



ML Strategies Update

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AUGUST 22, 2013

AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On August 15th, demonstrators in Cairo torched a government building as the Muslim Brotherhood called for a Day of Rage to denounce government crackdowns that killed more than 600 people. The National Salvation Front also called for a counter protest against terrorist actions conducted by the Muslim Brotherhood. Developments in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On August 15th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki condemned attacks in Egypt and argued protestors should not be labeled terrorists. She addressed the cancellation of the Bright Star military exercise, noting the operation cannot be carried out when civilians are being killed in the streets. Spokesperson Psaki reiterated the U.S. Government's position that the state of emergency in Egypt should be lifted and reported Secretary of State John Kerry has been in touch with interim President Adly Mansour and interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy. A press briefing transcript is available [here](#).

On August 15th, former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain and current Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Adam Ereli said it may not make sense to apply American ideas of democracy to Egypt, especially as Egypt has a different history and unique way of approaching political dialogue and engagement. Additional observations from Deputy Assistant Secretary Ereli were discussed [here](#).

On August 15th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fatah al-Sisi to discuss the U.S.-Egypt defense relationship. While Secretary Hagel said the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) will continue to maintain a military relationship with Egypt, he made clear the violence and inadequate steps towards reconciliation are putting the longstanding relationship at risk. Secretary Hagel's statement on the conversation has been posted [here](#).

On August 15th, members of Congress reacted to the Egyptian military's crackdown on protestors in Cairo. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) argued a military coup occurred and criticized the Obama

Administration for not stopping U.S. foreign aid. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), who is working with Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on legislation that would condition U.S. assistance to Egypt, also called for a stop on aid until democracy is restored. More feedback from Congress can be seen [here](#).

On August 16th, the Muslim Brotherhood called for a week of protests to defy the spike in clashes between Islamists and Egyptian security forces. The call for more protests, slated to begin on Saturday, came after the Day of Rage protests, which killed at least 50 people in Cairo and at least 20 others in Alexandria. More on the Muslim Brotherhood's call for new protests can be viewed [here](#).

On August 16th, *TPC News* reported on the cancellation of the Bright Star military exercise with Egypt, announced by Commander in Chief Barack Obama on August 15th. Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said canceling the exercise was the right thing to do. A recording of Press Secretary Little's comments can be watched [here](#).

On August 16th, Pentagon Spokesperson Colonel Steve Warren said U.S.-Egypt military ties will be adjusted if bloodshed continues. While Colonel Warren declined to provide details, the announcement comes following Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's warning to Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, the cancellation of exercise Bright Star, and the delayed delivery of F-16 fighter jets to Egypt. Colonel Warren's comments were noted [here](#).

On August 16th, Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham issued a joint statement on developments in Egypt. In addition to condemning the violence, Senators McCain and Graham repeated their call for the Obama Administration to suspend U.S. assistance, while continuing to engage with Egypt to protect U.S. national security interests. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On August 17th, while vacationing in Martha's Vineyard, President Barack Obama was briefed on the Day of Rage protests in Egypt. At the time of the briefing, 173 people were reported dead and another 1,330 injured in the retaliatory demonstrations. More on the briefing was reported [here](#).

On August 17th, the *Washington Post* reported the Obama Administration is considering whether or not to delay the scheduled delivery of 12 new Apache AH-64D aircraft to Egypt next month. The aircraft are part of a 2009 arms sale. Egypt currently has about three dozen Apache helicopters from previous aid packages. A report on the pending delivery can be accessed [here](#).

On August 18th, the military-led government in Egypt announced a review of its strategic relationship with the U.S. and other Western Governments who have been critical of the authorities' crackdown on Islamist protestors. Interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy said Egypt's Foreign Ministry will undertake a review of past foreign aid to examine if assistance funds were optimally spent. The announcement was noted [here](#).

On August 18th, the *New York Times* ran an article on Egyptian authorities' efforts to block foreign media outlets from providing unfavorable coverage of the military's efforts to disperse protestors, notably *Al Jazeera*. Interim government officials, including General Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, have publicly slammed Western correspondents more broadly for failure to portray the crackdowns as a fight against terrorism. The full story was posted [here](#).

On August 18th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported at least 36 prisoners detained as a result of clashes between Egyptian security personnel and antigovernment protestors were killed during a prison transfer to the Abu Zaabal penitentiary. The prisoners, believed to be supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi, allegedly tried to hijack the van, triggering tear gas attacks launched by security forces. The incident was described [here](#).

On August 18th, the *New York Times* reported the Obama Administration has taken preliminary steps to put a hold on economic assistance to Egypt. According to the report, the State Department has put a hold on financing for economic programs that directly involve the Egyptian government, while a decision on the remaining \$585 million of a \$1.3 billion appropriation allotted for military assistance is still pending. The *New York Times* report can be found [here](#).

On August 18th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN) told

ABC's George Stephanopoulos he had no doubt the U.S. would suspend aid to Egypt after the military's violent crackdown on protestors, noting the U.S. has overestimated its leverage in Egypt. House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) said Egypt is important to the U.S. and the Obama Administration must be very careful in its consideration of putting a hold on aid. Remarks from Senator Corker and Representative Engel are available [here](#).

On August 18th, Senate Armed Services Committee members Jack Reed (D-RI) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) appeared on *MSNBC's* "Meet the Press" to discuss developments in Egypt. Senator Reed said halting U.S. aid to Egypt would send a strong signal. Senator Ayotte agreed and said it is inconceivable the U.S. would continue aid to Egypt in light of recent violence. A transcript of the discussion can be read [here](#).

On August 18th, Senate Armed Services Committee member Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) discussed the debate on U.S. aid to Egypt on "Fox News Sunday." Senator Blumenthal said the Obama Administration should condition future aid on Egypt's progress towards return to rule of law and democracy. Representative Peter King (R-NY), a member of the House Homeland Security and Intelligence Committees, agreed the U.S. should maintain a military relationship with Egypt, expressing reluctance to cutting off all aid. The conversation was transcribed [here](#).

On August 18th, Senator John McCain went on *CNN's* "State of the Union," where he criticized President Barack Obama for not taking a firmer stand against the Egyptian military. Senator McCain said because the U.S. has no policy and strategy for Egypt, the U.S. has lost its foreign policy credibility. A video clip of Senator McCain's comments can be viewed [here](#).

On August 18th, Senator Lindsey Graham was interviewed on *CBS's* "Face the Nation." Senator Graham warned Egypt may become a failed state if the U.S. does not push for a return to democracy. He also expressed concern Al Qaeda will aid the Muslim Brotherhood if the group is further suppressed. The interview can be watched [here](#).

On August 18th, Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN), the first Muslim elected to Congress, advocated for cutting off U.S. aid to Egypt, while continuing to engage the region following the military coup. Representative Ellison said continued engagement may allow aid to be restored once bloodshed stops and Egypt is back on a path towards democracy. Representative Ellison's comments were noted [here](#).

On August 18th, *Reuters* reported European Union (EU) diplomats met in Brussels, Belgium, to consider options for using economic tools to influence peaceful compromise in Egypt. Allegedly at stake is a \$6.7 billion package of grants and loans, in addition to other trade incentives. A joint statement issued by the European Council and the European Commission can be found [here](#). An article on the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

On August 19th, an Egyptian court announced ousted President Mohamed Morsi's detention will be extended by an additional 15 days, starting next week. The extension of President Morsi's detention is the result of new accusations related to his complicity in the deaths and torture of demonstrators outside his presidential palace in December 2012. More on the announcement was reported [here](#).

On August 19th, Egyptian judiciary officials announced former President Hosni Mubarak could be freed from custody this week, following a court's decision to order his release in a corruption case associated with the embezzlement of funds for presidential palaces. President Mubarak has also been released from other cases related to the killing of protestors in the 2011 uprising against him and illegal earnings. More information was posted [here](#).

On August 19th, at least 25 policemen were killed in the Sinai Peninsula when assailants ambushed two minibuses carrying security personnel. The incident marks the deadliest attack in the peninsula since the 2011 overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak. In response, the Rafah border post into Gaza was closed and checkpoint security was increased. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On August 19th, White House Spokesman Josh Earnest said the Obama Administration is evaluating U.S. military aid to Egypt in light of the uptick in violence and urging from members of Congress that

aid be suspended. He noted the current evaluation is focused on the impacts of cutting off aid on U.S. national security, as well as the aspects of U.S. law that apply in Egypt. The briefing was recorded [here](#).

On August 19th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki denied the *New York Times* report alleging the State Department has put a hold on economic assistance to Egypt. Spokesperson Psaki told reporters the department continues to review how much, if any, aid may be curtailed in light of former President Mohamed Morsi's ouster and subsequent violence, but was firm no decision had been made. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be read [here](#).

On August 19th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said the U.S. has limited ability to shape events in Egypt. While he said the U.S. is not without influence, Secretary Hagel argued the outcomes of recent events will be determined by the Egyptian people. Comments from Secretary Hagel were recorded [here](#).

On August 19th, *Politico* reported the U.S. Air Force recently awarded a \$1.4 billion contract to General Electric (GE) to upgrade 18 engines on Egyptian F-16s and other fighter jets. The award was made after the delivery of new F-16s to Egypt was delayed and as defense officials consider the delivery of Boeing Apache attack helicopters next month. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On August 19th, a spokesperson for Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations Patrick Leahy confirmed the Obama Administration has decided to act as if the military takeover in Egypt was a coup and suspend most military aid without a public announcement. The decision reportedly impacts economic programs, the \$585 million remaining in military aid for this year, and the delivery of Apache helicopters. Details were discussed [here](#).

On August 19th, the *New York Times* reported EU foreign ministers were planning an emergency session on aid to Egypt for August 21st. While European foreign ministers have commended EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton and EU Special Representative Bernardino Leon for maintaining trust and access to all parties in Egypt, many have expressed concern their efforts have been ineffective in promoting useful dialogue. The meeting was discussed [here](#).

On August 19th, the *LA Times* reported Israeli Government officials are privately supportive of Egypt's military-led government and the end of the Muslim Brotherhood's claim to power. Reports also suggest Israel's Foreign Ministry is considering a diplomatic campaign to urge the U.S. and the EU to soften their criticism of the Egyptian military. Information on Israel's position can be accessed [here](#).

On August 19th, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal announced Saudi Arabia will make up for any aid withdrawn by Western countries. He expressed support for Egypt's military and condemned protestors. More information on his statements can be found [here](#).

On August 19th, *Bloomberg* reported on U.S. regional allies' stances towards the military government in Egypt. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait have pledged billions of dollars in aid to the new military-led Egyptian government. Meanwhile, Qatar and Turkey have criticized the government's violent crackdown on protestors. More information is available [here](#).

On August 20th, Egyptian law professor Sayyed Ateeq filed a case against former interim Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei for betrayal trust in his decision to resign in protest to the military's crackdown on protestors on August 14th. The case will be heard by a court in Cairo on September 19th. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On August 20th, ABC's Martha Raddatz interviewed interim Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi. Prime Minister Beblawi said if the Obama Administration decides to end military assistance it would be a bad sign with impacts on the Egyptian military for some time. The interview can be watched [here](#).

On August 20th, Egyptian authorities arrested the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual guide, Mohammed Badie, at his apartment in Cairo and transported him to Torah prison for detention and questioning. Badie and his deputy, Khairat el-Shater, are expected to stand trial later this month on charges

associated with the killing of protestors outside the Muslim Brotherhood's headquarters in June. Muslim Brotherhood preacher Safwat Hegazy was also arrested. Details on the arrests can be found [here](#).

On August 20th, President Barack Obama convened a routine meeting of the National Security Council and Cabinet-level officials to discuss U.S. aid to Egypt. No announcements on U.S. aid resulted from the meeting. The meeting was noted [here](#).

On August 20th, White House Spokesman Josh Earnest and National Security Council Spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden denounced reports the Obama Administration had implemented a temporary suspension on aid to Egypt. According to the White House, U.S. assistance to Egypt is still under review and the evaluation of military aid called for by President Barack Obama in July has yet to be completed. More information can be seen [here](#).

On August 20th, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little reiterated no decision has been made on U.S. military assistance to Egypt. Responding to contrary media reports, Press Secretary Little said he was unaware of any de facto suspension of U.S. aid and questioned where such reports originated. Press Secretary Little's comments were discussed [here](#).

On August 20th, an Army Spokeswoman said the Pentagon plans to proceed with the scheduled delivery of M1A1 Abrams battle tanks to Egypt. Egypt has purchased tanks from General Dynamics since 1992. The latest \$395 million contract is for 125 kits, with deliveries beginning last month and continuing through January 2016. Information on the contract is available [here](#).

On August 20th, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Tim Kaine (D-VA) issued a statement urging the Obama Administration to immediately end assistance to Egypt pending a thorough policy review. The statement can be read [here](#).

On August 21st, Egyptian Government officials said former President Hosni Mubarak could leave prison as early as Wednesday evening, following a court order that he be released. The Egyptian prosecutor's office announced President Mubarak would appear on Egypt's no-fly list and his assets would remain frozen. Interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi said President Mubarak would be put under house arrest. Details were reported [here](#).

On August 21st, the EU suspended exports of weapons and other goods to Egypt to prevent them from being used in the military crackdown on protestors supporting deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. Aid programs were not halted. More information on the suspension can be found [here](#).

On August 22nd, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was released from Torah prison in Cairo and flown by helicopter to the Maadi Military Hospital, where he will remain at his request. Dozens of President Mubarak's supporters rallied outside the prison in anticipation of his release. An article on President Mubarak's release can be viewed [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On August 16th, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai dropped the lawsuit filed with the Constitutional Court seeking to overturn the results of last month's presidential vote resulting in President Robert Mugabe's reelection. Prime Minister Tsvangirai said the failure of elections authorities to turn over essential documents made pursuit of the legal challenge useless. The full story can be accessed [here](#).

On August 17th, the South African Development Community (SADC) convened in Lilongwe, Malawi, where its first order of business was endorsing Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's victory in disputed presidential elections in Zimbabwe. Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Malawian President Joyce Banda congratulated President Mugabe on peaceful elections and called for sanctions on Zimbabwe to be lifted. The SADC also elected President Mugabe to serve as SADC Deputy Chairperson. President Mugabe will host the August 14th SADC summit in Harare and will

automatically succeed President Banda as SADC Chairperson next year. More on the SADC summit was shared [here](#).

On August 18th, upon returning from the SADC summit, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe announced plans for an inauguration ceremony to be held in Harare on August 22nd. The inauguration day was declared a national holiday, as 80,000 Zimbabweans were expected to attend the event. A report on planning for the inauguration can be seen [here](#).

On August 19th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to the SADC's assessment of recent elections in Zimbabwe and the SADC's call for the U.S. and other Western nations to lift sanctions on Zimbabwe. Spokesperson Psaki said while the U.S. agrees the elections were peaceful, the U.S. will only lift sanctions when Zimbabwe has achieved reforms that reflect the will of the Zimbabwean people. A transcript of the briefing has been posted [here](#).

On August 20th, Zimbabwean High Court Justice Chinembiri Bhunu ordered the arrest of lawyers representing opposition leader Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai in response to comments made following the dismissal by the Electoral Court of an application to compel the release of election material. More information on the order can be found [here](#).

On August 22nd, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe was sworn in for another five year term. A report on the inauguration can be found [here](#).

Mali

On August 15th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended Mali on a successful presidential runoff election and congratulated former Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his victory. Secretary-General Ban noted the completion of the presidential elections is an important step for Mali's recovery. A statement from Secretary-General Ban can be read [here](#).

On August 16th, the U.N. Security Council released a press statement commending Mali on successful presidential elections that represent a milestone towards the restoration of democracy and constitutional order. The Security Council also called for peace talks, as outlined by the Ouagadougou Agreement, as well as follow through on legislative elections. More on the Security Council's reaction to elections in Mali can be viewed [here](#).

On August 20th, the U.N. Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) confirmed the presidential election results announced by Mali's Constitutional Court, declaring Ibrahim Boubacar Keita the winner. MINUSMA provided technical and logistical assistance in both the first round of voting, held on July 28th, and the August 11th runoff elections. An article on MINUSMA's participation can be read [here](#).

On August 20th, President Barack Obama issued a statement congratulating the people of Mali and President-elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on successful elections. President Obama expressed optimism the elections would further progress on democracy, reconciliation, and addressing security and humanitarian needs in Mali. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On August 20th, Secretary of State John Kerry joined President Barack Obama in congratulating President-elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his victory. Secretary Kerry also commended the interim government for peaceful elections and urged the new Malian Government to begin preparations for legislative elections. Secretary Kerry's statement can be seen [here](#).

On August 22nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke with Malian President-elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita for the first time. He congratulated President-elect Keita on his victory and articulated the U.N.'s commitment to supporting the political process. A readout of the conversation can be found [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On August 16th, the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) welcomed the release of 82 children captured over the past six months by the

Mayi Mayi Bakata Katanga armed group. The release was made possible through the coordinated efforts of child protection agencies in Kibwela and Kayumba. More information is available [here](#).

On August 20th, U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler concluded his first visit to North Kivu. In Goma, Special Representative Kobler met with the provincial Governor and the speaker of the Provincial Assembly, as well as security forces. He also met with representatives of MONUSCO and traveled to Kiwanja and Sake to meet with U.N. troops to discuss combating armed groups in the region. An article on Special Representative Kobler's travel can be read [here](#).

On August 21st, MONUSCO announced the deployment of helicopters to the eastern part of the DRC to protect civilians as fighting between armed groups continues. The enhanced patrols were motivated by fighting amongst four armed groups in Pinga, North Kivu that resulted in three mortar bombs landing near the MONUSCO base. News on the helicopters' deployment was reported [here](#).

On August 22nd, U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler ordered peacekeepers to take all steps necessary to protect civilians and prevent armed groups from advancing in North Kivu. The order was given following new fighting between the M23 rebel group and national security forces (FARDC) in the Kibati area. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On August 19th, the Office of the White House Press Secretary shared a press statement on World Humanitarian Day. The statement commends the efforts of humanitarian workers in helping families to respond to crisis in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and praises assistance provided to thousands of civilians impacted by human rights abuses and ethnically motivated violence in South Sudan's Jonglei State. The statement was shared [here](#).

On August 19th, *The Hill* ran segments of a forthcoming interview with National Security Advisor Susan Rice in the September issue of *Vogue*. During the interview, National Security Advisor Rice thanked President Barack Obama for his support during the controversy over talking points following the September 11th terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi. She also hinted at a future Senate run. Excerpts from the interview were published [here](#).

State Department

On August 15th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman delivered remarks at the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission Regional Security Cooperation Working Group open session. She expressed the U.S.'s continued investment in Nigeria and called on the government to overcome the challenge of Boko Haram and provide security for Nigerian citizens. Her full remarks can be found [here](#).

On August 16th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating the Gabonese Republic on its 53rd independence day. Secretary Kerry noted shared interests in environmental sustainability and regional stability. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 19th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement commemorating World Humanitarian Day. In his remarks, Secretary Kerry recognized peacekeepers and humanitarian staff killed or kidnapped while on duty in Algeria, Somalia, and South Sudan. Secretary Kerry also discussed U.S. humanitarian work in the Sahel that serves vulnerable and displaced persons in the region. The full statement can be found [here](#).

On August 20th, the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations released an update on efforts to counter Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). State Department personnel, working in partnership with U.S. Special Forces soldiers, Ugandan troops, U.N. officials, and NGOs have been successful in persuading LRA soldiers, many who were kidnapped as children, to defect. In the last 18 months, approximately 15% of LRA soldiers in Uganda have defected and killings perpetrated by the LRA decreased 66% between 2011 and 2012. More information was

shared [here](#).

On August 20th, U.S. Ambassador to Benin Michael Raynor broke ground on the new U.S. embassy in Cotonou. The \$178 million project will result in a secure, state-of-the-art workplace for approximately 150 embassy employees. The facility's design also includes several sustainable features targeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification. Details on the groundbreaking can be viewed [here](#).

On August 20th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said former Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Eric Boswell, former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State for Diplomatic Security Scott Bultrowicz, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State responsible for embassy security Raymond Maxwell, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State responsible for Libya and Maghreb nations Charlene Lamb, who were all placed on administrative leave following the attack in Benghazi, will be reassigned to new posts. Following a review of case files, Secretary of State John Kerry determined the officials should not be fired for security failures in Benghazi. The review was discussed [here](#).

On August 20th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the U.S. is working with the Nigerian Government to confirm reports that Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau is dead. Shekau was falsely reported dead in 2009. Deputy Spokesperson Harf said Shekau's death would be a setback for Boko Haram's operations and efforts to mobilize extremists in Nigeria. Comments on Shekau's reported death were transcribed [here](#).

On August 21st, the State Department designated Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa member Mohamed Lahbous as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). The extremist group broke off from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011 to spread attacks to West Africa. Lahbous is responsible for several attacks in Algeria and has been connected to arms trading and drug trafficking in North and West Africa. The terrorist designation was announced [here](#).

Department of Defense

On August 15th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) concluded a four-day workshop in Washington, DC, on peacekeeping operations in Africa. The event brought together African military and civilian personnel to discuss the demands placed on African peacekeepers and the role of African Union (AU), EU, U.N., and African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) partners. Details on the workshop were reported [here](#).

On August 19th, U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) reported on the recent completion of a Cadet Overseas Training Mission (COTM) focused on security cooperation. USARAF partnered with U.S. Army Cadet Command (USACC) to allow cadets to travel with USARAF desk officers to Lesotho, Zambia, Djibouti, Uganda, and Italy, for meetings with officials at U.S. embassies and leaders of partner nation militaries. An article on the COTM can be read [here](#).

On August 20th, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus concluded a visit to Ghana, where he met with Ghanaian military and government officials, including President John Dramani Mahama, Defense Minister Mark Owen Woyongo, and Chief of Defense Staff Vice Admiral Matthew Quashie, to discuss maritime security and partnership opportunities. Secretary Mabus also visited the U.S. embassy in Ghana and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at a new junior high school, built by Ghanaian workers and sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). Information on Secretary Mabus' travel is available [here](#).

On August 20th, the second Regional Air Chiefs Symposium kicked off at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana. The symposium brings together air chiefs from West and East Africa, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and U.S. Air Forces Africa, as well as representatives from the AU and the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) to discuss collaborative air power contributions to irregular warfare and peacekeeping operations. Details can be seen [here](#).

On August 22nd, AFRICOM hosted staff members and their families for the third annual AFRICOM Olympics at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. The event, intended to promote command morale

and team building, gathered nearly 1,600 AFRICOM civilians, military members, and their families for 22 sporting competitions. More information can be viewed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On August 19th, *The Hill* reported on lobbying efforts to pressure House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and other House Republicans to create a special panel to investigate the September 11th attack in Benghazi, a proposal championed by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA). Special forces veterans have funded billboards that will be posted in Speaker Boehner's district this week, while other groups are planning commemorative events for September 11th. A discharge petition from Representative Steve Stockman (R-TX) that would force a vote on Representative Wolf's bill has only two co-sponsors. The full story is available [here](#).

On August 20th, Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Darrell Issa (R-CA) responded to a letter received from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Thomas Gibbons in response to his inquiries regarding four State Department officials placed on paid leave following the September 11th attack in Benghazi. He accused the State Department of not holding employees accountable and called the personnel actions more of public relations strategy than a response failure in leadership. Representative Issa's statement has been posted [here](#).

North Africa

On August 16th, Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan warned protestors who have laid siege on Libyan ports and threatened to sell oil independently that the government will use all necessary means to prevent such sales. Oil Minister Abdelbari al-Arussi estimated \$1.6 billion in oil sales have been lost since July 25th due to the protests. More information can be found [here](#).

On August 18th, American Al Qaeda militant Adam Gadahn posted a video online praising the September 11th attack in Benghazi, Libya, that resulted in the death of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens. Gadahn also urged wealthy Islamists to offer rewards to militants for killing other U.S. diplomats. Excerpts from the video can be seen [here](#).

On August 20th, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) announced intensified patrols in Pibor and Gumruk to allow civilians displaced by clashes between State and non-State actors to return home and access food distribution by humanitarian workers. Thousands of people have been displaced and approximately 100,000 civilians are without access to humanitarian aid. News on the enhanced patrols was shared [here](#).

On August 21st, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan Toby Lanzer announced the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has set aside \$33 million for aid to civilians impacted by the crisis in South Sudan. The funds will be used for clean water and sanitation, education, health care, mine clearance, protection, and emergency communication. More information has been posted [here](#).

East Africa

On August 16th, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided an update on sexual violence in Somalia. OCHA reported 800 cases of sexual and gender-based violence in Mogadishu in the first half of 2013, including rapes by armed men and men in military uniforms, female genital mutilation, and domestic violence. UNICEF reported 2,200 victims of sexual violence in Somalia were treated last year, and approximately one third of them were children. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On August 16th, four Kenyan police officers were killed after approximately 40 armed men attacked a police post. Somali militant group Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. More information on the attack can be found [here](#).

On August 17th, the *East African* reported that Rwanda and Kenya will partner with the United Kingdom (U.K.) in an HIV/AIDS vaccine trial funded by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Phase I trials are schedule to begin this month. The report can be found [here](#).

On August 18th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay expressed concerns over allegations of a rape perpetrated by soldiers at an AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) facility in Mogadishu. He called for a thorough investigation and reiterated the U.N.'s commitment to addressing sexual violence in Somalia. A statement issued by Special Representative Kay can be read [here](#).

On August 19th, during an official state visit to China, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Chinese President Xi Jinping finalized a \$5 billion agreement that will be used to finance energy projects throughout Kenya, as well as a rail line connecting Mombasa and Malaba. Remaining funds will be used for wildlife conservation initiatives in Kenya. The deal was discussed [here](#).

On August 20th, *Bloomberg* reported Kenya will become the first oil exporter in East Africa by 2016. Following U.K. oil company Tullow's discovery of more than 300 million barrels of oil equivalent resources in Kenya last year, the company completed further analysis finding Kenya's oil deposits may top 10 billion barrels. More information was reported [here](#).

On August 21st, the Central Bank of Kenya held a bond auction that attracted bids worth \$365.4 million, with most investors preferring the two-year bond over the ten-year bond. The sale exceeds the Treasury's expected goal of \$228.6 million. More information on the bond sale can be found [here](#).

On August 22nd, Director-General of the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Irina Bokova condemned last week's murder of Ahmed Sharif, a radio journalist for Mogadishu radio in Somalia. Sharif is the fifth journalist killed in Somalia this year. A condemnation of the killing can be seen [here](#).

West Africa

On August 15th, the U.N. welcomed the peaceful conclusion of a transitional regime in the Bakassi Peninsula. In 2006, Nigeria and Cameroon agreed to implement a 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that would result in the transfer of the territory from Nigeria to Cameroon, following a transition period beginning in 2008. Additional information is available [here](#).

On August 15th, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz stated Mauritania's activities in the U.N.'s Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) will be limited to the area along its border with Mali. Mali had hoped Mauritanian forces would also operate along the borders of Niger and Burkina Faso. More information about Mauritania's role in MINUSMA can be found [here](#).

On August 19th, transportation experts associated with the World Bank initiative to improve infrastructure in West Africa announced construction of a rail line between Niamey, Niger, and Abidjan, Ivory Coast will begin in 2014. The new rail line, which will initially allow for the transport of cargo, and later people, will also pass through Burkina Faso. Information on the project has been posted [here](#).

On August 20th, U.N. Special Representative in Liberia Karin Landgren congratulated the Liberian people, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Government officials on the 10th anniversary of Liberia's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended a 14 year-long civil war. This week, cultural celebrations were held in Monrovia and throughout the country to celebrate a decade of peace. Details can be found [here](#).

On August 20th, the Joint Task Force announced Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau may have died between July 25th and August 3rd as the result of gunshot wounds sustained when troops attacked the Sambisa Forest. More information can be found [here](#).

On August 20th, authorities in Niger said flooding in the country has killed at least eight people and left more than 2,000 people homeless, including many in the town of Maradi. People left homeless by flooding are seeking shelter in local schools. More information can be seen [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On August 16th, South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) party indicated it would not participate in events recognizing the one-year anniversary of the Marikana shootings. The shootings resulted in the deaths of 34 striking miners killed by police officers. The ANC claimed commemorative events had been hijacked by political opponents. More on the anniversary of the killings can be found [here](#).

On August 17th, the new electoral court in Madagascar disqualified three controversial presidential candidates, including Andry Rajoelina, ousted leader Marc Ravalomanana's wife, Lalao, and former President Didier Ratsiraka. The court ruled their candidacies did not meet electoral rules. The ruling has been welcomed by the SADC and the AU. Details were noted [here](#).

On August 19th, South African double amputee Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius was indicted on a charge of murdering his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp in February. Pistorius will also be faced with a charge for illegally possessing ammunition during his trial, scheduled for March 3rd. The full story was reported [here](#).

On August 20th, Oscar Pistorius' attorney, Kenny Oldwage, confirmed Pistorius' legal team is engaged in talks with Reeva Steenkamp's family in pursuit of an out-of-court settlement before the March criminal trial. Steenkamp's parents are suing Pistorius for loss of income and emotional distress. Details can be seen [here](#).

On August 20th, the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE) published a report proposing recommendations for undergraduate curriculum reform in South Africa. The report highlights reforms needed to address racially skewed success and degree completion rates that disproportionately impact black South Africans. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On August 20th, disqualified presidential candidate in Madagascar, Lalao Ravalomanana, lodged a complaint against her disqualification after refusing to propose a replacement candidate. Two other disqualified candidates, Andry Rajoelina and Didier Ratsiraka, also failed to propose replacements and have indicated they will contest the future election. More information can be found [here](#).

On August 20th, Jose Pacheco, lead negotiator for the governing Frelimo party, said the Mozambican Government plans to move forward with elections even though the Renamo opposition party plans to boycott the vote because of disagreement on the composition of the state elections panel. Municipal elections are scheduled for November 20th and presidential and parliamentary elections are slated for October 2015. Tensions related to the elections were described [here](#).

On August 21st, South African National Police Spokesperson Solomon Makgale announced the bust of what was believed to be South Africa's largest child pornography ring. Six men were arrested in connection with the case in five provinces, including a principal, two teachers, a lawyer, a dermatologist, and a businessman. Five of them had already appeared in court on charges related to child pornography. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On August 22nd, labor tensions in South Africa spiked as National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) Spokesman Lesiba Seshoka announced the union would consult gold industry members on strike actions to begin as early as Monday. The strike, motivated by disagreements over wages, is also expected to affect South Africa's construction sector. More information is available [here](#).

General Africa News

On August 17th, *Defense News* reported African defense spending will surpass \$20 billion over the next decade, especially as demand for military equipment increases as African governments take on combating terrorism. Projections for the growth in defense spending have increased competition between African and non-African defense companies and resulted in joint ventures, technology transfer agreements, and foreign companies developing a presence in Africa. Information on the future of African defense spending can be found [here](#).

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