



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

South Africa

On December 5th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed sadness at the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Secretary-General Ban labeled President Mandela a giant for justice and a down-to-earth human inspiration, and expressed his condolences to the Mandela family and the people of South Africa. Remarks from Secretary-General Ban were posted [here](#).

On December 5th, President Barack Obama delivered a brief statement on the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela. President Obama reflected on his first visit to South Africa as a U.S. Senator and paid tribute to President Mandela's commitment and courage. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On December 5th, President Barack Obama called South African President Jacob Zuma to express condolences on the death of Nelson Mandela. President Obama conveyed how President Mandela's example has influenced his own life and millions of others around the world. In honor of President Mandela's legacy, President Obama pledged the U.S. will continue to work with South Africa to promote equality, reconciliation, and human dignity. Highlights from the call were noted [here](#).

On December 5th, U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice released a statement on the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Advisor Rice expressed condolences to the Mandela family and to the people and Government of South Africa, and reflected on how President Mandela ended the cruelty and hatred of apartheid. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On December 5th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) released a statement honoring the life and legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela. He

discussed his meeting with President Mandela in South Africa several years ago and encouraged that President Mandela's memory be honored by a commitment to fight injustice and to promote human rights and democracy around the globe. Senator Menendez's statement was posted [here](#).

On December 5th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN) issued a statement on the passing of Nelson Mandela. He called President Mandela an inspirational leader, and said his personal story and contributions to freedom, democracy, and human rights will live on forever. Senator Corker's statement can be read [here](#).

On December 5th, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ) released a statement following the death of former South African President and anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. Senator Flake called President Mandela a true giant of the past century and said his courage, perseverance, and optimism have blessed not only South Africa, but the entire world. Senator Flake's comments were posted [here](#).

On December 5th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) issued a statement on the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Representative Royce said President Mandela was a humble, courageous, and generous man, and one of democracy's strongest champions. He expressed hope that President Mandela's message of reconciliation will endure. Representative Royce's statement can be viewed [here](#).

On December 5th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) shared a statement regarding the passing of Nelson Mandela. Representative Engel recognized President Mandela as a great leader and noted the tremendous loss felt by the South African people. Representative Engel said President Mandela has inspired several generations and his legacy will live on. Representative Engel's remarks are available [here](#).

On December 5th, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ) released a statement on the death of Nelson Mandela. Representative Smith mourned the passing of President Mandela and commended him for choosing the path of truth and reconciliation over violence. Representative Smith's statement can be seen [here](#).

On December 5th, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) released a statement on the passing of former South African President and global leader Nelson Mandela. Representative Bass mourned the loss of President Mandela and discussed how President Mandela's fight for freedom was a personal inspiration. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On December 6th, the U.N. mourned the loss of former South African President Nelson Mandela. The U.N. flag was lowered to half-staff over U.N. headquarters in New York and the General Assembly held a moment of silence to honor President Mandela's memory. More information on the U.N.'s recognition of President Mandela's passing can be found [here](#).

On December 6th, President Barack Obama called Graca Machel to offer condolences on the passing of her husband, former South African President Nelson Mandela. President Obama thanked Machel for President Mandela's influence and for his commitment to a peaceful, fair, and loving world. A readout of the conversation was posted [here](#).

On December 6th, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs Chris Coons (D-DE) appeared on *MSNBC's* "Daily Rundown" to reflect on the life and legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Senator Coons also discussed his own experience working for the Investor Responsibility Research Center and fighting apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s. Clips from Senator Coons' appearance on *MSNBC* can be watched [here](#).

On December 7th, White House officials confirmed President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama would attend the national memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on December 10th. President Obama was to be accompanied by former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as former First Lady Laura Bush and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Plans for President Obama's travel to South Africa were announced [here](#).

On December 7th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez issued a message of condolence regarding the passing of former South African President Nelson Mandela. Commander Rodriguez reflected on President Mandela's tolerance, compassion, and integrity, which helped transform South Africa into a free society. Commander Rodriguez's message is available [here](#).

On December 10th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attended the memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela at First National Bank Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa. The memorial service was attended by 91 heads of state, in addition to tens of thousands of South Africans. Secretary-General Ban delivered remarks in tribute to late leader, calling President Mandela one of the greatest leaders and the greatest teachers of our time. Excerpts from Secretary-General Ban's address can be seen [here](#).

On December 10th, President Barack Obama delivered remarks at the memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg, South Africa. President Barack Obama thanked the people of South Africa for sharing Madiba with the world and highlighted President Mandela's example of the power of action and ideas. He called President Mandela the last great liberator of the 20th century and likened him to Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr. President Obama's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On December 10th, South Africans in attendance at President Nelson Mandela's memorial service in Johannesburg booed and jeered current South African President Jacob Zuma. The heckling of President Zuma stood in sharp contrast to the applause heard when President Mandela's immediate successor, President Thabo Mbeki, appeared. The audience's response to the South African leaders was described [here](#).

On December 11th, former South African President Nelson Mandela's body was transported to Pretoria to lie in state in Union Buildings, the seat of South African Government. President Mandela's open coffin was placed on a platform in the building's amphitheater, where it will be on view through Friday. Following the lying in state ceremony, President Mandela's body will be transported to Qunu for burial on Saturday. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On December 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya attended a memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela at the Washington National Cathedral. Details on the memorial service were posted [here](#).

On December 12th, the South African Government admitted Thamsanqa Jantjie, a South African sign language interpreter accused of signing nonsense during former South African President Nelson Mandela's memorial service in Johannesburg, lacked qualifications and the company who supplied him had a track record of fraud. Jantjie has said he suffers from schizophrenia and was hallucinating during the memorial service. Details were reported [here](#).

Central African Republic

On December 5th, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing worsening violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) and clearing the way for France to mobilize an additional 1,200 troops to join the 600 French troops already providing assistance to African forces trying to restore order in the CAR. Passage of the resolution was reported [here](#).

On December 6th, various U.N. entities expressed alarm at escalating inter-communal violence and worsening humanitarian conditions in the CAR. According to the U.N., at least 140 civilians were killed in attacks on Thursday in Bangui. The U.N. also estimated as nearly 700 people had fled from the CAR to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in response to the most recent attacks. Developments in the CAR were shared [here](#).

On December 6th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf issued a press statement commending French military forces for committing additional troops to the African Union (AU)-led stabilization mission focused on restoring security to the CAR. Deputy Spokesperson Harf expressed

deep concern for worsening violence in the CAR and said the U.S. intends to provide equipment, training, and logistical support to the international mission in the country. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On December 7th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with African leaders in Paris, France, to discuss deteriorating conditions in the CAR. Secretary-General Ban applauded the AU-led stabilization mission in the CAR, as well as France's commitment to provide assistance to the mission. More broadly, the African leaders rallied around the common goal of addressing challenges on the continent, including terrorism, extremism, organized crime, drug trafficking, and piracy. The meeting was summarized [here](#).

On December 9th, Department of Defense (DOD) Assistant Press Secretary Carl Woog provided a statement on additional U.S. support to French and AU forces in the CAR. Assistant Press Secretary Woog indicated that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and recently spoke with French Minister of Defense Yves Le Drian about the security situation in the CAR, where French forces are participating in an international support mission. Following their call, Secretary Hagel directed AFRICOM to provide assistance in transporting forces from Burundi to the CAR, in coordination with France. Details are available [here](#).

On December 9th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki provided an update on conditions in the CAR. She noted the French deployment of 1,600 troops, combined with African forces already in the CAR was effective in reducing violence over the weekend, allowing greater access for U.N. and other humanitarian organizations. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki on the situation in the CAR can be found [here](#).

On December 10th, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced a ramping up of efforts to assist civilians displaced by violence in the CAR. According to the most recent figures, UNHCR estimates as many as 108,000 people have been displaced across Bangui and require humanitarian assistance. Additional observations from UNHCR can be accessed [here](#).

On December 10th, as French President Francois Hollande and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius were en route to the CAR from South Africa, two French soldiers were killed overnight in Bangui. These are the first French deaths since additional French soldiers were deployed to the CAR late last week to support the U.N.-backed mission in the country. The soldiers' deaths were reported [here](#).

On December 10th, President Barack Obama authorized \$60 million in military assistance for the French-led peacekeeping effort in the CAR. President Obama sent a message to Secretary of State John Kerry ordering the drawdown of defense articles from DOD to provide assistance to France, the AU, the Republic of Congo (ROC), Chad, Cameroon, Gabon, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, and other countries contribution to the international support mission in the CAR. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 11th, Deputy Chairman of the AU Erastus Mwencha announced the AU plans to increase its presence in the CAR from 3,500 troops to 5,000 troops in an effort to address the sectarian violence in the country. The troop increase was backed by African heads of state, who recently met in Paris, France, as well as the AU's Peace and Security Commission. The surge was announced [here](#).

On December 11th, the Pentagon confirmed the U.S. will provide a small number of U.S. troops and personnel to operate on the ground in response to the situation in the CAR. Pentagon Colonel Steve Warren said two Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes will be used to transport troops, vehicles, and equipment to the conflict zone from Burundi. The U.S. aircraft will be temporarily based in Uganda. Details were shared [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On December 11th, U.N. Special Representative for the DRC Martin Kobler and U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson held a press briefing on developments in the DRC.

Special Representative Kobler and Special Envoy Robinson noted a shift in the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC's (MONUSCO) strategy, noting that the end of the fight against M23 rebels will allow MONUSCO's intervention brigade to focus on other armed groups in the eastern part of the country. Excerpts from the briefing can be viewed [here](#).

On December 11th, the U.N. Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) issued a new report urging the pursuit of accountability for human rights violations committed in the DRC during the 2011 elections. In addition, the report called for measures to ensure the next local, provincial, and national elections, to be held between 2014 and 2016, are held in an environment where there is respect for human rights. More information on the report can be found [here](#).

On December 12th, the Government of the DRC signed a peace deal with M23 rebels at the state house in Nairobi, Kenya. Three documents were signed in total. Among the provisions included in the deal was a reiteration of the dissolution of M23 as an armed group. Additionally, the agreements call for the demobilization of M23 and a renunciation of violence. The peace deal also makes clear there is no blanket amnesty for those guilty of war crimes. The signing of the peace deal was announced [here](#).

Egypt

On December 7th, the *Washington Post* Editorial Board published an article urging the U.S. to confront the Egyptian military's push for authoritarian rule. The Editorial Board suggested the political roadmap issued by the Egyptian military-backed regime, as well as the new draft constitution, provides exceptional powers to the military and excludes Islamic movements from Egyptian politics. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 11th, three Egyptian judges presiding over the trial of senior Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie, stepped down when the defendants disrupted court proceedings with chanting. Similarly, the three-judge panel presiding over proceedings on October 29th also resigned when the defendants could not be brought into court following the inability of police to secure the courtroom. The most recent incident was reported [here](#).

On December 12th, an Egyptian police officer was killed and at least 35 people were wounded when a car bomb exploded outside a police base in Ismailiya. Witnesses reported intense gunfire in the area after the explosion. The bombing was noted [here](#).

On December 12th, State Department Spokesperson Jane Sacchi said the U.S. is closely following the trial of Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie, in addition to other Islamist leaders in Egypt. Spokesperson Sacchi maintained the State Department's position of calling on Egyptian authorities to end political arrests. Comments from Spokesperson Sacchi are available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On December 10th, President Barack Obama designated a Presidential Delegation to Kenya to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Kenya on December 12th. The delegation included U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield. The delegation was announced [here](#).

State Department

On December 6th, Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp attended the debate in the U.N. Security Council concerning the report on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Ambassador Rapp's participation was noted [here](#).

On December 9th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met with Foreign Minister of South Sudan Barnaba Benjamin at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On December 10th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement congratulating Burkina Faso on the 53rd anniversary of its independence. Secretary Kerry noted the U.S. and Burkina Faso share a commitment to promoting democracy, economic development, and regional stability. He also noted the partnership between the U.S. and Burkina Faso to boost agricultural productivity, improve girls' access to education, strengthen health care services, and increase food security. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On December 10th, Secretary of State John Kerry shared a press statement on Human Rights Day 2013. In his message, Secretary Kerry highlighted the courage of Libyans, who recently brought down a dictator and forced a return to a democratically elected government. The full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On December 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry shared remarks recognizing Kenya's Golden Jubilee. Secretary Kerry applauded Kenya for holding peaceful elections this year and for implementing a new constitution. In addition, Secretary Kerry commended Kenyans for their strength in response to the September terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. Secretary Kerry's remarks can be seen [here](#).

On December 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks at the Transformational Trends Strategic Forum held in Washington, DC. In his remarks, Secretary Kerry reflected on former South African President Nelson Mandela's role in global transformation. As an area of progress, Secretary Kerry also highlighted U.S. leadership in combating HIV/AIDS, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where new HIV infections have declined by 40% over the past decade. Secretary Kerry's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On December 11th, Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy and U.S. Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea Mark Asquino presided over the dedication of the new U.S. Embassy complex in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The \$71 million project, designed by Karn Charuhas Chapman & Towey and Caddell Construction Co., provides embassy employees with a safe, secure, and modern workplace, and incorporates many sustainable features to conserve resources and reduce operating costs. Details can be found [here](#).

Department of Defense

On December 6th, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa provided insights on the ongoing, two-week workshop with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) coastal nations to strengthen standard operating procedures for maritime operations centers (MOCs). U.S. Navy personnel and maritime professionals from Cameroon, Gabon, and ROC participated in the workshop to sharpen command and control techniques and improve MOCs' abilities to detect suspect vessels, share information, and coordinate with multinational maritime assets. The workshop was detailed [here](#).

On December 6th, U.S. Army Africa's (USARAF) Surgeon's Directorate completed the second of eight tactical combat casualty care training events in Burkina Faso with the Burkinabe Gendarmerie. The most recent event focused on the two largest causes of preventable death encountered during battle, hemorrhaging and tension pneumothorax. Details on the training exercise were shared [here](#).

On December 9th, AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, welcomed a media delegation of journalists from Algeria and Mauritania. The delegation participated in activities at AFRICOM headquarters throughout the week to learn more about the programs and missions of the command and to interview AFRICOM leadership. An article on the delegation's visit to AFRICOM headquarters can be read [here](#).

On December 9th, AFRICOM reported on the partnership between USARAF and U.S. Army Medical Command to train military medical personnel in eight African countries on procedures to cure blindness. More than 3,100 surgeries were conducted as part of the training exercise. More information is available [here](#).

Department of Justice

On December 5th, the *Washington Post* reported efforts to capture about a dozen individuals charged in the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya have stalled. The individuals in question, including suspected ringleader Ahmed Abu Khattala, were charged in sealed criminal complaints filed in federal court by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. None of the individuals have been brought to trial and Khattala has yet to be captured. More information can be seen [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On November 25th, Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce Patrick Gallagher provided remarks at a business forum hosted by the D.C. Office on African Affairs. The event, "From DC to Africa: Growing Local, Growing Global," focused on raising awareness of opportunities for U.S. companies to do business in Africa. A blog post on Acting Deputy Secretary Gallagher's presentation was posted [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On December 10th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a joint hearing on human rights abuses in Egypt. Witnesses included Zuhr Jasser of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Bishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom (U.K.), Samuel Tadros of the Hudson Institute, Morad Abou-Sabe of Rutgers University, and Tad Stahnke of Human Rights First. Clips from the hearing can be watched [here](#).

North Africa

On December 7th, following a meeting between Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki and Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal in Paris, France, the leaders announced heightened cooperation to bolster security along borders with Libya. A Tunisian-Algerian joint committee will meet later this month to further discuss security cooperation. Remarks from President Marzouki and Prime Minister Sellal can be seen [here](#).

On December 8th, Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir announced a new cabinet. The reshuffling comes in response to last week's announcement of the official launch of a reform party opposed to President Bashir's ruling National Congress Party (NCP). The new cabinet replaces Vice Presidents Ali Osman Taha and Nafie Alie Nafie with former Interior and Defense Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh and NPC Political Secretary Hassabo Mohammed Abdel Rahman. Defense Minister Abdelrahim Mohammed Hussein, who along with President Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes in Darfur, will retain his current position in the new cabinet. Details on the new cabinet can be found [here](#).

On December 9th, the U.N. announced an inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will deploy to Libya this month to verify existing stockpiles of yellowcake uranium and its storage. The U.N. has expressed increasing concern regarding the security of nuclear materials in Libya, especially as the overarching security environment continues to be troubled by armed militias. An article on the upcoming inspection can be read [here](#).

On December 9th, the Water Ministers of Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt met in Khartoum, Sudan, in hopes of reaching an agreement regarding the disputed Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project. While the leaders discussed the recommendations of the International Panel of Experts (IPOE) regarding the project, they ultimately failed to reach an agreement. A third meeting on the project will be held in Khartoum on January 4th. Information on the meeting was posted [here](#).

On December 11th, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda expressed frustration the U.N. Security Council has not done more to apprehend those guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur. She urged the U.N. to devise strategies for arresting those indicted for crimes, including Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and other top Sudanese officials. Comments from Prosecutor Bensouda are available [here](#).

On December 11th, Tunisian rapper Weld El 15 began his four month prison sentence for performing songs deemed to be insulting to Tunisian police. An appeal has been filed in the case and a hearing is due to be held soon. Information on Weld El 15's arrest and detention can be viewed [here](#).

East Africa

On December 10th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay briefed the Security Council on developments in Somalia by video link. While Special Representative Kay reported progress on human rights, transparency, financial management, and rule of law, he argued that a more comprehensive political, military, and development approach is needed to fully address terrorism in the country. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

On December 10th, New York City Police issued a new report disputing findings of Kenyan authorities that as many as 15 attackers may have been involved in the September terrorist attack at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi. The report suggests there may have been as few as just four attackers. In addition, the report finds poor coordination between the Kenyan police and army personnel may have led to the unnecessary death of one Kenyan police officer. Highlights from the report were posted [here](#).

On December 10th, more than 30 people were killed in ethnic clashes in the town of Moyale, Kenya. Over the past week, there has been an uptick in fighting between the Borana and Gabra and Burji ethnic groups. Several houses in Marsabit county have been destroyed in the violence and as many as 20,000 people are thought to have fled across the border to Ethiopia. Developments in Kenya were reported [here](#).

On December 11th, the Central Bank of Kenya announced the launch of the East African Payments System (EAPS), an integrated, real-time, cross-border payments system for Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. The new system is intended to boost intra-regional trade. Rwanda and Burundi, whose banking structures are less advanced than their East African neighbors, are also expected to eventually join the EAPS. An article on the EAPS can be read [here](#).

On December 11th, European Union (EU) Managing Director for Africa Nick Westcott said the EU has offered to provide Kenya with additional counterterrorism support in the wake of the Westgate Mall attack. EU plans to assist Kenya include boosting regional intelligence cooperation, increasing support for Kenya's crisis response coordination, and providing assistance in tracking the financial flows of terror suspects. The EU's counterterrorism support in Kenya was described [here](#).

On December 12th, Kenya celebrated 50 years of independence from British colonial rule. The occasion was marked by celebrations beginning at midnight, with a flag raised in Uhuru Gardens to reenact the ceremony held 50 years ago when British rule officially came to an end. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta also delivered remarks at the midnight ceremony. Celebrations in Kenya were detailed [here](#).

On December 12th, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud held a press conference at the Villa Somalia presidential palace in Mogadishu, where he appointed Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, a Canadian citizen and economist, as the new Prime Minister. Last week, Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon was removed from office after losing a vote of no confidence in the Somali parliament. Prime Minister Ahmed now has 30 days to appoint a new cabinet. The appointment was announced [here](#).

On December 12th, at least ten people were killed and 15 others wounded in fraternal clan fighting in Somalia. Witnesses reported that armed militias entered the fray, setting houses on fire and firing at opponents with machine guns as Al Shabaab militants also broke in to Baidoa. Accounts of the incident were reflected [here](#).

West Africa

On December 6th, the U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNCOI) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a report calling for investigations of human rights abuses committed by Dozos over the past four years. The report includes data showing at least 228

people were killed, 164 people were injured, and 162 people were arrested and detained illegally by the traditional hunters in Cote d'Ivoire. The report also highlights 274 cases of looting, arson, and extortion. Excerpts from the report were highlighted [here](#).

On December 9th, the U.N. Security Council issued a presidential statement urging a return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau has pushed its presidential and legislative elections to next year. The Security Council also threatened to consider sanctions against any actors who attempt to hamper Guinea-Bissau's electoral process in the upcoming vote. More information is available [here](#).

On December 12th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, and Special Envoy for the Sahel Romano Prodi participated in a U.N. Security Council meeting on challenges facing Africa's Sahel region. The group reached consensus on threats to the Sahel, including terrorism, arms trafficking, and transnational organized crime, as well as the need for regional cooperation to address these challenges. The meeting was summarized [here](#).

On December 12th, the text of a letter sent to Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan by former President Olusegun Obasanjo on December 2nd became public. In the letter, President Obasanjo, previously a mentor for President Jonathan heavily criticized the leader for his failure to address corruption and insecurity in the Nigerian economy. Additionally, President Obasanjo encouraged President Jonathan not to run for president again in 2015. Excerpts from the letter can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On December 5th, *Okay Africa* reported on the development of a new film, to be called "A United Kingdom," on the life of Botswana's first President, Seretse Khama, and his British wife, Ruth Williams. The film's script was written by Guy Hibbert and Nigerian actor David Oyelowo has been casted to play President Khama. Filming will begin in 2014 at locations in Botswana and London. Details on the new film were shared [here](#).

On December 8th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that more than two decades after former South African President Nelson Mandela's release from prison, the majority of black South African youth still suffers from poverty. Approximately one quarter of South Africa's majority black workforce is currently unemployed. In addition, the South African rand recently hit a four and a half year low as economic growth is expected to level at 1.9% for the year – well below the 5% rate needed to address the high rates of unemployment. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 10th, South Africa's Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) announced it had been given permission by a government mediator to call a strike over wages at Lonmin. AMCU Spokesman Jimmy Gama suggested a strike may begin before Christmas, although other experts predict a strike is more likely in early 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

On December 11th, health officials in Madagascar confirmed a deadly outbreak of pneumonic plague in the northwestern town of Mandritsara. The outbreak has already resulted in the deaths of 20 people, with two additional cases recently confirmed. Pneumonic plague is caused by the same bacteria that occur in bubonic plague, which killed 25 million people in Europe during the Middle Ages. The pneumonic plague outbreak in Madagascar was reported [here](#).

On December 11th, the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), composed of companies including Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Yahoo!, Research ICT Africa, and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organizations, launched its first report on Internet costs in developing and emerging countries in Cape Town, South Africa. The report suggests some of Africa's LTE networks that are currently operated by new players in the market will eventually be acquired by larger mobile operators as mobile technology utilization grows across the continent. Details can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On December 6th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at the Elysee Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, hosted by the French Government in Paris, France. In his remarks, Secretary-

General Ban noted areas where Africa has made significant progress in the past decade, including in boosting local economies, developing democracies, and mobilizing civil society. Secretary-General Ban also urged focus on pressing challenges, including regional conflicts and violence. More information on the summit was provided [here](#).

On December 9th, *Venture Burn* reported online shopping is gaining great traction across Africa this holiday season. With the increasing availability of broadband access, more affordable data costs offered by mobile operators, and the consistent development of mobile devices, African e-commerce is expected to grow significantly. Details were shared [here](#).

On December 10th, Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom (U.K.) Department for International Development (DfID) Mark Lowcock announced an investigation into the alleged mismanagement of the TradeMark Southern Africa (TMSA) program. The TMSA program was intended to increase U.K. trade with Africa. Allegations of mismanagement were raised by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) in a report issued late last week. More information is available [here](#).

On December 10th, the *Wall Street Journal* provided insights as to why burgers are less popular in South Africa than other kinds of fast food. While several burger fast food chains are considering the benefits of entrance into African markets, they are also considering supply chain challenges, such as a shortage of refrigerated trucks and warehouses to keep burgers fresh, as well as increasing beef prices. The full article can be read [here](#).

On December 11th, Google Translate announced the addition of five new African languages to the online translation tool. Somali, Zulu, Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba were added to the service, bringing total number of languages available to 80. In June, Swahili and Afrikaans were also added to Google Translate. More information was posted [here](#).

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