



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

****Editor's Note: The next edition of the Africa Update will be published after the Thanksgiving holiday, as your editor will be traveling in Sub-Saharan Africa. Happy Thanksgiving!***

Leading the News

Democratic Republic of Congo

On November 6th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) issued a statement welcoming the decision by the M23 rebel group to lay down its arms. Representative Engel commended U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold for his work in the region and urged the completion of peace talks in Kampala, Uganda, outlining the process for M23's complete disarmament and reintegration into Congolese society. He also called on neighboring countries, including Rwanda, to take actions to contribute to lasting peace in the region. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On November 11th, a spokesman for the Ugandan Government, which has been tasked with mediating peace talks between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and M23 rebels, said the DRC Government refused to sign a peace deal after demanding the agreement be named a declaration and not an accord. Peace negotiations adjourned when representatives of the DRC Government refused to attend a signing ceremony for the pending deal. It is unclear when talks will resume. The breakdown in negotiations was reported [here](#).

On November 11th, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson, U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler, U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold, African Union (AU) Special Representative Boubacar Diarra, and European Union (EU) Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region Koen Vervaeke issued a joint statement expressing regret for the breakdown in peace talks between the M23 rebel group and the Government of the DRC. The envoys noted while there were no substantive disagreements on the draft agreement,

differences remain over the formatting of the document. The envoys urged parties to ensure the final agreement ensures disarmament and demobilization of the M23, as well as accountability for human rights violations. Additional feedback from the envoys was recorded [here](#).

On November 12th, the *New York Times* ran an article analyzing the successes and risks associated with the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) intervention brigade. The article suggests the intervention brigade played an important role in pushing M23 rebels towards laying down their weapons and suggests this may be part of a new trend in international peacekeeping operations. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

Sahel

On November 7th, following visits to Mali and Niger, the multinational delegation touring the Sahel, consisting of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, U.N. Special Envoy to the Sahel Romano Prodi, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, African Development Bank (AfDB) President Donald Kaberuka, and Commissioner for Development of the European Union (EU) Andris Piebalgs, arrived in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The group met with President Blaise Compaore and Prime Minister Luc-Adolphe Tiao to discuss the impacts of climate change in the region. Information on the delegation's visit to Burkina Faso was issued [here](#).

On November 8th, the envoys concluded their visit to the Sahel region in N'Djamena, Chad. The delegation met with Chadian President Idriss Deby, as well as other senior government officials on security and development issues in Chad and the broader Sahel region. An overview of the group's visit to Chad was provided [here](#).

Egypt

On November 11th, Director of Egypt's General Intelligence Service General Mohammed Farid el-Tohamy said there has been no change in U.S.-Egypt intelligence relations since the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi in July. Director Tohamy reported he is in constant contact with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Brennan, as well as other U.S. intelligence officials. Comments from Director Tohamy can be viewed [here](#).

On November 11th, the Cairo Administrative Court ruled Egypt's state of emergency had expired on Tuesday, two days earlier than expected. The confusion over the expiration date is due to the government's decision to extend the state of emergency two days prior to its previous sunset date. In response to the ruling, Interior Minister Mahmoud Ibrahim, who serves as leader of Egyptian security forces, said the state of emergency would remain in place until Thursday, when security reinforcements will be deployed to address any intensified protests. The ruling was reported [here](#).

On November 12th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement addressing draft legislation proposed in Egypt that would seek to regulate protests. Secretary-General Ban told Egyptian leaders that any new legislation must achieve international human rights standards by respecting the rights to freedom of assembly and peaceful protest, especially as Egypt's state of emergency is lifted. Secretary-General Ban's statement was issued [here](#).

On November 12th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki welcomed the formal lifting of the state of emergency in Egypt, including the end of the imposed curfew. As the Egyptian government considers new security legislation, Spokesperson Psaki urged the government to respect the rights of all Egyptians, including rights to freedom of assembly, expression, and due process. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki were posted [here](#).

On November 12th, deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi met with a team of defense lawyers at the prison where he is being held in Alexandria. To date, President Morsi has expressed a desire to represent himself in legal proceedings. His trial has adjourned until January 8th, when he is expected to announce whether or not he will accept representation by the legal team assembled by the Muslim Brotherhood. More information is available [here](#).

On November 13th, ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi issued a statement from prison accusing Egyptian military leaders of treason and warning that Egypt will not recover from crisis until the military coup is reversed and he is restored to power. President Morsi also claimed the military had kidnapped him and applauded protestors for ongoing demonstrations. Excerpts from the statement are available [here](#).

On November 13th, the *Washington Post* reported on infighting, disorganization, and disparate ideologies among the secular parties in Egypt that supported the fall of President Mohamed Morsi. According to the report, secular groups have failed to rally around a common message and will need to act quickly to build an electoral base heading into future elections. The full article can be read [here](#).

On November 14th, Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met in Cairo, reportedly to discuss a foreign arms deal worth as much as \$2 billion. While Minister Fahmy said Egypt was not looking for substitutes to any of its traditional defense suppliers, the U.S. decision to partially end foreign assistance to Egypt has halted defense aid, including the delivery of weapons systems. Details on the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Somalia

On November 8th, the Hotel Makkah Al-Mukarama in the Somali capital of Mogadishu was bombed, leaving five people dead and at least 15 others wounded. Among those killed was former acting Somali Envoy to the United Kingdom (U.K.) Adulkadir Ali. It was initially unclear who was behind the attack. The incident was described [here](#).

On November 10th, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement condemning the attack outside of a luxury hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia. Militant group Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Security Council noted that continuing terrorist attacks in Somalia could impact the Council's resolve to support Somalia's efforts towards peace, stability, and reconciliation. Details are available [here](#).

Nigeria

On November 12th, the State Department announced that two American mariners captured by pirates off the coast of Nigeria have been released. Due to privacy concerns, the State Department opted not to release further details on the captives. News of their release was reported [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On November 7th, the White House announced President Barack Obama will host King Mohammed VI of Morocco at the White House on November 22nd. The leaders are expected to discuss a variety of issues, including U.S. support for Morocco's democratic and economic reforms, as well as regional challenges, such as countering violent extremism, supporting democratic transitions, and promoting economic development in Africa. A press release announcing King Mohammed's visit was shared [here](#).

On November 10th, 75 advocacy groups sent a letter to President Barack Obama pushing for fossil fuel projects, including oil, natural gas, and coal, to be excluded from the Administration's Power Africa initiative. The letter argued these projects will increase inequality and conflict while destroying the environment in Africa. Instead, the coalition urged prioritization of small-scale, decentralized, renewable energy projects in Africa, which they claimed will be more effective in decreasing energy poverty. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On November 13th, Assistant to President Barack Obama for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa Monaco issued a statement on the designation of Boko Haram and Ansaru as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). Monaco said the move to cut the terrorist organizations off from U.S. financial institutions and to freeze their assets demonstrates U.S. support for Nigeria's fight against terrorism. She also noted President Obama and Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan

discussed Nigeria's counterterrorism strategy in September. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

State Department

On November 8th, the State Department announced Secretary of State John Kerry postponed his scheduled travel to Algiers, Algeria, and Rabat, Morocco, to travel to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in talks with the P5+1 Foreign Ministers and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif regarding Iran's nuclear program. The scheduling change was announced [here](#).

On November 10th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement congratulating Angola on its 38th Independence Day. Secretary Kerry expressed optimism for growth in bilateral trade and economic opportunities and noted continued U.S. support to Angola in strengthening its democratic institutions, promoting economic prosperity, combating HIV/AIDS and malaria, and reinforcing peace and security. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On November 12th, Secretary of State John Kerry provided video remarks to the Third International Conference on Family Planning, currently underway in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Secretary Kerry said reproductive health care and family planning services are basic human necessities that hundreds of millions of women go without. Secretary Kerry's full remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On November 12th, the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations announced a construction award for Pernix Serka Joint Venture to construct a new rainwater capture and storage system at the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The project is expected to allow the embassy to take advantage of more than 100 inches of rainfall during Sierra Leone's annual rainy season and will also include improvements to the existing waste treatment system to allow for water recycling and reductions in demand. More information was shared [here](#).

On November 13th, the State Department announced the designation of Boko Haram and Ansaru as FTOs, prohibiting U.S. entities from providing material support or resources to or engaging in transactions with both groups and freezing their assets in or controlled by the U.S. Boko Haram, based in Nigeria, is linked to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and is responsible for thousands of deaths in northeast and central Nigeria over the past several years. Ansaru, a splinter faction of Boko Haram, also operates in Nigeria. The terrorist designations were made [here](#).

On November 13th, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the State Department's first-ever reward from information leading to the dismantling of a transnational criminal organizations as part of the new Transnational Organized Crime Rewards program. A \$1 million reward is on the table for information on the wildlife trafficking organization Xaysavang Network, which is based in Laos and operates through affiliates in South Africa and Mozambique, as well as other Asian nations. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 13th, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Frederick Barton met with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Deputy for Civil-Military Engagement Ambassador Phil Carter at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On November 14th, Secretary of State John Kerry met with U.S. Special Envoy for the African Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold at the Department of State. The meeting was listed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On November 8th, *The Pentagon Channel (TPC) News* distributed a video providing an update on planning for the multinational 2013 Saharan Express exercise. Military leaders from the U.S., Europe, and African partner nations recently gathered in Naples, Italy, to map out the drill, which is intended to improve the counter-piracy capabilities of African military forces. The video can be watched [here](#).

On November 11th, the multinational maritime exercise Cutlass Express 2013 kicked off in waters off the coast of East Africa. During the weeklong exercise, maritime forces from the U.S., Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Comoros, Yemen, the Netherlands, Denmark, NATO, and the E.U. Naval Force will participate in training activities in

Mombasa, Djibouti, Dar es Salaam, and Port Victoria. The exercise is meant to improve cooperation, tactical expertise, and information sharing to increase maritime safety. The exercise was described [here](#).

On November 12th, AFRICOM reported on the conclusion of a malaria diagnostic training event sponsored by AFRICOM's Office of the Command Surgeon and Humanitarian and Health Activities branch in partnership with the Malaria Diagnostics Center (MDC) of the Kenya Medical Research Institute in Kisumu. The event trained technicians from the Defense Forces of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda on techniques for diagnosing malaria. The training was detailed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On November 7th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry calling for the State Department to apply more meaningful and practical engagement to addressing the current state of affairs in the Central African Republic (CAR). Representative Royce said the U.S. has a national security interest in seeing order in stability in the CAR, especially due to its proximity to other African countries that receive U.S. assistance. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On November 13th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a joint hearing on the continuing threat of Boko Haram. Witnesses included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Emmanuel Ogebe of the U.S.-Nigeria Law Group, Khalid Aliyu of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Jacob Zenn of The Jamestown Foundation, and Habila Adamu, a survivor of Boko Haram violence. An archived webcast of the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

On November 14th, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee received a top secret briefing on developments in Egypt. Senators were briefed by Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Derek Chollet, Deputy Assistant USAID Administrator for the Middle East Bureau Alina Romanowski, and Director of Strategic Plans and Policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant General Terry Wolff. The briefing was noted [here](#).

On November 20th, House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA), along with co-hosts House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ), will host a welcome reception for Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield. Details for the upcoming event are available [here](#).

North Africa

On November 7th, in an interview with *NPR*, Libyan Justice Minister Salah Bashir Margani expressed concern about Libya's future as armed militias continue roam the country's streets. Minister Margani appealed to the international community for assistance and noted 18,000 Libyan security personnel will receive training from Libyan allies. Excerpts from the interview were posted [here](#).

On November 10th, Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan warned his country that foreign powers may intervene in Libya under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter if militia attacks in the country do not come to a halt. He rallied the public to take to the streets and rebel against the armed militias and to express support the buildup of Libya's army and police forces. Prime Minister Zeidan's remarks are available [here](#).

On November 10th, *CBS "60 Minutes"* correspondent Lara Logan issued an on-air apology for discredited reporting on the September 2012 attack in Benghazi based on insights from security contractor Dylan Davies. Davies told *CBS* he had been at the U.S. diplomatic compound the night of the attack. However, it was later revealed Davies provided a different account to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), indicating he was not at the U.S. diplomatic facility until the morning after. A recording of Logan's apology can be watched [here](#).

On November 11th, following closed consultations on Sudan, this month's president of the U.N. Security Council Liu Jieyi of China expressed concern for the delay of a proposed, two-week polio vaccination campaign initially scheduled to launch in Sudan on November 5th. The campaign has been delayed due to the failure of the Government of Sudan to successfully negotiate with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) on the technicalities for the campaign's implementation. More information can be found [here](#).

On November 11th, Italy called on the E.U. to work with Libya on developing a method to manage patrols and border controls. Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, after meeting with Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, said Libya must stop the smuggling of migrants from Africa on overcrowded ships, which caused a shipwreck last month that killed hundreds of people. Italy is now deploying naval vessels and drones to prevent further tragedies at sea, and Malta is preparing to send a naval vessel to patrol the Libyan coast to prevent boats carrying migrants from departing. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 12th, the Thomson Reuters Foundation released a new study on women's rights in Arab States in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. The research finds that Egypt is the worst country for women's rights in Arab world, with women in Egypt reporting high rates of sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, and suppression of women's rights by Islamist groups. The full study can be accessed [here](#).

On November 14th, International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the U.N. Security Council that while Libya aspires to become a stable and democratic society, the country will not be able to do so until it develops a plan for addressing serious crimes. Prosecutor Bensouda also called on Libyan authorities to surrender the son of former Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi, Saif Al-Islam Gadhafi, who has been indicted by the ICC for crimes against humanity. Highlights from Prosecutor Bensouda's presentation to the Security Council were posted [here](#).

East Africa

On November 7th, Kenyan mobile operator Safaricom's CEO Bob Collymore announced the company will provide free broadband service to public primary schools in Kenya if the Kenyan Government will provide the required frequency spectrum. The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) has recently renewed Safaricom's operating license and the company is looking to partner with Government officials to rollout LTE or 4G networks by 2015. More information can be found [here](#).

On November 8th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released new statistics indicating more than 62,000 people have fled from the Horn of Africa to Yemen this year. UNHCR flagged the maritime crossing from the Horn of Africa to Yemen as one of the most dangerous routes for refugees. An update from UNHCR can be seen [here](#).

On November 10th, thousands of workers, primarily from East Africa, gathered in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to seek repatriation after two people, including one Ethiopian, were killed during overnight rioting following a visa raid by Saudi authorities. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom condemned the deaths and called on the Saudi Government to investigate the incident. The tensions between Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia were noted [here](#).

On November 11th, UNHCR and the Governments of Kenya and Somalia signed an agreement laying out the process by which Somali refugees in Kenya can return home. Kenya is currently providing refuge to approximately 470,000 Somalis, many who reside in the Dadaab refugee camps complex in northeastern Kenya. While the framework does not mandate a strict deadline for the return of all refugees to Somalia, it suggests three years as an appropriate timeframe. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 11th, Kenyan Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich announced the country will use the sale of nearly \$2 billion of Eurobonds to upgrade infrastructure to meet economic demands. These securities will likely have a maturity of ten years and will be sold within the first weeks of the New Year. It is expected that Kenya will finalize an agreement with JPMorgan Chase & Co to serve as the

lead on arranging the Eurobond deal by next week. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 11th, President of the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia Abdiraham Mohamud Farole declared a national state of emergency and called for international assistance after 100 people died in a tropical cyclone that hit the country on Saturday. The storm hit the coastal areas, bringing winds of 90 km per hour while rainfall amounted to nearly 350 mm in a region that has an average rainfall of 250 mm. Reporting on the storm's destruction is available [here](#).

On November 11th, Somali police spokesman Mohamed Yusef Madaleh announced the Mogadishu police force's launch of an emergency police telephone system, the first of its kind to service the region in more than 20 years. The emergency number, 888, will route calls to different centers throughout the city, allowing local police units to dispatch cars and officers to respond. The launch of the new service was described [here](#).

On November 11th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Tony Hayward, who served as Chief Executive of BP during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico, is now seeking to look for oil in Somaliland and Somalia on behalf of London's General Energy. U.S. State Department officials have expressed concerns the venture may escalate instability in the region, due to continuing tensions between Somaliland and Somalia. An article on the business proposal can be read [here](#).

On November 11th, Kenya Power Ltd Acting Managing Director Ben Chumo stated the company will spend \$700 million by 2017 in building electricity substations and transmission lines as power generation is expected to increase by more than 5,000 megawatts over the next four years. The announcement was made [here](#).

On November 11th, Human Rights Watch called on the Somali Government to order a transparent and impartial investigation into an alleged gang-rape by AU soldiers. The incident took place in August in Mogadishu, and at the time, the U.N.-mandated force announced it had launched its own investigation. According to Human Rights Watch, Somali authorities are fumbling the investigation, which is anticipated to yield a report by late November. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 12th, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution extending the deployment of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) through October 31, 2014, and increasing the mission's force strength from 17,731 uniformed personnel to 22,126. The resolution also expands the logistical support packaged provided to AMISOM by the U.N. More information on the resolution was shared [here](#).

On November 12th, the third International Family Planning conference kicked off in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference is intended to address the millions of women across the globe with inadequate access to contraception and reproductive health care services. According to the recent U.N. Motherhood and Childhood report, if current trends continue, the number of girls in Sub-Saharan Africa giving birth before the age of 15 could increase by more than one million by 2030. More information on the conference was posted [here](#).

On November 12th, the male-dominated Kenyan parliament passed legislation denying divorced women the right to matrimonial property unless they can prove they made a financial contribution. Women's advocacy groups in Kenya have indicated they will oppose the law's implementation. Details on the legislation are available [here](#).

On November 13th, Puntland Interior Minister Abdullahi Ahmed said government officials have confirmed 140 deaths as a result of the recent cyclone. He indicated that many people remain missing and the death toll may climb as high as 300. Meanwhile, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud pledged \$1 million in assistance for the Puntland region. Developments in the area were reported [here](#).

On November 14th, Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph ole Lenku announced the Government's decision to revoke Kenya citizenship for 104 individuals whose citizenship was granted over the past five years. In all 104 cases, the Government deemed the citizenships were acquired through questionable means. In addition, Minister Lenku said legal actions will be taken against those who obtained

citizenship illegally, as well as those who assisted them in the process. Minister Lenku's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On November 14th, Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia acknowledged that 23,000 Ethiopian migrant workers in Ethiopia have turned themselves in to Saudi authorities, following the government's crackdown on illegal migrant workers, initiated last week. The crackdown sparked a wave of protests that have left at least three Ethiopians dead. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On November 15th, the U.N. Security Council is scheduled to vote on a draft resolution circulated by Rwanda seeking deferral of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's trial at the ICC. The ICC has already postponed the trials of both President Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto due to the Westgate terrorist attack. President Kenyatta's trial, scheduled for November 12th, will now be held on February 5th. Information on the upcoming vote was posted [here](#).

West Africa

On November 8th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the sale of children Najat Maalla M'jid concluded a ten-day visit to Benin, where she urged the Government to give greater priority to child protection, especially as numerous children in Benin have become victims of sale or trafficking and labor or sexual exploitation. While in Benin, Special Rapporteur M'jid toured child protection programs throughout the country and met with child victims and youth organizations. The trip was highlighted [here](#).

On November 8th, Ghana's Deputy Communications Minister Victoria Hammah was fired after she was recorded admitting she would stay in politics until she made \$1 million. Information Minister Mahama Ayariga did not cite the recording as the reason for Minister Hammah's dismissal, but the announcement came 24 hours after the recording went viral. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 10th, Spanish police announced the arrest of 25 people in a sex-trafficking ring that brought Nigerian women to Spain to work as prostitutes. Lured by promises of jobs in Europe, the victims were first flown to Brazil or Mexico, then back to Paris and smuggled into Spain. Five victims were released during the raids. More than 100 vans concealing stolen goods, which were used to launder profits and send them to Lagos, were also seized. More information was posted [here](#).

On November 11th, the Nigerian Parliament postponed the delivery of President Goodluck Jonathan's budget speech to November 19th. The proposed budget is expected to be very tight, especially as crude oil revenues have fallen nearly \$12 billion short of budget estimates and these revenues account for nearly 80% of the Government's income. More information can be found [here](#).

On November 11th, the Liberian Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) announced the arrest of the head of the Liberian presidential motorcade for allegedly smuggling drugs in an official vehicle. Perry Dolo was arrested with 297 kg of marijuana after crossing into Liberia from Sierra Leone in the vehicle used to lead Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's motorcade. DEA head Anthony Souh stated Dolo had been under surveillance for two weeks prior to the arrest. The incident was reported [here](#).

On November 14th, French priest Georges Vanderbusch was kidnapped in northern Cameroon near the Nigerian border. Vanderbusch had been advised against residing in the area, especially as a French family was kidnapped by Boko Haram in the region earlier this year. French and Cameroonian authorities are working together to identify the kidnappers and secure Vanderbusch's release. The incident was detailed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On November 7th, the U.N. Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provided an overview of the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) in the DRC. The initiative seeks to address the illegal killing and trade of great apes, especially as ongoing violence between Congolese forces and M23 rebels impact natural resources in the country. Additional information was posted [here](#).

On November 8th, U.N. officials continued to issue warnings regarding the deteriorating security situation in the CAR, which is threatening the country's stability. U.N. High Commissioner for Human rights Navi Pillay said violent clashes between ex-Seleka rebels and self-defense groups are heightening tensions between religious and sectarian groups. In addition, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman delivered remarks to the International Contact Group on the CAR, meeting in Bangui, calling for urgent action to address the dire humanitarian situation. Comments from U.N. officials on developments in the CAR can be viewed [here](#).

On November 8th, satellite images of the CAR revealed the extent of damage caused by strife since the toppling of President Francois Bozize earlier this year. Amnesty International reported the images show homes that have been burned and destroyed in the northern town of Bouca. Other images show thousands of people massing in the nearby town of Bossango, revealing a large displaced population. The satellite images were further detailed [here](#).

On November 9th, Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalaing of Bangui penned an op-ed in *The Guardian* calling for the international community to quickly respond to worsening sectarian violence in the CAR. Archbishop Nzapalaing noted that 65,000 people are displaced in the CAR due to the lack of security. He also highlighted increasing tensions between Muslims and Christians, perpetuated by the Seleka group. The full opinion piece can be read [here](#).

On November 9th, South African platinum miners staged a sit-in at the Northam Platinum's Dechaba mine, protesting the firing of a union leader. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) have both threatened top platinum producers with similar strikes, which could affect at least half the global output of the commodity. More information can be seen [here](#).

On November 10th, Mozambique's national oil company, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, announced plans to increase shares in fields operated by Anadarko Petroleum Corp and Eni SpA. Mozambique plans to build four liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants, with a capacity of 20 million metric tons a year by 2018, which could cost \$20 billion. The Government is also likely to announce a bidding round for offshore exploration blocks once Parliament passes a new petroleum law, as a number of companies have expressed interest in bidding. Developments in Mozambique's energy sector were noted [here](#).

On November 11th, Zimbabwean Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa announced a \$319 million loan from China to address Zimbabwe's electricity shortages. The funds will go to the Kariba hydropower project, which will increase capacity by 300 megawatts in four years. The loan will attract an annual interest of 2% and will be repaid over 20 years. News of the loan was reported [here](#).

On November 11th, the wireless operator with the most subscribers in South Africa, Vodacom Group Ltd, announced plans to increase investment across the continent. CEO Shameel Joosub said Vodacom will increase capital spending as a percentage of revenue from 13% to as much as 17%. Increased investment in South Africa is expected to allow fiber access to more homes and allow a faster roll out of 4G networks. More information was shared [here](#).

On November 11th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on challenges to growing mobile phone use in Sub-Saharan Africa. While the region has experienced the fastest growth in mobile subscribers, mobile penetration still remains the lowest globally, as two thirds of the population still lacks mobile access. Challenges in reaching this population include the high costs of mobile phones, high tax rates on mobile usage in some African countries, and poor infrastructure that makes it costly to operate mobile towers. The full article can be read [here](#).

On November 12th, World Bank officials held a meeting to review a request from South African public utility Eksom to delay the implementation of pollution controls at the World Bank-backed, \$3.75 billion Medupi coal-fired power plant project, due to be completed by 2017. While pollution controls were required to be in place by 2020, Eksom has identified a number of problems in meeting pollution control requirements and filed a request to extend the compliance date to 2027. Details can be found [here](#).

On November 12th, speaking to a conference in Cape Town, Head of Content and Services for Samsung Electronics Africa Thabiet Allie said the company expects to supply half of all smartphones sold in Sub-Saharan Africa this year and plans to double sales on the continent in 2014. Allie noted Africa's growing young, urban, and tech savvy population is attracting foreign sellers of smartphones. Comments from Allie can be seen [here](#).

On November 13th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe swore in Johannes Tomana as Prosecutor-General of the National Prosecuting Authority. Zimbabwean Minister for Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, who also attended the swearing in ceremony, said the swearing in was consistent with the New Constitution, which separates the role of Attorney General as the Government's chief legal adviser, and the Prosecutor-General as the head of the National Prosecution Authority. Information on the swearing in ceremony can be viewed [here](#).

On November 13th, international communications technology provider Ericsson issued a new report on mobile subscriptions in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report forecasts that mobile subscriptions in Africa will increase from 560 million to 930 million by the end of 2019. Research also suggests there is expected to be 17 times more growth in mobile data traffic in Africa between 2013 and 2019. Additional highlights from the report were noted [here](#).

On November 14th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) urged the transitional government in the CAR to act quickly to investigate reports of killings of children amidst heightened violence between ex-Seleka forces and self-defense groups. UNICEF urged the transitional government and all armed groups in the DRC to abide by international law by ending child recruitment, killings, and sexual violence against children in armed conflict. Feedback from UNICEF was shared [here](#).

General Africa News

On November 7th, Marriott International signed a letter of intent to acquire South Africa based Protea Hospitality Holdings through a transaction expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2014. Marriott currently operates or franchises 116 hotels in South Africa and six other Sub-Saharan African countries. The transaction will increase Marriott's presence on the continent to 23,000 rooms. Protea currently runs 80 hotels in South Africa, as well as other properties in Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The deal was reported [here](#).

On November 7th, Russian investment bank Renaissance Capital announced it is considering creating a fixed-income unit for Sub-Saharan Africa, possibly basing their team in Lagos, Nigeria. CEO Clifford Sacks announced that fixed income is a real opportunity in the region, especially as countries begin to look into bond markets. Sacks also noted Renaissance will start coverage in North Africa, specifically in Egypt and Morocco. Details on the proposal were posted [here](#).

On November 7th, *CNBC Africa* interviewed iROKOTv CEO Jason Njoku, whose company is the leading digital distributor of African films. Njoku expressed his belief that Africa is transitioning from being a massive importer of entertainment to a being a producer of more of its own recreational, educational, and informative content that is more locally relevant. A recording of the interview can be watched [here](#).

On November 9th, *The Economist* ran a story on African women's increasing participation in parliaments. Around the globe, 36 lower house of parliament are composed of more than 30% female legislators and 11 of those legislative bodies are African. Many of the gains in Africa can be attributed to quota systems, which have been deployed across Africa to increase women's political representation. The full article can be read [here](#).

On November 13th, Afrobarometer released a new study revealing the results of a survey on African governments' efforts to combat corruption. The report finds 56% of those surveyed feel their governments are doing a poor job battling corruption. Overall ratings were the worst for Nigeria, Egypt, and Zimbabwe. Negative perceptions of state institutions were highest in Nigeria, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On November 13th, *Forbes* ran a story on newcomers to its third annual list of Africa's richest

individuals. Nine individuals have joined this year's list from Tanzania, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. Tanzania leads the way with three new additions. Profiles on each of the newcomers are available [here](#).

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