazeera* reporter, documented evidence of [destroyed villages](#) and crops and stated that "what is concerning is the attempts to drive a lot of the African tribes off their lands and to deprive them of resources". Agricultural [production](#) has decreased dramatically due to displacement and fear of bombings. Additionally, vast food stocks have been destroyed by SAF and affiliated militias following military clashes. Food insecurity across most of the rebel area has caused many ci-

*Continued on page 8*



# North Africa

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## Algeria

New information has come to light after confessions by three terrorists arrested last month, including the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) judicial commission head Necib Tayeb, regarding [coordination plans](#) by hardline Islamists in North Africa, reports *Magharebia*. Leaders of Ansar al Sharia of Libya and Tunisia, Ansar al Din of Mali, and Necib Tayeb as the representative of the leader of AQIM, were planning to meet with North African and Nigerian Salafist group leaders in northern Niger, in order to coordinate their extremist movements and smuggling of weapons, militants and money in the region. Algerian security forces, aiming to capture or kill AQIM leader Abdelmalek Droukdel, thwarted the planned summit of jihadist forces; however, Droukdel escaped arrest.

In other security news, Algeria may have to reconsider its opposition to [international intervention](#) in northern Mali in light of the expanding terrorist presence in that country, informs *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*. Algeria has focused on its internal economic, social and political issues while pursuing non-interventionist politics in the Mali crisis. Determined to preserve internal unity and stability until the next presidential elections in 2014, Algeria remains opposed to an intervention in Mali on the basis that it may unleash religious or ethnic extremism at the regional level, and that it would challenge the “principle of the inviolability of borders”. However, seeing the rise in the terrorist activities stemming from northern Mali, and the execution of an Algerian diplomat earlier this month by AQIM, Algeria will not “condemn” the intervention by Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS), according to a diplomat quoted by *AFP*.

In economic news, Algeria had a USD 19.73 billion [trade surplus](#) during the first eight months of the year. The surplus is due to the 7.4% decrease in imports to USD 30.06 billion compared to the same period last year, while the exports have increased by 4.62% to USD 49.8 billion. Nevertheless, Algeria observed a [slow and disappointing rise](#) in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which grew by only 2.8% last year and is expected to grow by 3.1% in 2012, according to *Zawya*. At a time in which Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members have increased production to fill the gap due to the sanctioning of Iranian oil, Algerian Central Bank reported a 2.29% decline in energy exports during the first half of the year. However, the state-owned Sonatrach Company is reportedly investing over USD fifty billion in five refineries and offshore oil and gas exploration. Given that Algeria possesses vast oil and natural gas reserves, and hydrocarbons comprise almost 97% of Algeria’s export revenues, the government’s decision to limit foreign investment in the energy sector is a major impediment to its economy. In addition, the rate of [inflation in Algeria](#) has been rising for several months. Data for the month of August shows it is 7% higher than in August of last year, despite efforts by Algerian authorities to address the problem, *ANSamed* informs. Inflation is expected to rise to 7.7% this year, attributed to high food prices.

## Libya

The newly-formed National Mobile Force in Libya gave militias a [deadline to withdraw](#) from military compounds and other facilities belonging to the former regime, reports *CNN*. The groups also must choose between aligning with the national military and disbanding. Two Islamist armed groups, including Ansar al Sharia, some members of which were arrested after the US Consulate attack in Benghazi, conceded to disband. Two militia groups, the Rafaala al-S’hati Brigade and the February 17 Brigade, were [brought under the command](#) of the Libyan army, according to an official announcement on 24 September. However, the effort to impose state control on militias is considered unlikely to succeed in the long term, as most militia leaders, who retain substantial power and significant weapons arsenals, will not agree to cede command of their men. Many within these militias believe that the Libyan Army still harbours Qaddafi loyalists, who were once enemies of these militias. On the other hand, the first round of efforts to [disarm the militias](#) reportedly brought an “[astounding] positive turnout”, according to Colonel Hussein Abdullah Khalifa, who oversaw the collection of weapons in Tripoli. Large numbers of weapons and ammunition were turned over by the militiamen, including “light, medium and heavy weapons as well as vast amounts of ammunition ranging from bullets to tank shells,” as well as heat-seeking missiles and a tank.

Libya is planning to introduce [Islamic financing services](#) this year, which will ban interest and pure monetary speculation based on religious principles, reports *Reuters*. The Islamic banking law, approved in May, is currently being amended to attract foreign investment. Plans under consideration include opening of Islamic finance windows or branches in conventional banks, permitting conventional banks to transform into Islamic banks, and licensing for operating as an Islamic bank.

The Libyan congress gave new Prime Minister Mustafa Abushagur a [08 October deadline](#) to form his cabinet, *Reuters* informs. Failure to do so will result in his dismissal. The prime minister was elected on 12 September and was required to present his cabinet by 28 September. Abushagur wants his government to have a “geographical balance” reflecting all parts of the country.

## Morocco

The Arab Monetary Fund granted Morocco 1.65 billion dirhams ([USD 190 million](#)), divided in two separate loans, for its balance of payments and to finance its trade with Arab states, reports *Bloomberg*. The loans were given to support the country's balance of payments and to finance its trade with Arab states. Moreover, Morocco secured a [USD 300 million](#) World Bank loan to be used for improving youth unemployment and gender equality, *Reuters* reports. Youth unemployment is over 30% while the illiteracy rate among women is higher than the national average and reaches up to 80% in rural areas.

Morocco's Justice Minister Mustapha Ramid admitted that there have been several cases of [abuse of protesters](#) by the police. Ramid called the government to "review the way in which the security forces intervene" for compliance with the law. However, he also said the protesters are being abusive too, for occupying major roads and blocking traffic. The UN special rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, raised concerns on 29 October over the recent rise in the excessive use of force by the Moroccan police to subdue protesters.

Social Development Minister Bassima Hakkaoui pointed out that half of the cases of violence against women are committed by their husbands, informs *Associated Press (AP)*. Approximately one in every three women is a victim of violence in the country. Meanwhile a proposed law to protect women in Morocco has been held up in parliament since 2004. The president of the Moroccan Association of Human Rights, Khadija Ryadi, expressed her doubts that Hakkaoui will do anything about the passing of the law, as she is the "third minister speaking about it".

## Tunisia

German Chancellor Angela Merkel [cancelled her upcoming trip](#) to Tunisia scheduled for 09 October "by mutual agreement" with the Tunisian government, due to security concerns over recent violence at the US Embassy in Tunis, reports *AFP*. The cancellation was confirmed by her office spokesman, citing only the "tense security situation" in the country. During anti-US protests in the capital on 14 September, four people were killed and dozens more were wounded.

Standard and Poor's (S&P) [ranked Tunisia](#) with a high economic and industrial risk score in its *Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA)*, reports *Albawaba*. The Tunisian government was classified as supportive for domestic banks in the *BICRA*, but was noted as having limited financial flexibility and capacity to support the banks in case of crisis. On the other hand, as a part of the efforts to reform the country's banking system, Tunisia is planning to issue [Islamic bonds](#), reports *Reuters*. In addition, committees set up by finance and religious affairs ministries and the central bank are preparing a finance law that will establish Islamic banks in the country, which currently have only two of such banks. In other economic news, the Arab Monetary Fund will provide Tunisia with [three loans](#) worth USD 180 million, in order to support its balance of payments, and to boost economic reforms and exchange policy programs. The loan agreement, to be signed on 02 October, will have a repayment period over three years, with interest at less than 1%.

Bouchra Belhaj Hamida, lawyer of the Tunisian girl who was [raped by two policemen](#) and then charged with indecency, said that the cases of "moral, sexual and financial harassment by the police" have increased since the election of the current governing Islamist party Ennahda, reports *Reuters*. She said the police have a feeling of impunity for their actions and the government has "paved the way" for it. Civil society groups expressed criticism over the decision to summon the young woman and her fiancé to hearings for the [accusations of indecency](#) by the two policemen who raped her, informs *AFP*. Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) said that this procedure is designed to "transform the victim into the accused" and to "frighten and to force her and her fiancé to waive their rights". Social media networks are calling for demonstrations outside of the court on the day of the hearing.

Tunisia's ruling Islamist Ennahda party introduced a new draft law against any sort of [defamation of religion](#) to the National Assembly, reports *France 24*. Zeyneb Farhat, director of the cultural centre El Teatro in Tunis, said that Ennahda's stance is against the freedom of expression as well as artists and their work, referring to several recent incidents of Salafists attacking art events in the country.

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# Northeast Africa

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## Egypt

The Minister of Interior, Major General Ahmed Gamal El Din, met with a delegation of tribal elders in the [Sinai Peninsula](#) to discuss security issues on 27 September, reports *Al Monitor*. Stating that the tribes are important counterparts in ensuring security and stability in the Peninsula, the Minister will allow the tribes to be “appropriately” armed to support the prevention of smuggling across the Egyptian-Israeli border. Britain has announced it will [provide support](#) to Egypt in its current crack down on militants in the Sinai Peninsula, reports *The Guardian*. Britain’s most senior military officer, General David Richards, Chief of the Defence Staff, will travel to Cairo to provide military advice to Egyptian authorities.

In his first address to the UN General Assembly on 25 September, President Morsi called the [Syrian war](#) “the tragedy of our age”, reports *The Guardian*, and accused the Assad regime of “killing its people night and day”. Morsi called for the replacement of the Assad regime with a democratic government, but without military intervention. He further called on the international community to join the diplomatic initiative he spearheaded in early September with Iran and Turkey. During his speech, Morsi also reiterated Egypt’s commitment to “stand firmly” against anti-American violence that erupted within the Muslim world during protests on 11 September outside the US Embassy in Cairo. The United States announced on 28 September that it would provide Egypt with USD 450 million in [emergency cash](#), informs the *New York Times*. The aid will be part of the USD one billion in assistance that the Obama administration pledged to support Egypt’s fledgling democracy in 2011. The funds will be conditional on economic and budgetary reforms set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), currently under negotiation as part of a larger USD 4.8 billion loan.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade announced it is considering a project to improve the [quality of agriculture](#) in Upper Egypt to alleviate poverty in the region, reports *Egypt Independent*. The proposed USD 7.5 million project would be funded by the government of Spain and implemented by four United Nations agencies, including the UN Development Program, UN Women, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Labour Organization. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned that Egypt’s [heavy reliance](#) on imports could make it more vulnerable to fluctuations in global food prices, informs *Ahram Online*. While the country has made some significant progress in establishing agricultural self-sufficiency, stronger government social safety nets remain crucial to protect the most vulnerable segments of the population.

[Former Prime Minister](#) Ahmed Shafik was charged with corruption on 30 September for an alleged land usurpation scheme, reports *Business Week*. Shafik was the last prime minister under President Mubarak, and lost the final round of presidential elections to Mohamed Morsi.

## South Sudan

*Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders) reports that they have been forced to suspend [medical services](#) in two of their three facilities in Pibor county in Jonglei state due to insecurity. The interruption of services will leave up to 90,000 people “deprived of essential medical care” during the peak of malaria season and in the midst of the heaviest flooding in the area in recent years. Continued fighting could force the [third facility](#) to be closed, thereby affecting thousands more. Jonglei has a history of inter-communal violence, with over 900 people killed [during clashes](#) between 23 December 2011 and 04 February 2012 and an estimated 120,000 people displaced. Following the clashes, the South Sudanese government began a disarmament campaign in the area which the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) described in a 26 June [report](#) as being marred by incidences of torture, rapes and the killing of civilians. Following the report, the chairperson of the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, Laurence Corbandy, visited Jonglei on 27 September to address issues of [human rights](#) protection in the state, reports the *Sudan Tribune*. State Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) head of peace restoring forces in Jonglei, Kuol Deim Kuol, refuted the report, describing it as “one-sided and lacking the SPLA perspective”.

## Sudan

Several clashes in North Darfur between members of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) erupted during the past week. SRF is an [umbrella rebel group](#) comprising three Darfur rebel groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minnawi (SLA-MM) and Sudan Liberation Army-Abdel Wahid (SLA-AW), and the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states’ rebel group SPLM-North. Speaking on behalf of SLA-MM, SRF spokesman Adam Saleh Abkar said they [killed dozens](#) of SAF soldiers and pro-government militias and destroyed five government vehicles on the morning of 25 September in North Darfur, reports *Radio Dabanga*. Witnesses who fled the fighting reported that Antonov airplanes dropped a number of bombs on the area, followed by the arrival of border guards who killed and injured more civilians. The number of civilian deaths remains unknown. In Hashaba, North Darfur, more than sixty people have died and over fifty have been injured after SAF

[bombed](#) the area on 26 and 27 September, reports *Radio Dabanga*. Hundreds are missing and almost [8,000 residents](#) fled the attacks with some walking for days with limited food and water. On 28 September, a SLA-MM spokesman announced that [fierce clashes](#) broke out in East Jebel Marra between SAF, supported by pro-government militias, and coalition members of SRF. The rebels claim that 84 SAF soldiers were killed or injured and that the group seized 23 small vehicles carrying light and [heavy munitions](#), three trucks, fuel and four trucks loaded with munitions and other supplies. The government reported that SAF killed about seventy SRF members and destroyed eight SRF Land Cruisers.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts that Sudan's [external debt](#) will reach USD 45.6 billion in 2013 which represents 83% of Sudan's 2011 GDP, reports the *Sudan Tribune*. Sudan has been urged to "step up their dialogue with creditors and donors to garner support for debt relief". Some IMF board members have called for "exceptional efforts" from the IMF and the international community to help Sudan [reduce](#) its debt, according to *Reuters*. Sudan told the UN General Assembly that its debts must be cancelled and its economy supported in order for the country to recover from losing three-quarters of its oil revenue when South Sudan seceded in July 2011. During negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan (see below), it was agreed that Sudan would "retain all external [debt liabilities](#)" in return for both countries working jointly to convince international creditors to cancel the debt, reports the *Sudan Tribune*. Most of the debt is owed to the [Arab Gulf States](#) of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Germany, Britain and the United States have expressed a willingness to offer debt relief if certain political conditions are met.

Sudan has been urged to stop the [repression of protesters](#) and journalists and asked to allow a UN investigator to look into allegations of police brutality in insecure areas such as Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, according to *Reuters*. EU envoy to the UN Human Rights Council, Mariangela Zappia, voiced concern at "the use of excessive force by security forces against protesters, increased restriction on public meetings and assembly, restrictions on press and impunity currently prevailing for these abuses".

### **South Sudan and Sudan Political Agreement**

Sudan and South Sudan [signed agreements](#) on 27 September that will allow for a resumption of oil exports from South Sudan, the establishment of a demilitarised zone between their borders and a cessation of all hostilities. The security agreement was signed by the two countries' defence ministers, while negotiators signed the economic and trade agreements. A deal was also signed to allow citizens of both countries to move freely, reside in and work in each other's country. The two sides failed to reach an agreement on the border region of Abyei. With regard to oil, the two sides agreed that South Sudan would pay between USD 9.10 and USD 11 per barrel to use Sudan's refinery and [oil pipeline](#) infrastructure, reports *Reuters*. South Sudan will also make a one-time, USD 3.08 billion payment to Sudan as compensation for South Sudan taking control over two-thirds of the oil when the country became independent. An agreement has not yet been reached regarding how much South Sudan will pay Sudan to take over oil facilities previously owned by the state firm Sudapet. In an effort to avoid future disagreements over export volumes, both countries agreed to "review and ensure...effective metering facilities" and gave each other the right to ask oil firms to install additional metering systems. An agreement was also reached to set up a committee headed by an African Union-appointed official to review payments and technical issues.

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# Horn of Africa

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## Ethiopia

Ethiopia's state-run Sugar Corp. and China Development Bank Corp. [signed an agreement](#) for USD 500 million in loans to build two sugar refineries, informs *Bloomberg*. Last year, Ethiopia produced 265,000 tonnes of cane but plans on producing 2.3 million tonnes annually by 2025. The country seeks to invest USD 5.5 billion to turn the current sugar-importing country into a top ten world exporter by 2025.

A new Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Ethiopia [was endorsed](#) by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors, including the approval of "two International Development Association (IDA) interest-free credits totalling USD 1.15 billion", supporting the government's effort of economic growth, improving health care, education, infrastructure and reducing overall poverty. The World Bank Group will mobilise USD 600 million, co-financed by the Ethiopian government and others, to fund the Promoting Basic Services (PBS III) programme. The initial programme has encouraged greater social accountability, promoted transparency and has helped to hire more than 100,000 primary school teachers, 38,000 health extension workers and 45,000 agricultural extension workers.

The Ethiopian Federal High Court ordered the property of the two journalists, Eskinder Nega and Abebe Gelaw, as well as opposition leader Andulem Arage, [to be confiscated](#), informs *The Africa Report*. Eskinder, recipient of the PEN American Center's Freedom to Write Award, is currently serving an eighteen-year prison sentence. Andulem is serving a life sentence, while Abebe was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment in absentia. All three were convicted on 13 July 2012 under Ethiopia's anti-terrorism law (see also CFC [Mediterranean Review](#) from 10 July 2012).

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, attending the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, confirmed that Ethiopia will [continue to contribute](#) to regional integration efforts, which have included power and transportation infrastructure projects. He noted, however, that its success would depend on a number of conditions being met regarding peace and stability – including the challenges of extremism in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan – and the capacity to ensure sustainable development, reports the *UN News Centre*.

The Group of Eight (G8) nations has expanded a programme to increase investments in agriculture and nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa, aiming to strengthen [global food security](#) and decrease poverty, by launching the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security, reports *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*. Over the next decade, the goal is to "lift fifty million people in sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty and hunger". Ethiopia is among the first three countries to be included in the programme. A total of USD four billion was pledged by more than sixty private companies to help build seed, fertiliser or small-scale irrigation firms. Plans also focus on aiding women and small-scale farmers.

## Kenya

An [unknown attacker threw](#) an improvised explosive device (IED) into a church in Nairobi, killing a nine-year-old boy and wounding several other children on 30 September, according to the *Daily Nation*. A series of attacks targeting churches in Kenya have occurred since Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) crossed into Somalia last October, following a number of kidnappings believed to have been orchestrated by al Shabaab. Meanwhile, two police officers in the northern town of Garissa [were shot and killed](#) on 30 September, reports *Reuters*. Police suspect al Shabaab sympathisers to be responsible.

President Kibaki appointed a Commission of Inquiry [to investigate](#) the ethnic clashes between the Orma and Pokomo communities in Tana River district that resulted in the death of 112 people and over 60 arrests since August, reports the *Daily Nation*. The commission is also tasked with establishing "the origin and the underlying causes of the violence" and evaluating police response to the events. Politicians have been suspected of inciting the violence while vying for seats in the upcoming March 2013 elections. A recent survey conducted in Kenya by the Society for International Development revealed an [increased concern](#) of a possible replay of the 2007 post-elections violence, according to a separate *Daily Nation* report.

Hate speeches [contributed in part](#) to the 2007 post-election violence and, in an effort to avoid a recurrence in the 2013 elections, the Kenyan government is "clamping down on speeches that inflame ethnic animosities", reports *The Christian Science Monitor*. As a most recent example, Deputy Minister Ferdinand Waititu was charged with hate speech and [inciting violence](#) against ethnic Maasai living and working in Nairobi's Kayole neighbourhood, informs *Reuters*. Two people were killed in fighting that erupted after his remarks on 24 September, in which he urged residents to chase out members of the Maasai community. Waititu, who was subsequently suspended from ministerial duties while charges against him are pending, was running for governor of Nairobi.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported 223 [confirmed cases](#) of acute jaundice and eighteen cases of cholera across the five Dadaab refugee camps, leading to four deaths. The world's largest refugee camp was originally built to accommodate 90,000 people; however, it is now housing more than 473,000, resulting in overcrowding and inadequate water and sanitation facilities within the camp. The rainy season, which started this month, raises concerns of possible floods in parts of the Dadaab camp, bringing with it an increase of water-borne diseases.

## Somalia

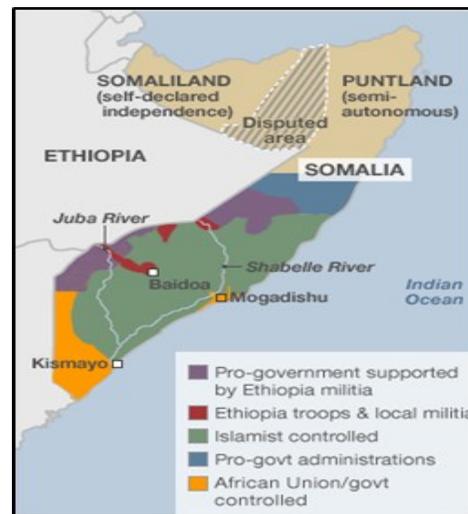
Al Shabaab [withdrew from](#) Kismayo on 29 September, after Somali and (African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces, backed by air strikes, attacked the port city, according to *Reuters*. Analysts warn that some al Shabaab members might still be in the city. The situation in Kismayo [has normalised](#), but residents are fearful of further clashes, reports *Shabelle Media Network (SMN)*. Approximately [12,000 residents](#) fled the city in September alone, after Somali government and AMISOM troops started to close in on Kismayo, reports UNHCR.

Two fighter planes bombarded the al Shabaab-controlled town of Bardere on 29 September, targeting al Shabaab training camps, and [killing three civilians](#) including women and children, according to *SMN*.

Muqtar Qasim, a senior government official [was killed](#) in Baidoa by unknown gunmen on 30 September, reports *SMN*. No group has claimed responsibility. Somali and Ethiopian forces allegedly ousted al Shabaab from Baidoa in February.

Two journalists, Abdirahman Mohamed Ali and Ahmed Abdulahi Farah, [were killed](#) in Mogadishu on 27 and 28 September respectively, raising the death toll since January 2012 to fifteen journalists, including seven in September alone, informs Reporters Without Borders. Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for Ali's killing. On 28 September, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) called on the Somali government to protect journalists.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) published its Somalia Human Development [Report 2012](#), Empowering Youth for Peace and Development. Surveys were conducted in more than 3,000 households in south and central Somalia, as well as in Puntland and Somaliland. About 42% of Somalia's population is between 14-29 years of age and more than half of those surveyed said that they plan on leaving the country. "This lack of viable education and employment opportunities – in addition to clan and cultural prejudices – has created a high level of frustration and discontentment among young people".



Source: [BBC](#)

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vilians to resort to eating leaves off trees and ground roots to survive. These harsh conditions within the states resulted in the African Union (AU), Arab League and UN developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed in August between the rebels and Khartoum to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered into Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The Sudanese government has [previously refused](#) to allow UN agencies to work in rebel held areas and is currently refusing SPLM-N's involvement in the distribution of humanitarian supplies. As of the end of September, this tripartite agreement has not been implemented and rebels have accused Khartoum of "not respecting" the MOU and have [called for aid](#) to be sent through South Sudan and Ethiopia in order to reach civilians caught in the fighting, reports *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*.

### Refugees

Because of violence and persistent food insecurity in their places of origin, over [172,000 refugees](#) have flooded into South Sudan and an additional 38,700 into Ethiopia, reports the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Of those living in South Sudan, [over 105,000](#) are in camps in Upper Nile state and more than 66,500 people are in Unity state. Living conditions in the camps and the health of the population have varied since they were [opened](#) by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in January. Preliminary results of an epidemiological study conducted by *Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)*, also known as Doctors Without Borders) in July revealed that [mortality rates](#) in the Jamam camp, located in South Sudan's Upper Nile state, were nearly double the emergency threshold. In the camp, almost nine children a day were dying, with 65% of deaths due to diarrhoea. Thanks to relief efforts, September witnessed a [modest drop](#) in malnutrition rates from 40% to 33%. Some of the camps are experiencing severe [water shortages](#) which have contributed to a rise in mortality and malnutrition rates, reports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The onset of the [rainy season](#) (typically mid-July to November) has exacerbated the humanitarian situation, increasing risks of water-borne diseases as the rains cause latrines to overflow and contaminate standing water. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 21 people have died from an outbreak of the [Hepatitis E](#) virus in three South Sudanese refugee camps. Over 600 suspected cases of the virus have been reported since the outbreak was identified in July. The disease put "immense pressure on the available [health services](#) and resources".



Refugee influx from Sudan into South Sudan's Unity and Upper Nile states. Source: [OCHA](#)

### Transportation and Mobility

Transportation has also been affected by the rains. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres stated that humanitarian efforts in South Sudan were close to breaking point as "[flooded roads](#) block access and the possibility of relocating people elsewhere – even where better sites can be found". Additionally, UN officials reported that land mines were [hampering relocation](#) efforts as well. At the end of September, international aid agencies reported that South Sudan's rainy season has [overwhelmed](#) aid efforts in refugee camps located in Upper Nile's Maban County, one of the most remote and least developed areas of South Sudan. The four camps in Maban house over 106,000 refugees, and can only be reached by air or boat during the rainy season. Sean Casey, International Medical Corps UK (IMC) country director for South Sudan, stated that "we've got an emergency on our hands which is worsening day by day and it has the potential to get bigger with more refugees coming in". Within Unity state, UNHCR reports that "about 100 refugees a day are arriving in the border town of Yida" as a result of a new round of air and [ground attacks](#) in Sudan's South Kordofan state. The "refugees are in poor health and without any belongings" and it is expected that by the end of the year the number of refugees in Yida camp will increase from 64,200 to more than 80,000. UNHCR hopes to relocate the camp to a safer location once the rainy season ends in November, amid safety concerns given the camp's close proximity to the Sudanese border.

### In the Coming Months

As flooded routes between Sudan and South Sudan reopen, there is an expectation that up to 30,000 [additional people](#) could arrive in the South Sudanese camps by the end of the year. The UN has expressed fears that another [influx of refugees](#) into South Sudan when the heavy rains stop could quickly overburden the camps and undermine recent modest improvements in the camps, reports *Voice of America (VOA)*. Due to these concerns, UNHCR has called on relief agencies to scale up operations in expectation of more refugees. However, aid agencies are [underfunded](#), with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) reporting that they have only received a third of the USD 6 million it needs to airdrop food and UNHCR stating that it has only received 40% of its USD 183 million appeal.

