



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Libya

On October 10th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement on the abduction and release of Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan. While grateful for Prime Minister Zeidan's release, Secretary Kerry said there is no place for such violence if Libyans are serious about building a democratic, secure, and prosperous country with rule of law and respect for human rights. He also expressed the U.S. commitment to assisting the Libyan Government in building its capacity to deliver security and good governance. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On October 11th, Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan accused opposition members within Libya's national assembly of plotting his abduction as part of an attempted coup. The former rebels said they kidnapped Prime Minister Zeidan because they were angry at reports suggesting the Libyan Government was informed of the U.S. raid that resulted in the capture of Al Qaeda leader Abu Anas al-Libi in advance. More information is available [here](#).

On October 11th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf reiterated the U.S. commitment to working with the Government of Libya following the abduction and release of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan. She said the kidnapping underscores U.S. efforts to assist the Libyan Government in strengthening its institutions, rule of law, and internal security. A transcript can be viewed [here](#).

On October 11th, the International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled former Libyan intelligence chief under Muammar Gaddafi, Abdullah al-Senussi, who was indicted in 2011 for war crimes, can be tried in Libya. The ICC does not carry out proceedings when it finds a suspect will receive a fair trial in domestic court. Amnesty International, along with other organizations, have called for Senussi to be transferred the ICC to ensure an impartial trial. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 12th, following a weeklong interrogation aboard the U.S.S. San Antonio, Abu Anas al-Libi was transferred to law enforcement custody in New York. Libi was expected to be arraigned Tuesday on charges he helped conduct surveillance for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. It is unclear where Libi will be held while in custody, but U.S. officials indicated he will receive medical testing to determine treatment for health issues. An article with the latest developments can be read [here](#).

On October 15th, Abu Anas al-Libi pleaded not guilty to terrorism charges during brief proceedings at a federal court in Manhattan. At the request of Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Lewin, a judge has ordered that Libi be detained as a flight risk. Details were shared [here](#).

On October 15th, *Reuters* reported the interagency High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) deployed to the U.S.S. San Antonio to question Abu Anas al-Libi was forced to end their interrogation when Libi stopped eating and drinking, exacerbating his health issues. Libi's family has said he suffers from Hepatitis C, among other conditions. An article on the limited interrogation is available [here](#).

Egypt

On October 11th, officials in Egypt responded to the U.S. decision to withhold some foreign assistance. Egypt's Foreign Ministry issued a statement indicating it is keen to maintain good relations with the U.S., but will be forced to look elsewhere to secure arms and military hardware. Another official, speaking under anonymity, indicated Egypt may also consider stripping U.S. warships of preferential treatment in the Suez Canal or disallowing use of Egyptian airspace by U.S. military aircraft. Details were reported [here](#).

On October 11th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the Obama Administration may be forced to pay millions of dollars in storage costs and contractor fees as a result of the decision to suspend the sale of large weapons systems to Egypt. She said the State Department will address contract issues on a case by case basis. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's comments can be viewed [here](#).

On October 11th, The Glover Park Group registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) to represent Egypt in Washington, DC, in the areas of public diplomacy, strategic communications, and government relations. The focus of the engagement will be on the interim government's implementation of its roadmap to build democratic institutions through parliamentary and presidential elections. The filing can be viewed [here](#).

On October 14th, ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was remanded for 30 days pending investigations into accusations of spying for Hamas to carry out hostile acts in Egypt. The detention of President Morsi's Chief Secretary Refaa Tahtawi was also renewed for an additional 15 days, also pending an investigation of allegations that he spied for Hamas. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 14th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sis to offer warm wishes for the Eid al-Adha holiday. The military leaders expressed commitment to advancing the strength of U.S.-Egypt bilateral relationship and the importance of regional security, particularly in the Sinai. A readout of the discussion is available [here](#).

On October 16th, Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy told the state-run Al-Ahram newspaper the U.S.-Egypt relationship is in turmoil following last week's decision to suspend foreign aid. Minister Fahmy said an extended period of uncertainty in the relationship will negatively impact the entire region, including U.S. interests. Meanwhile, Egyptian defense officials reported plans to diversify Egypt's source of weapons, including a possible turn to Russia. Comments from Minister Fahmy can be seen [here](#).

On October 16th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy's comments regarding turmoil in the U.S.-Egypt relationship. Spokesperson Psaki called attention to the full context of Foreign Minister Fahmy's comments, noting that he said he is not worried about the turmoil because he views the current situation as an opportunity for the U.S. and Egypt to evaluate the future relationship. She also said Secretary of State John Kerry and Minister

Fahmy have a good relationship and Secretary Kerry has conveyed the U.S. desire for Egypt to succeed. A transcript was posted [here](#).

Sudan

On October 12th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed sadness after receiving reports of the death of an African Union (AU)-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Zambian military observer, following an attack by unidentified armed assailants in El Fasher, North Darfur. He called for the Government of Sudan to pursue a swift response to the attack. An article on the incident can be read [here](#).

On October 13th, a UNAMID police unit was attacked by an unidentified armed group as it was escorting a water convoy from El Geneina to headquarters in West Darfur. The attackers killed three Senegalese peacekeepers, wounded one other, and hijacked a vehicle that was later recovered nearby. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack and UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas called for the Government of Sudan to bring those responsible to justice. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 15th, the State Department released a statement condemning the recent killing of three Senegalese UNAMID peacekeepers and one Zambian UNAMID peacekeeper in Darfur. The recent attacks have resulted in a total of 13 UNAMID peacekeepers killed this year. The State Department expressed concern for the violence against UNAMID personnel and called on the Government of Sudan to immediately investigate the attacks and hold the perpetrators accountable. The condemnation of the attacks can be viewed [here](#).

Nigeria

On October 15th, Amnesty International reported 950 people have been killed in military custody in Nigeria in the first half of 2013. Those killed, typically by gunfire, suffocation, or starvation, were detained as suspected members of Boko Haram, the Islamist militant group responsible for several attacks and human rights violations in northeastern Nigeria this year. If the report is accurate, Nigeria security forces may have killed more civilians than extremists in the first part of this year. Highlights from the Amnesty International report were noted [here](#).

On October 15th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to the Amnesty International report on civilian detainee deaths in Nigeria. She said the State Department has similar concerns regarding human rights abuses in Nigeria and supports allowing international humanitarian organizations access to Nigerian detention facilities. Spokesperson Psaki also noted detainee human rights have been raised with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan by both President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry. Spokesperson Psaki's comments were transcribed [here](#).

Malawi

On October 10th, Malawian President Joyce Banda announced the dissolution of her cabinet after ten junior government officials were arrested on suspicions of misappropriating state funds. The announcement came as a small group of protestors marched on the capital city of Lilongwe, demanding the firing of the arrested officials, including Finance Minister Ken Lipenga. President Banda said a new cabinet would be appointed in due course. Details were posted [here](#).

On October 15th, Malawian President Joyce Banda appointed a new cabinet, less than a week after dismissing a cabinet full of ministers facing charges of corruption. New cabinet members include Maxwell Mkwezalamba as Finance Minister and Fahad Assani as Justice Minister. The new appointments were listed [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On October 15th, the White House issued a statement recognizing the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

President Barack Obama congratulated those performing the Hajj this year and commended Muslims for providing assistance to those suffering from hunger, disease, and conflict to commemorate the holiday. The full statement can be read [here](#).

State Department

On October 10th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf responded to comments made by Gambian Minister of Presidential Affairs Momodou Sabally accusing the U.S. and the U.K. of sponsoring a series of coup plots. Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the U.S. rejects the baseless accusations, maintains a longstanding relationship with Gambia, and desires continuing, healthy, bilateral relations. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's response was transcribed [here](#).

On October 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement offering best wishes to Equatorial Guinea on its National Day. Secretary Kerry recognized close cooperation between the U.S. and Equatorial Guinea on maritime security, health, and education and expressed commitment to continued partnership to strengthen democratic institutions, promote good governance, and create economic opportunities. The full statement was posted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On October 17th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on a recent ceremony held at the Tanzanian Naval and Maritime Operations Headquarters in Dar es Salaam to recognize the handover of a VHF Communications System to the Tanzanian Police Force Maritime and the Tanzanian People's Defense Force Naval Command. The \$1 million system will enhance Tanzania's capabilities to combat narcotics trafficking and other transnational crime. An article on the ceremony can be read [here](#).

Treasury Department

On October 10th, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew hosted African finance members for a roundtable discussion focused on encouraging investment in Africa's electricity sector to spur economic opportunity. Secretary Lew highlighted President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative and committed to work with other nations and multilateral development institutions to increase access to electricity in Africa over the next five years. A full list of roundtable participants was shared [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On October 11th, Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Martha Roby (R-AL) provided an overview of the Subcommittee's classified briefing with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey on the September 11th, 2012, attack in Benghazi, Libya. Representative Roby said the discussion confirmed her belief that U.S. military personnel were not postured to respond to the attack. A readout of the briefing can be seen [here](#).

On October 17th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a close briefing on the recent U.S. military operations in Libya and Somalia. Obama Administration participants included Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Matthew Olsen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Elizabeth Jones, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict Garry Reid, Deputy Director for Special Operations/Counterterrorism Scott Howell, and Deputy Assistant Director of the Counterterrorism Division Robert Holley. Details can be viewed [here](#).

North Africa

On October 11th, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) welcomed the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia's passage of a new law establishing the National Body to Prevent Torture. The new independent body will ensure all those who are detained in Tunisia will observe procedural safeguards to prevent torture. Tunisia is the first country in the Middle East or North Africa to establish such a preventative national entity. The full story is available [here](#).

On October 11th, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement calling on the Government of Sudan to execute a vaccination campaign to stop the spread of polio, especially in light of the recent outbreak in the country's South Kordofan region. The campaign is scheduled to launch November 5th, pending technical negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation movement-North (SPLM-N) that will allow for safe transport of the vaccine. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 11th, a car bomb exploded outside of the Swedish consulate in Benghazi, Libya. According to the Swedish Foreign Ministry, no one was inside the building at the time of the attack, as the diplomatic facility is usually closed on Fridays. The front of the building and nearby houses were damaged by the blast. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 13th, U.S. citizen James Lunn, who had been detained by Egyptian authorities for more than six weeks, was found dead in a police station and is suspected of hanging himself. According to Egypt's Interior Ministry, Lunn was arrested on August 27th during a security sweep of the northern Sinai after a car bomb attack on a police station. U.S. officials indicated a consular official visited Lunn last week and his detention was renewed for another 30 days on October 12th. Details were shared [here](#).

On October 13th, in a joint news conference with Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister Ali Zeidan announced new efforts to tackle illegal immigration. The announcement comes days after a ship carrying Syrian refugees fleeing violence in their homeland sank between North Africa and Malta. Prime Minister Zeidan has asked the European Union (EU) for equipment and training, as well as access to the European satellite system to allow Libyan authorities to monitor land and maritime borders. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 14th, Tunisia's National Salvation Front (NSF) called on all Tunisians to participate in massive demonstrations, planned for October 23rd, calling for the appointment of a competent government. The protests will be held on the second anniversary of the election of Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly, which was tasked with developing a new constitution, but failed to do so. On October 5th, the ruling Islamist Ennahda party agreed to unveil a plan for launching a new government, but negotiations on the plan are allegedly only in their beginning phases. Information on the political situation in Tunisia can be accessed [here](#).

On October 14th, Samory Ngaradoumbe, editor of the weekly L'Observateur newspaper was arrested in Chad over a report on disturbances in the military garrison in the northern town of Bardai. Last week, Ngaradoumbe was questioned by security officials regarding his sources for the report. Government officials have said the report is inaccurate and the article was intended to disturb public order. The full story was posted [here](#).

East Africa

On October 10th, Director General of the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Li Yong completed his first trip to Africa. Director General Li traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he met with Ethiopian Prime Minister and AU Chairperson Hailemariam Desalegn, AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha, AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry Fatima Haram Acyl, and U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary Carlos Lopes. During his meetings, Director General Li stressed how inclusive and sustainable industrialization can help bolster Africa's long term growth and development. An article on Director General Li's trip can be read [here](#).

On October 11th, African Foreign Ministers gathered at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the continent's relationship with the ICC. The meeting followed a vote in the Kenyan parliament last month to withdraw from the Rome Statute, as Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto face ICC charges for crimes against humanity. Details on the meeting were reported [here](#).

On October 12th, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni revealed the nation's goals to import coal from

Mozambique to support the development of iron ore resources. President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique noted the political and historical link between the neighboring countries could become commercial as well, as Uganda has confirmed deposits of iron ore that require natural gas or carbon-based agents, such as coal, for extraction. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 13th, *Al-Jazeera* reported that Kenya's \$25.5 billion Lamu Port and New Transport Corridor Development is raising concerns about the relations between Sudan and South Sudan. The project includes the construction of a 32-berth port, three international airports, and a 1,500km railway. Additional plans call for an oil pipeline to run to the Eastern Province before splitting with one branch heading to South Sudan's capital, Juba, and a second branch heading to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 14th, Belgian authorities announced the arrest of Mohammed Abdi Hassan, also known as Afweyneh or Big Mouth, who is alleged to be one of Somalia's most influential pirate leaders. Hassan is believed to have earned millions in ransom payments as a result of piracy acts, and a U.N. report leaked last year labels Hassan as one of the most influential leaders of the Hobyo-Harardhere Piracy Network. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 15th, Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto said he would continue to cooperate with the ICC, despite African leaders calling for an end to the prosecution of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for crimes against humanity committed following the 2007 Kenyan elections. While he said he would continue to comply with ICC proceedings, Deputy President Ruto again argued he should be excused from attending the hearing in person so he could continue his duties in Kenya in the aftermath of the Westgate mall attack. Comments from Deputy president Ruto can be seen [here](#).

On October 16th, *The Africa Report* provided additional information on a geothermal plant construction project in Corbetti Caldera, Ethiopia, approved as part of the U.S. Power Africa initiative. An agreement was signed late last month by Ethiopia and U.S.-Icelandic private developer Reykjavik Geothermal (RG) to construct the \$4 billion, 1,000 MW, geothermal plant in two stages over the next ten years. More information is available [here](#).

On October 16th, Kenya announced its ambitious plan to plant microchips in every rhino in the country. The effort is supported by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which has donated chips and five scanners, at a cost of \$15,300, in an effort to combat a surge in poaching. It will cost much more, however, to track and dart each rhino, but the Kenya Wildlife Service noted it is vital to use sophisticated technology to counter the killing of wildlife. More information can be seen [here](#).

West Africa

On October 8th, Charles Agboklu, national coordinator of the Religious Bodies Network on Climate Change in Ghana, said climate change issues are scattered under the jurisdiction of Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology. He called for Ghana to follow the lead of Asian nations in establishing a national climate change adaptation commission. Agboklu's position was noted [here](#).

On October 10th, e-commerce store Jumia Nigeria became the first African company to win the Best Retail Launch of the Year title, awarded by the World Retail Congress. The company, which delivers products to customers in five African countries, was also nominated for Pure Retailer of the Year. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 12th, *Al Jazeera* released an article calling attention to the high rate of child marriages in Nigeria. A study recently released by the Ford Foundation assessed 16 countries in West Africa and found 49% of girls under 19 are married. The Ford Foundation report also suggests illiteracy and poverty correlate with high rates of child marriages. The Ford Foundation report can be seen [here](#).

On October 13th, the U.N. called upon the Guinea National Electoral Commission to complete the tabulation of results from the September 28th elections. The U.N. statement urged cooperation between the political parties and the commissions in releasing results, as current disputes over published partial counts have raised fears of a resurgence of violence. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 14th, former Liberian President Charles Taylor asked to serve the remainder of his 50-year war crimes sentence in Rwanda instead of the U.K. In a letter to the court, President Taylor said he feared being attacked in a U.K. prison and it would be cheaper and easier for his family to visit him in Rwanda. President Taylor's request was denied, and on October 15th, he arrived in the U.K. to serve the remainder of his sentence. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On October 14th, Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala accused Liechtenstein of using legal challenges to withhold \$250 million stolen by former military dictator Sani Abacha, who died 14 years ago. Abacha looted between \$3 and \$5 billion of public money from 1993 until 1998. Liechtenstein officials claim the country is making efforts to return the money, but a complaint filed with the European Court of Human Rights remains pending. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 15th, Nigerian military spokesperson Captain Aliyu Danja said security forces killed at least 40 Islamist militants in Borno state in efforts to repel coordinated attacks against Bama, Gwoza, and Pulka. The military acknowledged some militants escaped with gunshot wounds. The assault was noted [here](#).

On October 16th, U.N. Special Representative to Mali and head of the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Bert Koenders briefed the Security Council on developments in efforts to restore constitutional order in stability in the country. Special Representative Koenders applauded successful presidential elections, but called for security improvements in advance of two rounds of legislative elections, scheduled for November 24th and December 15th. Highlights from the briefing can be viewed [here](#).

On October 16th, speaking at the Nigerian Investors' Summit in New York, Director-General of the Nigerian Bureau of Public Enterprises Benjamin Dikki announced the privatization of the 18 Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) successor companies at \$3 billion makes it the largest privatization transaction in global history. Director General Dikki also noted opportunities for future private sector investment in Nigeria's telecommunications, infrastructure, and housing sectors. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 16th, the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced Ethiopia's 11% annual growth over the past 9 years has been assisted by significant investments in infrastructure and the commercialization of agriculture. The government's prudent monetary policies brought inflation down to 7.7% this year, from a high of 40% in mid-2011. The AfDB publication can be found [here](#).

On October 16th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Margaret Sekaggya completed a five-day trip to Togo to assess progress since her last visit to the country in 2008. While citing progress, Special Rapporteur Sekaggya noted areas for improvement, including increasing professionalism in journalism and improving training for police on handling demonstrations. More of Special Rapporteur Sekaggya's observations were noted [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On October 10th, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a new resolution focused on resolving the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR). The resolution reinforces and updates the mandate of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office (BINUCA) and authorizes the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA). Additional information is available [here](#).

On October 10th, *CNN* reported Dr. Denis Mukwege of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was a contender to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Mukwege has served as Medical Director of the Panzi Hospital in Eastern Congo, where he has dedicated his career to helping rape victims, including many who have suffered substantial internal injuries. While Dr. Mukwege ultimately did not receive the Nobel Peace Prize, on October 16th, he was awarded the 2013 Civil Courage Prize. An article on Dr. Mukwege's consideration for the award can be read [here](#).

On October 11th, vice president of the commission spearheading the DRC's mining code revision,

Chantal Bashizi, announced plans to raise the country's free stake in new mining projects from 5% to 15%. Last year, the DRC was the world's 8th largest producer of copper and the largest producer of cobalt. Proposed changes to the mining code suggest tripling the royalty on copper and cobalt to 6%. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 11th, an unarmed U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) helicopter carrying out a reconnaissance mission came under direct fire from M23 rebels in the DRC's Rumangabo region. Head of MONUSCO Martin Kobler strongly condemned the attack, as did U.N. Special Envoy for Africa's Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson. The incident was described [here](#).

On October 13th, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius announced France will increase its troop presence in the CAR by the end of the year. France already has 400 troops in Bangui, stationed primarily at the airport and other French interests. French military officials indicated troop levels could be increased to 750, in an effort to disband Seleka rebels. Information on France's military efforts in the CAR can be accessed [here](#).

On October 13th, South African politician Julius Malema hosted a rally near the Marikana mines to formally launch the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) political party. Malema also apologized for previously supporting South African President Jacob Zuma and the African National Congress (ANC), saying the ruling party has only served the country with mediocrity. The rally was reported [here](#).

On October 13th, Angola announced the imposition of a consumption tax on petroleum companies that will raise some costs by nearly 10%. The new law requires companies to follow a tax schedule that adds 5% to most services and supplies, and double for equipment rentals. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 14th, French President Francois Hollande arrived in South Africa for a two-day state visit. During meetings with South African President Jacob Zuma and other government officials, President Hollande signed an agreement to help develop South Africa's nuclear sector and finalized a \$130 million loan for the construction of a solar power station and a wind farm. More on the state visit can be viewed [here](#).

On October 14th, a South African court ruled the state should pay the legal fees for survivors of the August 2012 mass shooting at the Marikana mine. Until now, the investigation of the incident that left 34 miners dead has been hung up on the issue of who should fund legal representation for 270 miners involved in the incident. Meanwhile, a judicial commission established by President Zuma has already found that police lied about the shootings. More information is available [here](#).

On October 15th, Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos announced Angolan ties with its former colonial ruler, Portugal, are not well. Despite speculation the President's comments were fueled by a Portuguese investigation targeting Angolan officials suspected of corruption, launched last week by Portuguese Foreign Minister Rui Machete, Angolan Minister for External Relations Georges Chicotty denied the comments were linked to the probe. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 15th, South Africa's Ministry of Mineral Resources unveiled for public comment proposed regulations for hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. The draft rules would require drillers to meet American Petroleum Institute (API) standards regarding the equipment used and the disclosure of chemicals. South Africa lifted a ban on fracking last year, paving the way for the extraction of 485 trillion cubic feet of resources in the Karoo. Opponents argue fracking exposes groundwater to risk of contamination. Details were posted [here](#).

On October 16th, the Payment Association of South Africa (PASA) announced the country was hit by the biggest cyber-fraud attack in its history, costing nearly \$1 million. PASA noted the payment card systems of thousands of shops, restaurant, and hotels may have been compromised in the attack. While an investigation is ongoing, early evidence suggests those responsible may be based in Europe. The full story was shared [here](#).

On October 16th, the bodies of two girls were found dumped in community toilets in the Diepsloot township of South Africa. Protests broke out in the region against the local police, who civilians argue

have been unable to protect the community. Lieutenant Colonel Lungelo Diamini commented the police had three people in custody and are searching for a fourth suspect. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 16th, Mercedes-Benz announced it would push ahead with a 302 million investment plan in South Africa. The plan will see output increase to 100,000 units per year. The announcement comes nearly two weeks after BMW reported it would stop expansion in South Africa due to labor strikes that cost 13,000 cars in lost production. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 16th, Doctors Without Borders issued a statement announcing approximately 30,000 people have fled unprecedented levels of violence in the CAR. Since rebels seized power in March, the country has been in a constant state of chaos, especially after President Michel Djotodia formally disbanded the Seleka rebel group that he put him in office. Doctors Without Borders claims it is one of few organizations working in the conflict-affected areas in the northwest part of the country. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 16th, *Reuters* reported Hollywood producers are increasingly heading to South Africa to shoot forthcoming films. Aware of the potential of the foreign film industry to boost economic growth in South Africa, the government has started offering rebates to foreign filmmakers, which, in addition to the weaker rand, make filming in South Africa cheaper than in other locations. More information can be viewed [here](#).

General Africa News

On October 10th, *CNN* issued a list of some of the largest infrastructure projects underway in Africa, including the Great Inga Dam in the DRC, the Mombasa-Kampala-Kigali railway project, and the Jasper Power Project in South Africa. The full list of infrastructure projects can be accessed [here](#).

On October 11th, following the shipwreck on October 3rd, another ship carrying African migrants capsized off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa. Italian Navy officials said 221 people were rescued of the 250 people believed to be on board. At least 34 people died in the incident. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 11th, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) held a briefing on impact investing, electricity access, and increasing infrastructure delivery through public-private collaboration in Africa. Participants included AfDB President Donald Kaberuka, Tony Elumelu of Hairs Holdings, Michael Elliot of the ONE Campaign, and Darius Mans of Africare. Details were shared [here](#).

On October 13th, following the first round of play off soccer matches, it appeared the five African qualifiers from last year's FIFA World Cup finals are on track for a repeat performance leading up to the 2014 World Cup competition, which will be held in Brazil. Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria maintained competitive positions, while Ghana was poised for its first matchup against Egypt. A story on the competition can be found [here](#).

On October 14th, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said it would not make its annual \$5 million award to an African leader who excelled in office and stepped down in a democratic manner for the second year in a row. The prize committee said it considered all African leaders who retired in the last three years and found no one eligible to receive the reward. Since its founding in 2007, the award has only been issued three times. Details were posted [here](#).

On October 14th, the latest Regus Business Confidence Index (BCI) revealed that business confidence in North and West Africa remains high as many other emerging economies slow their pace of growth. While 117 emerging countries saw a drop of nine points in business confidence, business confidence in North and West Africa sits at 124, above the global average of 113 points. More information is available [here](#).

On October 16th, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) provided an update on planning for World Food Day, which is intended to highlight the power of nutrition to transform individuals, societies, and economies. WFP is focusing on nutrition is by stepping up assistance through cash vouchers when

food is available, emphasizing dietary diversity with fresh foods in school programs, and working with private partners and research institutes to assess nutritional impact. More information can be seen [here](#).

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