



ML Strategies Update

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MAY 23, 2013

AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Nigeria

On May 16th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on extremist groups in Nigeria to end attacks in the northeast region of the country declared under a state of emergency. Secretary Ban's message to extremist groups came as Nigeria President Goodluck Jonathan began deploying additional troops to the region. Additional comments on behalf of Secretary Ban are available [here](#).

On May 17th, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said the Boko Haram rebel group could face war crimes charges for violent acts that lead to ethnic and religious cleansing. OHCHR said Boko Haram must stop attacks against civilians and politicians and urged the Nigerian government to abide by human rights principles and avoid destruction to civilian life and property. Additional information on the violence in Nigeria is available [here](#).

On May 17th, Secretary of State John Kerry unveiled a statement expressing concern for the state of emergency declared in northeastern Nigeria and reports that Nigerian security forces are perpetuating human rights violations. Secretary Kerry also condemned Boko Haram's terror campaign and urged Nigerian security forces to protect civilians. The full statement can be found [here](#).

On May 17th, Nigerian forces launched attacks against Boko Haram strongholds in the northeastern part of the country. Soldiers allegedly raided areas in Borno State, where Boko Haram is believed to have established bases. Nigeria's military also began preparations to launch air strikes in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States. Details on the military response to increased violence perpetuated by Boko Haram can be viewed [here](#).

On May 18th, Nigeria instituted a 24-hour curfew in the town of Maiduguri, a stronghold of Boko Haram. The Nigerian Government is conducting a massive offensive to eliminate Boko Haram from northeastern portions of the country. Nigeria is using airstrikes within its borders for the first time in 25

years to attack Boko Haram fighter camps. More information on the offensive is available [here](#).

On May 19th, the Nigerian Government offered amnesty to members of Boko Haram who surrender, although Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau rejected the offer. The amnesty approach was used to bring the end to a similar conflict in 2009. An article on the amnesty offer is available [here](#).

On May 19th, Nigerian Defense Spokesperson Brigadier General Chris Olukolade reported on continuing military operations against Boko Haram over the weekend. He said special forces had killed 14 insurgents in offensive attacks that killed three Nigerian soldiers and wounded seven others. Additional developments on military operations against Boko Haram can be seen [here](#).

On May 20th, Nigerian military leaders said Boko Haram is in disarray as a result of the offensive to drive the armed group out of the northeastern region of the country. Nigerian officials also said border security has improved in the past week. More information on arrests and the progress of the offensive is available [here](#).

On May 21st, Nigerian military officials announced some inmates taken during the country's fight against Boko Haram will be released. The Defense Ministry did not indicate how many prisoners will be released, said all women currently in custody will be set free. An article on the expected release can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, *Al Jazeera* reported mobile phone service has been cut off in northeastern Nigeria for the past week. Military officials have reported the halt in phone service is intended to prevent communications between Boko Haram fighters. Nigerian soldiers are currently communicating using radio and satellite phones. It is unclear when mobile phone service will resume. Details on the curtailing of mobile phone service have been posted [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On May 16th, The Enough Project unveiled a report analyzing the prospects for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the potential role for U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson can play in the peace process. Among several recommendations, the report suggests negotiations between Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC on economic, security, and refugee issues, institutional reforms that allow for democratic transition in the DRC, and accountability for human rights violations. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 17th, at least 20 people were killed in the village of Rubya in the North Kivu province of the DRC when a mine collapsed following heavy rain. Rescue efforts could not begin immediately as officials had to wait for deliveries of heavy equipment before digging operations could begin. Details on the mining accident can be seen [here](#).

On May 17th, Secretary-General Ban appointed Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz of Brazil to serve as Force Commander of the U.N. Stabilization in the DRC (MONUSCO). Commander Cruz will replace Lieutenant General Chander Prakash Wadhwa of India, who has held the post for the past two years. More information on the appointment can be found [here](#).

On May 20th, the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) expressed concern for renewed fighting between M23 rebels and national armed forces in Goma. Tensions remain high following the arrival of the new U.N. intervention brigade in the DRC and the breakdown of peace talks between M23 and the DRC Government. Reports indicate the latest violence has escalated to include heavy caliber weapons, mortars, and rocket launchers. A report on the violence can be read [here](#).

On May 21st, Mary Robinson, U.N. Special Envoy for Africa's Great Lakes Region, introduced principles to guide peace efforts in the DRC. Special Envoy Robinson said suffering and displacement in the DRC cannot be tolerated. The principles seek to immediately aid peace efforts while providing long-term solutions. Additional details on the plan are available [here](#).

On May 22nd, the World Bank announced \$1 billion in new funding for the Great Lakes region from the

International Development Association (IDA) for projects related to energy, agriculture, infrastructure, trade, and health that will support the implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region. The formal World Bank announcement is available [here](#).

On May 22nd-24th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim departed on a joint visit to the Great Lakes region. On May 22nd, Secretary-General Ban and President Kim arrived in Kinshasa, where they met with DRC President Joseph Kabila and Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo. On May 23rd, Secretary-General Ban and President Kim visited Goma. On May 23rd-24th, Secretary-General Ban and President Kim will travel to Rwanda for meetings with President Paul Kagame and other Cabinet members and on May 24th, Secretary-General Ban and President Kim will visit Uganda to meet with President Yoweri Museveni. Details on the trip can be viewed [here](#).

South Sudan

On May 16th, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said additional U.N. peacekeepers in the town of Pibor in South Sudan's Jonglei state have been put on alert to protect civilians in light of ongoing violence, looting, and displacement. The U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) had a strong presence in the region prior to the uptick in violence. An article on the deployment of additional peacekeepers to Pibor can be read [here](#).

On May 17th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced Haile Menkerios of South Africa will replace Zachary Muburi-Muita as Special Representative and Head of the U.N. Office to the African Union (UNOAU). Special Representative Menkerios will also continue to serve as Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. The announcement can be viewed [here](#).

Mali

On May 16th, the State Department issued a press release officially announcing the U.S. commitment of more than \$32 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Mali, made at the Mali Donors' Conference held in Brussels. The additional funding will be used to support the work of U.N. agencies in addressing humanitarian needs resulting from recent violence, including refugee issues, food assistance, and humanitarian logistics. The full press release has been posted [here](#).

On May 16th, the U.N. expressed support for the international commitments in excess of \$4 billion for Mali's reconstruction. According to the recovery plan discussed at the donor conference, the U.N. will support Mali in promoting good governance, sustainable peace, and access to basic social services. The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission have also finalized a financing agreement for Mali's July presidential elections. Details on the U.N. role in Mali's recovery can be viewed [here](#).

On May 17th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Albert Gerard Koenders of the Netherlands to serve as the U.N. Special Representative in Mali and as head of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA). Working with the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), MINUSMA will help implement Mali's transitional roadmap to restore constitutional order, democratic governance, and national unity. The appointment was noted [here](#).

On May 20th, Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Djibrill Bassole indicated negotiations are set to resume between Mali's government and the Tuareg rebel group. The Tuaregs currently control the northern town of Kidal. Discussions have not taken place between the Malian government and the rebels since French forces arrived in the country in January. Details on the potential talks are available [here](#).

On May 20th, *USA Today* released an article on the departure of French troops from Mali and the challenges for young men who joined the Islamist militants and now seek to return to their homes. Many Malians remain worried about the potential reemergence of Islamist fighters. The article can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, The U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS) announced expanded humanitarian activities in

Mali, including preparations for the deployment of an African-led support mission and assistance for displaced persons. UNMAS established an office in Mali in January and has been training Malian and AU personnel in addressing landmines, unexploded ordnance, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). A news release on UNMAS's new activities in Mali has been posted [here](#).

Uganda

On May 20th, Ugandan police shut down several operations of the National Media Group, including *The Monitor* newspaper. Officials from Monitor Publications (MPL) said the government had no right to use a search warrant to close its operations. MPL suggested the closure of its operations was a result of the group reporting on a potential plan to help Muhoozi Kainerugaba become president after his father, Yoweri Museveni, leaves the post. Details on the closures can be found [here](#).

On May 21st, the U.S. Embassy in Uganda said actions by Ugandan security forces to disrupt the operations of several media outlets risks a chilling effect on the freedom of expression and speech enshrined in the Ugandan Constitution. The statement from the embassy is available [here](#).

On May 22nd, a Ugandan court vacated the search warrant provided to the Government to investigate the National Media Group and MPL. Magistrate Rosemary Bareebe said the mandate given by the warrant was overstepped. The full court ruling can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On May 19th, White House Senior Advisor Dan Pfeiffer appeared on *Fox News Sunday* where he said Republicans' allegations that President Barack Obama was not responsive during the Benghazi attack were offensive. Senior Advisor Pfeiffer clarified the President was in touch with the national security team throughout the evening and was kept up to date on developments related to the attack. Additional comments from Senior Advisor Pfeiffer can be viewed [here](#).

On May 20th, the White House announced President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will travel to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania June 26th – July 3rd. The upcoming trip marks President Obama's second visit to the continent, following a trip to Ghana and Egypt in 2009. President Obama will meet with government, business, and civil society leaders to discuss growing the relationship between the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa through economic growth, investment, and trade, promotion of democracy, and focus on African youth. The full White House announcement on the trip can be viewed [here](#).

State Department

On May 17th, the State Department released details on Secretary of State John Kerry's upcoming travel to Africa. Following stops in the Middle East, Secretary Kerry will arrive in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on May 24th for bilateral meetings with Ethiopian officials and to attend the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity at the AU Summit. More information on Secretary Kerry's upcoming travel is available [here](#).

On May 19th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Cameroon on the celebration of its 53rd national day. Secretary Kerry recognized the partnership between the U.S. and Cameroon in working towards peace and stability in central Africa, as well as shared efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and to improve maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The Secretary also reflected on growing bilateral trade relations. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be read [here](#).

On May 20th, the State Department issued a fact sheet on planning for implementation of the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board (ARB). In its planning, the State Department highlights 151 new diplomatic security positions have been created and 113 of those positions will be filled this year. The fact sheet, which provides an overview of the 24 unclassified recommendations, has been posted [here](#).

On May 20th, Ambassador-At-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis Cdebaca met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the U.S. Palan Mulonda at the Department of State. The meeting was listed on the State Department's daily appointment scheduled, which can be viewed [here](#).

On May 20th, Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice Stephen Rapp departed on foreign travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for official meetings on global criminal justice issues. Ambassador Rapp's travel was noted [here](#).

On May 20th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell started the daily press briefing expressing concern for ongoing efforts of the Egyptian Government to limit political expression. He noted many journalists, bloggers, and activists have been detained. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell called on the Government of Egypt to reverse this trend and to uphold its international obligations related to freedom of expression. A transcript of the press briefing can be found [here](#).

On May 21st, Ambassador-At-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby released a blog post with the latest details on the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a component of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Ambassador Goosby noted the challenges presented by a shortage of health workers in sub-Saharan Africa, and said PEPFAR efforts are focused on sustainability, rather than emergency responses. The update can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Richard Barton participated in a roundtable discussion on Egypt hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations. The roundtable was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On May 23rd, Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice Stephen Rapp traveled to Uganda for official meetings on global criminal justice issues. Ambassador Rapp's travel was noticed on the State Department's public schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

USAID

On May 20th, the U.S. and Tunisia launched an initiative to increase trade and support small-business growth. The program will provide training to Tunisians on the U.S. small business development center model and strengthen U.S.-Tunisian economic cooperation and opportunities for sustainable growth. The release from USAID is available [here](#).

On May 21st, USAID and several members of Congress, including Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Chris Coons (D-DE) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Ted Poe (R-TX), released the first U.S. Water and Development Strategy. USAID noted the plan represents a new model of development that is focused on public and private partnerships, new technologies, and long-term results. The announcement on the plan can be found [here](#).

Department of Defense

On May 15th, *Bloomberg* reported on the Pentagon's decision to extend the \$10.7 million lease for the use of China's Apstar-7 satellite to provide communications for AFRICOM for another year. The use of the Chinese satellite was criticized by members of the House Armed Services Committee during a budget hearing last month. However, the Department of Defense (DOD) has reiterated the Chinese satellite is the only solution that meets AFRICOM requirements. More on the Pentagon's decision is available [here](#).

On May 16th, the Pentagon published a readout of Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter's recent meeting with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The leaders discussed the growing capabilities of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and Deputy Secretary Carter noted the U.S. will draw down Operation Onward Liberty, which has provided mentoring support to the AFL, in December 2014. Deputy Secretary Carter and President Sirleaf also discussed challenges associated with the drawdown of the U.N. Mission in Liber (UNMIL), as well as the ongoing African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). The full readout has been posted [here](#).

On May 16th, CNN reported the U.S. military has updated plans to capture or kill alleged perpetrators of the terrorist attack at the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. As part of the plans, military leaders allegedly developed a list of several targets, including some inside Benghazi, as well as others located at militant camps and other extremist strongholds. The plans also include capture or kill options requiring approval by the President. An article on the updates to the plans can be read [here](#).

On May 17th, Marine Corps Forces Africa reported on the recent completion of an IED recognition course by AFL personnel in advance of deployment to Mali. The course, provided by Operation Onward Liberty, allowed AFL squads to cycle through various scenarios, building on previous IED training sessions. More information on the exercise is available [here](#).

On May 19th, AFRICOM kicked off the annual Joint Warrant Officer and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Symposium (JWOS) at the Edelweiss Conference Center in Garmisch, Germany. The weeklong conference brings together 33 senior non-commissioned officers and warrant officers from 24 African countries to share lessons on various topics that will strengthen the capabilities of African defense forces. A report on the conference can be found [here](#).

On May 20th, AFRICOM reported on New York Army National Guard Colonel Reginald Sanders' recent trip to Italy with other military leaders for a conference hosted by U.S. Army Africa (USARAF). During the conference, officers from the U.S., Cameroon, Congo, Chad, Gabon, Nigeria, Burundi, and Brazil shared lessons from participation in last year's Central Accord (CA13) exercise held in Cameroon. The conference was held in conjunction with planning for CA14. Details on the conference can be viewed [here](#).

On May 20th, the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) reported on a recent two-day clinic hosted by CJTF-HOA and Djibouti Armed Forces Health Services in Djibouti, Djibouti. The clinic provided dozens of civilian patients with eye exams. A report on the clinic can be seen [here](#).

Federal Bureau of Investigations

On May 21st, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) identified five men who are likely responsible for the September 11th attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The FBI released photos of three of the suspects earlier this month. The men are believed to be members of Ansar al-Shariah, the Libyan militia group seen fighting near the U.S. facility the day of the attack. U.S. officials have enough evidence to seize the men for questioning and have been monitoring the suspects via electronic surveillance. Details on how the suspects may be detained, questioned, and prosecuted can be found [here](#).

Central Intelligence Agency

On May 21st, the *Washington Post* published a story examining former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director David Petraeus' role in revising the Administration's talking points on the attack in Benghazi. Days after the attack, Director Petraeus met with the Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), who requested assistance in ensuring new Committee members did not accidentally disclose classified information related to the attack. The full *Washington Post* story can be read [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On May 16th, the Co-Chairs of the Benghazi ARB, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen, sent a letter to House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) expressing their willingness to testify publicly on their investigation of the September 11th attack in Benghazi. The full letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 16th, Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Darrell Issa issued a subpoena to compel former Ambassador Thomas Pickering and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen to participate in a closed-door meeting on the Benghazi

investigation. An article on the subpoenas can be read [here](#).

On May 17th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing titled The U.S. Contribution to the Fight Against Malaria. Witnesses included U.S. Global Malaria Coordinator Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer and Deputy Commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Colonel Peter Weina. Video clips from the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On May 20th, House Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul (R-TX) called for more aggressive questioning of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the Benghazi attack. Representative McCaul predicted the fallout from Benghazi will have ramifications on Secretary Clinton's consideration of a presidential run. Additional comments from Representative McCaul can be viewed [here](#).

On May 21st, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Martha Roby (R-AL) held a news briefing on the attack in Benghazi and the ongoing investigation. The briefing was held following a closed-door meeting about the attack on the U.S. consulate. Additional information on the briefing can be seen [here](#).

On May 21st, House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA) criticized Representatives Buck McKeon and Martha Roby's press conference on Benghazi and accused Republicans of perpetuating a political witch hunt. More comments from Representative Smith are available [here](#).

On May 21st, staff for the House Armed Services Committee said members of the Committee are pushing have the U.S. special operations team was ordered by Special Operations Command-Africa to stand down on the night of the Benghazi attack to testify. It is unclear when a hearing may be held or if the hearing will be closed to the public. Details on the forthcoming hearing can be viewed [here](#).

On May 21st, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittees on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, and the Middle East and North Africa held a joint subcommittee hearing on the ongoing crisis in the Sahel region. The Committee received testimony from both public and private sector witnesses, including Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto, USAID Assistant Administration for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Lindborg, Rudolph Atallah of the Atlantic Council, Mima Nedelocovych of Schaffer Global Group, and Nii Akuetteh, formerly affiliated with Georgetown University. Details on the hearing have been posted [here](#).

On May 21st, the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing on the impact of a provision of the Dodd-Frank Act that requires the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to oversee rules for public companies disclosure of their use of minerals originating from the DRC. Testimony was provided by David Arnonson of www.congoresources.org, Mvemba Dizolele of the Hoover Institution, Rick Goss of the Information Technology Industry Council, and Sophia Pickles of Global Witness. Additional information on the hearing can be found [here](#).

On May 22nd, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa lifted his subpoena on former Ambassador Thomas Pickering when he agreed to voluntarily appear for a transcribed interview with congressional investigators. An article on the agreement can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, following a briefing with CIA Deputy Director Michael Morrell, who shared minute by minute details regarding how information was shared with the public on the Benghazi attack, Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) said Republicans owe U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice an apology for attacking her on the Administration's talking points. Additional remarks from Representative Schiff can be seen [here](#).

On May 22nd, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a confirmation hearing to consider Tulinabo Salama Mushingi's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso. The Committee also considered the nomination of Catherine Russell for Ambassador-At-Large for Global Women's Issues. An archived webcast of the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

On May 22nd, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing on FY14 budget priorities for the Middle East and North Africa. Witnesses included Acting Assisting Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Beth Jones and Acting USAID Administrator for the Middle East Alina Romanowski. More information on the hearing is available [here](#).

North Africa

On May 14th, Samsung Electronics indicated it will build its first plant in North Africa. The plant, which will produce TV sets and monitors, will be located in Egypt's Kom Abu Radi Industrial Zone in Al Wasta City. The plant is expected to reach an output of over two million units within five years. An article on the new plant can be read [here](#).

On May 17th, the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said it is working quickly to deliver aid to Darfur refugees in eastern Chad before the onslaught of heavy rains. UNHCR has prepositioned enough aid in the region to serve the needs of 3,000 families and more supplies are being routed to meet the needs for an additional 4,000 families. The U.N. estimates there are approximately 30,000 refugees in Tissi, with an additional 300 people crossing the border each day. An article on the delivery of aid to Darfur refugees can be read [here](#).

On May 20th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern that poachers in Africa are using more sophisticated and powerful weapons that might be left over from the civil war in Libya. Because of the use of more advanced weapons, Secretary-General Ban noted some national authorities are beginning to use military personnel, in addition to law enforcement agencies, to hunt down poachers. Details on poachers' new weapons can be found [here](#).

On May 20th, police in Tunisia battled with the Ansar al-Sharia group as the Salafist organization attempted to hold its annual meeting near the capital. The fighting killed one man participating in the protest and injured 14 others. Officials say the group did not obtain the permits necessary to hold the meeting. More information on the violence is available [here](#).

On May 21st, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) and the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) released a joint report on the state of poverty and food insecurity in Egypt. The report finds 13.7 million Egyptians, the equivalent of 17% of the population, suffered from food insecurity in 2011. The report also finds twice as many Egyptians moved into poverty as moved out of poverty. Additional statistics from the report have been posted [here](#).

On May 22nd, suspected militants in the Sinai released six police officers and a soldier who were taken hostage on May 16th. Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi greeted the freed hostages at the airport, where he thanked Sinai residents and tribesmen for their assistance in freeing the captives and pledged to develop the Sinai peninsula where they were captured. An article on the release of the hostages can be found [here](#).

On May 22nd, during a trip to Darfur for meetings with internally displaced people at the Zam Zam camp and officials for the AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos expressed disappointment the region is not self-reliant after a decade of humanitarian aid. She called on the international community to assist Darfur in achieving self-sufficiency. An article on Under-Secretary-General Amos' trip to Darfur can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Elliott Abrams of the Council on Foreign Relations released an analysis on the current political landscape in Algeria. Abrams notes that while Algeria has avoided some of the violence and uprisings of its North African neighbors, the poor health of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has created uncertainty. The analysis is available [here](#).

East Africa

On May 17th, Kenyan's largest telecom operator Safaricom announced expectations to increase its data market share in Africa in light of new revenue statistics for its latest fiscal year. Fixed data revenue totaled \$25 million – a 54% increase from \$16.3 million in revenue last year. Mobile data

experienced a 21% increase in revenue. Details on Safaricom's performance in the most recent fiscal year can be found [here](#).

On May 17th, *Ventures Africa* issued a report on the booming hotel industry in Ethiopia. According to the article, the number of hotel beds in Addis Ababa has tripled to 6,000 beds in the last three years. The Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism aspires to make the country a top African tourist destination by 2020. The article is available [here](#).

On May 17th, the Brookings Institution Africa Growth Initiative released a paper on the theoretical framework for the Central Bank of Kenya macroeconomic model. The paper can be accessed [here](#).

On May 18th, the *East African* reported on Tanzania's budget for the coming year, which includes a 17% increase in proposed expenditures from last year. Experts say the government's investment in goods and services will allow citizens and local manufacturers to make money. The budget does not include additional education spending, even after public outcry following poor performances by Tanzanian students on nationwide tests last year. The article on the budget can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Kenya's Truth Reconciliation and Justice Commission (TRJC), established following post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008, released a report that named Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto in connection to human rights abuses. While President Kenyatta and Deputy President Ruto reject the allegations, the report suggests President Kenyatta should make a public apology. More information on the report can be viewed [here](#).

On May 22nd, truckers in Kenya blocked the highway from the port city of Mombasa to Nairobi. The 300 truckers involved in the demonstration demanded the government return to a system of weighing trucks by gross weight. Kenya recently implemented a new law requiring trucks to be weighed by axle. There is concern the demonstrations may cause major disruptions to export shipments. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Malawi's President Joyce Banda agreed to sell a presidential jet purchased by former President Bingu wa Mutharika in 2009 to Bohnex Enterprise Ltd, raising \$15 million for the country. The plane reportedly cost Malawi \$300,000 annually in maintenance and insurance. In other efforts to address the economy, President Banda has cut her salary by 30% and has pledged to sell 35 Mercedes Benz cars used by cabinet members. Information on the jet sale can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On May 17th, Renaissance Capital economist Yvonne Mhango unveiled a new report finding Lagos, the most densely populated state in Nigeria, could soon become Africa's 13th biggest economy, on par with Ghana. Lagos State's economy is currently worth approximately \$32 billion, or 12% of Nigeria's GDP, although this figure is expected to increase in 2014 when Nigeria changes how it calculates GDP. The change in GDP calculations may put Nigeria's total economy on par with South Africa's. Details on the report can be seen [here](#).

On May 17th, the Ghana Health Service (GHS) launched the country's first online health service allowing patients to engage with doctors online for consultations on minor ailments. The e-health initiative allows patients 24-hour access to clinicians and is intended to improve medical care. Ghana's new online health service can be accessed [here](#).

On May 20th, Nigeria said it will increase its number of foreign loans due to lower interest rates globally and the need to invest in domestic infrastructure. Debt Management Office Director Abraham Nwankwo said overseas borrowing will increase to about 40% of overall debt in the next three to five years. Details on the debt restructure are available [here](#).

On May 21st, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it is implementing emergency health and sanitation measures, including increasing supplies of clean water, to help contain a cholera epidemic at the Mangaize refugee camp in Niger. The camp, which is located in the Tillaberi region, hosts 3,000 of close to 40,000 Malian refugees in the country. To date, 248 cases of cholera have been recorded in the region. More information on the new emergency measures can be viewed

[here](#).

On May 22nd, U.N. Secretary-General for West Africa Said Djinnit convened a meeting in Conakry, Guinea, between Prime Minister Mohamed Said Fofana and opposition leaders to discuss preparations for stalled legislative elections. Following violent protests in March, opposing parties in Guinea signed an anti-violence declaration pledging to resolve contentious issues peacefully. An article on the meeting has been posted [here](#).

On May 22nd, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to extend through May 31, 2014, the mandate of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). The extension of the mandate will continue to allow U.N. officials to focus on restoring constitutional order and stability in Guinea-Bissau following the most recent military coup. UNIOGBIS will also continue efforts targeting transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and money laundering. More information on the Security Council vote can be found [here](#).

On May 23rd, a funeral was held for Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, who died in March. Achebe, the author of the 1958 novel, *Things Fall Apart*, was buried near his family's home in Ogidi in Anambra State. An article on Achebe's funeral can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On May 16th, the University of KwaZulu-Natal announced Zulu language classes will be mandatory for all first year students in the new academic year. Zulu, which is spoken by approximately 23% of the population in South Africa, is one of 11 official languages. The University of KwaZulu is the first academic institution in South Africa to make the language class compulsory. Details on the new language requirement have been posted [here](#).

On May 17th, following recent protests and strikes coordinated by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) in Rustenberg, Joseph Mathunjwa, head of the union, demanded a meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma. Mathunjwa has accused the African National Congress (ANC) of ignoring violence against union members. The latest developments on tensions in South Africa's mining sector can be found [here](#).

On May 17th, South African police said 23 youths died over the past nine days as a result of initiation ceremonies that are used as a traditional rite of passage into adulthood. About 30,000 young men signed up for this year's round of initiations, many of which take place at government-registered sites. An article on the deaths is available [here](#).

On May 19th, the *New York Times* published an opinion piece written by Rwandan President Paul Kagame. In the op-ed, President Kagame notes progress that had been made in Africa, including economic growth, increased foreign direct investment, and better governance. He also discussed remaining challenges, such as poverty and lack of access to energy and electricity. The full op-ed can be viewed [here](#).

On May 19th, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said he will overturn an indigenisation law if he wins in upcoming general elections. The indigenisation law requires foreign-owned companies to give a 51% ownership stake to black Zimbabwean investors. Critics say the law drives away desperately needed foreign investment. An article on Prime Minister Tsvangirai's position on the law is available [here](#).

On May 20th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon participated in a roundtable on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) held in Maputo, Mozambique. Secretary Ban noted significant progress has been made, but not all countries are on target to meet the development goals by 2015. He also argued that developing countries, such as Mozambique, have a great deal to gain by achieving the MDGs. More information on the roundtable is available [here](#).

On May 20th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon aligned himself with the concerns of the South African Development Community (SADC) regarding upcoming elections in Madagascar. In 2011, political parties in Madagascar signed a roadmap agreement outlining preparations for the 2013

elections and allowing former President Marc Ravalomanana to return from exile following a coup staged by current President Andry Rajoelina in 2009. Secretary Ban indicated U.N. assistance with upcoming elections is conditional upon Madagascar's adherence to the roadmap. A statement from Secretary Ban has been posted [here](#).

On May 21st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon continued his visit in Mozambique. Secretary-General Ban visited the Samsao Muthemba secondary school, addressed the new National Human Rights Commission, and met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Oldemiro Baloi. More information on Secretary-General Ban's time in Mozambique can be found [here](#).

On May 20th, the South African Government announced it may start requiring visas for U.K. citizens visiting the country. Dialogue between South African and British officials on lifting U.K. visa restrictions on South African citizens and Government officials came to a halt following the announcement that the U.K. will end development aid to South Africa in 2015. The latest developments on visa negotiations can be seen [here](#).

On May 20th, Angolan Construction Minister Waldemar Piers Alexandre and Vice President of Cuba's Council of Ministers, Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz met in Luanda to discuss bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects. Minister Alexandre said of 11 bridge projects in Angola led by Cuban firms, 10 projects have already been completed. He also said road construction projects supported by Cuba are 47% complete. An article on the meeting has been posted [here](#).

On May 20th, South African Water Affairs Minister Edna Molewa said South Africa may be in trouble if people continue to use water as if it is an infinite resource. However, Minister Molewa said she is confident the country has a strategic plan for sustainability in place. Comments from Minister Molewa are available [here](#).

On May 20th, South African cellphone company Vodacom announced a plan to expand its operations on the continent. Vodacom CEO Shameel Joosub said he hopes operations on the continent, excluding South Africa, will account for 25-30% of the company's revenue within the next three years. An article on Vodacom's development is available [here](#).

On May 20th, reports emerged that Nelson Mandela's daughters, Zenani and Makziwe, sued their father in order to obtain the rights to his wealth and artwork. The daughters want several attorneys to no longer have control over Nelson Mandela's accounts. More information on the case is available [here](#).

On May 21st, the South African rand hit its weakest point in four years. This month, the rand has been under greater pressure due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar, weaker commodity prices, and concerns related to new strikes among South African miners and manufacturers. The South African Reserve Bank also reported that business activity declined by 1.1% in the past month. More information can be found [here](#).

On May 21st, *The Guardian* reported the World Bank and other financial institutions will likely agree to finance a complete set of Inga dams that could produce up to 40,000 megawatts of electricity on the Congo River in the DRC. Construction is slated to begin in October 2015. Other potential funders include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the French Development Agency, and the Development Bank of South Africa. An article on the proposed hydropower projects can be read [here](#).

On May 21st, Agnes Binagwaho, Rwandan Minister of Health, wrote an opinion piece in *The Guardian*. Minister Binagwaho addressed the current relationship between pharmaceutical companies and poor people in Africa, arguing developing nations on the continent are ready to partner with drug companies and receive cheaper drugs. Minister Binagwaho also said many global health goals can be achieved through shared commitments to teamwork and humility. The article can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe signed Zimbabwe's new constitution into law. The constitution, which was approved by a referendum two months ago, is key step for elections later this year. The constitution also limits presidential powers, prohibits presidents from serving longer than two, five-year terms, and eliminates the post of Prime Minister. Details on the signing of the new

constitution can be viewed [here](#).

On May 22nd, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched an emergency measles vaccination campaign in the Central African Republic (CAR). The campaign was launched in Bangui, where eight children have been diagnosed with measles in the last month and many people lack access to health care as a result of armed violence and conflict. An article on the campaign can be read [here](#).

On May 22nd, Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) said it will begin to lay off 6,000 mine workers in South Africa in the next few days. Reports also suggest Amplats may cut fewer than 6,000 positions, after discussions with Government officials led to some agreement on mitigation plans. A report on the planned cuts can be read [here](#), and an article on the potential agreements with the government can be read [here](#).

General Africa News

On May 17th, the Brookings Institution held an event to mark the 50-year anniversary of the AU and to identify past and future successes and challenges of the institution. An audio replay of the hearing is available [here](#).

On May 17th, eight countries, including Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, submitted national action plans to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to combat the illegal trade in elephant ivory. The plans include proposed legislation and regulations targeting the ivory trade. Additional countries identified to develop similar action plans, include Cameroon, the Republic of Congo (ROC), the DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique, and Nigeria. More information on the action plans can be viewed [here](#).

On May 19th, following the close of the J-SUMIT conference in Tokyo, Japan, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi discussed Japan's plans to invest \$2 billion in energy and mineral projects in Africa. The announcement of funding for direct loans and equity stakes in African crude oil, natural gas, coal, and mineral projects is intended to assist Japan's efforts to secure natural resources and to position Japan to compete with China as a dominant investor in Africa. A *Wall Street Journal* article on the Japanese investments can be found [here](#).

On May 20th, the Brookings Institution Africa Growth Initiative released a paper on the history of agriculture in Africa and the current productivity challenges the region faces. The paper, authored by John McArthur, pushes for continued development and improvement in African agriculture. The full paper is available [here](#).

On May 20th, *EE News* reported oil and gas discoveries across Africa have increased foreign investment in the continent, but poor resource governance and shifting global markets could negatively impact Africa's energy future. While Africa has more than tripled its overall economy since 2000, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reports more than 590 million people in sub-Saharan Africa still lack access to electricity. The report on Africa's energy outlook can be read [here](#).

On May 21st, the Joint U.N. Programme on HIV/AIDS unveiled its *Update on Africa* report in conjunction with the beginning of the AU's 21st Summit. The report finds the number of people in Africa receiving antiretroviral treatment has increased from under 1 million to 7.1 million over seven years. The report also finds AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 32% since 2005. The full report is available [here](#).

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