



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

2013 AGOA Forum

On August 9th, the State Department issued a release on upcoming events associated with the 2013 African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum. This year's forum, held August 12th-13th in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, gathered U.S. Administration officials, African government ministers, and U.S. and African business and civil society stakeholders for dialogue on the future of U.S.-Africa trade cooperation and the path to reauthorizing AGOA, which expires on September 30, 2015. Details are available [here](#).

On August 10-11th, the Ethiopia Chapter of the State Department's African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) hosted a forum prior to the kickoff of the 2013 AGOA Forum's ministerial session. The AWEP forum brought together members of Congress, private sector leaders, and U.S. and African officials to discuss best practices for trade under AGOA, access to finance for women, and regional initiatives to empower women entrepreneurs. A press release on the AWEP forum can be accessed [here](#).

On August 10th-14th, U.S. Special Representative for Global Partnerships Drew O'Brien was on foreign travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend the 2013 AGOA Forum. Special Representative O'Brien's participation was noted [here](#).

On August 12th, the ministerial session of the 2013 AGOA Forum officially opened at the African Union (AU) Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn delivered remarks at the opening session and expressed hope the full potential for trade cooperation between the U.S. and Africa will soon be tapped. The opening session also included a video address from U.S. President Barack Obama touting how AGOA has increased economic cooperation and trade and made it easier for African products to reach the U.S. A report on the opening session can be seen [here](#).

On August 12th-13th, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman led the U.S. delegation at the 2013 AGOA Forum. In the opening ceremony, Ambassador Froman discussed his recent travel to Africa with President Barack Obama and their discussions on growing the U.S.-Africa economic relationship. Ambassador Froman also delivered remarks on the future of U.S.-Africa trade cooperation and announced the start of negotiations between the U.S. and the East African Community (EAC) on a trade facilitation agreement. Remarks delivered by Ambassador Froman have been posted [here](#).

On August 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf, during the Department's daily press briefing, spoke about the importance of AGOA. She suggested AGOA has led to the creation of 350,000 direct jobs in Africa and 100,000 U.S. jobs. A full transcript of the briefing is available [here](#).

On August 13th, as part of the 2013 AGOA Forum, U.S. Special Representative for Global Partnerships Drew O'Brien co-chaired a panel discussion on diaspora issues with Senegalese Minister of Commerce Alioune Sarr. The panel discussion was noticed [here](#).

On August 14th, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Karen Bass (D-CA), traveling with Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), participated in events related to the 2013 AGOA Forum, delivering remarks at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. While recognizing AGOA will not solve all of the continent's challenges, Representative Bass noted AGOA plays an important role in addressing challenges to economic growth. She also expressed optimism that reauthorization efforts are already underway. Representative Bass' remarks can be accessed [here](#).

Egypt

On August 8th, deposed President Mohamed Morsi's wife, Naglaa Mahmoud, made her first public appearance since the July 3rd military takeover of the Egyptian Government. Speaking to supporters of former President Morsi at a protest camp in Cairo, Mahmoud claimed her husband will return to power. Details have been posted [here](#).

On August 9th, U.S. President Barack Obama reportedly offered a holiday greeting to interim Egyptian President Adly Mansour in celebration of Eid Al-Fitr, the prominent Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. President Mansour's media adviser, Ahmed El-Meslimany, said this marked the second time President Obama contacted President Mansour since he assumed office. More information on the call can be found [here](#).

On August 9th, Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) released an op-ed in the *Washington Post* that identifies the removal of former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi as a coup. The senators wrote that, while they were displeased with the leadership of President Morsi, unsuccessful leaders in a democracy should leave office by losing elections. The op-ed can be read [here](#).

On August 10th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement expressing concern about the continuation of the political stalemate in Egypt. Secretary-General Ban called for nonviolence as a means to achieve the aspirations of the Egyptian people. The statement released by Secretary-General Ban's office can be read [here](#).

On August 11th, Senator John McCain appeared on "Fox News Sunday," where he discussed developments in Egypt. Senator McCain expressed concern that military leaders' threats to crackdown on the supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi may lead to additional violence. If this occurs, Senator McCain said Congress should consider cutting off U.S. aid to Egypt. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On August 12th, Egyptian authorities postponed plans to break up two protest camps in Cairo occupied by supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi in order to avoid bloodshed. Judicial officials also announced President Morsi should be held for 15 more days, pending investigations into his involvement with Pakistani militants in 2011. Developments in Egypt were noted [here](#).

On August 12th, supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi vowed to continue peaceful protests

and sit ins in Cairo. Egypt's second largest Islamic political party after the Muslim Brotherhood, the Nour Party, also announced it will participate in the process of writing Egypt's new constitution. The full story was reported [here](#).

On August 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf, while responding to a question about the travel plans of Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, said no additional high-level meetings between U.S. and Egyptian officials have been scheduled for the immediate future. The full briefing transcript can be read [here](#).

On August 13th, one Muslim Brotherhood member was killed and at least 11 others wounded as violence escalated in Egypt. Despite reconciliation efforts led by religious authority Al-Azhar, demonstrators supporting ousted President Mohamed Morsi marched on the Interior Ministry. Sit ins also continued in Cairo. Details are available [here](#).

On August 13th, interim President Adly Mansour swore in 20 new provincial Governors, officially removing all ten of deposed President Mohamed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood appointees, many who have joined protests in Cairo. Both Egyptian revolutionary and Islamist groups have expressed concern that ten Governors are from the military, two are from the police, and two Deputy Governors are police generals. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On August 13th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf addressed interim President Adly Mansour's appointment of new Governors throughout Egypt. While Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the U.S. will not prescribe the breakdowns for the Egyptian cabinet or the appointment of Governors, she reiterated U.S. diplomats continue to encourage Egyptian authorities to make outcomes of these decisions as inclusive as possible. Additional comments can be seen [here](#).

On August 14th, Egyptian security forces raided two sit in camps in Cairo, with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry calling the raids a last resort following efforts to mediate a safe exit for protestors. The latest reports from Egypt's Health Ministry indicated 525 people were killed and more than 3,700 people were wounded. Muslim Brotherhood leaders estimate the death toll could be as high as 2,000. Detailed information on the unrest in Egypt can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, the Egyptian interim government declared a month-long state of emergency across the country, along with a curfew for Cairo and ten other areas. According to interim President Adly Mansour, the emergency status authorizes Egyptian armed forces and police officials to take all necessary precautions to maintain security and order and to protect public and private property. An article on the declaration can be read [here](#).

On August 14th, Egypt's interim Vice President Mohamed El Baradei resigned following actions by security teams to forcibly break up protest camps that had been established by supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi. A transcript of the resignation can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem El Beblawi appeared on State television to address the surge in violence in Cairo. Prime Minister El Beblawi said security forces practiced the highest level of restraint, but were eventually forced to act against pro-Morsi supporters. He suggested protesters were carrying illegal arms, hijacking roads, and assaulting public and private property. Additional statements from Prime Minister El Beblawi can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned Egyptian security forces' violent crackdowns on protest camps in Cairo. While the U.N. is still collecting information about the latest violence, Secretary-General Ban expressed condolences for those killed and wounded and continued to call for genuinely inclusive political reconciliation. Secretary-General Ban's statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 14th, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he deplores the loss of life in Egypt and he called on all sides to exercise restraint and refrain from violence. The full statement from Secretary-General Rasmussen is available [here](#).

On August 14th, White House Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the Obama Administration

opposes the state of emergency law imposed by the military government in Egypt and condemns the violent actions taken by Egyptian security forces to disperse protestors sympathetic to ousted President Mohamed Morsi. Despite the violence, Deputy Press Secretary Earnest said the Obama Administration will continue its current approach to dealing with Egypt's interim government. More on the White House's response to the crackdowns in Egypt is available [here](#).

On August 14th, after speaking with Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks on the crackdown against demonstrators in Egypt. He condemned the violence, which he called a serious blow to Egyptians' aspirations for peace, inclusion, and democracy. He reiterated the willingness of U.S. diplomats to assist Egyptian authorities in achieving a peaceful, democratic way forward. Secretary Kerry's remarks can be accessed [here](#).

On August 14th, during the daily press briefing, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with Mohamed El Baradei shortly after he resigned as Egypt's interim Vice President. Spokesperson Psaki said Secretary Kerry and former Vice President El Baradei discussed a shared concern for events on the ground in Egypt. A full transcript of the briefing is available [here](#).

On August 14th, Senator John McCain suggested Secretary of State John Kerry is partly to blame for the latest violence perpetuated by the Egyptian army. According to Senator McCain, Secretary Kerry's remarks earlier this month praising the Egyptian army for taking action to restore democracy may have motivated the crackdown on demonstrators. Comments from Senator McCain can be viewed [here](#).

On August 14th, *CNN* reported the U.S. may cancel or postpone the Bright Star military exercise planned with Egypt next month due to worsening violence. The exercise, which involves joint training for both air and ground forces and is typically held every two years, was canceled in 2011 due to violence connected to the toppling of President Hosni Mubarak. The *CNN* report has been posted [here](#).

On August 15th, following the crackdown on protest camps by Egyptian security forces, the Muslim Brotherhood called for marches in Cairo to protest the deaths resulting from Wednesday's violence. Similar marches were also initiated in Alexandria following the attacks. A source for the military said while sit ins will no longer be tolerated, marches may be in spite of the state of emergency. More information can be found [here](#).

On August 15th, President Barack Obama condemned the violence in Egypt as the death toll from clashes between Egyptian security forces and supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi reached 525 people, saying the Egyptian people deserve better. President Obama also canceled the Bright Star joint military exercise planned with Egypt this year to further denunciate the violence. President Obama did not address U.S. aid to Egypt. Remarks from President Obama are available [here](#).

On August 15th, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-NJ) issued a statement labeling crackdowns in Egypt as mayhem and tragedy. He called on all parties in Egypt to demonstrate restraint and renounce violence. Senator Menendez also said the Egyptian military has a duty to pursue democratic elections and to allow for freedom of speech and assembly. The statement is available [here](#).

Mali

On August 9th, the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) reported on preparations underway for the presidential runoff on August 11th. MINUSMA planned to assist refugees with voting and to support local authorities in implementing a security plan. An article on the preparations can be read [here](#).

On August 11th, voters in Mali returned to the polls to vote in a runoff presidential election between former Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Soumaila Cisse. Reports indicated voting was steady and international observers commended Mali on the voting process. At the close of the polls,

Prime Minister Keita was widely perceived to be the front runner. Details on voting in Mali can be seen [here](#).

On August 11th, head of MINUSMA Special Representative Bert Koenders visited polling stations in Kidal, Mopti, and Bamako with elections observers from the European Union (EU), the AU, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). MINUSMA reported no incidents in the second round of elections, but expressed concern that heavy rain may have impacted voting in many parts of the country. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On August 12th, presidential candidate Soumaila Cisse conceded the election to former Malian Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. While no official election results had been announced, all reports indicated Prime Minister Keita maintained a strong lead. In the first round of voting, Prime Minister Keita won 40% of the vote, while Cisse polled just 19%. The full story was shared [here](#).

On August 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf, addressing the presidential runoff elections in Mali, said Malians turned out in large numbers for the election despite weather concerns, and the U.S. commends people in the country for responding so enthusiastically and peacefully to the vote. Deputy Spokesperson Harf also noted a new, democratically elected government will allow the U.S. to reconsider financial aid to Mali. The full briefing transcript is available [here](#).

On August 13th, the *Washington Post* published an article examining the challenges facing newly elected Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. The article suggests President Elect Keita will need to address the Tuareg rebel problem as part of national political reconciliation efforts. President Elect Keita's inauguration is set for mid-September and talks with Tuareg rebels could begin in November. The article can be read [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On August 8th, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) acknowledged mistakes in the July 31st elections that resulted in President Robert Mugabe's election to a seventh term. According to the Commission, nearly 350,000 voters were turned away from the polls and 206,000 voters received assistance from election officials. More on the recognition of the errors can be found [here](#).

On August 9th, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party leader Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai filed a petition with Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court seeking to nullify the results of the presidential election on the basis of alleged vote rigging, electoral bribery, abuse of the special voting system, intimidation, and misuse of voter registration slips. Prime Minister Tsvangirai is seeking a new election within 60 days. Additional information is available [here](#).

On August 12th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe delivered a speech in the capital of Harare during Heroes' Day celebrations in the country. Addressing his recent election victory over Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, President Mugabe denounced any accusations of fraud and said the people of Zimbabwe delivered democracy through the vote. An article on the speech can be read [here](#).

On August 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the U.S. government has been in contact with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's Administration since his election victory over opposition candidate Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. However, she offered no update on the appeal process initiated by the MDC party. A full transcript of the briefing has been posted [here](#).

On August 14th, the *Zimbabwe Mail* reported on the challenges facing the MDC party following its loss to President Robert Mugabe, who defeated Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai for the third time. Prime Minister Tsvangirai has said he will not step down as the leader of the MDC. The article on the intraparty conflict can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, Zimbabwe's Electoral Court began hearing Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's challenge to the reelection of President Robert Mugabe. Prime Minister Tsvangirai has asked the Court to order the ZEC to produce all election materials in advance of the Constitutional Court's

consideration of the election challenge on Saturday. President Mugabe's swearing in has temporarily been put on hold due to the appeal. Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court has until August 23rd to settle the dispute, resulting in either a new election within 60 days or the swearing in of President Mugabe within 48 hours of the ruling. More information can be seen [here](#).

Nigeria

On August 11th, Boko Haram militants staged two simultaneous attacks in Nigeria, killing more than 50 people. Forty-four people were killed at a mosque in Konduga in Borno State and 26 others were hospitalized for gunshot wounds. Gunmen also launched a simultaneous attack in Ngom village, where an additional 12 people were killed. Details on both attacks can be viewed [here](#).

On August 13th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement condemning the violent attacks in Borno State. Secretary-General Ban said that dialogue and peaceful methods should be used to resolve differences between parties and no objective can be achieved through such violence. The statement has been posted [here](#).

Central African Republic

On August 13th, several U.N. entities expressed ongoing concern about the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR). An estimated 206,000 people are internally displaced in the CAR and close to 63,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on the Government of the CAR to improve security, while the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) emphasized the importance of restoring basic health services. OCHA also called for more humanitarian funding. Details are available [here](#).

On August 14th, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos briefed the Security Council on humanitarian conditions in the CAR. She warned the CAR is not yet a failed state, but has the potential to become one if swift actions are not taken to address the humanitarian situation. Under-Secretary-General Amos specifically noted the needs to address poverty and violence and to restore basic services. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On August 12th, the *Wall Street Journal* provided an update on the U.N. Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) (MONUSCO) enforcement of a security zone in Goma. More than 40 rebels have been arrested and their firearms recovered since the crackdown began late last week. A more detailed update can be read [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On August 9th, the State Department announced plans to re-open 18 of the 19 embassies and consulates that were closed in the Middle East and Africa due to the threat of terrorist attacks initiated by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. All of the embassies and consulates in Africa reopened, while the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen is expected to remain closed. The decision was announced [here](#).

On August 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Chad on its 53rd independence day. Secretary Kerry expressed interest in deepening U.S. partnership with Chad on countering terrorism, protecting human rights, and combating wildlife trafficking. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

On August 12th, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns officiated the swearing in ceremony for U.S. Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Congo (ROC) Stephanie Sullivan. The ceremony was listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be seen [here](#).

On August 13th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman departed on foreign travel to Abuja, Nigeria. From August 14th-16th, Under Secretary Sherman will lead the U.S.

delegation to the Regional Security Cooperation Working Group meeting of the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission (BNC). Under Secretary Sherman will also meet with Nigerian Government officials and civil society leaders. More information on Under Secretary Sherman's travel is available [here](#).

On August 14th, Patricia Haslach was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia. Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns officiated the swearing in ceremony, which was included on the Department's public schedule, found [here](#).

On August 15th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating the ROC on 53 years of independence. Secretary Kerry recognized the partnership between the U.S. and the ROC to work on regional stability and environmental issues, as well as human rights and economic ties. The full statement can be read [here](#).

Department of Defense

On August 9th, during his observations of Shared Accord Africa, U.S. Army Africa Commander Major General Patrick Donohue was interviewed about his experiences since assuming command eight months ago. A recording of the interview can be watched [here](#).

On August 9th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Public Affairs reported on the opening ceremony of Exercise Africa Endeavor 2013, held August 7th at Zambian Army headquarters in Lusaka. Military personnel from 30 African nations, as well as military delegates from North American and Europe will participate in the 10-day communications exercise that is meant to increase information sharing and interoperability between African nations. Information on the exercise can be found [here](#).

On August 12th, U.S. Army National Guard Specialist Zach Sheely reported on the role of translators in Exercise Africa Endeavor 2013, which involves African, North American, and European military delegates who speak various languages. The primary language of Africa Endeavor is English and because addressing the communications gap is a goal of the exercise, French and Portuguese translators are on site to assist. An article on the role of translators can be read [here](#).

On August 14th, AFRICOM shared a report on the close of Shared Accord 2013, a biennial training exercise between the U.S. military and South African Defense Forces (SANDF) intended to promote regional relationships, cross training, and interoperability. More than 4,000 troops participated in live fire scenarios, airborne operations, and humanitarian projects during this year's exercise. More information can be seen [here](#).

On August 15th, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) Public Affairs reported on a recent four-week logistics operations engagement completed by U.S. Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 and 80 Burundi National Defense Force soldiers. The goal of the exercise was to build communications, leadership, tactical combat casualty, motor vehicle transport and maintenance, and warehouse logistics skill in advance of Burundi soldiers' deployment to support the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The exercise was summarized [here](#).

Federal Bureau of Investigations

On August 9th, detectives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) joined Kenyan detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, the National Intelligence Service, the Ministry of Transport, and the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) in investigation the August 7th fire at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Detectives from Israeli Mossad are also expected to join the investigation as a precaution until terrorism is ruled out as a cause for the fire. Details can be viewed [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On August 8th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez and Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN) and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) sent a letter to South Sudanese President Salva Kiir expressing

concerns about the deterioration of human rights conditions. The letter suggests corrective actions focused on fostering peace, improving access to humanitarian aid, and holding human rights violators accountable. The letter can be found [here](#).

On August 8th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent a letter to former State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland requesting additional communications related to the talking points the Obama Administration approved following the September 2012 attack at the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

North Africa

On August 7th, Tunisian and Algerian officials concluded a series of meetings to discuss security coordination and the need to join all North African countries in the fight against terrorist threats. More information on the meetings is available [here](#).

On August 12th, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released information on preparations for more heavy rain in Sudan, especially as 150,000 people have already been affected by flooding. The U.N. has worked with partners to provide Sudan with relief items, including tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, water cans, and mosquito nets, in addition to mobile clinics, drinking water, and sanitation services. More information was posted [here](#).

On August 12th, former U.S. Attorney Joe DiGenova, who is representing witnesses to the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, said 400 U.S. surface-to-air missile were taken from Libya during the attack. He speculated the recent closure of U.S. embassies and consulates in the region resulted from the intelligence community's concerns that Al Qaeda operatives may use the missiles to shoot down airliners. The full story was shared [here](#).

On August 13th, members of Libya's ethnic Berber minority stormed the Libyan parliament building in Tripoli during a break in a regular session at the assembly. No casualties were reported, but windows were smashed, furniture was destroyed, and some legislative documents were reported missing. The incident was reported [here](#).

On August 13th, *Foreign Policy* published an article examining flashpoints in Libya's transition to democracy following the fall of Muammar Gadhafi in 2011. The article suggests Libya still faces several challenges, including militia violence, oil strikes, and failure of a constitution to materialize. The full article can be read [here](#).

On August 14th, Head of the joint AU-U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Special Representative Moahmed Ibn Chambas met with Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority Eltijani Seisi to discuss the recent uptick in violence between tribal groups in East Darfur. Ongoing disputes over land resources triggered renewed tensions between the Rezeigat and Ma'alia tribes earlier this month. The meeting was reported [here](#).

East Africa

On August 9th, independent experts for the U.N. called on the Government of Uganda to repeal the public management order bill that passed on August 6th because of the restrictions it places on rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The bill prohibits protests of or more than three people without prior police authorization and allows authorities to use guns for policing public events. More reactions to the bill can be seen [here](#).

On August 9th, Ugandan Police Inspector General Kare Kayihura announced an investigation into the theft of funds from the Vatican by fraudsters who are believed to have cashed the stolen money in at Ugandan banks. More than half a million dollars was reported stolen. One arrest has been made in connection with the case. The full story can be found [here](#).

On August 9th, an Ethiopian Air Force cargo plane crashed and caught fire when it attempted to land at an airport in Mogadishu, Somalia. The aircraft was carrying ammunition for international forces

opposing Islamic militants in the region. Four of the six crew members were killed in the crash. The full story is available [here](#).

On August 9th, poachers killed a pregnant rhinoceros in Nairobi National Park in Kenya – the first killing of a rhino in the national park in six years, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service. Next month, the Kenyan parliament is expected to consider a bill that would increase minimum fines and prison sentences for those who commit crimes against endangered or threatened species. More information has been posted [here](#).

On August 10th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced a temporary terminal with the capacity to manage 2.5 million passengers will be set up following the destructive fire at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The damage has forced the government to alter its expansion plan for the airport, as the scope of work must now include repairs to the damaged terminal. A full report on the announcement can be found [here](#).

On August 11th Kenya Airways CEO Titus Naikuni said the company has lost approximately \$4 million in revenue since last week's fire at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Since the fire, the airline continues to experience delays and cancellations, as well as a decline in passengers. Additional comments can be accessed [here](#).

On August 11th, *BBC* reported U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) humanitarian aid supplies worth nearly \$750,000 were stolen by the Al Qaeda-linked militant group Al Shabaab in Somalia in 2011. The article, which notes the investigation into the thefts was completed in the past 12 months, is available [here](#).

On August 13th, the *New York Times* reported on developments in the investigation of last week's acid attacks against two British volunteers in Zanzibar. One volunteer remains hospitalized in London, while the other has been discharged, but will return to the hospital for additional medical procedures. No arrests have been made and the motive for the attack remains a mystery. An article on the attack can be read [here](#).

On August 14th, relief group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) announced it is closing its operations in Somalia due to extreme abuses by armed factions and government indifference. Sixteen MSF staff members have been killed and dozens of attacks have been launched on MSF staff, ambulances, and medical facilities since 1991. The announcement on MSF's decision to end its presences in Somalia can be seen [here](#).

West Africa

On August 12th, Nigerian Foreign Minister Olugbenga Ashiru traveled to U.N. headquarters in New York City to sign the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty. Foreign Minister Ashiru said Nigeria is the first African country to sign the treaty, a sign of Nigeria's commitment to denying arms to terrorists, pirates, and bandits. Additional comments from Foreign Minister Ashiru can be viewed [here](#).

On August 13th, Nigerian Interior Minister Abba Moro said the country is making progress in its fight against Boko Haram militants. Speaking during *BBC's* "Focus on Africa" program, Minister Moro stated Boko Haram has become desperate in its attacks and the militants have been pushed from their major strongholds. More information on the violence in Nigeria can be read [here](#).

On August 14th, Nigerian military officials confirmed the death of Boko Haram commander Momodu Bama. Nigerian Defense Spokesman Gen Olukolade said Bama, who was one of the most-wanted members of Boko Haram and had a \$155,000 reward for his death or capture, was killed during fighting in Borno State. Details on Bama's death can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, the U.N. Security Council issued a presidential statement calling for a comprehensive regional approach to combat piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea. The Security Council also called on U.N. Member States to prosecute perpetrators in accordance with the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Excerpts from the presidential statement are available [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On August 9th, U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa Mary Robinson spoke to Radio Okapi, a radio station backed by MONUSCO. She expressed support for U.N. Resolution 2098, which extended MONUSCO's mission and approved the new U.N. intervention brigade. Comments from Special Envoy Robinson can be read [here](#).

On August 12th, UNICEF announced a scaling up of nutritional activities in Namibia, which is currently facing the worst drought in three decades. All 13 regions of the country are experiencing water shortages and more than one third of the population is facing food insecurity. Details on the situation in Namibia can be seen [here](#).

On August 12th, The Halo Trust, a charity organization championed by the late Princess Diana, reported Prince Harry is in Angola touring sites in Cuito Cuanavale where landmines remain from the 1975-2002 civil war. Prince Harry previously visited landmine sites in Mozambique in 2010. Information on Prince Harry's visit to Angola can be found [here](#).

On August 12th, a fishing vessel ran aground on Robben Island off the coast of South Africa. Twelve crew members between the ages of 18 and 52 were rescued and treated for hypothermia and shock. The South African Maritime Safety Authority is investigating the vessel's environmental impact to determine if the ship can be salvaged. The incident was reported [here](#).

On August 12th, just days before the one year anniversary of the Marikana mine killings, an off-duty female miner was shot and killed at Lonmin's Marikana mine. It is unclear whether the murder was motivated by ongoing tensions between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU). An article on the incident can be read [here](#).

On August 13th, MONUSCO confirmed reports that Kata Katanga rebels in the DRC murdered a human rights investigator in the region who condemned the group's abuses against civilians. MONUSCO condemned the arbitrary killing, but has yet to release the name of the victim and their affiliation. More information can be seen [here](#).

On August 13th, opposition parties in Zambia said a colonial-era Public Order Act has allowed the ruling party to halt opposition demonstrations in the country. The opposition parties say the government needs a completely new law. Comments from several opposition party leaders can be found [here](#).

On August 14th, CNN reported Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius will be served with an indictment in court next week following the completion of the investigation into the killing of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in February. On Monday, the court is expected to postpone the case while the prosecution and defense negotiate a trial date. Developments in the case were shared [here](#).

General Africa News

On August 12th, *BBC* reported, during its "Newsnight" program, on former U.S. President Bill Clinton's trip to Africa. President Clinton said U.S. efforts to improve health care in Africa far exceed the work of other countries, but noted China spends a great deal on basic economic initiatives. Regarding Rwanda and its alleged support of rebels in the DRC, President Clinton noted the matter has not been fully litigated and the eastern portion of the DRC is full of people who perpetuated the genocide in Rwanda. More information on the interview is available [here](#).

On August 13th, *Forbes* reported on efforts of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to promote a green revolution on the continent. AGRA is focused on the building the capacity of Africans to do agricultural research and offers grants for investments in capacity building and technology to local seed companies. More on AGRA's work in Africa has been posted [here](#).

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