



ML Strategies Update

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Africa Update

Leading the News

Burundi

On July 2nd, due to the precarious political and security situation in Burundi and the Government of Burundi's unwillingness to engage in good faith efforts to negotiate a solution, the U.S. suspended several security assistance programs on which it had cooperated with Burundi. In response to the abuses committed by members of the police during political protests, the U.S. suspended all International Law Enforcement Academy and Anti-Terrorism Assistance training for Burundian law enforcement agencies, upcoming training for the Burundian military under the Department of Defense's (DOD) Section 1206 Train and Equip program, and training and assistance under the Africa Military Education Program. While repeating its call for the delay of the presidential election scheduled for July 15th, the U.S. Government also indicated the ongoing instability in Burundi would be taken into consideration during the upcoming review of the country's eligibility for the trade preferences available under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). For details, click [here](#).

On July 3rd, the United Nations (U.N.) electoral observer mission said the parliamentary and local elections held in Burundi on June 29th that were racked by violence and boycotted by the opposition were not free or credible. During the elections, the U.N. reported a tense political crisis and a climate of widespread fear and intimidation in parts of the country. As a result, the U.N. urged the Government of Burundi to further delay the presidential polls set for July 15th. Feedback from the U.N. electoral observer mission was shared [here](#).

On July 3rd, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned children are bearing the brunt of the prolonged instability and election-related violence in Burundi, confirming the deaths of three children in the five days prior. Since the beginning of the confrontations in April, eight children have been killed in the violence. While most schools in Bujumbura remain closed, UNICEF expressed concern for a recent grenade attack on schools grounds and urged the Government of Burundi to protect children and ensure they are not exposed to violence, arbitrary arrest, or detention. UNICEF's input on the situation can be viewed [here](#).

On July 5th, General Leonard Ngendakumana, a deputy leader to the coup that was intended to

overthrow Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza, threatened to launch an armed uprising after President Nkurunziza refused to bow to opposition and international demands to abandon his bid for a third term. In response to General Ngendakumana's comments, a spokesperson for President Nkurunziza said anybody threatening the security of Burundi would meet the full force of defense and security forces. The exchange was highlighted [here](#).

On July 6th, Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza skipped a meeting of the leaders of the five-nation East African Community (EAC) held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, aimed at brokering a peace deal to end the unrest in Burundi. Burundian officials told leaders from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda the summit conflicted with President Nkurunziza's campaign schedule. At the meeting, EAC leaders called for the July 15th presidential election to be delayed to July 30th to allow for mediation between opposing factions. Details can be seen [here](#).

On July 7th, Burundi's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) announced the official results in the June 29th parliamentary elections, which were boycotted by the opposition. As expected, the ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party claimed an overwhelming victory, winning 77 of the 100 elected seats in parliament. Two additional seats were won by CNDD-FDD ally, the Union for National Progress (UPRONA). Despite the opposition boycott, the coalition Independents of Hope group won 11 seats. The election results were announced [here](#).

On July 7th, a presidential spokesman indicated Burundian officials would meet on Tuesday to discuss their response to a call by Africa nations to delay the upcoming presidential election from July 15th to July 30th, as well as a request that Burundi take steps to disarm youth groups lined to political parties. An update from the Burundian Government was provided [here](#).

Nigeria

On July 3rd, Boko Haram fighters raided the Nigerian town of Mringa, dragging 11 alleged traitors to the Eid praying ground outside the town and slitting their throats. This attack added to a number of Boko Haram attacks carried out last week in response to a call from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to step up attacks during Ramadan. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said the recent Boko Haram attacks are desperate acts that underscore the need to speed up full deployment of the multinational force to combat the extremist group. The attack was reported [here](#).

On July 5th, Nigerian authorities blamed Boko Haram for a series of new attacks in Nigeria. Boko Haram fighters were accused of carrying out suicide bombings on Sunday night at a mosque and a Muslim restaurant in Jos, as well as a bombing at an evangelic Christian church in Potiskum, killing more than 60 people. These bombings followed an incident last Wednesday where more than 140 people were gunned down by Boko Haram militants as they prayed in mosques in Kukawa. President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the attacks on places of worship and said the government will defend Nigerians' right to worship freely. The string of Boko Haram attacks was described [here](#).

On July 5th, the U.S. Department of State condemned the recent attacks in northeastern Nigeria inflicted by Boko Haram that took the lives of six people in a church in Potiskum, as well as more than 140 lives near a mosque in Kukawa. The State Department pledged to continue to support Nigeria's efforts to bring those responsible for these and previous attacks to justice, noting the U.S. is providing counterterrorism assistance to help Nigerian authorities develop a comprehensive approach to combat the threat posed by Boko Haram. A statement on the attacks was published [here](#).

On July 7th, a suspected suicide bomber targeted civil servants at a government building in Zaria, Nigeria, killing at least 25 people and wounding 32 others. The bombing came a day after police announced new measures to curb the rise in bombings, including banning street trading and strengthening security at mosques and churches nationwide. While Boko Haram did not immediately comment on the attack, it is believed the militant group was responsible for the bombing. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On July 7th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned recent attacks by Boko Haram targeting Christian and Muslim worshippers during the holy month of Ramadan. Secretary-General Ban renewed

his support for the operationalization of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNTF) and called on member states to provide political, logistical, and financial resources to the effort. His remarks were recorded [here](#).

On July 8th, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari held his first meeting with campaigners calling for the release of more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram from Chibok last year. President Buhari praised members of the Bring Back Our Girls group for their efforts to prevent the missing children from being forgotten and discussed the efforts of the Nigerian military to coordinate with neighboring countries to launch a regional task force to fight the insurgency. The meeting was highlighted [here](#).

On July 8th, the Nigerian military released a statement saying they had arrested the alleged mastermind of recent bomb attacks in Jos and Zaria that killed at least 70 people. Northern and central Nigeria have been faced with frequent attacks on government and civilian targets. President Muhammadu Buhari's government has stated it is open to talks with Boko Haram. A statement from one of his advisers, along with the complete story, can be read [here](#).

On July 9th, a bomb went off near the federal high court in Nigeria just as the court ruled that elections for certain local government officials earlier this year were illegal. The blast was in Nigeria's oil hub, Port Harcourt. There were no casualties and no damage was done to the building. The explosion was reported [here](#).

South Sudan

On July 2nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the July 1st attack against the U.N. site for the protection of civilians outside of Malakal that resulted in the shooting death of one internally displaced person (IDP) and the injury of six others. According to the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), three members of forces belonging to either the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition or the allied militia led by General Johnson Olony opened fire on IDPs, leading peacekeepers to fire back. The incident was reported [here](#).

On July 3rd, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said at least 29 people have died in a cholera outbreak in South Sudan, with thousands more at risk of infection. According to OCHA, a total of 484 cholera cases had been reported by the end of June. South Sudan's Health Ministry officially declared a cholera outbreak on June 23rd when there were 18 deaths. In response, the WHO is carrying out cholera vaccination campaigns in affected areas. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 7th, UNMISS condemned the fatal shooting of an IDP the evening of July 5th. UNMISS personnel serving at the U.N. compound in Bentiu responded to a gunshot only to find the body of a male IDP fatally wounded in the back. According to witnesses, two armed men in military uniforms were seen inside the site for the protection of civilians and fled into the bush following the attack. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 7th, *The New York Times* detailed South Sudan's preparations for its 4th anniversary of independence on Thursday. In recognition of the occasion, laborers were deployed in Juba to fix roads and paint buildings along the route for an independence day parade. However, the public works projects are expected to stop once the festivities have concluded. An article on the preparations for the celebrations was published [here](#).

On July 8th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement on South Sudan's Independence Day. While acknowledging the sense of joy and hope felt across South Sudan in the early days of 2011, Secretary-General Ban expressed concern the security situation in the country has deteriorated steadily over the past year since political infighting between President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar and their respective factions erupted in December 2013. Secretary-General Ban's feedback was articulated [here](#).

On July 8th, speaking in Nairobi, Kenya in response to South Sudan's parliament formally extending President Salva Kiir's term for three more years, former South Sudanese Vice President and opposition leader Riek Machar warned the move was illegal and could lead to renewed fighting. President Kiir's

term was due to expire at midnight on Wednesday. Machar said if President Kiir refuses to hand over power to the people, then South Sudanese citizens have every right to overthrow his regime. The situation was detailed [here](#).

On July 9th, U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice recorded a video message on South Sudan Independence Day. Ambassador Rice reflected on her visit to Juba to celebrate the end of the decades-long civil war four years ago, an occasion marked with hope and unity. Today, Ambassador Rice recognized widespread violence has returned to the county and human rights abuses are rampant. She said over the past 19 months, the government has abdicated its responsibilities, failed to protect its citizens, and squandered its legitimacy. Ambassador Rice pledged the U.S. will continue to stand with the people of South Sudan and work with the international community to achieve lasting peace and justice. The video can be watched [here](#).

Tunisia

On July 3rd, the Queen and British Prime Minister David Cameron were joined by thousands of people across the United Kingdom (U.K.) in a minute of silence to remember the 30 British victims of the terrorist attack in Sousse, Tunisia. Meanwhile, in Tunisia, a group of terrorists gathered around a shrine of flowers on the beach where 38 people were killed to pay their respects. The tributes to the massacre victims were described [here](#).

On July 4th, in response to the recent terrorist attack in Sousse, Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi declared a state of emergency and reintroduced urgent security measures for Tunisia that had been lifted in March 2014. President Essebsi blamed the poor security in Libya and the lack of international resolve in targeting ISIL in North Africa for the terrorist attacks in Tunisia that have largely targeted foreigners. He also claimed Tunisia has been targeted by ISIL because it is a functioning, secular democracy. An update on the situation in Tunisia was provided [here](#).

West Africa Ebola Outbreak

On July 2nd, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new report on the agency's response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. According to the CDC, 10,344 people in the U.S. were monitored for symptoms of Ebola between November 2014 and March 2015. During an average week within that period, about 20 people being monitored reported having symptoms that could have been due to Ebola. Nearly 40 people were tested for Ebola, but none tested positive for the virus. The report was summarized [here](#).

On July 3rd, in response to Liberia's first confirmed cases of Ebola in more than three months, UNICEF begun distributing emergency supplies in the affected communities, including tents for isolating those under quarantine, hygiene kits, and chlorine and buckets for hand washing stations. UNICEF is also conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns on Ebola prevention to minimize the risk of further infections and to protect and assist those affected. The UNICEF response to the new Ebola cases in Liberia was detailed [here](#).

On July 7th, ahead of a U.N. Ebola recovery conference planned for Friday, the World Health Organization's (WHO) said Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone need a further \$696 million in donor funding to rebuild their health systems over the next two years following the Ebola epidemic. According to the WHO, donors have pledged \$1.4 billion of an estimated \$2.1 billion required by the three countries before December 2017. Before Ebola struck, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone had some of the poorest health care systems in the world, but the Ebola outbreak has now left them more vulnerable than ever. The situation was described [here](#).

On July 7th, a panel of independent experts examining the WHO response to the Ebola crisis called for reforms to address the WHO's inadequate response capabilities. According to a report issued by the panel, the WHO does not currently possess the capacity or organizational culture to deliver a full emergency public health response. The experts recommended that a \$100 million contingency fund be established and financed by member states. WHO officials welcomed the report and outlined the organization's initial efforts towards implementation of the recommendations. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 8th, the WHO updated its statistics on the number of Ebola cases in West Africa. For the week ending July 5th, 30 confirmed cases of Ebola were reported, including 18 in Guinea, nine in Sierra Leone, and three in Liberia. Although this is the highest weekly total since mid-May, the WHO reported improvements to case investigation and contact tracing have resulted in a decreasing proportion of cases arising from known sources of infection. However, the WHO also warned a residual lack of trust in the response means that some cases still evade detection for too long, increasing the risk of further transmission. Additional data was analyzed [here](#).

On July 8th, the World Bank published a new report titled, "Healthcare Worker Mortality and the Legacy of the Ebola Epidemic." The report finds the loss of health workers due to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa may result in an additional 4,022 deaths of women each year across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone as a result of complications and childbirth. In addition, the report highlights health workers have died at a higher rate than any other population group, exacerbating skill shortages in countries that had very few trained health personnel to begin with. The report's findings were highlighted [here](#).

On July 9th, Palo Conteh, head of the government's National Ebola Response Centre, said that all lockdowns will continue indefinitely. The nighttime lockdowns, called Operation Northern Push, are designed to limit the transfer of Ebola. Curfews have been employed by the government to contain Ebola since the disease spread to Sierra Leone in May last year. The full story is available [here](#).

African Migrant Crisis in the Mediterranean

On July 7th, Italy hosted a funeral service for 13 migrants who died in a shipwreck in the Mediterranean in April. Last week, the Italian navy retrieved the first bodies from the wreck, which is lying at a depth of 1,200 feet, using remote-controlled vehicles and a submersible basket to haul up the remains. As the recovery effort continues, the first 13 unidentified migrants received an inter-religious service and were taken to Catani cemetery. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 8th, after the U.N. accused the Government of Eritrea for presiding over forced labor, torture, and other rights violations, Eritrean Ambassador to the U.K. Tesfamicael Gerahtu said human traffickers, not rights abuses, are driving people to leave the country. Ambassador Gerahtu argued there is an international conspiracy to tarnish Eritrea's reputation and claimed Western nations had been swayed to act against Eritrea by its regional rivals. His comments were recorded [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On July 7th, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Peter William Bodde to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Libya and Dennis Hankins to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Guinea. Bodde currently serves as U.S. Ambassador to Nepal and has previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Malawi. Hankins currently serves as Consul General at the U.S. Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and has previously held positions at the U.S. Embassies in Sudan, Mauritania, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Both nominations were announced [here](#).

Department of Treasury

On July 2nd, the Treasury Department announced Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew will lead the U.S. delegation to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which will be held July 13th-16th in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference will bring together world leaders, Finance and Foreign Ministers, private sector representatives, and non-governmental organizations to lay out a policy framework that will help countries to identify, attract, and access diverse sources of finance in support of sustainable development. In addition to Treasury Department officials, the U.S. delegation will also include representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of State, and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). Details were shared [here](#).

On July 2nd, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Controls (OFAC) designated South Sudanese military commander Gabriel Jok Riak and opposition commander Simon Gatwech Dual for threatening the peace, security, and stability of South Sudan and for expanding the conflict and obstructing peace talks. Both commanders were also designated as leaders of groups whose members are involved in sanctionable activity. OFAC's action follows last Wednesday's U.N. listing of Jok Riak, Gatwech Dual, and four other individuals previously designated by OFAC, as targeted by sanctions. More information was published [here](#).

State Department

On July 5th, Secretary of State John Kerry congratulated the people of Cabo Verde as they celebrated their 40th anniversary of independence. Secretary Kerry said Cabo Verde and the U.S. share ties stretching back more than 200 years, noting that New England's large Cabo Verdean diaspora community has sent volunteers to fight for American in every armed conflict since the Revolutionary War. He also highlighted both countries' shared commitment to democracy, good governance, and economic development, as well as bilateral efforts to improve maritime security in the Atlantic, strengthen rule of law, and encourage investment in Cabo Verde. A statement was issued [here](#).

On July 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the appointment of Thomas Perriello as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Special Envoy Perriello most recently served as Special Representative for the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and in the past has served as an adviser to the International Court for Sierra Leone, as a consultant to the International Center for Transitional Justice in Kosovo, Darfur, and Afghanistan, and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Special Envoy Perriello's appointment was highlighted [here](#).

On July 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry congratulated the people of Malawi on the 51st anniversary of their independence. Secretary Kerry observed the U.S. works closely with Malawi to advance basic education and improve health and food security. He also praised Malawi for its leadership in the region by participating in peacekeeping operations in the DRC, attracting private investment, and tackling corruption. Secretary Kerry's comments were captured [here](#).

On July 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement marking Comoros' 40th anniversary of independence. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. and Comoros share an enduring commitment to freedom and democracy and the return of the Peace Corps to Comoros is the latest example of a close partnership that will last for many years to come. He also highlighted collaboration on improving economic opportunity, advancing education, and promoting regional security and cultural exchange. Secretary Kerry's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On July 6th-9th, Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken traveled to Abuja, Nigeria for meetings with senior government officials to discuss expanding cooperation on shared priorities ahead of President Muhammadu Buhari's visit to Washington in July. He also met with civil society representatives and alumni of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Following his visit to Nigeria, Deputy Secretary Blinken traveled to Niamey, Niger, where he was scheduled to meet with senior Nigerien officials and civil society representatives to emphasize U.S. security cooperation with Niger and the importance both countries place on countering violent extremism. Deputy Secretary Blinken was accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield. His travel was announced [here](#).

On July 7th, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli met with Moroccan Ambassador to the U.S. Rachad Bouhlal at the Department of State. The meeting was listed [here](#).

On July 7th, the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations (OBO) announced the design/build construction award for a new U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, to B.L. Harbert, International. The new embassy will be located on a 16.5-acre site in the Bluff Hill Township area and the campus will include an office building and associated support facilities. Site work is expected to begin this summer with completion anticipated in 2018. A press release was issued [here](#).

On July 7th, a court filing revealed that former State Department Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills and former

Director of Policy Planning Jake Sullivan have turned over documents to the State Department in response to a request asking them to return any official agency records in their possession. The emails included the talking points used by former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice in connection with the September 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. That email was previously disclosed by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in December. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On July 7th-9th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Michele Bond traveled to Benin, where she visited the U.S. Embassy in Cotonou and met with Director of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Madame Myrina Amoussaouga and Minister of Family Honorine Atikpa to discuss consular issues, including adoptions visas, and passports. She also joined Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of the New Embassy Compound. On July 9th-10th, Assistant Secretary Bond was scheduled to travel to Libreville, Gabon, to meet with Director General for Consular Affairs at the U.S. Embassy Joseph Giraud Effangone-Obaghe. Following her visit to Gabon, Assistant Secretary Bond will travel to Guinea from July 10th-11th to discuss adoptions and other consular issues with Guinea's National Director of Children Ramatoulaye Camara. Assistant Secretary Bond's travel was outlined [here](#).

On July 8th, Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy, U.S. Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Benin Todd Whatley, and OBO Managing Director for Construction, Facility, and Security Management Eric Rumpf, alongside local officials, dedicated the new U.S. Embassy in Cotonou. The new \$189 million campus is situated along the Boulevard del la Marina and includes sustainable features to conserve resources and reduce operating costs, such as photovoltaic panels, LED lighting, water-conserving plumbing fixtures, wastewater treatment, and drought-tolerant landscaping. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 8th, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Todd Chapman led the U.S. delegation, including representatives from the Department of State, Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Maritime Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard, to the 18th Plenary of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Chaired by the European Union (EU), the plenary continued international efforts to safeguard commerce and humanitarian aid off the coast of Somalia. Details were shared [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On July 8th, USAID Coordinator for President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative Andrew Herscowitz authored a blog post on the program's achievements so far. Since its launch, Power Africa has evolved into an effort that engages a host of multilateral organizations and over 100 private sector parties with the aim of doubling access to electricity across sub-Saharan Africa, while also creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth. In addition, a photo contest celebrating Power Africa's two-year anniversary revealed various projects that are increasing power access in Africa. The blog post can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On July 8th, Major General Salim Mustafa Kijuu, land force commander of the Tanzanian People's Defense Force (TPDF), and Brigadier General Zoma Mathik Kongo, director of operations for the TPDF, visited U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany as part of a command sponsored visit coordinated by U.S. Army Africa. During their visit Major General Kijuu and Brigadier General Kongo received a briefing explaining AFRICOM's missions and structures and participated in a commanders and staff roundtable video conference with the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Their visit was summarized [here](#).

On July 9th, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus arrived in Guinea-Bissau, the first stop on a trip to Western and sub-Saharan Africa planned to increase naval cooperation and maritime partnership opportunities. While in Guinea-Bissau, Secretary Mabus met with President Jose Mario Vaz, Prime Minister Domingos Simoes Pereira, and other military leaders. Secretary Mabus' travel was noticed [here](#).

On July 9th, AFRICOM highlighted the recent graduation ceremony held in Mogadishu, Somalia for the two training courses run by the European Union (EU) Training Mission (EUTM) in Somalia. The courses

were planned, organized, and conducted by EUTM Somalia in coordination with the Somali National army, the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). During three months of training, 22 officers learned tactics, techniques, and procedures to become company commanders, while 23 attendees of a Train the Trainers (TTT) course learned topics and techniques to train effectively. The courses were described [here](#).

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

On July 1st, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) Country Manager for Southern Africa Michael DeRenzo detailed USTDA's efforts to help expand municipal internet services in Cape Town, South Africa. Based on a feasibility study completed last year, Cape Town officials have been able to develop a road map for introducing wireless internet technology in the community, including the construction of a Wi-Fi mesh network, the development of internet service provider (ISP) agreements, project milestones and implementation schedules, and public communication and digital literacy campaigns. More information can be found [here](#).

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

On July 8th, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) highlighted a new report issued by the ONE Campaign that shows two-thirds of the world's least developed countries (LDCs) are in sub-Saharan Africa and these countries carry a disproportionate share of the world burden of poverty and related challenges, such as poor health care, sanitation, and insufficient education. OPIC highlighted its focus on sub-Saharan Africa and noted that investments in the region accounted for more than a quarter of OPIC's new commitments in 2014. For details, click [here](#).

Congress

On July 7th, in response to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's comments during a *CNN* interview on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) said it took the Benghazi Committee to uncover Secretary Clinton's use of personal email and a server to conduct official State Department business. He reiterated his concern that Secretary Clinton's decision to wipe her personal serve will result in an incomplete public record and hinder the Committee's investigation of the September 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Congressman Gowdy's comments were articulated [here](#).

On July 8th, the House Select Committee on Benghazi released its March 4th subpoena to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in response to comments by Secretary Clinton suggesting she had not been subpoenaed. The subpoena was issued once the Committee became aware of Secretary Clinton's use of personal email, which the State Department failed to reveal to the Benghazi Committee or any other investigation into the Benghazi terrorist attacks. A press release was issued [here](#).

On July 9th, the House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee hosted a hearing titled, "Africa's Displaced People." Witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Catherine Wiesner and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Thomas Staal. The Committee also received testimony from John Stauffer of The America Team for Displaced Eritreans, Ann Hollingsworth of Refugees International, and Natalie Eisenbarth of the International Rescue Committee. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On July 9th, House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) hosted a discussion on "Youth, Governance, and Leadership in Africa with 2015 Mandela Washington Fellows. The discussion featured members of the 2015 Fellowship Class based at Howard University's Public Management Institute. Details were posted [here](#).

North Africa

On July 5th, Egyptian security forces reported engaging in air strikes and ground operations that killed 63 Islamist militants in North Sinai between the towns of Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah. The army found four militant hideouts and attacked them with Apache helicopters and ground troops. It also attacked vehicles belonging to Islamist fighters. The offensive launched as authorities arrested 12 Muslim Brotherhood members believed to be planning attacks on police and as prosecutors referred to trial 22 people

charged with planting bombs near government buildings. Developments in Egypt were noted [here](#).

On July 5th, the Egyptian cabinet began circulating a new draft law that would criminalize the reporting of terrorism statistics that differ from those provided by the government. Under the proposed law, journalists could face at least two years in jail if they publish any figures that contradict those issued by state institutions. An article on the draft law can be read [here](#).

On July 6th, Egyptian authorities arrested 13 members of the Muslim Brotherhood on suspicion of planting bombs around the Suez Canal to disrupt shipping. Prosecutors ordered those arrested should be detained for 15 days for planting bombs in areas including sanitation and electricity facilities and beaches. The Suez Canal is the fastest shipping route between Europe and Asia and has become a vital source of revenue for Egypt. For details, click [here](#).

On July 8th, at least 18 people were reported killed in the clashes between Arabs and Berbers in Ghardaia, Algeria. The violence broke out over the weekend, with security forces sending reinforcements in an attempt to calm renewed clashes that intensified early this week. Several homes and businesses were burnt down and another 30 people were reported wounded. The violence was reported [here](#).

East Africa

On July 1st, the Executive Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved a \$62 million loan to finance the second phase of Kenya's Support to Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Relevant Skills Development project. The project aims to increase access and equity and improve the quality and relevance of TVET, especially in Kenya's emerging oil, gas, and mining sectors, which are anticipated to employ between 42,000 and 98,000 people over the next ten years. A press release was issued [here](#).

On July 3rd, the World Bank and the Government of Tunisia commemorated 50 years of development partnership since 1965 when the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved the \$5 million Agriculture Credit Project, the first credit to Tanzania. Over the past 50 years, the cooperation between the World Bank and Tanzania has grown in financing grants, policy advice, and research, covering various areas from macroeconomic management to projects in transportation, energy, education, health, and other sectors. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On July 4th, Kenyan officials for the port of Mombasa dismissed 27 workers believed to be behind a strike last week estimated to have cost the port \$2 million and created a backlog of roughly 2,500 containers. On July 1st-2nd, over 2,000 workers went on strike in protest against higher deductions for the government's national health insurance scheme, prompting port management to threaten to fire them. Union officials have vowed to fight the dismissals. For more information, click [here](#).

On July 6th, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the second review of Tanzania's economic performance under the program supported by the Policy Support Instrument (PSI). Approved in July 2014, Tanzania's program under the PSI supports the authorities' medium-term objectives, including the maintenance of macroeconomic stability, the preservation of debt sustainability, and the promotion of more inclusive growth and job creation. The Board found Tanzania's macroeconomic performance remains strong and performance under the PSI was satisfactory. The review was summarized [here](#).

On July 6th, thousands of Kenyans rallied in Nairobi against homosexuality. Speaking outside of parliament, lawmaker Irungu Kangata warned President Obama not to bring attention to the gay agenda during his upcoming visit to Kenya, especially in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow same-sex marriage. In Kenya, and most of Africa, socially and religiously conservative ideals have led lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people to hide their sexual orientation for fear of persecution or criminal prosecution. Details can be seen [here](#).

On July 7th, the Ugandan military announced that defectors from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have reported that LRA leader Joseph Kony is sickly and in retreat from an international manhunt. According to Ugandan officials, defectors who surrendered to Ugandan troops in the Central African Republic (CAR) last month suggested Kony is possibly suffering from diabetes. Kony's health was questioned

[here](#).

On July 7th, Al Shabaab fighters attacked two homes in Kenya's Mandera Country, killing at least 14 people and wounding 11 others. Between 10 and 15 militants reportedly blew open a gate at the compound and then entered and began shooting. The compound housed primarily quarry workers. Security forces responded within ten minutes and as their vehicles approached, the attackers dispersed into the bush, perhaps destined for Somalia. The incident was reported [here](#).

On July 7th, Safaricom, Kenya's largest telecommunications operator, expressed concern that forthcoming regulations to be issued by the Information and Communication Technology Ministry could deter investment if they unfairly target big firms. Last week, Information and Communication Technology Minister Fred Matiangi indicated he would soon prevent new regulations to parliament to prevent large firms from abusing their dominant position. The debate on the new regulations was outlined [here](#).

On July 8th, the World Bank issued its latest Ethiopia Economic Update report. The report noted Ethiopia continued to see double digit growth in 2014, but 90 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) is driven by agriculture and other services. The report also finds Ethiopia faces several constraints slowing down its transformation into an industrialized economy, which may be mitigated by developing a skilled labor force and improving the investment climate. The update can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 9th, Ugandan police arrested former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi and opposition leader Kizza Besigye, both presidential hopefuls. President Yoweri Museveni has ruled as head of the National Resistance Movement since 1986. Backgrounds on both men are available [here](#).

On July 9th, Ethiopian Airlines Chief Executive Tewolde GebreMariam told reporters he is considering buying Boeing 777-X, Airbus 350-1000, and Bombardier Q400 aircrafts as part of plans to double their fleet by 2025. GebreMariam's statement is [here](#).

West Africa

On July 2nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned an attack against a convoy of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) carried out in Goundam-Timbuktu axis, which killed six peacekeepers from Burkina Faso and injured five others. The attack was also condemned by U.N. Special Representative for Mali and head of MINUSMA Mongi Mamdi and the U.N. Security Council. The U.N. response to the attack was articulated [here](#).

On July 2nd, the Parliament of Sierra Leone ratified the protocols to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa, known as the Maputo Protocols. The treaty has been ratified by 37 African states. As a signatory to the treaty, Sierra Leone is now under pressure to introduce a law banning female genital mutilation (FGM) nationwide. For more information, click [here](#).

On July 5th, the EU approved 1.15 billion Euros of aid for West Africa through 2020, nearly doubling its previous commitment to the region. The statement announcing the aid package did not give a breakdown of funding. However, it said part of the money earmarked for security would go towards migration. The funding for the 16 countries in the region is also expected to be used to support job create and sustainable development and to help promote recovery from the Ebola crisis. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On July 6th, Malian Islamist rebel group Ansar Dine claimed it carried out a series of attacks against U.N. peacekeepers and Malian army targets in Bamako and along borders with Cote d'Ivoire and Mauritania. More specifically, Ansar Dine claimed responsibility for an attack on the town of Mara on June 27th, as well as attacks in Misseni and Fakola in June and July. It also reported attacking U.N. peacekeepers in Bamako in May. Ansar Dine's claims were outlined [here](#).

On July 6th, Cote d'Ivoire banned foreign imams from preaching in mosques in the northern part of the country bordering Mali. The construction of new mosques was also suspended in the area around Ouangolodougou. While the moves have angered the Muslim community, the government defended the measures as part of its anti-terrorism strategy. An article on the policies can be read [here](#).

On July 6th, Cote d'Ivoire signed a concession agreement with France's Bouygues and Keolis and South Korean firms Hyundai Rotem and Dongsan Engineering to build and operate an urban rail line in Abidjan. Ivorian Transportation Minister Gaoussou Toure said the rail line will provide a public passenger transportation service to complement the existing transportation services and satisfy demand. Abidjan currently has limited mass transit and suffers from congestion problems. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 7th, the French army confirmed its special forces had killed Mohamed Ali Ag Wadossene, a local operations chief for Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), during a weekend operation in Kidal, Mali. Ag Wadossene was among several militants freed by the Malian Government as part of a deal in December that saw AQIM release French citizen, Serge Lazarevic. Two other suspected AQIM militants were captured in the operation. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On July 7th, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari approved a \$2.1 billion intervention to help bankrupt states pay salaries. At least 12 of Nigeria's 36 states are said to owe their workers more than \$550 million in salaries and some workers have not been paid for seven months. The rescue package was detailed [here](#).

On July 7th, details became available on the recommendations made by a transition committee on Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's policy agenda. The committee recommended that President Buhari overhaul the Nigerian oil industry and increase borrowing to help pay off government arrears. The Committee also suggested cutting the size of the civil service and eliminating energy subsidies. The recommendations were summarized [here](#).

On July 7th, Miami-based mobile device manufacturer Yezz Mobile officially launched a range of headsets in Nigeria. The release of mobile offerings included Billy 4.7, Billy 4, Andy 5T, and Andy 6M and the company plans to leverage emerging and selective retail channels to establish the brand as a major player in Nigeria's mobile phone sector. Yezz Managing Director Robert Schiano said Nigeria, as one of the most significant markets in Africa with growing demand for smartphones, represents an opportunity for the company to build on its success in Latin America. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 8th, the coroner for Lagos, Nigeria, Oyetade Komolafe, reported that shoddy construction and weak foundations led to a building collapse last year that killed 115 people. The building was the guesthouse owned by The Synagogue, Church of All Nations (SCOAN). SCOAN rejected the coroner's verdict on July 9th, calling it unreasonable and biased. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 9th, 20 fighters from the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) were indicted for crimes committed during the 2010-2011 civil war. About 3,000 people were killed after former President Laurent Gbagbo refused to cede defeat in the 2010 election. For the first time, some of current President Alassane Ouattara's supporters have faced charges in addition to those who backed President Gbagbo. The details are [here](#).

On July 9th, Guinea indicted former military leader Moussa Dadis Camara over the September 2009 massacre in which at least 157 died while protesting against his presidential candidacy. The indictment casts doubt over whether or not Camara will return to participate in the upcoming presidential elections in October. Camara joined the new Patriotic Forces for Democracy and Development (FPDD) Party while living in exile in Burkina Faso. His lawyer said he will not be prevented from returning to Guinea. Statements from the FPDD and the U.N. Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On July 2nd, the Executive Board of the IMF completed the fourth review of Mozambique's economic performance under the program supported by the PSI. While the Board commended Mozambique's continued strong growth performance and low inflation, as well as investments in large coal and natural gas projects, the IMF warned low commodity prices have increased near-term risks. The Board's observations were summarized [here](#).

On July 3rd, a shipment of ivory worth \$3.3 billion was intercepted at OR Tambo International Airport in

Johannesburg, South Africa, on its way from Zimbabwe to Vietnam. The 558 pound haul was hidden in boxes wrapped in plastic and labeled as handicrafts. South African police have launched further investigation into the seized ivory. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 5th, *Bloomberg* speculated Russia's state owned nuclear power company Rosatom may offer financing as part of its bid to win the rights to build South African nuclear power plants worth as much as \$100 million. Rosatom is viewed as a top competitor to win the bid to construct as many as eight reactors that can generate 9,600 megawatts (MW) and begin operating from 2023. Bids are due to start this quarter. An article on the nuclear projects and South Africa's financing challenges was published [here](#).

On July 5th, during a meeting between South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Chamber of Mines, the union rejected a five-year wage deal presented by mining companies operating in the countries. Companies including AngloGold Ashanti Ltd. and Harmony Gold Mining Co. had proposed annual wage increases of as much as 13 percent, plus a share of profits and improved job security and living conditions. NUM instead advocated for a shorter-term deal with basic pay for above-ground employees and a 15 percent increase for all other categories. The negotiations were outlined [here](#).

On July 5th, U.S.-based Internet taxi firm Uber announced it will be providing security for its drivers in South Africa in the wake of verbal threats from other taxi operators. The news follows reports that Uber drivers in Johannesburg had been targeted by meter taxi drivers and a protest held outside Uber's offices on Friday. Uber's new security measures were announced [here](#).

On July 6th, an IMF mission completed a visit to Namibia to conduct the 2015 Article IV consultation. IMF staff met with Namibian Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance Calle Schlettwein, Governor of the Bank of Namibia Ipumbu Shiimi, and other government and private sector officials. The team observed Namibia has maintained robust growth since the global financial crisis, although growth in 2014 was somewhat weaker largely due to weak global demand for Namibia's export items. Additional economic data was analyzed [here](#).

On July 6th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe announced a cabinet reshuffle, making seven changes. Notably, President Mugabe moved Minister of Information Jonathan Moyo to the post of Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, leaving the Information Minister position vacant. Homeland Security Minister Kembo Mohadi was named National State Security Minister, while Ignatius Chombo, who previously led the local government ministry, was promoted to Minister of Homeland Security. For more information on the cabinet changes, click [here](#).

On July 6th, South African network operator MTN SA CEO Ahmad Farroukh announced plans to step down at the end of July. His recognition comes during a strike that began in late May, with workers demanding higher wages and bonuses. Details on Farroukh's resignation were shared [here](#).

On July 7th, speaking at the Operation Phasika Oceans Economy investment seminar in London, U.K., South African Deputy Minister of Transport Lydia Sindisiwe Chikunga said South Africa is situated on one of the busiest international sea routes, critical to international maritime transportation, and its geographical location presents a huge opportunity for investing in a diversified maritime market. By leveraging the ocean economy, Deputy Minister Chikunga estimated South Africa could create more than one million jobs. Her remarks were captured [here](#).

On July 7th, Zimbabwe's Livestock Department warned farmers in Matabeleland North are at risk of losing about 600,000 cattle due to a shortage of pastures caused by drought. The latest figures represent a 100 percent increase from the 300,000 cattle that were estimated to be at risk during the first quarter of this year. Local farmers have been urged to pool resources and ask for permission to cut hay from national parks. More information was posted [here](#).

On July 8th, the Democratic Green Party, Rwanda's main opposition group, opened a case in the country's Supreme Court seeking to prevent constitutional change that would allow President Paul Kagame to run for a third, seven-year term in office. The case was quickly adjourned after the lawyer for the Democratic Green Party failed to appear. Reportedly lawyers in Rwanda were fearful about representing the opposition. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 9th, the U.N. sent home 20 foreign peacekeepers from the CAR who allegedly used excessive force on four people, killing two. The U.N. is also investigating claims of the sexual abuse of children. Thousands have died in CAR since 2013, but violence has subsided since a May peace accord. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On July 9th, South African Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng said he would meet with President Jacob Zuma to try to resolve tensions between the government and the judiciary over the state's failure to detain Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in South Africa last month. The meeting will occur when President Zuma returns from the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Summit concluding in Russia on Thursday. A spokesperson for the President indicated President Zuma would take the meeting to reassert his own commitment, and that of the executive, to the independence of the judiciary and its role as the final arbiter in all disputes. The meeting was outlined [here](#).

On July 9th, South African Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba said tourism is expected to dip in the first year of the new visa rules for children. The new rules, designed to prevent child trafficking, require minors to have an unabridged birth certificate, passport, visa, and other documents. These new rules went into effect in early June. Reportedly, Air China has considered suspending flights to South Africa because of the requirements. For more information, click [here](#).

General Africa News

On July 7th, the Wilson Center Africa Program hosted an event titled, "Brand Africa: Separating Myth From Reality." Speakers included Assistant USTR for Africa Florizelle Liser, Ambassador Donald Gips of Albright Stonebridge Group, Omoyele Sowore of Sahara Reports, Valentina Saltane of the World Bank, and Raymond Gilpin of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. The event was noticed [here](#).

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