



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On September 14th, Egyptian judge Mahmoud el-Rachidi ordered a media blackout during the retrial of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, scheduled for October 19th-21st. The retrial is anticipated to address several national security issues. Judge Rachidi had initially promised more transparency for the retrial, but announced this next phase will be an exception, as reporters will not be permitted to attend hearings. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 15th, the *New York Times* reported that political unrest in Egypt has moved beyond Cairo and Alexandria to more rural parts of the country. According to the report, the ousting of President Mohamed Morsi has deepened the divide between the supporters of the interim military-led government and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On September 16th, a group of professionals and former Egyptian military officials introduced a petition urging military leader General Abdul Fattah al-Sisi to run for president. There has been some pushback from political factions in Egypt that believe installing a civilian leader will be important for Egypt's new democracy. General Sisi has also previously said he has no political ambitions. Presidential elections are anticipated in early 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 16th, Egyptian troops and police officials stormed the town of Dalga, which has been held by loyalists to ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Witnesses of the attack reported the Islamists put up no resistance when Egyptian forces entered the town. Simultaneously, suspected Islamist militants used a roadside bomb to target government forces stationed near el-Arish on the Sinai Peninsula. The blast injured 8 police conscripts who were on a bus departed from Rafah. Developments in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On September 17th, Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah al-Sisi spoke with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on recent developments in Egypt. The leaders spoke about Egyptian efforts to secure and rebuild Coptic Christian communities impacted by recent violence, as well as counterterrorism efforts on the Sinai Peninsula. A readout of the call is available [here](#).

On September 17th, Egyptian security forces arrested Gehad el-Haddad, the Muslim Brotherhood leader responsible for communicating with foreign news media. While Haddad has been accused of spreading misinformation with the international press, initial reports indicated he would be charged on inciting violence. News of the arrest was shared [here](#).

On September 18th, a lawyer for deposed President Mohammed Morsi said the deposed leader spoke to his family by telephone for the first time since he was removed from office in July. President Morsi has been incommunicado at an undisclosed facility since July 3rd and the military-led government continues to crack down on pro-Islamist demonstrations and as legal investigations against President Morsi continue. The full story was posted [here](#).

On September 18th, U.N. experts confirmed the Malawi National Museum in Upper Egypt was looted in the unrest following the ousting of President Mohammed Morsi. Following a U.N. visit to Egypt to survey the damage, experts from the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concluded 600 of the museum's 1,080 artifacts are missing. More information on the looting can be found [here](#).

On September 19th, senior Egyptian police officer Nabil Farig was killed when Egyptian security forces launched an offensive against Islamists in Kardasa, right outside of Cairo. An unidentified gunman shot Farig shortly after the military forces entered the town. Ten other Egyptian police officers were killed in the clash. A report on the incident is available [here](#).

Rwanda

On September 13th, in advance of elections, a grenade blast in Kigali, Rwanda, killed at least one person and injured at least 14 others. Rwandan authorities arrested three suspects in conjunction with the attack. A similar grenade attack in July killed two people and injured more than 30 others. Rwanda has seen an uptick in grenade attacks as tensions over the cross border conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continue. News of the attack was shared [here](#).

On September 16th, Rwandans went to the polls to vote in parliamentary elections. Of 80 seats in the Rwandan parliament, 53 are directly elected and 24 seats reserved for women, youth, and the handicapped are indirectly appointed by local and national councils. President Paul Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) party, which currently holds 42 of the electable seats in parliament, was expected to be most successful. Early reports indicated voting began peacefully. An article on voting in Rwanda was posted [here](#).

On September 16th, Rwanda's National Electoral Commission unveiled preliminary results in Rwanda's parliamentary elections, showing the RFP on course to victory. The partial results, accounting for approximately 75% of all ballots, showed the RFP in the lead with 76% of the vote. The Social Democratic Party (PSD) was in a distant second, with 13% of the vote, followed by the Liberal Party (PL), with 9.4% of the vote. The preliminary results can be seen [here](#).

On September 17th, the RFP was officially declared the winner of parliamentary elections, with 76% of the vote. The RFP lost two seats, but will retain its majority by holding 40 of 53 electable seats in parliament. The PSD won 13% of the vote and the PL won 9% of the vote. The elections occurred with one grenade attack that killed two people in Kigali. Authorities believe Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels are responsible for the attack. Final election results were reported [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On September 12th, following a joint visit to the DRC by U.N., African Union (AU), U.S., and European Union (EU) officials, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement reiterating support for

implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region. The statement can be read [here](#).

On September 12th, speaking in Goma, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous said important progress has been made this year in addressing security challenges throughout Africa. He highlighted the efforts of the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and its intervention brigade to push M23 rebels away from the capital. He also highlighted peacekeeping efforts elsewhere in Africa, including in Mali, Sudan, and South Sudan. Comments from Under-Secretary-General Ladsous are available [here](#).

On September 15th, Congolese Sergeant Mulanga Kusakala claimed he was walking in the neutral zone in the DRC's North Kivu province when three Rwandan police officers kidnapped him and brought him across the border into Rwanda. Rwandan military leaders disputed this account, claiming they arrested the Congolese soldier when he was found heavily armed in Rwandan territory. Rwandan officials also articulated their belief that Sergeant Kusakala engaged in violence in Rubavu. Both accounts of the incident are noted [here](#).

On September 17th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced this year's Nansen Refugee Award will be presented to Sister Angelique Namaika of the DRC. Through the Center for Reintegration and Development, Sister Angelique has assisted more than 2,000 women and girls who survived displacement and abuse by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Sister Angelique will be recognized during a ceremony held in Geneva on September 30th. A press release can be accessed [here](#).

On September 18th, MONUSCO provided an update on the impacts of recent violence in the DRC. A MONUSCO spokesperson estimated 80,000 people have been displaced in the past month alone by the violence between Government forces and rebels. In total, MONUSCO estimated 120,000 people have been affected by recent violence, including the destruction of their homes and the looting of their property. In total, MONUSCO speculated as many as 6.4 million people may need food and emergency aid as a result of fighting in the DRC over the past year. The update can be seen [here](#).

Central African Republic

On September 13th, Central African Republic (CAR) President Michael Djotodia issued a statement threatening to punish anyone acting in the name of the Seleka Coalition, the group that brought him to power in a military coup six months ago. Since the ousting of former CAR President Francois Bozize in March, Seleka rebels been accused of looting and violence. President Djotodia's statement seeks to officially dissolve the Seleka group. More information was shared [here](#).

Kenya

On September 16th, Reuters reported on Kenya's efforts to build support among African nations to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC) as Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto's trial before The Hague began last week and as Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta prepares to stand trial in November. Both leaders are accused of perpetuating violence following Kenya's 2007-2008 elections. Allegedly, the AU is considering a proposal, likely to be introduced in January, which could result in as many as 34 African signatories from withdrawing from the Rome Statute that created the ICC. In light of the speculation, Ivory Coast, the DRC, Nigeria, and South Africa have already announced they do not plan to leave the ICC. The full story can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On September 12th, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Cynthia Akuetteh, who currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. President Obama also announced his intent to nominate Eric Schultz to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia. A White House press release was shared [here](#).

On September 17th, the White House designated a Presidential Delegation to Mali to attend the inaugural ceremony for President-Elect Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on September 19th. U.S. Ambassador to Mali Mary Beth Leonard was announced as the leader of the delegation, which also included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and U.S. African Development Foundation Chairman Jack Leslie. The delegation was announced [here](#).

State Department

On September 13th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Congo (ROC) Stephanie Sullivan at the Department of State. The meeting was noted on the Department's daily appointment schedule, posted [here](#).

On September 13th, Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp was on foreign travel to Juba, South Sudan, to participate in the Inauguration of the National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crimes of Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination in the Republic of South Sudan. Ambassador Rapp's participation was noted [here](#).

On September 13th, the State Department announced U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth's travel to the region for meetings with government officials, civil society, and international and regional organizations. The meetings focused on U.S. concerns regarding slow progress on implementation of the September 2012 accords brokered by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and the importance of respect for human rights and good governance. The announcement can be seen [here](#).

On September 14th, Chairman of the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi former Ambassador Thomas Pickering said the State Department could have used the report to fire former Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Eric Boswell and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Embassy Security Charlene Lamb following the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound. Boswell and Lamb, in addition to two other State Department employees, have been reassigned to new positions. Ambassador Pickering's comments were reported [here](#).

On September 16th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns hosted an official swearing-in ceremony for Linda Thomas-Greenfield as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. The ceremony was attended by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya. The ceremony was listed on the State Department's daily appointment scheduled, which can be accessed [here](#).

On September 16th, the State Department issued a press statement on the "A New Beginning" exchange organized as part of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. As part of the exchange held September 14th through October 5th, business leaders from 29 countries will meet with the American counterparts with the goal of creating connections between international businesses and the sharing of ideas for collaboration, growing businesses, and improving market access. African participants include entrepreneurs from Benin, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, and South Sudan. The statement was shared [here](#).

On September 16th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf confirmed the U.S. has received a visa application for Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir to attend the opening of the U.N. General Assembly later this month. Deputy Spokesperson Harf condemned any effort by President Bashir to travel to New York, especially as he has been accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity by the ICC. She said President Bashir should first appear before The Hague to address these accusations. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On September 17th, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Frederick Barton met with Swiss Assistant Secretary and Director General for the Middle East and North Africa Ambassador Wolfgang Brulhart at the Department of State. The meeting was anticipated to focus on collaboration in Egypt and Syria. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On September 19th, Ambassador-At-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby delivered remarks on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at the Corporate Council on Africa's "Investing in Health" monthly breakfast forum. More information on the event was posted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On September 13th, the *American Forces Network* (AFN) began airing commercials featuring U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez and Command Senior Enlisted Leader Sergeant Major Darrin Bohn to promote the 2013 Combined Federal Campaign. The Combined Federal Campaign is an annual fundraising initiative to support charities worldwide, as well as local military communities. The commercials can be watched [here](#).

On September 17th, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Public Affairs reported Senior Enlisted AFRICOM Leader Sergeant Major Darrin Bohn made his first official visit to CJTF-HOA this week. CJTF-HOA Senior Enlisted Officer Sergeant Major Bonnie Skinner hosted Sergeant Major Bohn at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, where he toured facilities and participated in mission briefings and meetings with enlisted personnel and commanders. An article on Sergeant Major Bohn's trip to the Horn of Africa can be read [here](#).

On September 17th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) reported on a symposium recently hosted in Bujumbura, Burundi, by ACCS and the U.S. Embassy. The symposium, which focused on elections, security, and good governance, brought together 70 participants representative of Burundi's electoral stakeholders to discuss the roles and responsibilities of actors in democratic elections with a focus on mitigating electoral violence in the country ahead of the 2015 election cycle. Details were shared [here](#).

On September 17th, AFRICOM provided an update on the "One Health" program supported by CJTF-HOA and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kampala, Uganda. The program pairs health care experts from the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF) and CJTF-HOA with civilian counterparts with the goal of increasing the understanding of the similarities between human health and animal health in order to combat infectious diseases. The update is available [here](#).

On September 18th, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs reported on a recent humanitarian mine action exercise completed with Burundi National Defense Force combat engineers in Bujumbura. The joint exercise promoted learning on unexploded ordnance reconnaissance, basic demolition procedures, rigging for remote movement and safe-handling and storage techniques. An article on the military-to-military exchange has been posted [here](#).

On September 19th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel spoke by phone with newly appointed Libyan Minister of Defense Abdullah al-Thani. Secretary Hagel highlighted U.S. support to Libya during the country's recent transition and the leaders discussed potential collaboration on training Libyan security forces. Both leaders agreed to work together to strengthen bilateral military cooperation. A readout of the conversation can be viewed [here](#).

Securities and Exchange Commission

On September 13th, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and the Business Roundtable filed an appeal to a court ruling upholding a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Dodd-Frank rule requiring companies to disclose their use of conflict minerals, including those originating from the DRC. The business groups argued the SEC rule violates the first amendment. An article on the filing can be read [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On September 13th, conservative political action committee (PAC) Revive America USA launched a campaign to fire House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) because of his refusal to appoint a special committee to investigate the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi. More than 170 House Members have signed on to a resolution sponsored by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) to create the special

committee. Details on the campaign can be found [here](#).

On September 16th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Republicans, led by Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA), issued an interim report on the findings of the State Department ARB on Benghazi. The report finds the ARB placed the blame for the attacks on mid-level State Department officials, but failed to examine the role of more senior officials in security decisions. The report also accuses the State Department of obstructing the Committee's examination of the panel's recommendations. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 16th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) released a countering report on the Committee's investigation of the attack in Benghazi. The Democratic report releases new interview excerpts seeking to debunk allegations made by Republicans in their report. Representative Cummings also publically released a letter from the State Department to Chairman Darrell Issa explaining that four State Department employees in question following the attack have been stripped of all responsibilities for worldwide security. The report can be accessed [here](#). The letter can be seen [here](#).

On September 17th, the House passed legislation introduced by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) that would direct the President to appoint a Special Envoy at the State Department to promote religious freedom of religious minorities. Supporters of the legislation cited the success of the Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan and called for the new position to prioritize religious intolerance in Egypt, among other countries in the Middle East. The bill passed 402-22 under suspension of the rules. The legislation can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 18th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing entitled, "Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability?" The Committee received testimony from Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy. Details on the hearing are available [here](#).

On September 19th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Anne Patterson, who recently served as U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, with jurisdiction for northern Africa. The Committee also considered the nomination of Gregory Starr to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security. A recording of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On September 19th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on defense posture and the lessons learned from the September 11, 2012 attack at the U.S. facility in Benghazi. Witnesses included Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for special operations and low intensity conflict Gary Reid and Vice Director of Operations for the Joint Staff Major General Darryl Robinson. More information on the hearing was posted [here](#).

On September 19th, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing on "Reviews of the Benghazi Attacks and Unanswered Questions." Witnesses included Chairman of the Benghazi ARB former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Vice Chairman of the Benghazi ARB Admiral Mike Mullen, Mark Sullivan and Todd Keil of the Independent Panel on Best Practices, and family members of the victims of the Benghazi attack. A recording of the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

North Africa

On September 11th, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) released a 41-minute video making light of counterterrorism efforts in Morocco and calling for young people in the country to become jihadists. Authorities in Morocco believe the video was prompted by AQIM's frustration with Morocco's progress in dismantling terrorist cells in the region. An article on the video can be read [here](#).

On September 12th, *NPR* reported on slowing oil output in Libya. While Libya's oil sector survived the revolution that resulted in the toppling of Muammar Gadhafi, the oil industry is now threatened by strikes, slowing exports, and a funding shortfall to pay civil servants. An article on the current state of Libya's oil sector can be read [here](#).

On September 16th, Accuracy in Media held a conference to officially launch its Citizens Commission

on Benghazi. The project's goal is to resolve outstanding questions regarding the September 11th attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya. Video recordings from the conference can be watched [here](#).

On September 17th, Exxon Mobil announced plans to scale down its activities in Libya. The company justified its diminishing presence in the country by arguing that strikes and protests over the past several months have significantly decreased Libya's daily oil production far below its 1.6 million barrels per day capacity. A company spokesman said Exxon Mobil may consider ramping up operations again should the security situation in Libya improve. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On September 18th, representatives from Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Chad signed the U.N. endorsed Strategic Action Programme at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. The agreement establishes a new Joint Authority for the Nubian Aquifer System and seeks to improve coordination among the countries on monitoring and managing the aquifer effectively. News on the agreement was reported [here](#).

On September 19th, a militia in Zintan, Libya, refused to turn over Said al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, to Tripoli for a pre-trial hearing at the request of Libya's Attorney General. Gaddafi faces accusations of trading information threatening Libyan national security, as well as war crimes charges before the ICC. More information can be found [here](#).

East Africa

On September 12th, U.N. Special Representative in Somalia Nicholas Kay briefed the Security Council on developments in the country. While expressing cautious optimism and noting Somalia has the resources to meet immediate needs and the political will to address conflict, he raised concerns about security in Kismayo, as well tensions with Jubba and Somaliland. Highlights from the briefing were posted [here](#).

On September 12th, leader of Somalia's interim Jubba Administration Ahmad Muhammad Islam Madobe evaded serious injuries when his car was attacked by another vehicle carrying explosives in Kismayo. Bodyguards and civilians were killed and injured in the attack. The attack was condemned by U.N. Special Representative in Somalia Nicholas Kay. More information is available [here](#).

On September 12th, the *Washington Post* reported Omar Shafik Hammami, an American citizen who traveled to Somalia in 2006 seeking to join Al Qaeda-linked terrorist group Al Shabaab, was killed during an attack launched against a small village in Southern Somalia. While Hammami was mistakenly reported killed in previous attacks, the most recent reports appear credible. Hammami appeared on the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) most wanted list and had a \$5 million bounty on his head. The full story was shared [here](#).

On September 13th, the U.N. Security Council issued a press statement welcoming the deployment of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The Security Council praised discussions between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Interim Jubba Administration and also recognized the effectiveness of Ethiopian personnel working in Somalia, as well as the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces. The Security Council's feedback on the situation in Somalia can be viewed [here](#).

On September 13th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) unveiled its latest report on child survival rates, finding that Ethiopia has joined Tanzania, Liberia, and Malawi in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing child mortality by more than two thirds. The report finds Ethiopia's under-five mortality rate was reduced by 67% between 1990 and 2012. While Ethiopian Minister of Health Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu recognized the country's progress, he acknowledged child mortality rates are still too high. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 14th, after visiting Amselmo Mwangamba, a Catholic priest who was the victim of a recent acid attack in Zanzibar, President Mohammed Shein condemned the attack and asked islanders to assist in identifying and destroying the criminal network responsible for a recent series of acid attacks. Last month, two British women were victims of a similar attack. No arrests have been

made in connection with the latest attack. Details were noted [here](#).

On September 16th, the Federal Government of Somalia and the EU hosted the High-Level Conference on a New Deal for Somalia in Brussels, Belgium. The event brought together more than 200 delegates, U.N. representatives, aid groups, and multilateral financing institutions to discuss the Somalia New Deal Compact. In remarks delivered on behalf of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.N. Special Representative in Somalia Nicholas Kay endorsed the New Deal as a roadmap that will strengthen political processes, security, and the economy in Somalia over the next three years. An article on the conference can be read [here](#).

On September 17th, Partners in Population and Development's Africa Regional Office (PPDARO) and the Health Policy Project convened a meeting of African women MPs from Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana, and Uganda, in Kampala to discuss family planning. There was agreement that access to family planning and reproductive health care services should be increased as a means to address unwanted pregnancy, risky abortions, and maternal death. There was also consensus that increased local funding is needed for such initiatives. A summary of the discussion can be found [here](#).

On September 17th, the British Council in partnership with Microsoft launched 18 digital hubs for more than 100 Kenyan primary schools with the goal of accessing students' access to the Internet. The digital hubs have been built over the past year while approximately 2,000 Kenyan teachers were trained on information technology (IT) skills. The project's launch was covered [here](#).

West Africa

On September 12th, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement calling on Guinea-Bissau to hold general elections as soon as possible, especially with the end of a transition period approaching on December 31st. The elections, scheduled for November 24th, are intended to end a legacy of coups and political instability in the country. The Security Council has called for authorities to resolve any issues in advance of the election so that all political actors can participate in the process. The Security Council statement can be seen [here](#).

On September 13th, negotiations between Shell and Nigerian residents of Bodo who were affected by two oil spills in 2008 broke down when residents were insulted by the oil company's settlement offer. While some progress was made on cleanup plans and talks are slated to continue on September 26th and 27th, an agreement has not yet been reached on compensation. If a deal on compensation is not achieved, the case may go to trial in Britain. Details were shared [here](#).

On September 16th, Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma rescheduled a planned trip to the U.S. The President's office declined to comment on why the trip was postponed raising suspicions about President Koroma's health. President Koroma is expected to visit the U.S. later this month to participate in the U.N. General Assembly. Details are available [here](#).

On September 16th, Nigerian Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment Olusegun Aganga and French Minister of Foreign Trade Nicole Bricq signed an agreement establishing the Franco-Nigeria Trade and Investment Council (FNIC). The Council, which will be steered by the private sector, will identify opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises and produce a quarterly report on progress in improving trade and investment in all sectors of the economy. The finalization of the agreement was announced [here](#).

On September 17th, in advance of legislative elections scheduled for September 24th, the U.N. Peacebuilding Commission issued a statement calling on political actors in Guinea to hold secure and peaceful elections. The statement commended Guinea's progress in preparing for the elections and expressed optimism next week's polls will be free, fair, transparent, and peaceful. More on electoral preparations in Guinea was reported [here](#).

On September 17th, Senegalese President Macky Sall called King Mohammed VI of Morocco to discuss migration policy. President Sall called on Morocco, and all Africa states, to actively work to manage migration flows. A readout of the call can be viewed [here](#).

On September 17th, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf accepted a letter of resignation from her son, Robert Sirleaf, from his roles as Chairman of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) and Senior Advisor to the President. President Sirleaf issued a statement thanking the Chairman for his service and appointed Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of NOCAL Fred Bass as Acting Chairman and Jacqueline Khoury as a Director. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution extending the mandate of the U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for another year. The resolution maintains the current authorized strength of the mission, which includes 1,795 police personnel. The Security Council also urged Liberia to address ongoing problems with violent crime and gender-based violence, especially along the border with Cote d'Ivoire. Information on the resolution can be accessed [here](#).

On September 18th, head of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen briefed the Security Council on Developments in the Country as the U.N. plans to conclude its mission in the country in March 2014. Executive Representative Toyberg-Frandzen expressed optimism for the country's future, so long as Sierra Leoneans are able to put aside their political differences in the pursuit of development and democratization. Excerpts from the briefing can be seen [here](#).

On September 18th, a brawl broke out on the floor of the Nigerian parliament when a splinter group of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) attempted to address the body. Punches flew when MPs loyal to Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan began shouting and jeering, instigating a response from the new faction that does not want President Jonathan to run in the 2015 presidential elections. Details on the incident are available [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On September 12th, in an unexpected move, South African President Jacob Zuma refused to sign a proposed secrecy bill and sent the legislation back to the national assembly for reconsideration. The bill, which passed the national assembly in April by a vote of 189-74, puts those in possession of classified information at risk of jail sentences up to 25 years. Critics have said the proposed law would have a chilling effect on investigative journalism, as well as activists seeking to expose government corruption. More on the proposed law was reported [here](#).

On September 12th, South Africa recognized the 36th anniversary of the death of anti-apartheid leader Steve Bantu Biko. Biko, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM), died in 1977 as a result of head injuries suffered while in police detention under the apartheid-era Terrorism Act. An article on Biko's legacy in South Africa can be read [here](#).

On September 12th, the South African Institute of Race Relations issued a new report that rejects assertions that racial transformation in the post-1994 period has been a failure. While the report notes progress in the employment of black South Africans, it also highlights areas where racial inequality still exists, including wages and poverty, and suggests education, entrepreneurship, and economic growth are needed to further transformation. A press release summarizing the report's findings can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 12th, Amnesty International called on authorities to release Jame Mwape and Philip Mubiana, a gay couple arrested in April in Zambia. The two men, who have been held in custody since May on charges of committing offenses against the order of nature, have been forced to undergo intrusive physical examinations while they have been detained. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 13th, Malawi's Budget Director Paul Mphwiyo was shot and severely wounded as he returned home. Investigators believe Mphwiyo may have been targeted because of his efforts to combat corruption and fraud in the government. President Joyce Banda has condemned the attack. Mphwiyo was transported to a South African hospital for treatment where he remains in critical, but stable condition. The attack was described [here](#).

On September 16th, Zambian President Michael Sata threatened to dissolve the country's parliament

due to his cabinet ministers' failure to defend his Administration from attacks. Members of the parliament have said there are too many ministers and accused President Sata's cabinet of being too friendly with the President. According to the Zambian constitution, if the parliament is dissolved, new parliamentary elections must be held within 90 days. President Sata's threat was described [here](#).

On September 16th, *All Africa* reported Zimbabwe is in the process of creating a new Government Ministry for the Environment, Water, and Climate. While these issues previously fell under the jurisdiction of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management, analysts believe the new entity will formalize the prioritization of climate change. Zimbabwe is also in the process of developing a National Climate Change Strategy and an Action Plan. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On September 16th, a suspected bomb-maker was killed in an explosion in Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo. Security services are exploring potential links between this explosion and other explosions that occurred in the capital earlier this month as part of efforts to enhance security in advance of elections approaching on October 25th. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 16th, South African fast food restaurant operator Famous Brands announced plans to buy 49% of the restaurant arm of Nigeria-based UAC Restaurants in order to expand its footprint in the country. Famous Brands has operated in Nigeria through license and franchise agreements for the past 11 years. UAC has 165 franchised restaurants in Nigeria. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On September 17th, *News 24* reported on a new law seeking to curb alcohol consumption in Mozambique. The new law introduces several measures developed in conjunction with the liquor industry, including curtailing alcohol sales after 8PM and banning the sale of alcohol to underage children. The law also prohibits the use of billboards in advertising for alcohol sales and limits other advertising efforts that are perceived to target women and children. Details on the new policies are available [here](#).

On September 17th, EU Foreign Affairs Spokesman Michael Man announced that despite concerns about election fraud in Zimbabwe's recent presidential elections, the EU has initiated the process to lift sanctions on the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC), paving the way for diamond sales to Europe. The decision must still be endorsed by the EU Foreign Ministers, although that process is anticipated to occur quickly. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 18th, in a speech delivered at the opening session of the new Zimbabwean parliament, President Robert Mugabe vowed to ramp up controversial indigenization policies, which seek to put foreign firms in Zimbabwe under national control. Critics believe President Mugabe's indigenization policies will deter foreign direct investment (FDI) in Zimbabwe while the country is looking to spur economic growth to address high unemployment. Excerpts from President Mugabe's speech can be read [here](#).

On September 18th, police in Malawi said they have arrested three people suspected of participating in Friday's attack that severely wounded Malawi's Budget Director Paul Mphwiyo. Policies officials continue to question the subjects, while Mphwiyo remains hospitalized. The arrests were announced [here](#).

On September 18th, South African Labor Director General Nkosinathi Nhleko reported new statistics on labor strikes in the country. He said a total of 99 strikes were record in 2012, involving 241,391 workers, and costing the economy 3.3 million working days and \$6.6 billion Rand in wages. While statistics are not yet available for this year, Director General Nhleko said he believes these trends will continue. Comments are available [here](#).

On September 18th, South African police reported the arrest of a high profile rhino poacher near Kruger National Park. The man, who is suspected of participating in poaching with an active group of poachers in the Kruger Park reserves, has been detained in Cork Trust village. Three additional poachers were also arrested following a shoot-out in the Malelane section of the park. Details can be seen [here](#).

On September 19th, a commission appointed by South African President Jacob Zuma to investigate last year's Marikana mine shootings concluded that South African police falsified accounts of the incident, which resulted in the deaths of 34 miners. Police had initially reported they acted in self-defense after two officers had been killed by protestors. However, new information has surfaced to show police attempted to cover up their role in instigating the shootings. More on the commission's findings was reported [here](#).

General Africa News

On September 12th, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) released its World Population Data Sheet for 2013. The data sheet shows Africa is expected to experience the largest population growth of any region between now and 2050. Due to a large population of the child bearing age and some of the highest fertility rates in the world, Africa's population is expected to more than double, rising from 1.1 billion today to at least 2.4 billion by 2050. The full data sheet can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 12th, *Reuters* reported as Europe's energy demand increases by 20% over the next decade, the continent will have to increasingly rely on gas exports from African nations. Because many of the gas producing countries in Africa have experienced political instability, analysts project an increase in European gas prices to accommodate for a risk premium. The full report can be found [here](#).

On September 13th, Amadou Sy, a senior fellow for the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, wrote an opinion column on the growing capability for Sub-Saharan states to raise funds in international debt markets. According to the article, 20% of the 48 countries in Africa have sold eurobonds, many at lower interest rates than Greece and Portugal. Sy speculated an increase in interest rates could create problems for the region. The column can be read [here](#).

On September 16th, Israel's Supreme Court struck down a law that allowed African migrants to be detained for up to three years without charge. The law went into effect about a year ago, but has since been criticized as an illegal way to treat those escaping persecution and seeking asylum. Conservative lawmakers have expressed opposition to the ruling, arguing it risks violating the character of the Jewish state by opening the doors to more Africans. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 17th, the Office of the U.N. Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission signed an agreement to coordinate on enhancing measures to protect children in Africa from armed violence. The agreement calls for the development of a joint program that aligns domestic legislation with regional and international child rights. An article on the agreement can be read [here](#).

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