



## ML Strategies Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **Libya**

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, gunmen in Benghazi launched attacks on at least six security buildings and outposts overnight. The attacks, which involved snipers, rocket-propelled grenades, and other explosives, killed six soldiers and left 11 people wounded. The First Infantry Brigade's headquarters were torched and two military vehicles were also destroyed. While the elite military group Saaqa has claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks, Libya's Ministry of Defense continues its investigation. A report on the incident can be found [here](#).

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the United Nations (U.N.) Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued a statement in response to the overnight attacks in Benghazi. UNSMIL called on all citizens to support legitimate institutions, both civilian and military, in their missions to ensure security and stability. Comments from UNSMIL can be viewed [here](#).

#### **Sudan**

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) shelled military targets in Kadugli. The rebel troops killed nine Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) members and seized a number of machine guns and other arms. A spokesperson for the SPLM-N said the attack was in opposition to the staging of the Council for East and Central Africa Football Association (CECAFA) Kagame Cup tournament scheduled to be held in Kadugli and El Fasher June 18<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>. Details on the attack have been posted [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the shelling of a U.N. logistics base for the U.N. Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) located in Kadugli that left one U.N. peacekeeper dead and two others wounded. The U.N. Security Council also condemned the attack and called on the Sudanese Government to thoroughly investigate the incident. A transcript of Secretary-General Ban's remarks can be accessed [here](#). The Security Council's statement can be

read [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki issued a press statement condemning the shelling of the U.N. facility in Kadugli. Spokesperson Psaki called for an end to military activities in areas occupied by non-combatants and noted the use of indirect fire against civilian targets by the SPLM-N and the SAF is a violation of international law. The full statement can be seen [here](#).

### ***Somalia***

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, at least 15 people were killed during an attack on a United Nations (U.N.) compound in Somalia. Al-Shabaab, an Islamist militant group with connections to Al Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack. Al-Shabaab's influence in Mogadishu and larger cities in Somalia has recently been on the decline. Details on the attack are available [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia, Nicholas Kay, called the attack at the U.N. compound in Mogadishu a horrific event that is a desperate attempt to hinder recovery and development efforts in Somalia. Special Representative Kay said many of his colleagues were shaken by the attack and emphasized the U.N.'s commitment to standing with the people of Somalia. Additional comments on the attack can be found [here](#). A statement issued by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also condemning the attack can be read [here](#).

### ***Mozambique***

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, armed men allegedly with the former rebel group Renamo killed six Mozambique soldiers during an attack on a weapons depot in the country. The last attack from Renamo, which continues to threaten peace 20 years after the end of a civil war in Mozambique, came in March during a shootout with police. An article on the recent attack can be read [here](#).

### ***Mali***

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Major General Jean Bosco Kazura of Rwanda as Force Commander for the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Major General Kazura will assume command on July 1<sup>st</sup> when the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to MINUSMA is scheduled to take place. News on the appointment has been posted [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) confirmed one of its top leaders, Abou Zeid, was killed in fighting between French forces and Islamist militants in Mali. The French government reported the death three months ago. An article on the death and the security situation in Mali can be read [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Malian Government reached an agreement with Tuareg rebels who occupy northern portions of the country. The deal will allow the government to reoccupy the rebel-held city of Kidal before nationwide elections, which are scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>. Details on the agreement can be found [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, several U.N. officials, including U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Special Representative for Mali and head of MINUSMA Bert Koenders, welcomed the signing of a peace deal between the Malian Government and Tuareg rebels. The agreement will provide for an immediate ceasefire and facilitate planning for elections next month. A statement from Secretary-General Ban can be viewed [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Envoy for the Sahel Romano Prodi issued a statement in support of the ceasefire accord reached between the Government of Mali and Tuareg rebels. Special Envoy Prodi said the agreement will facilitate the return of Government troops and civilian administrators to Kidal in advance of next month's elections. Comments from Special Envoy Prodi are available [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki issued a statement commending the signing of the Preliminary Agreement on Presidential Elections and Inclusive Peace Talks signed by

the Malian Government and northern armed groups. The statement can be seen [here](#).

## **Zimbabwe**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the South African Development Community (SADC) called on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to delay national elections scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. While Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court ruled elections must be held by the end of July, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has said he will veto the elections because President Mugabe scheduled the vote using presidential powers and bypassing parliament. More on the elections in Zimbabwe is available [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Zimbabwean Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa said he filed papers with Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court seeking to postpone the date by which elections must occur from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup>. News on efforts to push back the elections has been posted [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### **White House**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the *Washington Post* reported on the costs associated with President Barack Obama's upcoming trip to Senegal, South Africa, and Tanzania. According to the report, tens of millions of dollars will be spent on security detail for the June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup> trip, including hundreds of Secret Service agents, a fully staffed medical trauma center stationed offshore, 56 support vehicles, and 24-hour coverage of the President's airspace. Additional information on security provisions for the upcoming trip can be found [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes defended the security costs associated with President Barack Obama's upcoming trip to Africa. Deputy National Security Advisor Rhodes said the trip will have a great "bang for our buck" because travel to regions that do not typically receive a lot of presidential attention, such as Africa, will likely result in long-standing impact. Additional comments from Deputy National Security Advisor Rhodes are available [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, *Voice of America* published a preview of President Obama's upcoming trip to Senegal, Tanzania, and South Africa. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said President Obama is aware of widespread disappointment that he has only visited sub-Saharan Africa once during his presidency and noted the President is determined to engage with the continent. The preview on the upcoming trip is available [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, *Times Live* reported that President Barack Obama will visit the University of Johannesburg while in South Africa next week, where he is expected to receive an honorary degree before addressing students at the Soweto campus. The University of Johannesburg Students' Representative Council has been protesting the President's visit and threatening to boycott the event, claiming that President Obama has caused human rights abuses in Africa. Details on the situation can be seen [here](#).

### **State Department**

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barthe Eide, and U.K. Foreign Secretary William Hague issued a joint statement expressing concerns for the ongoing tensions between Sudan and South Sudan. The leaders called on Sudan to reconsider its threat to stop the flow of oil to South Sudan and called for the withdrawal of forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the State Department released information on Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Rick Barton's June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> trip to Nigeria. Assistant Secretary Barton will visit Abuja, Lagos, and Port Harcourt for meetings on several issues, including the security and stability of the Niger Delta, with government officials, civil society organizations, community leaders, business representatives, media, and international donors. Details on Assistant Secretary Barton's travel can be found [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the State Department announced a new U.S. partnership with Guinea on extractives. Guinea is an Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) candidate country and has until April 2014 to achieve EITI compliance. The U.S. has proposed partnering with the Guinean Ministry of Mines and Geology (MMG) to build on earlier U.S. investments by studying the production capacity of Guinea's mining deposits, conducting diamond evaluation training for government officials, and coordinating with donor and partner organizations to maximize resources for extractives transparency initiatives. More information on the partnership has been posted [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the State Department announced a partnership with the Government of Burkina Faso to strengthen land governance and transparency in land transactions. The new partnership will build on Burkina Faso's improvements in land governance by establishing and operating a national land observatory and building capacity for tracking the transparency of land transactions. The announcement can be viewed [here](#).

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman concluded her travel to several North African countries. On her trip, Under Secretary Sherman visited with government officials in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria. The trip was noted on the State Department schedule, which is available [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement to commemorate National Day in the Seychelles. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. and the Seychelles share a strong commitment to ethnic and religious tolerance, and he praised the Seychelles efforts to combat piracy. The statement can be read [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Claire Richard and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met separately with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Head of Operations in North and West Africa Yasmine Praz-Dessimoz at the State Department. The meetings were included on the Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the State Department announced Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp will visit the Mass Crime Scene Investigations Training in Gaborone, Botswana. The two-week training session, hosted by the Department of State-sponsored International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), will focus on skill building for rapid response to mass crimes scenes. Participants include law enforcement investigators from Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Rwanda. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry announced former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) will serve as U.S. Special Representative for the African Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The announcement can be found [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted an event at the State Department to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and to discuss progress in the global fight against AIDS. U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby, Namibian Minister of Health and Social Services Richard Nehabi Kamwi, Nursing Officer in Charge at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in Tanzania Tatu Msangi, and Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) participated in the event. Details are available [here](#). Secretary Kerry's remarks have been posted [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats met with South African Minister for Science and Technology Derek Hanekom and South African Ambassador to the U.S. Ebrahim Rasool in Washington. The meeting was noted on the State Department schedule, which can be found [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted an event at the State Department in recognition of World Refugee Day. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Claire Richard also attended the event at the State Department, as well as a World Refugee Day event on Capitol Hill hosted by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and a World Refugee Day performance at the Kennedy

Center Millennium Stage. Secretary Kerry's remarks on World Refugee Day can be seen [here](#).

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

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez toured the USS Samuel B. Roberts, a guided-missile frigate stationed in August Bay, Italy, tasked with supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. An article on General Rodriguez's visit can be accessed [here](#).

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the African Airmen Alumni Symposium concluded at the Air War College. The symposium, sponsored by U.S. Air Forces Africa, was attended by 39 international officers and covered topics including developing air force capabilities to support regional peace and security, developing air force resource strategies, utilizing partnerships to overcome regional challenges, and military education and professional development. Feedback on the symposium has been posted [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Marine Corps Spokesman Captain Eric Flanagan provided details on the newly established Special Purpose Marine Air –Ground Task Force for Crisis Response that will be prepared to respond quickly to unexpected attacks, such as the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack in Benghazi. The Marines will base 500 troops at Moron Air Force Base in Spain, which will be ready to deploy on short notice to respond to crises in Africa on six Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. An East African Response Force has also been established by the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. Details on the quick-reaction forces can be found [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, U.S. AFRICOM Public Affairs reported on the final planning meeting recently held in Lilongwe, Malawi, leading up to Exercise Africa Endeavor scheduled to be held in Zambia this August. Exercise Africa Endeavor is AFRICOM's largest communications exercise. The drill will allow military communications professionals from across Africa to work towards common standards and procedures for command, control, communications, and information sharing. Information on the final planning meeting can be seen [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4/Underwater Construction Team 1 Public Affairs reported on recent efforts of U.S. Naval personnel to partner with the Tanzanian People's Defense Force (TPDF) on constructing a boat ramp at the Tanzanian naval base in Kigamboni. The project will allow Tanzanian navy boats to be more operationally ready, making them more capable to ensure maritime security. More information on the project is available [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, U.S. AFRICOM Public Affairs reported on AFRICOM's efforts to enhance the professional development of African Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs), including the annual Joint Warrant Officer and Senior NCO Symposium (JWOS), with participants from 40 African countries. An article on AFRICOM's focus on building partnerships and furthering professional development can be read [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies' (ACSS) Senior Leaders seminar kicked off in Arlington, Virginia, with remarks delivered by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs Amanda Dory. The two-week seminar, which includes more than 50 senior officials from 36 African countries, will allow senior-level military officers and civilian officials from Africa, the U.S., and Europe, as well as international organizations, to discuss Africa's security environment and the path forward. Details on the conference have been posted [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, following a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit by the *Miami Herald*, the Pentagon released information on 48 prisoners held as indefinite detainees at Guantanamo Bay. The detainees who have been deemed ineligible for trial or transfer to their native countries include two Libyans, a Kenyan, a Moroccan, and a Somali. More information on the detainees can be found [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs reported on a recent ground training exercise held in Lome, Togo, for 29 Togolese Defense Force personnel. Three U.S. Army soldiers ran the training session, which covered topics including determining vehicle center of balance, load planning, standard vehicle preventative maintenance checks and series, and preparing convoy command briefs. Details on the course can be seen [here](#).



On June 19<sup>th</sup>, U.S. AFRICOM Public Affairs reported on AFRICOM's Humanitarian Assistance (HA) program's partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott and the Mauritanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to establish seven livestock vaccination and inspection facilities across Mauritania. An article on the partnership can be accessed [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, AFRICOM's Office of Humanitarian and Health Activities reported on the recent completion of two emergency response plans in the event of a pandemic event in Tanzania. The plans, which were developed by AFRICOM, the U.S. Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, and Tanzanian counterparts, were presented to the Tanzanian Government in a ceremony facilitated by U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania Alfonso Lenhardt, Tanzanian Minister of Defense and National Service Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, and Tanzanian Director of Disaster Management Lieutenant General Sylvester Rioba. Information on the plans can be viewed [here](#).

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

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, during remarks delivered at the Faith and Freedom Conference, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) said foreign aid to Egypt and Libya should be slashed until the countries meet certain criteria, including improvements in addressing open hostility towards Christians. Additional comments from Senator Paul can be viewed [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, in its consideration of the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the House debated an amendment offered by Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO) and co-sponsored by Representatives Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), that would require the removal of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Vilseck, Germany. The amendment was ultimately defeated with opponents, including House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA) expressing concern that the military's ability to respond to incidents in Africa could be threatened. An article on the debate can be seen [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Representative George Holding (R-NC) criticized the high costs for security for President Barack Obama's upcoming trip to Africa. In a floor speech, Representative Holding said the costs for security could be used to pay for 1,350 weeks of White House tours, which have been canceled indefinitely due to sequestration. More comments from Representative Holding can be viewed [here](#).

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, staff for the House Armed Services Committee confirmed former AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Gibson and Rear Admiral Brian Losey of Special Operations Command in Africa will testify in a closed hearing before the House Armed Services Committee on the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack in Benghazi. The hearing will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional information has been reported [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs held a hearing entitled "Examining Prospects for Democratic Reform and Economic Recovery in Zimbabwe." Testimony was provided by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto, USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, Dewa Mahvinga of the Human Rights Watch, Mark Schneider of the International Crisis Group, and Todd Moss of the Center for Global Development. A webcast of the hearing has been posted [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Dr. Tulinabo Salama Mushingi to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso. Information on the nomination hearing can be found [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing titled "Ethiopia After Meles: The Future of Democracy and Human Rights." Witnesses included Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto, USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, Berhanu Nega of Bucknell University, J. Peter Pham of the Atlantic Council, Obang Metho of Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia, and Adotei Akwei of Amnesty International USA. A recording of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

## **North Africa**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, *City Press* reported that two Libyan factions are continuing to claim rights to more than \$10 billion worth of gold, diamonds, and cash belonging to former Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi. Gaddafi's assets are located in South Africa. While Libyan investigators continue to meet with South African officials on the issue, South Africa's Treasury has indicated it will return Gaddafi's assets to Libya in compliance with U.N. guidelines. A story on the disputed claims to Gaddafi's loot can be seen [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Representative for Libya Tarek Mitri briefed the U.N. Security Council on the situation in Libya. He said the ongoing political and security challenges in Libya are due to decades of authoritarian rule and ineffective government institutions. He also reported that UNSMIL has advised the Government of Libya that national political dialogue is needed to achieve long term peace and stability. Additional comments from Special Representative Mitri can be read [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the *North Africa Post* published an article on the upcoming presidential elections in Algeria. Many experts suggest President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's recent health problems will make it difficult for him to seek a fourth term. The article, with speculation on other potential candidates, is available [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Envoy for Somalia and head of the new U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) Nicholas Kay arrived in Hargeisa, Somaliland, on his first trip to the region since assuming his new position. Special Representative Kay met with Somaliland President Ahmed Mahamed Mohamud and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Dr. Mohamed Abdillahi Omar and toured the mass graves from violations of the Siyad Barre regime. Details on Special Representative Kay's visit to Somaliland have been posted [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Ethiopia's parliament voted for a treaty that would replace colonial agreements that gave a majority of control over the Nile River to Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia seeks to build a dam on the Blue Nile to provide hydroelectric power to the region. Egypt has threatened action and claims its water supply will be threatened if the \$4 billion project is carried out. An article on the tensions over the Nile is available [here](#).

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Ugandan Finance Minister Maria Kiwanuka announced the government will impose a new 10% tax on cash transfers by mobile phones as a means for addressing the \$214 million shortfall in the annual budget after a decline in international aid due to accusations of corruption. The tax is anticipated to impact as many as 8.9 million customers of six mobile phone networks in Uganda. An article on the new tax can be read [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Tedros Adhanom and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr met to discuss disagreement over the Blue Nile dam project. Minister Adhanom reported that relations between Ethiopia and Egypt remain "brotherly" and that future talks on the impact of the dam will also include Sudanese officials. More on the meeting can be seen [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Tropical Power, a developer of biogas and solar plants in Africa, and U.K.-based Clarke Energy finalized a deal to supply the first two containerized biogas engines to an agricultural biogas plant in Kenya. The engines, which will operate on a combined heat and power (CHP) configuration to increase overall plant efficiency, will be used to produce biogas originating from the digestion of food processing waste from nearby farms. An article on the deal can be accessed [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Intel's global Software and Services Group (SSG) announced it will make its first investment in Africa in Kenya. The company is planning to sponsor three Kenyan technology startups this year. Intel will also partner with Strathmore University and the University of Nairobi to help launch a student software developer program and to integrate high performance computing into the academic curriculum. Details on Intel's new presence in Africa can be found [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the International Criminal Court (ICC) decided to postpone the trial of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta from July 9<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>, allowing defense lawyers additional time to prepare for the trial following the prosecution's delay in its disclosure of evidence. Deputy President William Ruto will also be put on trial before the ICC in September. Both men are accused of crimes against humanity committed in the aftermath of the 2007 election. More information is available [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, *Al Jazeera* published an interview with Senegal's Minister of Tourism Youssou N'Dour. Minister N'Dour, who became Minister of Tourism in April 2012 and is also a Grammy award winning musician, urged focus on Senegal's agricultural sector as a key piece to preserving Senegal's democracy, especially as the country is currently not producing enough food to feed its population. More comments from Minister N'Dour have been posted [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, UNHCR reported the ongoing security crisis in northeastern Nigeria is continuing to cause Nigerians to flee the country. UNHCR has previously estimated more than 6,000 Nigerians have fled to Niger since a state of emergency was declared in May. After visiting the region, UNHCR now reports more than 3,000 Nigerians have also fled to Cameroon. Additional information can be viewed [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the International Maritime Bureau, Oceans Beyond Piracy, and the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Program published an annual report finding for the first time, the number of piracy attacks off the coast of West Africa now exceed the number of attacks off Africa's east coast. According to the report, West African pirates are primarily motivated by profits associated from selling hijacked cargoes of refined oil. The report also suggests West African pirates do not hold captives as long or prioritize ransoms as frequently as Somalia-based pirate groups. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the New York Forum Africa 2013 held in Libreville, Indian multinational telecommunications company Airtel committed to invest \$125 million in Gabon. The investment will be used to deploy a 3G and 4G network and to launch entrepreneurship and information communications technology programs targeting Gabonese youth. Information on the new programs can be accessed [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, *Ventures* reported that Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, and Cote d'Ivoire will invest approximately \$4 billion to build a rail line to boost intra-African trade. Africa Consulting and Trading, based in Senegal, will help to manage the project. A second large infrastructure project in West Africa was announced last month, when Nigeria, Benin, Togo, and Ghana agreed to partner on building a six-lane highway, also intended to boost trade. A story on regional infrastructure projects in West Africa can be read [here](#).

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, South African President Jacob Zuma visited former President Nelson Mandela at his hospital in Pretoria, where he is currently receiving care for a lung infection. President Zuma said that while Mandela's health is improving, he remains in serious condition. Details on the visit can be found [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Angola, Africa's second largest oil producer, exported its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Brazil. A joint venture between state-owned oil and gas company Sonangol and Chevron, BP, ENI, and Total, involves a fleet of seven LNG vessels that will deliver LNG to Brazil as part of a 30 year project. More information on Angola's LNG exports can be viewed [here](#).

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Paris Air Show, South African Airways (SAA) was awarded the prize for best carrier in Africa for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The rankings are based on a Skytrax customer satisfaction survey. Despite SAA management issues, including the resignation of nearly half of the Board at the end of last year, the carrier has won six awards since the start of this year. An article on the latest prize can be read [here](#).



On June 19<sup>th</sup>, TN Bank in Zimbabwe began accepting cattle as collateral for cash loans. Those who deposit their cattle can receive a cash loan for the value of the cattle. After two years or collecting interest, the loaners can choose to get their cattle back or to leave them in the bank. The bank, which also operates fast food outlets in the country, plans to slaughter older cattle for beef and replace them with more productive cattle at the same value. More information on the cattle bank can be seen [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, *Voice of America* reported that preparations in South Africa continue to host the world's biggest radio telescope, the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), in the Karoo desert. South Africa and Australia were selected to host the telescope last year. South African Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom has said the \$2 billion project will put South Africa on the map as a leader in science. An article on the SKA has been posted [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the closing of the G8 Summit, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K., Japan, the U.S., Canada, and Russia issued a statement praising development efforts in Africa. The leaders agreed on the need to improve infrastructure in Africa, better trade relations, and assist African partners in improving the management of natural resources, notably in the extractives industry. A summary of the G8 discussions related to Africa can be found [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the World Bank issued a report on the implications of global warming for the African continent. The report notes coastal cities will suffer and agriculture will be at serious risk with just a slight increase in global temperatures. The full report can be read [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, PricewaterhouseCoopers released its annual *Africa Oil & Gas Review*. This year's report finds Africa's oil and gas sector is on the path to tremendous growth, despite challenges including poor infrastructure, corruption, and uncertain regulatory regimes. This year's report can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan led the discussion at a U.N. Security Council meeting on natural resources and conflict in Africa. Secretary-General Annan said foreign investors restrict progress on increasing transparency through use of offshore companies, shell companies, and tax havens. He also noted that Africa is losing more revenue than it receives in development assistance due to tax avoidance. More comments from Secretary-General Annan can be viewed [here](#).

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of World Refugee Day, several African countries held events intended to raise awareness for displaced persons. In Kenya, UNHCR hosted an African premiere of the film *A Hijacking*, showing how displaced youths may become involved in piracy. Tanzania hosted a photo exhibition to showcase pictures taken by Congolese refugees and refugee marathon runner Guor Marial led a race in South Sudan to commemorate his own challenges in returning to his home country. Some of the World Refugee Day events in Africa are noted [here](#).

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