



## ML Strategies Update

**ML**  
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**David Leiter**

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

**Georgette Spanjich**

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

**David Shirbroun**

[dshirbroun@mlstrategies.com](mailto:dshirbroun@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

#### **Nigeria**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, seven French hostages were freed after two months in captivity in Nigeria. The Moulin-Fournier family was captured in February in the northern part of Cameroon. French President Francois Hollande denies that any ransom was paid to free the hostages. Details on the kidnapping and release are available [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Boko Haram gunmen launched attacks against Joint Task Force soldiers in the border town of Baga in Borno State. The attacks killed at least 185 people, including women, children, and elderly citizens, destroyed at least 200 houses, and left the town mostly burnt down. Several other victims of the attacks have been hospitalized for burns and other injuries, and more than 1,000 people have been left homeless. Details on the attacks can be found [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Borno State Governor Alhaji Kashim Shettima visited Baga to observe the devastation resulting from the recent Boko Haram attacks. Governor Shettima also issued a statement ordering the State's Ministry of Works to begin immediate reconstruction of the residential and commercial properties destroyed during the attacks. The announcement comes in advance of the formal appointment of a committee to investigate the attack and provide recommendations on compensation. An article on Governor Shettima's visit to Baga and his response to the attack can be read [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan indicated he will officially inaugurate the Boko Haram Committee next week. The Committee has been tasked with identifying security challenges and solutions and engaging with key leaders of Boko Haram to develop a framework for disarmament and compensations for victims of violence within 60 days. Members of the Boko Haram Islamic sect have been accused of perpetuating violence to force Nigeria to adopt strict Islamic laws. According to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 3,000 people have died as a result of the violence since 2009. Details on the new Committee are available [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a statement voicing

shock and sadness for the deaths of civilians killed in Borno State as the result of armed clashes between Nigerian forces and Boko Haram. Secretary-General Ban also extended condolences to the families of victims, called on extremists to end the violence, and urged Nigerian authorities to protect civilians. Additional comments from Secretary-General Ban can be viewed [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell addressed several questions regarding the Boko Haram attacks in Borno State. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell condemned the violence and expressed support for the efforts of Nigerian authorities to bring perpetrators of the attacks to justice. He also expressed concerns that Boko Haram may be trying to develop deeper ties with other extremist groups in the region and articulated the State Department's position that violent extremism in Nigeria requires more than just a security response. A transcript of the full exchange with reporters has been posted [here](#).

### **Libya**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a car bomb exploded in front of the French embassy in Tripoli, Libya. The attack injured two French guards stationed at the embassy and destroyed much of the French diplomatic compound. At least three Libyans living near the embassy were also injured by shrapnel from the blast. Immediately following the attack, Interior Minister Ashour Shweil said it was too early to speculate on whether the attack was connected to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. A *Wall Street Journal* report on the incident in Tripoli can be read [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius flew to Libya to investigate the situation at the French embassy in Tripoli. Foreign Minister Fabius said dozens of people would have died if more personnel had been at the embassy when the bomb went off. During his visit, Foreign Minister Fabius surveyed the damage with Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, who called the violence an attack of terrorism. A report on Foreign Minister Fabius' trip to Libya can be found [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell responded to questions regarding the attack against the French embassy in Tripoli. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell confirmed no information was yet available on the perpetrators of the attack. He also noted while the U.S. is ready to assist France, the French have yet to directly request assistance in responding to the attack. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell also reported the U.S. mission in Tripoli remains open. The full transcript from the press briefing can be found [here](#).

### **Sudan**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, a Nigerian peacekeeper in East Darfur was shot and killed near Muhajeria in an attack carried out by unidentified gunmen. Two others were allegedly wounded in the attack. Muhajeria has been the center of armed disputes between a faction of the rebel movement Sudan Liberation Army and Sudanese armed forces (SAF). Breaking news on the attack can be seen [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the African Union (AU)-U.N. peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) called on Sudanese authorities to find the attackers who killed a Nigerian peacekeeper – an act considered a war crime under international law. UNAMID has indicated it is working in coordination with the Government of Sudan to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also called for unhindered access to civilians in need of humanitarian assistance in the vicinity of the attack. Details on the U.N. response to the violence in Sudan are available [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the U.S. embassy in Khartoum released a statement condemning the recent killing of a U.N. peacekeeper in East Darfur and calling on the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) to conduct a full investigation into the attack against UNAMID. Following reports that nearly all 35,000 of Muhajeria's residents had fled the town following the attack, U.S. Government officials also urged that international humanitarian efforts be given access to the region. An article on the U.S. response to the attack can be viewed [here](#).

### **Central African Republic**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) met in Chad to discuss the continuing violence in the Central Africa Republic (CAR). The 11 nations of ECCAS are attempting to develop an agreeable leadership transition in the CAR. A report on the meeting is available [here](#).

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the *Associated Press* reported on the likely use of child soldiers in the CAR. The U.N. claims to have evidence of the use of children by the Seleka rebel group, and South African soldiers said they had no choice but to shoot at child soldiers while fighting in Bangui in late March. The report on child soldiers in the CAR can be read [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman visited Bangui and called for urgent efforts to establish security, end human rights abuses, and return to constitutional rule. Following a meeting with Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye in Cameroon on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Under-Secretary-General Feltman met with the U.N. political team, political parties, and civil society leaders in the CAR. During the meetings, Under-Secretary-General Feltman called for transition within the political framework of the Libreville Accords. More information on Under-Secretary-General Feltman's travel to the CAR is available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the availability of education has seriously deteriorated due to violence in the CAR. Nearly 300,000 children could lose the entire academic year because of political unrest in the country. Many teachers who fled areas of violence have not returned to their homes. The UNICEF report can be read [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the European Union (EU) said it will not restore \$200 million in aid funding to the CAR until the country can prove its credibility to neighbors and international funders. Andris Piebalgs, EU Development Aid Chief, said a stable political structure must be established before aid can continue. More information on the denial of funds is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, South African President Jacob Zuma said South African troops are ready to re-deploy to the CAR after 13 soldiers were killed in a clash with Seleka rebels when they took control of Bangui. President Zuma said South Africa is waiting for a formal request for assistance in maintaining a multinational peacekeeping force in the CAR. Meanwhile, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe contradicted President Zuma's announcement and countered that South Africa will not send any troops to the country. A *Bloomberg* report on President Zuma's announcement can be viewed [here](#).

## ***Mali***

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Mauritania said it intends to send 1,800 troops to Mali to contribute to a U.N. force that is promoting peace in the region. Mauritania has quality fighters who understand the desert terrain of Mali, according to Laurent Fabius, the French foreign minister. France is set to decrease the number of troops it has in Mali over the next several months. An article on Mauritania's commitment is available [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, U.N. officials, AU leaders, EU representatives, and members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met with Government officials in Bamko, Mali. During the meeting, the group discussed humanitarian funding to meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of Malians displaced from their homes as a result of recent extremist violence. The groups also discussed the challenges facing Mali related to the approaching July 7<sup>th</sup> presidential elections and July 21<sup>st</sup> legislative elections. Details on the meeting in Bamko can be found [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sammy Kum Buo, a Cameroon national who has served as Director for West, Central, and North Africa in for the U.N., published in an opinion piece in the *New York Times* on the French intervention in Mali. While Buo argues that French intervention prevented complete occupation of Mali by foreign terrorists, he argues the recent international approach in Mali has led to debate on the risks and costs associated with Africa's reliance on international assistance. The full op-ed can be read [here](#).

## ***Ivory Coast***

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, head of the U.N. Operation in Ivory Coast (ONUCI) Bert Koenders, called for free, transparent, calm, and credible voting in advance of local elections. He also called upon security forces to show absolute neutrality during the voting, despite growing political tensions between supporters of President Alassane Ouattara and his Rally of Republicans (RDR) and supporters of the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI). Information on the political tension in Ivory Coast can be read [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Ivorians began voting in local elections for the first time since post-election violence following the 2010 elections. In the last election cycle, five months of violence erupted after former President Laurent Gabagbo refused to leave office after his loss to current President Alassane Ouattara in a run-off election. Despite the presence of a U.N. peacekeeping mission, there were reportedly instances of intimidation during voting. The vote was also boycotted by the opposition party of former President Gabagbo. Details on voting in Ivory Coast can be found [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, National Security Council Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden responded to the release of a House Republican report on the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack against the U.S. mission in Benghazi. Spokesperson Hayden said the GOP report “appears to raise questions that have already been asked and answered in great detail” by Obama administration officials. She also said the Administration has taken “extraordinary steps” to work with Congress in investigating the attack, including providing more than 10,000 pages of documents and extensive briefings for members of Congress and staff. An article on reactions to the report can be read [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement in recognition of Zimbabwe’s national day in celebration of 33 years of independence. In his statement, Secretary Kerry congratulated Zimbabwe on approving a new constitution through a peaceful referendum and noted shared goals of peace, security, and prosperity. Secretary Kerry’s full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks to accompany the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human, Rights and Labor release of the 2012 Human Rights Report. Acting Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya joined Secretary Kerry to introduce the report. While the report addresses the status of protection for human rights on a country basis, Secretary Kerry highlighted how human rights abuses in Egypt and Libya threaten the stability of democratic transition in those countries. The full report can be viewed [here](#). Secretary Kerry’s remarks have been posted [here](#). Remarks delivered by Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya are available [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns delivered opening remarks at the Africa Health Forum, hosted at the Department of State as part of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings. Deputy Secretary Burns stressed the need to move from a donor-recipient relationship to a model of partnership. As part of the meeting, Ministers of Finance and Health from 30 African countries presented on priorities for health care in their countries. Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby delivered closing remarks. Additional information on the Africa Health Forum is available [here](#). Deputy Secretary Burns’ opening remarks can be read [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats met with a delegation visiting the U.S. from Tunisia, including Central Bank Governor Chadli Ayari and Minister of Regional Development Ahmed Najib Chebbi. Under Secretary Hormats also had lunch with the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt Hisham Ramez. The meetings were included on the State Department’s daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the State Department issued a statement welcoming 13 African parks and wildlife ministry officials to the U.S. as part of the Wildlife Conservation Exchange program. During their visit to the U.S., the African officials will visit with U.S. officials at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the

U.S. Park Service, as well as many nongovernmental organizations, located not only in Washington, but also in Florida, Oregon, and Montana, to discuss wildlife conservation and management. The full State Department statement can be found [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez met with Ghana's Finance Minister Seth Terkper in Washington. The meeting was noted on the State Department's daily public schedule, which is available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats delivered remarks at the "Collaboration Across Borders: Anti-poaching and Anti-trafficking of Wildlife Efforts from Local and International Perspectives" at the Meridian International Center. Other panelists speaking at the event included Richard Ruggiero of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Allard Blom of the World Wildlife Fund, and Sub-Saharan wildlife conservation professionals visiting the U.S. Details on the event have been posted [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez met with a delegation of West African government officials. Earlier in the day, Assistant Secretary Fernandez also met with Moroccan Ambassador to the U.S. Rachad Bouhlal. Both meetings were included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell indicated that a high-level Sudanese delegation led by Presidential Advisor Nafi Ali Nafi has been invited to visit Washington for meetings with U.S. Government officials. While the visit has not officially been scheduled, meetings are likely to focus on the conflicts and humanitarian crises within Sudan, including in Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile, counterterrorism, and human rights. A transcript of the discussion on the Sudanese delegation trip can be read [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 27 emerging leaders from around the world joined Fortune's Most Power Women Leaders at the State Department to launch the eighth annual Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership. The initiative, hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock, is intended to help women leaders around the globe bring positive change to their companies and their communities. Women from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe participated in this year's event. Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) also participated. Details on the public-private partnership are available [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry held a bilateral meeting with Nigerian Foreign Minister Olugbenga Ashiru at the Department of State. During the meeting, the leaders were expected to discuss Nigeria's efforts, as well as those of the AU and ECOWAS, to combat violence and extremism in the northern part of the country. Remarks from Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Ashiru can be viewed [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with President of Somaliland Ahmed Mouhamoud Silanyo. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the State Department announced that Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine will travel to Ethiopia April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> to meet with Ethiopian and AU officials, to participate in a discussion on press freedom at a roundtable with the Association of Private Publishers, and to lead Global Youth Service Day and Earth Day activities, including a tree-planting event with Ethiopian National Green Service Volunteers. Under Secretary Sonenshine will also address students at Dire Dawa University. The travel announcement has been posted [here](#).

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

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) reported on the Flintlock exercise hosted by Mauritania earlier this year. More than 1,000 participants from 14 African countries and Western partner nations participated in the exercise. Flintlock is a Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed, AFRICOM-sponsored exercise conducted by the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Trans Sahara focusing on



improving the capabilities of regional militaries to operate together, as well as conducting civil military operations aimed at improving the health and welfare of local civilian populations. An article on Flintock can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, new AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez visited Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti as part of his first trip to Africa after taking command on April 5<sup>th</sup>. While in Djibouti, General Rodriguez met with deployed troops. Video footage from General Rodriguez's visit to Camp Lemonnier can be watched [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Brigadier General Terry R. Ferrell assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez presided over a ceremony to officially recognize Brigadier General as the force's new leader. As the new CJTF-HOA Commander, Brigadier General Terry is responsible for a 10-country joint operating area in East Africa. A press release on the ceremony can be found [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, sailors and civilian maritime professionals from Africa, the U.S., and Europe concluded a planning conference for Exercise Cutlass Express 2013 (CE13). The Cutlass Express exercise will focus on advancing East African maritime relationships and security issues in the region. The exercise will take place in November and will include participants from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania, Netherlands, Denmark, the U.S., and an Eastern Africa Standby Force delegation. More information on planning for CE13 is available [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM reported on the second annual African Executive Dialogue that was recently hosted by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) in Washington, DC. The event allowed a high-level delegation of African security professionals, government leaders and U.S. officials to discuss ongoing and emerging security challenges. An article on the recent meeting has been posted [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, U.S. Army Africa reported on efforts of the Botswana Defense Force (BDF) to allow Botswanan women to enlist as soldiers. The BDF currently has approximately 100 female officers. As part of its initiative to make personnel changes, the BDF recently hosted a working group and invited U.S. military personnel to reflect on the challenges women in the U.S. Army face as a result of the recent decision made by the U.S. to lift the ban on women serving in combat roles. Details on the recent working group meeting are available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, U.S. Army Africa released details on a recent Medical Readiness and Training Exercise (MEDRETE 13-2) held in Mauritania. As part of the exercise, U.S. ophthalmologists and a doctor from Burkina Faso trained during a previous training mission, traveled to Mauritania to train and mentor Mauritanian doctors in performing 111 cataract surgeries. The MEDRETE exercises have a long history of combating cataracts in Africa with more than 800 cases cured in Malawi, Zanzibar, and Burkina Faso. More information on the latest mission can be found [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel arrived in Cairo for talks with top Egyptian officials, including Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. While in Egypt, Secretary Hagel also met with top military leaders and laid a wreath at Egypt's unknown soldier memorial along the Nile River. Details on Secretary Hagel's visit to Egypt can be viewed [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, during a lecture in the Abu Dhabi hosted by the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta called on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to engage Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya to promote stability and security in the region. More comments from Secretary Panetta can be viewed [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, U.S. military personnel and medical experts specializing in malaria from eight nations of ECOWAS came together for a three-day meeting of the Africa Malaria Task Force in Accra, Ghana, held in conjunction with the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Malaria Day. During the meeting, U.S. and African stakeholders discussed military malaria program gaps and resources available through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a five-year, \$1.2 billion program to combat malaria and poverty in Africa. An article on the meeting and the task force can be read [here](#).

## ***Department of Commerce***

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Commerce Advocacy Center helped secure a contract between the Louisiana-based Tuleu Consulting Company (TCC) and the country of Chad. TCC negotiated a \$22.5 million contract to sell 500 John Deere tractors to Chad. Details on the agreement are available [here](#).

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

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA) sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel requesting the classified timeline of events from the September 11<sup>th</sup> Benghazi attack. In the letter, Representative McKeon notes the request had previously been submitted to The Joint Staff, who indicated interagency coordination was needed. The full letter has been posted [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) defended himself against criticism for not establishing a select committee to investigate the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack in Benghazi as Representative Frank Wolf's (R-VA) resolution calling for the committee totaled 117 Republican co-sponsors. Speaker Boehner argued the five House committees with jurisdiction over the incident – Oversight, Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Intelligence, and Judiciary – are working closely together on the investigation and are getting the job done. More information on Speaker Boehner's position can be viewed [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, House Speaker John Boehner unveiled a report on the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack in Benghazi compiled by Republicans on the five House committees of jurisdiction. The report places blame for the attack on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, alleging that she withdrew security assets at the compound while acknowledging requests for additional security. The report also finds that talking points on the attack were altered to protect the State Department from criticism. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, following the release of a House Republican report on the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack in Benghazi, the Democratic Ranking Members on the committees of jurisdiction, including Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers (D-MI), Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), and Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) sent House Speaker John Boehner a letter criticizing the report and the exclusion of Democratic members from the process. The full letter can be viewed [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) announced the Committee will hold additional hearings in May on the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. Representative Issa said the upcoming hearing will focus on new information that has been turned over by the Administration and by whistleblowers on the Benghazi attack. The announcement has been posted [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Representative Frank Wolf sent a dear colleague letter to House Republicans with statements from OPSEC, the Center for Security Policy, Act! for America, and Citizens United, in support of developing a Select Committee on Benghazi. In his letter, Representative Wolf also noted that his resolution had picked up a total of 123 Republican co-sponsors. The dear colleague letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, said the Marine Corps has deployed a 550-man unit to Moron Air Base in Spain to serve as a rapid crisis-reaction force for AFRICOM. The issue was raised during a Subcommittee hearing on the Navy's FY14 budget request. Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos noted the deployment comes in response to the attack in Libya and the unit will remain on standby to respond to crises stemming from terrorist threats in North Africa. He also indicated three embassies have been approved for an increase in Marine security forces and five other facilities are currently under review for additional security support. A video recording of the hearing is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the FY14 budget request for USAID. During his testimony, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah noted programs to be funded by the FY14 budget that will target aid to the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, support protection of human rights and democratization in North Africa, and address poverty across the continent. An archived webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah also testified before the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on the FY14 USAID budget request. Audio and video recordings of the hearing are available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA), Frank Wolf, and Mike Capuano (D-MA) introduced the bipartisan Sudan Peace, Security, And Accountability Act of 2013. The legislation calls on the Administration to develop a strategic plan to end human rights abuses, provide accountability for crimes in Darfur and throughout Sudan, and to support democratic transformation in the country. The bill has been referred to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Judiciary. A press release on the introduction of the bill can be found [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee held a closed oversight hearing on AFRICOM. Testimony was provided by AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez. Details on the closed hearing can be found [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Committee received testimony from USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and the U.S. foreign assistance priorities and strategy articulated in the Administration's FY14 budget request. An archived webcast of the hearing has been posted [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, H.A. Hellyer of the Brookings Institution reported on the latest issues surrounding the trial of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Hellyer suggests that most Egyptians have moved past the Mubarak Administration and are more concerned with the affairs of President Morsi and the post-revolution government. Hellyer's article is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Egyptian Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) allowed hot air balloon rides to continue over Luxor. Pilots, engineers, and grounds crew members are now required to participate in additional safety training. Balloon rides had been banned since a February 26<sup>th</sup> accident that killed 19 tourists. Sky Cruise, the company responsible for the crash, is still banned from flying. Information on the resumed rides is available [here](#).

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi announced that he is planning to reshuffle his cabinet as part of Egypt's strategy for building political consensus around a \$4.8 billion loan the Government is seeking from the IMF. In a television interview, President Morsi said a more formal announcement on the reshuffling, which will include multiple ministries, will come soon. It is speculated that Prime Minister Hisham Kandil will maintain his position in the reorganization. An article on the forthcoming reorganization of President Morsi's cabinet can be read [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, during a visit of a Chinese delegation to the industrial and investment area in Giza's Abu Rawash, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Song Aiguo announced that Chinese investments in Egypt have increased by roughly 60%, or nearly \$200 million, over the past two years. More on the Chinese Ambassador's visit to Egypt is available [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Egyptian Trade and Industry Minister Hatem Saleh announced that Russia will assist Egypt in developing its nuclear power program. Prior to former President Hosni Mubarak's demise, Egypt had reached an agreement with Russia to help build Egypt's first nuclear power station at Dabaa. Current Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi revived the agreement during a visit to Russia last week and a Russian delegation is expected to visit Egypt soon to discuss moving forward on the agreement. An article on the Egypt's agreement with Russia can be read [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the *Associated Press* reported that Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is using



Twitter as a method of reaching local populations in North Africa. AQIM is appealing to widespread concerns and social grievances, and the Twitter feed has already attracted 5,000 followers. The *Associated Press* report is available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, officials in Spain arrested two people believed to be involved with AQIM. An Algerian named Nou Mediouni and a Moroccan named Hassan El Jaouani were arrested by officials in separate parts of Spain. More information on the arrests is available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the International Criminal Court (ICC) reported that Saleh Jerbo, a rebel leader in Darfur, was killed on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Jerbo had been charged with attacking AU peacekeepers in Darfur in 2007. The ICC was initially notified of the death by Jerbo's defense team. More information on Jerbo's death is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, African Development Bank (AfDB) President Donald Kaberuka announced the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Africa Hub will launch at the end of next month in Marrakesh, Morocco. The SE4ALL Africa Hub is intended to provide universal access to modern energy services, such as electricity and clean cooking technologies, and to increase utilization of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in the global energy mix. An article on the launch of the SE4ALL Africa Hub can be read [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Bassem Youssef, commonly referred to as the Egyptian Jon Stewart, appeared as a guest on the *Daily Show*. During an interview with Jon Stewart, Youssef addressed the charges posed against him by the Egyptian government related to disseminating false news and diminishing the stature of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. Video clips from the interview can be watched [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Uganda, in partnership with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Makerere University's Refugee Law Project (RLP), and the Uganda Human Rights Council launched a pilot mobile court system, based in Nakivale, Uganda's oldest and largest refugee settlement. The goal of the project is to improve access to the justice system for victims of crimes, including robbery, land disputes, rape, sexual and gender-based violence, and murder. Additional information on the pilot project can be found [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) reported that Internet subscriptions in Kenya grew by 11.5% in the last quarter and by 75% in the past year. According to CCK, there are now 9.4 million Internet subscriptions in Kenya, with users estimated to total 16.2 million. An article on increasing Internet use in Kenya can be read [here](#).

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the *East African* reported that investments in the region doubled in 2012 from 2011. Private equity funds in East Africa reached \$475 million in 2012, according to Deloitte. An increase in investment is also expected in 2013, as security becomes less of a concern in the region. An article on the new investments in East Africa is available [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, runners from East Africa finished first in both the men and women's races in the 2013 London Marathon. Ethiopia's Tsegaye Kebede outran Kenya's Emmanuel Mutai in the final stretch of the race. The women's contest was won by Kenyan runner Priscah Jeptoo. An article on the African winners of the London Marathon can be read [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Somali journalist Mohamed Ibrahim Rage was shot and killed outside his home in Mogadishu. The incident is the fifth murder of a journalist in Somalia in 2013. An article on the killing can be read [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> Eastern Africa Oil, Gas, and Energy conference was officially scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Recent discoveries in East Africa have made the area an attractive location for investors. The conference will highlight exploration potential and future opportunities in 14 countries throughout the region. Details on the conference are available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Kenya and Ethiopia pledged to help Somalia as the country struggles to rebuild and maintain peace. Following a meeting in Nairobi, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said the strength of Somalia is important for regional development. A summary of the meeting is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, *Bloomberg* reported that Lake Beseka in Ethiopia's Rift Valley, which has grown 15-fold over the past two years due to irrigation runoff and seismic shifts, now poses a threat to Ethiopia's ambitions for trade of sugar and cotton. Ethiopia's Water and Energy Ministry has expressed concerns that the salt water of Lake Beseka may contaminate the Awash River and vulnerable crop estates. While the Ethiopian Government has taken efforts to control the lake's growth, it is now relying on assistance from India and Saudi Arabia to address the problem. Details can be viewed [here](#).

### **West Africa**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Madsar, a renewable energy company originating from Abu Dhabi, launched the Sheikh Zayed Solar Power Plant in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The new \$32 million, 15-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant is the largest solar PV plant in Africa. Mauritania is already meeting a significant amount of its energy needs with solar and wind power. The new PV plant is anticipated to meet 10% of Mauritania's total energy needs and to displace 21, 225 tons of carbon dioxide each year. A *Wall Street Journal* report on the new solar PV plant in Mauritania can be found [here](#).

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2013 Africa Movie Academy Awards were held in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital in Nigeria. The Nigerian film "Confusion Na Wa" took home the prize for best film. The full list of award winning African films is available [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, during the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings held in Washington, DC, West African Finance Ministers agreed that Africa is reaching a point where it will be able to contribute to global growth. During a news conference, Cameroonian Finance Minister Alamine Ousmane Mey said that Africa will help the rest of the world overcome slowing economic growth. Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also expressed concern for slow growth in the Eurozone. More remarks from Finance Ministers Mey and Iweala can be found [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, following other regulatory orders intended to increase competition in Nigeria's communications sector, the Nigerian Communications Commission unveiled new regulations that will allow mobile phone users in Nigeria to change their service providers while maintaining their phone numbers. In particular, the new regulations are anticipated to increase competition between MTN Group Ltd. and Bharti Airtel Ltd. More information on the new regulations can be viewed [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Guinea-Bissau Communications Minister Fernando Vaz alleged the U.S. had captured Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto, an international drug kingpin, in his country's waters. Contradictory to Minister Vaz's claims, U.S. officials have said the arrest took place in international waters. An article on the disagreement can be read [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Petra Diamonds announced it had discovered a 25.2 carat blue diamond at the Cullinan mine in South Africa. The Cullinan mine, which was acquired by Petra in 2008, is one of the prime sources for rare, blue diamonds. Petra is currently operating seven mines in South Africa and one in Tanzania. News on the recent discovery of the blue diamond in South Africa is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Paramount Group, the largest privately owned defense and aerospace company in Africa, announced it had won an international bid to provide Brazil with Maverick security vehicles. The purchase of the vehicles, which are designed for use by the security forces, is believed to be part of Brazil's efforts to enhance security capabilities ahead of the 2014 Fifa World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics. A press release issued by Paramount Group has been posted [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the insurance company AIG appointed Wayne Abraham as the new director of its operations in South Africa. Abraham is from South Africa and was appointed as the COO for AIG's

Africa operations in 2007. Information on the appointment is available [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. announced a new natural gas discovery in the Rovuma Basin off the coast of Mozambique. The new Orca-1 well was drilled to a total depth of about 16,391 feet in water depths of 3,481 feet. Additional information on Anadarko's offshore activities near Mozambique can be viewed [here](#).

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe addressed his country during independence-day celebrations. President Mugabe said that he will not tolerate foreign involvement in national elections set to occur sometime between June and September of this year. The president condemned political violence and expressed hope none of his supporters will attack opponents. Additional comments from President Mugabe are available [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, *Business Day* reported that a short film on former South African President Nelson Mandela, commissioned by the Tribeca Film Institute, will air on electronic billboards in Times Square in New York City throughout April. A special screening of the film, which was attended by Ndaba Mandela and Kewku Mandela, grandchildren of President Mandela, was held in New York City on April 19<sup>th</sup>. An article on the film can be read [here](#).

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, newspapers in Zimbabwe reported that the Government plans to introduce a new legislative framework to replace the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act, permitting non-payment of the 51% equity from foreign-owned firms. Proposed amendments are anticipated to allow Zimbabweans to use mineral resources on mining claims as a contribution for equity in foreign mining ventures. Details on the proposed new policy can be found [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Zambia judge dismissed an application by former Zambian President Rupiah Banda to have his case taken to the High Court in Zambia. President Banda is accused of receiving oil from a Nigerian company and using his office for personal gain. A report from the *Lusaka Times* is available [here](#).

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) held a briefing entitled, "A New U.S. Policy Promoting Democratic Governance in the Congo." During the event, Anthony Gambino, a fellow at the Eastern Congo Initiative, and Stephen Weissman, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, discussed democratization in the Congo. Additional information on the discussion is available [here](#).

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, British Petroleum (BP) executive Iain Conn said the company will invest \$540 million in South Africa and Mozambique over the next five years to upgrade a refinery and fuel terminals. Although the unemployment rate in South Africa currently stands at 25%, Conn said he has faith in the ability of the South African government to overcome economic challenges. An article on the proposed investment is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the AfDB said Zimbabwe's grain reserves are running dangerously low. New harvests are also anticipated to be low, due to heavier than usual rainfall. The AfDB estimates that imports of 150,000 tons of grain will be needed beyond the 92,000 tons currently in reserves. More information on Zimbabwe's grain shortage can be found [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, South African peace leader Desmond Tutu was admitted to a hospital in Cape Town for a series of tests and treatments relating to an infection. The procedures are expected to take five days. At 81 years old, Tutu remains heavily involved in South African affairs and in the business of his own foundation. An article on Tutu's hospital admission is available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, London-based company FastJet announced plans to add flights from Cape Town to Johannesburg in a move to expand services beyond Tanzania. The new unit will be established through an investment vehicle known as Blockbuster, which will be 75% owned by South Africans, including President Jacob Zuma's son, Edward Zuma. Details on FastJet's expansion plans in South Africa can be viewed [here](#).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Rwanda issued \$400 million in 10-year sovereign

debt at a yield of 6.875%. Bankers anticipated that pricing would come in at around 7%. Despite the fact that Rwanda receives 38% of its budget from international aid and continues to face criticism for the 1994 genocide, investors perceive Rwanda as a country with high potential, especially as the economic growth rate has been over 8% over the past decade. An article about the yield on new bonds can be read [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, *Time Magazine* released its list of the 100 most influential people of 2013. President Joyce Banda of Malawi is recognized as one of the most influential leaders. Nigerian movie star Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde, who has appeared in more than 300 films, was also included under the artists' category. The full list can be viewed [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, *Think Africa Press* reported that Canadian mining companies are dominating other countries, including the U.K., France, Australia, China, and South Africa in continental Africa's mining sector. According to the most recent data, 155 Canadian mining companies are operating in 39 African countries with assets of more than \$30.8 billion. Some of Canada's most important mining partners include Zambia, Mauritania, South Africa, Madagascar, the DRC, Ghana, Tanzania, Mali, Senegal, and Eritrea. Details on Canada's interest in African mining are available [here](#).

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, *Deutsche Welle* reported on the increasing importance of technology in Africa's business sector. While the IT sector is boosting the African economy, a digital divide is also being created, and many people struggle to afford the tools of the technology revolution. The article on the increasing influence of IT in Africa can be read [here](#).

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