



## ML Strategies Update

**ML**  
STRATEGIES

**David Leiter**

[djleiter@mlstrategies.com](mailto:djleiter@mlstrategies.com)

**Georgette Spanjich**

[gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com](mailto:gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com)

**Dan Durak**

[ddurak@mlstrategies.com](mailto:ddurak@mlstrategies.com)

**ML Strategies, LLC**

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004 USA  
202 296 3622  
202 434 7400 fax  
[www.mlstrategies.com](http://www.mlstrategies.com)

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **South Africa**

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Makaziwe Mandela, the daughter of former South African President Nelson Mandela, told national broadcaster the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) that President Mandela was still alive and continuing to teach lessons of patience, love, and tolerance from his deathbed. President Mandela was discharged from the hospital after a three-month stay for a recurring lung infection and was receiving home-based medical care. Excerpts from the interview are available [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, South African President Jacob Zuma announced that anti-apartheid leader and former South African President Nelson Mandela had died at the age of 95. Breaking news of President Mandela's passing was reported [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama delivered a statement on the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela. President Obama said President Mandela was a man who took history in his hands and bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice. A recording of President Obama's message can be watched [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement on the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Secretary Kerry recognized President Mandela as someone who will always be remembered as a pioneer for peace. Secretary Kerry also extended his condolences to the Mandela family and to all of the people of South Africa who today enjoy the freedoms President Mandela fought for his entire life. The full statement was posted [here](#).

#### **Mali**

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, violence broke out in Kidal, Mali, ahead of the planned arrival of Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly and a Government delegation. Despite the execution of a security plan, developed by the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and French security forces, three people were seriously injured in the fighting and evacuated to Gao for treatment. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, following Government forces responding to protestors demonstrating against Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly's visit to Kidal, Tuareg rebels in Mali declared the end of a five-month-long ceasefire with the Government and expressed their intent to once again take up arms. The peace pact, finalized in June, stipulated a framework that would allow the Government to return to Kidal in advance of elections, while placing rebels under the supervision of U.N. peacekeepers. The end of the ceasefire was reported [here](#).

## ***Nigeria***

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nigerian authorities implemented a 24-hour curfew in Maiduguri after as many as 500 rebel fighters attacked air force and army installations before dawn. At least 24 fighters and two air force personnel were killed and two helicopters and three military aircraft were destroyed. The attacks follow last week's military raid against Boko Haram hideouts near Nigeria's border with Cameroon. The attacks were detailed [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nigerian Defense Headquarters spokesman Chris Olukolade said the army had identified over 500 suspected Islamist militants and called for them to be tried on terrorism charges. The army claims the militants were captured during a crackdown in the northeast and among the captured are high profile suspects who offered logistical support to the terrorists. More information can be seen [here](#).

## ***Central African Republic***

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Christian militias outside Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR) launched an attack against Muslim Peul herders. At least 12 civilians were killed and 30 others, including several children, were wounded in the attack. The incident was reported [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, following an uptick in violence between armed groups that left at least 12 people dead and 30 others wounded, the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINUCA) voiced concern for the increasing frequency of armed clashes in the northeastern part of the country. BINUCA called on local authorities to protect the population and hold attackers accountable and repeated demands that ex-Seleka factions lay down their arms. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, just hours ahead of a scheduled U.N. Security Council vote on French troops joining the African peacekeeping force in the CAR, Bangui was attacked by supporters of ousted CAR President Francois Bozize. At least 16 people were killed in the fighting in the CAR's capital city. An article on the incident can be read [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved the deployment of African and French forces into the CAR while also imposing an arms embargo on the country. An African Union (AU) force already exists in the CAR, but human rights groups argued the existing force was too small to halt the escalating violence. The Security Council vote was reported [here](#).

## ***Democratic Republic of Congo***

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where he observed the situation in the region is improving. Under-Secretary-General Ladsous met with DRC and U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) officials and presided over the launch of U.N. surveillance drones. Comments from Under-Secretary-General Ladsous were transcribed [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, MONUSCO deployed two unarmed surveillance drones in Goma to monitor rebel activity along the DRC's borders with Rwanda and Uganda. U.N. officials indicated three more drones

would be deployed in the near term, including one in December and two more by the end of March. This is the first time any U.N. mission has used drones. Information on the drones' deployment was reported [here](#).

## **Somalia**

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Somali parliament voted to impeach Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon following a disagreement between President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Shirdon over a proposed cabinet reshuffling. In total, 184 of 250 members of parliament voted in support of the impeachment motion. President Mohamud will appoint a new Prime Minister, who will then have 30 days to appoint a new cabinet. News on the vote can be found [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay described the urgency in appointing a new Prime Minister following the vote of no confidence against Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. Special Representative Kay urged President Hassan Shikh Mohamud to consult widely on potential appointees and to ultimately choose a successor capable of delivering peace, rule of law, economic growth, and good public service. Remarks from Special Representative Kay can be found [here](#).

## **Egypt**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of 21 women, including several teenage girls, who support deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, were sentenced to 11 years in prison for protesting outside of a school in Alexandria last month. Meanwhile, police officers who were accused of beating and assaulting protestors in separate incidents only received sentences of seven years and are currently bailed pending appeal. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed serious concern about detentions and violent dispersal of protestors in Egypt in accordance with a new law restricting demonstrations and authorizing local security personnel to ban and disperse gatherings that pose a threat to security or disrupt citizen interests. Secretary-General Ban's statement is available [here](#).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi to express condolences for the recent loss of Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai. Secretary Hagel also expressed concerns regarding a new law restricting political demonstrations in Egypt. Additionally, the leaders discussed the status of Egypt's constitutional referendum, counterterrorism, border and maritime security, and regional security issues, including Syria and Iran. A readout of the call was posted [here](#).

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the 50-member constituent assembly tasked with revising Egypt's constitution finalized the draft document to be approved by referendum. The revised constitution will allow the military to choose its leader for the next eight years and will allow for adjustments to Egypt's transition plan, including the scheduling of presidential and parliamentary elections. An article on the new draft of the constitution can be read [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Egyptian interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi urged Egyptians to vote in an upcoming referendum on Egypt's revised constitution, which will be held within the next 30 days, with an exact date to be selected by interim President Adly Mansour. Comments from Prime Minister Beblawi were transcribed [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the American Security Project hosted a conversation with Dr. Mona Makram-Ebeid, a former member of the Egyptian Senate, on Egypt's past, present, and future. The discussion focused on recent changes in Egyptian politics, the upcoming constitutional referendum, and the rights of women and Christians in Egypt. Event details can be viewed [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Egyptian activist Ahmed Douma was arrested at his home and Cairo and taken to a police station. Douma was previously detained in April for calling former President Mohamed Morsi a killer and a criminal and was also arrested in 2012 for clashing with soldiers outside the Egyptian cabinet building near Tahrir Square. More information on the arrest can be viewed [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Egypt's public prosecution referred activists Ahmed Douma, Mohamed Adel, and Ahmed Maher, founder of the April 6 movement, to trial on charges of violating Egypt's new anti-protest law by demonstrating without first notifying authorities, assaulting police, obstructing traffic, and vandalism. Information on the charges was posted [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, in recognition of World AIDS Day, President Barack Obama signed into law the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. The law reauthorizes and extends authorities related to efforts to combat global HIV/AIDS. A statement on the signing of the bill can be found [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, also to mark World AIDS Day, the White House issued a fact sheet on shared responsibility to strengthen results for an AIDS-Free Generation. The fact sheet included UNAIDS data indicating the number of AIDS-related deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa decreased by 32% from 2005 to 2012, due in large part to the efforts of PEPFAR and the Global Fund. The full fact sheet can be read [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry and United Kingdom (U.K.) Foreign Secretary William Hague met with Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan in London. The leaders discussed Libya's political transformation, as well as the ongoing challenges posed by local militias. Secretary Kerry and Secretary Hague expressed ongoing support for Libya as it strives to achieve stability. Comments from Secretary Kerry, Secretary Hague, and Prime Minister Zeidan were recorded [here](#).

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement congratulating Mauritania on the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its independence. Secretary Kerry noted the U.S. and Mauritania are working in close cooperation to advance regional peace and security, especially through the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. The full statement is available [here](#).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry shared a statement in recognition of the CAR's national day. Secretary Kerry pledged U.S. support in working with regional and international partners to restore stability, protect human rights, promote reconciliation, and reestablish constitutional governance in the CAR. In addition, Secretary Kerry detailed financial support for the AU-led peacekeeping mission in the CAR, as well as humanitarian assistance for refugees. The full statement can be seen [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks at President Barack Obama's World AIDS Day event at the White House. Secretary Kerry noted new HIV infections are down by nearly 40% in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2001. He also called for continued emphasis on battling AIDS in Africa, especially as the continent is home to seven of the world's ten fastest growing economies. Secretary Kerry's remarks can be viewed [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met with Human Rights Watch Egypt Director Heba Morayef at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, posted [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp attended the closing ceremony of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Ambassador Rapp's travel to Sierra Leone was noted [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations issued a fact sheet on the conflict mitigation initiative launched by the Bureau in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria, in September 2013. Working with local activists in the Niger

Delta, U.S. officials plan to launch a mass media campaign, in conjunction with community and government outreach, to promote messages of nonviolence. The fact sheet is available [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the State Department announced alumni of programs supported by the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs' Office of the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, will participate in a regional initiative to promote inclusive rights for persons with disabilities. Activities will be held throughout December to coincide with the U.N. International Day for Persons with Disabilities. More information was shared [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield traveled to Nigeria and Kenya with representatives from U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the Department of Defense (DOD), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In Nigeria, Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield visited Kano and Lagos for meetings with senior Nigerian officials to follow up to President Barack Obama's meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan in September. In Kenya, Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield will attend the Golden Jubilee to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kenya's independence. Details on Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield's travel can be accessed [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the DRC Russ Feingold traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, and Paris, France, for meetings with government representatives and Great Lakes heads of state. The meetings were expected to focus on next steps in the implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, as well as the possibility of a regional mediated dialogue on the causes of conflict in the region. Special Envoy Feingold's travel was noted [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Ambassador Donald Booth departed on foreign travel to Juba, South Sudan, to attend the South Sudan Investment Conference. Special Envoy Booth was also scheduled to meet with government officials and members of civil society leaders regarding economic development, peace and security, human rights, and good governance. Special Envoy Booth's travel was announced [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Acting Special Representative for Global Food Security Jonathan Shrier participated in a business roundtable on food security with private sector representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Acting Special Representative Shrier highlighted South Africa's role as a strategic partner in the Feed the Future Program, which seeks to reduce poverty and increase nutrition. Remarks delivered by Special Representative Shrier can be read [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, a State Department official confirmed a U.S. citizen was killed by a gunman in Benghazi, Libya. The name of the victim was not yet released, but he was a teacher at a local Benghazi school and was shot while performing his morning exercise. More information can be seen [here](#).

### ***Department of Defense***

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, maritime forces from the U.S., East Africa, and Europe concluded the third annual exercise Cutlass Express 2013. Conducted in waters off the coasts of Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, and Djibouti, the exercise was intended to improve cooperation, tactical expertise, and information sharing among East African maritime forces to increase safety and security in the region. An article on the conclusion of this year's exercise can be read [here](#).

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) and the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon co-hosted a symposium on regional counterterrorism cooperation and illicit trafficking in Yaounde. The session was attended by members of the Cameroon Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the University of Yaounde. Participants reached consensus that deeper regional and international cooperation is needed to deter transnational threats and to provide a secure environment. More information is available [here](#).

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) stationed at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, conducted a mass casualty exercise to test the base's capabilities in the event of an emergency. Military personnel and civilians joined together to provide emergency services, mass casualty care, mortuary services, and air evacuations. French and German forces also participated in the exercise. Details were provided [here](#).

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, in recognition of World AIDS Day, AFRICOM hosted a live television conversation about the Command's involvement with HIV/AIDS initiatives. The discussion, which was moderated by AFRICOM Social Media Specialist Scott Nielsen, featured Chief of AFRICOM's Humanitarian and Health Activities Branch Michael Hryshchshyn and Lieutenant Colonel Pamela Ward-Demo of the Command Surgeon's Office. Video of the discussion can be streamed [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, DOD announced the transfer of Saïid Ali Ameziane and Belkecem, two prisoners at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, to the Government of Algeria. DOD coordinated with the Government of Algeria to ensure the transfers occurred with the appropriate security and humane treatment assurances. The transfers were announced [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM reported on a new weather system recently installed by CJTF-HOA forces at the Kenyan Military Airport in Nairobi. Previously, the Kenyan Defense Forces relied on weather data from a civilian weather system. The new system will provide more timely weather data and enhance the safety of future Kenyan Defense Force missions. Information on the new weather system was shared [here](#).

### ***Department of Justice***

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, lawyers for Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, a Somali man who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in December 2011, indicated Warsame has yet to be sentenced and transferred to federal prison due to his extended cooperation in intelligence sharing. U.S. officials indicated Warsame has provided useful information on the activities of Al Qaeda and Al Shabaab in the Horn of Africa, as well as the connections between the organizations and their operatives. Information on the continuing interrogation is available [here](#).

### ***U.S. Congress***

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs held a hearing on the political, economic, and security situation in Africa. Witnesses included USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Bureau Alina Romanowski, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Schmierer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs Amanda Dory, William Lawrence of the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Frederic Ehrey of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Thomas Joscelyn of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. The hearing was recorded [here](#).

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations adopted by a voice vote the Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act. The legislation, introduced by Subcommittee Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and cosponsored by Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) and Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) would direct the President to establish a comprehensive U.S. strategy for increasing exports of U.S. goods and services to Africa by 200% within ten years. Information on the markup was posted [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing on "Transition at a Crossroads: Tunisia Three Years After the Revolution." Witnesses included Scott Mastic of International Republican Institute, Leslie Campbell of National Democratic Institute, and Bill Sweeny of International Foundation for Electoral Systems. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas traveled to N'Djamena, Chad, for meetings with Chadian President Idriss Deby on the security situation in Darfur. The leaders acknowledged that peace in Darfur is critical for regional security and discussed the socio-economic impacts of the conflict in Chad. The meeting was summarized [here](#).

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari condemned the killing of two Sudanese Ministry of Health staff members participating in a measles vaccination campaign in West Darfur. Coordinator Za'tari called on all parties to protect personnel working to deliver humanitarian assistance throughout Sudan. Information on the attack is available [here](#).

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, following the executions of at least four prisoners in South Sudan since the beginning of November, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) called on authorities in the country to end use of the death penalty. According to OHCHR, South Sudan's judicial system may not have ensured fair trails for the more than 200 people on death row. In addition, prisoners in South Sudan often do not have access to free legal aid in serious criminal, civil, land, and family matters. More feedback from OHCHR can be seen [here](#).

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, during an international cooperation meeting of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) convened by the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), the Government of Egypt, in cooperation with Germany, Switzerland, and other partners, agreed to undertake new efforts to address unregulated hunting and bird netting practices along the Mediterranean coast. Participants agreed to a plan of action, which aims to ensure bird trapping in Egypt and Libya is sustainable and legal. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the *Washington Post* provided an update on the General Purpose Force, a Libyan military organization to be trained by U.S., British, and Italian forces. While U.S. officials have expressed optimism that the new force, initially composed of 5,000 to 8,000 troops, will create the core of a new Libyan army, it remains to be seen how effective the new force will be in combatting a number of armed militias in Libya. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, officials at the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy (MASEN) provided an update on the construction of the first phase of a 160-megawatt solar plant near Ouarzazate, Morocco, which began earlier this year. When completed, the plant is expected to generate 500 megawatts of electricity, which will be delivered to Morocco and neighboring countries. Details on the project can be viewed [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, two minority groups were blamed for power outages in Tripoli and other parts of Libya. A group of Amazigh stopped gas supplies from the southwestern Wafa field to demand language rights. Meanwhile, Tibu minorities blocked a road to prevent petrol supplies from reaching a power plant in southwest Libya. Both groups are demanding languages and cultural identities be preserved in the new constitution. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Transparency International released its 2013 Corruption Perceptions Index. The report, which ranks corruption in public sector institutions, finds that Sudan and Libya are the North African countries with the most corruption in their public sectors, including a high prevalence of illegal activities and individuals looking to profit from government positions. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kyung-Wha Kang concluded a visit to Africa, where she spent a number of days in South Sudan visiting counties impacted by continuing violence and seasonal flooding. She also met with South Sudanese Government officials in Jonglei and Juba regarding improving disaster management, scaling up investments in infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development. Assistant Secretary-General Kang then traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to participate in the annual Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting, and to Nairobi, Kenya, to co-chair the Great Lakes Consultation. Information on the trip was shared [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Egyptian Central Bank unexpectedly reduced its overnight deposit rate and

overnight lending rates by 0.5%. Tensions in the region stemming from the crackdown on Morsi Islamist supporters have deterred investors and tourists from Egypt. Experts believe the decision to cut the benchmark interest rate shows the Central Bank is more concerned by the slowdown than by inflation, which accelerated to 10.4% in October. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, women's rights activists in Morocco rallied to express concerns about legislation being drafted to promote gender equality. While the draft bill includes harsher sentences for perpetrators of violence against women, activists noted the legislation fails to include protections for single women. A committee has been formed to continue to review and revise the bill. More information is available [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, East African heads of state met in Kampala, Uganda, where they signed an agreement to adopt a single, regional currency within ten years. To support the single currency, leaders from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda, also agreed to establish monetary institutions, including a regional central bank and a statistics body. An article on the agreement can be read [here](#).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, following incidents of violence in Somalia's northern Sool region, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay called for calmness and resolution of political differences through dialogue ahead of Puntland Parliamentary selection process this month and presidential elections in January. A U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) statement on the fighting in the area, which killed at least ten people and left dozens more wounded, was posted [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, U.N. experts urged a stop to the legislative process for a bill in Kenya that would impose new restrictions on civil society organizations. The bill, first introduced in late October, would allow the Kenyan Government more authority to deny registration for NGOs. The bill would also impose a cap on foreign funding of NGOs at 15% of their total budgets and require foreign contributions to be channeled through a government entity. The U.N. opposition to the bill was articulated [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Office in Burundi (BNUB) commended the Government of Burundi for encouraging dialogue prior to the adoption of the country's constitution. BNUB also called on all political actors in the country to exercise restraint throughout the constitutional review process. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, an armed militia believed to be Al Shabaab fighters attacked a Somali Intelligence and National Security Agency (NISA) base in Mogadishu's Huriwaa district. Government forces at the base killed two of the attackers and captured two others in thirty minutes of firefight. Nearly simultaneously, two landmines exploded in the town of El-Waq, killing three people and wounding seven others. The incidents were reported [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Nairobi's Chief Magistrate, Kiarie Waweru Kiarie denied a plea for bail by four Somali men charged for allegedly assisting the armed group that assaulted the Westgate Shopping Mall. The magistrate said bail was denied because the suspects could interfere with the ongoing investigation of the attack. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Bank of Uganda sold half of its 15 year bonds that were offered at auction, with the coupon nearly matching yields on notes due five years earlier. Uganda is planning on raising money to invest in roads and other infrastructure, while pushing out debt maturities to boost bond buyer confidence in their investments. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Ecobank Transnational announced plans to seek banking licenses in two more Portuguese-speaking countries in East Africa next year. The bank currently trades on three African exchanges and operates in 35 nations on the continent. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Amnesty International launched its Write for Rights campaign, seeking to call attention to journalist Eskinder Nega's sentencing to 18 years in prison on terrorism charges. Nega was imprisoned in 2011. While Ethiopian authorities claim Nega was sentenced for running a



clandestine terrorist organization, the Amnesty International campaign suggests Nega was jailed for making speeches and writing articles critical of the Ethiopian Government. The campaign was described [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, power was restored after an eight-hour outage that affected large parts of Nairobi, Kenya. According to Kenya Power, the outage occurred when power supplied from the Olkaria Geothermal power plant was disconnected from the rest of the transmission distribution system, creating imbalance between demand and supply. The incident was noted [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, a suicide bomber in Somalia's Puntland region rammed a convoy of security vehicles, leaving eight people dead and 37 others wounded. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, Puntland authorities speculate Al Shabaab was responsible. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud also condemned the attack. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the International Criminal Court (ICC) judge presiding over Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's trial rejected another bid to halt proceedings. President Kenyatta's trial for crimes against humanity will proceed as planned on February 5<sup>th</sup>. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom said that up to 50,000 more citizens were expected to return to the country following the violent crackdown on illegal immigrants in Saudi Arabia. Ethiopia began repatriating its citizens from Saudi Arabia after a seven-month amnesty period expired for undocumented immigrants, which sparked violent protests between police and Ethiopian migrants. Comments from Minister Adhanom can be found [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, global pharmaceutical company Novartis hosted its first Africa day to highlight the company's use of technology to improve health care on the continent. In particular, Novartis called attention to its SMS for Life initiative, which is being used to track malaria medication stock levels in Tanzania with the goal of eliminating stock outages and improving access to medication. More information is available [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau Jose Ramos-Horta briefed the U.N. Security Council on preparations for elections planned for March 16<sup>th</sup>. While elections were due to be held this year, the vote was delayed due to lengthy consultations on the voter registration, as well as finalizing the electoral budget. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, Italian energy company ENI reported on an oil spill impacting the sea and swamps of the Niger Delta, first observed during loading operations on an oil tanker. Operations were suspended until ENI confirmed the vessel was not leaking. The cause of the spill remains unclear. The incident was reported [here](#).

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, global sporting goods company Adidas announced plans to grow its presence in Nigeria by opening two additional stores in the country by the end of December. According to Senior Business Development Manager for South Africa Astruds Meintjes, the company has seen great success in Nigeria due to its sponsorship of Nigeria's national football team. Details on the company's operations in Nigeria can be found [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Microsoft announced its first ever appointment of an African female country manager. Otema Yirenyi will assume the role of Microsoft's Ghana country manager. In her new role, Yirenyi plans to focus on improving access to technology in Ghana. Yirenyi's appointment was announced [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said more than 15,000 people in southeast Niger are in need of relief aid following flooding of the Komadougou River. While the Government of Niger is operating an emergency relief operation, flooding is expected to continue, making as many as 20 additional villages vulnerable. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Forbes* named Nigerian Agriculture Minister Akinwumi Adesina the *Forbes* African

of the Year. Minister Adesina is recognized for his efforts to reform Nigeria's agricultural sector, including his efforts to eliminate corruption from the supply and distribution of fertilizer and his push for more crop diversification. Details can be found [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz traveled to Niamey, Niger, to meet with Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou to discuss cooperation on counterterrorism and anti-smuggling activities. At the conclusion of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed that included cooperation agreements on judicial collaboration, airborne rescue, Islamic affairs, and natural resources. The meeting was summarized [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, a Malian Defense Ministry spokeswoman reported that authorities found a mass grave consisting of 21 bodies, thought to those of soldiers who were killed while a junta chief was in power after a 2012 coup. The bodies were found in a grave located close to the village of Diago, north of the larger city of Bamako. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Ghanaian Volta River Authority (VRA) Finance Director Ebenezer Tagoe announced a delay in a \$500 million bond sale until 2016. In the interim, the nation's largest utility will be looking to loans and export-credit agencies to fund thermal-power plants. The VRA will seek to raise \$350 million next year in loans and credit, as it aims to produce 516 megawatts of power at its thermal-energy plants in the western party of the country. More information was posted [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, *Ventures* published an article on CocoaLink, a digital exchange network deployed by The Hershey Company in Ghana to share agricultural best practices with Ghanaian farmers in order to increase the production of cocoa. Since the launch of CocoaLink in 2011, more than 40,000 Ghanaian cocoa farmers in 1,700 villages have registered for the program. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of 16 West African and international scientists, Greenpeace sent a letter to Senegalese President Macky Sall urging him to promote better governance of fisheries in Senegal. Excerpts from the letter can be seen [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, MONUSCO received information that at least 20 people, including 12 children were killed as part of a DRC Government operation known as Operation Likofi, intended to tackle delinquency in Kinshasa. MONUSCO and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) jointly called on Congolese judicial authorities to investigate the reports and hold the perpetrators responsible and to end such violence acts. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair responded to claims made by former South African President Thabo Mbeki that the U.K. had urged South Africa to topple Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe while Prime Minister Blair was in office. While a spokesman for Prime Minister Blair indicated he has long believed Zimbabwe would be better off without President Mugabe, he denied that Prime Minister Blair ever advocated for military intervention. The situation was detailed [here](#).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, a Mozambique Airlines plane crashed in the Bwabwata National Park in Namibia, killing all 34 people on board, including 28 passengers and six crew members. The plane was destined for Luanda, Angola. The full story is available [here](#).

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Channel O Africa Music Video Awards ceremony was held in Soweto, South Africa. While last year's winners were primarily Nigerian artists, this year's awarded primarily hailed from South Africa. A full list of winners was posted [here](#).

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Thibaud Lesuer and Thierry Vircoulon of the International Crisis Group penned an op-ed in the *New York Times* calling for greater international coordination and intervention to address the worsening security situation in the CAR. The full opinion piece can be read [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Government of Botswana and the International Union for the Conservation of

Nature (IUCN) convened the African Elephant Summit in Gaborone to facilitate discussions among African leaders on ending the illegal ivory trade and securing viable elephant populations across the continent. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) believes 22,000 elephants were illegally killed in Africa last year. Details were shared [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) issued a news release warning that it will need to further reduce food assistance in the DRC without additional voluntary contributions. Over the past six months, food rations distributed to people in the DRC's North Kivu province have been halved, also due to funding shortfalls. The WFP's warning can be seen [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Director of Angola's Institute for Religious Affairs Manuel Fernando refuted accusations that the Angolan Government is banning Islam and closing mosques in the traditionally Catholic country. In addition, Angola's Ministry of Culture noted that while a number of mosques have closed over the past several months, those closures were related to lacking land titles and licenses. More information was posted [here](#).

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the South African Reserve Bank released its Quarterly Bulletin stating that its current account deficit has widened to 6.8% of GDP. The report notes the higher volume of merchandise imports coincided with an increase in the rand price of the imports, which lifted the import bill during the quarter. The rand fell 18% against the dollar this year, and it fell by another 0.5% after the data was released. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the ruling Mozambique party conceded victory to the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM) in Nampula, after a re-run election concluded on December 1<sup>st</sup>. After this victory, the opposition MDM party holds three of the four major cities in Mozambique, which puts them in a prime position to challenge the ruling Frelimo party for presidential and parliamentary polls next year. More information can be seen [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, ECA International unveiled its annual Cost of Living Survey. In Africa, the survey finds the most expensive city continues to be Luanda, Angola. Luanda, which topped the global list from 2007-2009, is now the second most expensive city globally. Juba, South Sudan, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, and Libreville, Gabon, also appeared in the top 20 most expensive cities around the globe. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Impaburuta, a cooperative of farmers in the Kamonyi district of Rwanda, was recognized as the 2013 African Farmer Organization of the Year. More than 60 organizations competed for the annual award. Impaburuta was recognized for its good governance, its market access strategy, and the integration of women in young people in farming operations. The award was described [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the South African Cabinet ordered the release of a previously classified inter-ministerial task team's report examining costly security upgrades and President Jacob Zuma's residence in Nkandla. The report, which is anticipated to be released next week, is expected to find no evidence that taxpayer dollars were used to pay for upgrades at President Zuma's private residence. The Cabinet's decision was detailed [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), an umbrella body for African tax authorities, established a joint African committee to review guidelines for taxation as Internet usage in Africa continues to increase. The committee, which includes members from key economies in Africa, is tasked with identifying the difficulties the digital economy poses for existing international tax rules and formulating solutions that will allow companies to have significant digital presence in national economies without being liable to taxation. The committee was announced [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng announced \$115 million in additional technical assistance to help Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Chad increase their cotton production. The aid, which will be disbursed through the end of 2014, will be used to improve infrastructure, conduct

research, and support joint-venture projects. More information was reported [here](#).

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, in conjunction with the Replenishment Conference for the Global Fund, the Wilson Center co-hosted the conference, Going the Whole Nine Yards: What Is Needed for an Africa Free of AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Speakers included Mark Dybul of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Jeannette Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda, Aigbogie Aig-Imoukhuede of Access Bank, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of the World Bank, Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba of Friends Africa, Steve McDonald of the Africa Program and Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity, and Michael Van Dusen of the Wilson Center. Video from the event can be watched [here](#).

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, *Forbes* published its annual list of 20 Young Power African Women. The list was assembled with assistance from young, professional African women who helped to identify innovative and successful young women under the age of 45. The full list can be accessed [here](#).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) held a meeting on the margins of the Elysse Summit in Paris, France. The meeting, which was organized by the AU Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, was intended to allow stakeholders to discuss the outcomes of the Nineteenth Conference of Parties to the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. A statement announcing the meeting can be found [here](#).

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the American Security Project will hold a breakfast discussion on climate security vulnerability in Africa and implications for the U.S. Joshua Busby of the University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs will present on his research on climate change and political stability in Africa. Event details can be viewed [here](#).

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