



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Libya

On June 8th, at least a dozen people were killed and dozens more injured in Benghazi when a local militia began firing at a group of civilians protesting militia groups at the Libya Shield base. The confrontation continued for several hours, with fighting causing nearby residents to flee as parts of the compound were set on fire. A *New York Times* report on the incident can be read [here](#).

On June 9th, Libyan Army Chief of Staff Major-General Youssef al-Mangoush resigned following fighting at the Libya Shield base that left at least 26 dead and at least 80 others wounded. Major-General al-Mangoush was due to be replaced soon and his resignation was readily accepted by the Libyan parliament. Later in the day, Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan appeared on television and promised an investigation into the incident. Developments on the situation in Benghazi can be seen [here](#).

On June 9th, the United Nations (U.N.) Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) released a statement expressing deep concern about the recent violence in Benghazi. UNSMIL called for restraint and encouraged peaceful resolution of disagreements to support stability. Additional comments from UNSMIL can be viewed [here](#).

On June 11th, Salem al-Gnaidy, the Libyan Army Chief of Staff, called on militias throughout the country to place themselves under the command of the national military. Gnaidy said the government is willing to pay bonuses to militias that surrender weapons and agree to join the army. More information on the prevalence of militias in Libya is available [here](#).

Somalia

On June 8th, clashes between the Ras Kamboni armed group of Ahmed Madobe and forces loyal to Iftin Hassan Basto, a political leader challenging Madobe's presidency of the Jubaland region, left at

least 18 people dead in the port city of Kismayu. The city's political leadership has been disputed since last September when armed groups drove terrorist group Al-Shabaab from the city. An article on the violence has been posted [here](#).

On June 8th, only five days after assuming his new position as head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Nicholas Kay called for an immediate end to the violence in Kismayu. Special Representative Kay indicated he had discussed concerns regarding the fighting with Somali President Hassan Sheikh and the leaders were in agreement to move forward with establishing a reconciliation conference as soon as possible. Comments from Special Representative Kay are available [here](#).

Sudan/South Sudan

On June 8th, during a televised appearance with Oil Minister Awad al-Jaz, Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir ordered a stop on oil exports to South Sudan. President Bashir accused South Sudan of backing rebels in Sudan's territory and encouraged youths in Sudan to join the army to prepare for holy war. The latest on the tensions between Sudan and South Sudan is available [here](#).

On June 10th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki addressed Sudan's threat to halt oil exports to South Sudan. Spokesperson Psaki indicated Secretary of State John Kerry met with both Sudanese and South Sudanese officials two weeks ago. She indicated Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's threat to shut down the pipeline transporting oil is disappointing and may be in violation of Sudan's obligations under the September 27th agreements. A transcript can be accessed [here](#).

On June 10th, South Sudanese Army Spokesman Philip Aguer said at least 3,000 troops from Sudan invaded the South Sudanese town of Kuake on Saturday in violation of a 2012 cooperation agreement where both Sudan and South Sudan agreed to withdraw troops from disputed border territories. Sudanese government officials have since denied these allegations. An initial report on Sudanese troops entering South Sudan can be read [here](#).

On June 11th, following meetings with a Sudanese delegation visiting Addis Ababa to discuss Sudan's decision to stop oil exports to South Sudan, African Union (AU) Chairperson Haile Mariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, indicated his plans to also meet with South Sudanese officials to discuss the tensions. Details on the meeting have been posted [here](#).

On June 11th, the State Department issued additional information regarding discussions U.S. officials have had with Sudanese and South Sudanese authorities regarding Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's instructions to oil companies to stop the flow of oil to South Sudan. Ambassador Joseph Stafford, Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. embassy Khartoum, recently met with Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti. Ambassador Susan Page has also spoken with South Sudanese officials at the U.S. embassy in Juba. A readout on those discussions can be found [here](#).

Egypt

On June 6th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki reported that Secretary of State John Kerry met by phone with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Amr regarding the sentencing of 43 NGO leaders in Egypt, including 16 Americans. Spokesperson Psaki indicated the Secretary has also been in touch with members of Congress who have raised concerns related to the sentencing of Americans in Egypt. A transcript from the press briefing can be read [here](#).

On June 7th, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay expressed concern about the recent sentencing of 43 NGO leaders in Egypt and indicated the U.N. is closely following the situation. She reiterated that regulations relating to rights to freedom of association should be implemented in conformity with international jurisprudence. Additional comments from High Commissioner Pillay can be accessed [here](#).

On June 8th, the State Department issued additional information on U.S. foreign military financing (FMF) provided to Egypt under the Camp David Accords. According to the Office of the Spokesperson, the U.S. provides FMF assistance to Egypt due to national interests in the region,

rather than by obligation. The \$250 million in aid to Egypt announced by Secretary of State John Kerry in Cairo earlier this year does not include any FMF funding. The State Department statement can be seen [here](#).

On June 10th, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi appeared on national television and indicated all options are on the table for addressing Egypt's water security following Ethiopia's actions to divert the flow of the Blue Nile to build a dam. Earlier in the day, Egyptian Prime Minister Hasham Kandil appeared before the Egyptian parliament, where he said the government plans to work diplomatically, legally, and technically to negotiate with Ethiopia on the new dam project. More information on Egypt's response to Ethiopia can be found [here](#).

Mali

On June 5th, French President Francois Hollande was awarded the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize for his decision to intervene in Mali. The prize was created in 1989 to recognize individuals who make contributions to peace and stability throughout the world. More information on the recognition is available [here](#).

On June 10th, in a report to the U.N. Security Council, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon discussed continuing preparations for the deployment of a new U.N. peacekeeping force to Mali in three weeks. Secretary-General Ban's report comes as the Malian Government and Tuareg rebels moved towards an agreement to proceed with elections in July and as Malian forces advanced towards Kidal. More information on Secretary-General Ban's report can be read [here](#).

On June 11th, the Malian government and Tuareg rebels reached a preliminary agreement that would allow the government to return to the northern city of Kidal before the nationwide elections scheduled for July 28th. The Malian military threatened to retake Kidal by force if no agreement was reached. Details on the discussion are available [here](#).

On June 11th, the *Associated Press* reported on documents left behind by Al-Qaeda forces in Mali that suggest the terrorist organization may currently own missiles capable of bringing down commercial aircraft. Among the recovered documents was an instruction guide on man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS), a weapon that concerns U.S. officials. An article on the weapon and implications for security in the region can be read [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On June 8th, U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson welcomed the possible resumption of peace talks between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the M23 rebel group. The Special Envoy's office has indicated talks may soon resume in Kampala, Uganda, under the auspices of the Chairperson of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Additional remarks from Special Envoy Robinson can be seen [here](#).

On June 10th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Martin Kobler of Germany to serve as the leader of the U.N. Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). An announcement on the appointment and more information on Kobler can be found [here](#).

On June 10th, MONUSCO and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui released a joint statement expressing concerns following reports that the M23 group had re-recruited at least 53 children in Nyiragongo Territory. In February, a group of 70 people escaped from the M23 group. According to reports, 17 of those people have fled and 53 are hiding in scattered locations. The joint statement can be viewed [here](#).

Kenya

On June 11th, hundreds of protestors known at the "Occupy Parliament" movement protested outside of the Kenyan parliament in opposition to wage hikes for newly elected lawmakers. Protestors waved a giant paper-mache pig doused in animal blood, ultimately smashing it on the gates of parliament.

Information on the protest can be found [here](#).

On June 12th, intense public backlash prompted members of parliament in Kenya to settle for a limited pay raise. Parliamentary officials originally requested a salary of \$10,000 per month. They will instead receive \$6,300 per month in compensation. More information on the new agreement can be found [here](#).

Madagascar

On June 6th, the Government of Madagascar announced elections scheduled for July will be postponed until August 23rd. Political leadership of Madagascar has been in flux since 2009, when current President Andry Rajoelina seized control of the country from President Marc Ravalomanana. The delay in the elections is due to controversy over declared presidential candidates who include President Ravalomanana's wife, President Rajoelina, and former President Didier Ratsiraka. An article on the controversial candidacies can be read [here](#).

On June 7th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki commented on the political crisis in Madagascar. She said the U.S. continues to support the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) efforts to mediate a solution to ensure free, fair, and internationally recognized elections that restore democratic rule to Madagascar. Remarks from Spokesperson Psaki have been posted [here](#).

Ghana

On June 6th, officials in Ghana arrested 169 Chinese gold miners who were charged with illegally operating in the country. Ghana said the Chinese miners have expired visas or entered the country through unapproved routes. Ghanaians also contend the Chinese have exploited the country's resources. More information on the arrests is available [here](#).

On June 10th, the Chinese embassy in Ghana indicated that a majority of the 169 miners who were arrested by Ghanaian authorities were released. Forty-five individuals remain in custody, although it is believed that these individuals will soon be allowed to return to China. Laws in Ghana stipulate that citizens of the country are the only individuals allowed to hold small-scale mining licenses. An article on the release of the Chinese miners can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On June 11th, President Barack Obama hosted a discussion on immigration reform at the White House. President Obama was introduced by Tolu Olubunmi, who was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and came to the U.S. illegally as a teenager. Additional information on the event at the White House is available [here](#).

State Department

On June 7th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman received credentials from Ambassador-designate to Uganda Oliver Woneha at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On June 7th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki announced the State Department had turned over 97 pages of documents on the Administration's response to the terror attack in Benghazi in response to a subpoena issued by House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA). She indicated nearly all of the documents produced had previously been shared with the Committee and the public. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be found [here](#).

On June 7th, responding to a question on elections in Zimbabwe, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said the U.S. hopes President Mugabe will commit to free and fair elections by the end of the year. She said international monitors led by the SADC should be engaged to ensure a fair election. The response from Spokesperson Psaki is available [here](#).

On June 10th, the State Department announced Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman had arrived in Libya and will travel to Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria through June 16th for meetings with government officials and civil society representatives. The announcement is available [here](#).

On June 11th, the State Department and the Government of Ethiopia issued a joint statement announcing the rescheduling of this year's U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, more commonly known as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, for August 12th and 13th. The theme for this year's forum, which will be held in Addis Ababa, is "Sustainable Transformation through Trade and Technology." The announcement can be viewed [here](#).

On June 12th, Secretary of State John Kerry and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya attended a swearing-in ceremony for U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Libya Deborah Jones. Remarks delivered by Secretary Kerry and Ambassador Jones have been posted [here](#).

On June 13th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met with Grand Mufti of Egypt Dr. Ali Gomaa and Anglican Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed on the State Department schedule, which can be found [here](#).

Department of Defense

On June 4th, Zambian Defense Minister Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba traveled to Stuttgart, Germany, to meet with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez. The meeting was an opportunity for Minister Mwamba to prepare for Africa Endeavor, an annual military communications exercise that Zambia is set to host in August. An announcement on the visit is available [here](#).

On June 6th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and the Government of Ghana concluded the Trans-Atlantic Maritime Criminal Justice Workshop for Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Zone F Countries in Accra, Ghana. Representatives for Government agencies in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Togo participated in the three-day conference, which was focused on the relationship between maritime crime and gaps in criminal justice and capacity building in West Africa. An article on the workshop can be read [here](#).

On June 6th, U.S. sailors from the guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzalez and Tanzanian People's Defense Force (TPDF) participated in a bilateral military-to-military training exercise focused on visit, board, search, and seizure techniques. The joint training was intended to enhance the TPDF's regional maritime security capabilities. A story on the bilateral training exercise has been posted [here](#).

On June 7th, the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) reported six soldiers from CJTF-HOA recently spent two weeks in Loyada, Djibouti, training La Force Armee de Djibouti (FAD) soldiers on entry control point practices. The training marks the first time FAD forces have received formal training on personnel search procedures, first aid, and border control security. Details on the training exercise can be viewed [here](#).

On June 13th, ACSS reported on a recent symposium held in Kenya to discuss how technological advances have impacted electoral security. Military and government officials, as well as civil society leaders attended the symposium, where participants discussed how social media has increased political participation, especially in the recent elections in Kenya. An article on the symposium can be read [here](#).

On June 13th, CJTF-HOA provided information on the mosquito-control program implemented at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The program, which entails medical personnel in an effort to combat malaria, is used to monitor mosquito populations as a preventive measure to inform risk posture and

operational readiness. More information about the program is available [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On June 9th, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee appeared on *Fox News Sunday*, where he criticized President Barack Obama's appointment of Susan Rice as National Security Advisor and indicated his plans to use nomination hearings, including a hearing on Victoria Nuland's nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, to probe for additional information on the Administration's response to the attack in Benghazi. A transcript can be read [here](#).

On June 10th, staff for House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa acknowledged receipt of documents from the State Department in response to a subpoena seeking correspondences from ten additional employees regarding talking points on the September attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) has called the request for additional documents politically charged. Additional information can be found [here](#).

On June 11th, several amendments relating to Africa, particularly Egypt, to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), were submitted to the House Rules Committee. Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) offered an amendment to restrict the sale of F-16 jets and M1 tanks to Egypt, and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) put forth an amendment to enhance reporting requirements on U.S. assistance to Egypt. Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Frank Wolf (R-VA), and Brad Schneider (D-IL) submitted an amendment requiring a report on how Egypt is using NGOs to support the democratic process. Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) presented an amendment to prohibit the U.S. government from providing funds for riot control items to countries that use excessive force against peaceful protestors. Representative Ed Royce (R-CA) offered an amendment that would allow the U.S. government to assist African nations in the suppression of the illicit wildlife trade, which he says is a source of financing for extremist groups. A full list of the amendments to the NDAA can be accessed [here](#).

On June 12th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing in response to the recent sentencing of 16 American NGO leaders in Egypt. Witnesses included former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Lorne Craner of the International Republican Institute, Charles Dunne of Freedom House, Joyce Barnathan of the International Center for Journalists, and Kenneth Wollack of the National Democratic Institute. An archived webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On June 12th, during a Budget Committee hearing on the FY14 Department of Defense (DOD) budget request, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) asked if U.S. special operations forces in Tripoli were ordered to stand down in response to the attack in Benghazi. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey said forces in Tripoli that requested to travel to Benghazi were ordered not to do so because the attack had mostly ended and victims were already airborne en route to Tripoli. A recording of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On June 18th, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs will hold a hearing on the prospects for democratic reform and economic recovery in Zimbabwe. More information on the upcoming hearing is available [here](#).

North Africa

On June 5th, Sudanese Investment Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail announced Iraq has agreed to provide Sudan with oil. He indicated a technical team from the Sudanese Ministry of Petroleum will travel to Iraq for negotiations on volumes and payments. Additional information on the deal between Sudan and Iraq is available [here](#).

On June 7th, the *Associated Press* reported that Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's absence during Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Algeria has raised new concerns about the President's health. President Bouteflika suffered a mini-stroke in April and remains in Paris for treatment. Because all new laws must be discussed and amended by the President's cabinet before

approved by Algeria's national assembly, President Bouteflika's absence has stalled political activity in the country. Details can be seen [here](#).

On June 10th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Secretary-General of the Polisario Front Mohamed Abdelaziz regarding negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco on the future status of the Western Sahara. The U.N. has been an active mediator in discussions since 1976, when tensions began following the end of Spanish administration of the colonial territory. A readout of the meeting is available [here](#).

On June 11th, Tunisia and Libya signed an oil deal that will provide Tunisia with 450,000 barrels of oil each month until the end of 2013. Throughout 2014, Libya agrees to send Tunisia 650,000 barrels each month at preferential rates. Details on the agreement can be found [here](#).

On June 11th, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika made a rare television appearance from his hospital bed in France to dispel rumors that he remains incapacitated after suffering what his office now confirms was a full stroke. President Bouteflika's left side appeared immobile as he met with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmlek Sellal and Army Chief of Staff General Gaid Salah, only increasing speculation that he will not run for a fourth term in April 2014. An article on the television appearance can be read [here](#).

East Africa

On June 5th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement expressing concern that a new law in Burundi placing restrictions on the media will limit freedom of the press. Secretary-General Ban encouraged the Government of Burundi to ensure the legal framework pertaining to the media upholds Burundi's democratic traditions and commitment to international human rights. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be viewed [here](#).

On June 6th, the U.N. Security Council held a meeting on the situation in Somalia and adopted a statement urging support from the international community in ensuring long-term stability in the country. The Security Council noted progress on security sector reform has been fragile and urged the Government of Somalia to continue to focus on political reconciliation, development of a federal system, constitutional review and referendum, and 2016 elections. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 7th, the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to facilitate discussion on development cooperation. The forum was attended by more than 160 representatives from traditional development aid donors, private philanthropic organizations, local government representatives, and civil society. More information on the DCF is available [here](#).

On June 7th, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) once again called on Burundian authorities to revise a new law the U.N. believes will restrict freedom of the press. Remarks from OHCHR Spokesperson Rupert Colville can be read [here](#).

On June 7th, in response to a recent uptick in the poaching of elephants and rhinos, Kenya's Cabinet approved legislation including a number of measures seeking to halt poaching in Kenya and to better coordinate management of wildlife services. Parliament is expected to quickly pass the legislation. Additional information on the reforms included in the Cabinet-approved bill has been posted [here](#).

On June 10th, the U.N. General Assembly confirmed Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya to serve a four-year term as the Secretary-General of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), effective September 1st. Secretary-General Kituyi has previously served as a member of the Kenyan parliament and as Kenyan Minister of Commerce. An article on Secretary-General Kituyi's confirmation can be read [here](#).

On June 10th, nine Somalis were sentenced to five years in prison for an attack on the MV Magellan Star in the Gulf of Aden in 2010. The men were tried in Kenya due to inadequate governing institutions in Somalia. More information on the case can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On June 7th, following a U.N. delegation trip to Mali to assess the damage to cultural reflects as a result of recent violence, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said that damage to Timbuktu's cultural heritage is worse than previously anticipated. In particular, the U.N. team observed damage to the Djingareyber Mosque, the El Farouk independence monument, and manuscripts housed at the Ahmed Baba research center. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On June 7th, Virgin Atlantic announced it will be suspending its route between London's Heathrow Airport and Accra, Ghana, citing high fuel costs as the reason for suspending services. The last flight from London to Ghana will be September 22nd and the last flight from Ghana to London will be September 23rd. More on the announcement is available [here](#).

On June 11th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the multi-party dialogue underway in Conakry, Guinea, led by international facilitator U.N. Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit. The discussions come after protests in March related to upcoming elections that killed several people and injured many others. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be read [here](#).

On June 11th, OHCHR reported 6,240 people have fled from Nigeria to Niger as a result of the battle against insurgents, notably Boko Haram, in northeastern Nigeria. OHCHR also expects additional refugees have fled to Cameroon and Chad due to insecurity in Nigeria. Details on the situation in Nigeria have been posted [here](#).

On June 11th, U.N. Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel Robert Piper held a news conference to call for international support to address the food insecurity facing 11.4 million people in the Sahel region of West Africa. Coordinator Piper noted this year's request for \$1.7 billion in international assistance is currently only 36% funded. Additional information on the food and nutritional crisis in the Sahel can be accessed [here](#).

On June 11th, Okomu Oil Palm Company Chairman Gbenga Oyebo announced the company is planning to double its production capability from 30 tons per hour to 60 tons per hour. The move will make the oil mill in Nigeria the largest on the continent. News on the announcement can be found [here](#).

On June 12th, U.N. Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Cote d'Ivoire Doudou Diene told the Human Rights Council that Cote d'Ivoire must address political fragmentation to achieve reconciliation. Despite social and economic progress, Diene cautioned that political dialogue is also needed to advance peace. Additional comments from Diene can be viewed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On June 8th, former South African President Nelson Mandela was again hospitalized for a recurring lung infection. While reports indicate that President Mandela is breathing on his own, his condition was classified as serious. A report on President Mandela's most recent hospitalization is available [here](#).

On June 9th, Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau unveiled new development plans for the city drafted with the vision of transforming Johannesburg into the "New York of Africa." The \$10 billion plans, which will be implemented over the next ten years, include a new road and rail network and renovations to houses and other buildings. City officials have articulated the plans will correct urban planning dating from the apartheid era. Additional information on the plans has been posted [here](#).

On June 11th, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Justice Hassan Bubcar Jallow held a press conference to call on U.N. member states to assist in the arrest of nine men linked to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda who remain on the run. Justice Jallow also encouraged the fugitives to turn themselves in and stand trial. An article on the press conference can be read [here](#).

On June 11th, former African National Congress (ANC) youth leader Julius Malema released a press

statement indicating that Malema and his supporters, known as Economic Freedom Fighters, will launch a series of forums across South Africa to discuss future politics in the country. Malema's announcement is perceived as an indicator the Economic Freedom Fighters may establish a political party to compete in the 2014 elections. Details on the situation can be seen [here](#).

On June 12th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Military Advisor for Peacekeeping Operations Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye of Senegal as the new Head of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office for the Central African Republic (CAR) (BINUCA) in Bangui. An article on Lieutenant General Gaye's nomination can be read [here](#).

On June 12th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe announced elections that will end power sharing between President Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai will be held on July 31st. While the announcement complies with a court order to hold elections in July, shortly after the announcement, Prime Minister Tsvangirai issued a statement criticizing President Mugabe's unilateral decision on the election date and expressing his intentions to veto elections until democratic reforms have occurred to prevent manipulation of the vote. Developments related to the upcoming elections are noted [here](#).

On June 12th, South African President Jacob Zuma announced for the first time in five days spent in the intensive care unit in a hospital in Pretoria, former South African President Nelson Mandela is responding to treatment for a recurring lung condition. An update on President Mandela's condition can be found [here](#).

On June 12th, South African President Jacob Zuma said he will not tolerate individuals who commit violence in an effort to solve the current conflict between labor unions and the mining industry. President Zuma said his administration will not take sides and he is only interested in finding a solution to tensions. Wage negotiations are scheduled to take place across the country in the near future. Additional comments from President Zuma can be found [here](#).

General Africa News

On June 3rd, MasterCard unveiled its third annual *Global Destination Cities Index*. The report finds Johannesburg, South Africa, is the most popular destination in Africa, with a projected 2.54 million visitors to the city anticipated in 2013. Other population destinations in Africa include Lagos, Nigeria, and Cairo, Egypt. The full index can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 7th, an opinion piece released by the Brookings Institution encouraged President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping to discuss Africa during the leaders' meeting in California. The op-ed, which draws conclusions on why Africa is an important component of U.S.-Chinese relations, is available [here](#).

On June 9th, JP Morgan Asset Management Inc. said Africa is experiencing the strongest growth in new sovereign wealth funds across the globe. In the past two years alone, 15 state funds have been created or are currently under consideration, primarily as a result of the growth in both community prices and foreign exchange reserves. More information on sovereign wealth funds in Africa can be found [here](#).

On June 12th, *China Daily* reported on two new funds that will be established by the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund) this year to increase Chinese investment in Africa. The two new funds, which will be administered from Beijing, will provide capital to Chinese enterprises looking to invest in Africa's mining sector and other commercial ventures. Details on the new funds can be viewed [here](#).

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