



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On July 24th, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) introduced an amendment to the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill that would eliminate military foreign assistance to Egypt by labeling the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi a coup. The funding would be redirected to the "Bridges in Critical Corridors" program for domestic infrastructure projects. A press release from Senator Paul's office has been posted [here](#).

On July 26th, Egyptian authorities launched an investigation into espionage and murder allegations against deposed President Mohamed Morsi. Experts anticipate the announcement will only further anger President Morsi's supporters, who continue to demonstrate in support of his reinstatement as President. News on the investigation was reported [here](#).

On July 26th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) Navi Pillay reiterated calls for Egyptian authorities to ensure respect for rule of law and international human rights standards. Both officials called for Egyptian authorities to exercise restraint and to respect the rights of Egyptians to peacefully protest. Additional feedback from the U.N. was discussed [here](#).

On July 26th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki addressed the U.S. decision to avoid making a determination about the status of a coup in Egypt. Reporters questioned if the State Department averted the spirit of the law with its non-determination. Spokesperson Psaki said the legal team involved determined no decision needed to be made on the case. A transcript of the briefing is available [here](#).

On July 26th, the *Washington Post's* Ernesto Londono and Holly Yeager raised the issue of contractual obligations to Egypt in the debate over whether or not to put a freeze on U.S. military aid. Londono and Yeager argued shutting down the defense pipeline to Egypt would take years, with

contractual implications due to cash-flow financing that have not been raised in the current debate. The full article can be found [here](#).

On July 27th, Egyptian authorities attacked Islamist protestors in Cairo, killing at least 72 people. Because many of those killed were shot in the head or in the chest, Muslim Brotherhood leaders argue the Egyptian military feels it no longer needs to use restraint. The attack follows a march ordered by General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi supporting the military's authority to combat terrorism. A report on the mass killing can be read [here](#).

On July 27th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon published a statement condemning the upsurge in violence in Egypt. He underscored that violence is not a substitute for a political solution and called on Egyptian authorities to respect rights to freedom of speech and assembly. Secretary-General Ban's statement has been posted [here](#).

On July 27th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement on the latest round of protests in Egypt. Secretary Kerry said he spoke with interim Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei, interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, and European Union (EU) High Representative Catherine Ashton to express concerns about the latest bloodshed. He also said continued violence in Egypt will set back reconciliation and democratization and negatively impact stability in the region. Secretary Kerry's full remarks can be accessed [here](#).

On July 27th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel spoke with General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi to express concern about the most recent violence in Egypt. Secretary Hagel urged the Egyptian military to avoid arbitrary arrests and detentions and to take steps to prevent additional loss of life. The Pentagon's readout of the discussion can be viewed [here](#).

On July 28th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke with interim Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei to express concerns regarding the direction of the transition in Egypt and to urge Egyptian authorities to peacefully manage of protests. Secretary-General Ban also spoke with the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Qatar, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States regarding developments in Egypt. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 28th, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) went on ABC's "This Week" to express their views on the situation in Egypt. Senator Durbin said the U.S. must send a clear message denouncing the Egyptian military's killing of pro-Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators as it debates the continuation of aid to Egypt. Senator Chambliss agreed and cautioned the U.S. should not become too heavily involved in Egypt's political situation. The discussion was recorded [here](#).

On July 28th, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," where she discussed developments in Egypt. Due to the Egyptian military's failure to curtail the violence and restore civilian control, Senator Feinstein said the U.S. might need to consider cutting off aid. A recording of Senator Feinstein's remarks can be watched [here](#).

On July 28th, Shadi Hamid of the Brookings Institution Doha Center spoke with CNN about ongoing violence in Egypt. Hamid said the military appears to be inciting violence with little interest in reconciliation. The video interview can be found [here](#).

On July 29th, Egyptian Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim announced the reinstatement of secret police units that were shut down during Egypt's 2011 uprising against former President Hosni Mubarak. The police units, which were part of the State Security Investigations Service that preceded Egypt's National Security Service (NSS), were known for investigating Islamist activists and opposition groups. News on the announcement was reported [here](#).

On July 29th, in a second visit to Egypt, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton met with interim Egyptian President Adly Mansour and Muslim Brotherhood leaders to encourage all parties to back down from escalating clashes. The Muslim Brotherhood responded to High Representative Ashton's visit by planning a march from a mosque in northern Cairo to the office of the Interior Ministry. Details on High Representative Ashton's visit to Egypt can be viewed [here](#).

On July 29th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki noted Secretary of State John Kerry's calls with interim Vice President ElBaradei, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, and his counterparts in the UAE, Turkey, and Qatar regarding developments in Egypt. Spokesperson Psaki expressed ongoing concern for violence and articulated the U.S. belief that High Representative Ashton should have access to deposed President Mohamed Morsi. Additional comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be read [here](#).

On July 29th, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) spoke with *Bloomberg Television's* Hans Nichols about U.S. aid to Egypt. Senator McCain said the situation constitutes a coup and the U.S. should suspend aid while providing an opportunity for its resumption in the future. A video of Senator McCain's comments is available [here](#).

On July 30th, President Barack Obama asked Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) to travel to Egypt next week to persuade the military to quickly hold elections. While Senator McCain has called for suspension of U.S. aid to Egypt, Senator Graham has said more information is needed before making a determination on aid. News on the trip can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel again spoke with General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi on developments in the security situation in Egypt. The leaders discussed how to build on EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton's most recent visit, as well as the need for an inclusive reconciliation process. A readout of the conversation was shared [here](#).

On July 30th, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton held a news conference, where she announced she had met with deposed President Mohamed Morsi for two hours. She said the meeting was freely offered by Egyptian authorities and that President Morsi is doing well. High Representative Ashton and President Morsi discussed developments in Egypt and the need for the country to move forward. Details are available [here](#).

On July 30th, the Senate defeated by an 86-13 vote an amendment proposed by Senator Rand Paul that would have cut off U.S. aid to Egypt. The amendment would have redirected \$1.5 billion in annual aid towards spending on infrastructure projects in the U.S. The vote was noted [here](#).

On July 30th, the *New York Times* published an editorial on the continued political crisis in Egypt. The *Times* editorial board suggests reconciliation efforts were significantly harmed when the military attacked supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi. The full editorial can be read [here](#).

On July 31st, the cabinet of Egypt's interim government signaled Interior Ministry forces have been ordered to use all necessary measures to breakup sit-in sites where supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi continue demonstrating in Cairo and in Giza. While interim government officials have called protestors a national security threat, Muslim Brotherhood leaders vow to continue demonstrations. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On July 31st, leaders of Egypt's interim government referred Mohamed Badie, a high-ranking official within the Muslim Brotherhood, to trial on charges of inciting murder. The Interior Ministry also indicated it would begin taking action to break up sit-ins staged by supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi. An article with the latest details can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton to discuss High Representative Ashton's recent visit to Egypt. The leaders discussed the direction of the political transition and agreed on the need for an inclusive political process. Both leaders also reiterated calls for the release of former President Mohamed Morsi and senior Muslim Brotherhood officials. A readout of the meeting was shared [here](#).

On July 31st, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Egypt Philippe Duamelle issued a statement expressing alarm that children have been killed and injured during violent confrontations in Egypt. He called for children in Egypt to be protected from political exploitation. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 1st, Egyptian Interior Ministry Spokesperson Hany Abdul-Laatf appeared on state

television to reiterate calls for protestors sympathetic to ousted President Mohamed Morsi to abandon sit-ins. Observers view the broadcast as a sign that authorities are one step closer to using force to end the demonstrations. An article on the appearance can be read [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On July 28th, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, a candidate in Zimbabwe's presidential elections, expressed confidence that current President Robert Mugabe will be sent into retirement on July 31st. Prime Minister Tsvangirai maintains the results from the 2008 presidential election were rigged to prevent him from achieving an outright victory. Additional comments on the election are available [here](#).

On July 28th, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's campaign organizer, Deputy Minister of Transport Morgan Komichi, was arrested at his home. While police confirmed the arrest, they did not immediately provide details on charges. Members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) believe Deputy Minister Komichi may have been arrested for reporting the dumping of ballots marked for Prime Minister Tsvangirai. The full story has been posted [here](#).

On July 29th, *Al Jazeera* published an interview with Tendai Biti, Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, on challenges facing the country and the funds needed to support national elections. Minister Biti noted the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), led by President Robert Mugabe, refused to accept any foreign assistance to fund the elections, a decision with serious budgetary implications. The full interview can be found [here](#).

On July 29th, the International Crisis Group (ICG) issued a report expressing serious concerns with the electoral process in Zimbabwe. The report suggests a political crisis and a return to violence is likely following presidential elections. The report notes the involvement of the South African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) in the election proceedings and argues these organizations should not be afraid to declare the election illegitimate if serious issues are found. The full report can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe denied all allegations of corruption pertaining to upcoming elections. President Mugabe said he would relinquish power without protest if he loses the election to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. Additional details from President Mugabe's press conference on the eve of the elections are available [here](#).

On July 30th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to questions regarding July 31st presidential and parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe. She noted the U.S., the SADC, and other international partners are concerned about the transparency of elections, as well as government restrictions that may impede elections from happening freely. Spokesperson Psaki also noted the U.S. has provided limited funding to independent SADC observers to monitor elections. More comments were transcribed [here](#).

On July 31st, voters in Zimbabwe cast ballots in a national presidential election pitting 89-year-old President Robert Mugabe against Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. The ZANU-PF and MDC parties have been in a power sharing structure since controversial elections in 2008. President Mugabe says the elections will be free and fair, while Prime Minister Tsvangirai and members of the MDC allege fraud remains a major concern. More information on the voting in Zimbabwe is available [here](#).

On July 31st, while casting his vote in Zimbabwe's national elections, President Robert Mugabe said he intends to serve a full five-year term if elected. Due to President Mugabe's age, some experts have suggested he may relinquish power to a younger leader of the ZANU-PF before his term ends. Additional election-day comments from President Mugabe can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, reports indicated there was record voter turnout in Zimbabwe's presidential elections. Members of the MDC opposition party expressed continued concern about a rigging of the voting process, but said the high turnout was encouraging. Results are expected on Monday. An article on the end of voting in Zimbabwe can be read [here](#).

Mali

On July 26th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement calling for participation in Mali's presidential elections on July 28th. He called on authorities in Mali to ensure the elections occur in an orderly manner and said that any post-election disputes should be resolved peacefully. The statement is available [here](#).

On July 28th, voters in Mali cast their ballots in a presidential election that marks a significant political transition from when militants took over northern portions of the country just a year ago. The elections were regarded as calm and achieved record voter turnout. An article on the voting in Mali can be read [here](#).

On July 29th, members of the international community praised the national elections in Mali. French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault applauded the first democratic elections in Mali since Islamist militants overtook the northern region of the country a year ago. Acting Malian President Dioncounda Traore said he was very satisfied with the organization of the elections. Comments from other international leaders are available [here](#).

On July 29th, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) reported the first round of presidential elections in Mali was conducted in an orderly manner. Throughout voting, MINUSMA provided security support to the Malian Defense and Security Forces. More on MINUSMA's involvement in the elections can be found [here](#).

On July 29th, the State Department issued a press release commending enthusiastic participation in presidential elections in Mali and efforts of the Government to ensure elections were transparent and inclusive. The statement also encouraged patience and tolerances as votes are counted and results are announced. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On July 30th, partial results from Mali's presidential election showed former Prime Minister Boubacar Keita ahead of other candidates, with just one third of all votes counted. While declining to cite a vote margin, Mali's Minister of Territorial Administration Colonel Moussa Sinko Coulibaly said if the margin is maintained there would be no need for a runoff election, tentatively scheduled for August 11th. The other top two candidates are Soumaila Cisse and Dramane Dembele. Initial election results were noted [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On July 25th, the U.N. released a summary of the Security Council ministerial on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, which was chaired by Secretary of State John Kerry. The Security Council released a presidential statement in conjunction with the meeting calling for the immediate restoration of State authority of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the eastern DRC and for armed groups, including M23, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF-NALU), and the Mayi Mayi Kata-Katanga, to immediately and permanently disband their arms. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On July 27th, the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) expressed alarm at allegations of killings, forced recruitment, and illegal retention of civilians by the M23 rebel group. Deputy Special Representative in the DRC Abdallah Wafy urged M23 rebels to cooperate in allowing humanitarian access to the region. More on the situation in the DRC can be read [here](#).

On July 30th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported a steep rise in sexual violence against women and girls due to ongoing conflict in the DRC. Since January, 705 cases of sexual violence, including 619 rape cases, were registered in the region. In the same time period last year, only 108 cases of sexual violence were reported. A report on sexual violence in the DRC can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, MONUSCO announced for the first time it will use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma, giving rebels in the area 48 hours to disarm. The U.N. estimates more than one million civilians live in the areas included as part of the security zone. After 4PM on August

1st, MONUSCO indicated those who had not disarmed would be considered imminent threats, allowing force to be used to disarm them. The announcement was reported [here](#).

On July 31st, in response to the U.N. disarmament effort in Goma, the M23 rebel group said it will fight back if its forces are threatened by the U.N. brigade tasked with creating peace in the DRC. Comments from the M23 rebels can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, a two-day summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Regional (ICGLR) kicked off at U.N. headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The summit brings together representatives of the 11 African countries that signed on to the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region. U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region will present benchmarks for progress on implementation of the framework at the Summit. More information can be seen [here](#).

Libya

On July 26th, Libyan activist Abdul-Salam Al-Musmari was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen as he was leaving prayers on Friday. Al-Musmari was a leading lawyer who headed a group credited with launching the 2011 protests against longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Al-Musmari was also a vocal critic of the country's Muslim Brotherhood. More information on the attack can be viewed [here](#).

On July 27th, amidst protests following the assassination of political activist Abdul-Salam Al-Musmari, more than 1,000 prisoners escaped from Koyfiya prison near Benghazi. Most of the escaped inmates were being held on serious charges. An article on the prison break can be read [here](#).

On July 30th, the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) put out a news release voicing concern for recent acts of violence in the country targeting political activists, judicial institutions, diplomatic personnel, members of the army and police, and other State facilities. UNSMIL called on Libyan authorities to address the security situation and to mitigate risks to safety and stability. The news release has been posted [here](#).

Somalia

On July 27th, Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon said three suicide bombers killed a Turkish security official and a Somali student during an attack on the Turkish consulate in Mogadishu. The militant group Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. Details can be found [here](#).

On July 27th, the U.N. Special Envoy in Somalia Nicholas Kay condemned the suicide attack against a building housing Turkish diplomatic staff in Mogadishu. He noted this attack is one of several perpetrated by Al Shabaab during the holy month of Ramadan. Remarks from Special Representative Kay can be seen [here](#).

On July 27th, the State Department issued a statement condemning the terrorist attack on the Turkish diplomatic residences in Somalia. The U.S. pledged to uphold its commitment to helping Somalia achieve peace and stability. The full statement is available [here](#).

On July 29th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Security Council spoke out against the attack on Turkish embassy staff in Mogadishu. The U.N. spoke in strong opposition to the recurring violence against diplomatic and consular representative. More on the U.N.'s reaction to the attack in Somalia was reported [here](#).

Tunisia

On July 25th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and HCHR Navi Pillay condemned the assassination of Tunisian opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi. Secretary-General Ban called on authorities to thoroughly investigate the murder. HCHR Pillay raised concerns the assassination may upset progress on Tunisia's constitution. Statements from both officials can be read [here](#) and [here](#).

On July 26th, Tunisian unions urged workers to strike in response to the assassination of opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi. All flights from the national airline, Tunisair, were cancelled on Friday, and

numerous banks and shops were closed for a national day of mourning. The ruling Ennahda party has denied any involvement in Brahmi's death. An article on the assassination can be read [here](#).

On July 27th, thousands of Tunisians gathered in the town of Sidi Bouzid for the funeral of opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi. Police reportedly fired teargas in an effort to disperse the masses. Additional details on the unrest in Tunisia are available [here](#).

On July 27th, Morocco and Spain condemned the killing of Mohamed Brahmi. Both countries called for an environment of stability to support the democratic transition in Tunisia. Details on the statements from Morocco and Spain are available [here](#).

On July 29th, following the assassination of political opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi and protests in the aftermath of his murder, at least eight soldiers were killed in an ambush in Chaambi along Tunisia's northwest border. Four additional soldiers were wounded by mines that were laid by insurgents. Details on the ambush have been posted [here](#).

On July 30th, Tunisian Prime Minister Ali Larayedh delivered a defiant speech rejecting demands that he step down. Prime Minister Larayedh pledged to stay in office to see Tunisia's democratic transition to fruition, including adoption of a new constitution by August and the completion of free and fair elections in December. Remarks from Prime Minister Larayedh were recorded [here](#).

Nigeria

On July 29th, at least 20 villagers in Dawashe, Nigeria, were killed when the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) vigilante group clashed with militant Islamists of Boko Haram. An initial report on the attack can be found [here](#).

On July 29th, multiple explosions launched by Boko Haram in the Christian area of Kano injured several people and killed at least 12 others. Eyewitnesses reported the use of car bombs in a part of the city that was crowded with people playing snooker and table tennis. An account of the attack was reported [here](#).

On July 30th, Nigerian authorities arrested 42 suspected members of Boko Haram in Lagos and Ogun. According to Army Spokesman Kingsley Umoh, many of those captured have already confessed to being members of Boko Haram. An article on the arrests can be read [here](#).

South Sudan

On July 26th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki commented on the situation in South Sudan and said Secretary of State John Kerry has made it a priority to appoint a Special Envoy for the region. In addition to addressing the political situation and ongoing violence in Jonglei State, Spokesperson Psaki encouraged South Sudan and Sudan to implement the September 27th cooperation agreements and to allow for the transportation of South Sudanese oil via Sudan's pipeline. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be seen [here](#).

On July 27th, following violence in Jonglei State and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir's dismissal of his entire cabinet, the State Department shared a readout of Secretary of State John Kerry's call with President Kiir. Secretary Kerry reiterated U.S. concerns for the political situation in South Sudan and called on President Kiir to quickly form a new government. Secretary Kerry also called for immediate steps to address the humanitarian crisis in Jonglei State and to hold those guilty of human rights violations accountable. The readout can be accessed [here](#).

On July 31st, South Sudan President Salva Kiir announced a new cabinet following the removal of previous advisers on July 23rd. President Kiir retained Oil Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau and named Kuol Manyang, currently the Governor of Jonglei State, as Defense Minister. No Vice President has been appointed. Details on the new appointments can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On July 25th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf covered several developments in Africa as part of the daily press briefing. Deputy Spokesperson Harf condemned the assassination of Mohamed Brahmi in Tunisia and reported on Secretary of State John Kerry's participation in the U.N. Security Council Ministerial on the Great Lakes region of Africa. She also provided an update on developments in Egypt and discussed the role of the U.S. Embassy in Mali in observing elections. A transcript of the briefing can be read [here](#).

On July 29th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued remarks in recognition of Morocco's national day. Secretary Kerry noted the U.S. and Morocco have had a 225 year friendship and the U.S. maintains its oldest diplomatic property in Tangier. He also commended Morocco for efforts to strengthen rule of law, human rights, and good governance. Secretary Kerry's remarks can be seen [here](#).

On July 29th, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Claire Richard met with the Director of World Vision's mission in Ethiopia Margaret Schuler at the Department of State. More information on World Vision's work in Ethiopia can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez and Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Mike Hammer attended the Kingdom of Morocco's National Day reception at the Embassy of Morocco. The reception was listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

On July 31st, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Benin on its 53rd independence day. Secretary Kerry said multiple free and fair elections in Benin over the past two decades have made Benin a democratic leader in West Africa. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On July 31st, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez met with the Ambassador of Gabon to the U.S. Michael Moussa-Adamo. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's public schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On July 31st, in the daily State Department press briefing, Deputy State Department Spokesperson Marie Harf addressed several issues in Africa. On Egypt, Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the State Department is consulting Congress on the continued provision of U.S. aid. On elections in Zimbabwe, she said while the polls remained open, early observations indicated polling stations were operating peacefully and efficiently. Deputy Spokesperson also condemned increasing violence in Benghazi, as well as the latest Boko Haram attack in Nigeria. The full briefing transcript is available [here](#).

USAID

On July 25th, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced two new Feed the Future innovation labs. The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet will be led by Kansas City University and will produce new innovations and technologies for the sorghum and millet producing areas of Africa. The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy, which includes Michigan State University, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the University of Pretoria, will help increase partner countries' capacity to identify and implement improved food security policies. A press release can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On July 24th, 700 U.S. and 3,000 South African Defense Force (SADF) soldiers gathered in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, for the opening ceremony of Exercise Shared Accord 13. Shared Accord 13, which is executed by U.S. Army Africa, will include a live-fire operation, airborne and dismounted infantry tactics, a maritime amphibious assault, peacekeeping operations and disaster response, as well as a humanitarian civic assistance project. More information was noted [here](#).

On July 26th, American Forces Press Services issued a readout of Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter's recent trip to Ethiopia. Deputy Secretary Carter met with Ethiopian Prime Minister

Hailemariam Desalegn and discussed next steps to respond to recent events in South Sudan, conflicts in Somalia, Mali, and the Central African Republic (CAR), maritime security, and crisis management. Deputy Secretary Carter also met with Chief of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces General Samora Yenus and AU Deputy Secretary Erastus Mwencha. The readout is available [here](#).

On July 26th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) released an updated fact sheet. The fact sheet includes information on AFRICOM's leadership, mission, and personnel, as well as funding. It notes AFRICOM has about 2,000 assigned personnel and operated on a \$276 million budget in FY12. The fact sheet can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 26th, the Department of Defense (DOD) notified Congress of plans to send two Guantanamo Bay detainees back to Algeria. White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the move reflects the Administration's commitment to closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. The announcement comes as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Policy William Lietzau prepares to step down and as Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representatives Frank Wolf (R-VA), Jim Moran (D-VA), and Gerry Connolly (D-VA) were visiting the facility. More information can be seen [here](#).

On July 26th, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Public Affairs reported on a recent military-to-military photojournalism workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya. The exercise allowed U.S. airmen to train Kenya Defense Forces soldiers and airmen in using high-tech digital cameras, composition, philosophy of imagery, clearing military photos for release, and techniques necessary to compose a newsworthy photo essay from the field. More on the workshop can be viewed [here](#).

On July 29th, the U.S. Marine Corps reported on a 10-week joint engagement completed by the Uganda People's Defense Force and U.S. Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa Soldiers and Marines. Held in Kakola, Uganda, the engagement focused on marksmanship, vehicle maintenance, communication equipment, and convoy operations, in advance of the deployment of Ugandan troops to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) later this year. An article on the exercise can be read [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On July 30th, Under Secretary for International Trade Francisco Sanchez delivered remarks at the "Doing Business in Africa: Power and Infrastructure Development Forum" held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This forum gathered government and private sector representatives to discuss the Administration's Doing Business in Africa Campaign, President Barack Obama's new Power Africa initiative, and the broader engagement of the U.S. public and private sectors in infrastructure development across the continent. Other participants included former U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Donald Gips, Chamber of Commerce Vice President for African Affairs and International Operations Scott Eisner, USAID Coordinator for Power Africa and Trade Africa Andrew Herscowitz, and President of GE Africa Jay Ireland. Information on the Doing Business in Africa program can be found [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On July 30th, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a joint business meeting and nomination hearing. The Committee voted on the nominations of Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Reuben Brigety II to be Ambassador to the AU, Patricia Haslach to be Ambassador to Ethiopia, Patrick Gaspard to be Ambassador to South Africa, Stephanie Sullivan to be Ambassador to the Republic of Congo, and James Entwistle to be Ambassador to Nigeria. The Committee also considered the nominations of Terence McCulley to be Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and James Swan to be Ambassador to the DRC. The agenda for the meeting is available [here](#).

On July 31st, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and leadership of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, Chairman Chris Smith (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA), held a news conference to receive recommendations for the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). During the event, the African diplomatic corps report was presented by Mauritius Ambassador

Somduth Soborun and Ethiopian Ambassador Girma Birru Geda. A release was been posted [here](#).

On July 31st, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a classified, members-only briefing on the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi. The Subcommittee received testimony from Colonel George Bristol, the commander for a special operations task force operating in North and West Africa at the time of the attack. More information on the briefing can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, Senators Lindsey Graham, John McCain, Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Ron Johnson (R-WI), and Representatives Darrel Issa (R-CA), Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), Trey Gowdy (R-SC) and Jim Jordan (R-OH) signed a letter calling on newly confirmed Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director James Comey to take a stronger approach on investigating the September 11th attack in Benghazi. The letter asks Director Comey to report on his efforts within 30 days. Information on the letter was reported [here](#).

On July 31st, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrel Issa sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry asking for an update on the status of four State Department employees put on paid leave as a result of the investigation into the September 2012 Benghazi attack. Excerpts from the letter can be read [here](#).

On July 31st, *National Journal* reported on members' of the House and Senate plans for the upcoming August recess. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) will be traveling to Ethiopia as part of an Aspen Institute event. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

On August 1st, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations marked up the Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty Embassy Security, Threat Mitigation, and Personal Protection Act of 2013. The bill, named for the four Americans killed in the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, will provide the State Department with resources and authorizations to implement the recommendations of the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi. The Committee also approved nominations considered earlier in the week. A webcast of the markup was archived [here](#).

North Africa

On July 25th, unidentified assailants attacked the UAE diplomatic compound in Tripoli, Libya. Attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the ambassador's residence. The UAE Ambassador was out of the country at the time and no injuries were reported. Accounts of the attack were reported [here](#).

On July 25th, the World Bank announced two new projects in Morocco to support entrepreneurship and access to microfinance for young people throughout the country. The two grants, totaling \$11 million, are sponsored by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Transition Fund. A release from the World Bank can be read [here](#).

On July 26th, UNHCR voiced concern over reports of the detention of Syrian refugees in Egypt. Since March 2011, Egypt has served as a hospitable environment for refugees fleeing the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. However, UNHCR is worried refugees' involvement in protests in Egypt may increase anti-Syrian sentiment. An article on Syrian refugees in Egypt can be read [here](#).

On July 28th, 31 migrants drowned off the coast of Libya when their boat capsized in an attempted crossing to Italy. 22 survivors, including individuals from Nigeria, Gambia, Benin, and Senegal, were rescued by a merchant vessel. The full story is discussed [here](#).

East Africa

On July 24th, tax officials in Kenya indicated they would introduce a new system for customs at the country's ports in August. The new system would allow trading partners, such as Uganda and Rwanda, to use their own clearing agents and customs officials to clear cargo and collect taxes onsite at Kenyan ports. More on the forthcoming reforms can be accessed [here](#).

On July 25th, Ethiopia signed a \$700 million agreement with Chinese telecommunications operator Huawei to expand mobile phone infrastructure in the country. The agreement will allow for the introduction of high-speed 4G broadband network in Addis Abba and 3G service throughout the rest of the country. More on the deal can be viewed [here](#).

On July 27th, officials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) indicated no opposition to a likely motion from Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to dismiss charges against him relating to violence from national elections in 2008. An article with the latest details on the case is available [here](#).

On July 27th, Spokesperson for the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Muthui Kariuki confirmed three Swiss nationals dead when their missing chartered plane was discovered by KWS officials in the Aberdare forest. Government authorities will continue to investigate the incident. The plane crash was reported [here](#).

On July 30th, UNHCR welcomed a ruling made by the High Court of Kenya to uphold the asylum rights of refugees living in urban areas. The ruling comes in response to a directive issued by the Government of Kenya in December 2012 calling for refugees to be transferred to camps at Dadaab and Kakuma. More information is available [here](#).

On July 30th, several civil society groups in Kenya, including the National Civil Society Congress, the Coalition for Constitution Implementation, and the Kenyan National Union of Nurses, criticized the Government's proposal to spend nearly \$30 million on celebrations for the country's 50th year of independence. The Government has yet to respond to the outcry. A report on the criticism can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On July 27th, three people were held for questioning in Yaounde, Cameroon, related to the murder earlier this month of gay rights activist Eric Lembembe. The three individuals being detained by criminal investigators are reportedly former colleagues of Lembembe's. Information on the criminal investigation can be seen [here](#).

On July 28th, thousands of protestors in Burkina Faso marched on Ouagadougou to protest the selection of local officials to join officials appointed by President Blaise Compaore in the 89-member Senate created in May. Several protests have recently been held to discourage President Compaore from running for reelection in 2015. An article on the latest protests can be read [here](#).

On July 29th, Africa Development Bank (AfDB) economist John Anyanwu suggested West Africa will be the continent's fast growing region between 2013 and 2014. Anyanwu projected growth in West Africa would reach 7.4% in 2014. Additional comments from Anyanwu are available [here](#).

On July 31st, Nigeria's electoral commission approved the merger of the All Nigeria Peoples Party, the Congress for Progressive Change, and the Action Congress of Nigeria, in a move that experts predict will create greater competition for President Goodluck Jonathan's People's Democratic party in the 2015 presidential elections. The new party will be called the All Progressive Congress. More on the merger can be viewed [here](#).

On July 31st, *Reuters* reported Royal Dutch Shell will sell at least four additional oil blocks in Nigeria as the company seeks to continue its divestment from the country. Security problems have plagued Shell operations in Nigeria. Details on the sale can be found [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On July 25th, security authorities in Madagascar advised civilians to avoid attending protests in the capital after receiving credible information on a plot to stage a blood bath. The alleged plot was intended to further destabilize President Andry Rajoelina, who came to power through a coup in 2009. The warnings were largely dismissed by demonstrators and candidates in the presidential elections, which have been delayed until later this year. News of the incident was reported [here](#).

On July 26th, Justice Edwin Cameron of the South African Constitutional Court, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, and UNHCR Navi Pillay launched the first global education campaign to raise awareness for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality in Cape Town, South Africa. The “Free & Equal” campaign includes legal reforms and public education initiatives to counter homophobia and transphobia. Details on the campaign can be found [here](#).

On July 26th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography Najat Maalla M’jid completed a mission to Madagascar. Following meetings with state and local authorities, as well as meetings with victims of child exploitation, Special Rapporteur M’jid called on the Government of Madagascar to adopt policies that address drivers of the sexual exploitation of children, including poverty, corruption, and weak reporting mechanisms for victims. Information on Special Rapporteur M’jid’s trip to Madagascar can be viewed [here](#).

On July 29th, former South African President Nelson Mandela spent his 52nd day in a Pretoria hospital while he continues to fight health issues stemming from a recurring lung infection. Details on President Mandela’s health are available [here](#).

On July 29th, Olympian Cameron van der Burgh won South Africa’s first medal at the 15th Fina World Championships held in Barcelona, Spain. Van der Burgh won the silver medal in the 100 meter breaststroke event. An article on the win can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, while speaking with Britain’s *ITV News*, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe blamed the British government and former Prime Minister Tony Blair for causing significant economic problems in Zimbabwe. President Mugabe said international sanctions on Zimbabwe were inappropriate and led to high rates of inflation. Additional comments from President Mugabe are available [here](#).

On July 30th, *Time* reported on an effort by the South Africa-based Children’s Right Project to ban corporal punishment within the country. If passed, the law would charge parents who hit their children as punishment with assault. Critics of the law, which is similar to measures passed in Germany, Kenya, and Uruguay, say it would inappropriately criminalize many parents. More information on the proposal is available [here](#).

On July 31st, former President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea Clinton arrived in Malawi to visit a number of projects under the Clinton Foundation. The Clintons met with President Joyce Banda and toured the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Lilongwe. More on the Clintons’ visit to Malawi has been posted [here](#).

On July 31st, U.S. agricultural company DuPont Pioneer announced it purchased an 80% stake in South African competitor Pannar Seed Limited. While the deal was initially announced in 2010, the South African government rejected the proposal. The acquisition was allowed after DuPont won an appeal in May 2012. As part of the agreement, Pioneer will invest in a research facility in South Africa by 2017 to support seed and other technology. An article on the deal can be read [here](#).

On July 31st, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) called on U.K. oil company Soco International to put a hold on exploration plans in Virunga National Park in the eastern DRC. While Soco claims its exploration plans will not harm the park’s ecosystem, WWF remains concerned about pollution and environmental damage. Details can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On July 24th, the AfDB approved a \$45 million grant to support the creation of a Pan African University. The new university will include five institutes focused on technology and innovation, earth and life sciences, social sciences, water and energy sciences, and space sciences. An AfDB press release has been posted [here](#).

On July 30th, the Brookings Institution hosted a briefing on “The Next 50 Years of the AU.” The event was moderated by Mwangi Kimenyi of the Africa Growth Initiative and featured Amina Salum Ali, Ambassador of the AU to the U.S. Details on the event are available [here](#).

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