



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On July 18th, Egyptian interim President Adly Mansour delivered his first public address since his swearing in on July 4th, pledging to restore stability and security in the country. The speech came as supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi planned for mass protests and as the Muslim Brotherhood pushed for reconciliation talks mediated by the European Union (EU). Developments in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On July 19th, in a new wave of protests, tens of thousands of supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi took to the streets of Cairo and other cities in Egypt, calling for Morsi's reinstatement as President. A report on the new protests is available [here](#).

On July 19th, sources in the Egyptian military reported ten jihadists had been killed in an Egyptian army offensive in the Sinai peninsula. The offensive was launched following Islamist attacks against law enforcement facilities that left three Egyptian police officers dead. More information on the clashes in the Sinai has been posted [here](#).

On July 19th, during the State Department daily press briefing, Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf addressed the latest issues surrounding the situation in Egypt. Spokesperson Harf addressed comments from Secretary of State John Kerry that Egypt was on the verge of civil war before the overthrow of former President Mohamed Morsi. Spokesperson Harf said the U.S. government is working to determine what happened in the country and the main focus is now on establishing relations with the interim government. A full transcript of the briefing can be found [here](#).

On July 19th, leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee on State and Foreign Operations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Lindsey Graham (R-SC) first noted talks with the Obama Administration to amend the prohibition on U.S. aid to governments taken over by a military coup. The solution may allow for the continuation of some financial aid to Egypt. Details on

the discussions can be viewed [here](#).

On July 19th, CNN published an interview with Brookings Institution Fellow Gregory Gause about the ongoing crisis in Egypt. Gause suggested Egypt should have waited for elections to make political change and said the isolation of the Muslim Brotherhood will only lead to problems in the future. The full interview can be read [here](#).

On July 21st, Egypt's interim cabinet met for the first time. The meeting, led by interim Prime Minister Hazem El-Beblawi, addressed a roadmap for the transitional government and security in the country. The ministers also discussed ways to jumpstart Egypt's economy. Notes on the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

On July 21st, ten Egyptian legal experts met to begin working on amendments to Egypt's constitution. The military is continuing to push for democratic elections in Egypt within six months and has requested the panel prepare a new draft of the constitution for review within 30 days. Information on the effort to revise Egypt's constitution can be seen [here](#).

On July 22nd, the family of ousted President Mohamed Morsi delivered a press conference accusing military leaders of kidnapping the deposed leader. Family members noted the last time they had contact with President Morsi was on July 3rd, before the military ouster. Military leaders maintain President Morsi is safely detained. An article on the press conference can be read [here](#).

On July 23rd, another six people were killed and 33 others wounded in Cairo as protests between opponents and supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi continued. During the attack, guns were fired and stones were thrown at protestors sympathetic to President Morsi who have been camped out outside of Cairo University since July 3rd. The attack was reported [here](#).

On July 24th, during a speech to military graduates, Egyptian military commander General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi called for mass demonstrations to support the military's authorization to combat violence and terrorism in the wake of political unrest in Egypt. Excerpts from General Sisi's speech are available [here](#).

On July 24th, the Pentagon announced plans to delay the delivery of four F-16 fighter jets to Egypt, due to violence in the country. Despite the announcement, the Obama Administration declined to call the situation in Egypt a military coup and indicated it still plans to participate in a joint exercise with the Egyptian military scheduled for later this year. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On July 25th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns held a closed briefing with members of the House and Senate where he was expected to Obama Administration officials do not plan to declare the overthrow of the Egyptian Government a coup. A report on the briefing has been posted [here](#).

On July 25th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the crises in Egypt. Witnesses included Daniel Kurtzer of Princeton University, Dennis Ross of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Michele Dunne of the Atlantic Council. A webcast of the hearing was archived [here](#).

Tunisia

On July 23rd, Tunisian Prime Minister Ali Larayedh said activists who are part of a Tamarod protest movement in the country threaten the democratic process and will ultimately fail. The movement seeks to dissolve the current National Constituent Assembly. More information on the protests and comments from Prime Minister Larayedh can be found [here](#).

On July 25th, Tunisian political opposition leader Mohamed Brahmi was killed when gunmen shot him outside of his home. Brahmi had been a vocal critic of Tunisia's Islamist-led government and was part of the constituent group tasked with drafting Tunisia's new constitution. Following news of Brahmi's death, protests began in Tunisia. News on the developing situation was reported [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On July 19th, the Office of the United Nations (U.N.) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported new efforts to ramp up humanitarian aid for civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who have fled to Uganda. UNHCR and other humanitarian partners are now running 15 non-stop trucks to transfer DRC refugees to a hub for displaced persons. More than 66,000 people are estimated to have fled from the DRC to Uganda in the past week. Developments in the refugee situation were noted [here](#).

On July 22nd, fighting continued in the DRC between Government forces and the M23 rebel group. The DRC used helicopters to bomb M23 positions outside the towns of Kibati and Uvira. Reports indicate the rebels fired mortars at Government forces in retaliation. An article on the latest attacks is available [here](#).

On July 23rd, the U.N. issued a statement expressing concern for the ongoing violence in the DRC. Many refugees are stuck in areas of intense fighting between Government forces and members of the M23 rebel group. Due to fighting, humanitarian groups are unable to reach areas where refugees are located. Details on the issues facing refugees in the DRC are available [here](#).

On July 23rd, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki addressed issues related to the DRC and violence in the Great Lakes Region. Spokesperson Psaki said the U.S Government condemns the latest attacks from the M23 rebel group and noted Secretary of State John Kerry's planned travel to New York for meetings with the U.N. Security Council on the DRC. When asked about Rwandan support for the M23, Spokesperson Psaki said credible evidence suggests there may be a connection between the two groups, and she urged the Rwandan military to end any support for M23. A full transcript of the briefing can be found [here](#).

On July 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to U.N. headquarters in New York to chair the U.N. Security Council Ministerial on the Great Lakes. In conjunction with the meeting, Secretary Kerry met with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo, and DRC Foreign Minister Raymond Tshibanda. Secretary Kerry was accompanied by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs Dean Pittman. A video recording of the ministerial can be watched [here](#), while a transcript of Secretary Kerry's remarks has been posted [here](#). Secretary Kerry's remarks with Secretary-General Ban can be read [here](#).

Guinea

On July 18th, volunteers in Guinea continued collecting bodies of victims following days of ethnic clashes that began in Koule and spread to the provincial capital of N'Zerekore. Fighting between Guerze and Konianke tribesmen has left at least 54 dead and more than 80 others wounded. Several homes, churches, and mosques have also been damaged or destroyed. More information on the clashes in Guinea can be seen [here](#).

On July 18th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for calm and urged Guineans to follow the law as inter-tribe clashes continued. Secretary-General Ban also urged the Government of Guinea to work to protect people and property, to uphold rule of law, and to push dialogue between opposing parties. A statement issued by Secretary-General Ban's office has been posted [here](#).

On July 19th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) commended efforts of the Government of Guinea to restore calm following clashes between members of the Guerze and Konianke tribes in Koule. Since clashes began, the Government has implemented a curfew and sent a ministerial delegation to the region to mediate talks between the tribes. Defense forces have also been deployed to the region to restore order. Comments from OHCHR can be found [here](#).

On July 22nd, Guinean President Alpha Conde declared a national day of mourning following violent clashes in the country. President Conde appealed to Guineans to remain calm and stressed the Government would do everything possible to identify and prosecute those responsible for the violence. Remarks from President Conde can be viewed [here](#).

South Sudan

On July 18th, following fighting between armed groups and Government forces in Jonglei state, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan Toby Lanzer provided an update on aid for civilians displaced due to violence. U.N. and partner agencies have now launched a response effort targeting 25,000 civilians stranded in Pibor Country. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On July 20th, South Sudan indicated it will sell 6.4 million barrels of oil worth \$300 million and shut down production on its pipeline that provides oil to Sudan. Tensions between the countries continue over allegations that the South Sudanese Government is supporting rebels in Sudan. South Sudan relies on Sudan as a purchaser of its oil, but the pipeline closure means Sudan will be forced to look elsewhere for oil. Details on the closure of the pipeline are available [here](#).

On July 23rd, in a presidential decree broadcast on state television, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir dismissed all of his cabinet, including Vice President Riek Machar, cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, and a number of police brigadier generals. President Kiir did not address a reason for the dismissals, nor did he announce any replacements. An article on the announcement has been posted [here](#).

On July 24th, the State Department issued a statement expressing concern for stability in South Sudan following President Kiir's decision fire his entire cabinet. The State Department called on the Government of South Sudan to quickly form a new cabinet and for the people of South Sudan to remain calm to prevent violence. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

Sudan

On July 19th, following the latest attacks against U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda of the International Criminal Court (ICC) reiterated such killings may be considered war crimes. Prosecutor Bensouda also condemned the July 13th attack against a U.N.-African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Darfur that left 7 peacekeepers dead and 17 military and police personnel wounded. More from Prosecutor Bensouda on the recent incident in Darfur is available [here](#).

On July 22nd, Sudan County Director for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) expressed concern the new wave of violence in Darfur will put long term food security at risk, especially as many people have fled the region at a time when they should be planting and maintaining their farms. WFP estimates 3.9 million people have fled Sudan or remain internally displaced due to conflict and need food assistance. Details from WFP on the situation in Sudan can be found [here](#).

On July 23rd, a team of three generals from the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development traveled to Khartoum, Sudan, on their way to Juba, South Sudan, to investigate Sudanese allegations that South Sudan is supporting rebels in Sudan. The accusations have led Sudan to threaten closure of all cross-border oil pipelines by August 7th, leading South Sudan to begin shutting down oil production. Information on the investigation can be seen [here](#).

On July 24th, head of the joint AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Mohamed Ibn Chambas briefed the Security Council on developments in the region. Special Representative Chambas called for a political solution in Darfur to counter the slow pace of the peace process. He also raised concerns about the uptick in fighting between Government and rebel forces and attacks against peacekeepers. Additional comments from Special Representative Chambas can be read [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On July 18th, special advisor to South African President Jacob Zuma, Lindiwe Zulu, expressed concerns about upcoming elections in Zimbabwe. Zulu said President Zuma had called Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to articulate his concerns regarding preparations for the July 31st elections. Complicating South Africa's concerns are recent campaign rally remarks in which President Mugabe called Zulu "stupid and idiotic". The tension between South Africa and Zimbabwe over the elections was discussed [here](#).

On July 22nd, South African President Jacob Zuma called on his advisor, Lindiwe Zulu, to cease making comments on the Zimbabwe's election preparations. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has criticized Zulu and said President Zuma should be the only South African official to speak on current issues in Zimbabwe. An article on the tensions between South Africa and Zimbabwe is available [here](#).

On July 22nd, *SW Radio Africa* reported on the intense campaigning across Zimbabwe ahead of presidential elections scheduled in the country for July 31st. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is challenging President Robert Mugabe in the highly contested race. More information on the election can be found [here](#).

On July 23rd, AU Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and AU Commissioner for Political Affairs Aisha Abdullahi departed for Zimbabwe to assess the political situation in the country ahead of July 31st elections. Also expected to travel with the observation team was former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who has previously served as a political mediator in Zimbabwe. A report on the visit can be seen [here](#).

On July 25th, *NewsDay* reported Zimbabwe might be trying to block former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo's participation in the AU's observation of upcoming elections. President Obasanjo has indefinitely postponed his arrival in Zimbabwe contingent upon receiving an invitation from the Zimbabwean Government. Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Secretary Joey Bimha has said the AU was invited, but invitations will not be extended to individuals. The situation was described [here](#).

Mali

On July 18th, both Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Soumaila Cisse, the two leading candidates in Mali's presidential election, signed an environmental agreement drafted by a coalition of approximately 100 NGOs and aid organizations. By signing the agreement, both candidates pledged to address climate change, if elected. An article on the agreement can be read [here](#).

On July 21st, four election workers and a deputy mayor kidnapped by gunmen in Tessalit, Mali, were freed by French soldiers. The kidnapping occurred just one week before elections are to be held in Mali. Details on the incident were reported [here](#).

On July 23rd, the U.N. Refugee Agency reported on its efforts to provide ballots to nearly 175,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger. The refugees fled Mali during violence between Islamist militants and French and Malian forces. Officials have expressed concern over low turnout in the election scheduled for July 28th. Details on the vote and the process of providing ballot access to refugees are available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On July 18th, the White House hosted a swearing in ceremony for the first class of Peace Corps Global Health Service Partnership volunteers. The Global Health Service Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Peace Corps, the President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and See Global Health. The first class of volunteers will deploy for one-year assignments as medical or nursing educators in Tanzania, Malawi, and Uganda. More on the partnership can be found [here](#).

State Department

On July 18th, the State Department released its quarterly update on the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia. The fact sheet highlights the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the U.S. and the Bahamas to formalize the joint handling of Somali piracy cases where captured pirates are suspected of attacks against Bahamian ships. The report also notes recent trials, apprehensions, and prison transfers of Somali pirates. The fact sheet has been posted [here](#).

On July 18th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf discussed a letter Secretary of

State John Kerry recently sent to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. The letter indicated the U.S. is prepared to revisit its relationship with Zimbabwe, but only if the country implements the political reforms needed to ensure upcoming elections are peaceful, credible, and represent the will of the Zimbabwean people. More comments on the letter can be viewed [here](#).

On July 22nd, the State Department announced the arrival of 30 women entrepreneurs from 27 countries in Africa in the U.S. as part of the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP). Over the next week, participants will travel across the U.S. to visit with local businesses, business incubators, schools, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The State Department announcement is available [here](#). More information on AWEP can be found [here](#).

On July 24th, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson. The meeting was noted on the State Department daily public schedule, available [here](#).

On July 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Liberia on 166 years of independence. He expressed the commitment of the U.S. to continue working with Liberia to address economic development, corruption, and political reconciliation. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On July 18th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) reported on discussions at the annual ACSS Senior Leaders Seminar (SLS) pertaining to the impact of the Arab Spring on sub-Saharan Africa. There was consensus the Arab Spring has affected popular sovereignty and the path to democratization across the continent and that events in North Africa have pushed other governments to focus on African youth. Highlights from the discussion can be seen [here](#).

On July 23rd, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ash Carter arrived in Uganda for meetings with senior defense officials regarding continued efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Following his stop in Uganda, Deputy Secretary Carter departed for Ethiopia, for meetings with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegu and senior defense officials regarding shared security interests in the region. More on Deputy Secretary Carter's travel in Africa was reported [here](#).

On July 24th, the Shared Accord collaboration between U.S. and South African military forces began in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The mission is meant to increase interoperability and build friendships with the South African Defense Force. Details on the collaboration are available [here](#).

On July 25th, U.S. Army Africa reported on West Point cadets' recent travel to Kasiisi, Uganda, to participate in the construction of a biogas digester as part of a renewable energy mission. The digester will use waste and food scrape to create methane for cooking and fertilizer. An article on the mission can be read [here](#).

Department of Justice

On July 23rd, District Court Judge Robert Wilkins rejected industry's challenge to a Dodd-Frank Act Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rulemaking that would require companies to disclose their use of conflict minerals from the DRC and neighboring countries. Industry groups have raised concerns regarding the costs of complying with the rule and argued the rule violates First Amendment rights. The opinion can be downloaded [here](#).

Government Accountability Office

On July 19th, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report to Congress identifying a number of factors that may limit companies' ability to comply with a SEC rule to implement a Dodd-Frank Act provision to ensure conflict-free minerals sourcing from the DRC. Lack of security and good governance were highlighted as some of the most pressing challenges. The full GAO report is available [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On July 19th, the *Washington Times* reported Republicans in the House are seeking a closed hearing with Colonel George Bristol, who was responsible for special forces operations in Africa during the September 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. More information on the potential hearing is available [here](#).

On July 19th, the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee marked up its FY14 appropriations bill. The subcommittee mark denies President Barack Obama's request for new funding to respond to political and economic changes in North Africa, but includes the requested \$4.8 for diplomatic security in response to the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. The bill also includes the requested \$1.3 billion in military assistance for Egypt, but does not specify a sum for economic development aid, nor address the current circumstance in the country. The full Appropriations Committee considered the bill on July 24th. The bill text can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 19th, the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Alliance for Peacebuilding hosted an event featuring House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA). During his remarks, Representative Smith addressed new challenges in North Africa and urged that foreign assistance is important to reducing poverty, increasing access to education, growing sustainable global markets, furthering diplomatic engagement, and promoting good government. A recording of the discussion can be watched [here](#).

On July 22nd, Representative Steve Stockman (R-TX) began circulating a discharge petition to force Republican leaders in the House to allow a vote on forming a special committee to investigate the September 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi and the Obama Administration's response to the attack. The petition requires support from 218 House members to secure a floor vote. More than 160 House members have already signed on to a resolution introduced by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) that also calls for a select committee. An article on the discharge petition can be read [here](#).

On July 23rd, the Senate Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee marked up its FY14 appropriations bill. The bill establishes a \$575 million crisis fund to respond to political transitions in North Africa. It also includes the \$4.8 billion requested by President Barack Obama for the implementation of the recommendations of the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi, and an additional \$25 million for security at interim facilities. The full Committee considered the legislation on July 25th. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 23rd, an aide to Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee Jim Inhofe (R-OK) indicated the hunt for Joseph Kony and other Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leadership may soon be back on track in the Central African Republic (CAR). In April, U.S. and Ugandan special forces suspended the hunt for Kony following a violent coup. While sequestration remains a concern, the staffer indicated a provision in the defense authorization bill would authorize up to \$90 million to support the efforts of the Ugandan military to apprehend Kony. More on the hunt for Kony is available [here](#).

On July 24th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on Linda Thomas-Greenfield's nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. The Committee also considered several ambassadorial nominations, including James Entwistle's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Patricia Haslach's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Stephanie Sullivan's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Congo (ROC), Patrick Gaspard's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, and Reuben Brigety's nomination to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the AU. Details on the hearing have been posted [here](#).

On July 24th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Human Rights, and International Organizations held a briefing with Several African Ambassadors regarding security challenges on the continent. Participants included Ambassador of Mauritius to the U.S. Somduth Soberun, Ambassador of Mali to the U.S. Al-Maamoun Keita, Ambassador of Zambia to the U.S. Palan Mulonda, and Ambassador of Gabon to the U.S. Michael Moussa-Adamo. The briefing was noticed [here](#).

North Africa

On July 20th, Egyptian officials said they are concerned about Ethiopia's failure to respond to the ongoing dispute over the Grand Renaissance Dam project. Egypt claims the dam, slated to be built on the Blue Nile, could limit the amount of Nile water that reaches Egypt and Sudan. More information on the project is available [here](#).

On July 20th, Nouri Abu Sahmein, President of Libya's General National Congress, authorized a 60-member commission that will draft a new democratic constitution for the country. Representation on the commission will be split between Libya's three main geographic regions. More information on the constitutional commission is available [here](#).

On July 23rd, a grenade struck a building complex that includes the Canadian and several other foreign embassies in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. Reports suggest the grenade was launched from a car. No injuries were reported as a result of the attack. Information on the incident is available [here](#).

On July 24th, Moroccan King Mohammed VI approved the resignations of five cabinet ministers of the conservative Istiqlal party who quit earlier this month. While accepting their resignations, King Mohammed urged the ministers to manage their affairs until new ministers are nominated. The move creates an opening for Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane to try to form a new government. An article on the changes in Morocco can be read [here](#).

On July 24th, *Bloomberg* reported Mediterranean Investments Holding is considering a share sale of \$132 million to support expansion efforts in Libya. Officials at Mediterranean cited significant economic growth and progress in Libya as motivation for their expansion plan. The report can be accessed [here](#).

East Africa

On July 19th, OHCHR expressed concern for a draft law in Somalia that would require journalists to reveal their sources and prevent them from sharing information against Islam or Somali traditions. According to OHCHR, the legislation could be used to curtail freedom of expression in the country. Comments from OHCHR Spokesperson Rupert Colville are available [here](#).

On July 19th, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Somalia Philippe Lazzarini thanked the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for an additional \$20 million allocation in crisis funding to address humanitarian needs in the country. The additional funding comes in response to two-thirds shortfall in the \$1.15 billion request for humanitarian resources for Somalia. Information on the CERF allocation can be seen [here](#).

On July 19th, Montserrat Serra and Blanca Thiebault, two Spanish aid workers for Doctors Without Borders, arrived home after being held hostage by Somali militants for nearly two years. Serra and Thiebault were captured from the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya in October 2011. The full story can be accessed [here](#).

On July 19th, the *New York Times* reported on developments in the ICC case against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. According to ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, two witnesses withdrew this week out of concerns for their safety. Experts believe the latest setbacks increase the likelihood President Kenyatta will ultimately go free. The full report was published [here](#).

On July 24th, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Eritrea and Somalia through November 2014. The expert panel is responsible for monitoring compliance with sanctions against Eritrea and Somalia that prohibit delivery of weapons and military equipment and investigating operations that might generate revenue for the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab. Details on the resolution can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On July 18th, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous called on

the Security Council to extend the U.N. Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Under-Secretary-General Ladsous said Cote d'Ivoire is headed towards peace and political stability following the 2010 elections crisis where former President Laurent Gbagbo refused to accept loss to President Alassane Ouattara. He highlighted, however, that challenges remain leading up to the next electoral cycle in 2015. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On July 21st, the Brookings Institution published an op-ed authored by Richard Joseph, Kelly Spence, and Abimbola Agboluaje on Nigeria and its role in the Power Africa initiative recently announced by President Barack Obama. The op-ed, which addresses the numerous manufacturing challenges faced by Nigeria, can be read [here](#).

On July 22nd, First Lady of Nigeria Dame Patience Jonathan was appointed as the U.N. International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Child Online Protection Champion. In this role, the First Lady will be tasked with creating a safe environment for children on the Internet and pushing for reforms in Africa and around the globe. The First Lady's new position was announced [here](#).

On July 22nd, the Protection Group International (PGI), which offers security services in the Indian Ocean, said pirates in West Africa will continue to threaten shipping in the region for years if measures to combat pirates are not changed. PGI suggested pirates in West Africa place greater emphasis on stealing cargos, have more powerful weapons, and are met with less resistance than pirates operating in Somalia. Statements from PGI CEO Barry Roche can be found [here](#).

On July 23rd, U.N. Humanitarian Action Coordinator for Mali David Gressly visited Gao, where he called on the humanitarian community to take swift actions to address the children's nutrition crisis in the country. The U.N. estimates in the next six months, approximately 22,730 children in Mali will be at risk for acute malnutrition. More information is available [here](#).

On July 25th, voting began in Togo in legislative elections that had previously been twice postponed. More than 1,200 candidates are competing for 91 seats in the legislature. Experts believe significant electoral gains made by the opposition may prove growing frustration with the Gnassingbe family, who has been in power since 1967. A story on the elections has been posted [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On July 18th, as expected, South Africa's Reserve Bank kept interest rates on hold. Monetary policymakers indicated a goal is to maintain rates that are attractive to foreign investors in the event the U.S. decides to withdraw asset purchases. Policymakers also announced revised inflation outlooks, raising forecasts to 5.9% for 2013 and 5.5% for 2014. More information on the African Reserve Bank can be found [here](#).

On July 18th, the High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, dismissed an application for the State to fund legal representation for the miners who were victims of the 2012 Marikana Massacre. Victims pursuing the class action lawsuit had wanted President Jacob Zuma and Justice Minister Jeff Radebe to intervene to approve payments for the mineworkers' legal team. Information on the ruling can be seen [here](#).

On July 18th, *The Africa Report* detailed a new television station due to be launched in Zimbabwe ahead of upcoming elections. The station, 1st TV, was created by exiled Zimbabwean journalists based in Johannesburg, South Africa. The channel will broadcast impartial newscasts and entertainment programming. The station's launch was noted [here](#).

On July 19th, the Durban Film Festival announced it would proceed with screenings of the film "Of Good Report," despite the ban issued by the South African Film and Publication Board. Those involved with the film's production said they will appeal the Board's ruling and argue a ban on showing the film, which explores the relationship between a high-school teacher and a 16-year-old student, is a criminal offense. The full story was described [here](#).

On July 22nd, U.N. Special Representative for Burundi Parfait Onanga-Anyanga reported to the Security Council on developments in the country. While he noted significant advances in political

dialogue, including the return of politicians who were exiled following the 2010 elections, he also highlighted outstanding challenges, including a weak economy, cross-border incursions, and human rights violations. Details are available [here](#).

On July 22nd, Executive Director of WFP Ertharin Cousin concluded a three-day visit to Rwanda to assess the food security situation. Executive Director Cousin met with refugees along the border between Rwanda and the DRC and visited the Nkamira refugee transit center. She also toured a watershed management project in the northern part of the country and spoke to farmers in eastern Rwanda about the WFP Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative. A report on Executive Director Cousin's trip can be viewed [here](#).

On July 22nd, upon completing an 11-day visit to Malawi, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier De Schutter urged Malawi to reassess its national food security strategy to ensure it is effective in addressing poverty and malnutrition. Special Rapporteur De Schutter recommended that Malawi reexamine its Food Input Subsidy Programme (FISP), enforce a living wage, allow for collective bargaining in all sectors, and negotiate fair tax agreements for investors. Feedback on Special Rapporteur De Schutter's visit to Malawi has been posted [here](#).

On July 22nd, the South African Government said while the health of former President Nelson Mandela has improved, he remains in critical condition. Mandela recently celebrated his 95th birthday. An article on Mandela's current condition can be read [here](#).

On July 22nd, Zambian President Michael Sata ordered a study on blocking access to Facebook and Twitter in the country after discovering the social networking websites made stories blocked on Zambian Watchdog and Zambia Reports available for public consumption. Allegedly, the move is a tactic in a broader strategy aimed at rigging 2016 elections in support of President Sata or his General Secretary Wynter Kabimba. Details can be found [here](#).

On July 22nd, the *BBC* reported deforestation in the Congo Basin rainforest has slowed by about a third over the last ten years. Researchers suggest an increasing focus on mining and oil is lessening the need for large amounts of forest that were previously used for agriculture. A study with more information on the slowing deforestation is available [here](#).

On July 23rd, Zimbabwe's Minister of Rural and Urban Development Ignatius Chombo said the 92 rural and urban councils operating in the country must forgive all debts owed by residents on rates and bills between February 2009 and June 2013. More information on the debt forgiveness mandate can be found [here](#).

On July 24th, following U.N. Special Representative in the CAR Babacar Gaye's meeting with local NGOs, the U.N. expressed concerns regarding potential human rights violations in the country. During the NGO meeting, Special Representative Gaye received reports of systemic killings of civilians, rape, and other violations perpetrated by soldiers from the Seleka coalition. Information on the meeting can be seen [here](#).

On July 24th, former Chief Justice of South Africa's Constitutional Court Pius Langa died at Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, following a lengthy struggle with illness. As news of his death spread, several South Africa officials, including President Jacob Zuma, paid tribute to the former Chief Justice. News on Chief Justice Langa's passing was reported [here](#).

On July 24th, the South African Environment Ministry indicated more than 500 rhinos have been poached in the country since the beginning of the year. A strong black market in Asia continues to drive demand for rhino horns. More information on the poaching can be found [here](#).

General Africa News

On July 22nd, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported more people in countries throughout Africa are voicing opposition to the practice of female genital mutilation. However, the report notes the practice still widely occurs in many areas across the continent, creating significant health issues for women. The UNICEF release is available [here](#).

On July 22nd, *Forbes* published an op-ed by Paul Glader that analyzes China's current media investments in Africa. Glader noted that while China has been engaged with the continent since 1950, the activity has heightened as China seeks to make increasing investments on the continent. The op-ed is available [here](#).

On July 23rd, *Bloomberg* reported on the increasing development of the hotel industry in Africa. Growing trade in Africa and the slowing of American and European markets has prompted many companies to invest on the continent, where revenue per room is higher than many other locations. The article on the expansion of hotels can be read [here](#).

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