



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Tokyo International Conference on African Development

On May 31st, the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) kicked off in Yokohama, Japan. The conference brings together Japanese, African, and international leaders to strategize on furthering African development. In his opening remarks Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a new \$32 billion aid package for Africa over the next five years, including development assistance for infrastructure development and business training programs. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also addressed the conference and called for greater integration of Africa into the global economy. An article on the conference is available [here](#).

On May 31st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with several African leaders visiting Japan for TICAD V, including President of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Alassane Ouattara, Prime Minister of Ethiopia Hailemariam Dessalegn, Egyptian Prime Minister Hesham Qandil, Chadian President Idris Deby, Chairperson of the African Union Commission Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and Benin President Boni Yayi. Readouts of Secretary-General Ban's meetings have been posted [here](#).

On June 3rd, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe spoke at the TICAD conference and said Western nations are using the guise of peacekeeping missions to encourage conflict in Africa. President Mugabe suggested that foreigners have a neo-colonial agenda. More information is available [here](#).

Egypt

On May 30th, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued a statement highlighting the dangerous environment at the Giza pyramids. The statement noted aggressive vendors and groups are an increasingly prevalent risk to foreign travelers. The statement from the embassy can be read [here](#).

On May 31st, the State Department issued a statement expressing concern for a draft law submitted

by the Egyptian Presidency to the Shura Council that would potentially limit the activities of civic groups in violation of rights to freedom of association codified in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The State Department urged the Shura Council to carefully review the proposed legislation with a focus on protecting human rights and empowering civil society. The statement can be viewed [here](#).

On June 2nd, Egypt's Antiquities' Ministry issued a statement criticizing the message communicated by the U.S. embassy in Cairo regarding security at the pyramids. The U.S. embassy cautioned tourists to elevate their awareness when visiting the pyramids due to lack a visible security and police presence. In the statement, Egyptian officials insisted the pyramids are secure and that overall security for tourists has improved. An article on the incident can be seen [here](#).

On June 4th, 16 Americans in Egypt were convicted of using foreign funds to promote unrest and interfere with the regime of President Mohammed Morsi. Fifteen of the Americans had already left the country and were convicted in absentia. One American, Robert Becker, who refuses to leave Egypt in solidarity with others who face charges, was sentenced to two years in prison. Egypt has indicated it will shut down the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operated by the Americans. More details are available [here](#).

On June 4th Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement expressing concerns after an Egyptian court issued sentences against 43 NGO representatives, including 16 Americans. Calling the trial politically-motivated, Secretary Kerry said closing the NGOs' offices and seizing their assets is counterproductive in guaranteeing a role for civil society in Egypt's democratic transition. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On June 4th, several members of Congress called for a review of U.S. aid to Egypt. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Kelly Ayotte (R-H) called for a comprehensive review of \$1.5 billion in annual U.S. aid to Egypt. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Bob Casey (D-PA) said the ruling could have a serious impact on U.S.-Egypt relations. In a floor speech, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) called for an end to U.S. aid, while Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Eliot Engel (D-NY) cautioned against such a drastic response to the ruling. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) labeled the ruling an assault on Egyptian civil society and said President Morsi should allow NGOs to help build a democratic society in Egypt. Additional reactions from members of Congress are described [here](#).

On June 4th, Egyptian politicians were shown on live television suggesting military action to disrupt the construction of a dam that would divert the flow of the Blue Nile and produce hydroelectric power. One of the politicians blamed the President's office for not informing him the meeting was being broadcast live. A presidential adviser has since apologized and said the statements do not represent the Egyptian government's official stance on the issue. An article on the situation is available [here](#).

On June 4th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki addressed the situation between Ethiopia and Egypt related to the Blue Nile dam. She also elaborated on the U.S. response to sentences against NGOs in Egypt and reiterated most of the Americans involved have left Egypt. Spokesperson Psaki also articulated the State Department's position that the Egyptian government's decision to close NGO offices contradicts its commitment to support the role of civil society. Additional comments from the briefing are available [here](#).

On June 5th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement expressing concern for Egypt's draft NGO legislation. He stressed the need for Egypt to protect rights to freedom of association and expression and opined the recent sentencing of NGO leaders in Egypt evidences a restrictive environment for Egyptian civil society. Secretary-General Ban's statement has been posted [here](#).

Mali

On June 5th, Malian armed forces regained control of the village of Anefis from Tuareg rebels. The incident marks the first victory since the withdrawal of French forces from Mali. At least two people were killed in the confrontation and Army Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Souleymane Maiga

indicated the death toll will likely rise. A report on the retaking of Anefis can be accessed [here](#).

On June 5th, *Bloomberg* reported that Mali's army is preparing to attack the city of Kidal, where Tuareg rebels are allegedly committing acts of ethnic cleansing. Kidal has been under rebel control since March 2012, and the government says it needs control of the city to conduct elections in July. An article on the Malian army's expected attempt to retake Kidal can be read [here](#).

On June 5th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said the U.S. supports negotiations that will allow the return of Kidal to the Malian government. The statement also stresses the importance of free and credible elections in Mali on July 28th. The statement can be read [here](#).

Niger

On June 1st, an attack at Niger's main prison in the capital of Niamey resulted in the deaths of three guards and allowed at least 22 prisoners to escape. Nigerien Justice Minister Marou Amadou said weapons were smuggled into the prison and prisoners received help from outside fighters. The escapees include terrorists who have links to al-Qaeda. More information on the prison break is available [here](#).

Nigeria

On June 4th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan issued a Proscriptive Order officially designating Boko Haram and Ansaru as terrorist organizations. The designation allows for any persons associated with the groups to be prosecuted and sentenced to penalties under the Terrorism Prevention Act. While the U.S. has condemned Boko Haram's reign of terror, it has yet to officially designate Boko Haram as a terrorist organization. More information on the Prospective Order can be found [here](#).

On June 5th, Nigeria said it captured another 49 members of Boko Haram. The operation was part of a larger offensive to dampen the influence of the Islamist militant group in northeastern portions of Nigeria. To date, Nigerian officials say more than 150 members of Boko Haram have been captured. Details on the latest arrests are available [here](#).

Libya

On June 3rd, following President Barack Obama's meeting with NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen last week, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and other NATO defense ministers alluded to plans to consider requests from Libyan leaders for assistance in training Libyan security forces to stop insurgents entering southern Libya from Mali. An article on the NATO discussions can be read [here](#).

On June 4th, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen officially announced an expert-level delegation will be sent to Libya to identify ways that allied countries can assist with security and limiting the influence of Islamist militants in the country. Secretary-General Fogh Rasmussen said the team will produce a report by the end of June. The announcement is available [here](#).

Somalia

On May 30th, a Somali man was killed in South Africa as violence continued between local protestors and foreign shop owners. The Somali man was stabbed and stoned by protestors. More information on the attack can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, Somali President Sheik Mohamoud called on South African President Jacob Zuma to immediately address the murder of Abdi Nasir Mahmoud Good, who was stoned by an angry mob in Port Elizabeth. The Somali Association of South Africa (SASA) has expressed concern about the lack of action from President Zuma. More information on Somalia's response to the attack is available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On May 31st, the White House announced 11 American inventors and entrepreneurs as Immigrant Innovator Champions of Change. One of the individuals recognized was Ashifi Gogo, an immigrant from Ghana who is now the CEO of Sproxil, a company that provides technology used to provide product authentication. The release from the White House is available [here](#).

On June 2nd, Lindiwe Mazibuko, the leader of the Democratic Alliance (DA) opposition party in South Africa's Parliament, said President Barack Obama should address the governing body during his trip to the country. Mazibuko noted that relations improved between Nigeria and South Africa when Parliament reconvened to hear an address from Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. An article on the request can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, an opinion piece in *USA Today* addressed the challenges President Barack Obama will face during his visit to Africa as he tries to balance his administration's stance on gay rights with the criminalization of same-sex relationships prevalent throughout the continent. The author, DeWayne Wickham, notes President Obama must determine if he wants to interfere in African affairs to embrace global human rights. The op-ed can be read [here](#).

On June 5th, President Barack Obama announced key changes in his national security and foreign policy team. Following news that National Security Advisor Tom Donilon will vacate his post in July, President Obama announced U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice, who served as Senior Director for African Affairs during the Clinton Administration, will become the new National Security Advisor. Samantha Power, who most recently served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights and is well known for her criticism of the Administration's response to genocide in Rwanda, has been nominated as the new U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. The White House announcement can be viewed [here](#).

State Department

On May 29th, speaking to the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice announced up to \$5 million in rewards for information leading to the arrest, transfer, or conviction of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leaders Joseph Kony, Okot Odhiambo, and Dominic Ongwen. Ambassador Rice noted the LRA has perpetuated significant violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and stated the ongoing crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) may reverse progress. Additional comments from Ambassador Rice can be found [here](#).

On May 30th, the State Department submitted its annual *Country Reports on Terrorism* to Congress. This year's report notes recent events in North Africa have complicated U.S. counterterrorism efforts and cautions that the revolution in Libya and the Tuareg rebellion and the coup in Mali present new opportunities for terrorists. The report also notes progress Somalia National Forces and the African Union (AU) have made against Al-Shabaab. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 31st, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with Tunisian Nahda Party Leader Rached Ghannouchi at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

On June 3rd, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with the former Prime Minister of Tunisia Hamadi Jebali at the State Department. The meeting was noticed on the Department's daily public schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On June 3rd, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya attended a reception in honor of Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Elmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the Egyptian embassy in Washington, DC. More information on Secretary-General Ihsanoglu is available [here](#).

On June 3rd, the State Department's Rewards for Justice program announced rewards up to \$5

million for information leading to the location of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) leader Yahya Abu el Hammam and Signed-in-Blood Battalion leader Mokhtar Belmokhtar. The Department also announced awards of up to \$3 million for information on AQIM leader Malik Abou Abdelkarim and Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) Spokesperson Oumar Ould Hamaha, and up to \$7 million for information on the location of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram. The full announcement has been posted [here](#).

On June 3rd, the State Department published a statement questioning the legitimacy of the elections held in Equatorial Guinea on May 26th. While voting was fairly peaceful, the State Department expressed concerns related to arbitrary detentions, limits on freedom of assembly and speech, and restrictions on opposition groups' access to media. The full statement can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, the State Department announced its selection of Minata Kone of Burkina Faso as June's *International Exchange Alumni* member of the month. Kone is an alumnus of the Department's Annual Visitor Leadership Program 2012 African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) and has grown her cashew business in Burkina Faso to serve as the leading supplier to Costco. The State Department has recognized Kone [here](#).

On June 3rd, a delegation of 12 foreign youth leaders arrived in the U.S. to participate in the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Members of the delegation, including participants from Swaziland and South Sudan, attended a reception at the State Department with Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine and Special Advisor to the Secretary for Global Youth Issues Zeenat Rahman. More information on the IVLP can be seen [here](#).

On June 4th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Jacob Walles. The meeting was included on the daily listing of State Department meetings, which is posted [here](#).

On June 4th, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby met with Second Vice President of Burundi Gervais Ruffykiri in Washington. The meeting was noted on the State Department's daily public schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On June 5th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement recognizing key changes to President Barack Obama's national security and foreign policy team. Secretary Kerry welcomed Ambassador Susan Rice's appointment as National Security Advisor and commended their past work together on advancing peace in the Congo. Secretary Kerry also expressed support for Samantha Power's nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Secretary Kerry's full statement is available [here](#).

On June 6th, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby met with Zambian Ambassador to the U.S. Palan Mulonda. The meeting was including on the State Department's daily appointment list, which can be found [here](#).

Department of Defense

On June 3rd, Marine Corps Forces Africa reported on a recent training exercise hosted in Darkar, Senegal. During the training session, U.S. Marines and Sailors of the Special-Purpose Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 helped train Senegalese *Compagnie de Fusilier Marine* Commandos on light infantry and maritime security tactics that can be used against drug traffickers and other hostile groups along Senegal's coast. An article on the training exercise can be viewed [here](#).

On June 4th, the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) reported on the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion's recent trip to Chebelley, Djibouti, to distribute school supplies at a local primary school. Supplies were donated by the Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Wisconsin. More information on the donation can be accessed [here](#).

On June 5th, during a ceremony held at U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, AFRICOM Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (CFC) Program Manager Major Wilford Toney accepted a check for \$15,983 to support the Family Support and Youth Program (FSYP). The funds will be spent on events and packages for the families of AFRICOM service members deployed

overseas. Additional details have been posted [here](#).

On June 6th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) reported on a recent symposium hosted by ACCS in partnership with the ACSS Tanzania Community Chapter and the U.S. embassy in Tanzania. The symposium, which was attended by students from the Tanzania National Defence College and other academic institutions, as well as U.S. and Tanzanian Government officials, focused on natural resources and conflict prevention, including social responsibility and government transparency. Highlights from the symposium can be seen [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On May 31st, a U.S. delegation of 12 members of Congress concluded a visit to the Smara refugee camp in Morocco, as part of a visit to Africa during the Memorial Day recess. Details on the trip can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, the House Armed Services Committee released the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in advance of a full Committee markup held on June 5th. The bill would require the Pentagon to produce two reports related to the September attack on the U.S. facility in Benghazi. The first report requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to analyze mission requirements and resources for two special operations units for rapid response and deployment. The second report is to focus on changes to force posture, including the practice of forward basing. The full bill can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 4th, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who served as a Co-Chair for the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi appeared before the House Committee on Oversight and Investigations for a closed deposition. During the four-hour meeting, Ambassador Pickering responded to questions from members of both parties on the attack and the development of the ARB report. Details on the deposition are available [here](#).

On June 4th, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs Chris Coons (D-DE) condemned Uganda's raids against four independent media outlets in the country. Senator Coons said while Uganda has achieved success amidst serious challenges, he remains concerned about the trajectory of the country's democracy. Additional comments from Senator Coons are available [here](#).

North Africa

On May 31st, the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy hosted Co-Founder and President of Tunisia's Nahda Party Rached Ghannouchi for a discussion on democracy in Tunisia. Among the topics discussed were the Arab Spring, revolution in Libya, extremism, and the drafting of Libya's new constitution. More information on the event has been posted [here](#).

On May 31st, U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Spokesperson Dan McNorton said the U.N. has nearly completed efforts to preposition aid supplies in South Sudan ahead of the rainy season. Supplies for more than 230,000 people, including plastics sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, and tents have been transported to Unity and Upper Nile States in the northern part of the country. Details on the prepositioning of aid in South Sudan can be accessed [here](#).

On June 2nd, British Ambassador to Algeria Martyn Roper said BP remains committed to two proposed oil and gas projects in the country. The projects planned for In Amenas and In Saleh were postponed following the hostage situation at an Algerian gas installation in January. Ambassador Roper also noted BP exploration activities in Algeria will soon resume. Additional remarks from Ambassador Roper can be read [here](#).

On June 3rd – 5th the Libya Projects 2013 conference was held in Tripoli to discuss development projects and new infrastructure throughout the country. Libya has indicated it intends to invest \$140 billion in infrastructure projects over the next decade. The conference website, which includes an agenda and speaker details, can be accessed [here](#).

On June 4th, the U.N. and the AU announced the appointment of Tanzanian Lieutenant General Paul Ignace Mella as the new Force Commander of the U.N.-AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The mission is primarily tasked with civilian protection, but also assists with securing humanitarian assistance, monitoring implementation of peace agreements, and promoting political inclusivity. News on the appointment can be viewed [here](#).

On June 5th, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Fatou Bensouda briefed the U.N. Security Council on the situation in Darfur. In addition to expressing frustration that the U.N. has not taken more aggressive action against those accused of war crimes in Darfur, Bensouda articulated concern for worsening conditions, with more than 300,000 people displaced since January. Comments made by Bensouda have been posted [here](#).

East Africa

On May 31st, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced the launch of a vaccination campaign to address a polio outbreak at the Dadaab refugee camp in northeastern Kenya. The campaign's goal is to vaccinate all 424,000 people living at the camp. A similar polio outbreak has also been reported in Mogadishu, Somalia. An article on the campaign can be read [here](#).

On June 2nd, thousands of Ethiopians marched in the streets of Addis Ababa in peaceful protest of several actions by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the country's ruling party. Protestors demanded action on unemployment and the release of certain prisoners. Experts suggest the protest could lead to greater leniency from the government. Additional analysis on the protests is available [here](#).

On June 2nd, during an address delivered at the 37th Plenary Session of the African Economic Research Consortium's Biannual Research Workshop, Tanzanian Vice President Mohammed Gharib Bilal provided commentary on signs of climate change in East Africa. He said Tanzania is expecting rainfall to increase by as much as 45% in the near term, raising concerns for flooding. He also noted the remaining 20% of the Kilimanjaro glaciers will likely be depleted by 2020. Additional comments from Vice President Bilal are available [here](#).

On June 3rd, the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay arrived in Mogadishu for the start of the mandate for the new U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Over the next several days, Special Representative Kay will meet with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Government officials, AU Mission in Somalia (AMISON) officials, and civil society organizations. More information on the new U.N. mission in Somalia has been posted [here](#).

On June 3rd, *The Guardian* reported Israel has reached a deal with an unidentified East African country to deport approximately 60,000 African migrants, primarily from Eritrea and Sudan who fled to Israel through Egypt over the past eight years. The deal comes after Israel's efforts to address migrants, such as building a fence on the border with Egypt and offering cash incentives for migrants to leave were unsuccessful. A report on the deal can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, Kenyan expert on sustainable development Professor Calestous Juma criticized European pressures on African governments to refrain from the production of genetically modified (GM) crops. Only four of 28 countries currently producing GM crops are located in Africa. Juma argues improvement in food production, including the integration of GM foods in African agricultural practices, could be a critical step in feeding the growing African population. Comments from Juma can be viewed [here](#).

On June 3rd, Liquid Telecom announced its acquisition of the copper and fiber networks and customer base of Rwandatel, Rwanda's fixed line network operator. Liquid Telecom boasts Africa's largest fiber network, which runs from Uganda to South Africa. The announcement from the company is available [here](#).

On June 4th, Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza approved a law to restrict reporting on issues which could pose a threat to national security, public order, or the economy. The law, which

proponents say will create a more professional media, is receiving criticism from groups like Reporters Without Borders, who suggest journalists will have difficulty conducting investigative reporting. An article on the law's passage is available [here](#).

On June 4th, *CNN* reported on the beginning of the trial for three Somali pirates who are accused of capturing and killing four Americans who were held as hostages. The Americans were shot following a break-down in negotiations with the U.S. military. More information on the trial can be found [here](#).

On June 6th, British Foreign Secretary William Hague announced that 5,228 victims tortured by British colonial forces during the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya in the 1950s will receive compensation payments totaling approximately 20 million Euros. He also announced the British Government will support the construction of a memorial to the victims of the uprising in Nairobi. Additional comments from Secretary Hague have been posted [here](#).

West Africa

On June 3rd, the World Bank approved \$60 million in International Development Association (IDA) credits, \$30 million for Mauritania and Togo respectively, to be used to expand fiber-optic broadband networks. The investments are considered part of the second phase of the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme (WARCIP), which is using public-private partnership to increase connectivity between 16 West African nations. An article on the new World Bank financing can be seen [here](#).

On June 3rd, government officials in Nigeria indicated that the country will privatize an additional 10 power plants within the next year in a continued effort to reduce blackouts. The plants will provide 5,000 megawatts (MW) of total power. Experts says that while goals to increase power output tenfold by 2020 are unlikely to be met, significant improvement could be made within the next few years. An article on the privatization is available [here](#).

On June 3rd, the ICC said it will delay a trial for former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo due to insufficient evidence provided by the prosecution. The ICC chastised prosecutors for using NGO reports and press articles to build their case. More information on the delayed trail is available [here](#).

On June 4th, *Reuters* reported that West African heads of state are planning to meet to adopt a code for combating piracy in West Africa. The code of conduct will grant West African nations authority to arrest and prosecute suspected pirates and to seize vessels used in acts of piracy. The adoption of the new code is anticipated to increase regional cooperation. Details on the code can be found [here](#).

On June 4th, former U.N. Special Representative to Niger Robert Fowler recounted his experience of being kidnapped and held hostage for five months by members of AQIM. Fowler said that he met Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the Algerian terrorist who has coordinated several attacks in North Africa. A portion of the interview with Fowler can be viewed [here](#).

On June 4th, Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company said the investments of international oil companies in deepwater projects off the coast of Nigeria have surpassed \$48 billion. According to the company, the deepwater potential in Nigeria could yield \$3 billion in revenue annually, 600,000 barrels of oil per day, and create up to 200,000 jobs. More information on deepwater activities in Nigeria is available [here](#).

On June 4th, RwandAir announced plans to begin offering five weekly flights between Kigali, Rwanda, and Accra, Ghana, as part of its West African expansion strategy. The recent announcement marks Accra as the second RwandAir destination in West Africa after Lagos, Nigeria. More on RwandAir's West African expansion strategy has been posted [here](#).

On June 6th, the Chinese embassy in Ghana said it is negotiating with Ghanaian authorities for the release of 124 Chinese workers who were detained for illegal gold mining. While China has raised concerns over raids near mines operated by Chinese companies, Ghana has allegedly offered to temporarily suspend its crackdown on illegal mining to allow the Chinese workers to return home. Details on the negotiations can be accessed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On May 30th, Google announced it is investing \$12 million in the Jasper Power Project, a solar power project under construction in South Africa's Northern Cape province. The \$260 million, 96 MW photovoltaic power plant will be one of Africa's largest, ultimately powering 30,000 homes. The project is being developed by California-based SolarReserve and the solar panels will be provided by Chinese manufacturer Yingli. Details on the project can be viewed [here](#).

On May 30th, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) unveiled its annual *Global Wealth* report finding South Africa was home to 28,200 millionaire households last year, making it the 36th ranking country for millionaires. The research shows South African millionaires are of both old and new wealth and that nearly half of wealth in South Africa is linked to the performance of financial markets. Additional statistics on South African wealth can be found [here](#).

On May 31st, in advance of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) meeting to be held in Cape Town next week, *Bloomberg* reported on the state of the African airline industry. African passenger traffic grew 6.9% last year. In response to the growth in air travel spurred by Africa's growing mining sector, companies such as Ethiopian Airlines, South African Airways, and Kenya Airways are looking to use new jets and discounted fares to compete with other global carriers. The *Bloomberg* report is available [here](#).

On June 2nd, Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court ruled elections must be held by July 31st. The Court encouraged President Robert Mugabe to select a date as soon as possible. President Mugabe indicated his intentions to comply with the court's ruling and said he planned to consult with Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Patrick Chinamasa. News on the court's ruling has been posted [here](#).

On June 3rd, a National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) member was killed and another wounded in a shooting near Lonmin's Marikana mine in northwestern South Africa. The incident is the latest in a trend of violence between NUM and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) over membership rivalry. The latest developments can be seen [here](#).

On June 3rd, speaking at the UNAIDS Scientific Symposium held in Durban, South Africa, Executive Director of the Joint U.N. Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) appointed South African scientist Absool Karim to chair a panel tasked with investigating new research and innovations in combating HIV/AIDS. Additional panel members will be appointed in the coming weeks. An article on the panel can be read [here](#).

On June 4th, commenting on her trip to the DRC and Uganda that concluded on May 31st, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Kyung-wha Kang expressed optimism for peace in the DRC. During her trip, Assistant Secretary-General Kang observed support for the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, as well as appreciation for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson, and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's recent visit to the DRC. More comments from Assistant Secretary-General Kang can be read [here](#).

On June 4th, Paralympic and Olympian Oscar Pistorius, who was accused of murdering his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp in February, appeared in court for a brief procedural hearing. The case has now adjourned until August 19th. Last week, British media linked video footage from the crime scene, which may have influenced the case's postponement. Recent developments in the trial have been noted [here](#).

On June 4th, the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced it will provide over \$7 million to support more than a million residents in the CAR. Kaarina Immonen, Humanitarian Coordinator for the CAR, said the funds will provide access to potable water, sanitation, food, and psychosocial support to victims of gender-based violence. A release from the U.N. is available [here](#).

On June 4th, CAR President Michel Djotodia said the CAR will temporarily suspend its participation in the diamonds trade while reforms are implemented to increase oversight and ensure profits are not

used to fund conflicts. Among the reforms, the CAR plans to set up a clearing house and implement a ban on cash sales of precious stones. Information on the reforms can be found [here](#).

On June 4th, The Enough Project published a report finding the LRA is using elephant poaching as a means to finance its illicit activities. The report alleges warlord Joseph Kony ordered elephants to be killed in Garamba National Park in the DRC and the tusks to be sent to him in the CAR, where they are sold or bartered to Arab businessmen. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 5th, the *New York Times* reported on a study recently published by the *New England Journal of Medicine* that shows group therapy designed for trauma victims has been an effective way to treat survivors of sexual violence in the DRC. The study finds cognitive processing therapy has helped women to overcome the shame, nightmares, and flashbacks of rape that have left them unable to care for themselves and their families. Experts estimate as many as two million women have been raped by rebel fighters or Congolese soldiers over the past two decades of civil war. The *New York Times* report can be viewed [here](#).

On June 6th, Malawi and China signed two energy deals worth roughly \$667 million that will be used to enhance generation of electricity in Malawi. The agreements codify plans for Chinese company TEBA to build and upgrade transmission lines and for the China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) to develop a thermal energy plant in southern Malawi. Details on the agreements are available [here](#).

General Africa News

On June 3rd, the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) officially opened for signatures, with 63 countries signing on in the first day. Leading the way for Africa in signing the ATT were the DRC and South Sudan. Kenya was also one of seven original co-sponsors of the treaty. The U.S. is anticipated to sign the treaty in August. More information on the ATT can be seen [here](#).

On June 3rd, the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and lighting manufacturer Phillips signed a joint declaration pledging cooperation on promoting rural access to energy through solar-powered LED technologies used for projects in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. The partnership is intended to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the U.N. Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative. News on the partnership can be found [here](#).

On June 3rd, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) issued a policy brief analyzing traffic congestion in South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The researchers suggest traffic gridlock is creating health and safety risks, impeding economic development, and accelerating climate change. The policy brief can be downloaded [here](#).

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