



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

U.N. Africa Week

On October 21st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched Africa Week, which is intended to call attention to African-led growth and development initiatives, such as the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), at U.N. headquarters. Africa Week coincides with the tenth anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the African Union (AU). In kicking off a week of Africa-themed events, Secretary-General Ban recognized Africa's potential, noting that several African nationals are among the world's fastest growing economies, fewer Africans suffer from extreme poverty, and more African women are participating in government. Details can be seen [here](#).

Uganda

On October 15th, the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, issued a statement reporting an attack similar to the Al Shabaab attack at the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya, may soon occur in Kampala. While the Embassy said no further information was available on the timing or location of the potential attack, the Embassy vowed to continue to alert U.S. citizens in Uganda to potential threats. The statement can be viewed [here](#).

On October 18th, Uganda raised its terror threat level to red after Ugandan and U.S. intelligence suggested a terrorist attack by Islamist militants in Kampala was imminent. Security in Uganda has been heightened since the Westgate attack. This is the first time the terror threat level has been at red since the 2010 Al Shabaab bombings in Kampala targeting crowds gathered for the World Cup final. More information on the emerging terror threat was reported [here](#).

Kenya

On October 17th, International Criminal Court (ICC) President, Korean Judge Sang-Huyn Song responded to accusations made by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta that the court is biased against African leaders. President Song said the ICC has never chased an African country and noted the court may only consider cases brought to its attention. He also noted the Kenyan parliament has twice voted down proposals to establish a special criminal tribunal to handle the ongoing proceedings against President Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto. President Song's comments were posted [here](#).

On October 18th, the *New York Times* reported Norwegian police are investigating Norwegian citizen born in Somalia, Hassan Abdi Dhuhulow, as a suspect in the Westgate mall attack. It is unclear if Dhuhulow is still alive. In addition, Chief Kenyan government pathologist Johansen Oduor said the remains of three suspected attackers were recovered from the rubble, but their identification will require advanced forensics. The full story can be found [here](#).

On October 20th, video footage recorded during the Al Shabaab attack at the Westgate mall in Nairobi Kenya was publically released. The video confirms store owners' reports of looting inside the mall. In addition, Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku reported that authorities uncovered the fourth body of a suspected terrorist in the rubble at the scene. DNA and other investigations are ongoing to confirm the identities of suspected attackers. Video from the attack can be watched [here](#).

On October 20th, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby made an 8,000 mile detour on this way to Iceland and stopped in Kenya to give sermons at All Saints Cathedral. The last-minute itinerary change was made so the Archbishop could offer his condolences after the Westgate center attack in Nairobi. Archbishop Welby also met with the Archbishop of Kenya and five other bishops during his visit. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 22nd, Kenyan Army Chief General Julius Karangi denied allegations that his troops were involved in looting during the Westgate mall siege. General Karangi defended the before the Parliamentary Committees on National Security and Defense, which are currently holding closed meetings pertaining to the attack. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 23rd, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf acknowledged the AU's request to the U.N. Security Council to defer the ICC trials for Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto so they may address the aftermath of the Westgate mall attack. She said the U.S. is reviewing the request and continues to encourage Kenya to meet its commitments for ensuring accountability for the victims of post-election violence. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's comments were recorded [here](#).

Mozambique

On October 17th, Mozambique security forces (FADM) and agents of the Rapid Deployment Forces (FIR) attacked armed members of the Mozambican National Resistance movement, also known as Renamo. The confrontation was allegedly a reaction to the 34th anniversary of the attack that killed Renamo founder Andre Matsangaissa. Government officials reported two Renamo men and seven security personnel were killed and 11 others were wounded. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 22nd, members of the Renamo movement in Mozambique issued a statement in response to the recent attack launched by government forces against the base of Renamo leader Alfonso Dhlakama. Renamo claimed the attack was an attempt to assassinate Dhlakama and blamed President Armando Guebuza. Renamo also announced an end to the 1992 peace accord. While Dhlakama fled the attack, Mozambique's Ministry of Defense said government forces took control of the base in response to an earlier attack on an army post by Renamo fighters. Developments were reported [here](#).

On October 22nd, just hours after declaring the end of the peace accord, Renamo attacked a police station and made new demands that Government forces cede control of the Renamo base seized last week. There were no casualties, but police officers fled the post and local schools and businesses were shut down in the wake of escalating violence. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Maputo

condemned the violence and urged both sides to take actions to calm tensions. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 23rd, Zimbabwe's Deputy Foreign Minister Christopher Mutsvanga urged rebels in Mozambique not to fight, as Mozambique's Renamo movement effectively ended the existing peace accord. Minister Mutsvanga stated it would be misguided to plunge Mozambique into instability and expect Zimbabwe to watch, adding the South African Development Community (SADC) would consider sending troops to region if the security situation deteriorated. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 24th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern for the escalation of violence between FADM and Renamo forces in Mozambique. He called on all parties to refrain from actions that would threaten the stability that has existed since the brokering of the 1992 peace accords. Secretary-General Ban also advocated for opposing parties to address their differences through inclusive dialogue. Feedback from Secretary-General Ban is available [here](#).

South Sudan

On October 21st, the U.N. strongly condemned Saturday's attacks that killed more than 40 people and injured more than 60 others in South Sudan's Jonglei state. The U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported several attacks, including at Paliu cattle camp, Maar cattle camp, and other locations in Twic East Country. A total of 31 seriously wounded civilians were evacuated to Bor and Juba immediately after the attack, while medical evacuations and aerial reconnaissance continued over the weekend. Details can be seen [here](#).

On October 21st, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir met in Juba, South Sudan, in hopes of reaching a resolution on the fate of the Abyei region. The meeting ended without a definitive agreement, with a joint communique announcing that general policing of the oil producing Abyei region will continue to be carried out by both countries. The leaders also addressed bilateral trade and other issues of cooperation. A readout of the meeting can be seen [here](#).

On October 22nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement on the recent meeting between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Secretary-General Ban welcomed the decision to accelerate the full establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ) by mid-November. He also called on the two countries to resume consultations on the implementation of the 2012 African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to determine the final status of Abyei. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be read [here](#).

On October 23rd, the State Department issued a press statement welcoming the recent meeting between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. While acknowledging the decisions to fully establish the SDBZ by mid-November, open border crossings, and facilitate bilateral trade, the State Department called for the expedited establishment of the Abyei Administration, Abyei Council, and Abyei Police Service. The statement can be found [here](#).

Egypt

On October 18th, State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Department of Defense (DOD) officials hosted a closed briefing for Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff on the Administration's decision to suspend some assistance to Egypt. Officials clarified \$584 million in economic assistance will be blocked, as well as the delivery of military equipment, including M1A1 tanks, Apache helicopters, and F-16 fighter jets. In addition, officials said aid would not be disbursed in accordance with a policy rider in the State Department Appropriations bill that seeks to halt aid after a coup. Insights from the briefing can be viewed [here](#).

On October 20th, Egyptian police clashed with anti-military students who initiated a protest at the al-Azhar University in Cairo. Reports indicated there were no casualties and that students had blocked the main road leading to the campus and threw rocks at security forces. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On October 21st, Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi condemned a church shooting in Giza. According to the Ministry of Interior, two unidentified gunmen riding a motor bike opened fire on Christian wedding goers. Four people were killed in the attack and 18 others were wounded. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On October 21st, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf condemned the attack on the Al-Adra Church. She reiterated this kind of violence will only hinder Egypt's transition and economic recovery. Deputy Spokesperson Harf also noted the Coptic community has been a target of violence recently and argued protecting religious freedom will be a key part of Egypt's democratic transition. The condemnation of the attack was posted [here](#).

On October 21st, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN) and Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), in response to the latest attack targeting a Coptic church in Egypt, sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry calling for the State Department to outline its approach for addressing religious violence with the Egyptian Government. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On October 21st, Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy departed on an official trip to visit other Nile Basin countries. Minister Fahmy traveled to Burundi for meetings on Egypt's need for water resources and its historic rights to the Nile River. Minister Fahmy also traveled to Uganda and met with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on water issues, as well as global challenges, including Middle East peace and the Syria crisis. Details are available [here](#).

On October 22nd, the Cairo Criminal Court announced a decision to postpone the retrial of toppled President Hosni Mubarak until November 16th. The court's decision was based on former Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif being summoned to provide testimony on allegations that President Mubarak played a role in killing demonstrators during the 2011 uprising against him and squandering public funds. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On October 23rd, a spokesperson for the Egyptian cabinet announced the current state of emergency in Egypt will not be extended beyond its November 14th expiration date. The state of emergency was imposed on August 14th and later extended by interim President Adly Mansour for two additional months. The state of emergency cannot be extended for more than three months, except by public referendum. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 22nd, four Egyptian policemen were charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 37 Islamist detainees on August 18th. The detainees were among 45 being transported to Abu Zabal prison when they were killed. While security officials claimed the detainees had tried to escape, prosecutors found no evidence to support their claim. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 23rd, *Reuters* reported Egyptian military officers are continuing to push Army Chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to run for president. While military personnel in Egypt cite General Sisi's popularity and view his election as critical to maintaining stability, international human rights groups and Western leaders have expressed concern that installing a military leader as president may increase the likelihood of future violence. The full story can be read [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On October 18th, U.N. officials condemned the latest attack against a U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) helicopter by M23 rebels. The attack occurred over North Kivu province, but no injuries or damage to the helicopter was reported. Last week, M23 rebels attacked another helicopter carrying out a reconnaissance mission in the DRC's Rumangabo region. News of the latest attack was reported [here](#).

On October 21st, following four days of peace talks held in Kampala, Uganda, U.N. Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Martin Kobler and U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa Mary Robinson told reporters DRC Government officials and M23 rebels had made some progress in negotiations, but failed to reach a final agreement. The parties agreed to eight articles for a draft peace agreement, but failed to reach consensus on amnesty for

rebels and security issues. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 21st, U.N. Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Martin Kobler and U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa Mary Robinson provided the U.N. Security Council with a detailed briefing on the Kampala talks. Special Envoy Robinson reported the DRC Government and the M23 agreed on the release of prisoners, the end of the rebel movement, the potential creation of an M23 political party, and the resettlement of refugees. The U.N. envoys reported problematic issues, however, regarding negotiations on the amnesty, disarmament, and integration of M23. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

On October 22nd, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) announced it will have to scale back its activities in the North Kivu province of the DRC come November, due to a \$70 million funding shortfall. For the past six months, 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the eastern North Kivu province have been receiving half rations, also as a result of the funding gap. The announcement was made [here](#).

On October 23rd, reporting on ongoing peace negotiations, DRC President Joseph Kabila said he would create a government of national unity, including members of the opposition and civil society. The unity government will focus on restoration of peace, emboldening the authority of the state, reconstruction, and the organization of elections. In addition, President Kabila drew a clear line in opposition to blanket amnesty for M23 rebels as talks proceed. Excerpts from President Kabila's speech are highlighted [here](#).

Central African Republic

On October 18th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) released results of a new survey finding that seven of every ten children in the Central African Republic (CAR) have not returned to school since the coup in December 2012, primarily due to fear of violence. The survey also finds 65% of schools in the CAR have been looted, occupied, or damaged as part of the conflict. Highlights from the survey were noted [here](#).

On October 21st, regional heads of state met in N'Djamena, Chad, to discuss the ongoing crisis in the CAR. The meeting follows a U.N. mission to the CAR that confirmed the dire humanitarian situation, as well as the U.N. Security Council's adoption of a resolution seeking to stabilize the country. As an outcome of the meeting, Central African nations are anticipated to send more troops to the CAR. The meeting was described [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On October 23rd, President Barack Obama notified Congress of his intent to extend the declared national emergency with respect to the situation in the DRC, due to expire on October 27th, for one year. In his message to Congress, President Obama said widespread violence in the DRC continues to threaten regional stability, posing an extraordinary threat to U.S. foreign policy. Notice of the extension was published [here](#).

State Department

On October 18th, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a swearing-in ceremony for Terry McCulley as U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire at the Department of State. The swearing-in ceremony was noticed [here](#).

On October 18th, the State Department issued a press statement applauding Sudan's decision to issue work permits to approximately 30,000 refugees in Sudan. More than 125,000 refugees from Eritrea and Chad are currently living in Sudan and an additional 400 to 600 Eritreans continue to arrive in Sudan each month, fleeing political repression, indefinite military conscription, and poor economic conditions. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On October 21st, the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs released its quarterly fact sheet on Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia. The fact sheet address piracy trials and prosecution support, prison transfers, and meetings related to combating piracy. The full fact sheet can be accessed [here](#).

On October 22nd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Energy Resources Julia Nesheiwat delivered remarks in recognition of 2013 World Energy Day and National Energy Action Month. Deputy Assistant Secretary Nesheiwat highlighted the Obama Administration's new Power Africa initiative, which is intended to double access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa. A transcript of Deputy Assistant Secretary Nesheiwat's remarks can be viewed [here](#).

On October 22nd, the State Department and the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) announced the availability of data for USADF through the Foreign Assistance Dashboard. USADF's foreign assistance grants promote food security and new economic opportunities through initiatives that improve local food production, increase income levels, create and sustain jobs, and address social needs for marginalized populations across Africa. The data is available [here](#).

On October 23rd, Secretary of State John Kerry released a press statement congratulating Libya on the second anniversary of its liberation day. Secretary Kerry commended Libya for its commitment to transition from decades of dictatorship to democracy and said the U.S. will continue to stand with Libya in its efforts to build a free, democratic, prosperous, and secure nation. The full statement was shared [here](#).

On October 23rd, Secretary of State John Kerry issued remarks in recognition of Zambia's 49th independence day. Secretary Kerry applauded Zambia's tradition of unity and peace and commitment to a democratic future. He also expressed commitment to continued U.S. partnership on human rights, health, education, food security, and economic growth in Zambia. Secretary Kerry's remarks are available [here](#).

Department of Defense

On October 16th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on the recent delivery of radio communications system equipment to the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) headquarters in Monrovia by U.S. service members serving with Operation Onward Liberty. The equipment was successfully installed and will allow staff at headquarters to better communicate with Liberian soldiers deployed to Mali. An article on the communications system can be read [here](#).

On October 17th, AFRICOM provided information on the closing ceremony of Lion Rouge, held at the Kitona Air Force Base in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The ceremony concluded a series of medical, civil military operations, and judicial trainings with teams from U.S. and DRC forces. Details can be seen [here](#).

On October 20th, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on increased U.S. defense spending in Africa in correlation with rising terror threats. In particular, the article highlights \$1.2 billion in planned improvements at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, over the next 25 years, including a revamping of the base's power plants and operations center, aircraft hangar, living quarters, and additional facilities. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 21st, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) opened the three-week Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders (NextGen) course in Washington, DC. Participants included 60 security professionals from 40 African nations. Over the next several weeks, the course will focus on enhancing professional dialogue across military and civilian security personnel, examining emerging security threats in Africa, and determining the appropriate roles for civil and military security. The course was detailed [here](#).

On October 22nd, Special-Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Africa announced the recent completion of a ten-week training engagement with the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) at Camp Singo. As part of the exercise, U.S. Marines trained 160 UPDF soldiers on combat marksmanship, medical care, and logistics support. The engagement was described [here](#).

On October 23rd, speaking during a teleconference from AFRICOM headquarters, AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez responded to speculation that AFRICOM could be disbanded as part of continued pressures on defense spending. Commander Rodriguez clarified there are currently no plans to consolidate and stressed the importance of AFRICOM to providing military support to the State Department in the region. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield joined the call and highlighted how AFRICOM is supporting partners in combatting violent extremism on the continent. Excerpts from the call can be read [here](#).

Department of Justice

On October 23rd, Libyan terror suspect Abu Anas al-Libi appeared for a second time in federal court in New York. Libi is accused to having links to Al Qaeda and the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Libi has pleaded not guilty to charges of terrorism. More information can be seen [here](#).

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

On October 13th-25th, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) sponsored a Sub-Saharan Africa light aircraft and helicopter reverse trade mission (RTM). The goal of the RTM was to introduce delegates from Sub-Saharan Africa to U.S. technologies and best practices in the aviation sector. Logistics were shared [here](#).

On October 15th-25th, USTDA hosted a RTM on Nigerian electricity distribution. The RTM sought to connect the senior management of Nigeria's newly privatized distribution companies (DISCOs) with U.S. companies that provide equipment and services in the electricity distribution sector. Meetings were held in Atlanta, Georgia, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Details were posted [here](#).

National Institutes of Health

On October 18th, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced ten new grants totaling \$17 million over the next four years to support genomics research, training of scientists, and scientific infrastructure construction in Africa as part of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) program. H3Africa is intended to enhance the capacity of African researchers to understand the genomic and environmental determinants of common diseases and to use new knowledge to improve the health of African populations. A press release on the awards was shared [here](#).

Securities and Exchange Commission

On October 23rd, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed a brief with the DC Circuit responding to an appeal filed by retail groups opposing the Dodd-Frank Act rule requiring companies to disclose the use of conflict minerals from the DRC in the manufacturing of their products. The SEC argued it was following Congress' orders by enacting the controversial rule. Details can be viewed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On October 17th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) published an op-ed in the *Washington Examiner* on the challenges of combatting terrorism and piracy off the Horn of Africa. Representative Royce advocated for multinational naval patrols off the coast of Somalia to target piracy, as well as international collaboration to minimize the threat posed by Al Shabaab. The full op-ed can be read [here](#).

On October 17th, a coalition led by the National Retail Federation, the African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation, the American Apparel & Footwear Association, the Outdoor Industry Association, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, and the U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel issued a statement calling on Congress to immediately reauthorize the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). While the current authorization is not due to expire until September 2015, U.S. manufacturers argue earlier reauthorization is needed to make sourcing decisions. More

information is available [here](#).

On October 23rd, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Karen Bass (D-CA) hosted a breakfast meeting on increasing access to electricity in Africa to eliminate barriers to trade, development, and economic growth. Additional participants included House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, Matthew Farnum-Schneider of the National Security Council, Paul Hinks of Symbion-Power, and Oren Whyche-Shaw of USAID. Event highlights were posted [here](#).

North Africa

On October 18th, unidentified assailants assassinated Libyan Military Police Chief Colonel Mustapha al-Barghathi in Benghazi. Following Colonel Barghathi's death, members of his tribe attacked the home of Wissam Ben Hamid, commander of the Shield of Libya militant brigade, who they believe were responsible for the attack. No group has claimed responsibility for the assassination and no arrests have been made. The full story was reported [here](#).

On October 18th, Monastir, Tunisia, was struck by an earthquake of four magnitude on the Richter scale. According to Secretary-General of the Civil Defense Union Nabil Turki, five people were taken to the hospital to receive treatment for their state of panic. Information on the tremor can be viewed [here](#).

On October 19th, Tunisian security forces claimed they killed at least nine suspected Islamist militants and arrested three other suspects in the Mount Taouyer area. According to Interior Ministry Spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui, the militants belonged to the Salafist Ansar al-Sharia group and were responsible for the October 17th attack on a police patrol that killed two policemen. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 21st, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced NATO will respond positively to Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan's request for NATO to provide advice on building defense institutions in Libya. A small NATO advisory team will be sent to Tripoli to advise local officials on strengthening security forces. Details were shared [here](#).

On October 23rd, Tunisia's Interior Ministry announced security precautions to coincide with the opening of the country's national dialogue following up on the ruling Islamist Ennahda party's pledge to resign and form a new government. Later in the day, as demonstrations continued in Tunis, the Interior Ministry confirmed six policemen were killed in a gunfight with suspected Islamic militants in the southern village of Sidi Ali Bououn. Developments in Tunisia were reported [here](#).

On October 23rd, head of the AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Special Representative Mohammed Ibn Chambas briefed the U.N. Security Council on the situation in Darfur. Special Representative Chambas expressed concern for limited progress in the peace process, lacking security, and the need for humanitarian assistance. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

East Africa

On October 19th, a suicide bomber attacked a crowded restaurant in Beledweyne, Somalia. The attack killed 16 people, including both civilians and AU soldiers, and 30 others were injured. Al Shabaab quickly claimed responsibility for the attack and said the main target was Ethiopian and Djiboutian soldiers in Beledweyne. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 20th, the U.K. Royal Navy's counter-piracy task force caught a group of Somali pirates believed to be responsible for two attacks in the Indian Ocean last week. The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) traced the pirates' skiffs and captured nine men before destroying the vessels. The capture was noted [here](#).

On October 21st, Human Rights Watch and the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic of Yale University unveiled a new report on corruption. The report singles out Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni as responsible for bribery, nepotism, and misuse of government resources. In addition, the

report finds other high-ranking Ugandan officials guilty of corruption. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On October 21st, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a briefing to launch its new report, "Pathways to Productivity: The Role of GMOs for Food Security in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda." The report focuses on communications and public opinion of genetically modified (GM) food crops, the status of biosafety regulatory structures, scientific and research capacity, and the potential impact on farmers' livelihoods. Panelists included Director of the National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL) Dr. Wilberforce Tushemereirwe and International Research and Biotechnology Adviser for USAID's Bureau for Food Security Dr. John McMurdy. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 22nd, Ethiopian Health Minister Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu wrote an article detailing the country's efforts to increase access to family planning services. Minister Admasu reported 29% of Ethiopian women are now using modern contraception, up from just 3% in 1991. He also noted Ethiopia will host the third International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in November. The full article can be read [here](#).

On October 23rd, BBC compiled a list, based on public records and other sources, of 47 people with links to Al Shabaab and related organizations. While the list is not exhaustive, many individuals on the list have attempted to travel to Somalia. Meanwhile, others have been convicted or accused of raising money for Al Shabaab. The full list can be accessed [here](#).

West Africa

On October 18th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the release of provisional results in Guinea's September 28th legislative elections by Guinea's National Independent Electoral Commission. Secretary-General Ban called on all parties in Guinea to remain calm and to resolve any disputes through legal channels. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 18th, Cameroon's Supreme Court announced results in Cameroon's September 30th legislative elections. The ruling People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) won 148 of 180 seats in the National Assembly, only five seats fewer than in previous elections. The Social Democratic Front (SDF) won 18 seats, the National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP) won five seats, and the Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU) won four seats. The Unions des Populations Camerounais (UPC) scored three seats, while the Movement for the Defense of the Republic (MDR) and the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) each won one seat. The full results are available [here](#).

On October 18th, *NPR* interviewed Ghanaian economist George Ayittey on combating corruption in Africa. Ayittey argued the best way to stand up to corrupt African leaders is for the young "cheetah generation" of Africans to take their futures into their own hands, instead of waiting for politicians to empower them. The interview was recorded [here](#).

On October 19th, government officials from Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as representatives of the U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNCOI), participated in the first Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) of border communities. Both Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara addressed the conference. Additional information can be seen [here](#).

On October 20th, suspected Boko Haram militants, dressed in army uniforms, stopped motorists on the roadway in Nigeria's Borno state and killed 19 people. While the militant group has not yet claimed responsibility for the action, witnesses identified the attackers as members of Boko Haram. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On October 20th, medical officials in Plateau, Nigeria, confirmed an outbreak of cholera in the region. According to Plateau State Epidemiologist Dr. Raymond Yuryit, eight people have died and 61 others have been hospitalized with the disease. He attributed the cholera outbreak to overcrowding, dirty environment, and unhygienic food and water. Details were posted [here](#).

On October 21st, a Nigerian offensive targeted a Boko Haram camp in Alagarno with combined air and ground strikes, killing a total of 37 suspected terrorists. Captain Aliyu Ibrahim Danja, a spokesperson for Nigerian troops in the northeast, reported that in addition to the deaths, several other Boko Haram terrorists fled with gunshot wounds. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 21st, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved Sierra Leone for a \$96 million, three-year enhance credit facility to support economic development and poverty reduction initiatives. While praising Sierra Leone for progress since the end of war in 2002, the IMF called on government officials to undertake efforts to strengthen public financial management and boost tax collection. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 21st, representatives from 36 African countries and 24 countries outside of Africa convened in Yaounde, Cameroon, for the third Africa Rice Congress. As part of the event, which was sponsored by the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development of Cameroon (IRAD), more than 600 participants gathered to discuss developments in science and technology, policies, business and investment relevant to Africa's rice sector. Details were posted [here](#).

On October 21st, the Nigerian Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) threatened to shut down electricity in Nigeria if the government backs out of its promise to pay entitlements to 40,000 workers impacted by the privatization of successor companies of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). Despite threats to use soldiers to remove workers from their officers, the workers have refused to leave until their entitlements are paid. The full story was reported [here](#).

On October 22nd, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf fired Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Education Edwin Tetteh. Deputy Minister Tetteh was relieved of his duties for his failure to clean up the teacher's payroll at the Ministry of Education, resulting in delays to increases in teachers' salaries. The situation was noted [here](#).

On October 23rd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned a suicide attack at a U.N. checkpoint in Mali. The attack killed several Chadian, U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) peacekeepers and a number of civilians. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The incident was described [here](#).

On October 23rd, U.N. Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit commended both Nigeria and Cameroon for the successful transfer of the Bakassi Peninsula with the end of a transitional period in August. The transfer of the territory to Cameroonian sovereignty concludes the implementation of the 2002 International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the demarcation of the border. More information is available [here](#).

On October 23rd, Ghana's first Deputy Governor Millison Narh informed reporters the country's central bank will check inflation by tightening monetary policy. When inflation quickened in September, the government removed subsidies for fuel and the currency weakened against the dollar by dropping nearly 13%. This announcement of stricter monetary policy comes days after Fitch downgraded the rating for Ghana's sovereign debt. More information can be seen [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On October 17th, *Mail & Guardian* provided an update on planning for Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Africa (MBFW Africa), which will begin on October 30th, in Tshwane, South Africa. More than 30 designers from 15 African countries will participate in 20 runway shows organized as part of the event. Details can be found [here](#).

On October 21st, final preparations were underway for upcoming presidential elections in Madagascar, scheduled for October 25th. Electoral cards have been printed and distributed and voting materials are due to arrive at polling stations by mid-week. Many of 4,500 national observers and as many as 700 international elections observers are already in the country monitoring preparations. A total of 33 candidates will compete in the election. If no candidate wins a majority, the two top contestants will compete in a runoff held simultaneous to legislative elections on December 20th.

Preparations for Madagascar's presidential election were described [here](#).

On October 21st-22nd, representatives of the Republic of Congo (ROC), Cameroon, the CAR, the DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, and Gabon met in Brazzaville to address illegal logging in the Congo Basin. At the conclusion of the meeting, Africa's top timber producing countries agreed to a declaration expressing commitment to the sustainable and legal development of the wood industry in the region. The declaration was praised by the FAO [here](#).

On October 22nd, *Mail and Guardian* reported the Government of Angola is downplaying the impacts of severe drought in order to protect its economic reputation. According to the U.N., 1.8 million people have been affected by the crisis and are turning to unclean water for consumption and cooking. In its limited response to the drought, government officials have opted to appoint an inter-ministerial commission. The full story is available [here](#).

On October 22nd, South African Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan pledged to stick to spending targets, despite debt issues. South Africa's gross debt will skyrocket to about 48% of GDP by March 2017, up from an estimated 43% last year. While Minister Gordhan said he will maintain spending limits and curb wage growth, he also indicated borrowing will surge in the next three years, raising South Africa's risks of another downgrade. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 22nd, the state-owned Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp announced plans to start metal production with Eurasian Natural Resources Corp (ENRC) and a Chinese company. The venture with ENRC is set to begin producing platinum in the first quarter of next year. Under the plan, Zimbabwe will produce about 365,000 ounces of platinum, along with metals in the ore alongside the platinum, to expand its mining industry. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 22nd, StartupBus Africa announced the selection of 15 international and 15 African entrepreneurs to participate in a trip across South Africa that will conclude with a pitch in front of Richard Branson via Google Hangout. The goal of the StartupBus Africa 2013 project is to expose areas in need of innovation in Africa, including the health care, mobile, and energy sectors. Project details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 22nd, *Reuters* reported that Seemahele Telecoms is set to make a phone similar to the Samsung Galaxy S4, with a Google Android operating system, that will be built in South Africa. With the population on the continent growing rapidly, as well as incomes, governments are hoping to promote connectivity in hopes it can speed up delivery systems for education and health services. Seemahele is also pursuing partner firms in Africa to distribute phones elsewhere on the continent. More information is available [here](#).

On October 23rd, a spokesman for South African President Jacob Zuma apologized for remarks recently delivered by the president that insulted Malawi. Speaking at an African National Congress (ANC) forum, President Zuma said, "We can't think like Africans, in Africa, generally. We are in Johannesburg, this is Johannesburg. It's not some national road in Malawi." President Zuma's staff has clarified the comments were intended to encourage a user-pay principal for national highways. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 23rd, South Africa announced its inflation rate fell to an amount within the central bank's target range. Inflation decelerated to 6% from 6.4%, but the value of the rand against the dollar dropped 14%, making it the worst performing currency against the dollar. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On October 23rd, Impala Platinum Holdings, Ltd held constructive talks with the new Zimbabwean Government over mining operations. One of the major facets of the discussion was the requirement imposed by the government to sell majority stakes to black citizens. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 23rd, the owner of the world's second-largest diamond producer, Anglo American Plc, announced it will continue investing in South African projects as long as they remain profitable. CEO Mark Cutifani stated there will be a \$2 billion expansion of the company's existing open-pit operation

to include an underground mine, which will extend the life of the pit until 2040. The full story can be read [here](#).

General Africa News

On October 17th, U.N. General Assembly President John Ashe announced the five new countries elected to serve two-year terms on the U.N. Security Council, including Chad and Nigeria. Among the countries being replaced on the U.N. Security Council are Morocco and Togo. The new terms will begin on January 1st. An article on the new members of the Security Council can be read [here](#).

On October 21st, *Bloomberg Businessweek* suggested Americans should invest in Africa to protect their 401(k) funds in light of continued potential for a U.S. debt default. According to the article, buying up African stocks is an ideal, low-risk option for portfolio diversification, primarily because correlation with the New York Stock Exchange is relatively low comparative to other global markets. The full analysis can be accessed [here](#).

On October 21st, Standard Bank announced continued rollout of its pilot mobile banking application, with the mobile application available in 13 countries by the end of 2013, as a result of the addition of new markets in Zambia, Kenya, Botswana, and Lesotho. In addition, Standard Bank plans to launch an Android application in 2014. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 22nd, the *Washington Post* Editorial Board published an op-ed advocating for the use of genetically modified crops in Africa. The editorial argues while not a silver bullet, genetically modified crops can help Africa combat pests and diseases, improve nutrition, reduce use of water and chemicals, and increase crop yields. The full piece can be read [here](#).

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