



## ML Strategies Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### ***President Barack Obama Travels to Africa***

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama held a bilateral meeting with Senegalese President Macky Sall at the Presidential Palace in Dakar. The leaders also held a joint press conference. President Obama then met with African judicial leaders at La Cour Supreme on issues related to rule of law. In the afternoon, the First Family toured Goree Island, where President Obama said the visit to the Slave House was a powerful moment. The President and First Lady concluded the day with an official state dinner hosted at President Sall's residence. A White House blog post on the President's day in Senegal can be found [here](#).

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, First Lady Michelle Obama met with Madame Mareme Sall, First Lady of Senegal. Together, the first ladies visited the Martin Luther King Middle school, an all-girls school in Dakar, where they met with a ninth grade class and teachers. Mrs. Obama's visit to the school is documented [here](#).

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah held a press briefing in Dakar to discuss President Barack Obama's first day in Senegal and to preview upcoming events during the President's Africa trip. Deputy National Security Advisor Rhodes said while President Obama initially planned to meet with former South African President Nelson Mandela, the President is now focused on honoring his legacy and supporting the Mandela family. A transcript from the briefing is available [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama participated in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition roundtable in Dakar, Senegal, along with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council Senior Director for Democracy and Development Gayle Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Lewis Lukens, Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Daniel Yohannes, USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, and Peace Corps Director for Senegal Chris Hedrick. During the event, President Obama announced a \$47 million increase in U.S.

assistance for agriculture in Senegal. Private companies will provide an additional \$134 million. Later in the day, the President met with farmers and entrepreneurs in Senegal who are using new technologies and methods to improve farming. Details on new U.S. aid to Senegal are available [here](#). A White House fact sheet on food security in sub-Saharan Africa can be read [here](#).

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the First Family arrived in Pretoria, South Africa. After participating in a bilateral meeting and joint press conference with South African President Jacob Zuma, President Barack Obama facilitated a town hall for Young African Leaders at the University of Johannesburg, where he launched the new Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. He also pledged to visit Kenya before the end of his second term and noted he avoided Kenya on his current trip because of International Criminal Court (ICC) accusations against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for post-election violence in 2007 and 2008. President Obama also participated in a joint embassy and consulate meet and greet, met with African Union (AU) Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, and attended an official dinner with President Zuma. The President also met with the family of former South African President Nelson Mandela at the Mandela Centre of Memory, and spoke by phone with President Mandela's wife, Graca Machel, who remains at her husband's hospital bedside in Pretoria. More information on the President's first day in South Africa has been posted [here](#).

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, First Lady Michelle Obama met with First Lady of South Africa Tobeka S. Zuma. In the afternoon, Mrs. Obama participated in a Google+ hangout in Johannesburg, where she spoke with South African youth and students across the U.S. who joined the conversation virtually. A blog post on the event is available [here](#).

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the First Family visited Robben Island, where former South African President Nelson Mandela was once held prisoner. President Barack Obama also attended a community health center event at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Center and delivered remarks at the University of Cape Town. During his appearances, President Obama called on Zimbabwe to have free and fair elections and announced a \$7billion "Power Africa" Initiative, which with private funding, is intended to double electricity in African countries with good governance, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania. A blog post on the First Family's visit to Robben Island can be read [here](#). President Obama's remarks at the University of Cape Town can be seen [here](#). A "Power Africa" fact sheet can be accessed [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the First Family arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. President Barack Obama held a bilateral meeting and joint press conference with Tanzanian President Jakya Kikwete, participated in a CEO roundtable and business leaders' forum, and attended an official dinner with President Kikwete. At public events, President Obama called on Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila to do more to ensure security and the delivery of services, and reiterated U.S. and U.N. support for resolving the conflict in the DRC. Additionally, President Obama committed \$10 million to establish a Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and create a national strategy for reducing illicit trade in protected species. Details on the President's first day in Tanzania can be found [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, First Lady Michelle Obama met with Tanzanian First Lady Salma Kikwete and visited the U.S. Embassy Bombing Memorial. She also attended a performance by the Baba wa Watoto troupe, part of a center that serves underprivileged boys and girls in Tanzania. More information on the First Lady's activities in Dar es Salaam can be viewed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush honored the victims of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Tanzania at a ceremony held at the memorial outside of the new U.S. embassy, which was built in 2003. The two presidents were not initially scheduled to meet in Africa. President Obama also participated in a Consulate meet and greet and visited the Ubungo Power Plant, where he addressed the importance of reliable electricity to Africans in remarks available [here](#). A report on the day's events can be seen [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, First Lady Michelle Obama participated in the African First Ladies Summit, "Investing in Women: Strengthening Africa," along with former First Lady Laura Bush. The Summit, hosted by the George W. Bush Institute, gathered African first ladies to discuss a variety of issues, including women's education, health, and economic empowerment. An account of the Summit has been posted [here](#).

## ***Former President George W. Bush Travels to Africa***

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, former U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in Zambia to begin his multi-day visit to Africa. President Bush and his wife traveled to Livingstone to promote Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon, their \$85 million initiative launched in 2011 to combat cervical and breast cancer in Zambia and Botswana. While there, volunteers from Southern Methodist University and the George W. Bush Institute refurbished a local cancer clinic. An article on the visit is available [here](#).

## ***Egypt***

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, following a televised speech calling on Egyptians to work through the political institutions that have emerged in Egypt over the past year, President Mohammed Morsi took actions he claimed would preserve order in Egypt, including deploying the army near government buildings and along the Suez Canal, starting legal proceedings against several judges, and regulating opponents on state airwaves. Developments on the situation in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, amid ongoing violence in opposition to President Mohammed Morsi's presidency, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement calling on Egyptians to pursue peaceful dialogue and nonviolence. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be seen [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, violent clashes broke out in Alexandria between anti- and pro-government supporters that left one person dead and more than 80 others wounded. The individual killed was Andrew Pochter, a U.S. citizen who was stabbed in the Sidi Gaber area of the city while trying to photograph the protests. As new violence emerged in Alexandria, protests also continued in Cairo. An article on the violence can be read [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the State Department issued a warning urging all U.S. citizens to avoid travel within Egypt due to the continued possibility of political and social unrest in the country. The warning is available [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, State Department Press Office Director Patrick Ventrell responded to questions regarding demonstrations and the security situation in Egypt. Director Ventrell said the U.S. wants the Egyptian Government to protect the rights of the Egyptian people to make their voices heard. As the first democratically elected leader, Director Ventrell also said President Mohammed Morsi has a responsibility to build consensus across political groups through compromise. A transcript of the press briefing has been posted [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Marines located in Sigonella, Italy, and Moron, Spain, were put on alert to be ready to respond to deteriorating conditions in Egypt. U.S. military personnel, including a rescue team, were ordered to prepare to evacuate Americans from Egypt and to provide additional protection to American assets in the country, if necessary. News on the alert can be seen [here](#).

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes denied reports suggesting the U.S. had deployed military resources to protect Americans in Egypt. Deputy Advisor Rhodes said the U.S. is, however, taking appropriate actions to ensure embassies and consulates, as well as U.S. personnel in Egypt, are taking additional security precautions. Comments from Deputy National Security Advisor Rhodes are documented [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, in a military communique read over state television, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces issued an ultimatum to President Mohamed Morsi, giving him 48 hours to respond to the public's demands or else face a military coup to install a transitional government. Following the announcement, members of the Muslim Brotherhood rallied in half a dozen cities in Egypt to denounce the threat of military takeover. Developments in Egypt are noted [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, protestors in Egypt stormed the Muslim Brotherhood's headquarters, setting the building in Cairo's Moqattam district on fire as protestors threw items out the windows. No members of the Muslim Brotherhood were in the building at the time. Details on the attack were reported [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed continued alarm regarding reports of deaths, injuries, sexual assaults against women demonstrators, and destruction of property in Egypt amidst ongoing protests to President Mohammed Morsi's rule. The spokesperson also reiterated Secretary-General Ban's call for peaceful protest and return to rule of law. A note issued by the Secretary-General's office is available [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, while visiting Tanzania, President Barack Obama publicly called on Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi to be responsive to anti-government protestors as demonstrations continued and the Egyptian military threatened to assume control of the government. President Obama did not take sides and declined to call for President Morsi to step down. Remarks from President Obama can be found [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, State Department Press Office Director Patrick Ventrell reiterated President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry's calls for Egyptians to pursue nonviolence to address continued political unrest. He noted the Department is watching the security situation in Egypt closely, especially at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, which remains open under the leadership of U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson, as well as the U.S. consulate in Alexandria. A transcript can be seen [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, President Barack Obama called President Mohamed Morsi to convey concerns regarding the developments in Egypt. The call was widely perceived as a message that the Obama Administration continues to view President Morsi as the country's democratically elected leader and continues to support Egypt's transition to civilian democracy. A readout of the call can be viewed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the latest developments in Egypt, noting that at least four of President Mohammed Morsi's cabinet ministers had tendered resignations that were rejected by the President and Prime Minister Hesham Kandil. Egypt's Ministry of the Interior, which controls the Egyptian police force, also issued a statement in support of the military's threat of a coup. Military leaders also sought to clarify the threat of military takeover was not directed at President Morsi, but instead intended to urge political reconciliation. Details on the developments have been posted [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Reuters* provided additional updates on the situation in Egypt. While the timeframe for President Mohammed Morsi to agree to power sharing with other political groups continued to shrink, the military began to articulate plans to suspend the constitution and to dissolve the Egyptian parliament, currently under Islamist rule. More information is available [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said, despite conflicting media reports that Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr had resigned, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with his counterpart regarding the situation in Egypt. Secretary Kerry conveyed the same message as President Obama: that it is important to listen to the Egyptian people and that the U.S. remains committed to the democratic process in Egypt. A transcript of the press briefing can be found [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little confirmed an element of the Marine rapid reaction force relocated to Sigonella, Italy, in May, in response to the security situation in Libya, remains positioned there due to continued unrest in North Africa. Press Secretary Little declined to address how the rapid reaction force may be engaged to respond to the current situation in Egypt. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, following 23 more deaths and more than 200 new injuries in protests, a total of seven cabinet resignations, and an unsuccessful meeting with Defense Minister Abdel Fatah al-Sissi, President Mohammed Morsi delivered a 45-minute televised address refusing to step down and swearing commitment to the democratic process that brought him to power. While President Morsi acknowledged faults in the first year of his presidency, he also said any attempts to subvert the constitution would be unacceptable and urged Egyptians to give him more time to address the country's problems. President Morsi also claimed to be the legitimate leader of Egypt, blamed efforts to end his Presidency on efforts by loyalists of former President Mubarak, and vowed to stay in office at any cost. Developments on the situation in Egypt can be seen [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Egyptian military officials co-opted the nation's flagship newspaper, *Al Ahrām*, to publish plans for their "road map" out of the current crisis. The newspaper reported the generals plan to abolish the constitution, form a committee to write a new ruling document, place a military leader in control of the executive branch as an interim prime minister, and create an interim presidential council of three members led by the chief of the constitutional court. Military leaders anticipate a one-year transition period before new elections can be held. An article on the plan can be found [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, top officials from the Egyptian army met with political, religious, and youth leaders as they approached the deadline of the military's ultimatum to President Morsi. *Reuters* also reported that armed forces had taken control of the Cairo headquarters of the state television station. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, President Mohamed Morsi refused to resign as the military deadline at 5PM local time passed for the President to respond to public demands. In a last minute statement before the deadline, President Morsi again rejected military intervention and criticized the military for taking just one side. President Morsi also proposed a consensus coalition government that would oversee Egypt's next parliamentary election. Unofficial reports suggest President Morsi has now been placed under house arrest. Breaking news on conditions in Egypt can be viewed [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little reported Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has spoken with Egyptian Army Chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi today, as well as last week. While he would not comment further on the calls, Press Secretary Little said the Pentagon has received no request from Egypt for direct military support. Comments from Press Secretary Little are available [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, oil prices rose as high as \$102.18, marking the highest prices in more than a year. It is widely speculated continuing tensions in Egypt are responsible for the spike in prices. While oil production in Egypt is not substantial, Egypt controls the Suez Canal and pipeline, which moves approximately 4 million barrels of oil each day. Details on how tensions in Egypt are impacting oil prices are reported [here](#).

## ***Libya***

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Libyan military intelligence officer Lieutenant Colonel Giama Misrati was killed when a car bomb exploded in his car outside of his home in Benghazi. The incident is the latest in a series of violence perpetuated by regional militias in Libya. A story on the attack can be read [here](#).

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan announced plans to name a new Defense Minister as the General National Congress (GNC) requested the resignation of Defense Minister Mohammed al-Barghathi. Minister Barghathi had previously announced his resignation on May 7<sup>th</sup>, in light of an uptick in violence and passage of a law banning Gadhafi era officials from Government positions, only to withdraw it hours later upon Prime Minister Zeidan's request. More information on the latest announcement can be seen [here](#).

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

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) condemned recent cases of rape of young girls in the South Kivu province, resulting in the deaths of two children and nine other hospitalizations. MONUSCO and UNICEF recognized DRC authorities' efforts to arrest two suspects and encouraged authorities to fully investigate and prosecute perpetrators. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported that U.N. officials believe the Rwandan government is supporting the M23 rebel group in the DRC. The confidential report from the U.N. Group of Experts suggests M23 is recruiting soldiers in Rwanda with the help of sympathetic military officials. Details on the current relationship between the DRC, M23, and Rwanda are available [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security issued an emergency message to Americans in the DRC regarding threats made by armed groups to launch attacks against the



towns of Moba and Manono in Katanga province. According to leaflets distributed by the Katanga Tigers, attacks were planned for June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>. The alert has been posted [here](#).

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Ugandan militias belonging to two rebel groups attacked two villages in the DRC. Reports suggest the attackers belonged to the Allied Defense Forces (ADF) and the National Army for Liberation of Uganda (NALU). Additional information on the attack can be found [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a jailbreak in the town of Beni in the DRC resulted in the death of four people. The uprising, which led to the escape of 244 prisoners, began when officials attempted to move a death row inmate to another prison. An article on the violence can be read [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the *Associated Press* reported Secretary of State John Kerry will chair a July 25<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting of the U.N. Security Council on implementation of the Addis Ababa Accords, the peace agreement reached in February for the DRC and the region. Other attendees will include U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson, as well as high-ranking officials from the AU, the DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda. Details on the upcoming meeting are noted [here](#).

## ***Mali***

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported on U.N. efforts to prepare nearly 175,000 refugees in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mauritania to vote in the Malian elections scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>. All refugees registered in the Malian Administrative Civil State Census conducted in 2010 will be eligible to vote in the elections. Details on preparations have been posted [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and head of the new U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Bert Koenders presided over a ceremony held in Bamko, Mali, to mark the transfer of authority from the forces of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to MINUSMA, a force of 12,600 members established earlier this year by a unanimous Security Council vote. An article on the ceremony and the start of the new U.N. mission in Mali can be viewed [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***State Department***

On June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chief of Protocol Ambassador Capricia Penavic Marshall accompanied President Barack Obama on his Africa trip, according to the State Department daily public schedule, available [here](#).

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement in recognition of the DRC's National Day. Secretary Kerry expressed commitment to assisting the DRC in achieving sustainable peace, including through his appointment of former Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) to serve as U.S. Special Representative to the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The full statement can be seen [here](#).

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement to commemorate Somalia's National Day. Secretary Kerry recognized progress made in Somalia in the past year and pledged continued U.S. support for Somalia's peace efforts, especially following the June 19<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.N. compound in Mogadishu. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be found [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the State Department published remarks from Secretary Kerry on Rwanda's Independence Day. Secretary Kerry commended Rwanda for its commitment to peace, stability, and reconciliations following the 1994 genocide. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby visited an HIV/AIDS clinic in Cape Town, South Africa. Ambassador Goosby's visit was noted on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, posted [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp traveled to Mozambique for officials meetings on global criminal justice issues. Ambassador Rapp's travel was noted on the Department's public schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp traveled to South Africa for additional meetings regarding criminal justice issues in Africa. The continuation of Ambassador Rapp's trip in Africa was noted [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the State Department designated Abd Al-Ra'Ouf Abu Zaid Mohamed Hamza as a terrorist. Hazma, with other co-conspirators, launched a New Year's attack in Khartoum, Sudan, in 2008 that killed a USAID diplomat and a U.S. Embassy staff member. While sentenced to death in a Sudanese criminal court in 2009, Hazma escaped in 2010, was recaptured in 2011, and is currently in prison in Khartoum. The announcement of Hazma's terrorist designation is available [here](#).

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

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Ghana Armed Forces and U.S. Army Africa concluded the first week of the Western Accord 13 exercise and began the second phase of training. The first part of the exercise focused on classes that educate military personnel on collective tasks in peacekeeping operations. The second part of the exercise will entail preparation and execution of a plan to move forces into a contested area, defeat terrorists, and restore basic services and rule of law. Details on the exercise can be seen [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez presided over a retirement ceremony for Vice Admiral Charles J. "Joe" Leidig, Jr., who has served as Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations since August 2010. An article on the ceremony can be read [here](#).

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

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Representative David Schweikert (R-AZ) introduced a bill to limit U.S. economic assistance and to oppose World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance to the Government of Egypt. The legislation is co-sponsored by Representatives Rodney Davis (R-IL), Ron DeSantis (R-FL), Billy Long (R-MO), and James Sensenbrenner (R-WI). The bill has been referred to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Financial Services. More information on the bill can be found [here](#).

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY), Subcommittee on Africa Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) introduced the Electrify Africa Act of 2013. The bill would require the Administration to create a comprehensive strategy to help increase electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, encourage USAID to provide loans, partnerships, and grants to increase electricity, direct the Treasury to work with the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to increase electrification investments in sub-Saharan Africa, and instruct the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to prioritize the electrical sector when making investments in Africa. A press release can be viewed [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh. During the conference, 150 countries, including the U.S., adopted a treaty to increase access to print materials for persons with disabilities while maintaining the integrity of the international copyright framework. A State Department press release on the treaty has been posted [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, reports from Algeria suggested that Liamine Zeroual, the President from 1994 to 1999, is receiving intense pressure to run for office again. An election is expected in 2014 due to the ill health of current President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. More information on President Zeroual's potential candidacy can be found [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman visited Somalia to meet with Somali President Sheikh Hassan Mohamud, diplomatic missions, and U.N. staff affected by the June 19<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.N. compound in Mogadishu. While in Somalia, Under-Secretary-General Feltman discussed security and safety measures for U.N. operations. An article on Under-Secretary-General Feltman's visit can be read [here](#).

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the AU, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Lula Institute organized a meeting of African civil society representatives in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss food security. Participants at the meeting agreed on the necessity of involving all sectors in combating hunger and agreed to take coordinated actions to eradicate hunger in Africa by 2025. A report on the meeting is available [here](#).

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, head of the new U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) Nicholas Kay held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon in Mogadishu. Special Representative Kay called for an immediate end to the resurgence in violence between groups claiming leadership of the Jubaland regional administration in Kismayo, which has led to civilian deaths. More information can be found [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, government officials from Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone met in Dakar, Senegal, with U.N. representatives and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to consider a joint security strategy for the Mano River Union (MRU). The regional security plan will encourage collaboration to address threats of armed groups and the illicit trafficking of weapons. More information on the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, police in Senegal took Chad's former dictator Hissene Habre into custody. Habre, who served as President of Chad from 1982 to 1990, is accused of human rights violations, including political killings and systemic torture. Habre has been living in exile in Senegal since being ousted from office by President Idriss Deby Itno. An article on Habre's capture can be read [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, a convoy of Cote d'Ivoire's national Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) was attacked between the towns of Ferkessedougou and Kong in the northwestern part of the country. At least one person was killed and at least three others were wounded. The attack has been condemned by the U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, which has called on local authorities to identify the attackers and bring them to justice. An article on the attack can be read [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the *Associated Press* reported on the increasing problem of oil theft in the Niger Delta. Government officials estimate roughly 200,000 barrels a day, the equivalent of 10% of Nigeria's oil production, are siphoned off pipelines in the region. Analysts believe the thieves are part of international gangs that sell the oil into world markets. The full story has been posted [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Scottish company Aggreko announced it added 100 megawatts in generating capacity to its main interim power plant in the Ivory Coast. Aggreko's interim power plants are meant to provide power during planned maintenance or unexpected power outages. An article on Aggreko's efforts to expand in the Ivory Coast can be read [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, U.N. High Commissioner for Human rights Navi Pillay concluded her first visit to Cameroon, where she met with government officials, human rights authorities, and members of the diplomatic community. Commissioner Pillay applauded Cameroon's ratification of six key human rights treaties and urged authorities to implement recommendations from the treaty bodies to guide Cameroon's development of national policies related to human rights. More information on Commissioner Pillay's visit to Cameroon can be viewed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a special tribunal convened in Senegal charged former Chad dictator Hissene Habre with crimes against humanity, including war crimes and torture. If convicted, Habre could spend the rest of



his life in prison. The court is also pursuing indictments against five other top officials in Habre's regime for crimes of torture, including Mahamat Djibrine, Abakar Torbo and Guihini Korei, Saleh Younous, and Zakaria Berdei. Information on the proceedings can be seen [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Africa's richest man, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, who is a member of Nigeria's National Economic Management Team, met with a group of investors in his office in Lagos. He encouraged entrepreneurs to assist the Government in making Nigeria one of the 20 best -developed countries by 2020 by investing in manufacturing and other employment-generating business. An account of the meeting is documented [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, UNHCR said it is working closely with the African Governments that continue to host Rwandan refugees as the end date for their refugee status approaches on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Over 3.5 million Rwandans became refugees as a result of the 1994 genocide and armed violence in the northwest part of the country in 1997 and 1998. Approximately 100,000 refugees have yet to return to Rwanda. Details are available [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) responded to President Barack Obama's call for reforms ahead of elections in Zimbabwe by critiquing the President's remarks in the party's newspaper, *The Herald*. The newspaper criticized President Obama for using his visit to South Africa to meddle in Zimbabwe's internal affairs. More on ZANU-PF's reactions to President Obama's comments can be seen [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, South African President Jacob Zuma called on South Africans to begin planning celebrations for former President Nelson Mandela's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 18<sup>th</sup>. President Zuma's remarks follow criticism from President Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, for the Government's decision to air television footage of African National Congress (ANC) leaders visiting President Mandela at home in April. President Mandela remains critically ill in a hospital in Pretoria. A story on planning for President Mandela's birthday can be accessed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, former South African President F.W. de Klerk was hospitalized to have a pacemaker installed. The procedure was recommended by President de Klerk's physician in response to a series of dizzy spells. In 1993, President de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela for moving South Africa from apartheid to multiracial democracy. An article on President de Klerk's hospitalization has been posted [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, UNICEF said conditions are worsening for children in the Central African Republic (CAR). According to a U.N. survey, no medicines are available at health facilities and hospitals and 24% of participants reported lack of access to medical professionals. The survey also revealed inconsistent food sources and higher food prices. More information on the situation in the CAR can be found [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, criminal charges were filed against former South African President Nelson Mandela's grandson, Mandla Mandela, for failure to inform or seek permission from family members before moving the bodies of three of President Mandela's children from the family plot in Qunu, where President Mandela has said he would like to be buried, to Mvezo in 2011. Details on the charges were reported [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered remarks at the annual U.N. Populations Award ceremony. This year's awards were presented to Jotham Musinguzi, a Uganda reproductive health advocate, and the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research, which is affiliated with Egypt's Al-Azhar University. An article on the awards can be read [here](#).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the National Public Radio (NPR) show *Tell Me More* dedicated its entire episode to issues relating to Africa. Joining host Michel Martin, Howard French of Columbia University suggested more American businesses should explore the possibility of doing business in Africa. The program can be accessed [here](#).

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Vatican announced Pope Francis will make his first trip outside of Rome to the Italian island of Lampedusa to show solidarity with tens of thousands of African refugees on the island. The Pope is scheduled to be in Lampedusa on July 8<sup>th</sup>, where he plans to throw a wreath into the sea in memory of African refugees who drowned traveling to the island. More on the Pope's upcoming trip can be viewed [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Judge John Bates of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia vacated a Dodd-Frank rule requiring energy companies to disclose payments made to foreign governments and sent it back to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In his opinion, Judge Bates addressed an exemption applicable to countries that prohibit such disclosures, including Angola and Cameroon. The full ruling can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Economist Intelligence Unit published its annual Global Food Security Index, which examines food security in multiple countries based on 27 measures of food affordability, availability, and quality. While Ethiopia and Botswana made some of the largest gains in food security this year, on the whole, African countries scored low. The full index can be accessed [here](#).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chinese company TenCent announced its WeChat application will expand into Africa. The application allows users to text and exchange voice messages for free. Information on WeChat and its rapid global expansion is available [here](#).

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