



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Kenya

On September 26th, the *Los Angeles Times* reported the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are adding operatives and agents to the investigation of the September 21st terrorist attack at the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The FBI is taking the lead on the investigation, while the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies engage in data mining to explore possibilities that Al Shabaab may be planning attacks against the U.S. An update on the investigation is available [here](#).

On September 27th, the U.S. Department of State issued a travel warning for U.S. citizens in Kenya or Americans seeking to visit Kenya in the wake of the recent terrorist attack. According to the alert, the State Department continues to receive credible information regarding potential terrorist threats against U.S., Western, and Kenyan interests in Nairobi and Mombasa. The travel warning was issued [here](#).

On September 29th, amidst concerns that an updated U.S. travel warning could impact Kenya's \$1 billion tourism industry, Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku opposed the advisory, which he said is uncalled for, unnecessary, and unfriendly. He asked the U.S., as a friend of Kenya, to lift the warning, especially as Kenya continues to implement heightened security measures. Comments from Minister Lenku can be viewed [here](#).

On September 29th, during a news conference, Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku confirmed reports of looting in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at the Westgate mall. Witnesses reported that jewelry cases were smashed, money was taken from cash registers, and alcohol stocks inside the mall were plundered. Details were reported [here](#).

On September 29th, Kenyan police arrested another suspect in connection to the September 21st

terrorist attack at the Westgate mall. Kenyan authorities are now holding and interrogating nine suspects regarding their involvement in the siege. In addition, 156 witnesses have provided police with recorded statements. Information on the most recent arrest can be found [here](#).

On September 30th, the Kenyan Red Cross announced a decrease in the number of people who remain missing as a result of the terrorist attack at the Westgate mall from 61 to 39. Fourteen of the people previously missing have been found alive, while seven other bodies were identified in the morgue. The Red Cross also noted it has been difficult to address the missing persons, as relatives have failed to notify the organization when missing family members were found. Developments were noted [here](#).

On September 30th, CNN reported multiple members of Kenya's Cabinet were notified about the possibility of a terror attack by the Al Shabaab last year. These notifications included an extensive list of vulnerable targets, including the Westgate mall. The Kenyan Parliament is expected to launch an inquiry with the National Intelligence Service this week. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 2nd, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta urged Somalia to put its house in order following the Nairobi mall shooting. Al Shabaab militants continue to warn of more attacks in Kenya as long as Kenyan troops remain in Somalia. Remarks from President Kenyatta can be viewed [here](#).

On October 2nd, family members of missing persons from the Westgate mall attack put in requests for DNA testing to be done on body parts recently found in the rubble at the mall. Conflicting reports exist on whether or not all bodies have been retrieved. More information can be seen [here](#).

U.N. General Assembly

On September 26th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a High-Level Meeting on the Sahel as part of the gathering of the U.N. General Assembly. While Secretary-General Ban said conditions in the Sahel have improved over the past year, he noted political instability and unconstitutional changes in governments have imposed threats on regional security. He also expressed support for the U.N. Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which seeks to bolster development while encouraging regional and international coordination. A report on the meeting was shared [here](#).

On September 26th, Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Samura Kamara told the U.N. General Assembly the country is approaching transformation thanks to the support of the U.N. Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and other international and development partners. He reported on Sierra Leone's progress in the areas of good governance, human rights, and gender equality. A summary of Foreign Minister Kamara's statement can be seen [here](#).

On September 26th, Burundian Foreign Minister Laurent Kavakure presented to the U.N. General Assembly. He reported on preparations for Burundi's 2015 general elections, as well as the country's efforts to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pertaining to primary education and child mortality. Foreign Minister Kavakure also highlighted Burundi's role in regional peacekeeping efforts, including its contributions to missions in Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sudan. Excerpts from the speech can be accessed [here](#).

On September 26th, Tunisian President Mohamed Moncef Marzouki discussed the impacts of the Arab Spring in general debate at the U.N. General Assembly. While there have been setbacks due to some ongoing violence, President Marzouki credited the Arab Spring for beginning a revolution towards stable democracy. He also expressed his commitment to fighting extremism in the region. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On September 26th, South Sudanese Vice President James Wani Igga noted ongoing sources of tension between South Sudan and Sudan since the countries divided in July 2011, including armed clashes along the common border and the status of the Abyei region. Vice President Igga also told the U.N. General Assembly how South Sudan and Sudan have successfully coordinated on issues relevant to security and economic growth. Highlights from the speech can be found [here](#).

On September 26th, Central African Republic (CAR) Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye called on the

U.N. General Assembly to provide humanitarian support to the country as violence continues. He expressed concern the CAR could become a stronghold for terrorists and criminals if government institutions are allowed to collapse. Comments from Prime Minister Tiangaye were recorded [here](#).

On September 26th, Transitional President of Guinea-Bissau Manuel Serifo Nhamajo presented to the U.N. General Assembly on preparations for the country's national elections, which are scheduled for November. President Nhamajo cautioned that successful elections will not end political instability in Guinea-Bissau. He also urged the need to address poverty. Key parts of President Nhamajo's presentation were noted [here](#).

On September 26th, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud asked the U.N. General Assembly for international assistance to support Somalia's efforts to drive out armed groups that perpetuate violence in the Horn of Africa, notably Al Shabaab. He also reviewed Somalia's New Deal Compact, which is aimed on promoting economic and political recovery and paving the way for strong government institutions. An article on the speech can be read [here](#).

On September 26th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe called on U.N. Member States to assist other nations with development challenges in order to promote global economic growth. While President Mugabe said Zimbabwe is making progress on the MDGs related to primary education and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, he reported the country lacks the financial capacity to make significant progress on poverty and hunger, child mortality, maternal healthcare, and environmental sustainability. Details are available [here](#).

On September 26th, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba explained Namibia is facing its worst drought in decades. He focused his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly on the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification and droughts in Africa and called for health care, education, food security and nutrition, energy, water, gender equality, youth, and disabilities to be addressed by post-2015 development targets. Themes of the speech can be viewed [here](#).

On September 26th, Ghanaian President John Mahama reported to the U.N. General Assembly on Ghana's Youth Jobs and Enterprise Development Fund initiative, which is intended to address the country's high rate of youth unemployment. He also discussed Ghana's ambitions to begin exporting processed goods, in addition to raw materials. A summary of President Mahama's remarks was posted [here](#).

On September 26th, President of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Mbasogo said infrastructure improvements have boosted the country's progress on achieving the MDGs, notably the goals focused on improving maternal and infant health, reducing illiteracy, and integrating people with disabilities into society. He stressed that peace and security are needed for Equatorial Guinea to make progress on other development goals. Highlights from President Mbasogo's speech were noted [here](#).

On September 26th, Prime Minister of Lesotho Thomas Motsoahae Thabane delivered remarks to the U.N. General Assembly during the period for general debate. Prime Minister Thabane focused his remarks on climate change and expressed concern that land degradation will result in a decline in agricultural productivity. He also noted that development in Lesotho's mountains region is on the forefront of the country's development agenda. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On September 26th, Benin's Foreign Minister Nassirou Bako Arifari said the post-2015 development agenda must be focused on providing assistance to the least development nations that have yet to achieve the MDGs. He also said programs will be needed beyond 2015 to help boost industrialization in underdeveloped countries. A recording of the speech can be heard [here](#).

On September 27th, Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti began his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly by expressing his disappointment that the U.S. Government denied Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir a visa to attend the meeting. He also appealed for international support to facilitate greater cooperation between Sudan and South Sudan and called on the international community to lift sanctions so that Sudan may advance its development progress. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 27th, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete argued effective financing mechanisms are needed to assist developing countries in achieving unmet MDGs. He also highlighted Tanzania's achievements pertaining to the MDGs, particularly the goals pertaining to primary education, HIV/AIDS, and increasing access to basic services, including water and sanitation. A summary of President Kikwete's remarks was posted [here](#).

On September 27th, Seychelles Vice President Danny Faure discussed the challenges faced by small island developing states (SIDS) in the process of development, notably the issue of geographic isolation. He stressed the importance of Seychelles' connectivity to the global economy and a need to focus on environmental sustainability. Details are available [here](#).

On September 27th, Angolan Vice President Manuel Domingos Vicente focused his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly on the organization's role and efficiency in promoting global peace, stability, and social and economic development. He urged the U.N. to focus on enhancing the capabilities of U.N. entities in preventing and responding to crises, as well as diversifying the Security Council to be more representative of all U.N. Member States. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On September 27th, the Republic of Congo's (ROC) Foreign Affairs Minister Basile Ikouebe was pessimistic that most African nations will be able to achieve all of the MDGs by 2015. As an example, he said the ROC has been able to make headway on education and child and maternal health initiatives, but significant progress has fallen victim to other priorities, including poverty and job creation. Themes of the speech were identified [here](#).

On September 27th, Gambian President Yahya Jammeh highlighted the country's achievements in improving education, including an increase in net enrollment in primary education, a narrowing of the gender gap in schools, and an increase in literacy rates. He also said the three greatest threats to human existence are greed, obsession with world domination, and homosexuality. Highlights from the speech were noted [here](#).

On September 27th, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita warned the U.N. General Assembly that terrorist groups driven out of Mali earlier this year continue to pose threats to Sub-Saharan Africa. President Keita thanked France, Morocco, and Chad for their contribution of military resources to chase Tuareg rebels and Islamist extremists out of Mali. To sustain these efforts, President Keita called for international efforts to combat transnational terrorism. President Keita's remarks can be read [here](#).

On September 28th, Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy informed the U.N. General Assembly the country will be ready for nationwide elections next spring. Minister Fahmy noted the government will allow all Egyptians to participate in the process as long as they are committed to renouncing violence and following rule of law. Minister Fahmy noted the government will also seek to empower women and youth in the process. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 28th, Mauritius' Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam addressed the U.N. General Assembly. He called for post-2015 development goals to be determined cognizant of disparities between large, developed nations and smaller, underdeveloped countries. Prime Minister Ramgoolam said there must be different milestones for development based on the development status of each country. Excerpts from the presentation can be found [here](#).

On September 30th, Moroccan Foreign Minister Saad Dine El Otmani told the U.N. General Assembly African nations have made the best use of foreign investments to support their inclusion in international trade. He cautioned, however, the reduction in foreign investments in Africa and low public aid for development will keep the continent from reaching its full potential. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 30th, Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh Mohammed called for the lifting of sanctions on Eritrea imposed by the U.N. Security Council, along with sanctions on Somalia in 2009. Instead, he urged the U.N. General Assembly to look at more practical resolutions, arguing that sanctions unfairly jeopardize peace and stability in Eritrea and more broadly on the Horn of Africa. Themes from the speech were posted [here](#).

On October 1st, Botswana's Minister of Foreign Affairs Phandu T.C. Skelemani called for financial support, technology transfer, and capacity building to mitigate the effects of climate change. He noted climate change specifically poses a threat to Botswana, a landlocked country that is susceptible to drought and desertification. Comments from Minister Skelemani are available [here](#).

On October 1st, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson participated in a briefing at U.N. headquarters on the work of African Regional Economic Communities. Focusing on this year's theme of the MDGs, Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson said the international community needs to contribute to addressing humanitarian needs and crises in Africa in order for the continent to meet the MDGs by 2015. He also noted Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, which can lead to conditions that promote conflict. Remarks from Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson can be viewed [here](#).

Egypt

On September 30th, an Egyptian soldier and four other army conscripts were killed in attacks in the Arish area of the Sinai Peninsula. While security forces attempted to respond to the ambush, the perpetrators of the attack were able to escape. The incident was reported [here](#).

On September 30th, the *New York Times* shared insights from smuggled letters written by one American and two Canadians imprisoned in Egypt for their participation in recent protests. The North American prisoners reported being beaten, stripped, and having their heads shaven. They also said they slept on crowded concrete floors and did not receive appropriate medical attention. The *New York Times* report is available [here](#).

Sudan

On September 27th, the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed alarm at media reports suggesting at least 30 people had been killed in Sudan during demonstrations held to protest the Government's decision to suspend fuel subsidies. OHCHR called on all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from violence. Feedback from ONCHR was reported [here](#).

On September 27th, the State Department issued a press statement condemning the Government of Sudan's crackdown on protestors in Khartoum that resulted in dozens of civilian casualties. The State Department called on government forces and protestors to exercise restraint and to respect rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and peaceful protest. Officials were also concerned about reports suggesting the Sudanese Government had arrested or detained civil society activists, shut down independent media, and restricted access to cell phone networks and the Internet. The statement can be read [here](#).

On September 29th, Sudanese Information Minister Ahmed Bilal Osman said Sudan will not reconsider its decision to lift fuel subsidies, despite the fact that deadly protests continue following the near doubling of fuel prices last week. Minister Osman said the price hike will save billions of dollars as part of a larger set of government austerity measures to stabilize the economy. According to the latest government figures, 33 people have been killed in protests and as many as 50 others may have been injured in demonstrations. The latest developments were noted [here](#).

On September 29th, 1,000 Sudanese citizens staged a protest in Khartoum to demand the resignation of President Omar al-Bashir. The protests continue to be fueled by opposition to the government's decision to cut back fuel subsidies. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 30th, Sudanese police fired tear gas into a university campus in the city of Omdurman, where female students were protesting against the government. Although no injuries were reported, the tear gas incident marks the eighth day of demonstrations against rising fuel prices. The incident was reported [here](#).

On October 1st, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir described the necessity of fuel price hikes and blamed saboteurs for unrest. Newspapers and media outlets in Sudan have been suspended and

censored, while political opponents, activists, and journalists have been detained. President Bashir defended these policies and said they are aimed to prevent the economy from collapsing. Developments in Sudan were noted [here](#).

On October 3rd, 35 people appeared in court to respond to charges of vandalism during recent anti-government riots in Sudan. The riots have been sparked by cuts to subsidies on cooking oil and fuel. While the judge offered the suspects release on bail, those arrested could not post bail money. An article on the court appearance can be read [here](#).

Nigeria

On September 29th, at 1AM, suspected Boko Haram militants broke into a dormitory at Nigeria's Yobe State College of Agriculture and gunned down as many as 50 students while they slept. In their response to the attack, military personnel gathered 42 bodies and transported 18 wounded students to the specialist hospital in Damaturu. The school's remaining 1,000 students have fled school grounds. Details on the incident can be accessed [here](#).

On September 30th, Nigerian Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan of Yobe State blamed poverty for insurgency in the northern part of the country. Senator Lawan said because the state of emergency imposed on the northern region could not stop the recent dormitory shooting, the government should prioritize remedying poverty. Remarks from Senator Lawan were posted [here](#).

On September 30th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the murders of 40 students who were killed by suspected Islamist gunmen as they slept in their dormitory at the College of Agriculture in Gujba in Nigeria's Yobe State. Secretary-General Ban expressed alarm at the increasing brutality and frequency of attacks against students and teachers in Nigeria and called for increased efforts to prevent similar attacks and protect civilians. Secretary Ban's statement can be viewed [here](#).

On September 30th, the State Department issued a statement condemning continuing violence in Nigeria perpetuated by terrorist organization Boko Haram, including the recent Boko Haram attack in Benisheik that left more than 160 people dead. The State Department encouraged the Government of Nigeria to work with the families of the victims to identify the attackers and bring them to justice. The full statement was shared [here](#).

Guinea

On September 27th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement welcoming the inter-Guinean dialogue paving the way for legislative elections on September 28th. He praised the work of U.N. Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit in facilitating dialogue and called for elections to be held in a peaceful, transparent, and credible manner. Details are available [here](#).

On September 28th, Guineas went to the polls to vote in the country's first parliamentary elections in more than a decade. Up for election were 114 seats in the national assembly, which will replace the transitional parliament that has existed since the end of military rule in 2010. Political opposition groups have previously expressed concerns the ruling party may attempt to rig the vote. At the opening of polls, voting stations reported some issues, including heavy storms keeping voters away, a lack of indelible ink, and voting cards on missing. Nearly 40% of the electorate, or approximately two million voters, turned out for the election. An article on the polls in Guinea can be read [here](#).

On October 2nd, Guinean forces announced they would begin releasing the results from recent legislative elections. Some 12,000 polling stations are still tallying votes, putting the announcement behind schedule. Initial results indicated there is unlikely to be a single majority party, which is anticipated to force new legislators to engage in coalition-building. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 3rd, the main opposition parties in Guinea pulled out of the first parliamentary elections due to allegations of widespread fraud. The electoral commission announced on October 1st that it would not entertain allegations of electoral fraud until all votes were counted. While the electoral

commission admitted errors, it defended the overall credibility of the elections. More information can be seen [here](#).

Cameroon

On September 30th, voters in Cameroon went to the polls to select candidates to fill the 180 seats in the Cameroonian National Assembly. Elections observers noted the outlook was bleak for the political opposition. The ruling Cameroon's People's Democratic Movement (RPDC) won 157 seats in the last elections, held in 2007. In addition, observers said the opposition experiences structural weakness. Details on the opening of the polls can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On September 26th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement applauding the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court of Sierra Leone (SCSL) for upholding the conviction of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for war crimes. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On September 27th, the State Department announced an additional \$11.5 million in U.S. humanitarian assistance to serve roughly 70,000 refugees from the CAR who fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Cameroon, and the ROC, in addition to approximately 30,000 new Darfur Sudanese refugees in Chad. The funding will support the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in providing essential services to refugees. The additional funding was announced [here](#).

On September 27th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns participated in a meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Washington, DC. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, posted [here](#).

On September 27th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Moroccan Foreign Minister Saad-Eddine Al Othmani in conjunction with U.N. General Assembly activities in New York City. Under Secretary Sherman also met with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete. The meetings were noticed [here](#).

On September 27th, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez participated in a roundtable with North Africa and Middle East press at the Foreign Press Center in Washington, DC. Assistant Secretary Fernandez's participation was noted [here](#).

On September 29th, Secretary of State John Kerry shared remarks wishing Botswana a happy 47th Independence Day. Secretary Kerry highlighted the partnership between the U.S. and Botswana in combating HIV/AIDS. He also noted areas for future collaborative efforts, including promoting regional peace and stability, protecting human rights, combating wildlife poaching, and strengthening democratic governance and rule of law. Secretary Kerry's full remarks can be seen [here](#).

On September 30th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Nigeria on its 53rd Independence Day. He said the U.S.-Nigeria relationship is strong due to shared commitments to democracy, economic growth, security, and respect for human rights and rule of law. Secretary Kerry also expressed optimism for working with Nigeria to expand educational opportunities. The statement was shared [here](#).

On September 30th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki provided a readout of Secretary of State John Kerry's bilateral meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti. The leaders discussed the importance of peace between Sudan and South Sudan and the need to end conflicts in Darfur, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, while allowing access for humanitarian aid, protecting civilians, and using the constitutional process to address factors invoking conflict. A transcript can be found [here](#).

On October 1st, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Guinea on its 55th

Independence Day. Secretary Kerry commended Guinea for its progress in security sector reforms and praised the country's role as a partner in regional peace and stability. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On October 1st, following a meeting between U.S. Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp and Senegalese Minister of Justice Sidiki Kaba, the U.S. announced a \$1 million contribution to support the Extraordinary African Chambers, the special court established in February to try former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre for war crimes. The funding decision was announced [here](#).

On October 1st, the State Department released a fact sheet on key U.S. outcomes at the U.N. Human Rights Council 24th Session. The Council renewed the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan for another year. The U.S. also co-sponsored a resolution highlighting next steps the DRC should take to advance human rights challenges, including sexual violence, and another resolution creating a new independent expert to examine human rights in the CAR. In addition, the U.S. co-sponsored a resolution renewing the mandate of the independent expert on human rights in Somalia. The fact sheet can be accessed [here](#).

On October 3rd, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment scheduled, which is posted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On September 24th-27th, U.S. Air Forces Europe – Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) hosted a team of leaders from the Ghanaian Air Force at Kapuan Air Station in Germany. The visit allowed the Ghanaian delegation to learn how the U.S. Air Force develops its enlisted force, especially as Ghana's Air Force looks to establish an enlisted academy within the next four years. Highlights from the visit were recorded [here](#).

On September 27th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosted an honor cordon to welcome Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to the Pentagon. Secretary Hagel and Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter met with President Museveni and Uganda Defense Minister Crispus Kiyonga. The discussion focused primarily on regional security issues, including the recent terrorist attack in Kenya, as well as Uganda's contributions to the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other efforts seeking to combat Al Shabaab and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). A full readout from the meeting was shared [here](#).

On September 27th, U.S. 1st Sustainment Command Public Affairs reported on U.S. Army Colonel Dr. Niel Johnson and Captain Touloupe Adeyemi's participation in a medical clinic hosted in the Ondo State of Nigeria this summer. The clinic provided medical outreach to approximately 2,000 people on a range of medical issues, including preventive care, hypertension, and family planning. An article on the clinic can be read [here](#).

On September 30th, USAFE-AFAFRICA reported on a recent partnership engagement conducted by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), U.S. Air Forces Africa, and the Angolan Air Force in Luanda. The exercise allowed U.S. and Angolan Air Force personnel to exchange best practices in bird avoidance strike hazards, operational and crew resource management, and flightline and fuels safety. A press release on the engagement can be seen [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On September 30th, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a business meeting to consider, among other agenda items, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. Additional information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 3rd, in light of the recent terrorist attack launched by Somali-based, Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist group Al Shabaab, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing to examine the threats Al Shabaab poses to U.S. interests. Witnesses included Seth Jones of RAND Corporation,

Dan Borelli of The Soufan Group, Mohamed Farah of Ka Joog, and Richard Downie of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). The hearing was noticed [here](#).

North Africa

On September 28th, the Tunisian Islamist-led government agreed to resign after negotiations slated to begin next week with secular opposition parties. The powerful UGTT labor union will mediate three weeks of proposed negotiations focused on establishing an interim government as well as a framework for parliamentary and presidential elections. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 29th, the *New York Times* reported that despite Morocco spending a quarter of its state budget on education programs, the country has yet to make significant educational advances. The state of Morocco's education system is reflected by the regularity with which unemployed graduates protest in front of the Moroccan Parliament, demanding assistance in job seeking. The youth unemployment rate in Morocco remains above 20%. Details were posted [here](#).

On September 30th, armed men took over a gas facility in the western region of Libya, demanding the recognition of the native language Amazigh and an end to corruption and inaction by the government. Oil and gas production and exports in Libya have fallen sharply since blockades began in July as a result of striking workers and guards. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 1st, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed sadness at news of the death of a police advisor serving with the joint U.N.-AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The police advisor, who was a citizen of Sierra Leone, died in Khartoum from injuries sustained during a July 13th attack against his patrol in Khor Abeche, South Darfur. More information is available [here](#).

On October 1st, the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and OHCHR issued a report on "Torture and Deaths in Detention in Libya." The report finds 27 detainees have died in Libya over the past two years as a result of physical abuse. In addition, the report recommends the transfer of detainees held by armed brigades to State control, among other initiatives to improve Libya's criminal justice system. The report's findings were summarized [here](#).

On October 2nd, the Russian Embassy in Tripoli was attacked by unidentified gunmen. Reports state the attackers climbed the walls of the embassy after firing on the compound to force entry. The attack is believed to be a response to a recent alleged killing of a Libyan by a Russian woman. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 2nd, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programme Luiz Loures met with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir in the capitol city of Juba. He commended President Kiir for his renewed commitment to combatting HIV/AIDS. In 2012, an estimated 150,000 people were living with HIV in South Sudan and 13,000 people died from the disease. More information can be viewed [here](#).

East Africa

On September 27th, Tanzanian authorities issued a statement suspending the Mwananchi newspaper for 14 days and the MTanzania newspaper for 90 days. Government officials said the shutdown of the Mwananchi newspaper was caused by the paper's decision to publish information from a classified government document. Meanwhile, the MTanzania paper was suspended in response to an article the government felt suggested its incompetency in responding to terrorist threats. Journalist groups have protested the decisions. Details can be found [here](#).

On September 27th, Ugandan authorities began to encourage local fisherman near Lake Victoria to use a Chinese method of fish farming to boost fish exports and reduce pressure on the populations within the lake. More information was reported [here](#).

On September 30th, *The Guardian* ran a story on Turkish aid in Somalia. In August 2011, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan became the first non-African head of state to visit Somalia in more than two decades. While the Turkish aid program in Somalia is evolving, Turkey's strategy hinges on having boots on the ground in Somalia to work side by side with Somalis. The full article

can be read [here](#).

On September 30th, following the London High Court's decision to adjourn a case related to Barclays Bank's decision to close the accounts used by Somali citizens living in the U.K. to send money back to family in Somalia, Barclays agreed to continue providing banking services while the legal challenge remains pending. Barclays has expressed concern that existing arrangements are being used to funnel money to Al Shabaab. The Central Bank of Somalia estimates more than \$1.5 billion is sent from the U.K. to Somalia annually. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 2nd, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Walter Barasa, a man accused of bribing a prosecution witness in the pending ICC case against Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto. ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said the court expects Kenyan authorities to arrest Barasa and hand him over to stand trial on charges of corruptly influencing a person he believed to be a witness. The full story is available [here](#).

On October 2nd, Kenya invited bids from investors interested in developing two power plants in the country. Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum is looking to build a 900-1,000 MW coal power plant in Lamu and a 700-800 MW natural gas fired power plant near Mombasa. Last month, the government announced its goal to add 5,000 MW to Kenya's power output by 2017. More information can be seen [here](#).

West Africa

On September 27th, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement expressing support for the ruling by the Appeals Chamber of the SCSL to uphold the conviction of former Liberian President Charles Taylor for war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war. The statement can be read [here](#).

On September 28th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed sadness over a suicide attack in Timbuktu, Mali, that targeted Malian armed forces at the entrance to their base in the city. Secretary-General Ban's condemnation of the attack comes on the heels of his meeting with Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, where the leaders discussed the importance of restoring security in Mali. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 29th, in the northern city of Kidal, Mali, a gun battle erupted between Malian soldiers and suspected separatists. Witnesses identified the separatists as a Tuareg group, who recently announced they were pulling out of a peace deal due to the Malian Government's failure to live up to its promises, including prisoner releases. The incident was described [here](#).

On September 29th, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) condemned Saturday's suicide attack in Timbuktu, Mali, that killed two people, left several others wounded, and damaged the Djingareyber Mosque, which appears on the World Heritage List. A UNESCO news release on the attack is available [here](#).

On September 30th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan gave private buyers most ownership of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), the state electricity company. The move completes the final stage of the privatization process, which was initiated eight years ago and is intended to address decades of power shortages. An article on the privatization can be read [here](#).

On October 1st, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita cut short an official visit to Paris, France, due to violence in northern Mali. After meeting with French President Francois Hollande, President Keita flew home to address new clashes between Tuareg nationalists and Malian forces in Kidal and the recent suicide attack in Timbuktu. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On October 1st, South African President Jacob Zuma, accompanied by South African Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Tina Joemat-Pettersson and Minister for Arts and Culture Paul Mashatile, arrived in Dakar, Senegal, for two days of bilateral meetings. During the trip, Senegal and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding on agriculture and a cooperation agreement on arts and culture. Details on President Zuma's trip were reported [here](#).

On October 1st, the ICC issued a public arrest warrant for former Ivorian Minister for Sports and Youth Charles Ble Goude on war crimes allegations following 2010 elections. The warrant was issued in December 2011, but has now been made public. The post-election violence cost nearly 3,000 people their lives. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 2nd, *Bloomberg* reported Angola is investing more in airports and seaports after missing its foreign investment target. The country had a goal set to attract \$4 billion annually in non-oil investments, but is currently on track to register only \$4 billion in total investments by 2017. Some setbacks include Angola's unreliable roads and power supply system. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 3rd, President Yahya Jammeh decided to withdraw Gambia from The Commonwealth of Nations, as it branded the institution as neo-colonial. No other reasons were given for the withdrawal, which was announced on state television. The British Foreign Office recently cited cases of unlawful detentions, censorship of newspapers and discrimination of minorities in the Gambia, but also noted that it regrets members deciding to leave the Commonwealth. More information can be seen [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On September 27th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed condolences for the death of a U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) Tanzanian peacekeeper who was wounded on August 28th in clashes with armed groups in Goma. A statement issued by the Secretary-General's office can be read [here](#).

On September 27th, Zimbabwean Agriculture Minister Joseph Made said the government is distributing grain imported from Zambia to citizens vulnerable to starvation in southern Zimbabwe. Minister Made also noted Zimbabwe's Grain Marketing Board (GMB), which is responsible for managing grain procurement and securing reserves, has a plan in place to avert a food crisis. Comments from Minister Made were recorded [here](#).

On September 27th, Samsung launched its Galaxy Note 3 and the smartwatch in the African market. The technologies will first be available for sale in South Africa, with releases planned in additional African markets over the month of October. The Galaxy Note 3 will be priced at \$900 and the smartwatch is planned to cost an additional \$460. The launch was announced [here](#).

On September 28th, U.N. Special Representative for the DRC Martin Kobler expressed concern at the escape of two imprisoned army officers convicted of rape and murder. The escaped inmates were recently sentenced by a military court to life in prison. Special Representative Kobler appealed to Congolese authorities to provide protection those involved with the conviction and to initiate an investigation on the inmates' escape. The incident was reported [here](#).

On September 30th, the *Washington Post* reported the South African Government is closely examining security measures after the recent attack at the Westgate mall in Kenya. The focus on security follows the International Criminal Police Organization's (Interpol) finding that Samantha Lewthwaite, a British national thought to be involved in the Westgate attack, obtained a fraudulent South African passport and was planning bomb attacks in Kenya in 2011. Among new security measures, South African authorities are looking to introduce a new and more secure passport that cannot be forged as easily. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On September 30th, South Africa's Vodacom Group announced it was involved in talks to purchase the local unit of India's Tata Communications. The deal has the potential to reach \$590 million and would help deliver more high-speed Internet to homes and businesses via a large fiber-optic network. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 1st, U.N. officials expressed ongoing concern for the deterioration of the human rights situation in the CAR. U.N. Special Advisers warned the breakdown in rule of law and the inability of transitional authorities in the CAR to control Seleka soldiers who are committing human rights atrocities puts the country at risk for deeper crisis and larger scale fighting. They urged the international community to support regional AU initiatives to help protect the population and prevent

further violence. More information was shared [here](#).

On October 1st, auditors for the European Union (EU) released a report finding that aid programs focused on enhancing justice and promoting good governance in the DRC are not delivering the anticipated results. Since 2003, the EU has spent approximately \$2.6 billion on assistance to the DRC. The report suggests aid has been ineffective due to widespread fraud and corruption. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

On October 1st, the world's first digital laser was unveiled in South Africa by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). This breakthrough technology will allow scientists to discover new ways to improve technologies that result in faster broadband and medical advancements. The technology was described [here](#).

On October 2nd, the Government of Malawi, in partnership with the U.N., launched a food assistance program seeking to meet the needs of 1.46 million people made vulnerable to a food crisis by bad weather and high food prices. U.N. statistics show most households in Malawi have experienced a 50% decline in food production this year. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 3rd, BMW announced it will halt its near term expansion in South Africa due to labor strikes in the region. In recent months, plants in South Africa belonging to BMW and Toyota were closed for weeks at a time due to strikes at a cost of nearly \$69.6 million. BMW plans to maintain its longer term strategy for South Africa. Details can be seen [here](#).

On October 3rd, Zimbabwean Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa said the country will proceed with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) monitoring program that began in June and will run through December. The program is focused on assisting Zimbabwe with implementation of economic reforms intended to help the nation address \$10 trillion in external debts and allow Zimbabwe access to new credit from international lenders. More information can be seen [here](#).

On October 3rd, the One Young World Summit 2013 kicked off in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference was attended by global leaders, including former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Live Aid Founder Bob Geldof, and Nobel Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus, who joined more than 9,000 young people to encourage youths to bring about positive change on global challenges. An article on the Summit can be read [here](#).

General Africa News

On September 30th, CSIS held a briefing on "Lessons from the U.S. African Development Foundation." Presenters included President of the U.S. African Development Foundation Shari Berenbach and Daniel Runde of CSIS. Background on the event was posted [here](#).

On October 2nd, U.K.-based law firm Eversheds LLP announced it will open five offices in Africa, including in Tunisia, Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, and Kenya. The company will also launch the Eversheds African Law Institute, providing member law firms in Africa with access to training and information sharing activities focused on regional and international business opportunities. More information can be found [here](#).

On October 3rd, a boat carrying African migrants from Libya to Italy sank after experiencing a fire and capsizing off the island of Lampedusa, claiming the lives of 82 migrants. As many as 140 people have been rescued, but hundreds remain missing. Following the Arab Spring, there have been many vessels transporting African migrants across the Mediterranean, most of which are overcrowded and not seaworthy. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On October 3rd, UNHCR expressed sadness at the capsizing of a boat en route from Libya to Italy. UNHCR noted the boat was carrying primarily Eritrean migrants believed to be fleeing conflict and persecution. A UNHCR news release was shared [here](#).

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