

## **Breaking News**

### **- Relevant excerpts only**

**Sourcing:** The news website generally aims to have two independent sources before running a story. But there are circumstances in which a single source is adequate.

- The UK desk will sometimes proceed with a news story on the basis of information from the Press Association alone, but treats with caution details such as a specific death toll until the facts have been confirmed using BBC material or check calls.
- BBC correspondents can be depended upon to have checked their facts before filing and can therefore be used as a trusted source.
- Associated Press reporting, for example, out of Washington on a Pentagon statement can be relied upon to get it right.
- Television footage may inform our reporting – so it's important to monitor the output of relevant channels. A report by a state-controlled news agency gives us the official version. Eye-witness accounts may also shed light on what is happening. All such sources may be drawn upon to inform our coverage.

There can be no absolute rule about when to go with a story. It is usually a question of informed judgement, best left to a senior journalist or a specialist. Our Africa editor may know and trust the AFP correspondent in Senegal. The science editor is likely to be best placed to decide if a particular publication is reliable and authoritative.

But remember – when relying on a single source (other than a BBC correspondent), spell out what that source is.

**Key contacts ...**

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