



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On November 1st, Islamists across Egypt responded to the Muslim Brotherhood's calls for daily protests leading up to the trial of ousted President Mohamed Morsi, scheduled to begin on November 4th. In Alexandria, seven people were wounded and 45 demonstrators were arrested. Fighting also broke out in the Gisar al-Suez district of Cairo. These incidents follow the detention of 22 female Islamists by Egyptian security forces on Thursday. Developments in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On November 3rd, Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Cairo, Egypt, accompanied by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Beth Jones, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki, Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region Phillip Gordon, and Vice Admiral Kurt Tidd. Secretary Kerry met with Interim President Adly Mansour, Interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, and Defense Minister General Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, hosted a roundtable with civil society, and visited the U.S. Embassy. In Egypt, Secretary Kerry offered cautious praise for interim government's progress on its roadmap to democracy and Minister Fahmy indicated Egypt and the U.S. are pursuing the resumption of normal relations. Secretary Kerry's schedule in Egypt can be seen [here](#). Secretary Kerry's remarks with Minister Fahmy are available [here](#).

On November 4th, the trial for deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and 14 other Islamists facing charges of inciting violence began. President Morsi denounced the trial, calling it illegitimate. Shortly after the start of proceedings, which were delayed due to protests, state television reported the trial was adjourned when the accused began chanting. The case will resume on January 8th. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On November 4th, Freedom House issued a new report finding there has been no substantive

progress towards democracy in Egypt since the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi on July 3rd. The report suggests the political divide between President Morsi's supporters and Egyptians who back a military-led government is growing, especially as protests expand across the country. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On November 4th, the *New York Times* Editorial Board published an opinion piece criticizing Secretary of State John Kerry's recent stop in Egypt. According to the op-ed, the trip was poorly timed due to its proximity to start of the trial for ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and Secretary Kerry's failure to address the proceedings. The editorial board also claimed Secretary Kerry's remarks added to the confusion about current U.S. foreign policy towards Egypt. The full article can be read [here](#).

On November 4th, the *Washington Post* Editorial Board also reacted to Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to Egypt. The op-ed criticized Secretary's comments pertaining to the successful implementation of the roadmap in Egypt and more broadly questioned the Administration's perceived intention to continue to do business with the new Egypt's new, military-led autocracy. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

On November 5th, Egyptian security officials reported that ousted President Mohamed Morsi spent his first night in a civilian penitentiary in a hospital room, following his first trial session on Monday. Prior to the trial, President Morsi had been held in a secret military facility. Following proceedings earlier this week, he was transferred to a maximum security prison near Alexandria, where he complained he was not feeling well. Egypt's Interior Ministry has reported that Morsi is receiving routine, medical checkups. President Morsi's detention was detailed [here](#).

On November 6th, the Cairo Urgent Cases Court dismissed an appeal brought by the Muslim Brotherhood that would have overturned a September court ruling banning the organization. The decision represents another significant blow to the Muslim Brotherhood, who, under the ruling, will be prohibited from participating in future elections. The Muslim Brotherhood's legal defense team has vowed to appeal the latest ruling. Details were reported [here](#).

On November 6th, the *Washington Post* reported that members of the Muslim Brotherhood who were able to leave Egypt before the military's intense crackdown on Islamists have found refuge in Doha, Istanbul, London, and Geneva. While the community of exiled Egyptians is small, leadership is taking hold in Doha to unite Egyptian exiles in continuing to oppose the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi. The full report can be seen [here](#).

On November 6th, a congressional delegation led by House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Kay Granger (R-TX) arrived in Cairo for meetings with Egyptian Government officials to review U.S. assistance programs to Egypt. Following Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to Egypt earlier this week, the congressional delegation was also anticipated to address progress on Egypt's political roadmap, preparations for a referendum on a new Egyptian constitution, and future parliamentary and presidential elections. The trip was noted [here](#).

Sahel

On November 1st, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced a joint trip to the Sahel this week focused on regional challenges, such as poverty, food insecurity, and conflict. Secretary-General Ban and President Kim will be accompanied by U.N. Special Envoy to the Sahel Romano Prodi, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, African Development Bank (AfDB) President Donald Kaberuka, and Commissioner for Development of the European Union (EU) Andris Piebalgs. The trip was announced [here](#).

On November 4th, the U.N.-World Bank delegation to the Sahel arrived in Bamako, Mali. Upon their arrival, the World Bank Group announced a pledge of \$1.5 billion in new regional investments over the next two years. In addition, the EU announced it will provide \$6.75 billion in development assistance to Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad over the next seven years. From Mali, the delegation is scheduled to visit Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad. More information can be found [here](#).

On November 5th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon provided opening remarks at the Meeting of the Sahel in Bamako, Mali, convened by Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Secretary-General Ban highlighted the visiting delegation's commitment to the Sahel and to ensuring progress on security, development, and humanitarian efforts throughout the region. During the meeting, the visiting delegation participated in a discussion on the U.N. Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, prepared by U.N. Special Envoy for the Sahel Romano Prodi, who is also accompanying the group. The meeting was described [here](#).

On November 6th, as the U.N.-World Bank delegation was visiting Niamey, Niger, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced the \$200 million Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographics Project. The initiative, which is intended to build on the World Bank's existing \$150 million in commitments over the next two years for material and child health programs in the Sahel, will seek to improve the availability and affordability of reproductive health care services. Details on the new initiative can be viewed [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On November 4th, South African President Jacob Zuma opened up a two-day joint summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Pretoria, South Africa. The summit brought together African leaders to discuss problems facing the SADC and the Great Lakes Region, and to receive and consider implementation of the U.N. Peace Framework for the DRC and the Region. Information on the summit is available [here](#).

On November 5th, M23 rebels announced the end of a 20-month insurgency as Congolese forces drove rebels out of their two, remaining, hilltop strongholds in Tshanzu and Runyoni. As the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Government offensive concluded, M23 leader Bertrand Bisimwa issued a statement ordering all M23 units to prepare for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration on terms to be negotiated with the Government. DRC President Joseph Kabila indicated he is ready to sign a peace deal if the rebels proceed with laying down their arms. The full story can be read [here](#).

On November 5th, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson and U.N. Special Representative in the DRC Martin Kobler issued a joint statement welcoming the announced cessation of hostilities between M23 rebels and the DRC Government. The envoys encouraged both parties to continue efforts to reach a final peace agreement that ensures disarmament and demobilization of the M23 and accountability for human rights abuses. Details can be seen [here](#).

On November 5th, the State Department issued a statement welcoming the announcement that M23 will end its rebellion in the DRC, as well as the positive response from the DRC Government. The statement commended Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Defense Minister Crispus Kiyonga for facilitating the Kampala Dialogue. The State Department also called for broad implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework Agreement. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On November 5th, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported the latest fighting between Congolese forces and M23 rebels has caused an additional 10,000 people to flee from the DRC to Uganda. Many of the newest refugees lived near the Ugandan border and have arrived at the Nyakabande Transit Centre, where U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) is providing humanitarian assistance. The latest report on refugees from the DRC can be found [here](#).

On November 6th, U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold held a conference call to address recent developments in the DRC. While acknowledging that a final peace agreement between the DRC Government and M23 rebels will likely be signed in Kampala, Uganda, in the coming days, he urged a broader agreement among countries in the needed is needed for long term peace to prevail. Special Envoy Feingold also praised the newly created U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) intervention brigade as a transformative development for peacekeeping missions. Comments from Special Envoy Feingold can be viewed [here](#).

On November 7th, the commander of the M23 rebel group in the eastern DRC, Sultani Makenga, surrendered in Uganda, along with hundreds of other M23 fighters. A Ugandan spokesman said that no decision has yet been made on whether Makenga will be handed over to the DRC, where he is wanted for war crimes. More information can be seen [here](#).

Nigeria

On November 2nd, suspected Islamist militants attacked a wedding convoy traveling between Gama and Gwoza in Nigeria's Borno state. The area has been known as a hideout for members of the extremist group, Boko Haram. While reports on the death toll vary, anywhere between five and 30 people, including the groom, were killed in the attack. The incident was reported [here](#).

On November 5th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) condemned the attack against a wedding convoy in Nigeria that left as many as 30 people dead. The attack also led to the destruction of a Joint Task Forces post, the deaths of four soldiers, and the bombing of a bridge linking the area to the nearby town of Mubi. OHCHR also called on the Nigerian Government to investigate the incident and to ramp up efforts to ensure security. Feedback from OHCHR is available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On November 7th, President Barack Obama hosted an evening screening of the film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* at the White House, with the film's cast and crew. The private screening was noted on the President's schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

State Department

On November 1st, senior State Department officials held a special briefing on Secretary of State John Kerry's travel to the Middle East and North Africa, scheduled for November 3rd-11th. In addition to previously announced stops in Algiers, Algeria, and Rabat, Morocco, State Department officials also confirmed Secretary Kerry's stop in Cairo on November 3rd. In Egypt, Secretary Kerry was scheduled to meet with Interim President Adly Mansour, Interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, and Defense Minister General Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. In Algeria, Secretary Kerry is scheduled to lead the U.S.-Algeria Strategic dialogue, focused on political issues, counterterrorism, and economics. In Morocco, Secretary Kerry will lead the U.S.-Morocco Strategic Dialogue, centered on political issues, security, economic and commercial issues, and education and cultural cooperation. A transcript of the briefing was shared [here](#).

On November 4th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Ziad Bahaa El-Din at the Department of State. The meeting was listed on the Department's daily appointment schedule, found [here](#).

On November 5th, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Kerri-Ann Jones, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, and Assistant Attorney General Bob Dreher participated in a briefing at the Foreign Press Center on President Barack Obama's Executive Order to Combat Wildlife trafficking. The briefing was noticed [here](#).

On November 5th, Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp delivered a presentation on "The Trial of Charles Taylor and International Criminal Justice in the 21st Century," at the Department of State. Ambassador Rapp's presentation was noted [here](#).

On November 6th, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield hosted a meeting at the Department of State with Ambassadors from several African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Later in the day, Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield met with Sweden's Head of Africa Department Pereric Hogberg. The meetings were listed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On October 30th, U.S. military personnel from the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) coordinated with public health service inspectors at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, to discuss field sanitary practices and recommendations during sustainment training. The training also addressed wildlife threats. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 4th, *Foreign Affairs* ran an article on U.S. involvement, along with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners, in training the Libyan Army. U.S., Bulgarian, Italian, Turkish, and British military personnel are conducting training activities outside of Libya. According to the article, the force's composition, the details of its training, and the extent to which the force will be overseen by Libyans are still being determined. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

On November 5th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on a forum recently held at Oxford University on piracy and other transnational threats in West Africa. As part of the forum, Chief for AFRICOM's Air and Maritime Programs Phil Heyl and Director of Training for the Nigerian Navy Commodore Obi Medani presented to academics and government officials from the United Kingdom's (U.K.) Ministry of Defense on multinational and regional cooperation to combat piracy. An article on the forum can be read [here](#).

On November 5th, CJTF-HOA provided details on Basic Sea Survival training recently held for Kenyan security personnel in Mtwapa, Kenya. As part of the training, members of the Kenya Prison Service learned basic first aid, water safety, different swim strokes, and how to use ordinary objects as flotation devices. The training was further detailed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On October 31st, 83 members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry asking why the suspects involved in the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi have not been added to the Rewards for Justice program. The letter was noted [here](#).

On October 31st, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), the sponsor of a bill to create a select committee to investigate the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi, wrote a letter to American Foreign Service Association President Robert Silverman expressing his failure to understand why the organization has not endorsed his proposal. The letter can be read [here](#).

On November 6th, Representative Devin Nunes (R-CA), a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, wrote to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) identifying gaps in the congressional investigation of the September 2012 attack in Benghazi and discrepancies between the Administration's account of the attack and testimony provided by witnesses on the ground in Benghazi. Next week, the House Intelligence Committee is scheduled to meet with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) security contractors in a closed session. Representative Nunes' letter can be downloaded [here](#).

North Africa

On October 31st, the Abyei Referendum High Committee announced the results of voting in the referendum on the sovereignty of the Abyei region. According to the Committee, 99.9% of those who voted had wanted to be a part of South Sudan. The referendum is nonbinding and the vote was not recognized by the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan or by the AU. Details can be found [here](#).

On October 31st, *The Africa Report* published an article highlighting Morocco's position as a financial leader in North Africa. The article suggests that Morocco is assuming a position of power as banks in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia are impacted by political instability. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

On November 1st, the last group of Angolan refugees residing in Botswana returned to their home country. Armed conflict in Angola, which ended in 2002, displaced more than four million people internally and forced another 600,000 into exile not only in Botswana, but also in the DRC, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, and the Republic of Congo (ROC). Since last June, 461 Angolans have been

repatriated from Botswana. Details are available [here](#).

On November 3rd, leaders in Tunisia decided to extend the state of emergency, in place since the 2011 uprising against former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, through June 2014. The decision follows the failure of the ruling Ennahda party and the opposition to reach an agreement on appointing a new prime minister. In addition, leaders in both parties decided to suspend further talks on establishing a new, caretaker government. Developments in Tunisia were reported [here](#).

On November 4th, the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued a statement from Tripoli condemning a recent series of assassinations in Benghazi targeting security personnel, military officials, and political activists. UNSMIL called on Libyan authorities to address these attacks in order to ensure the appropriate environment for Libya's democratic transition. The statement can be viewed [here](#).

On November 4th, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosted a panel discussion on the economic relationship between the U.S. and Egypt. Panelists included Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Ziad Bahaa-Eldin, Myron Brilliant of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Rodney Eichler of Apace Corporation, and Kush Choksy of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. More information was shared [here](#).

On November 5th, the Water Ministers of Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia met in Khartoum, Sudan, to discuss ongoing tensions over the Grand Renaissance Dam project. While the Ministers agreed to form a committee to further discuss the project, the composition of the working group has yet to be determined. While Ethiopia began diverting the Blue Nile in May to begin construction of the dam, Egypt continues to argue the project will decrease its water supply. The Ministers will meet again on December 8th. An article on the meeting can be read [here](#).

On November 5th, the Walter Roberts Endowment and the Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication hosted Ambassador Thomas Pickering for a discussion titled, "Beyond Benghazi: U.S. Public Diplomacy in Troubled Times." Ambassador Pickering presented on challenges posed by times of protest and upheaval, increasing use of digital media, and competitors to U.S. preeminence on the world stage, especially in light of last year's terrorist attack in Libya. Event details were posted [here](#).

On November 6th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes, and consequences Rashida Manjoo warned Sudan that threatening women with flogging is cruel and unusual punishment that runs contrary to international law. Special Rapporteur Manjoo's comments follow the arrest of Sudanese women's rights activist, Amira Osman Hamed, who was detained for refusing to wear a headscarf and threatened with punishment of up to 40 lashes. More information can be seen [here](#).

East Africa

On October 31st, the WFP and UNHCR announced the start of reductions in food rations for more than half a million refugees in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya. Food rations will be reduced by 20% due to a lack of resources. Approximately \$10 million is needed each month to distribute food in the refugee camps. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On October 31st, the Kenyan military announced it had led an AU mission against Shabaab militants in Somalia. According to the military, the aerial offensive targeted a training camp in the Dinsoor region of Somalia and resulted in the deaths of as many as 300 militants and the destruction of the site. Meanwhile, Shabaab denied that any of its camps had been attacked. The conflicting reports on the attack were shared [here](#).

On October 31st, victims of the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya objected to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to delay Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's trial until next year. The ICC's ruling, which represents the third postponement of the trial, moved the trial date from November 12th to February 5th. The victims' reactions to the ruling were described [here](#).

On October 31st, several hundred women protestors marched on police headquarters in Kenya to

deliver a petition calling for the prosecution of alleged rapists and an investigation of the police officers who freed the suspects. The protestors are seeking justice for a 16-year-old girl who was gang raped by six men. The perpetrators' only punishment was to mow the police station lawn before they were freed. More than 1.3 million Kenyans have signed the petition. Details can be seen [here](#).

On November 1st, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) released a new report examining the costs of piracy in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Seychelles, and Somalia. The report finds that pirates of the Horn of Africa have made between \$339 million and \$413 million in ransom profits, 75% of which ends up with pirate financiers. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On November 6th, after concluding a two-week mission to Tanzania for meetings with government officials on economic and spending issues, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned that Tanzania will continue to fall short of its projected tax revenues without reforms to its tax code. The IMF delegation visiting Tanzania also identified significant challenges in the country's power sector and noted reforms to the tax code could also help bring the power sector to financial sustainability. An article on the IMF mission to Tanzania can be read [here](#).

On November 7th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta launched a one-stop shop to access and pay for government services electronically. These shops will be set up as Huduma centers, a term that means service in Swahili. At the centers, customers will be able to access a range of self-service counters that in turn access government databases. President Kenyatta expressed optimism the new system will cut corruption and increase efficiency. More information can be seen [here](#).

West Africa

On November 1st, the Government of the Netherlands decided to contribute personnel and equipment to the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), including four armed helicopters and 380 military, police, and civilian personnel. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon applauded the decision and called on other Member States to consider providing further assistance to MINUSMA. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 1st, following the discovery of the bodies of 92 migrants in the Sahara, Nigerien Foreign Minister Bazoum Mohammed said the Government plans to propose a ban on women and children traveling to the north from Arlit during its next cabinet meeting. While the ban is intended to stop such tragedies, it is unclear how the proposed policy will be enforced. Comments from Minister Mohammed were recorded [here](#).

On November 1st, Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announced that revenue earned by the Government this year could fall short of the budget estimates by as much as \$12 billion. Minister Okonjo-Iweala said the Nigerian Government will draw down its oil savings in its excess crude account to compensate for the shortfall in revenue, but the balance currently held by this account falls just under \$5 billion. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 2nd, after spending 25 days in jail on charges of sedition and then escaping to Senegal, Gambian television talk show host Fatou Camara arrived in the U.S. and said she will not return to Gambia while President Yahya Jammeh remains in power. Camara has twice served as Director of Communications for President Jammeh. While in jail, Camara said Gambian intelligence officials demanded her Facebook and email passwords. More information is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, French journalists on assignment for Radio France International (RFI), Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Vernon, were kidnapped by armed gunmen in northern Mali. Shortly after, their bodies were discovered by French military forces. The killings have been condemned by the U.N. Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the U.N. Security Council has called on the Government of Mali to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On November 3rd, Director-General of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva traveled to Benin to launch an emergency response program to assist farmers in

the northern part of the country who were impacted by severe flooding in August. The emergency program is expected to assist 7,500 households by providing seeds, equipment, training, and storage infrastructure. The new program was noted [here](#).

On November 4th, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said French and Malian forces are questioning rebel groups in Mali regarding the recent murders of two French journalists on assignment in the country. Minister Fabius also expressed concern that the slayings prove that parts of Mali remain unstable. Comments from Minister Fabius were transcribed [here](#).

On November 4th, Dr. Abdoulaye Diabata, a scientist from Burkina Faso, was awarded the 2013 Royal Society Pfizer Award from Britain's Royal Society for his research on ways to target mosquito swarms responsible for the spread of malaria. Dr. Diabata's technique focuses on killing off male mosquitos in order to reduce the overall mosquito population. The award is accompanied by a \$95,000 grant towards Dr. Diabata's continuing research. The award was announced [here](#).

On November 4th, Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, who was recently reported dead, released a video claiming responsibility for the October 23rd attack in Damaturu, the capital city of Nigeria's Yobe state. The video pans to hundreds of guns and boxes of ammunitions, which Shekau claims were captured by Boko Haram militants during the raid. The Nigerian military reported 95 insurgents were killed in the October 23rd attack, as well as 22 soldiers, eight police officers, and 40 civilians. Details on the video can be seen [here](#).

On November 4th, three rebel groups in northern Mali – the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) announced they will merge within 45 days to create a united front in an ongoing peace process with the Malian Government. News of the merger was reported [here](#).

On November 4th, a pickup truck transporting people between the Malian towns of Ansongo and Menaka drove over a landmine, killing four passengers and injuring eight others. It is unknown who is responsible for laying the mine, but unexploded ordnance and landmines had previously been identified as a security threat in the region. The attack was detailed [here](#).

On November 5th, Malian security forces indicated at least 35 suspects had been arrested related to the recent murders of two French journalists in Mali. The announcement of the arrests was made as the bodies of the two RFI journalists arrived in Paris and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius announced that 150 French soldiers had been sent to join the 200 troops already in Kidal. Updates on the investigation were shared [here](#).

On November 5th, the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission cleared the Lagos state to sell \$553 million worth of bonds maturing in 2020. Lagos state's Commissioner of Finance Ayo Gbeleyi said the bonds sale will enhance the provision of social services and is aimed to improve living standards for Lagosians. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 5th, the Diamond Bank of Nigeria released plans to hold off on raising debt capital, amid concerns that a U.S. Federal Reserve reduction in stimulus funds will cause price volatility. The \$85 billion in monthly debt purchases remained unchanged in October, but speculation grows about a reduction in the asset purchases during the first quarter of 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

On November 5th, Google Nigeria launched its 100k Naija project, in recognition of Nigeria's approaching centennial anniversary. The initiative is seeking to compile 100,000 pictures of iconic moments in the country's history on a dedicated Google page at the end of the project. More information was posted [here](#).

On November 6th, while speaking at an orientation workshop for Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives at the Local Government Training Institute in Accra, Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama responded to critics who want to see him out of the presidency by saying they should bide their time because 2016 is not far away. President Mahama's Administration has been faced with increasing scrutiny for its failure to address corruption. President Mahama's comments were recorded [here](#).

On November 6th, global technology company IBM launched its Pan-African Hackathon Series in Lagos, Nigeria. Hackathons are software programs or projects that seek to create a virtual simulation of societal problems for the purposes of spurring innovation. The event in Nigeria was intended to push students to design new mobile applications, compete for innovation grants, develop new skills, and learn about IBM's newest technology tools. More information on the Hackathon Series was provided [here](#).

On November 7th, Amnesty International unveiled a new report on oil spill investigations in the Niger Delta. The report finds that major oil companies often blame oil spills on sabotage in an attempt to evade paying compensation for the accidents. In many cases, the cause of oil spills is corrosion of oil carrying pipes. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On November 1st, the WFP announced plans to ramp up humanitarian efforts in the Central African Republic (CAR), as 1.1 million people in the country have become food insecure since March. In order to continue to provide humanitarian services, the WFP called for an additional \$20 million needed to fund activities through April 2014. Details were provided [here](#).

On November 4th, the U.N. warned the CAR is at risk for genocide. Senior U.N. officials called on the international community to take action to address armed groups continuing to incite violence between Christians and Muslims. The warning was issued [here](#).

On November 4th, Rwandan President Paul Kagame discussed how Rwanda is integrating new technology into daily life in order to spur economic progress. Rwanda's vision for 2020 is that the country will have gained middle income status and moved higher in terms of prosperity. According to President Kagame, developing the technology skills of Rwanda's youth will be critical to achieving these goals. Comments from President Kagame can be seen [here](#).

On November 4th, South African mobile service provider MTN announced Apple's latest iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c will be coming to the network on November 15th. The announcement follows an announcement by Vodacom that they too will begin carrying the newest iPhones. The announcement was posted [here](#).

On November 4th, Microsoft launched its Biz4Afrika online hub in South Africa. The hub will serve as a resource for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by offering a range of free products and services, both IT and non-IT, from Microsoft and other partners. The offerings include a free co.za domain, a free website, and free email and collaboration tools. More information is available [here](#).

On November 5th, Hong Kong property firm Shanghai Zendai finalized a \$104 million deal to develop a 1,600 hectare parcel of land in Johannesburg, South Africa. Over the next 15 years, the company plans to transform the property, which is located between South Africa's main airport and financial district, into a commercial, residential, and industrial center, equivalent to the "New York of Africa." Details on the project can be found [here](#).

On November 6th, *The Guardian* reported journalist and author of *The World's Most Dangerous Places* Robert Pelton is raising money on a crowd-sourcing platform to take it upon himself to find Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader Joseph Kony. The project has received criticism from several groups who claim the initiative is using the LRA's fight in Africa to make entertainment. An article on Pelton's project can be read [here](#).

On November 7th, *Al Jazeera* reported that evidence had been uncovered showing that armed forces of the CAR were responsible for the October 26th massacre near Bouar that left 18 people dead. CAR President Michel Djotodia has previously tried to dissolve the coalition of Seleka rebels and said he no longer has control over the group, which is believed to be responsible for several attacks throughout the country. Developments in the CAR were reported [here](#).

General Africa News

On November 5th, the *New York Times* published an article examining why Africa's economic rise has not played a significant role in addressing poverty and other factors that have led to growing inequality across the continent. The article suggests population growth and increased reliance on resource extraction are driving inequality. The full analysis can be accessed [here](#).

On November 6th, Wealth-X and UBS bank published their Billionaire Census 2013 which analyzes the world's billionaire population. While the report identifies 2,170 billionaires in the world, only 42 of those billionaires are from Africa, including from Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya, Tunisia, and Angola. Information on the African billionaires was posted [here](#).

On November 6th, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that asylum can be granted in cases where people are jailed for homosexuality in their home country. Currently, homosexual acts are illegal in most African countries, including Western allies such as Uganda, Kenya and Botswana. The ECJ clarified that the existence of a ban on homosexuality, however, if not grounds in itself for approving an asylum request. More information can be seen [here](#).

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