



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Closure of U.S. Embassies in Africa

On August 2nd, the State Department issued a worldwide travel alert for U.S. citizens due to an unspecified Al Qaeda threat. The alert was accompanied by the closure of several U.S. embassies and consulates in the Middle East and Africa, including those located in Cairo, Egypt, Tripoli, Libya, Antananarivo, Madagascar, Bujumbura, Burundi, Djibouti, Khartoum, Sudan, Kigali, Rwanda, Port Louis, Mauritius, Algiers, Algeria, and Nouakchott, Mauritania. The travel alert has been posted [here](#). More information on the closure of diplomatic posts in Africa can be found [here](#).

On August 3rd, National Security Advisor Susan Rice chaired a meeting of President Barack Obama's national security team at the White House to discuss the terrorism threat facing the Middle East and Africa. Participants included Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, among others. President Obama has also received regular updates on the situation from Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa Monaco. A White House release on the meetings can be seen [here](#).

On August 4th, the State Department provided an update on the closure of 19 U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, including locations in Africa. While most closings were extended through August 10th, the posts in Algiers, Algeria, and Nouakchott, Mauritania were cleared to reopen on August 5th. The travel alert will remain in effect through August 31st. The State Department announcement has been posted [here](#).

On August 4th, Ranking Member of the Senate Intelligence Committee Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) discussed the closure of U.S. embassies on *NBC's* "Meet the Press." Senator Chambliss said the State Department is acting out of an abundance of caution due to breakdowns in intelligence since 2001. Video of the discussion can be watched [here](#).

On August 4th, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) appeared on *CNN's* "State of the Union," where he

discussed recent closures of U.S. embassies. Senator Graham said Al Qaeda has been on steroids since the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. A recording of the interview can be viewed [here](#).

On August 4th, Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees member Representative Peter King (R-NY) went on ABC's "This Week," where they addressed the closure of U.S. embassies in the Middle East and Africa. Representative Ruppersberger defended the travel alert and embassy closures while Representative King labeled the latest terrorism threat a wakeup call. Video and a transcript can be accessed [here](#).

On August 5th, in response to a question posed by a caller on *The Sean Hannity Show*, Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX) said the Administration's decision to close U.S. embassies in the Middle East and Africa makes the U.S. appear weak. He said the Administration must learn the lessons from last year's attack in Benghazi. Comments from Representative Gohmert are available [here](#).

Egypt

On August 1st, during a visit to Pakistan, Secretary of State John Kerry said the Egyptian military acted to restore democracy, rather than to take over the government. He also said there is a civilian government in place in Egypt. Administration officials have since criticized Secretary Kerry for not sticking to approved talking point. Secretary Kerry's comments can be read [here](#).

On August 2nd, authorities in Egypt announced police plans to blockade two protest camps in Cairo within 48 hours. The announcement, made on state television, noted once the blockades were imposed, supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi would be allowed to leave the camps, but no one would be allowed to enter. More on the announcement can be found [here](#).

On August 2nd, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns arrived in Cairo, Egypt, for meetings with interim government officials on avoiding violence and facilitating a peaceful and inclusive political process. An announcement on Deputy Secretary Burns' travel was issued [here](#).

On August 4th, a court in Cairo ruled that top Muslim Brotherhood officials arrested for inciting violence that led to the death of rioters in the midst of President Mohamed Morsi's ouster, including Khairat el-Shater and Mohammed Badie, will be put on trial August 25th. News on the trial was reported [here](#).

On August 5th, Egypt denied Yemeni Nobel Peace laureate Tawakul Karman access to the country and deported her back to Dubai. Karman intended to enter Egypt to participate in protests supporting the reinstatement of deposed President Mohamed Morsi. An article on the incident can be read [here](#).

On August 5th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, accompanied by diplomats from the European Union (EU), United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar, met with the Deputy Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Khairat el-Shater in prison. Shater rejected the envoys' call for the Muslim Brotherhood to accept that ousted President Mohamed Morsi will not return to power. The meeting was described [here](#).

On August 5th, during the State Department daily press briefing, Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf confirmed the meeting between Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and Khairat el-Shater to discuss diplomatic efforts and the prevention of further violence in Egypt. A full briefing transcript can be accessed [here](#).

On August 5th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel spoke with his Egyptian counterpart, General Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi, by phone. The leaders discussed the progress of mediation efforts led by Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and EU Special Representative Bernardino Leon. They also discussed peaceful resolution of continuing protests. A Pentagon readout of the conversation was shared [here](#).

On August 6th, General Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi called Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to report on

developments in the situation in Egypt. General Sisi expressed commitment to peacefully ending protests and to the pursuit of a transparent and inclusive political transition. He also thanked Secretary Hagel for U.S. support and diplomatic efforts to prevent violence, calm tensions, and facilitate inclusive dialogue. The discussion was summarized [here](#).

On August 6th, U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham arrived in Egypt and called on the interim government to move rapidly towards democracy in order to avoid a stop on \$1.5 billion in U.S. aid. The Senators called the uprising in Egypt a coup and urged the release of ousted President Mohamed Morsi and members of the Muslim Brotherhood. More information on the Senators' visit to Egypt can be found [here](#).

On August 6th, in the State Department daily press briefing, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki commented on Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham's trip to Cairo. Spokesperson Psaki said the U.S. Government disagrees with Senators McCain and Graham, who have said the political uprising in Egypt constitutes a coup. She also noted Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with the Senators in Egypt and held a separate meeting with Interim President Adly Mansour. A full transcript of the briefing can be found [here](#).

On August 6th, *The Guardian* published an op-ed authored by Crispin Blunt that describes many challenges faced by Egypt's interim government. Blunt writes the likelihood of a civil war and a political disaster in Egypt has simply been delayed and not averted. The op-ed can be read [here](#).

On August 7th, interim Egyptian President Adly Mansour said diplomatic discussions had failed and the Egyptian army is preparing to take action against supporters of former President Mohamed Morsi. Members of the international community have urged the interim government and the Muslim Brotherhood to reach a peaceful agreement, but interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi said the government is losing its patience with protesters. An article on the diplomacy efforts is available [here](#).

On August 7th, Secretary of State John Kerry and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton issued a joint statement discussing Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns' and EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean Bernardino Leon's work to assist Egypt in beginning the process of reconciliation. The leaders expressed concern that additional violence is possible, but reaffirmed their commitment to Egypt and a willingness to assist with the political transition. The full joint statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 7th, Qatar's Foreign Minister Khaled al-Attiya called on the interim government in Egypt to release imprisoned members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Minister Attiya said a release of political prisoners is key to ending the crisis in Egypt. Qatar was a main financial supporter of Egypt under President Mohammed Morsi, providing over \$7 billion in aid. Additional comments from Minister Attiya are available [here](#).

On August 8th, after returning from his trip to Cairo, Senator John McCain expressed concern that Egypt may be headed towards a period of prolonged violence. He said he is not certain General Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi recognizes the need for national dialogue and political reconciliation. Senator McCain's remarks were recorded [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On August 2nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended Zimbabweans for conducting a peaceful and orderly election. Secretary-General Ban urged all parties to raise concerns about the electoral process through established channels and said concerns should be considered transparently and fairly. Additional statements from Secretary-General Ban are available [here](#).

On August 2nd, African Union (AU) leader Olusegun Obasanjo and the South African Development Community (SADC) said elections in Zimbabwe were free and peaceful, although officials were hesitant to comment on the fairness of the elections. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and presidential candidate Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai suggested numerous irregularities throughout the voting process that benefitted President Robert Mugabe. Additional reactions following the elections are available [here](#).

On August 3rd, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced election results. President Robert Mugabe was elected to a seventh term with 61.9% of the vote, compared to 33.9% of the vote for Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. Election results were reported [here](#).

On August 3rd, the State Department issued a statement on the election results in Zimbabwe. While Secretary of State John Kerry commended Zimbabweans for their peaceful participation in elections, he expressed concern the results do not reflect the will of the people. In particular, he called for concerns such as voter roll irregularities, unequal access to state media, and failure to implement political reforms to be addressed by the SADC and the AU. The full statement is available [here](#).

On August 5th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the U.S. Government has serious concerns about the legitimacy of the recent elections in Zimbabwe. Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the State Department has information about potential irregularities in the voter rolls and preliminary reports from international observers suggest the election may not have been fair. A transcript of the briefing can be found [here](#).

On August 6th, the *Washington Post* editorial board published its reactions to the Zimbabwe elections. The editorial suggests there were broad issues affecting fairness of the vote and international leaders appear to be developing a framework for how to quietly steal an election. The editorial can be read [here](#).

On August 6th, Botswana vowed to lobby the SADC to audit the fairness of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's reelection. According to Botswana's Foreign Affairs Minister Phandu Skelemani, the country's observer team noted various incidents and circumstances that call into question the credibility of President Mugabe's victory. Botswana's reaction to the election is discussed [here](#).

On August 8th, due to speculation following President Robert Mugabe's reelection, Zimbabwe Central Bank Chief Gideon Gono issued a statement indicating the bank has no plans for the immediate or near term return to a Zimbabwean currency. Since 2009, when Zimbabwe did away with the Zimbabwean dollar, the country has resorted to the U.S. dollar and other regional currencies. More on Chief Gono's statement can be viewed [here](#).

Mali

On August 6th, protestors in the northern Malian town of Kidal demanded the release of 122 prisoners held in the capital of Bamako for their involvement in the Tuareg separatist rebel group. The protestors also called on the Malian army to leave Kidal. An article on the demands is available [here](#).

On August 7th, Mali's constitutional court confirmed the country will hold a runoff election on August 11th. Former Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita received nearly 40% in the initial round of voting, while Soumaila Cisse earned about 20% of all votes. More information on the upcoming runoff is available [here](#).

Kenya

On August 7th, a massive fire erupted at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya, resulting in delays for many travelers. Officials say the cause of the fire is still unknown, although passengers reported hearing large explosions from the terminal. Many flights have been diverted to other airports in the region. More information on the fire is available [here](#).

On August 7th, President Barack Obama called Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to offer support following the fire at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. A readout of the call can be found [here](#).

On August 8th, operations slowly resumed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Investigations into the cause of the fire are ongoing. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta also visited the scene of the incident. Developments related to the fire were noted [here](#).

Tunisia

On August 6th, thousands of protesters gathered in Tunisia to march in memory of Chokri Belaid, a leading Tunisian opposition figure who was assassinated more than six months ago. The Popular Front opposition group called for a peaceful demonstration and said it is committed to dissolving the National Constituent Assembly (NCA). Details on the protest can be found [here](#).

On August 7th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki indicated the U.S. is closely monitoring the situation in Tunisia, and U.S. diplomats are engaging with politicians, business leaders, and civil society actors. She called on all Tunisians to avoid violence in the country's democratic transition. A transcript of Spokesperson Psaki's remarks was posted [here](#).

South Sudan

On August 1st, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) issued a press statement expressing its eagerness to work with the new cabinet appointed by President Salva Kiir to address challenges in South Sudan including corruption, security, and the lack of public services. More on UNMISS's reaction to the new cabinet can be viewed [here](#).

On August 7th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised South Sudan President Salva Kiir for the relative calm in the country following a cabinet reshuffle. Secretary-General Ban expressed concerns about the situation in Jonglei State and called on the Government to protect civilians and ensure accountability for any abuses committed by the national army. An article on the call can be found [here](#).

Sudan

On August 6th, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative Kai Nielson called on the Sudanese government to renew work permits for international aid workers in Darfur. Of 37 international relief personnel in Darfur, only 17 have permits to continue their work, resulting in a scaling back of humanitarian activities. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On August 6th, the State Department issued a statement calling on the Government of Sudan to immediately renew the necessary work permits for 20 UNHCR international staff providing humanitarian assistance to those displaced by the conflict in Darfur. The conflict has displaced an estimated 300,000 people this year. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On August 1st, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Dwight Bush to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and Matthew Harrington to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho. A White House release on the nominations can be seen [here](#).

On August 7th, President Barack Obama issued a statement in recognition of the 15th anniversary of Al Qaeda's terrorist attacks against the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. President Obama offered condolences to those killed and wounded in the attack. President Obama's statement commemorating the attacks can be found [here](#).

U.S. Trade Representative

On August 5th, the Brookings Institution hosted a discussion with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman on the future of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Ambassador Froman said many countries throughout Africa are emerging economically and he hopes AGOA will continue to expand. More details on the event are available [here](#).

On August 7th, Ambassador Michael Froman met with members of the Trade Advisory Committee on Africa (TACA) to discuss the Obama Administration's goals related to economic development in sub-

Saharan Africa, including the president's Power Africa initiative. Details on the meeting are available [here](#).

State Department

On August 2nd, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement in recognition of Niger's national day. Secretary Kerry applauded Niger for its commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting human rights, advancing regional security, and denouncing terrorism. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On August 4th, the *New York Times* reported Secretary of State John has recommended Robert Ford, who previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Syria during the ongoing civil war, to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Egypt. Ford would replace current U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson, who has been nominated as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs. President Barack Obama has yet to affirm Secretary Kerry's recommendation. The full report can be read [here](#).

On August 5th, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a swearing in ceremony for the U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso Tulinabo Mushingi at the Department of State. The ceremony was included on the State Department's daily public schedule, which can be found [here](#).

On August 5th, the State Department announced a sports envoy program intended to empower youth in Luanda, Angola. In partnership with the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the National Basketball Association (NBA), Ticha Penicheiro and Cedric Ceballos traveled to Angola August 5th-8th to meet with students and conduct basketball clinics. Information on the program can be accessed [here](#).

On August 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry met with African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) delegates at the State Department. AWEP is an outreach, education, and engagement initiative that targets African women entrepreneurs to promote business growth and to increase trade both regionally and to U.S. markets. Details on AWEP can be seen [here](#).

On August 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Côte d'Ivoire on its independence day. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. and Côte d'Ivoire share a strong commitment to democracy, economic development, and regional stability. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 6th, Linda Thomas-Greenfield was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Prior to her current position, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield worked on personnel issues at the State Department. A biography for Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield can be found [here](#).

From August 6th -8th, Ambassador-At-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby was on foreign travel to Kampala, Uganda, to participate in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Annual Symposium. He also met with Uganda Government officials in Kampala. Ambassador Goosby's travel was noted [here](#).

On August 7th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. honors the memory of the more than 200 people killed in the attacks and said strong and enduring U.S. relationships with Kenya and Tanzania are a sign that terrorists failed. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On August 7th, the State Department announced Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman will lead a U.S. delegation in the Regional Security Cooperation Working Group during the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission (BNC) in Nigeria on August 15th. The BNC is cited by the State Department as an opportunity to exchange ideas, perceptions, and best practices. The release on the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

On August 8th, the State Department issued a statement congratulating Togo on its efforts to apprehend notorious wildlife trafficker Emile Edouwodzi N'bouke. The State Department urged Togolese authorities to continue to investigate and hold accountable those suspected of participation

in the ivory trade. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On August 2nd, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on a recent gathering of military delegates from the U.N., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Italy at AFRICOM headquarters to discuss enhancing security in Libya. The goal of the meeting was to coordinate international efforts to promote stability in Libya and the region. An article on the meeting can be read [here](#).

On August 1st, AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez traveled to South Africa to observe training events during Shared Accord 13, a collaborative exercise between the U.S. and South Africa intended to improve each country's ability to address humanitarian disasters and conduct peacekeeping operations. Details on Shared Accord 13 and comments from General Rodriguez are available [here](#).

On August 5th, AFRICOM reported on the participation of U.S. and South African military personnel in Shared Accord 13. Video from the exercise can be found [here](#). Details on the volunteer efforts of U.S. soldiers at a South African school as part of the exercise are available [here](#).

On August 5th, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa reported on a planning conference recently held by countries in the Gulf of Guinea for Obangame Express, a multinational maritime exercise scheduled for spring 2014. The exercise will focus on addressing maritime issues through coordinated operations of Gulf of Guinea navies. Information on planning for Obangame Express can be seen [here](#).

Central Intelligence Agency

On August 1st, *CNN* reported dozens of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel were on the ground in Benghazi during the September 11th attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound. According to the report, employees involved in the CIA's mission in Libya have been subjected to monthly polygraph examinations to probe whether or not employees have been talking to Congress or the media. The *CNN* report has been posted [here](#).

On August 6th, CIA Director John Brennan made public a letter dated May 30th sent to CIA employees who survived the attack at U.S. facilities in Benghazi. The letter encourages survivors to share their firsthand accounts of the attack with the congressional intelligence committees. More on the letter is noted [here](#).

Department of Justice

On August 6th, the Department of Justice filed criminal charges against Ahmed Abu Khattalah, leader of an Islamic militant brigade in Benghazi, in connection with the September 2012 attack that killed four Americans. Khattalah, who has been living in Benghazi since the attack, has said he was at the scene of the violence, but was not involved in the attack. The charges were noted [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On August 5th, the International Trade Administration (ITA) used its *Tradeology* blog to raise awareness for its continued interest in investing in Africa. The blog provides information on several public-private Obama Administration investment initiatives related to Africa. The post can be found [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On August 1st, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) subpoenaed the State Department for documents provided to the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi and all communications regarding the ARB's activities. News of the subpoena was reported [here](#).

North Africa

On August 3rd, Libyan Deputy Prime Minister Awadh al Barassi resigned. In a news conference, Deputy Prime Minister Barassi said the Libyan Government was dysfunctional and unable to contain political assassinations. The resignation follows Prime Minister Ali Zeidan's recent announcement of plans to reorganize the cabinet. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On August 4th, Algerian officials met with Iranian leaders in Tehran to discuss expanding the relationship between the two countries. An Algerian delegation was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of new Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Additional details on the meeting are available [here](#).

On August 4th, following protests outside the Moroccan Parliament, Moroccan King Mohammed VI revoked a pardon granted to Daniel Galvan Vina, a Spanish man convicted of raping 11 children between the ages of four and 15. Officials for the Ministry of Justice said King Mohammed was unaware of the severity of Vina's crimes when the pardon was granted. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On August 7th, Italy agreed to take in 102 African migrants who were refused access to Malta out of concern that accepting the migrants would set a dangerous precedent and spur further migration originating from Libya. More information can be found [here](#).

East Africa

On August 1st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed former Ugandan Vice President Speciosa Wandira-Kasibwe to serve as Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. She currently serves as Senior Advisor to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on population and health issues. News on the appointment can be seen [here](#).

On August 3rd, the *East African* reported on the current market challenges facing regional beer maker East African Breweries Ltd (EABL). The report suggests increased financing costs and competition are limiting profits. A law in Kenya banning the use of sports to advertise alcoholic beverages is also challenging the company. The article on the beer market in East Africa can be read [here](#).

On August 5th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced a \$1.3 billion emergency contribution from Japan that will make polio vaccinations available to children in Somalia and neighboring countries. The current polio outbreak in Somalia has paralyzed more than 100 children and hundreds of thousands of additional children have yet to be vaccinated. Details on the polio outbreak in Somalia are available [here](#).

On August 5th, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea Clinton visited several projects of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in Rwanda. During the visit, President Clinton joined Rwandan President Paul Kagame to announce the establishment of a factory that will produce the first fortified baby food available to the region. More information on the Clintons' visit to Rwanda can be found [here](#).

On August 5th, in its Gulf of Aden Security Review, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) highlighted several violent actions by the Al Shabaab terrorist group across Somalia. The security report can be accessed [here](#).

On August 5th, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) announced the country's banking sector posted a \$715 million profit over the last year, a 15.6% increase from the previous year. A CBK release suggests the sector will continue to sustain growth due to a stable economic environment. More information on the increase can be found [here](#).

On August 6th, lawmakers in Uganda passed a public order management bill that was met with criticism from opposition leaders. The bill would require police approval for groups of three or more that wish to meet and discuss political issues. Proponents of the measure say it is simply meant to

prevent protests from turning violent. More information on reaction to the law is available [here](#).

On August 5th, following a meeting of leaders from African nations that have sent peacekeepers to Somalia held in Kampala, Uganda, regional leaders issued a statement calling on the Government of Somalia to take control of the port city of Kismayo, which has been a hot spot for clashes between militant groups. An article on the meeting was posted [here](#).

On August 7th, a memorial service was held at the U.S. Embassy bombing memorial site in Nairobi, Kenya, to recognize the 15th anniversary of the attacks in Kenya and Tanzania. The terrorist bombings killed more than 224 people and left thousands of others wounded. More information on local events to commemorate the victims can be seen [here](#).

On August 7th, Kenya announced it will revoke all mining licenses granted in the months surrounding the national elections held in March. Mining Minister Najib Balala said there were several complaints related to the issuance process. Minister Balala also announced an increase in royalties for several minerals and said he hopes to pass new legislation to repeal the Mining Act that has been law for more than 70 years. Additional comments from Minister Balala are available [here](#).

West Africa

On August 1st, Heirs Holdings Chairman Tony Elumelu said his charitable foundation will provide \$5,000 grants to up to 50 tech start-ups in Africa that develop local content applications. The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) previously offered grants to 20 start-ups. Elumelu hopes the funding will assist groups with big ideas that do not have the means to build a business. An article on the grant increase can be read [here](#).

On August 4th, attacks on a police station and a military base in the Borno State of Nigeria killed at least 35 people, according to Nigerian officials. The Boko Haram terrorist group is believed to be responsible for the attack. An article on the violence can be read [here](#).

On August 5th, Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC) Fatou Bensouda issued a report finding that Boko Haram may be guilty of crimes against humanity in Nigeria. The report suggests Boko Haram is responsible for the killing of more than 1,200 Christians and Muslims in Nigeria since July 2009. With the release of the report, the ICC indicated it is investigating the efforts of Nigerian authorities to hold those guilty of crimes against humanity accountable. Additional information has been posted [here](#).

On August 6th, following a request from U.S. authorities, the Nigerian Government agreed to extradite Lawal Olaniyi Babafemi to the U.S. on charges that he supported Al Qaeda operations in Yemen. If convicted, Babafemi would face 10 years in jail. Details on the extradition are available [here](#).

On August 7th, the U.N. official Doudou Diene stated the release of 14 officials from the former Cote d'Ivoire Government headed by Laurent Gbagbo represented a major step on the path toward equitable justice and reconciliation. Diene called for the prisoners' release earlier this year following more than two years of detention. The U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) also praised the release. Diene's statement can be found [here](#). The UNOCI statement can be found [here](#).

On August 7th, the Areva Somair uranium mine in Niger resumed full operation following a terrorist attack on May 23rd. Mine executive Olivier Wantz praised crews for moving quickly to repair the damage two months ahead of schedule. Details on the mine's resumed operations can be found [here](#).

On August 7th, IHS Nigeria CEO Issam Darwish said the company has raised more than \$1 billion for investment in thousands of new telecommunications towers across West Africa. An article on potential expansion by IHS can be read [here](#).

On August 7th, Togo arrested alleged ivory smuggler Emile Edouwodzi N'bouke in the capital of Lome. Dede Ahoefa Ekoue, Togo's Environment Minister, said the arrest shows the country takes the issue of ivory trafficking very seriously. Additional details on the arrest are available [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On August 1st, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic completed a four-day visit to the Central African Republic (CAR). Assistant Secretary-General Simonovic observed the transitional government in the CAR is very weak and noted rule of law and social services do not exist outside the capital of Bangui. He also expressed concern for the lack of media and international attention focused on the humanitarian situation in the country. Additional observations were recorded [here](#).

On August 1st, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said the U.N. decision to use an intervention brigade to forcibly disarm people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) could have jeopardized ongoing peace negotiations in Uganda between the DRC and M23 rebels. Remarks by Foreign Minister Mushikiwabo were posted [here](#).

On August 1st, Rwanda's Senate unanimously passed legislation amending a 2008 law against genocide ideology. Critics argued the original law was too vague, allowing its use to crack down on opposition to President Paul Kagame. Rwanda's lower house passed the bill earlier this month and it now heads to the President for his assent. Information on the legislation can be viewed [here](#).

On August 5th, South Africa Express Airways indicated it will increase the number of direct flights from King Shaka International Airport to locations in Mozambique, Botswana, and Namibia. South Africa Express CEO Inati Ntshanga said the three flight routes could be operational by March. More information on the expansion can be found [here](#).

On August 6th, a group of U.N. independent experts, including Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions Christof Heyns, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of punishment Juan Mendez, and Special Rapporteur on violence against women Rashida Manjoo, expressed concern for abuses of power and human rights violations in the CAR. The experts called on authorities to investigate violence and to ensure no impunity for perpetrators. More observations on the situation in the CAR have been posted [here](#).

On August 6th, the World Bank approved \$340 million to support the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project, making it the first project awarded funds under the World Bank Group Great Lakes Regional Initiative launched during World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's visit to the region with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in May. The project, with total costs of \$468 million, will provide power to 62 million people in Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. A press release can be accessed [here](#).

On August 6th, authorities in South Africa confirmed the House of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu was burgled. The burglary occurred while Archbishop Tutu and his wife, Leah, were sleeping. A few items were taken, but no one was injured. Police have yet to make any arrests. The full story was posted [here](#).

On August 7th, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda issued a statement expressing concern for the worsening security situation in the CAR. She called on the international community to step up efforts to assist civilians in Bangui and throughout the country following the launch of attacks and ultimately a coup staged by the Seleka rebel group. The statement can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On August 2nd, Peace Anyiam-Osigwe, CEO and Founder of the Africa Movie Academy Awards, published her picks for the best African movies of the 21st century. Picks from Anyiam-Osigwe include "Viva Riva!" and "Mwansa the Great." The full list has been posted [here](#).

On August 4th, *BBC* reported on a growing competition between China and India for investment opportunities in Africa. The report, which suggests high involvement from Beijing has allowed China to gain an advantage in Africa, can be accessed [here](#).

On August 5th, *ABC's* "Nightline" aired an investigation on the worldwide ivory trade. During the

segment that addressed the plight of African elephants, Bill Weir went undercover to examine the tactics used by African poachers and smugglers. The program is available [here](#).

On August 5th, the World Bank issued a report on 50,000 tons of obsolete pesticide stockpiles that litter the African landscape. The report, which states exposed pesticides can cause serious health issues, has been posted [here](#).

On August 5th, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) announced it will increase the availability of reproductive health services in eight countries across Africa, including the DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Tanzania. UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin said the initiative will help women on the continent remain safe from violence, stay protected from HIV, and have a chance to receive a good education. The full statement from the U.N. can be read [here](#).

On August 5th, the *Washington Post* published an article on the increasing involvement of U.S. law firms with development projects in Africa. The article, which notes an emerging middle class in Africa is creating new investment opportunities, can be read [here](#).

On August 7th, *Forbes* posted an interview with Dr. Alex Ezeh, Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center, who discussed current health challenges facing Africa. Dr. Ezeh said Africa will see growing inequities related to access to health services and suggested the continent will begin to experience a shift from infectious to noncommunicable diseases. He also urged African countries to establish strategies for assisting the most marginalized populations. The full interview can be accessed [here](#).

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