



## (U) Liberia:

(U) **Social Media Trends and Sentiments in Liberia:** Trending on Twitter over the past 24 hours, a French foreign aid worker has reportedly contracted Ebola in Liberia. *With the increasing pressure for foreign aid since the announcement of OUA, this event will likely raise concerns with the Liberian population, fearing a negative impact for global support. It is unknown at this time if the individual has had contact with additional aid workers in the area.* Social media data also shows concern with Liberia's limited treatment facilities, posting images of Liberians waiting outside hospitals hoping to receive care. The image on the left was re-tweeted more than 25 times in 2 hours. The Liberian population's sentiment toward OUA remains positive due to the promise to build more treatment facilities.<sup>1</sup>



(U) **Officials Sacked over Ebola Fight:** According to press, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf dismissed ten officials which included six assistant ministers, two deputy ministers, and two commissioners on Saturday for being "out of the country without an excuse." The officials failed to return to Liberia after being directed to do so in August.<sup>2</sup> *The Liberian government shakeup is unlikely to have far-reaching ramifications but is a positive sign that the government is taking the Ebola outbreak seriously.*

<sup>1</sup> (U) Twitter, 18 SEPT 14, (U) *Social Media Trends and Sentiments in Liberia*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>2</sup> (U) *Al-Jazeera*, 14 SEP 14, (U) *Liberia sacks officials over Ebola fight*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) **Germany to Provide Logistical Help to Liberia:** According to press, Chancellor Angela Merkel has confirmed that Germany will provide logistical support to Liberia in the form of transport planes and standby aircraft to retrieve medical staff for treatment in case of infection.<sup>3</sup>

(U) **JOA (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal):**

(U) **Health Team ‘Found Dead’ in Guinea:** A group of health care workers and journalists were found dead in a village near Nzerekore, Guinea. According to press, the group was stoned and found hidden in the village’s septic tank; the reason for the killings is unknown.<sup>4</sup> *It is likely the villagers murdered the group fearing they would be diagnosed with Ebola and removed to quarantine. Press reports many locals have the rationale that a diagnosis will result in certain death or being taken away from their families. The onset of civil unrest is sure to increase as fear spreads and the international community endures roadblocks in bringing awareness to the population.*

(U) **Sierra Leone Readies for Controversial Ebola Lockdown:** The government of Sierra Leone has decreed that the entire population of 6 million to be on a mandatory lockdown from 19-22 September. 30,000 volunteers will go door-to-door collecting dead bodies and infected personnel. During the lockdown, volunteers will pass out soap bars, Ebola symptom information, and neighborhood watch teams to monitor and report suspected Ebola cases.<sup>5</sup> *Sierra Leone officials are doubtful of the projected effectiveness of the shutdown and anticipate a backlash. It is probable that small portions of the communities will cause unrest and rebel against the curfew and lockdown, even with the enforcement of police and civil society leaders.*

(U) **West African Economy at Risk:** The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea will experience reductions in their economic growth, and foresee the numbers declining drastically if the epidemic is not controlled. The WHO reports agriculture, mining, and similar ministries have experienced the worse of the economic backlash with the populace refusing to work.<sup>6</sup> *The second and third order effects of the economic downturn will take time to manifest, but may include increased popular discontent with the West African governments, inability to afford basic staples, potential for protests and strikes, and ultimately threats to government stability.*

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<sup>3</sup> (U) Reliefweb, 18 SEP 14, (U) Germany to provide logistical help to Ebola-hit Liberia, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>4</sup> (U) BBC, 18SEPT 14, (U)Ebola Outbreak: Health Team ‘Fond Dead’ in Guinea, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>5</sup> (U) Agence France Presse, 18 SEP 14, (U) Sierra Leone Readies For Controversial Ebola Lockdown, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>6</sup> (U) BBC, 17 SEP 14, (U) Ebola Could Wreck W Africa Economies, Warn World Bank, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) **Ghana Airlifts Food Items:** Ghana has sent 100 tons of relief to Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, including rice, cooking oil, milk, and cocoa. The donation was given by the Ghanaian government to support treatment facilities and quarantines areas.<sup>7</sup> *The food items may serve as an incentive to infected personnel to admit themselves to Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) due to the poor economy and the population's growing inability to support themselves.*

(U) **Ebola Patients Buying Black Market Blood:** As the Ebola infection continues to spread, CNN reports the populace is looking toward the black market to purchase blood from Ebola survivors as a solution. Buyers of the blood hope to gain immunity or recovery from a blood transfusion.<sup>8</sup> *This poses a high risk to the spread of not only Ebola, but other infectious diseases, such as HIV. Growing skepticism toward mainstream health care workers will cause people to gravitate toward local remedies, which may include such risky blood transfusions.*

(U) **China CDC Laboratory Team and a China-aided Mobile Laboratory Arrived in Sierra Leone:** According to press, two Chinese planes have landed in Sierra Leone bringing a Chinese Center for Disease Control (CDC) laboratory team and a China-aided mobile laboratory with them. The CDC team is comprised of 59 personnel, including 29 medical experts to run the mobile laboratory and 30 doctors and nurses from the 302<sup>nd</sup> Military Hospital of China. The 302<sup>nd</sup> personnel played a crucial role in combating the 2003 SARS epidemic in China. The team is expected to run a holding center at the Sierra Leone-China Friendship Hospital for 6 months. This is the third batch of Chinese aid to Sierra Leone, the first two bringing \$1.8 million worth of emergency medical supplies and two medical expert teams.<sup>9</sup>

(U) **UK to Increase Support to Sierra Leone to Combat Ebola:** UK Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond announced a “significantly increased package of UK support” in coordination with the UN including 700 treatment beds. A reported 200 beds are already in the delivery pipeline with the remainder expected in the coming months. The Foreign Secretary also confirmed the UK's intention to work with partners to “provide and train the international staff and support” to make effective use of the beds. The effort is being spearheaded by the UK Armed Forces who will work with the government of Sierra Leone to identify potential sites for the beds and to provide training.<sup>10</sup> *The UK is focusing its efforts on its former colony Sierra Leone, and will likely ramp up military and civil-based support to fight the outbreak.*

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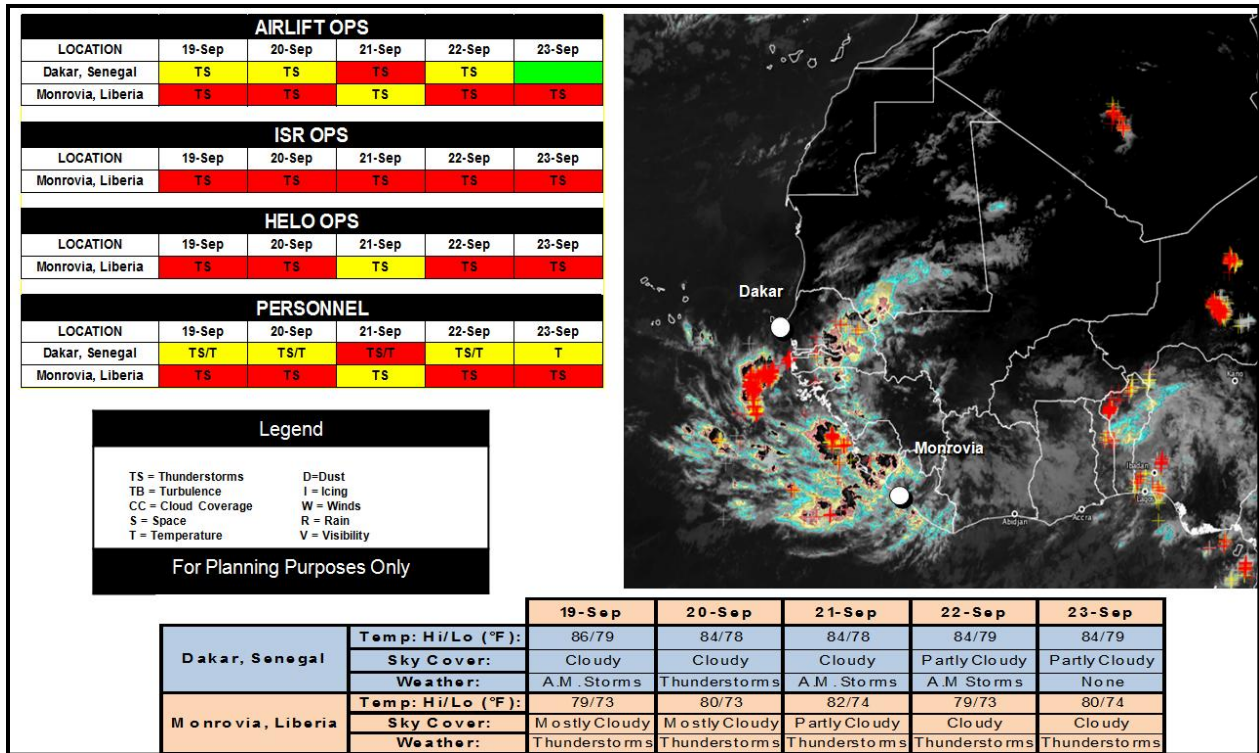
<sup>7</sup> (U) The Presidency Republic of Ghana, 15 SEP 14, (U) *Ghana Air Force Airlifts Relief Assistance to Three Ebola Affected Countries*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>8</sup> (U) CNN, 18 SEPT 14, (U) *Ebola Patients Buying Survivors' Blood From Black Market, WHO Warns*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>9</sup> (U) *Reliefweb*, 18 SEP 14, (U) *China CDC Laboratory Team and a China-aided Mobile Laboratory Arrived in Sierra Leone*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>10</sup> <sup>10</sup> (U) *Reliefweb*, 18 SEP 14, (U) *UK to increase support to Sierra Leone to combat Ebola*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) Weather:



(U) Monrovia will continue to see persistent rain with embedded thunderstorms throughout the forecast period. *These atmospheric conditions will make it very difficult for engineering and construction based activities due to persistent and at times heavy rains. Furthermore, travel along all roads classified as “fair-weather” will be nearly impossible to traverse,* due to the deterioration of ground conditions as anywhere to 0.6 inches to over 1.0 inch of rain is forecasted to occur on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Roads classified as “all-weather” roads will be difficult to traverse during periods of heavy downpours. Forecasted thunderstorm activity throughout the period can be expected to affect airfield operation at both Roberts International Airport and Spriggs Payne Airport.

(U) Throughout the forecast period, Dakar will experience early morning thunderstorms. Temperatures will remain in the mid 80s; however, conditions will remain marginal to personnel due to levels of high humidity.