



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

****Editor's Note: The next edition of the Africa Update will be published in the New Year. Happy Holidays!***

Leading the News

South Africa

On December 15th, former South African President Nelson Mandel was buried in Qunu at a family gravesite. The funeral service included a 21-gun salute and fly-overs by military aircraft. The national broadcast of the funeral service was stop just before the casket was lowered at the request of the Mandela family. Several hundred people attended the ceremony. A more detailed account of President Mandela's funeral service can be accessed [here](#).

South Sudan

On December 16th, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir declared a curfew in Juba effective from 6PM to 6AM, following overnight fighting that President Kiir labeled an attempted coup. President Kiir blamed soldiers loyal to Riek Machar, who was dismissed as Vice President in July and has since made known his aspirations to run for President. Despite gunfire and blasts throughout the evening, witnesses reported that the violence had subsided by midday. Details were reported [here](#).

On December 16th, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) issued a statement expressing concern about new violence in South Sudan. According to the release, an estimated 13,000 civilians are seeking refuge at the U.N. base in Juba. UNMISS also announced efforts to provide water and basic medical services to civilians at the UNMISS compound adjacent to the international airport, as well as the U.N. House in the Jebel Kujur area. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On December 17th, the State Department announced the suspension of normal operations at the U.S. Embassy in South Sudan and issued a travel warning for Americans in the region due to political and

social unrest. Non-emergency U.S. Government personnel were ordered to leave South Sudan while U.S. citizens were urged to reconsider their plans to remain in the country. More information was issued [here](#).

On December 18th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on all parties in South Sudan to immediately cease hostilities and exercise restraint to stop the spread of violence. Secretary-General Ban also indicated UNMISS was verifying the death toll, in addition to sheltering nearly 20,000 civilians at two compounds in Juba. Comments from Secretary-General Ban can be viewed [here](#).

On December 18th, U.N. officials estimated as many as 500 people may have died in the recent clashes between rival army factions in South Sudan. While President Salva Kiir has declared the incident an attempted coup launched by opposition leader Riek Machar, Machar denied the accusations that he tried to seize power and has instead called the incident a misunderstanding between presidential guards. Developments in South Sudan were shared [here](#).

On December 18th, military aircraft evacuated approximately 120 Americans from South Sudan in light of the violence in Juba. American diplomatic personnel in Juba have been relocated to Nairobi, Kenya, while troops from the Djibouti-based East Africa Security Response Force were deployed to the U.S. Embassy in Juba to protect the facility and remaining U.S. diplomatic personnel. Details were provided [here](#).

On December 18th, the State Department issued a press release providing an update on the situation in South Sudan. State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the U.S. is deeply troubled by the fighting in South Sudan and called on South Sudanese political leaders to refrain from actions that could increase the tensions. In addition, the update indicated U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan Susan Page just met with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir to express U.S. concern at the increasing death toll. The update can be read [here](#).

On December 19th, South Sudanese Army Spokesman Philip Aguer announced that South Sudanese rebels loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar have taken control over the town of Bor. Witnesses on the ground reported that fighting in South Sudan continues following Sunday's attempted coup. Developments in South Sudan were noted [here](#).

Central African Republic

On December 13th, *Reuters* provided an update on the humanitarian conditions in the Central African Republic (CAR). According to the report 30,000 civilians have taken refuge at the airport in Bangui, where French forces are based, in an effort to flee fighting between Christian and Muslim militias. As many as 500 people may have been killed and another 100,000 displaced in Bangui alone over the past week. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 13th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered a radio address to the people of the CAR urging an end to the violence between Christians and Muslims. Secretary-General Ban warned the CAR that the world is watching and those committing acts of violence will be identified and held accountable. Excerpts from Secretary-General Ban's radio address were posted [here](#).

On December 13th, U.N. entities unveiled new statistics related to the impact of the recent uptick in violence in the CAR. U.N. officials said 450 people had been killed in Bangui and 159,000 people had fled their homes in just the past week. The announcement was made as a large airlift of emergency supplies arrived in Bangui. Additional U.N. statistics are available [here](#).

On December 16th, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned continuing violence in the CAR has put the country at risk for a food crisis. U.N. officials estimate that thousands of people have died in the conflict over the past year and more than half a million others have been driven from their homes, significantly decreasing crop production. The FAO's warning was issued [here](#).

On December 17th, as more violence was reported outside Bangui, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said some other European countries will also contribute troops to support a French-led mission to restore order in the CAR. The announcement follows a meeting of European Union (EU)

Foreign Ministers, held on Monday, where France requested additional support from European allies. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 17th, the U.S. Department of Defense sent another Air Force C-17 Globemaster III transport jet from Burundi to the CAR in support of the African Union (AU)-led International Support Mission in the country. The aircraft carried 39 personnel, a 1.5 ton truck, an armored personnel carrier, and six pallets of equipment totaling 42 tons. Since the start of the airlift mission on December 12th, eight C-17 flights have been used to transport a total of 432 passengers, 25 pallets of equipment, and 13 Burundian military vehicles to the CAR. More information is available [here](#).

On December 17th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf welcomed the announcement that Belgium will be providing 150 troops to international effort on the ground to address the instability in the CAR. In addition, Deputy Spokesperson Harf confirmed that Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power hope to travel to the CAR soon. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf were posted [here](#).

On December 19th, a group of independent U.N. human rights experts issued a statement encouraging all parties in the CAR to step back from the brink of all-out sectarian conflict. The U.N. experts expressed grave concern for escalating violence and the rapidly deteriorating human rights and humanitarian conditions in the CAR. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On December 19th, the White House issued a fact sheet announcing U.S. assistance to the CAR, including \$101 million in support for restoring security in the country and an additional \$15 million in humanitarian assistance beyond the \$24 million in the current budget. The fact sheet reiterated comments from President Barack Obama that the U.S. will continue to support forces from France and other African nations in their efforts to restore security and protect civilians. Additional information on U.S. humanitarian assistance, as well as U.S. support for initiatives focused on conflict mitigation, reconciliation, and peacebuilding in the CAR can be found [here](#).

On December 19th, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power landed in Bangui for meetings with CAR Government leaders, peacekeepers, aid workers, and civilians who have been impacted by the ongoing violence. Ambassador Power indicated her trip to the CAR was intended to demonstrate that the U.S. is watching and prepared to step in to prevent mass atrocities. An article on Ambassador Power's arrival in the CAR can be read [here](#).

On December 19th, following a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power, CAR Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye announced presidential elections, initially scheduled for 2015, will be moved to 2014 to speed up the transition following the coup in March. Prime Minister Tiangaye said a national electoral authority has been assembled and members will be sworn in late this week or early next week. Political developments in the CAR were noted [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On December 12th, National Security Council (NSC) Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden issued a statement welcoming the signing of the peace declaration between the M23 rebellion and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Spokesperson Hayden said M23 must be disarmed and demobilized and those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable. In addition, the White House commended Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for his role in facilitating the negotiations. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On December 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf kicked off her daily press briefing welcoming the successful conclusion of the 12-month long Kampala Dialogue and the peace declaration signed between the Government of the DRC and M23. She commended U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for their leadership throughout the negotiations. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf can be viewed [here](#).

On December 13th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement welcoming the signing of peace accords between the DRC Government and M23. Secretary-General Ban said the

finalization of the agreements represents a positive step towards ending a cycle of deadly violence in the DRC. Secretary-General Ban's full remarks can be seen [here](#).

On December 16th, after discovering the slain bodies of 21 civilians, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) sent attack helicopters and foot patrols to North Kivu province in an effort to gain control over armed groups. While the attackers' identities have yet to be confirmed, reports suggest the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) may be responsible. Details are available [here](#).

Egypt

On December 14th, Egypt's interim government announced a two-day referendum on Egypt's revised constitution will begin on January 14th. The Muslim Brotherhood has labeled the vote an attempt to whitewash the military coup and has unveiled plans to boycott the referendum. Experts predict the revised constitution will be widely approved and have suggested the margin and voter turnout will measure public support for the military takeover. News of the upcoming vote was reported [here](#).

On December 15th, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian politician charged with leading the revision of Egypt's constitution, led a news conference to publicly unveil the new draft constitution. The news conference stirred up controversy, primarily because the banner used as a backdrop included stock photo images of westerners. While Moussa praised the new constitution for granting new protections for women and people with disabilities, critics have expressed oppositions to provisions pertaining to military authorities and a lack of workers' rights. An article on the news conference can be read [here](#).

On December 18th, the *Washington Post* reported ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and 35 others will be tried on charges of espionage and aiding acts of terrorism. President Morsi and his former aides have been accused of sharing state secrets with Iran and spying for militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. If convicted, President Morsi and the others standing trial could face the death penalty. The new charges were described [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

Office of the United States Trade Representative

On December 18th, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced the signing of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with Libya. The TIFA will establish a joint U.S.-Libya Council on Trade and Investment, which will address a wide range of trade and investment issues, including market access, intellectual property, labor, and environmental issues. The Council will also help to increase trade and investment opportunities by improving trade flows between the U.S. and Libya. The agreement was announced [here](#).

State Department

On December 13th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Foreign Minister of South Sudan Barnaba Benjamin and his delegation and the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, found [here](#).

On December 13th, the State Department issued a media note announcing the launch of the new afriCoderDojo initiative. A joint effort operated by the State Department's Global Partnership Initiative, CoderDoJo, and LIONS@FRICA, afriCoderDojo is intended to teach African youth 21st century computer technology skills. Additional information was posted [here](#).

On December 15th-20th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to lead the U.S. delegation to the 2013 G-8 Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) Initiative's Forum for the Future. Additionally, Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya was scheduled to meet separately with Egyptian Government officials and civil society groups in Cairo and Alexandria. Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya's travel was announced [here](#). Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya's remarks delivered at the 10th Annual G-8-BMENA Forum for the Future can be read [here](#).

On December 16th, the State Department released *Foreign Relations, 1964–1968, Volume XXIII, Congo 1960–1968*. The first part of the volume, covering 1960-1963, documents the chaotic nature of the Congo crisis and the influence of covert U.S. Government policies seeking to install a pro-Western regime and limit Soviet influence. The second part of the volume, which covers 1964-1968, chronicles the evolution of U.S. policy towards Congo-Leopoldville, including U.S.-led political action programs and the U.S. role in providing paramilitary and air support. More information is available [here](#).

On December 16th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf addressed several topics pertaining to Africa in the daily State Department press briefing. She indicated an internal review of Egypt's draft constitution is ongoing and acknowledged the revised constitution will be put up for a popular referendum. She also applauded the Government of Mali on its successful second round of legislative elections, held on December 15th. In addition, Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the U.S. is monitoring the security situation in South Sudan, following reports out of Juba of retaliation and violence after an attempted coup. Lastly, Deputy Spokesperson Harf welcomed the selection of a new Prime Minister in Tunisia. The press briefing was transcribed [here](#).

On December 18th, the State Department announced the terrorist designation of the al-Mulathamun Battalion. Originally part of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the al-Mulathamun Battalion became an independent organization in late 2012 when its leader, Mokhtar Belmokhtar split from AQIM. The group claimed responsibility for the January 2013 attack against a gas facility in Amenas, Algeria, and also partnered with terrorist group the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) to carry out two suicide bombings in Niger in May 2013. Additional information can be seen [here](#).

On December 19th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Dean Pittman held U.N. Security Council consultations on Nigeria at the Department of State. The consultations were noticed [here](#).

On December 19th, U.S. Ambassador-At-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca met with Mauritanian anti-trafficking activist Biram Dah Abeid, a recent awardee of the U.N. Prize in the field of Human Rights. The meeting, which was held at the Department of State, was listed [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On December 13th, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced \$13 million in awards to 12 organizations to deploy innovative and environmentally friendly solutions in emerging markets through the Powering Agriculture initiative. Awards will support projects in Zambia, Senegal, Benin, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique. More information on the selected projects can be viewed [here](#).

On December 14th-19th, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah was on foreign travel to the DRC. On December 16th, Administrator Shah visited the Inga Dam and held meetings with government officials, multilateral development bank representatives, and private sector leaders on energy and development. He also met with DRC Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo. On December 17th, Administrator Shah traveled to Bukavu to visit conflict-affected parts of the country. He also toured the Banro mine site and met with former child soldiers at the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reintegration center. On December 18th, Administrator Shah met with officials from the Federation of Procurement in Essential Medicines, as well as other government officials, private sector partners, NGOs, and local media to discuss development opportunities and challenges. Details on Administrator Shah's travel were shared [here](#).

Department of Defense

On December 13th, a media delegation from Algeria and Mauritania concluded a five-day visit to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. The journalists received in-depth briefings on AFRICOM's operations, including health and humanitarian activities, maritime operations, operations conducted on the African continent, special operations forces, and the chaplain's program.

Details can be found [here](#).

On December 16th, AFRICOM Spokesperson Chuck Prichard said AFRICOM officials are engaged in discussions with Libyan military officials regarding Libya's request for the U.S. to train between 5,000 and 8,000 Libyan troops outside of Libya. The request comes as part of an international effort to strengthen the capabilities of Libyan forces in asserting control over armed militias. Italy, Britain, and Turkey are also developing plans to train Libyan soldiers outside the country. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 16th, the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) released handheld cultural guides for U.S. military personnel serving in 14 African countries. AFCLC indicated guides for five additional African countries are forthcoming, while guides for another five African countries are currently under development. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On December 17th, U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) Public Affairs provided additional information on a training exercise recently coordinated by USARAF's Office of the Provost Marshal for more than 55 Burkina Faso Forces Gendarmerie. The goal of the training exercise was increase the operational capacity of Burkina Faso military personnel for border security and counterterrorism operations. An article on the exercise can be read [here](#).

On December 17th, *The Pentagon Channel (TPC) News* broadcast a video of the change in command ceremony for operations at Camp Lemmonier in Djibouti. The 1st Combined Armed Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment now heads up operations at the U.S. military base. The video can be watched [here](#).

On December 18th, the Department of Defense (DOD) announced the transfer of Noor Uthman Muhammed and Ibrahim Othman Ibrahim Idris from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay to the Government of Sudan. DOD officials reported close coordination with the Government of Sudan to ensure the transfers occurred humanely. The detainee transfers were announced [here](#).

On December 18th, U.S. defense officials confirmed the crash of a U.S. Navy Fire Scout drone helicopter off the coast of Libya on Sunday. Operators aboard the frigate USS Simpson reported losing flight control of the Fire Scout minutes before the crash. Meanwhile, Libyans living on the shoreline reported recovering some of the wreckage. U.S. Naval Air Systems Command is investigating the incident. More information is available [here](#).

On December 18th, Marine Forces Europe and Africa reported on the recent Military Intelligence Non-Commissioned Officer Course – Africa community relations project conducted in Burkina Faso. In order to cultivate a focus on involvement in local communities, 29 staff noncommissioned officer students visited with Burkinabe elementary students and orphans. The event was detailed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On December 15th, Chairman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Representative Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03) said he believes a disagreement between Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers in Libya regarding how quickly they should respond to the September 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi may be the source of allegations that the CIA ordered security personnel to stand down. Comments from Representative Westmoreland can be seen [here](#).

On December 17th, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs held a hearing entitled, "Responding to the Humanitarian, Security, and Governance Crisis in the CAR." Witnesses included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant USAID Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, Lisabeth List of Medecins San Frontieres (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders, Mark Schneider of International Crisis Group, and Alexis Arieff of The Library of Congress. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#). Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield's testimony was transcribed [here](#).

On December 17th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a nominations hearing on several ambassadorships in Africa, including the nominations of Helen Meagher La Lime to serve as U.S.

Ambassador to Angola, Larry Edward Andrew to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Eric Schultz to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, and Cynthia Akuetteh to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Sao Tome and Principe. A recording of the hearing can be accessed [here](#).

On December 16th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a business meeting to vote on several pieces of legislation and nominees. Among the items considered and reported by the Committee was the Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013, as well a resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, and a resolution supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the U.S. and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats. Details were posted [here](#).

North Africa

On December 14th, Tunisia's ruling Islamist Ennahda Party and secular opposition parties announced an agreement on the selection of current Minister of Industry Mehdi Jomaa to serve as Prime Minister until elections next year. A date for the vote has yet to be determined. The agreement represents a movement away from political gridlock in Tunisia and has been hailed as a sign that the country's democratic transition may be successful. The agreement was described [here](#).

On December 16th, the U.N. Security Council approved a presidential statement articulating the need for Libya to strengthen its military and police institutions, especially as armed groups continue to threaten Libya's transition to democracy. The presidential statement also encourages the Libyan Government to better control arms stockpiles in order to keep weapons away from terrorists and extremists. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On December 18th, the *New York Times* ran an article on the radicalization of youths in Tunisia. While jihadist violence in Tunisia has been relatively minimal this year, with just two political assassinations and 30 members of Tunisian security personnel killed, stakeholders in Tunisia are becoming increasingly concerned that youths are being recruited by a growing network of Salafist mosques and trained to fight in Syria. The full article was published [here](#).

On December 19th, an Egyptian court acquitted former President Hosni Mubarak's two sons, Gamal and Alaa Mubarak, and his last Prime Minister, Ahmed Shafiq, of charges related to corruption. The case centered on a 1995 land transaction between an association led by the former Prime Minister and President Mubarak's sons. The case was outlined [here](#).

East Africa

On December 12th, the *Associated Press* profiled Samantha Lewthwaite, the terrorist known as the White Widow, who is believed to have participated in the September Westgate Mall terrorist attack in Nairobi, Kenya. Lewthwaite continues to evade policy, traveling in Africa with her four children. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 14th, the Kenyan Interior Ministry confirmed at least five people were killed in a grenade attack on a minibus in Nairobi, including the attacker. Security forces continue to investigate the incident with the hopes of determining who was responsible. Kenyan leaders condemned the attack, which was the deadliest incident in Kenya since the September attack on the Westgate Mall, which resulted in the deaths of 67 people. The attack was detailed [here](#).

On December 15th, the *New York Times* published an opinion piece authored by Murithi Mutiga of the Nation Media Group in Kenya on Africa's relationship with China. The op-ed suggests that China's investments in large infrastructure projects on the continent are linked to China's desire to extract and exploit African natural resources. The full op-ed can be accessed [here](#).

On December 17th, GE Africa launched the first African Learning Advisory Board in Nairobi, Kenya. The board, which is composed of 20 members drawn from GE Africa, Europe, and North America, will provide leadership and support for GE Africa and advance a focus on local technical and engineering skills development across the continent. GE Africa CEO Jay Ireland touted GE's growth plans on the

continent and noted the company's significant investments in Africa's power, health care, and transportation sectors. The launch of GE's African Learning Advisory Board was announced [here](#).

On December 18th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay condemned the attack against a medical convoy outside Mogadishu that resulted in the deaths of six Somali and Syrian NGO personnel. Two other passengers were injured in the attack. The four gunmen who perpetrated the attack have yet to be identified. The incident was reported [here](#).

On December 19th, International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda requested a delay in the trial of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on charges of war crimes committed following Kenya's 2007 elections. Prosecutor Bensouda said she needs more time to collect evidence against President Kenyatta, following the withdrawal of two more prosecution witnesses. Prosecutor Bensouda's request for a delay was noted [here](#).

On December 19th, Kenyan Director of Immigration Jane Waikenda announced new and stricter rules for work permits. Work permits will now only be issued for a two-year, non-renewable period, and employers will have to include the name of an understudy before a work permit is issued. Director Waikenda indicated the new rules are intended to ensure Kenyans have the opportunity to fill the jobs of foreign employees when their work permits expire. The new rules were detailed [here](#).

West Africa

On December 13th, Dangote Group, the Nigeria Company controlled by Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, announced plans to invest \$16 billion over the next four years in cement, petrochemical, and agricultural projects. The new investments are expected to grow the company's revenue by almost one third by 2014. Projects are currently planned in 18 African countries. Details were shared [here](#).

On December 14th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the U.N. Security Council condemned an early morning car bomb attack in Kidal, Mali, that killed two Senegalese peacekeepers and injured several others, including members of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Malian armed forces. The U.N. called for the Malian Government to investigate the attack and bring the perpetrators to justice. Details can be seen [here](#).

On December 17th, U.N. Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit briefed the Security Council on challenges in the region that require continued U.N. assistance. Reiterating the main finding of a brainstorming session coordinated by the U.N. Office for West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in September, Special Representative Djinnit emphasized the importance of helping West African countries and regional institutions enhance their understanding of the causes of and their vulnerabilities to terrorism. Excerpts from the briefing can be found [here](#).

On December 17th, following the second round of legislative elections held in Mali on Tuesday, the Rally for Mali (RPM) party of Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and its political allies were declared the winners of the majority of parliamentary seats. According to provisional results released by Minister of Territorial Administration Moussa Sinko, the RPM party secured 61 of 147 seats in parliament. Adema, an ally of the RPM party, won 20 seats. Meanwhile, the Union for the Republic and Democracy (URD) party of defeated presidential candidate Soumaila Cisse won 18 of the 24 seats reserved for opposition parties. The results of Mali's legislative elections were further detailed [here](#).

On December 18th, the U.N. Security Council issued a presidential statement calling on West African countries in the Sahel region to strengthen border management to contain the spread of transnational threats in the region. In particular, the Security Council expressed concern for drug trafficking in West Africa and suggested enhanced regional intelligence sharing. Key provisions of the presidential statement were highlighted [here](#).

On December 17th, the Gambian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Ministry of the Interior, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), held a ceremony instituting a ban on public smoking, promotion, and advertisement of tobacco. The ceremony was held at the Jammeh

Foundation for Peace Hospital (JFPH) in Bundung. Details were posted [here](#).

On December 18th, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf declined an invitation to attend a graduation ceremony at the University of Liberia because she was disgusted by the recent disruption by students at the university. Tensions on the campus have been high since last month when students joined with university faculty to call for the resignation of Vice President for Academic Affairs Wede-Elliott Brownell. The Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police was ultimately activated to respond to confrontations. Remarks on the situation from University of Liberia President Emmet Dennis can be accessed [here](#).

On December 18th, *Forbes* reported that iROKOtv, the world's largest online distributor of Nigerian movies that is commonly referred to as the "Netflix of Africa," recently raised \$8 million in venture capital from a group of international investors, including from U.S. hedge fund Tiger Global, Swedish-based Kinnevik, and Rise Capitol. iROKOtv has raised approximately \$21 million over the past two years, making it one of the best funded African startup companies. More information is available [here](#).

On December 17th, *Venture Burn* reported on preparations for the launch of Naija Workman, an online platform in Nigeria that will seek to organize the informal sector for local services and streamline the process for customers. The website is set to go live in January. Details can be viewed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On December 13th, power was restored in Zambia following a national blackout. Zesco Ltd., the utility that provides more than 90% of Zambia's electricity, began stabilizing the load and gradually switching power back on. The power outage temporarily put a stop on Zambian mining operations at mines owned by Barrick Gold Corp., Vedanta Resources, and Glencore Xstrata. The power outage was reported [here](#).

On December 13th, Rwanda's Supreme Court upheld the conviction of opposition leader Victoire Ingabire and increased her jail term from eight to 15 years. The Supreme Court found Ingabire guilty on several charges, including spreading rumors to incite revolt, threatening state security, and belittling the 1994 genocide. Ingabire has insisted the trial was politically motivated. Details on her conviction were shared [here](#).

On December 15th, the *New York Times* published an article detailing the impacts of unpaid tuition on higher education institutions in South Africa, including the recent closures of campuses and programs at St. Augustine College. The South African Government and large public universities in South Africa have recognized the challenge and have begun to implement penalties against nonpayment of tuition. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 17th, retired British Chief of the Defense Staff General Sir David Richards issued a warning regarding the threat posed by Al Qaeda in Sub-Saharan Africa. General Richards said Britain must learn from what it has done in other parts of the world to combat terrorism and what it has failed to do in Africa. He also questioned whether the NATO operation against Libya in 2011 was the most strategic approach, especially as it appears to have contributed to a spread of arms in the region. Comments from General Richards can be seen [here](#).

On December 18th, following Zambian Health Minister Joseph Kasonde's report to Parliament last week that 234 nurses at hospitals throughout the country were dismissed because of their participation in a recent illegal strike, Zambian Union of Nurses Organization President Tommy Yungana confirmed additional nurses at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) had received letters of termination. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 19th, the U.N. FAO reported that a locust control program recently launched in Madagascar is proving effective in protecting rice and maize crops in the country. As part of the program, helicopters and vehicles have been used to carry out survey and control operations. Information on Madagascar's locust control program can be viewed [here](#).

On December 19th, *Voice of America* reported the first South African smartphone will enter the market

early in 2014. South African company Seemahale Telecoms, in partnership with manufacturer CZ electronics is planning to introduce their mobile phone at a retail price of approximately \$230. The company hopes the smartphone will be competitive with the iPhone, which retails for approximately \$1000 and Samsung Galaxy, which retails for approximately \$800. More information on the new smartphone was shared [here](#).

General Africa News

On December 17th, researchers working with the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced the results of a new study finding that illicit cash flows are significantly hurting African economies. The research suggests as much as \$1.4 trillion has been lost from African economies over the past three decades as a result of illicit cash flow and corruption. In addition, researchers found West Africa and Central Africa were most vulnerable to illicit cash flows. The research was summarized [here](#).

On December 17th, the American Security Project hosted a breakfast discussion on “Climate Security Vulnerability in Africa: Strategic Implications for the U.S.” Participants included Dr. Josh Busby, an Associate Professor of Public Affairs at the University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and Andrew Holland of the American Security Project. Event details were posted [here](#).

On December 17th, the *New York Times* profiled former Barclays executive Robert Diamond Jr.’s new venture, Atlas Mara. The \$325 million venture will focus on potential acquisitions in the African financial sector without being limited to a sector or a region. Atlas Mara expects to list on the London Stock Exchange on Friday. Details were reported [here](#).

On December 18th, the *New Yorker* noted the recent trips of several celebrities to Africa for charitable purposes. The article highlighted Mia Farrow’s recent trip to the CAR, Christina Aguilera’s trip to Rwanda, Madonna’s work in Malawi, Samuel Eto’o’s efforts in Cameroon, and Ben Affleck’s engagement in the Congo. More information can be seen [here](#).

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