



## ML Strategies Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **Libya**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell announced that due to unsettled conditions and anti-government demonstrations in Tripoli, Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy approved the ordered departure of non-emergency personnel from Libya. While some State Department employees have left the country, Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell noted the U.S. embassy in Tripoli remains open. More comments on the departure of State Department personnel from Libya can be viewed [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, U.S. forces under U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), including a special operations team based in Stuttgart, Germany, and a Marine group of air and ground forces based in Moron, Spain, were notified they might be repositioned to respond to the deteriorating security situation in Tripoli. A report on the heightened state of alert for U.S. forces in Europe can be read [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, armed groups ended a two-week siege of the Libyan Foreign and Justice Ministries, following a deal with the government. Justice Minister Salah al-Marghani said the two ministries were handed over to a committee formed by the government and the General National Congress. Prime Minister Ali Zeidan has also suggested his cabinet will be reformulated in the coming days. Details on the end of the standoff in Tripoli are available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, a car bomb explosion killed at least three people and injured at least 17 others outside of a hospital in Benghazi. The blast damaged at least a dozen vehicles and shattered the windows of nearby buildings. This bombing follows several other attacks against the Benghazi police over the past several days. An article on the ongoing violence perpetuated by armed militias in Libya has been posted [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Assistance Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemned the bombing in Benghazi and called on all Libyans to stand in solidarity against acts of destruction, terrorism, and destabilization. UNSMIL also expressed the need to support the authority of the State so it can

execute its responsibility of protecting citizens. The UNSMIL statement is available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Security Council condemned the bombing in Benghazi and reiterated the continued support of the international community for Libya's democratic transition. The Security Council also urged Libyan authorities to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice and to go after all organizers and financiers of terrorism. The Security Council's statement condemning the attack can be viewed [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, an attack in Benghazi on a police station killed at least one person, according to police officials. Police say the man killed was participating in the attack, but local residents suggest the dead man was an innocent bystander. The station was later set on fire in a potential act of revenge. An article on the violence can be read [here](#).

## ***Nigeria***

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in three northeastern states following increasingly violent attacks by the Boko Haram and other Islamist militant groups. In his televised declaration, President Jonathan said the terrorists pose a very serious threat to national security and territorial integrity. The president pledged to hunt down any groups threatening Nigerian unity. Details on the declared emergency are available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the *Associated Press* reported the Nigerian Army was mobilizing tanks and soldiers to the northeastern region of the country in response to violent attacks in the Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States. Brigadier General Chris Olukolade promised the massive deployment of resources will continue. More information on the conflict in Nigeria can be found [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell reported on the U.S. position on the deteriorating situation in Nigeria. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell condemned Boko Haram's campaign of terror and noted the U.S. is coordinating with Nigeria on counterterrorism efforts. He also called for Nigerian security forces to protect civilians in a way that respects human rights and rule of law. A transcript of Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell's remarks can be read [here](#).

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

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported on training activities conducted by the South African Air Force in preparation for the deployment of approximately 1,000 soldiers to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of the recently adopted U.N. intervention brigade. M23 rebels located in the eastern Congo have threatened to fight back if they encounter the new U.N. force in the DRC. Details on South Africa's contributions to the new offensive U.N. mission can be found [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the first troops of the U.N. intervention brigade, approved by the U.N. Security Council on March 28<sup>th</sup>, arrived in the eastern Congo. The first 100 troops from Tanzania will later be joined by additional troops from Malawi and South Africa, in total composing an offensive force of approximately 3,000 soldiers to combat more than 25 armed groups in the Kivu region of the DRC. A report on the arrival of the first Tanzanian troops in the DRC can be read [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, fighting between Mai Mai rebels and the DRC's military killed at least 31 people, according to Colonel Olivier Hamuli. The rebels attacked a military recruitment station in the town of Beni. More information on the attack is available [here](#).

## ***Mali***

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, international donors contributed over \$4 billion to recovery efforts in Mali during a conference in Brussels. The contributions far exceed Mali's goal of raising \$2.5 billion in funds. More information on the conference and the pledged funds is available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pledged full support for efforts to rebuild Mali. Secretary General Ban said solving the situation in Mali will require tackling entrenched political,

social, and development challenges. Additional comments from the Secretary-General are available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell reported on U.S. participation in the Mali donor conference in Brussels. The U.S. delegation was led by USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Lindborg and State Department Acting Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Don Yamamoto. At the conference, the U.S. delegation pledged \$32 million in new humanitarian assistance to support internally displaced persons in Mali. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell's report can be viewed [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, ABC News reported the Republican National Committee (RNC) had created an ad for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign on the Benghazi attack that never aired. The Romney campaign allegedly objected to the ad out of concern it would detract from the campaign's focus on the economy. The ad, a spinoff of the "3 AM Phone Call" ad from Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, can be watched [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the White House held an off-the-record session with reporters to discuss press reports on new emails that show White House and State Department officials were involved in revising CIA talking points on the September 11<sup>th</sup> Benghazi attack. According to White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, 14 news outlets were present for the briefing. Details on the briefing can be found [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, during an on-the-record press briefing, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney maintained he had not mischaracterized the role of the White House and the State Department in revising CIA talking points on the Benghazi attack. Press Secretary Carney said the standard process of obtaining feedback from a variety of agencies was used to review the talking points. More remarks from Press Secretary Carney on the Benghazi talking points are available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, during a joint press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron, President Barack Obama accused congressional Republicans of turning probes on the Benghazi talking points into political circus. President Obama reiterated the tragic nature of the attack and the Administration's efforts to ensure future attacks are prevented. A transcript from the press briefing can be read [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, President Obama indicated worldwide nutrition and food security will be significant topics during a June G8 meeting set to take place in Northern Ireland. Following meetings with British Prime Minister David Cameron, President Obama said the two leaders were encouraged about efforts of the Global Fund to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Details on the president's comments on global health are available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the White House publicly released 100 pages of emails between the State Department, intelligence analysts, and White House officials pertaining to the development of talking points on the Benghazi attack. The White House said the email exchanges reflect the routine interagency review process for talking points on a major event. The released emails can be downloaded [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats participated in several events related to the World Economic Forum. Under Secretary Hormats participated in a session on the mobility of productive resources and delivered remarks on enhancing intra-African trade. He also met with World Economic Forum Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab. Under Secretary Hormats' full scheduled can be viewed [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry addressed the continuing investigation of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi during a Google Hangout. Secretary Kerry said he did not want to see the investigation become a pure, prolonged, political process that does not

address the facts. The transcript from the Google Hangout can be read [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell addressed emails sent within the Obama Administration regarding attacks at the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi. Spokesperson Ventrell said the State Department has consistently said extremists attacked the embassy. He refused to address accusations that the State Department ignored a warning from the CIA regarding the security situation in Benghazi. The daily briefing is available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Jen Psaki, the new State Department Spokesperson, addressed the Accountability Review Board (ARB) report on the U.S. Embassy attack in Benghazi. Spokesperson Psaki said the ARB was conducted by two well-respected individuals, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen, who were provided with all necessary information. The daily briefing, with additional comments on the Benghazi attack, can be read [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats delivered remarks on global trade partners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the World Economic Forum in Pretoria, South Africa. Under Secretary Hormats said the image of Africa continues to improve and the continent's economy is booming in nearly every sector. The text of Under Secretary Hormats' remarks can be found [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez met with South African Ambassador to the U.S. Ebrahim Rasool in Washington, DC. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, *McClatchy News* reported the late U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, who was killed in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, twice declined the provision of additional security assistance from the U.S. military prior to the attack. On two occasions, Ambassador Stevens spoke with then-AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham regarding enhanced security assistance. It is unclear why Ambassador Stevens rejected the offers. The *McClatchy News* report can be seen [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Director of the State Department's Office of Policy Planning David McKean met with Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo Marc Sievers. The meeting was noted on the State Department's Daily Public Schedule, which is available [here](#).

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Claire Richard addressed the Ethiopian Development Council's 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference. The annual conference is focused on supporting African immigrant and refugee needs locally and globally. Additional information on the conference can be viewed [here](#).

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-At-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby participated in a panel discussion on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, as part of the GBCHealth 2013 conference, held in New York City. The conference addressed regional efforts in Africa to combat challenging diseases. More information on the conference has been posted [here](#).

## **USAID**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah continued his visit in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the World Economic Forum and other development related events, including the launch of the Agriculture Fast Track Fund. The new fund is meant to encourage greater private investment in agriculture infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Details on Administrator Shah's activities in South Africa are available [here](#).

## **Department of Defense**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM reported on the techniques used by the U.S. military and the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF) to educate Ugandans about good health and hygiene. Due to high illiteracy rates and limited technological resources, military personnel presented theatrical shows to educate Ugandans about combating disease. More information about the innovative training

techniques of AFRICOM and UPDF is available [here](#).

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter met with Djibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahamoud Ali Youssouf in Djibouti City, Djibouti. The two leaders agreed to create a bilateral strategic defense forum to coordinate on issues of mutual concern to the U.S. and Djibouti. Deputy Secretary Carter also visited with approximately 150 U.S. service members based at Camp Lemonnier. A press release on Deputy Secretary Carter's trip to Djibouti has been posted [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM reported on a recent visit by Zambian Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Eric Chimese and senior Zambian military officials to U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFFRICA) headquarters at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. During the visit, military leaders discussed training and professional development programs and future cooperative operations and events. An article on the visit can be read [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM released details on recent African Deployment Partnership Training (ADAPT) activities during which three U.S. soldiers traveled to Senga Bay, Malawi, to provide the final phase of ground training to Malawia Defense Force (MDF) personnel. The goal of the training was to improve MDF capabilities to enhance mobility by having trained unit mobility instructors. A report on the final phase of training can be viewed [here](#).

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter welcomed Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the Pentagon. The meeting was included on the Pentagon's daily schedule, which can be found [here](#).

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

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK) was interviewed on *The Rusty Humphries* show, where he said the cover up in the response to the Benghazi terrorist attack may ultimately result in the impeachment of President Barack Obama. A recording of the interview can be heard [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) said on *Morning Joe* that he anticipates further congressional hearings investigating the attack in Benghazi could create trouble for the State Department. Senator Coburn also said there is a glaring omission in the information provided by the Administration to congressional investigators. A recording of Senator Coburn's remarks can be watched [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) published an op-ed in *USA Today* expressing concern that the perpetrators of the attack in Benghazi have not yet been identified and brought to justice. Senator Rubio also accused the Administration of playing politics and argued it is unclear how the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security is implementing the recommendations of the ARB. The full op-ed has been posted [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) sent a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) reiterating his call for a select committee to probe the Benghazi attack. Following the May 8<sup>th</sup> hearing in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Representative Wolf cautioned that Speaker Boehner risks appearing complicit in addressing the Administration's cover-up if he fails to create the investigative body. Representative Wolf's letter to Speaker Boehner can be read [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) went on *Morning Joe* to discuss emails in which the State Department Spokesperson asked the CIA to remove references to Al-Qaeda from talking points on the Benghazi attack. Representative Cummings said edits were not political and accused Republicans of attacking former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as she considers a 2016 presidential run. Clips from *Morning Joe* can be found [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, *Fox News* reported former Vice President Dick Cheney met with House Republicans and suggested that congressional investigators subpoena former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the Benghazi attack, if necessary. A *Fox News* report on the meeting is available [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, in an interview on *Capital Download*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should return to Capitol Hill to answer new questions on the Benghazi attack under subpoena. Senator Graham also articulated his role in arranging for Gregory Hicks, the Deputy Chief of Mission in Libya at the time of the attack, to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. A recording of the interview can be viewed [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) told reporters at the Iowa GOP's Lincoln Dinner that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is to blame for the deaths of four Americans during the attack in Benghazi. He said the U.S. diplomatic compound should have been under military control with Marines providing protective services to the late Ambassador Chris Stevens. Additional comments from Senator Paul can be found [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Elijah Cummings sent a letter to Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) asking that omitted portions of Gregory Hicks' testimony from the May 8<sup>th</sup> hearing be added to the record. Representative Cummings suggested there have been attempts to distort Hicks' testimony by excluding information. More information on Representative Cummings' letter is available [here](#).

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, during an interview with *MSNBC's* Melissa Harris-Perry, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) accused Republicans of using the Benghazi investigation to distract from work on other issues. She said it appears Republicans are not interested in solving the problems that led to the attack, but are instead looking to keep criticism of the Administration alive. More remarks from Minority Leader Pelosi can be read [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Senate Intelligence Committee Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa appeared on *Meet the Press*. While Ambassador Pickering defended the ARB report and recommendations, Representative Issa challenged that the American people deserve more facts. Senator Feinstein criticized the Administration for waiting to label the incident a terrorist act. A transcript of the discussion has been posted [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) appeared on ABC's *This Week* and addressed the latest developments on the investigation of the attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi. Senator McCain reiterated his support for a select committee to further investigate the attack and opined that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should be called before the committee to testify. A video recording of Senator McCain can be watched [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) went on *State of the Union* where she was questioned by Susan Crowley on recent events in the investigation of the Benghazi attack. Senator Collins labeled allegations as serious, but disagreed with Senator Inhofe that impeachment is warranted. Senator Collins also said the November presidential elections influenced the response to the attack. A clip of Senator Collins' appearance on *State of the Union* can be viewed [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) appeared on *Face the Nation* to discuss developments in the investigation of the attack in Benghazi. Senator Durbin accused Republicans of targeting former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's presidential aspirations in 2016. Meanwhile, Senator Ayotte defended the GOP's inquiries into Secretary Clinton's handling of the attack. Video clips from the discussion have been posted [here](#).

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) defended the Obama Administration's handling of the Benghazi attack on *Fox News Sunday*. Representative Smith also argued President Barack Obama never denied the involvement of Al-Qaeda affiliated groups. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) also appeared on the show and noted congressional investigators have been contacted by new whistleblowers who are interested in testifying. A transcript and video recording of the segment are available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings sent another letter to Chairman Darrell Issa demanding that the authors of the ARB report

on the attack in Benghazi be permitted to testify at a public hearing. Representative Cummings indicated that ARB co-chairmen, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen are willing to testify. Representative Cummings' letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee favorably reported the nominations of James Knight to serve and U.S. Ambassador to Chad and Deborah Kay Jones to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Libya. Details on the Committee's business meeting can be found [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations marked up a resolution sponsored by Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) regarding the ongoing conflict in the DRC and the need for international efforts to achieve long-term peace, stability, and protection for human rights in the region. Additional information on the markup and the substitute amendment offered by Representative Bass can be seen [here](#).

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). Senator John McCain highlighted the spread of Al Qaeda to Somalia and Mali and advocated for revisions to the 2001 AUMF as part of the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). An archived webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-NJ) delivered a floor speech criticizing Republicans for politicizing the investigation of the Benghazi attack. Senator Menendez argued for a solutions oriented approach and introduced legislation to ensure implementation of all 29 ARB recommendations and to enhance the State Department's authority in contracting for diplomatic security. The text of Senator Menendez's floor speech has been posted [here](#).

## **North Africa**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the *North Africa Post* reported on new tourism projects in Morocco and the continued expansion of the tourism industry in the country, despite worldwide downturns in tourism spending. A report on tourism projects in Morocco is available [here](#).

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Egyptian authorities released founder of the April 6<sup>th</sup> Movement Ahmed Maher who was arrested at the Cairo airport on Friday and held overnight in a high-security prison upon accusations of criticizing Islamist President Mohamed Morsi. Maher was also accused of inciting protests in front of the home of Egyptian Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim in March. An article on Maher's arrest, detention, and release can be found [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) issued a news release calling on the Government of South Sudan to address increasing violence and looting in Piber and Kapoeta. UNMISS said the looting of food and relief supplies is especially alarming with the rainy season approaching. While UNMISS troops have been in the region prior to the uptick in looting, the U.N. presence has been enhanced with additional troops. The full UNMISS statement has been posted [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, former International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Dominique Straus-Kahn said South Sudan could become an economic powerhouse if the country's leadership pursues appropriate policies. Straus-Kahn said South Sudan should use a free market approach and take advantage of abundant natural resources. Additional comments from Straus-Kahn on the economic potential in South Sudan are available [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Algerian newspaper *Ennahar* reported the Saudi Arabian owner of the MV *Blida*, a ship that was captured and released in 2011, paid \$2.6 million in ransom to free the ship and its crew. Ghaith Rashad Feraoun, the ship's owner, said he wanted to save the sailors, who reportedly suffered psychological torture and food deprivation while in captivity. Details on the ransom payment can be found [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Amnesty International released a report on the continued detention of political dissidents in Eritrea. Amnesty International is encouraging people to sign a petition to Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki to release prisoners who exercised their rights of peaceful protest. The call to action is available [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson briefed reporters on his participation in the Somalia Conference in London. He noted key issues discussed during the conference included Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's ability to assert authority across the country and the need for Somalia to develop strong relationships with other East African countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia. Additional comments from Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson can be found [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, *Aljazeera* reported that Kenyan Ambassador to the U.N. Macharia Kamau sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council asking that trials against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto for international crimes against humanity be dropped. Both President Kenyatta and Deputy President Ruto have been charged for their role in the violence following the 2007-2008 elections. While the Security Council has the authority to decide to defer a case for a year, it does not have the authority to order the International Criminal Court (ICC) to drop a case. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Eritrea Sheila Keetaruth completed a 10-day mission to Ethiopia and Djibouti to observe conditions for refugees in both countries. Since the beginning of the year, close to 4,000 Eritrean refugees have crossed the border into Ethiopia, bringing the number of those living in the three refugee camps in the Tigray region to over 50,000. Special Rapporteur Keetaruth said improving conditions in the region will require culture change and rule of law. More information on Special Rapporteur Keetaruth's travel can be found [here](#).

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Rwanda continued efforts to establish a national electronic-waste law. Rwanda has experienced a massive influx in new technology, but officials say that older, un-recycled electronic waste products can pose a major health risk. An article on the proposed law can be read [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 40 patients at a mental health asylum in Kenya reportedly escaped after overpowering guards at the institution. Officials say a full search is taking place for the patients who escaped. More information on the escape can be found [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the World Bank's leading economist for Kenya, Wolfgang Fengler, launched a book entitled *Realising the Kenyan Dream* in Nairobi. The book includes 40 articles on how Kenya can maximize its economic potential. More information on the book launch was reported by the *East African* [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, protesters in Kenya released a dozen pigs and poured blood on the streets outside parliament to express outrage with a law that would raise wages for members of the legislature. The demonstration began peacefully, but police quickly used tear gas and water cannons on the 250 protesters. A report on the protest is available [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported to the U.N. Security Council on the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). Secretary Ban suggested the political mission in Guinea-Bissau should be adjusted to support a two-phase process towards full restoration of constitutional order and medium-term stability in the country. Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau seized power of the country in a military coup in April 2012. Additional recommendations from Secretary Ban on the U.N. mission in Guinea-Bissau can be read [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, speaking at the World Economic Forum, Nigerian Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announced the Nigerian National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) and MasterCard will rollout National Identity Smart Cards with electronic payment capabilities as part of a new pilot program. The pilot program is intended to expand access



to financial services in Nigeria. Participants will be able to use their cards to receive social benefits, pay for goods and services, and to conduct MasterCard transactions. Details on the pilot program can be seen [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird met with his Ghanaian counterpart Hanna Tetteh. The leaders agreed to prioritize finalizing a foreign investment promotion and protection agreement as part of enhancing the bilateral relationship. The agreement follows a Canadian trade mission to Ghana led by International trade Minister Ed Fast in February. More information on the meeting has been posted [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons working on the post-2015 developed agenda concluded a meeting at U.N. headquarters for discussions related to a report due to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon by May 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was led by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. While in the U.S., President Sirleaf held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Cameron and traveled to Washington, DC, for meetings with Pentagon officials, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. An article on President Sirleaf's visit to the U.S. can be viewed [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Akinwumi Adesina said Nigeria is exploring the use of biotechnology to speed up food production, especially as the country has become an importer of critical crops and looks to a future without oil. To date, there has been some resistance on the continent to genetically modified foods. The head of Kenya's National Biosafety authority was fired over his role in importing genetically modified foods and Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Angola, and Sudan have restrictions in place on food that has been genetically modified. More comments from Minister Adesina can be found [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Ghanaian company Dropifi became the first African business to join the 500 Startups Accelerator Program. Dropifi, which has been sold to more than 5,000 groups worldwide, helps small businesses filter spam and better analyze incoming message data. The 500 Startups Program provides early-stage companies with up to \$250,000 in funding. More information on Dropifi and its acceptance into 500 Startups is available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice President of Ghana Kwesi Amissah-Arthur said Ghana plans to issue a Eurobond worth up to \$1 billion to refinance existing debt and fund infrastructure projects. Ghana's Finance Minister Seth Terkper indicated the plan for the new bonds has yet to be approved by Ghana's parliament, which is currently in recess. Details on Ghana's latest bonds proposal can be seen [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Consul-General of the U.S. to Nigeria Jeffry Hawkins visited Governor of Nigeria's Edo State Adams Oshiomhole and announced U.S. plans to invest in a \$250 million fertilizer plant in the State. The project, which is being planned by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), is anticipated to create 1,500 jobs. Information on the OPIC project has been posted [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the IMF said it is ready to restart talks with the DRC following government leaders indicating their willingness to share more information on a mining deal that abruptly ended talks in December. The \$530 million IMF loan program was halted when the DRC could not provide details on the cession of mining assets by state miner Gecamines. An article on the continuation of talks between the IMF and the DRC can be read [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the University of Cape Town introduced a new study finding the black middle class in South Africa has grown to 4.2 million from 1.7 million in 2004. According to Professor John Simpson, the growing black middle class could boost South Africa's economy. The study also found that black middle class spending at an estimated \$4.4 billion annually is outpacing spending by the white middle class. More information on the study can be found [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Burger King opened its first restaurant in South Africa in Cape Town. The restaurant is expected to compete with McDonald's, which already has 170 restaurants in the country, as well as

local fast food chains, including Nandos and Steers. Details on Burger King's entrance into the South African market are available [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, South African Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davis presented at the World Economic Forum, where he articulated South Africa's vision for establishing a free trade zone in Africa by 2017. He noted a challenge to achieving this vision is the lack of facilitated trade between African countries. Clips of Minister Davis' presentation can be watched [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), which operates its main mine in South Africa, announced a proposal to reduce annual production to address oversupply in the platinum market. The company says it will reduce its production targets to as low as 2.2 million ounces, down from 2.7 million ounces. The plan will cut 6,000 jobs. Details on the proposal are available [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Swaziland's King Mswati III declared it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to get married. The new law is intended to prevent underage marriages for girls who are kidnapped or forced into marriage. Tribal chiefs in Swaziland are protesting the new law. Details on Swaziland's ban on underage marriage can be found [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Sabelo Dlamini of the Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority indicated his country's new aviation laws apply to a variety of transportation methods. Dlamini said unregistered aircraft flying above 150 meters could be fined over \$50,000. Details on the new regulations are available [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, government officials in the DRC said a new city in the Kassai-Oriental province will be named Lumumbaville. The city's name is meant to recognize Patrice Lumumba, who was assassinated more than 50 years ago during his service as the first DRC Prime Minister. An article on new town can be read [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, workers at the Lonmin mine in South Africa went on strike following the shooting death of union leader Mawethu Steven over the weekend. Steven's union, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), recently removed the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) as the majority union at Lonmin and at Amplats. An article on the violence is available [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, IMF adjusted its economic growth forecast for Sub-Saharan Africa. Director of the IMF's Africa Department Antoinette Sayeh announced a growth rate of 5.4% for 2013 and 5.7% in 2014. The numbers are slightly down from the IMF's April projections, due primarily to new consideration of the volatility of South Sudan. Details on the IMF's new economic growth projections can be found [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, head of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (CAR) (BINUCA) Margaret Vogt presented to the U.N. Security Council on the latest developments in the CAR. Special Representative Vogt argued a neutral security force is needed to help restore stability in the region. She also recommended the implementation of sanctions against rebel groups for human rights violations. More comments from Special Representative Vogt can be viewed [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, AMCU President Joseph Mathunjwa urged his members to return to work at the Lonmin mines. President Mathunjwa told the miners they should not be confused by NUM threats, but noted the road ahead will be difficult. The workers agreed to return to work for the Wednesday evening shift. Information on the union violence in South Africa is available [here](#).

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, *Bloomberg* reported that Angola plans to increase tariffs on various commodities to protect local businesses while eliminating duties on supplies for industry. The new tariffs, which will be imposed in the next six months, will raise import taxes on beer, water, soft drinks, agricultural products and livestock to 50%. Raw material exemptions may not apply to the oil and gas industry, as the state petroleum company Sonangol EP, the Ministry of Petroleum, and other industry officials have ongoing discussions on reducing the number of exemptions. The *Bloomberg* report can be found [here](#).

## **General Africa News**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Rockefeller Foundation announced a \$97 million investment to create jobs in the digital field in Africa as part of its ongoing focus on employing African youth in the communications technology sector. The funds will be spent on training programs targeting high-potential but disadvantaged youth for future jobs in service center support, online research, and web design. The Rockefeller Foundation's announcement has been posted [here](#).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Amplats called for expressions of interest (EOI) from independent power producers for electric power for its mining operations in Africa. Amplats is seeking a service provider to install solar photovoltaic power stations at its mining locations. The EOI period will close on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Details on the process are available [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the ten-member Think Africa Progress Panel, chaired by former Secretary-General of the U.N. Kofi Annan, released its annual Africa Progress report. The report finds African countries must better address the challenges of international tax avoidance and evasion, corruption, and weak governance to ensure that Africa can use its resource wealth to reach development goals. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Committee on Al-Qaeda was briefed on the work of various U.N. bodies tasked with counterterrorism responsibilities on work to urgently address the evolving threats posed by Al-Qaeda affiliates in Mali, the Sahel, and Somalia. The Committee agreed to ensure the Al-Qaeda Sanctions List is up to date and to facilitate information exchange with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on the implementation of sanctions. An article on the briefing can be read [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also addressed terrorism threat in Africa in his opening remarks to the U.N. Security Council open debate on combating terrorism in Africa. Secretary Ban highlighted the threats posed by Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM). Secretary Ban's speech has been posted [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Brookings Institution held an event titled "The U.S., China, and Africa: Pursuing Trilateral Dialogue and Action." In light of recent Chinese financing commitments to Africa and U.S. efforts to reauthorize the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) ahead of schedule, Mwangi S. Kimenyi of the Africa Growth Initiative and Jonathan Pollack of the John L. Thornton China Center presented on U.S., China, and Africa relations. A recording of the discussion can be watched [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Patent Office released a new study entitled *Patents and Clean Energy Technologies in Africa*. The study finds less than 1% of all patent applications for clean energy technology have been filed in Africa. Meanwhile the report also notes the huge potential for renewable energy in Africa, including hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal energy. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported on attempts by Heineken to claim a greater stake in the African beer market and appeal to more women. Radler, a drink with a 2-3% alcohol content and made from malt and lemon, is being introduced in the DRC and other areas of Africa over the summer in an effort to reach women drinkers. The story on Heineken's new plan is available [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) held a briefing on Africa's energy landscape and trends and opportunities for U.S. engagement. During the event, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs Chris Coons (D-DE), U.S. Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Ambassador Carlos Pascual, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the U.S. Daniel Ohene Agyekum, and Phillip Van Niekerk of Calabar Consulting discussed how the U.S. can work with African governments and civil society to amplify development and growth opportunities. More information on this event has been posted [here](#).

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the International Energy Agency (IEA) unveiled its medium-term oil market report, finding that oil demand in Africa will grow at a faster pace than most of the world in the next five years. According to the report, Africa's oil consumption is anticipated to grow by 4% annually between 2012 and 2018, compared to a growth rate in oil consumption of 1.2% globally. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

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