



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Libya

On April 29th, armed men stormed Libya's Interior Ministry, as well as al-Wataniya TV, a state-owned television station. These events represent an escalation in violence following an incident in which a 200-member militia surrounded the Libyan Foreign Ministry on Sunday. The unrest stems from the Libyan legislature's consideration of a draft law that would ban aides to the Gadhafi Administration from political life. The latest activities of militias have forced the legislature to suspend its session until May 5th. Details on the actions of militias in Libya can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell responded to the recent militia activities in Libya. While expressing support for Libyans' rights to assemble and petition their government, Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell called for Libyans to do so peacefully and without intimidating government officials. He also noted that Libya is prioritizing security, but has not requested assistance from the U.S. Additional comments on the situation in Libya can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, the violence in Libya increased as armed men in pickup trucks surrounded the Ministry of Justice in Tripoli. Members of the militia asked Minister of Justice Salah Bashir Margani and all Ministry employees to leave the building. Minister Margani reportedly got in his car and left the scene amidst armed men calling for the expulsion of all Gadhafi era government officials. A report on the situation at the Ministry of Justice can be viewed [here](#).

On April 30th, in light of armed gunmen taking over several State ministries, the United Nations (U.N.) Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued a statement calling on demonstrators to express their demands peacefully. The statement also called for all Libyans, including revolutionaries who helped to overthrow Muammer Gadhafi, to participate in the democratic transition. The full UNSMIL statement has been posted [here](#).

Somalia

On April 25th, three gunmen shot and killed Somali Deputy Attorney General Ahmed Malim Sheikh Nur as he was leaving Ramadan Mosque in Mogadishu. Deputy Attorney General Nur died at the scene and a companion was also injured. No group has claimed responsibility for the killing and authorities in Somalia are continuing an investigation. A report on the attack can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement condemning Attorney General Nur's killing and expressing concern for recent attacks in Mogadishu targeting Somalia's justice sector. Secretary-General Ban's full statement has been posted [here](#).

Guinea

On April 25th, 16 year-old Boubacar Diallo, who was participating in an opposition protest in Conakry, Guinea, was shot and killed. During the protest, which was instigated by tensions related to legislative elections scheduled for June, eyewitnesses reported that security forces were shooting into the air. Several other protestors were injured. More information on the incident can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, the U.N. Security Council welcomed the recently signed joint declaration of non-violence between Guinean Government stakeholders and opposition groups, despite tensions over the upcoming elections. President Alpha Conde committed to a transparent and credible process and pledged to accept the results of the June 30th elections. An article on the recent agreement can be found [here](#).

Mali

On April 25th, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a 12,600 member U.N. peacekeeping operation that will take charge from the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFIMSA) on July 1st. The new U.N. mission to Mali will be tasked with security and stabilization tasks, providing protection to civilians, and helping to facilitate humanitarian aid. Details on the new U.N. mission to Mali are available [here](#).

On April 26th, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) issued a statement expressing support for the U.N. Security Council's vote to establish a peacekeeping force in Mali. Representative Bass's full statement can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Firman, a spokesman for the Pentagon, announced 10 U.S. military personnel have been deployed to Mali to provide liaison support to French and African troops, but will not engage in combat operations. He also noted 12 additional U.S. troops have been deployed to the U.S. embassy in Bamako. An article on the deployment of U.S. troops to Mali can be read [here](#).

Nigeria

On April 24th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan established a committee tasked with establishing communication with the Boko Haram insurgent group. The committee will be chaired by Malam Kabiru Turaki, an influential leader in northern Nigeria. Additional details on the committee are available [here](#).

On April 26th, a Nigerian report indicated Boko Haram was paid \$3 million to release seven French citizens captured in Cameroon in February. Boko Haram prisoners in Cameroon were also released as part of the deal. French and Cameroonian officials deny making any payments. An article on the alleged ransom agreement can be read [here](#).

On April 29th, the *New York Times* reported on the most recent developments following an attack in Baga, Nigeria, that killed at least 200 civilians and burnt the village to the ground. Nigerian military officials blame Boko Haram for the killing of a Nigerian soldier that sparked the violence. The Nigerian National Assembly has called for an investigation, while a separate inquiry has been initiated by the Nigerian military. The full *New York Times* report is available [here](#).

On April 30th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan issued a statement on the violence in Baga after receiving preliminary reports on the incident from Nigeria's Military High Command and the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA). President Jonathan also commended the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development for their role in responding to the attack and expressed commitment to continuing the investigation and ending threats to national security. President Jonathan's full statement can be read [here](#).

On May 1st, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said satellite images show that 2,275 homes were destroyed and another 125 were badly damaged in the military raid against Islamist extremists in Baga last month. Reports on the devastation in Baga from community leaders have varied. Details on the new satellite images can be found [here](#).

Central African Republic

On April 25th, the World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society said the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) has provided an opportunity for poachers to kill large numbers of elephants. The two organizations urged the CAR to increase security to protect elephants. The joint statement is available [here](#).

On April 27th, *USA Today* issued a report on the actions of the Seleka rebel group in the CAR. The article highlights the dysfunction in the CAR and notes that rebels harm and steal from civilians. Over 170,000 people have left their homes in the CAR due to the violence. The article can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees urged countries to refrain from repatriating refugees to the CAR as violence and human rights abuses continue following the Seleka rebel group taking control of Bangui in March. The U.N. also noted the importance of keeping asylum civilian in nature and separating combatants from civilian refugees. The U.N.'s position on CAR refugees is further articulated [here](#).

On April 30th, a South African official said a soldier injured during fighting in Bangui in March died after he collapsed at his home. The soldier had been released from the hospital on April 19th. Fourteen South African soldiers have died as a result of the fight with the Seleka rebel group. An article on the death can be read [here](#).

Kenya

On April 27th, International Criminal Court (ICC) Judge Christine Van Den Wyngaert recused herself from the case involving Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. Judge Van Den Wyngaert said she has doubts the prosecution conducted a thorough analysis before making allegations against President Kenyatta. The latest details on the ICC case against Kenyatta are available [here](#).

South Sudan

On April 29th, the U.N. peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) commended a peace deal brokered between the Government of South Sudan and local militia groups. A peace accord was reached between the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA), the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF) to begin interacting with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) without confrontation. An article on the agreement can be read [here](#).

Sudan

On April 26th, the Resolve Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Crisis Initiative of The Enough Project released a report finding evidence of a renewal of the Government of Sudan's support to the LRA. The report, which is based on interviews, satellite imagery, and eyewitness reports, alleges Sudan is harboring the LRA in the Kafia Kingi region along the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Beyond providing a safe haven, the report also suggests the Government of Sudan provided the LRA with military weapons, training, and supplies. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 26th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell noted State Department

experts are evaluating the report recently issued by The Enough Project. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell noted that U.S. officials continue to express concerns about the whereabouts of Joseph Kony with Sudanese and other regional leaders. He also noted that progress has been made in addressing the LRA, as two of five commanders are gone and the number of people killed by the LRA has dropped by 66%. Additional comments from Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell have been posted [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On April 24th, at the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, President Barack Obama, and former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter applauded former President George W. Bush's legacy in Africa. All three Democratic presidents thanked President Bush for his work on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). President Carter specifically recognized President Bush's commitment to resolving conflict in Sudan and President Clinton commended President Bush for his focus on humanitarian aid more generally. Additional comments from the Presidents can be viewed [here](#).

On April 25th, President Barack Obama released a list of gifts he received from foreign dignitaries in 2011. The most expensive gift, a blue mask statue on a stand and in a box worth \$52,695, was made by President of Gabon Ali Bongo. Other African nations that made gifts to President Obama in 2011 include Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, South Sudan, and South Africa. The full list can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 30th, President Barack Obama responded to media questions related to whether or not Administration officials have implemented a gag order on government employees testifying on the September 11th attack in Benghazi, Libya. President Obama said he was not familiar with the accusations and told reporters that he is committed to finding out exactly what happened, ensuring that U.S. embassies are safe, and bringing perpetrators of the attack to justice. More remarks from President Obama are available [here](#).

State Department

On April 26th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement in recognition of Sierra Leone's national day and 52 years of independence. Secretary Kerry congratulated Sierra Leone on its third consecutive series of free and fair elections and recognized the country as a contributor to collective security on the continent. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be read [here](#).

On April 26th, Secretary of State John Kerry also released a statement acknowledging South Africa's Freedom Day. He recognized the progress South Africa has made on democracy, human rights, religious freedom, and rule of law since South Africa's first inclusive election 19 years ago. Secretary Kerry also wished former President Nelson Mandela a speedy recovery. The full statement can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, the State Department distributed a statement from Secretary of State John Kerry on the occasion of Togo's national day. Secretary Kerry specifically recognized Togo's efforts as a member of the U.N. Security Council and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to promote global peace and prosperity. Secretary Kerry's statement can be viewed [here](#).

On April 26th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman and Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine met separately with Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the Department of State. Later in the Day, Under Secretary Sherman also met with Minister-Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco Youssef Amrani. All of the meetings were included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On April 26th, the State Department released a readout from Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman's recent meeting with Somaliland President Ahmed Silanyo. According to the

read out, the leaders discussed stability, democratization, and the threat posed by Al-Shabaab. Under Secretary Sherman also commended dialogue between the Government of Somalia and Somaliland authorities. The full readout can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine met with U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Booth in Washington. The meeting was noted on the State Department's daily public schedule, which can be found [here](#).

On April 27th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya departed on travel to Mongolia to represent the U.S. at the Community of Democracy meeting. Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya held high-level meetings with counterparts in Egypt to discuss challenges following the Arab Spring. She also accepted the Palmer Award on behalf of the family of the late U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. Details on Acting Assistant Secretary Zeya's schedule in Mongolia are available [here](#).

On April 27th, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine departed on foreign travel to Ethiopia. In Addis Ababa, Under Secretary Sonenshine met with Ethiopian and African Union (AU) officials, participated in a discussion on freedom of the press, and led Global Youth Service Day and Earth Day activities, including a tree-planting event with Ethiopian National Green Service Volunteers. Under Secretary Sonenshine also addressed students at Dire Dawa University. Additional information on Under Secretary Sonenshine's trip can be viewed [here](#). Remarks delivered in Addis Ababa can be read [here](#).

On April 28th, following reports that he is engaged in talks with the State Department about becoming the U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region, former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (R-WI) issued a statement expressing his willingness to take the job. While in the Senate, he served six years as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs. In his book published last year, *While America Sleeps*, Senator Feingold also called for more focus on Africa in U.S. foreign policy. More information on speculation that Senator Feingold will become the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's public schedule, which can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell defended the State Department's decision to not have lower-level employees testify in Congress on the September 11th attack in Benghazi. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell argued a thorough investigation on the attack has been completed and employees have already provided extensive testimony to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Additional comments from Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell are available [here](#).

On April 29th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell addressed questions related to Egypt's pending NGO legislation, as well as Egypt's plans to advance its nuclear energy sector. Regarding the legislation, Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell expressed concerns it could potentially restrict the ability of NGOs to operate in Egypt and weaken civil society's ability to hold government accountable. He also expressed support for peaceful nuclear activities in Egypt, so long as they meet international obligations under the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). He also noted that Egypt will need to pursue other energy sources in the short term. The full transcript from the press briefing can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr at the State Department. During the meeting, Secretary Kerry and Minister Amr discussed the Arab Peace Initiative and the current situation in Syria. They also discussed the Egyptian government's role in building political consensus and furthering democratic transition. A readout of the meeting has been posted [here](#).

On April 30th, Secretary of State John Kerry and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy

Sherman met separately with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Both meetings were listed on the State Department schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 30th, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats participated in the 16th Annual Milken Institute Global Conference, held in Los Angeles, California. As part of the conference, Under Secretary Hormats participated on a panel entitled “Africa: Opportunities for Business and Investment.” Other panel participants included Paul Hinks of the Corporate Council on Africa, Jay Ireland of GE Africa, Sam Nwanze of Heirs Holdings, V. Shankar of Standard Chartered Bank, and Ghana’s Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Seth Terkper. More information on the conference can be found [here](#).

On April 30th, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis Cdebaca met with Charge d’ Affaires to Morocco Ambassador Patricia Moller. The meeting was noted on the public schedule for the State Department, which can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell responded to questions from reporters related to State Department and CIA whistleblowers on the September 11th attack in Benghazi. Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell reported that no State Department employees have requested clearance for private attorneys. If such a request is made, the State Department has a process to provide private attorneys with security clearances. Additional comments from Acting Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell can be found [here](#).

On April 30th, Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator Julia Martin participated at a Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) briefing on the Institution of Medicine’s (IOM) recently completed evaluation of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Details on the briefing are available [here](#).

On May 1st, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs William Brownfield met with U.S. Special Representative and Head of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) Jose Ramos-Horta. The meeting was noticed on the State Department’s daily public schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On May 1st, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Claire Richard traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota for the Tri-Agency National conference. While in St. Paul, Assistant Secretary Richard met with local Somali Leadership. The meeting was included on the State Department’s daily listing of appointments, which can be viewed [here](#).

On May 1st, the State Department announced that Secretary of State John Kerry will join Vice President Joe Biden on May 3rd to honor colleagues of the Foreign Service at the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Memorial Plaque Ceremony. During the ceremony, Secretary Kerry and Vice President will honor Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Patrick Smith, Ty Woods, and Glen Doherty, who were all killed in the September 11th attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi. An announcement on the upcoming ceremony can be found [here](#).

On May 1st-2nd, representatives from the State Department chaired a plenary meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, held at the U.N. in New York. The plenary meeting marks the 14th gathering of the international group since its establishment in January 2009. Over the past few years the group has tripled in size and pirate attacks off Somalia’s coast have decreased by 75%. A State Department announcement on the latest plenary meeting can be read [here](#). The group’s website can be accessed [here](#).

On May 2nd, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine participated in a teleconference with the Africa Regional Media Hub. The Africa Regional Media Hub in Johannesburg, South Africa, is part of the Department’s Bureau of Public Affairs and works to connect U.S. policymakers and experts with media in sub-Saharan Africa. Additional information on the Africa Regional Media Hub can be found [here](#).

On May 2nd, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer met with U.S. Special Representative and Head of UNIOGBIS Jose Ramos-Horta. The meeting was noted on the State Department's daily schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On April 20th, Marines transported personnel and equipment from Cap Draa to Agadir, Morocco, on a successful convoy during Exercise African Lion 13. The mission was a nearly 10 hour trip that involved 300 miles of travel over difficult terrain. The report on the mission can be read [here](#).

On April 25th, in recognition of World Malaria Day, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) was represented with other U.S. governmental organizations on a live web chat held to raise awareness about the problems posed by malaria. Throughout the day, AFRICOM's Medical Division answered more than 60 questions on the disease and participated in additional exchanges on Twitter. Details on AFRICOM's participation in World Malaria Day are available [here](#).

On April 26th, the Pentagon released a readout of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's April 25th meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During the meeting, the leaders discussed the situation in Libya and Secretary Hagel thanked the UAE for its contributions to the NATO mission in Libya. The full readout of the meeting can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, U.S. and Nigerian medical personnel concluded a medical exchange at the Nigerian Navy Reference Hospital as part of Africa Partnership Station (APS). APS is an international security cooperation initiative, facilitated by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, with the goal of strengthening global maritime partnerships. The recent training focused on responding to trauma casualties and the connection between field and hospital treatment. An article on the most recent exchange can be read [here](#).

On April 26th, the One Health exercise concluded in Luwero, Uganda. One Health, a joint venture coordinated by the Ugandan government and USAID, pairs experts in human and animal health care from the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) and the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) with civilian counterparts. The goal of the exercise was to help stop the spread of the Ebola virus from animals to humans. More information on the exercise is available [here](#).

On April 29th, Third Air Force Vice Commander Major General Carlton D. Everhart II traveled to Niamey, Niger, for meetings with Niger's Chief of Defense Staff General Seyni Garba and Chief of Air Staff Boukar Boulama on cooperation strategies, capabilities, and challenges. Major General Everhart also toured Niger's Air Force facilities and met with airmen to share best practices in pilot training, humanitarian aid, and interoperability with ground troops. More information on Major General Everhart's trip to Niger can be viewed [here](#).

On May 2nd, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs reported on a recent two week deployment skills course hosted for the Burundi National Defense Force and U.S. soldiers at Gakumba Camp, Burundi. The recent training course focused on convoy operations, transportation of hazardous materials, and techniques for transporting cargo. The report on the exercise has been posted [here](#).

On May 2nd, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs reported on service members' recent trip to the Royal School and Orphanage in Kampala, Uganda. About once a month, U.S. personnel deployed to Forward Operating Location Kasenyi visit safe havens and orphanages in Uganda to deliver supplies and goodies. Details on the most recent visit can be found [here](#).

Federal Bureau of Investigation

On May 1st, the FBI posted photos of three men who were allegedly on the grounds of the U.S. consulate in Benghazi during the September 11th attack and are being sought for additional information. It is unclear if the men are wanted as suspects in the attack. The FBI's call for additional information can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On May 1st, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez gave the keynote address at ACCESS 2013, a trade forum highlighting business opportunities in Africa, the Near East, and South Asia (ANESA). More details on the forum are available [here](#).

Treasury Department

On April 23rd, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Controls (OFAC) issued a license authorizing transactions with the Agricultural Development Bank of Zimbabwe and the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe, so long as they do not involve individuals under sanctions. A *Wall Street Journal* report on the license can be found [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On April 25th, Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said Republicans should apologize to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for false accusations that she signed off on security cuts at the U.S. mission in Benghazi prior to the September 11th attack. He also requested that House Republicans retract a recent report on the incident in Benghazi. More comments from Representative Cummings are available [here](#).

On April 25th, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the FY14 budget request for national security space activities. During the hearing, Chairman Mike Rogers (R-AL) questioned the Pentagon's decision to use China's Apstar-7 satellite to provide communications for AFRICOM. Since the hearing, Representative Rogers has argued the satellite contract makes AFRICOM vulnerable to Chinese interference with communications and sends the wrong message to the U.S. defense industrial base. Details on the satellite contract can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry alleging the State Department is hindering the Committee's ability to investigate the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi. Chairman Issa's letter to Secretary Kerry can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced the Accountability Review Board Act of 2013. Representative Royce noted the bill will increase the independence and transparency of any future Accountability Review Boards (ARB), similar to the ARB that examined the September 11th attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi. The bill has been referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee. A press release on the introduction of the legislation can be viewed [here](#).

On April 26th, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ), Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA), and Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) introduced bipartisan legislation to create jobs in the U.S. by increasing exports to Africa by at least 200% over ten years. The bill has been referred to the Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Small Business, and Financial Services Committees. In conjunction with the introduction of the legislation, Representative Bass hosted a panel discussion to address increased trade in Africa and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). A video summary of the panel can be viewed [here](#).

On April 30th, three Republican Senators called for further investigation of the September 11th attack in Benghazi, following an account from a Special Operations member who witnessed the attack and argued U.S. military forces could have responded. During a town hall meeting, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) said the new whistleblower coming forward should lead to additional hearings. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) also issued a joint statement calling for the appointment of a joint select committee to further investigate the attack. A *Washington Post* article on the reactions from Senators Ayotte, McCain, and Graham can be read [here](#).

On May 1st, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa announced

the Committee will hold a hearing on the terror attack in Benghazi on May 8th. Chairman Issa said the hearing will expose new facts and details that have been suppressed by the Obama Administration. Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) indicated while witnesses have yet to be announced, whistleblowers with firsthand knowledge of the attack are likely to testify. Representative Trey Gowdy (R-SC), a member of the Subcommittee also alluded to whistleblowers testifying. Details on the upcoming hearing are available [here](#).

North Africa

On April 23rd, Sudan and South Sudan agreed to open ten road, rail, and Nile River crossings along their joint border to boost travel and trade. Following talks hosted by the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the nations agreed to open eight crossing immediately. The border between Sudan and South Sudan has been closed since South Sudan's secession in 2011. Details on the new agreement can be viewed [here](#).

On April 24th, the AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and AU humanitarian partners delivered more than 80,000 kilograms of humanitarian aid to approximately 20,000 civilians displaced due to violence in Labado and Muhajeria in East Darfur. Supplies delivered included food, bottles of water, and medical supplies. An article on the new aid to Darfur can be read [here](#).

On April 25th, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari welcomed direct talks between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North). Talks, which focused on political, security, and humanitarian needs in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as part of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel. More information is available [here](#).

On April 27th, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika suffered a mini-stroke and was taken to Paris, France, for testing at the recommendation of his doctor. President Bouteflika is not expected to experience any lasting effects from the mini-stroke. An article on President Bouteflika's recent hospitalization in Paris can be viewed [here](#).

On April 27th, Africa's oldest synagogue, the El Ghriba Synagogue in Tunisia, hosted hundreds of Jewish pilgrims from Europe and Israel for a religious celebration. The synagogue, which was attacked by Al Qaeda during the celebration in 2002, canceled the three-day pilgrimage last year due to unrest following the ousting of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. More information on this year's celebration can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous briefed the Security Council on UNAMID's work in Darfur. Under-Secretary-General Ladsous was clear there is no military solution for the violence in the region. While noting mildly encouraging developments, he also noted security remains a concern and an inclusive political settlement has yet to be reached. Details on the briefing can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was renewed. The U.N. body was established in 1991 to facilitate the referendum for self-determination of the Sahrawi people living in Western Sahara. Morocco's ongoing occupation of Western Sahara, which is in violation of international law, has impeded previous efforts to pass a referendum. An article on MINURSO is available [here](#).

On May 1st, Tunisian military personnel and 50 armed jihadists fought in the Mount Chaambi region, which is near the Algerian border. Tunisian officials said the group of Salafi jihadists included trained militants who had fought in northern Mali. A full report on the military operation can be read [here](#).

On May 1st, Head of the UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas issued a statement on his visit to the Darfur region, which concluded on April 30th. While expressing a continued U.N. commitment to addressing the security, humanitarian, and political situation in Darfur, Special Representative Chambas also reported on his meetings with internally displaced persons, traditional leaders, State authorities, and UNAMID staff. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

East Africa

On April 25th, U.N. Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman addressed the U.N. Security Council and suggested the creation of an in-country U.N. mission in Somalia. While he recognized President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud Administration's progress in implementation of peacekeeping and stability measures in Somalia, Under Secretary-General Feltman noted potential challenges, including political transition and threats posed by Al-Shabaab. Additional comments from Under Secretary-General Feltman can be found [here](#).

On April 27th, Ethiopian Airlines became the first commercial carrier to resume flying the Boeing 787 aircraft on a flight that transported passengers from Addis Ababa to Nairobi. 787 aircrafts were suspended worldwide earlier this year due to battery issues. Ethiopian Airlines has four Dreamliner aircraft, all of which will resume service in the coming weeks after being retrofitted with new batteries. An article on the Ethiopian Airlines Dreamliners is available [here](#).

On April 28th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohammed met in Mombasa to discuss the need for regional security and an end to terrorism. The leaders said Al-Shabaab must be fought and agreed the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) should help restore social and economic stability in Somalia. A summary of the meeting can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, Kenya's Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD), the official opposition in the National Assembly, threatened to boycott parliamentary committees if it was not given control of three prominent House committees by Jubilee, the ruling party. The boycott threatens to stall the budget, which was supposed to be submitted on April 30th. An article on the tensions within the Kenyan National Assembly is available [here](#).

On April 29th, the *Associated Press* previewed a report on the 2011 Somali famine produced by USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET). The report estimates 260,000 people, half under the age of five, and more than twice previous estimates, died as a result of the famine. The report is also expected to suggest that more people died than necessary due to the failure of the international aid community to respond to early signs of hunger, as well as the workings of Al-Shabaab to prevent food aid deliveries. More information on the report can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed British diplomat Nicholas Kay, as the new U.N. Special Representative to Somalia. Kay, who is currently the Africa Director in the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has previously served as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan, will replace Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania, who has led the U.N. Political office for Somalia (UNPOS) for the last three years. The U.N. announcement can be read [here](#).

On April 30th, *Forbes* published an interview with Ugandan-born Alpesh Patel, founder of African mobile phone brand Mi-Phone. Prior to launching his company, Patel previously served as Director of Sales in Africa for Motorola. The full interview with Patel can be viewed [here](#).

On May 1st, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced a 14% increase in the minimum wage, effective immediately. He also reported on new government driven initiatives to help ensure that unskilled jobs that can be done by Kenyans are limited to citizens. An article on Kenya's new labor policies is available [here](#).

On May 1st, *Bloomberg* reported Ethiopian government officials are currently in negotiations with counterparts in Russia, Brazil, and India to finance parts of its state rail line. According to the report, Russia is considering financing a rail link to a port in Kenya. Brazilian companies may contribute resources to construct a rail link providing access to oil resources in South Sudan. India is also reportedly considering export financing for a rail line to a port in Djibouti. The *Bloomberg* article on the negotiations can be read [here](#).

West Africa

On April 25th, Ezekiel “Ziggy” Ansah of Accra, Ghana, the fifth overall pick in the NFL football draft, was selected to play for the Detroit Lions. Prior to receiving an academic scholarship to attend Brigham Young University in Utah in 2008, Ansah played basketball and soccer in Ghana. A story about Ansah and the recent draft pick can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, the 31st meeting of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission concluded in Yaounde, Cameroon. During the meeting, leaders of the two nations continued discussions on implementation of an International Court of Justice (ICJ) judgment on the demarcation of the countries’ shared border. The U.N. Office for West Africa (UNOWA) is supporting the effort to provide humanitarian aid to those who will be affected by the border change. A news release on the meeting is available [here](#).

On April 27th, Sierra Leone celebrated the three-year anniversary of the launch of its free health care initiative for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under the age of five. Prior to the implementation of the initiative, Sierra Leone operated on a user fee system for health care that decreased utilization of services and ultimately increased unnecessary death. An article about the changes in Sierra Leone’s payment system for health care services can be read [here](#).

On April 28th, Guinea-Bissau Interim President Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo said elections will be held by the end of the year. The President, who returned to his country following a month of medical treatment in Germany, did not address the situation involving the arrest of Jose Americo Bubu Na Tchutu by American officials. An article on the President’s statement is available [here](#).

On April 30th, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced the launch of the “English Teacher” pilot project in Nigeria. The project uses mobile technology to disseminate educational content and pedagogical tips to teachers across the country daily. Details on the pilot project can be viewed [here](#).

On April 30th, Global Witness unveiled a new report finding that shadow permits in the logging industry in Ghana, Liberia, Cameroon, and the DRC are undermining efforts to fight deforestation and keep illegal timber out of the European Union (EU). The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On May 1st, Special Advisor on Political Matters to Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan Ahmed Gulak announced that President Jonathan will not run for a second term in 2015 if the Nigeria Senate passes a proposal that would introduce a non-renewable six-year term for the presidency. It is disputed if the concept was initially proposed by the President or by the Senate Committee on the Review of the Constitution. More information on the proposal can be found [here](#).

On May 1st, Nestle announced plans to invest \$40.2 million in the first coffee processing plant in Cameroon, with construction to begin in August. The new facility will have the capacity to grind 20,000 tons of beans, more than half the annual coffee bean production in the country. While coffee processed at the plant will initially be marketed locally in Cameroon, Nestle plans to eventually extend sales throughout the region. The announcement on the new plant can be viewed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On April 24th, Google announced Lesotho as the 50th country covered by its Street View imagery program. Google’s Street View service allows users to view mountains, lakes, and other landmarks of interest in the country. Google’s announcement has been posted [here](#).

On April 25th, South African President Jacob Zuma announced annual tourism statistics for South Africa. During an address in Cape Town, President Zuma noted a 10% increase in tourism in 2012. Following the announcement, President Zuma toured the waterfront and met with local tourists. An article on South Africa’s most recent tourism statistics is available [here](#).

On April 25th, South Africa’s Parliament passed new legislation related to classified information and espionage activities by a vote of 189-74. South African Minister of State Security Siyabonga Cwele said the bill will strengthen democracy, balance transparency, and protect national security interests. Meanwhile, media and opposition groups have expressed concerns the legislation will be used to persecute whistleblowers, obstruct freedom of the press, and shield government corruption. An article

on the legislation can be read [here](#).

On April 28th, Angola's Geology and Mining Minister Francisco de Queiros said Angola has mining potential that can help to boost the national economy. He also noted that the Ministry has outlined new measures that create legal protection for Angolan entrepreneurs and foreign investors to promote strong partnerships. Additional comments from the minister can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa Mary Robinson departed on her first trip to the region. Special Envoy Robinson began her trip in Kinshasa, DRC, where she met with President Joseph Kabila, Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo, and Foreign Affairs Minister Raymond Tshibanda to discuss implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. Special Envoy Robinson also traveled to Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, South Africa, and AU headquarters in Ethiopia. Details on Special Envoy Robinson's trip are available [here](#). An article on Special Envoy Robinson's visit to the DRC can be read [here](#). An article on Special Envoy Robinson's time in Rwanda can be viewed [here](#).

On April 29th, the Cameroon Supreme Court released results from the country's April 14th Senate elections. Of 70 contested seats, 56 were won by the current ruling party, the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement. The main opposition party, the Social Democratic Front, won 14 seats. A law passed 17 years ago required the creation of the Senate, although the first election was delayed until now by President Paul Biya, who cited funding problems. An article on the election can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, a broadcast aired by the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) showed President Jacob Zuma and African National Congress (ANC) leaders visiting former President Nelson Mandela in his home in Johannesburg, following recent hospitalizations. Although President Zuma and state broadcasters reported that President Mandela was in good health and good spirits, viewers on Twitter expressed concerns about the footage. The video, along with reaction from critics, is available [here](#).

On April 29th, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) launched an effort to register voters in the country. National elections are set to be held later in 2013. Skeptics of the registration campaign say that voter rolls have increased too drastically to be legitimate. An article on the registration effort is available [here](#).

On April 29th, President Ian Khama of Botswana was scratched in the face by a cheetah. The cheetah, which was being held at an army barracks, was being fed when it attacked the President. President Khama received stitches and is expected to make a full recovery. A report on the incident can be found [here](#).

On April 29th, South African hotel chain Tsogo Sun Group announced plans to invest \$100 million in two hotels in Nigeria and Mozambique. Tsogo Sun operates hotels in seven African countries, including South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria and the Seychelles. Details on the new investments can be viewed [here](#).

On April 30th, members of the M23 rebel group in the DRC indicated they will be ready to fight a U.N. force that is set to arrive in the coming months. The U.N. brigade in the DRC will have the unique authority to conduct offensive missions. An article on the continued tensions in the DRC is available [here](#).

On April 30th, during a meeting of African ministers and business leaders held in London, U.K. International Development Secretary Justine Greening announced the U.K. will stop providing South Africa with direct aid in 2015. Secretary Greening suggested the relationship between the U.K. and South Africa should shift its focus to trade. The U.K. has traditionally provided aid to South Africa to reduce mortalities due to childbirth and to support local business. More on the announcement is available [here](#).

On April 30th, Spokesperson for South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation Clayson Monyela criticized the U.K.'s decision to halt direct aid to South Africa in 2015. The Department also expressed frustration that the U.K.'s decision to end aid was not communicated

through official diplomatic channels. Spokesperson Monyela indicated further bilateral discussion on aid will occur as part of the South Africa-U.K. bilateral forum later this year. Additional comments from Spokesperson Monyela have been posted [here](#).

On May 2nd, South African Chief of State Protocol Ambassador Bruce Koloane was put on compulsory leave following the use of the Waterkloof Air Force base to accept guests attending a Gupta family wedding. The politically connected Gupta family owns the New Age newspaper and Sahara. Following a preliminary investigation conducted by the Department of International Relations, authority for the plane to land at the base was not formally granted, even though flight clearances had been secured. Developments on the investigation can be viewed [here](#).

General Africa News

On April 25th, the U.N. General Assembly met to consider how to support Africa in promoting peace and development. The General Assembly recognized progress in Africa, evidenced by increased trade and investment, enhanced social justice, peaceful elections in Kenya, and greater collaboration between Sudan and South Sudan. Situations in Mali, the DRC, and the CAR were noted as issues of continued concern. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon participated in the discussion and also met separately with President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr. An article on the General Assembly meeting can be read [here](#).

On April 25th, 10 finalists were selected for the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and African Innovation Foundation (AIF) 2013 Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) competition. The contest is designed to encourage innovation and stimulate business opportunities that contribute to sustainable development in Africa. Of more than 900 applicants, finalists were selected from South Africa, Tunisia, Senegal, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Sudan. A winner and two runners up will be announced on May 7th. Details on the competition and a full list of finalists can be found [here](#).

On April 26th, the Council on Foreign Relations released its global governance report card, a series of reports that note world progress on addressing serious global problems. Topics addressed include global finance, public health, and climate change. Full reports can be accessed [here](#).

On April 29th, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported the earliest predecessors to dinosaurs may have evolved in Tanzania and Zambia shortly after the world's largest mass extinction 252 million years ago. Recently discovered fossils suggest dinosaur relatives were roaming present-day Africa before reaching any other region on Earth. A news release from NSF on the new findings is available [here](#).

On April 29th, the Center for Global Development and Aid Data unveiled a new database showing 1,673 Chinese development finance projects worth \$75 billion in 50 African countries from 2000-2011. The figures for Chinese investments in Africa are on par with U.S. investments in the continent. The database, which includes an interactive project map, can be accessed [here](#).

On April 29th, *World Economic Forum* reported Africa has the lowest Internet penetration percentage for its population compared to other regions of the world at a rate of 15%. Internet usage in Africa is primarily limited to capital cities where the necessary technology and infrastructure exists. However, a recent survey found that 20% of respondents would make sacrifices, such as skipping a meal or foregoing public transportation, to take advantage of mobile computing. The *World Economic Forum* report is available [here](#).

On April 30th, following a German delegation trip to Ghana and a meeting in South Africa with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, German Foreign Affairs Minister Guido Westerwelle announced Germany is prepared to deepen its economic ties with Africa. Following the announcement, the German delegation continued their travel in Africa on to Mozambique. More information on the announcement can be viewed [here](#).

On May 1st, the Milken Institute Global Conference concluded in Los Angeles. The conference included several events that covered topics relating to Africa including: Partners in Africa's

Development; Investing in African Prosperity; and Africa: Opportunities for Business and Investment. A full schedule and details of the Milken Conference events are available [here](#).

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