



ML Strategies Update

ML
STRATEGIES

David Leiter

djleiter@mlstrategies.com

Georgette Spanjich

gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com

Dan Durak

ddurak@mlstrategies.com

ML Strategies, LLC

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004 USA
202 296 3622
202 434 7400 fax
www.mlstrategies.com

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On September 5th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fatah al-Sis for an update on the security situation in Egypt and progress on the political roadmap. The leaders discussed security in the Sinai Peninsula and agreed on the importance of the U.S.-Egyptian partnership in combating terrorism. They also discussed the implications of conditions in Syria for regional stability. A readout of the conversation was shared [here](#).

On September 5th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki condemned the assassination attempt made against Egyptian interim Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim. She expressed condolences to the families of victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery. Spokesperson Psaki also indicated the Egyptian Government is investigating the incident. A transcript has been posted [here](#).

On September 6th, despite the State Department's focus on congressional authorization of military strikes in Syria, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said Egypt remains an important issue. She reported on Secretary of State John Kerry's conversation with Egyptian interim Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy and noted the review of U.S. assistance to Egypt continues. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's comments can be viewed [here](#).

On September 8th, the 50-member committee charged with amending Egypt's constitution met for the first time and elected former presidential candidate Amr Mousa as its leader. Mousa was chosen over the Lawyers Syndicate Chief Sameh Ashour. The committee will also appoint deputy heads. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 8th, while on foreign travel to Paris, France, for the Ministerial Delegation of the Arab Peace Initiative, Secretary of State John Kerry met with interim Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil

Fahmy. Foreign Minister Fahmy said Egypt is on track to revise its constitution and schedule elections. He also expressed a commitment to counterterrorism, especially in the Sinai. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On September 8th, following reports that advisors to President Barack Obama have recommended ending U.S. aid to Egypt, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), an organization that has typically supported Egypt, articulated the group has yet to take a position on the continuation of U.S. assistance. Millions of dollars are at risk for U.S. defense companies that have traditionally provided Egyptians with arms through foreign military assistance. Details are available [here](#).

On September 9th, the Egyptian army began a full-scale assault of the militant regions of the northern Sinai desert. The offense comes after a Sinai militant cell claimed responsibility for last week's assassination attempt on the Egyptian Minister of the Interior, in addition to insurgent efforts that began following the July 3rd toppling of President Mohamed Morsi. Some speculate the military's aggression may spark greater insurgency, especially with civilian casualties on the rise. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On September 9th, a prosecutor in Giza ordered the arrest of 139 Muslim Brotherhood members who raided a police station in Kerdessa on August 14th and killed the police officers on site. Authorities have identified some of the suspects using video footage from the attack, but the investigation is ongoing. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 11th, two car bombs exploded by militants near military units in the Sinai Peninsula, close to the border with the Palestinian Gaza strip, killed six Egyptian police officers. A separate attack in the town of Rafah in North Sinai wounded an additional ten military officers and seven civilians. Developments in the violence in the Sinai were described [here](#).

On September 11th, Egypt's Prosecutor-General ordered the release of Rifaa al-Tahtawai, Chief of Staff to ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Al-Tahtawai was originally arrested under suspicion of connections to the deadly violence outside the presidential palace in December 2012. A full report can be accessed [here](#).

On September 12th, interim Egyptian President Adly Mansour extended the nationwide state of emergency by two months, allowing Egyptian security personnel greater authority to make arrests. A decision on continuing the nightly curfew is forthcoming. The interim government also announced new relief efforts aimed at economic growth and funded by finances committed by Gulf countries after President Mohammed Morsi's ouster. The new measures include relief for low-income families from school expenditures and a reduction in public transportation costs, as well as new spending on infrastructure and employment initiatives. More information is available [here](#).

On September 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf expressed opposition to the extended state of emergency in Egypt, reiterating the U.S. has been opposed to the nationwide state of emergency since its implementation. A transcript can be viewed [here](#).

On September 13th, the Middle East Institute will host a day-long conference entitled "Securing Egypt's Future." Morning sessions will focus on developing recommendations for steps political actors in Egypt should take to restore democracy and achieve political reconciliation. The afternoon sessions will explore social and economic issues that contributed to Egypt's revolution. A full agenda has been posted [here](#).

Libya

On September 4th, with the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi approaching, members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee used a hearing on Syria to probe the attack. The issue was raised by Representative Jeff Duncan (R-SC) who claimed the Administration's credibility is still tarnished by the attack in Benghazi. Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) accused the Administration of launching the Syria debate to distract from the remaining questions on Benghazi, and Representative Ron DeSantis (R-FL) criticized the Administration's response in Benghazi as weak compared to a proposed response in Syria. A

recording of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On September 8th, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) appeared on ABC's "This Week," to discuss the debate on use of military force to respond to chemical weapons attacks in Syria. Senator Cruz said the debate on Syria is distracting the U.S. from its focus on radical Islamic terrorism, including a lack of attention to achieving justice for the September 11th attack in Benghazi. Clips from the interview were recorded [here](#).

On September 9th, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) participated in a panel discussion hosted by Judicial Watch on unanswered questions pertaining to the September 11th terrorist attack on the U.S. facility in Benghazi. Representative Wolf discussed his efforts to launch a bipartisan select committee to further investigate the attack. His resolution now has 170 supporters. A recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).

On September 9th, the *New York Times* reported the Government of Libya continues to rebuff the efforts of the Obama Administration to detain the suspects indicted by the Justice Department for the September 11th attack in Benghazi. While police and government officials in Libya have been hesitant to target Ansar al-Shariah, the local Islamist group that joined the attack, critics of the Obama Administration have called for more pressure to hold attackers accountable. The full report can be read [here](#).

On September 10th, the White House announced Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Lisa Monaco has convened meetings over the past months to review security posture in advance of the 12th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and the one year anniversary of the attack on the U.S. facility in Benghazi. In a statement, the White House mourned the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, and Tyrone Woods, who were killed in Benghazi, and expressed commitment to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On September 10th, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little issued a statement regarding Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's participation in planning for the anniversary of September 11th and the attack in Benghazi. Press Secretary Little noted the Department of Defense (DOD), working with the Department of State, has increased security planning at U.S. embassies, including through the use of Marine Security Guards. He also said innovative force options have been developed at U.S. bases in Africa to respond to contingencies. The statement can be viewed [here](#).

On September 10th, in anticipation of the first anniversary of the Benghazi attack, 250 U.S. Marines were moved from Moron, Spain to Sigonella, Italy, to allow an expedited response to any unrest in Libya, if necessary. Military officials also suggested multiple ships in the eastern Mediterranean due to the heightened security situation in Syria could be available to respond to unanticipated crises in North Africa. News of the heightened alert was reported [here](#).

On September 10th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) wrote a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry threatening to subpoena Americans who were wounded in the terrorist attack in Benghazi if the State Department does not make the witnesses available to the Committee by September 24th. Representative Issa indicated the Committee is planning another hearing on the Administration's and said the Committee will produce a final report once it has access to all of the witnesses. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 10th, Freedom House, the Project on Middle East Democracy, and the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East hosted a briefing in conjunction with the first anniversary of the Benghazi attack on Libya's transition and the future of U.S.-Libyan relations. Presenters included former Libyan Interim Deputy Prime Minister Mustafa Abushagur, Director of Iraq, Iran, and North Africa Programs for the U.S. Institute of Peace's Center for Conflict Management Manal Omar and former State Department Special Coordinator for the Office of Middle East Transitions William Taylor. More information is available [here](#).

On September 10th, The Heritage Foundation held a discussion on the state of congressional and Administration investigations of the September 11th attack in Benghazi and improvements in

diplomatic security and intelligence sharing. Participants included former Representative Alan West (R-FL), Mary Habeck of the Johns Hopkins University School of International Studies (SAIS), and Steven Bucci and Peter Brookes of The Heritage Foundation. Details can be seen [here](#).

On September 11th, a car bomb was detonated outside a building in Benghazi that once housed the U.S. consulate. No casualties were reported, but the nearby Foreign Ministry building and offices of Libya's Central Bank were damaged. The attack has been denounced by Libya's Foreign Ministry as a cowardly terrorist act. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On September 11th, while participating in a memorial service for the 12th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks at the Pentagon, President Barack Obama paid tribute to the four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, who died in last year's attack in Benghazi. President Obama's remarks can be read [here](#).

On September 11th, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee scheduled a September 19th hearing to examine the findings of the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi. The Committee will receive testimony from ARB co-chairs, former Admiral Mike Mullen and Ambassador Thomas Pickering, as well as Mark Sullivan and Todd Keil, who served on the Independent Panel on Best Practices, and family members of the victims of the attack. The hearing was announced [here](#).

On September 11th, Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Martha Roby (R-AL) announced the Subcommittee will hold a hearing next week on the lessons learned from the attack in Libya and how they can be applied moving forward. The video message can be watched [here](#).

On September 11th, Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX) held a press conference where he suggested the Obama Administration's unwillingness to provide evidence or witnesses to the attack in Benghazi shows the White House is hiding something about the attack. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC) also issued statements pledging to continue gathering evidence on the attacks in Benghazi. More information was posted [here](#).

On September 11th, Media Matters for America issued its "Explainer: A Year of Benghazi Myths" report. The report chronicles media coverage of the investigation into the Benghazi attack over the past year and accuses conservative media outlets of promoting lies about the attack with the intent of weakening the credibility of Administration officials, including President Barack Obama and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The full report is available [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On September 5th, the United Nations (U.N.) provided an update on Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson's and Special Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Martin Kobler's participation in the Kampala talks hosted under the auspices of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Special Envoy Robinson and Special Representative Kobler urged a swift conclusion to the talks and progress on implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region. The update can be seen [here](#).

On September 5th, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete and Rwandan President Paul Kagame met on the sidelines of the ICGLR. Tensions between Tanzania and Rwanda have been on the rise over conflict in the DRC. According to a Tanzanian press statement, the bilateral talks were fruitful and resulted in the suspension of Rwanda's threat to increase road tolls on Tanzanian trucks entering the country. A report on the informal meeting was posted [here](#).

On September 5th, following a regional summit held in Kampala, Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa said peace talks between the Government of the DRC and M23 rebels will start by September 8th and conclude within 14 days. Details can be found [here](#).

On September 7th, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson called on the international community to help ensure there is no impunity for those accused of committing serious crimes in the DRC. U.N. Special Representative in the DRC Martin Kobler commended the decision made at ICGLR talks in Kampala to include the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) in the Joint Verification Mechanism (JVM), which monitors borders between ICGLR members. Special Envoy Robinson's and Special Representative Kobler's comments, which come after a briefing with MONUSCO's intervention brigade, a meeting with the Governor of North Kivu province, and a visit to the Mugunga camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), were noted [here](#).

On September 11th, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced an awareness campaign had been effective in influencing 557 children in the DRC to disaffiliate from armed groups over the past five months. While many children have been moved from Katanga province to temporary centers, others have been reunited with their families. The U.N. estimates an additional 1,500 children remain within the ranks of armed groups in the DRC. More information can be accessed [here](#).

Central African Republic

On September 4th, Central African Republic (CAR) Security Minister Jose Binoua announced a plan to collect illegal weapons across the country, targeting Seleka fighters and civilians who possess weapons outside security installations. The program will last ten days and result in the closing of boundaries within the capital and restrictions on travel between provinces. Minister Binoua encouraged Seleka fighters to turn over their weapons and warned of severe punishments for noncompliance. The initiative was announced [here](#).

On September 6th, representatives of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OCHA expressed concern for the increasing rate of human rights violations in the CAR. During recent travel to the region, U.N. observers were made aware of increased violence, including physical assaults, extortion, looting, torture, and arbitrary arrests. Additional observations were shared [here](#).

On September 9th, approximately 30 armed men loyal to former CAR President Francois Bozize, who fled to Cameroon, attacked the town of Bouca in an alleged attempt to regain power. Fighting between President Bozize's supporters and the ruling Seleka rebels increased the death toll to at least 73 people, up from at least 50 deaths resulting from fighting over the weekend. Details on the attack are available [here](#).

On September 10th, after a resurgence in armed violence this past weekend, CAR President Michael Djotodia announced on state radio the removal of Military Chief Jean-Pierre Dolle-Waya and his replacement by formal National Security Director Ferdinand Bombayake. News of the new military chief in the CAR was reported [here](#).

On September 11th, the U.N. condemned the killing of two aid workers who were attacked in Bossangoa. The relief workers were reporting to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). Following the attack, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in the CAR Kaarina Immonen called for the protection of all civilians and humanitarian personnel. The condemnation of the killings can be viewed [here](#).

Somalia

On September 7th, at least 15 people were killed and several others wounded when a car bomb went off near a popular restaurant in Mogadishu, followed by a suicide bomb detonated inside the eatery. The restaurant was known as a meeting place for government workers and journalists. Last September, 14 people were killed in a similar bombing attack at the establishment. The Somalia-based terrorist group Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the most recent attack. The incident was reported [here](#).

On September 7th, U.N. Special Representative in Somalia Nicholas Kay condemned the terrorist attack in the capital city of Mogadishu, which resulted in multiple casualties. Special Representative

Kay noted terrorism is a threat to the stability of Somalia, the region, and the world, and pledged the support of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to combatting terrorism. Feedback from Special Representative Kay can be accessed [here](#).

Kenya

On September 9th, following a vote in the Kenyan parliament for the country to withdraw from the Rome Statute, Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto departed Nairobi for The Hague to stand trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC). Before leaving Kenya, Deputy President Ruto articulated he planned to plead not guilty to charges alleging he masterminded post-election violence in 2007 and 2008. An article on Deputy President Ruto's departure can be read [here](#).

On September 10th, both Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto and Kenyan journalist Joshua Arap Sang plead not guilty before the ICC. Deputy President Ruto was charged with financing young men to murder, deport, and persecute supporters of the Party of National Unity in the Rift Valley following the December 2007 elections. Sang was accused of using his position at KASS FM to broadcast false news with the intent of fueling post-election violence. Details on the court proceedings can be found [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On September 9th, speculation arose that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe would announce a new cabinet this week, in advance of the opening of the new parliament on September 17th. Under guidance from Zimbabwe's new constitution, observers were hopeful that President Mugabe would appoint a cabinet including many new advisors balanced in terms of gender and the provinces they represent. Additional speculation on the forthcoming announcement was shared [here](#).

On September 10th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe appointed a new cabinet and announced the swearing in to be held on September 11th. Despite hopes the 26-member cabinet would include new faces, many of the ministers are allies of President Mugabe from previous appointments and no members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) were appointed. Jonathan Mayo, known for Zimbabwe's strict media laws drafted in 2002 was appointed Media, Information, and Broadcasting Services Minister and former Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa was appointed Finance Minister. The new cabinet also maintains the Ministry of Indigenisation, tasked with seizing the majority stake of foreign owned firms and giving them to black Zimbabweans. More information is available [here](#).

Mali

On September 5th, in a televised statement, new Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita appointed Oumar Tatam Ly Prime Minister. Ly is an economist by training and has served as Special Advisor to the Governor of the Central Bank of West African States and at the World Bank. He will replace Mali's interim Prime Minister Diango Cissoko. News of the appointment was featured [here](#).

On September 6th, the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) recognized the swearing in of new President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita as an important political milestone in Mali. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also said the recent elections in Mali represent an important step towards Mali's political recovery following the military coup, the uprising of Tuareg rebels, and a power grab by radical Islamists in the northern part of the country. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 6th, following the inauguration of new Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns signed a determination that a democratically elected government has resumed office in Mali. The determination has been transmitted to Congress, lifting the U.S. restriction on assistance to Mali that has been in place since March 2012. Bilateral development assistance to Mali will resume immediately as the Administration continues to assess security assistance. A press release on the resumption of aid to Mali can be read [here](#).

On September 8th, newly appointed Malian Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly announced a 34-member cabinet. The cabinet includes a new Department of National Reconciliation and Northern

Development. Also notable, the new cabinet includes four women ministers. In addition, former rebel leader, Zahibi Ould Sidi Mohamed, was appointed the new leader of the Foreign Ministry. More information on the new cabinet can be found [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On September 9th, the White House hosted a forum to announce the new Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking. Participants included Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton. The forum follows up on the commitments made by President Barack Obama during his trip to Africa to provide an additional \$10 million in regional and bilateral training and technical assistance to the continent to combat wildlife trafficking. Information on the forum is available [here](#).

On September 10th, President Barack Obama announced additional State Department nominations. Heather Higginbottom, who has been serving as an advisor to Secretary of State John Kerry, was nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. In addition, Larry Edward Andre, Jr., who most recently served as the Director of the Office the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, was nominated to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania and Helen Meagher La Lime, who currently serves as Director of Outreach for U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), was nominated to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Angola. A White House press release was posted [here](#).

State Department

On September 5th, the State Department issued a response to the Kenyan parliament's vote to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC). The written statement expressed support for rule of law and ensuring accountability for post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008. The State Department also noted Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's comments affirming Kenya's commitment to meeting international obligations under the Rome Statute. The response can be viewed [here](#).

On September 6th-9th, Secretary of State John Kerry was on foreign travel to Lithuania, France, and the United Kingdom (U.K.). During his trip, Secretary Kerry was expected to meet with European Union (EU) Foreign Ministers to discuss the situation in Egypt, among a range of other bilateral and global issues. Secretary Kerry's travel was announced [here](#).

On September 6th, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Deborah Malac participated in an event at Gray D. Allison School in Monrovia with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf launching Liberia's National Reading Campaign. The initiative seeks to improve reading skills in the country by helping students in Liberia to develop habits of reading. More on the kickoff of the reading campaign can be found [here](#).

On September 12th, Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp traveled to Juba, South Sudan, to attend a conference on "The Inauguration of the National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crimes of Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination in the Republic of South Sudan." Ambassador Rapp's participation was noted [here](#).

On September 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the U.S. is trying to confirm reports that Omar Hammami, a U.S. citizen who moved to Somalia with the intent of joining Al Shabaab, was killed. A transcript is available [here](#).

Department of Defense

On September 9th, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs reported on a military-to-military intelligence engagement recently completed at the Defense Intelligence College in Abuja, Nigeria. The exchange allowed 16 military officers and 12 civilian employees from the Nigerian Air Force, Navy, Directorate of State Security Services (DSSS), and National Intelligence Agency to observe demonstrations of U.S. biometric equipment. Details were reported [here](#).

On September 9th, Marine Corps Forces Africa reported on efforts to assist the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in preparing drill sergeants for the first round of recruit training since 2010. The refresher course, recently held at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, allowed seven AFL drill sergeants the opportunity to brush up on training fundamentals, including maintaining professional relationships, building leadership skills, and creating a productive learning environment. An article on the course was shared [here](#).

On September 9th, AFRICOM shared a story on a multi-national joint task force humanitarian effort completed in Eastern Cape province, South Africa. During the event, U.S. airmen coordinated with South African dentists to provide more 799 Air Force quality dental procedures to over 500 South African patients. More information on the humanitarian civic action event can be seen [here](#).

On September 12th, Marine Corps Forces Africa reported on the three-month deployment of sailors and Marines with Security Cooperation Task Force Africa Partnership Station 13. More than 90 U.S. military personnel of different occupational specialties went through months of training to participate in the international security cooperation initiative, which is focused on strengthening global maritime partnerships through military engagement and collaborative security in Africa. Details were posted [here](#).

On September 12th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) reported on the recent conclusion of a Topical Outreach Program Series (TOPS) symposium on security sector reform (SSR) hosted in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa and the DRC Community Chapter. The symposium attracted more than 120 participants for discussions on government transparency, accountability, effective communications, and the integration of women into security structures and organizations. A report on the symposium is available [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On September 12th, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing on “The Troubling Path Ahead for U.S.-Zimbabwe Relations.” Witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Shannon Smith, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa Todd Amani, and Arthur Gwagwa of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

North Africa

On September 5th, the African Union (AU) – U.N. Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) reported one of its patrols discovered the remains of a peacekeeper who went missing on August 25th. The peacekeeper was swept away by powerful currents while escorting World Food Programme (WFP) trucks responding to flooding in west Darfur. Three peacekeepers who supported the WFP relief initiative remained missing. Details were posted [here](#).

On September 9th, Algerian Energy Minister Yousfi Yousfi said an increase in Algeria’s gas reserves, including discoveries made as recently as last week, are promising and will result in increased revenues for the country. Algeria has an estimated 4 trillion cubic meters of gas reserves and produces roughly 50 billion cubic meters annually. In addition, Minister Yousfi announced Algeria’s first nuclear plant is still on target to come online in 2025. Comments from Minister Yousfi were transcribed [here](#).

On September 9th, dozens of armed men stormed the state assembly in Unity State, Sudan, blocking policymakers from accessing the building. The move came after 32 of 49 lawmakers signed a petition expressing a loss of confidence in the body’s current leader and as the full assembly was due to consider Speaker Simon Maguek Gai’s impeachment. The full story was reported [here](#).

On September 10th, following demonstrations calling for the immediate resignation of the Tunisian Islamist Government, National Constituent Assembly (NCA) President Mustapha Ben Jaafar announced the NCA will resume meetings focused on finishing a new constitution. On August 7th, NCA President Jaafar announced the suspension of activities until political negotiations resumed. The

reconvening of the NCA was announced [here](#).

On September 10th, UNAMID recovered the remains of a second peacekeeper who was reported missing after being swept away by strong currents while aiding flooding victims in Darfur. The search continues for two additional peacekeepers who were reported missing following the incident. Details can be seen [here](#).

East Africa

On September 6th, Twitter suspended the account of Somalia-based extremist group Al Shabaab after the group tweeted a threat to assassinate Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud. While Twitter will not comment on the suspension, the website maintains a policy that users are not permitted to make direct, specific threats of violence against others. Al Shabaab's Twitter account was previously suspended in January 2012 after a tweeting a threat to kill Kenyan hostages. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 8th, the Somali Government, in partnership with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the \$117 million "Go 2 School" campaign with the objective of enrolling an additional one million children in Somalia in the education system. School attendance rates in Somalia are among the lowest in the world, with only four of every ten Somali children currently attending school. Information on the new initiative is available [here](#).

On September 10th, Ugandan Minister for Energy Simon D'Ujanga announced a four-year, \$500 million initiative to double its power grid. The initiative, which is intended to expand Uganda's electricity infrastructure prior to the start of crude oil production in 2017, includes six transmission line projects, including lines within the domestic market, as well as separate lines to Kenya and Rwanda. Minister D'Ujanga also announced new hydropower milestones, including the start of work on the Karuma dam, the announcement of a dam project in Isimba, and the conducting of a feasibility for a third plant. Remarks from Minister D'Ujanga can be viewed [here](#).

On September 11th, Kenyan authorities and the U.N. announced the discovery of at least 66 trillion gallons of water in five massive aquifers that could improve access to water in the northern part of the country. The discovery is significant, especially as the U.N. estimates 17 million of 41 million Kenyans currently lack access to safe drinking water. An article on the discovery was posted [here](#).

West Africa

On September 5th, Ghana's Environment Protection Agency (EPA) refuted accusations made by environmental groups that oil operations have led to the deaths of five whales that have washed ashore over the past week. Oil companies in Ghana have refused to respond to the accusations. The full story was reported [here](#).

On September 5th, U.N. Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau Jose Ramos Horta briefed the Security Council on conditions in the country ahead of the elections scheduled for November 24th. While Special Representative Horta said elections may be delayed, if only for a brief time, he said the country remains calm and on track to constitutional order. Comments from Special Representative Horta can be read [here](#).

On September 6th, Nigeria's second highest ranking Anglican Archbishop Ignatius Kattey, and his wife, Eleme, were kidnapped near Port Harcourt. While authorities are investigating the abduction of Archbishop Kattey, his wife has already been abandoned by her captors. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 7th, Nigerian Military Spokesman Sagir Musa provided an update on the government's battle against extremists in the northeastern part of the country. Over the past week, troops launched a raid on an insurgent camp that killed at least 50 Boko Haram militants. Details on the raid can be viewed [here](#).

On September 7th, Cameroon's Navy concluded the OCTUPUS 2013 military training exercise, which

brought together Navy personnel off the coast of Limbe with the objective of improving the Navy's maritime strategies. The exercise was intended to build capabilities in combatting piracy and identifying hidden arms. A report on the exercise was shared [here](#).

On September 9th, *The Guardian* ran a story on women's political participation in Cameroon ahead of elections scheduled for September 30th. The upcoming local and parliamentary elections will represent the first time competing political parties have been pressured to enforce the 30% female quota target. An article on women's participation in the upcoming elections was posted [here](#).

On September 10th, U.N. Special Representative in Liberia Karin Landgren briefed the U.N. Security Council, applauding Liberia for its commitment to achieving peace and stability since the end of civil war in 2003. While recognizing Liberia's progress, Special Representative Landgren cautioned improvements are needed in the country's justice and security sectors to sustain good governance. Excerpts from the briefing can be seen [here](#).

On September 10th, Nigerian police officials announced digital registration of all vehicles in the country will begin on September 16th. The Policy Bio-metric Central Motor Registration (BCMR) is intended to result in a single database that can provide forensic information to investigations of terrorism, car theft, kidnapping, rape, on other crimes. The announcement was noted [here](#).

On September 11th, Nigeria President Goodluck Jonathan announced the dismissal of nine cabinet ministers. The departures include the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Education, Science and Technology, Housing and Urban Development, and National Planning. The cabinet reshuffling is the first since President Jonathan was elected in 2010. No reason was given for the changes. Details were shared [here](#).

On September 11th, Chinese multinational phone company, Huawei, introduced the Ascend P6 smartphone to the Nigerian market. The Ascend P6 is known as the world's slimmest smartphone. Huawei has indicated plans to continue to cater to smartphone users in Nigeria, especially as Nigeria boasted the greatest increase in mobile phone subscriptions on the continent in the second quarter of 2013, with 20 million new subscribers. The full story can be accessed [here](#).

On September 20th, the Embassy of Burkina Faso, GB Group Global, and the Wilson Center will host a discussion with President of Burkina Faso Blaise Compaore called "Consolidating a Culture of Peace in Africa: A Contribution to International Peace and Security." President Compaore is anticipated to present on the security situation in Burkina Faso and broader observations on implications for peace across the continent. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On September 5th, investors in South Africa announced plans to start building a \$194 million crude oil storage and blending terminal next year at Saldanha Bay in South Africa. The terminal, anticipated to be the largest on the continent, will begin operating by 2017. More information is available [here](#).

On September 6th, AngloGold Ashanti and Sibanye Gold South African workers ended their strike after accepting the industry's offer of a wage increase between 7.5% and 8%. Over the weekend, Harmony Gold also announced it was close to reaching a deal with striking employees and is optimistic for a return to normal operations this week. Developments on the strikes were reported [here](#).

On September 7th, "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," a film based on former South African President Nelson Mandela's life, previewed in its first international showing at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film received a 10-minute standing ovation. Details on the screening can be found [here](#).

On September 9th, the Hammarskjold Commission, the international group tasked with investigating the death of former U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, said there is new evidence to support reopening inquiries into the September 1961 plane crash in Zambia that killed Secretary-General Hammarskjold during efforts to broker a peace deal in the Congo. The Commission suggested U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) or Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recordings of the flight may be

available to determine if the plane faced an aerial attack. The recommendation was detailed [here](#).

On September 10th, American-based international ice cream confectionary Cold Stone Creamery finalized a master franchise agreement that will officially launch its business in South Africa. South Africa will become Cold Stone's third market on the continent. The company first launched in Egypt in June 2012 and expanded into Nigeria in September 2012. More information can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On September 9th, in recognition of World Literacy Day, the U.N. Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held an event at its headquarters in Paris, France, to bring together government, private sector, and civil society leaders working in education and literacy. Participants included government officials from Benin, Chad, Namibia, and Senegal. UNESCO's annual literary prize was also presented to winners from Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, and Namibia. More information can be viewed [here](#).

* * *

[Click here to view ML Strategies professionals.](#)

Boston | Washington www.mlstrategies.com

Copyright © 2012 ML Strategies. All rights reserved.

This communication may be considered attorney advertising under the rules of some states. The information and materials contained herein have been provided as a service by the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.; however, the information and materials do not, and are not intended to, constitute legal advice. Neither transmission nor receipt of such information and materials will create an attorney-client relationship between the sender and receiver. The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements or solicitations. Users are advised not to take, or refrain from taking, any action based upon the information and materials contained herein without consulting legal counsel engaged for a particular matter. Furthermore, prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

The distribution list is maintained at Mintz Levin's main office, located at One Financial Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02111. If you no longer wish to receive electronic mailings from the firm, please visit <http://www.mintz.com/unsubscribe.cfm> to unsubscribe.