



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Nigeria

On October 23rd, the captain and chief engineer of the U.S.-flagged, 222-foot C-Retrieve, both American citizens, were captured by pirates in the Gulf of Guinea. The ship is owned by Edison Chouest Offshore, which supports the majority of U.S. Gulf deepwater oil rigs and has recently expanded its business globally to include Africa. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 23rd, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez held a news conference in response to reports of the capture of two Americans by pirates off the coast of Nigeria. Commander Rodriguez highlighted AFRICOM programs that support building the capacity of African partners to combat pirates. For example, African Partnership Station, currently underway off the coast of West Africa, is intended to improve coordination on maritime safety and security along the Gulf of Guinea. Excerpts from the press conference were posted [here](#).

On October 24th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the State Department was closely monitoring reports that two U.S. citizens were kidnapped from U.S. flagged motor vessel, the C-Retrieve, in the Gulf of Guinea. Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the State Department is focusing on the individuals' safe return and indicated AFRICOM has been working to build the capacity of African nations to address piracy. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf can be viewed [here](#).

Somalia

On October 25th, *BBC* reported Abdukadir Mohamed Abdukadir, the target of a U.S. Navy SEALs raid earlier this month, spent time in the U.K. in 2007. Abdukadir, also known as Ikrima, also spent time in Norway. Leaked Kenyan intelligence documents link Ikrima to Samantha Lewthwaite, the British widow of a suicide attacker involved in the London transport system attack in 2005. More information

can be seen [here](#).

On October 28th, *Defense News* reported the U.S. military had carried out a drone strike against Al Shabaab militants in Somalia. The targets of the attack were not specified. Witnesses said they heard aircraft overhead and a loud explosion. Others reported missile strikes against a car believed to be carrying Al Shabaab leaders. The full story is available [here](#).

On October 29th, Somali Interior Minister Abdikarin Hussein Guled said the target of the recent drone attack in Somalia, may have been Ibrahim Ali Abdi, also known as Anta-Anta, whom Somali intelligence officials have been monitoring for some time. Abdi, a leader of Al Shabaab, was well-known for making suicide bomber vests and preparing car bombs used in attacks against government leaders and property. More information is available [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On October 24th, the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) issued a new report expressing concern about reports of child recruitment by armed groups in the country. According to the report, between January 2012 and August 2013, close to 1,000 children were recruited by armed groups, including Nyatura, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and M23, primarily in the North Kivu province. Highlights from the report were noted [here](#).

On October 25th, a spokesperson for MONUSCO reported the mission was put on high alert following early morning clashes between Government forces and armed M23 combatants. Witnesses reported the exchange of mortar and machine gun fire near Kibumba, just north of Goma. Details can be seen [here](#).

On October 25th, the State Department released a statement condemning reports of renewed violence between M23 rebels and the armed forces of the DRC. The State Department applauded MONUSCO and called on all parties to exercise restraint as the fighting puts peace negotiations at risk. The U.S. also called on all signatories to the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework to end support to armed groups. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On October 26th, MONUSCO issued a press release strongly condemning multiple attacks over the past several weeks committed by the Mayi-Mayi Cheka armed group and Raia Mutomboki combatants in the eastern DRC. The attacks left 34 civilian, including 20 children, dead. MONUSCO has warned against impunity for the attacks and called on armed groups to immediately abandon their weapons. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 26th, the State Department issued another statement expressing concern about reports of increased fighting in the North Kivu province of the DRC, and especially cross-border firing into Rwanda. The State Department called on all parties to report incidents to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) for immediate investigation. U.S. officials also encouraged the resumption of talks on a final peace agreement. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On October 28th, the U.N. Security Council joined U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in condemning an attack by M23 rebels against MONUSCO in North Kivu, which resulted in the death of a Tanzanian peacekeeper. The assault was launched as MONUSCO peacekeepers supported actions by Congolese Government Forces to protect civilians in the region north of Goma. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 29th, South African President Jacob Zuma arrived in the DRC for a two-day state, official state visit. President Zuma was expected to meet with DRC President Joseph Kabila to discuss peace and stability efforts in the Great Lakes Region, especially as South Africa contributes a significant force to MONUSCO. President Zuma was also accompanied by a South African business delegation, which participated in a two-day business forum in Kinshasa, focused on growing bilateral trade and investment. Details can be found [here](#).

On October 31st, Congolese Government troops entered Bunagana, the last significant town in the

DRC held by M23 rebels. The town was first seized by the rebels last year. While soldiers reported that civilians came running back to the town upon their arrival, it is estimated that violence in the area over the 20-month rebellion has forced more than 10,000 people to flee to Uganda. The latest developments in the offensive against M23 were reported [here](#).

Egypt

On October 28th, three policemen were killed in a shooting at a security checkpoint in Mansoura, along the Nile Delta. Witnesses reported the attack was carried out by three men in a car and one on a motorcycle. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On October 28th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Ambassador of Egypt to the U.S. Mohamed Tawfik at the State Department. Under Secretary Sherman and Ambassador Tawfik discussed the current state of Egypt's transition, the importance of the U.S.-Egypt bilateral relationship, as well as other issues of regional concern. A readout of the meeting was shared [here](#).

On October 29th, three judges presiding over a trial for a number of Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including the group's spiritual leader, Mohammed Badie, stepped down after Egyptian security officials refused to let the defendants attend their courtroom sessions. The full story was shared [here](#).

On October 30th, Egyptian security forces raided an apartment in New Cairo and arrested Essam el-Erian, the deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Freedom and Justice party. Erian has been in hiding since President Mohammed Morsi's ouster on July 3rd. Erian is also one of the defendants in President Morsi's trial, due to begin November 4th. He has been transferred to the Torah prison complex, where he will be detained and interrogated regarding his involvement in anti-government protests. The arrest was reported [here](#).

On October 30th, Egyptian police were called to disperse pro-Morsi student protestors at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, who ransacked university offices and painted anti-military graffiti on campus buildings. The demonstrations were triggered by the arrest of Muslim Brotherhood leader Essam el-Erian and the Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar Ahmed Al-Tayeb's continued support for the removal of President Morsi. More information is available [here](#).

On October 30th, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi spoke by phone. The leaders addressed Egypt's progress on its political roadmap, the lifting of the curfew and state of emergency in Egypt, and the security situation in the Sinai and the Suez Canal. Highlights from the discussion were noted [here](#).

Madagascar

On October 25th, voters in Madagascar headed to the polls to vote in presidential elections for the first time since President Andry Rajoelina toppled Marc Ravalomanana from power in 2009. Thirty-three candidates are running in the election, which has been postponed three times in the past year. The frontrunners have been identified as Hery Martial Rakotoarimanana Rajaonarimampianina and Richard Jean-Louis Robinson. Initial reports suggested voting was orderly in the capital, but two polling stations were set on fire in suspected arson attacks. A report on the opening of the polls can be found [here](#).

On October 27th, international observers of the presidential elections in Madagascar, including the European Union (EU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) reported that voting was free and transparent. While full results are not expected until next week, preliminary results show Richard Jean-Louis Robinson leading with 30% of the vote, trailed by Hery Martial Rakotoarimanana Rajaonarimampianina with 15% of the vote. If no candidate wins at least 50% of the vote, a runoff election will be held on December 20th.

United States – Africa Relations

U.S. Trade Representative

On October 29th, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Michael Froman participated in a *Politico* discussion on trade issues. When asked about the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Ambassador Froman said USTR will continue discussions on Capitol Hill over the next several months. He also noted Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Representative Karen Bass (D-CA) have been vocal supporters of AGOA, both having participated in a recent USTR-sponsored trip to Africa. A recording of the event can be watched [here](#).

State Department

On October 23rd, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez participated in a LiveAtState web chat on U.S. foreign policy and security cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Watch parties were held at the U.S. embassies in South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, Niger, Tanzania, and Nigeria. A transcript, as well as video of the event, was recorded [here](#).

On October 24th, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks at the Center for American Progress' (CAP) 10-Year Anniversary Policy Conference. In his address, Secretary Kerry highlighted U.S. engagement in Africa to combat AIDS. A transcript of Secretary Kerry's remarks was posted [here](#).

On October 24th, the State Department issued a statement condemning the October 23rd attack against the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) that killed two Chadian peacekeepers and a Malian civilian. The State Department called on the Government of Mali to investigate the incident and hold those responsible accountable. Officials also expressed concern for the fragile security situation in northern Mali. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On October 24th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf addressed the Kenyan police chief's call for an investigation of journalists sharing video footage from the Westgate mall terrorist attack. Deputy Spokesperson Harf said a free and independent media is a critical element of democracy. She also said the U.S. continues to provide Kenya with technical assistance to support the Kenyan Government's investigation of the attack. More information is available [here](#).

On October 29th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to reports from the *Washington Post* on U.S. intentions to ramp up military efforts in the fight against Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Despite the report, she said the U.S. does not have any plans to deploy Osprey to support the counter-LRA mission. She also noted, over the past year, two of the top five LRA commanders have been removed from the battlefield and a \$5 million reward is still available for information leading to the arrest of Kony. Additional comments were posted [here](#).

On October 30th, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield delivered the keynote address at the Eighth Annual Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Conference, held at the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Assistant Secretary-Thomas Greenfield called for focus on stabilizing the Libya-Niger-Mali corridor, in addition to a push for good governance, rule of law, and human rights. She also suggested strengthening regional and international cooperation to combat terrorism in Africa, especially in the area of border management. Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On October 30th, the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources issued a fact sheet on energy diplomacy in the 21st century. Among the energy diplomacy initiatives highlighted was the Power Africa initiative, which is intended to double access to power in Sub-Saharan Africa by achieving greater energy security, developing newly-discovered resources, and making energy sector reforms to expand power generation and transmission capacity. The fact sheet can be accessed [here](#).

On October 31st, the State Department announced Secretary of State John Kerry's upcoming travel to the Middle East and North Africa November 3rd-11th. Secretary Kerry will visit Algiers, Algeria, where he will co-chair the U.S.-Algeria Strategic Dialogue with Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra. Secretary Kerry will then travel to Rabat, Morocco, to Chair the U.S.-Morocco Strategic Dialogue with Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar. Secretary Kerry's trip was outlined [here](#).

On October 31st, the State Department issued a press statement expressing concern for escalating violence between the Mozambican Armed Forces and Renamo. The State Department condemned the use of violence to address political differences and welcomed public statements from both the Mozambican Armed Forces and Renamo calling for peaceful and constructive dialogue. The full statement can be read [here](#).

Department of Defense

On October 22nd, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs at the Mozambique War College Brigadier General Joaquim Manjate lectured on ethics in leadership at the Next Generation of African Security Sector Leaders (NextGen) program. The program, organized by the African Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), brings together 60 participants from 40 African countries to foster capacity building. Highlights from the lecture can be seen [here](#).

On October 23rd, on the sidelines of the NextGen program, AFRICOM Commander David Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Schmierer participated in roundtable discussion with ambassadors, military officers, and diplomats from 45 African nations. Topics discussed included U.S. policy towards Africa, including President Barack Obama's initiatives for electrical power, trade, and youth development, as well as security issues. The discussion was summarized [here](#).

On October 28th, AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez provided participants in the NextGen program with an update on AFRICOM and U.S. military priorities on the continent. Commander Rodriguez emphasized AFRICOM is guided by the President's policy guidance for Africa and by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) strategic priorities, which emphasize low-cost, small-footprint, innovative approaches to U.S. military activities in Africa. Video of Commander Rodriguez's presentation can be watched [here](#).

On October 28th, U.S. Army Africa reported on a 10-week training event conducted for the Uganda People's Defense Force's military police. The instruction course was focused on preparing the Ugandan military police to plan, execute, and sustain counterterrorism operations against Al Shabaab and other Al Qaeda affiliates as they prepare to deploy to Somalia in support of the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The training was described [here](#).

On October 29th, *CNN* reported U.S. Special Forces were prepared to launch a covert raid against Ahmed Abu Khattab, a leader of the Ansar Al-Sharia militia who U.S. officials believe was behind the September 2012 assault on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, hours after the capture of Al Qaeda suspect Abu Anas al-Libi in Tripoli earlier this month. The order to carry out the mission was never made, due primarily to concerns that another U.S. raid in Benghazi may further destabilize the fragile Libyan government. Details were reported [here](#).

On October 29th, the *Washington Post* reported on the growing intensity of U.S. efforts to help African troops capture African warlord and leader of the LRA Joseph Kony. Last month, U.S. Special Forces provided in-the-field support to South Sudanese troops in a raid targeting an LRA encampment. Meanwhile, in the Central African Republic (CAR), U.S. forces have increasingly collaborated with Ugandan troops and provided more training to Congolese units participating in the hunt. The full article can be read [here](#).

On October 29th, Marine Corps Forces Africa reported on the continuation of the Africa Partnership Station 13 exercise down the coast of West Africa. As part of the exercise, dozens of U.S. troops met with Benin Armed Forces to work on different tactical procedures, including hand-to-hand combat techniques and other combative skills, to build on their maritime security capabilities. The exchange with Benin forces was noted [here](#).

On October 30th, U.S. Army Africa shared insights on a recently completed medical readiness training exercise conducted with Niger Armed Forces (NAF) at Issaka Gazobi Maternity in Niamey. American military health professionals partnered with NAF personnel to deliver humanitarian benefits, including

women's health services and preventive care measures, creating the opportunity to train Nigerian medical students in surgery, gynecology, anesthesiology, and other related fields. The exercise was detailed [here](#).

On October 30th – November 1st, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVAF) Admiral Bruce Clingan traveled to South Africa for meetings with the South African Navy. Commander Clingan met with South African Vice Admiral Johannes Refiloe Mudimu and Rear Admiral Philip Schoutz to discuss maritime security issues in the region. He also toured South African frigates and submarines. Notes on Commander Clingan's trip to South Africa were shared [here](#).

On October 31st, Director of the AFRICOM Commander's Action Group Dr. Jun Bando and ACCS Defense Academic Chair Dr. Assis Malaquias presented to participants in the NextGen program. They stressed comprehensive, interagency, and multinational approaches and collaboration with industry to improve African maritime security, especially as it pertains to human trafficking, narcotics smuggling, and illegal fishing. Presentation highlights were posted [here](#).

Department of Homeland Security

On October 24th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shared a document with Capitol Hill regarding potential changes on U.S. policy towards Libya. Allegedly, DHS is considering lifting the ban on the ability of Libyans to work in the U.S. on aviation, flight operations, or in the nuclear sector. Representatives Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) have objected to the proposed policy changes in light of the ongoing investigation of the terrorist attack in Benghazi. More information is available [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On October 28th, in an interview on *Fox New's* "Fox and Friends," Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said he plans to hold up every appointment in the Senate until the survivors of the September 2012 attack in Benghazi are made available to Congress. Senator Graham praised House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) for his leadership of the investigation and called on House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to establish a joint committee to probe for additional information. Senator Graham's comments were recorded [here](#).

On October 29th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing on "Next Steps on Egypt Policy." Witnesses included Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Elizabeth Jones, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Derek Chollet, and Deputy USAID Administrator for the Bureau for the Middle East Alina Romanowski. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On October 31st, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a business meeting to consider a resolution condemning the September terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, and reaffirming U.S. support for the people and Government of Kenya. The Committee also approved several nominations relevant to Africa, including Anne Patterson to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Mark Childress to be U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, Thomas Daughton to be U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Matthew Harrington to be U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho, Eunice Reddick to be U.S. Ambassador to Niger, John Hoover, to be U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, and Michael Hoza, to be U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon. The full agenda for the business meeting was shared [here](#).

North Africa

On October 24th, following up on the October 22nd meeting between Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, the U.N. Security Council called on leaders of both governments to refrain from any unilateral actions that could heighten bilateral tensions or threaten negotiations on the Abyei region. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has previously called on both parties to resume negotiations on the status of Abyei under the auspices of the 2012 AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). Feedback from the U.N. Security Council was posted [here](#).

On October 24th, unidentified gunmen shot and killed Libyan Air Force Colonel Adel al-Tawahi in Benghazi. Colonel Tawahi of Benghazi's Benina Air Force Base supervised the dispatch of aircraft that targeted former dictator Muammar Gaddafi's convoy in August 2011, initiating the assault that resulted in Gaddafi's death. Colonel Tawahi's assassination was reported [here](#).

On October 24th, Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamara departed on a tour of the Sahel, including stops in Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, focused on promoting security cooperation and collaboration to counter terrorist threats. In his travels, Minister Lamamara met with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, Malian President Ibrahim Keita, Malian Foreign Minister Zahibi Ould Sidi Mohamed, Nigerian President Mahamadou Issoufou, and head of MINUSMA U.N. Special Representative Bert Koenders. Details on the trip can be viewed [here](#).

On October 27th, residents of the Abyei region began voting in a referendum to determine whether the disputed territory will belong to Sudan or South Sudan. Voting was expected to continue for three days. The Ngok Dinka ethnic group, residing in the southern part of Abyei, is largely expected to vote for joining South Sudan. Meanwhile, the Nomadic Misseriya group, who was anticipated to avoid voting in the referendum, has expressed concern joining South Sudan may restrict their movement. A report on the voting can be seen [here](#).

On October 28th, Acting U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan Chris Nikoi issued a statement providing an update on humanitarian efforts in South Sudan. Coordinator Nikoi reported humanitarian agencies have reached approximately 100,000 of the 156,000 people impacted by flooding over the past several months. He indicated assistance will continue, especially the provision of food, household materials, water and sanitation, and medical services. The statement can be read [here](#).

On October 29th, French President Francois Hollande announced the release of four, French hostages held in Niger since 2010. Pierre Legrand, Daniel Larribe, Thierry Dol, and Marc Ferret were abducted by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and recorded asking former French President Nicholas Sarkozy to withdraw French troops from Afghanistan in 2011. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian traveled to Niamey to bring the men back to France. The full story can be read [here](#).

On October 30th, the U.N. Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara Christopher Ross told the Security Council he plans to return to the region in the coming weeks to pursue new talks between Morocco and the Frente Polisario focused on the disputed territory. Special Envoy Ross recently returned from the region, where he visited refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria. More information is available [here](#).

On October 30th, rescue workers in Niger discovered the bodies of 92 people near the Algerian border. The bodies are believed to be those of migrant workers and their families from Niger, including many women and children, who died of thirst after their vehicles broke down as they tried to cross the Sahara. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On October 31st, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry recalled its Ambassador to Algeria following comments made by Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika regarding the Western Sahara that were perceived to be aggressive and deliberately provocative. Delivering a speech in Abuja, President Bouteflika said an international mechanism to monitor human rights in the Western Sahara is needed now more than ever. Details on the tensions between Morocco and Algeria were posted [here](#).

East Africa

On October 24th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Eritrea Sheila Keetharuth briefed the U.N. Third Committee, which has jurisdiction over human rights mechanisms. Special Rapporteur Keetharuth reported as many as 3,000 people, including unaccompanied children, are fleeing Eritrea each month due to human rights abuses. Many of the refugees killed in two recent boat tragedies off the coast of Italy were from Eritrea. Details on the briefing can be found [here](#).

On October 24th, the DEMO Africa Conference kicked off in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference is an

annual event that brings together startup companies from across the continent for the purposes of sharing innovations in all sectors of the economy, including health care, education, agriculture, communications, and transportation. Information on this year's conference can be viewed [here](#).

On October 24th, Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry announced a new policy temporarily instituting a ban on Ethiopian citizens traveling abroad to look for work. Government officials indicated the ban is intended to protect Ethiopians from illegal human trafficking. The ban will remain in place until a more permanent solution is identified. The new policy was described [here](#).

On October 25th, appeal judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) overturned a decision excusing Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto from attending his trial in person. In June, judges decided Deputy President Ruto could skip most of his trial to exercise his duties as deputy head of state. Following the terrorist attack at the Westgate mall, Deputy President Ruto reiterated his request to be excused from attending the trial in person. The decision was announced [here](#).

On October 25th, Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku fired 15 immigration officers for endangering national security by issuing identification documents to illegal immigrants. The sacking comes as investigations continue into the Nairobi mall shooting last month. Minister Lenku noted the Government will be auditing identity cards and passports issued over the past two years. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 25th, PayPal, the payment services arm of eBay, entered into a partnership with East African lender, Equity Bank, in an effort to grow its presence in Africa. PayPal first entered the African market three years ago and has been pleased with the growth since then. Information on the partnership is available [here](#).

On October 25th, Wikipedia announced a pilot program that will send articles via text message. The pilot service will be targeted toward users in Africa, and Wikipedia has partnered with the mobile operator Airtel to offer the service, which will first be made available in Kenya. The trial will be active for approximately three months. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 26th, energy production began at Africa's largest wind farm, the Ashegoda Wind Farm in Ethiopia. The \$289.68 million, 84-turbine wind farm was built by French company Vergnet SA, with support from BNP Paribas bank and the French Development Agency. The Ethiopian Government funded 9% of the project. The wind farm is expected to generate 120 megawatts. The project's launch was noted [here](#).

On October 26th, the Mogadishu headquarters of independent Somali radio station, Shabelle, was stormed by police, who claimed they were taking back possession of the building for the government. The incident is the latest in a string of government and Al Shabaab attacks targeting independent journalists. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 29th, Director-General of the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Irina Bokova denounced the murder of Somali television journalist Mohamed Mohamud. Mohamud, who worked for *Universal TV*, was shot six times near his home in Wadajir on October 26th. The attackers have not been identified. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 30th, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson called on the Security Council to approve a temporary increase in national and international forces to support AMISOM. He warned that in light of the June attack on U.N. facilities in Mogadishu and last month's terrorist attack at the Westgate mall in Nairobi, additional resources are needed to combat Al Shabaab and increase security. Comments from Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson are available [here](#).

On October 30th, Kenyan Army Chief General Julius Karangi said two Kenyan soldiers were involved in looting during the September siege at the Westgate shopping mall. Previously, the Army dismissed such allegations, claiming that soldiers had only taken water from the shopping center. Evidence now suggests soldiers Victor Otieno and Victor Ashiundu looted a number of items, including phones and cameras. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On October 30th, six Somali men were convicted of piracy by a Spanish court in Madrid after trying to board a Spanish warship off the Somali coast in January 2012. Five of the men were sentenced to eight years in jail, while one was sentenced to 12 and half years for his participation in a criminal organization. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 30th, the Kenyan Government reported that James Lomenen, MP for Turkana South, led a group of 400 people to the Twiga 1 drilling camp in Turkana County to engage in destruction and looting. Lomenen said the demonstrators were peaceful and without violence, despite demonstrators being upset about British firm Tullow Oil not issuing jobs or contracts. Tullow has since suspended operations in northern Kenya. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 30th, Kenyan Energy Minister Davis Chirchir said the country plans to spend \$15 billion on boosting electricity production four-fold over the next 40 months. Kenya is looking to produce an additional 5,500 megawatts from coal, gas, and other geothermal sources by 2017, pushing total output up to 7,200 megawatts, while reducing the industrial cost of power from \$0.15 per kilowatt hour to \$0.09 per kilowatt hour. Minister Chirchir said competitive bidding will be used to award contracts for power generation to private companies. The initiative was described [here](#).

On October 31st, the ICC announced the trial for Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta will be postponed from November 12th until February 5th. President Kenyatta's legal team requested the delay, arguing President Kenyatta needs additional time to deal with the aftermath of the Westgate mall shooting. The decision was announced [here](#).

On October 31st, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta launched a website for Kenyans to report incidents of corruption and bribery directly to him anonymously. Presidential spokesperson Manohar Esipisu announced the website is intended to encourage people to come clean about corruption issues. The website can be accessed [here](#).

West Africa

On October 23rd, Nigerian Stock Exchange CEO Oscar Onyema said the exchange is seeking to relax rules on pension-fund investing to attract greater funds and boost its third-best performing gauge this year. Currently, Nigeria has more than \$22 billion in invested retirement savings. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 24th, U.N. Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Cote d'Ivoire Doudou Diene concluded a visit to the country, where he met with Government officials, political leaders, U.N. agencies, and civil society organizations. Independent Expert Diene observed the victims of violence in the post 2010 presidential election period are an important part of reparation and reconstruction in Cote d'Ivoire. He called for inclusive pluralism, and end to impunity, and efforts aimed at fairness in the judicial and economic systems. An article including additional observations can be read [here](#).

On October 25th, the U.N. Security Council issued a press statement calling on all Guineans to exercise restraint and remain calm as the Supreme Court certifies the results of the September 28th legislative elections. Elections results were transmitted from Guinea's Nation Independent Electoral Commission to the Supreme Court on October 20th. The press statement can be viewed [here](#).

On October 25th, in recognition of World Polio Day, Government officials in Nigeria reported polio cases dropped by 50% in 2013. While significant progress has been made in combating the disease and efforts remain underway to vaccinate as many children as possible, health officials articulated continuing challenges, including poverty and lacking access to medical services. Details are available [here](#).

On October 25th, suspected Boko Haram militants engaged security forces and raided a hospital in the city of Damaturu. Residents said the assailants stole drugs from the hospital and escaped in ambulances, with gunfire continuing for at least seven hours. Allegedly, the military took at least an hour to respond to the incident. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 28th, the U.N. Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of

Intangible Heritage approved a \$307,307 emergency assistance package for a two-year project to evaluate the state of Mali's intangible heritage in the aftermath of recent violence. The first year of the project will focus on Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu, where fighting broke out between Government forces and Tuareg rebels earlier this year. The project was described [here](#).

On October 28th, Government officials in Ghana announced plans to build 9,120 units of affordable housing after securing a loan agreement with Barclays and Credit Sussie. While the announcement of the project was applauded, Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Water, Works, and Housing Sampson Ahi noted regenerating Ghana's slums is a complex and long-term problem, especially as 85,000 affordable homes would need to be built annually over the next 20 years to fully address the problem. Details can be found [here](#).

On October 28th, Samsung Electronics West Africa announced the Samsung Smart Africa tour will arrive in Lagos, Nigeria on November 2nd, with an exhibition that displays the company's latest technologies. The event is intended to give Nigerians the opportunity to engage with Samsung's newest innovations in audio-visual products, home appliances, mobile phones, digital cameras, and IT solutions. The exhibition was announced [here](#).

On October 29th, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on African countries to keep their borders open to Nigerians fleeing violence in the northeast part of the country. Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states continue to be under a state of emergency as Boko Haram continues to perpetrate violence in the region. Since May, 10,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 29th, Yaya Toure, an international soccer star from Cote d'Ivoire, agreed to serve as a Goodwill Ambassador for the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP). In this role, Toure will campaign to stop the illegal ivory trade, which he said he views as a threat not only to African elephants, but also to the security, political stability, economy, natural resources, and cultural heritage of many African nations. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On October 30th, mobile money remittance service, Afrimarket, announced plans to expand its operations into Cameroon by early 2014. Afrimarket services have been available in Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Benin since June 2013. Cross border mobile money remittance is expected to reach \$1 billion by the end of 2013. More information is available [here](#).

On October 30th, *CNN* reported nearly 800 people have died in Cameroon as the result of a malaria outbreak in the northern part of the country. In the past three weeks, doctors have treated more than 12,000 victims of the disease, including a disproportionate number of pregnant women and young children. Heavy rains in the region are believed to have caused ideal breeding conditions for malaria carrying mosquitoes. An article on the epidemic can be read [here](#).

On October 30th, Emirates Telecommunications Corp's (ETISALAT) Nigerian Unit announced CEO Steven Evans resigned last month and returned to the United Kingdom (U.K.) after leading the company for five years. Chief Commercial Officer Matthew Willsher has been appointed acting CEO. Etisalat is the fourth largest mobile phone operator in Nigeria, with 15.3 million subscribers as of June 2013. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 30th, Ghanaian police conducted overnight raids leading to the arrest of 46 Chinese and Indian nationals accused of illegally mining gold. The raids occurred in the central part of the country, where barges were dredging the riverbed of the River Offin. The raids were reported [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On October 25th, BHP Billiton, Ltd denied claims the company blocked access of smaller miners to the largest coal terminal in Africa at Richards Bay. State port and rail operator Transnet SOC, Ltd accused BHP of not doing enough to allow black-owned mining companies to use the port. While BHP denied the characterization and noted the port is operating below capacity, leaving some miners unable to export. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 25th, Zambia's Bond and Derivatives Exchange announced it will begin trading its first product on November 5th. The Zambia National Commercial Bank, the Botswana-based BancABC bank, and Finance Bank Zambia, Ltd are the members that will use the exchange. The news was announced [here](#).

On October 28th, the African Economic Conference kicked off in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference brings together African heads of state, business leaders, and development experts to discuss how to foster regional integration and economic growth. African Development Bank (AfDB) President Donald Kaberuka delivered opening remarks, noting the continent will need to maintain a minimum economic growth rate of 7% for many years to keep pace with its rapidly growing population. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 28th, the AfDB released its Transform Africa 2013 report in conjunction with the kickoff of the Transform Africa 2013 Summit, held in Kigali, Rwanda. The conference brings together African stakeholders to discuss using Broadband and related services to overcome development challenges. The AfDB report finds the availability and affordability of technology is inhibiting the widespread adoption of Internet services in Africa. The report can be downloaded [here](#). Information on the Summit can be viewed [here](#).

On October 28th, South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) demanded an apology from the U.S. after senior Housing Minister Tokyo Sexwale was held at JFK Airport because he was on a terrorist watch list. In light of the incident, the ANC called on the U.S. to remove leaders who fought against white minority rule from the terrorist watch list. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 28th, the South African government temporarily took over operations at the Mangaung prison, amidst claims that inmates have been subjected to electric shocks and forced injections. The Mangaung prison was run by the British firm G4S. Both government officials and G4S leadership have launched investigations into the actions of the prison staff. Footage from inside the high security prison can be watched [here](#).

On October 29th, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Emergency Coordinator in the CAR Bob McCarthy issued a warning that humanitarian needs will soon exceed UNICEF resources. Approximately 394,000 people have been displaced due to violence in the CAR. UNICEF has requested \$3 million in additional funds for emergency relief items, such as blankets, mosquito nets, and soap. The warning was issued [here](#).

On October 29th, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) announced the food security situation in Zimbabwe is at its worst since 2009 and 2.2 million Zimbabweans are anticipated to need food assistance in the pre-harvest period from January to March of 2014. Food insecurity in Zimbabwe has been influenced by poor weather, the high cost and low supply of fertilizers and seeds, and high food prices. Details are available [here](#).

On October 29th, members of the white supremacist group, Boeremag, were sentenced for a plot fathomed more than ten years ago to assassinate former South African President Nelson Mandela. The group had planned to plant a bomb on a road President Mandela would cross while traveling to a school in Limpopo province. The group's leader, Mike du Toit, received a prison sentence of 35 years, while nineteen other members of his militia were sentenced to serve between five and 35 years. An article on the close of the trial can be read [here](#).

On October 30th, the U.N. Security Council approved a special 250 soldier force to protect U.N. workers in the CAR. The soldiers will be taken from an existing peacekeeping force and based in Bangui. John Ging of the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted there may be a new religious dimension developing to the violence in the region, as armed groups incite Christian and Muslim communities to engage in violence against each other. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 30th, the Zimbabwe Constitutional Court ruled a law prohibiting insulting the President is counter to the freedom of expression protections included in Zimbabwe's new constitution, introduced this past March. The law has been used to arrest political opponents and critics of President Robert

Mugabe. The Minister of Justice has until November 20th to appeal the ruling. More information was posted [here](#).

On October 30th, Minister-Counselor for Economics from the Embassy of South Africa Sandile Tyini participated in a discussion on regional trade agreements and the challenges ahead for the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the American University Washington College of Law. The agenda for the event can be seen [here](#).

On October 30th, Botswana's Chamber of Mines CEO Charles Siwawa said a planned haulage railway network for shipping coal to ports will cost \$33 billion. The country is currently in talks with South Africa, Namibia, and Mozambique to build 3,700 kilometers of rail lines to ports at Richards Bay, Walvis Bay, and Maputo. Namibia is leading the talks. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 30th, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) in South Africa declared a wage dispute with platinum producer Lonmin and Anglo American, the world's top producer Platinum. Earlier this week, AMCU members voted to down tools at Impala Platinum, when wage talks failed, but formal notice was not given to proceed. A new wave of strikes could harm investor confidence in South Africa. Developments in the labor dispute were reported [here](#).

On October 31st, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its latest Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa. The reports finds that regional output is expected to grow by 5% and 6% in 2013 and 2014 respectively, despite rising external financing costs, a deceleration in key export markets, and weaker commodity prices. The IMF warned however, that slowdowns in emerging markets pose an economic threat to the region. The full outlook can be accessed [here](#).

On October 31st, South African police announced that two health department officials were arrested for selling anti-AIDS drugs to patients in a sting operation. The anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs are supposed to be issued free of charge, but workers at a local clinic offered to sell the drugs to undercover officers. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On October 31st, the University of Cape Town (UCT) announced improvements in tuberculosis (TB) technology may be ready for South African clinics. Thanks to work conducted by UCT, the GeneXpert TB test can now diagnose TB and even some forms of drug-resistant TB in just hours, as opposed to conventional methods which can take weeks and can miss 60% of cases. A recent UCT study found nurses can accurately run the GeneXpert machines after a single day of training, which would allow for even quicker results. More information can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On October 25th, Burkina Faso, backed by Benin, Chad, and Mali, introduced a proposal at a WTO Trade Negotiations Committee meeting that would require developed countries to abolish tariffs and quotas on cotton important from underdeveloped countries and to reduce subsidies. Despite anticipated opposition from the U.S., the coalition of African countries will push to have the proposal considered as part of a broad set of trade liberalization measures at the December ministerial meeting in Bali, Indonesia. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 31st, the U.N. released a report finding the number of child mothers in Sub-Saharan Africa is set to double by 2030. The report states West and Central Africa have the world's largest proportion of young women who become mothers before turning 18. On average, one in nine girls in developing countries is forced to marry by age 15. In Chad and Niger, more than one in three girls is married before age 15. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

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