



## ML Strategies Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **South Sudan**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir declared a state of emergency in Unity and Jonglei States where fighting continues between government forces and troops loyal to former South Sudanese Vice President Riek Machar. In addition, President Kiir designated eight negotiators to represent the South Sudanese Government in peace talks to be held in Ethiopia. Developments in South Sudan were reported [here](#).

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, in advance of approaching peace talks, United Nations (U.N.) Special Representative in South Sudan Hilde Johnson urged South Sudanese and rebel forces to take steps to end violence. Special Representative Johnson also indicated she has spoken with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom regarding agenda items for the talks, including cessation of hostilities, opening humanitarian corridors, releasing political prisoners, and protecting civilians. Comments from Special Representative Johnson were transcribed [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, *BBC News* reported that fighting continued in South Sudan, despite approaching peace talks. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) confirmed that Bor, the capitol city of Jonglei State, remained in rebel hands. Additional fighting was also reported in Unity State's western Mayom area and near South Sudan's northern oil fields. More than 194,000 people in South Sudan have been impacted by the violence. Developments were shared [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf opened the daily press briefing with an update on the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan. Deputy Spokesperson Harf reported the State Department ordered the departure of most remaining U.S. Government personnel from South Sudan, meaning the embassy is only offering limited emergency services. She also noted that U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan Susan Page remains in Juba, where she is in constant communication with South Sudanese officials and her foreign counterparts. In addition, she reported

that U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Ambassador Donald Booth is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for talks between the South Sudanese Government and loyalists to former Vice President Riek Machar held under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf can be seen [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the State Department announced \$49.8 million in additional humanitarian assistance for victims of the continuing crisis in South Sudan. The newly announced funding includes \$24.8 million for the Office of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$7.5 million for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Additionally, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide \$17.5 million to U.N. entities responding to the situation in Sudan, including the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Details were posted [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the State Department announced a further draw down of personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Juba, South Sudan. Because the Embassy in Juba will now be unable to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, Americans in South Sudan can access services through the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition to announcing the departure of additional diplomatic personnel from South Sudan, the State Department also expressed continuing support for the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Additional information is available [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) shared additional information on the assistance provided by the Department of Defense (DOD) to the Department of State regarding the transportation of U.S. Embassy personnel from Juba, South Sudan to Entebbe, Uganda. AFRICOM also announced soldiers from the East Africa Response Force (EARF) under the command and control of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) will continue to assist in providing security in Juba. Information from AFRICOM can be found [here](#).

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, UNMISS announced new efforts to address the fluid security situation in South Sudan, particularly in Bor, Malakal, Bentiu, and Juba. UNMISS announced the relocation of additional police, military, logistics support, civilian staff, and humanitarian aid to these critical areas, as well as the arrival of a U.N. Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) medical team to provide additional support at U.N. bases in Juba. The new UNMISS security measures were detailed [here](#).

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the State Department issued a statement announcing the start of IGAD peace talks between opposing South Sudanese parties in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Neither South Sudanese President Salva Kiir nor rebel leader former South Sudanese Vice President Riek Machar was expected to attend. The State Department suggested the talks should be used to make rapid, tangible progress on a cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access, and the status of political detainees. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, three Bangladesh military helicopters on loan from the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) deployed to Juba, South Sudan, carrying personnel and equipment to reinforce U.N. peacekeeping bases in the country. Details were posted [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry called South Sudanese President Salva Kiir to discuss advancing peace talks in Ethiopia. Secretary Kerry expressed support for the democratically elected government of South Sudan, pledging the U.S. will deny support to any parties looking to seize power from the South Sudanese Government. The leaders also discussed the need to halt fighting and protect civilians, as well as the release of political detainees. A readout of the conversation can be viewed [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, UNHCR reported as many as 2,500 people per day may be fleeing from South Sudan to Uganda as violence continues. Over the past month, 23,546 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda. Additional refugees have fled South Sudan for Ethiopia and Kenya. More information on South Sudanese refugees was shared [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Representative to South Sudan Hilde Johnson visited the internally

displaced persons camp at the UNMISS base in Malakal that is currently hosting more than 12,000 people displaced by violence. Meanwhile, U.N. Deputy Special Representative to South Sudan and Humanitarian Coordinator Toby Lanzer traveled to Bentiu in Unity State to assess humanitarian conditions. Information on the U.N. response in South Sudan can be accessed [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki provided an update on peace talks between opposing parties in South Sudan. She said the IGAD has presented the parties with a draft proposal on the cessation of hostilities and on the release of political detainees. While discussions on the cessation of hostilities have progressed, she noted disagreements remain surrounding the release of political detainees. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be found [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, speaking at an event in Accra, Ghana, to commemorate the first anniversary of the election of Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, Ghanaian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Hannah Tetteh announced that Ghana will be contributing troops to peacekeeping operations in South Sudan. Comments from Minister Tetteh were posted [here](#).

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Wilson Center will host a discussion on the crisis in South Sudan. Speakers will include former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Princeton Lyman, former U.K. Special Envoy and Ambassador to Sudan Alan Goulty, former USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Kate Almqvist Knopf, and Jon Temin of USIP. Event details can be seen [here](#).

### **Central African Republic**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, *The Pentagon Channel (TPC) News* ran a video story on the completion of U.S. airlift operations to the Central African Republic (CAR). Airlifts began on December 12<sup>th</sup>, following a request for assistance from France. U.S. military personnel supported 16 flights from Burundi to Bangui, carrying troops and equipment. The video can be watched [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Defense One* published an opinion piece written by former Secretary of State Madeline Albright on why the crisis in the CAR is important to U.S. security interests. Secretary Albright commended U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power's recent trip to the region, especially as addressing the situation in the CAR is critical to achieving the global responsibility to protect doctrine. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, UNHCR estimated nearly one million people have been displaced by continuing violence in the CAR. In addition, UNHCR reported conditions on the ground, including attacks targeting civilians, the presence of armed groups near displacement sites, and looting, are increasingly blocking access to humanitarian aid for those affected by the conflict. Feedback from UNHCR on the situation in the CAR was posted [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman briefed the Security Council on developments regarding the ongoing conflict in the CAR. Under-Secretary-General Feltman expressed concern for the lack of security and growing tensions between Christians and Muslims that may spill over the country's borders if not addressed. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the U.N. WFP resumed the distribution of food aid to more than 100,000 displaced people in Bangui. Food relief operations were put on hold on December 18<sup>th</sup> when aid deliveries were suspended following the storming of a food distribution site by armed attackers. Developments on food relief in the CAR were shared [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Rashad Hussain hosted an interreligious dialogue on the crisis in the CAR. The event connected religious leaders in the U.S. with religious leaders in the CAR. Participants agreed to further discussions and to work together to increase education and training on reconciliation and peacekeeping. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons Chaloka

Beyani called on the international community to up its response in the CAR to increase protection and humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons. The U.N. estimates nearly one million people are internally displaced in the CAR, including a disproportionate number of women, children, and people with disabilities. Comments from Special Rapporteur Beyani were published [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported that European Union (EU) diplomats are actively considering proposals to send between 700 and 1,000 troops to the CAR. Options for military engagement were outlined in a paper on possible responses to the continuing CAR conflict circulated by EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton. EU diplomats are expected to discuss the proposals during a meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. If a proposal is approved, European forces could be deployed to the region within the coming weeks. The EU proposals were outlined [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, rumors surfaced that transitional CAR President Michel Djotodia would announce his resignation at a summit of regional leaders held in N'Djamena, Chad. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for President Djotodia attempted to dispel the rumors. Should President Djotodia resign, there may be various political options for the transition, including allowing president of a National Transitional Council to serve as president or mandating that Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangye run the country until presidential elections are held. Speculation on President Djotodia's resignation was detailed [here](#).

### ***Democratic Republic of Congo***

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Colonel Mamadou Moustapha Ndala, who led the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) in their recent victory against M23 rebels in the DRC, was killed during an ambush in North Kivu province. Colonel Ndala died when a rocket hit his vehicle near the village of Mazizi. Colonel Ndala had recently been tasked with leading the FARDC in new operations targeting Liberation of Uganda (ADF-Nalu) rebels, who military officials believe are responsible for the ambush. Three additional FARDC soldiers were killed in the attack. Colonel Ndala's death was reported [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler issued a statement condemning the assassination of FARDC Colonel Mamadou Moustapha Ndala. In response to the attack, as well as the start of demonstrations against Colonel Ndala's killing, Special Representative Kobler also announced increased patrols in the DRC's North Kivu province. More on MONUSCO's response to the assassination of Colonel Ndala can be seen [here](#).

### ***Egypt***

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Egyptian prosecutors announced the investigation of allegations made by counterrevolutionary video-blogger Ahmed Spider that an Egyptian puppet appearing in a recent Vodafone Egypt television advertisement was sending coded instructions to Islamists terrorists. The multinational phone company has denied allegations that the puppet, Abla Fahita, was sending messages to terrorists and instead claims the advertisement is intended to explain how to reactive a Vodafone SIM card. The investigation was detailed [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Egyptian lawyers requested an International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation of potential crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Egyptian military-led regime since the overthrow of democratically elected Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in July. Lawyers have filed evidence with the ICC linking the Egyptian Government to the deaths of 1,120 protestors in 15 separate incidents between July 2013 and November 2013. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, The Carter Center issued a statement recommending actions in Egypt to ensure an inclusive constitutional reform process and a less polarized political environment ahead of the approaching constitutional referendum. The Carter Center recommended that Egyptian authorities reverse the crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition groups and rescind the new protest law. In addition, The Carter Center recommended widespread information sharing on the parameters of the upcoming vote. The statement can be downloaded [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the trial of deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi for charges related to the killing of protestors outside the presidential palace in December 2012 was postponed to February 1<sup>st</sup>. While state media reported dense fog prohibited President Morsi's travel from a prison near

Alexandria to the Cairo court, there is some speculation the trial may have been postponed to prevent new protests leading up to Egypt's constitutional referendum. The delay was reported [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Egyptian expatriates began voting as part of the referendum on Egypt's new draft constitution. Expatriates will be able to vote at Egyptian embassies around the world through January 12<sup>th</sup>. Voting in Egypt will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Details on the start of voting were shared [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama sent a number of presidential nominations to the Senate that had been returned to the White House in accordance with Senate rules at the end of the congressional session in December. Nominations sent to the Senate included those of Cynthia Akuetteh to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Gabon and to Sao Tome and Principe, Larry Edward Andrew, Jr. to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Dwight Bush to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, Mark Bradley Childress to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, Thomas Frederick Daughton to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Matthew Harrington to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho, John Hoover to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Michael Hoza to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon, Helen Meagher La Lime to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Angola, Eunice Reddick to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Niger, and Eric Schultz to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Zambia. The full list of nominees sent to the Senate can be viewed [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama issued a statement on the celebration of Coptic Christmas. In his statement, President Obama reiterated the U.S. Commitment to protecting Christians and other people of faith in Egypt and around the world. The full statement can be seen [here](#).

### ***U.S. Trade Representative***

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) published its annual year in review, highlighting 2013 achievements and laying out priorities for the 2014 U.S. trade agenda. The document notes USTR held exploratory discussions in 2013 on the possibility of initiating bilateral investment treaty negotiations (BIT) with several African countries. The U.S. already has BITs in place with Cameroon, the Republic of Congo (ROC), the DRC, Mozambique, and Rwanda, and exploratory discussions with partner states of the East African Community advanced significantly in the past year. The 2013 USTR review was published [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement congratulating Sudan on 58 years of independence. Secretary Kerry expressed the U.S. interest in continuing to work with Sudan to end internal conflicts, develop strong regional relationships, and address humanitarian crises. The full statement was shared [here](#).

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the State Department announced Coordinator of the Bureau of International Information Programs Macon Phillips' travel to Benin, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa from January 7<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Throughout his travels, Coordinator Phillips will meet with representatives from the telecom sector and civil society experts, as well as journalists and entrepreneurs on new media and digital engagement. He was also scheduled to meet with youth regarding the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (WFYAL). Coordinator Phillips' travel was announced [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the *Washington Post* reported State Department officials believe militiamen led by former Guantanamo Bay prisoner and leader of Ansar al-Sharia in Darnah Abu Saufian bin Qumu, participated in the September 2012 attack against the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. The State Department is expected to officially designate branches of Ansar al-Sharia in Darnah, Benghazi, and Tunisia as foreign terrorist organizations in the coming days. The full report can be read [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met with U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Egypt David Satterfield at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, *CBS News* reported the State Department renewed the lease for the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi in July 2012 without requiring the facility to meet normal security standards. According to the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi, the compound was exempted from security requirements because the State Department viewed it as a temporary, residential facility. While State Department officials confirmed the facility was exempt from normal standards, they also noted a long list of improvements made to the compound's physical security in advance of the attack. Details can be seen [here](#).

### ***Department of Defense***

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, DOD announced new policies on danger payments U.S. military personnel receive above their base pay for serving in certain high-risk areas. Egypt will continue to qualify as a service area eligible for danger payments. In addition, Liberia and Rwanda were declared no longer qualified as service areas eligible for danger payments. The policy changes were announced [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, CJTF-HOA published a profile on U.S. Staff Sergeant Deng Pour, a survivor of the 1983-2006 Sudanese civil war who ultimately became a U.S. Airman. Staff Sergeant Pour is currently deployed in Africa, where he serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge of CJTF-HOA religious affairs. Staff Sergeant Pour's story was further detailed [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the African Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) shared highlights from a panel on the drivers of Islamist extremism in northern Nigeria held as part of an ACSS roundtable discussion in December. Panelists agreed that militant groups in Nigeria, and most notably Boko Haram, are hindering the country's efforts to develop a national identity and unity. Additional highlights were noted [here](#).

### ***Securities and Exchange Commission***

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, DC U.S. Circuit Court Judges David Sentelle and A. Raymond Randolph suggested the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) conflict minerals rule, which would require U.S. companies to disclose their use of conflict minerals from the DRC, may be a violation of both the First Amendment and the SEC's scope of power. Details on the case were shared [here](#).

### ***U.S. Congress***

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the mother and uncle of Foreign Service Officer Sean Smith and the father of Security Officer Tyrone Woods hand delivered a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) urging House leaders to create a select committee to investigate the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya. Sean Smith and Tyrone Woods, as well as U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and Security Officer Glen Doherty were killed in the attack. Excerpts from the letter are available [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ) hosted U.S. Special Envoy to the DRC Russ Feingold for a briefing with Foreign Relations Committee members on recent developments in the DRC. The briefing was noticed [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) issued a press release in response to reports of the imminent designation of Ansar al-Sharia as a terrorist organization. Representative Royce welcomed the news of the terrorist designation and encouraged the Administration to confirm that Ansar Al-Sharia carried out the September 2012 attack against the U.S. facility in Benghazi. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) announced the Committee will hold a hearing to examine the ongoing crisis in South Sudan on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The

Committee plans to receive testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Assistant USAID Administrator for Africa Earl Gast. The hearing was announced [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hosted a hearing on the situation in South Sudan. Witnesses included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Lindborg, former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Princeton Lyman, John Prendergast of the Enough Project, and Kate Almquist Knopf of the National Defense University ACSS. A webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee held a hearing to receive testimony on the African Union's (AU) efforts to develop a regional economic community. Witnesses included Amadou Sy and Witney Schneidman of The Brookings Institution, Stephen Lande of Manchester Trade, and Peter Quartey of the University of Ghana. Hearing details are available [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, two U.S. basketball players were arrested by university guards on the campus of Benghazi University and brought by special forces to the Libyan army barracks. The arrests occurred as the bodies of one Briton and one New Zealander were found dead with gunshot wounds near the coastal area of Mellitah. A report on both incidents can be viewed [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Reuters* published an article regarding the negative impacts of the ongoing Western Sahara dispute on Moroccan solar projects. Morocco is looking to build solar plants and wind farms to generate 4 gigawatts by 2020, but two of five planned plants are slated for construction in disputed territory in the Western Sahara region. As a result of the territorial disputes, Morocco has faced challenges in securing project financing. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly (NCA) started reviewing the country's new draft constitution and voting to approve the new language article by article. The voting process will conclude on January 14<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the third anniversary of the Tunisian revolution. Each article requires a majority vote to pass. Once each article has been voted on, the constitution will be voted on as a whole, requiring a two thirds vote for passage. Should the NCA fail to pass the new constitution, the document will be put up for public referendum. Details can be seen [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Egyptian Minister of Antiquities announced the discovery of the tomb of an ancient beer brewer in Luxor that is more than 3,000 the years old. The tomb was found by Japanese archeologists who were exploring the nearby tomb of the grandfather of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. The discovery was announced [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Tunisian Islamist Prime Minister Ali Larayedh expressed his readiness to step down as soon as consensus is achieved on the nine members of an election commission, as part of Tunisia's democratic transition. Tunisia's ruling Ennahda party and political opponents have agreed to turn authority over to a caretaker government by January 14<sup>th</sup>, which will mark the third anniversary of the country's revolution. Details were reported [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, *The Africa Report* ran a story on the New Africa Center, expected to launch this year in New York City. The \$60 million project, funded primarily by Sudanese-British mobile communications entrepreneur Mo Ibrahim, will include an African art museum, policy institute, and members' club. Project details were shared [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Tunisian Prime Minister Ali Larayedh submitted his resignation to Tunisian Caretaker President Moncef Marzouki. President Marzouki is expected to task Minister of Industry Mehdi Jomaa with forming a new cabinet. Prime Minister Larayedh's resignation was announced [here](#).

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the International Institute for Strategic Studies' (IISS) Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) will hold a panel discussion entitled, Toppling Gaddafi: Libya and the Limits of

Liberal Intervention. Panelists will include Christopher Chivvis of RAND Corporation, former Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden Julianne Smith, and Ben Fishman of IISS. Event logistics are posted [here](#).

## **East Africa**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Tanzanian Finance Minister William Mgimwa died at a hospital in Pretoria, South Africa, ending a long struggle with an unspecified illness. Minister Mgimwa previously served as a member of the Tanzanian parliament and worked at the National Bank of Commerce. Deputy Finance Minister Saada Mkuya Salum will continue to serve as Acting Finance Minister, a position she has held since Minister Mgimwa was admitted to the hospital. Minister Migimwa's passing was announced [here](#).

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, at least 11 people were killed and 17 others wounded when three bombs exploded outside of the Jazeera hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia. At least one of the bombs was detonated by a suicide bomber. The hotel is popular with many Somali Government officials. While no terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack, investigators believe Al Shabaab may be involved. Details are available [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the U.N. Security Council condemned the bombing of the Jazeera hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia. Officials also reiterated the U.N. commitment to assisting Somalia in achieving greater peace and stability, especially through bringing the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of terrorist acts to justice. The U.N. reaction to the attack in Somalia was described [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at least eight people were wounded during a grenade attack on a bar on a resort in the Kenyan town of Diani. While no terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack, local law enforcement officials noted Al Shabaab, based primarily in Somalia, has launched a number of recent attacks in Kenya, including the September 2013 attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. The incident was reported [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tanzania officials detained two people after seizing a consignment of illegal ivory at a port in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania's Port Authority and Tourism Ministry reported confiscating 81 elephant tusks. Additionally, Tanzanian Deputy Tourism Minister Lazaro Nyalandu said poaching has been on the rise since the country's proposed shoot-to-kill policy against poachers was suspended in October out of concern for human rights abuses. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde concluded a three-day visit to Kenya for meetings with investors, diplomats, and civil society organizations. Managing Director Lagarde encouraged Kenya to decentralize management and fiscal powers, prioritize investments in infrastructure, and pursue a leadership role in regional economic integration. Details on Managing Director Lagarde's trip to Kenya were posted [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay issued a statement applauding the election of a new president of Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region. Special Representative Kay congratulated President-elect Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas on his appointment by Parliament and expressed optimism for an ongoing peaceful transition of power. Special Representative Kay's statement can be read [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, newly appointed Somali Prime Minister Abdiwali Sheikh Ahmed was expected to announce a new cabinet consisting of 20 ministers. Four ministers from the previous cabinet are expected to be announced as members of the new cabinet. The cabinet must be approved by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud, as well as the Somali parliament. Speculation on the announcement was reported [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Al Shabaab issued a directive on the Facebook page for its Al-Andalus radio station ordering all mobile Internet and fiber optic services firms in Somalia to shut down all services within the next 15 days. Al Shabaab cautioned that companies and individuals who do not comply will be viewed as working with the enemy and dealt with according to Islamic law. More information was



shared [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which was established by the Government of Sierra Leone and the U.N. in 2002 to ensure accountability for war crimes committed during the country's civil war, closed in Freetown. The SCSL will be replaced by the Residual Court for Sierra Leone, which will be tasked with addressing the ongoing legal obligations of the tribunal, including the review of applications of convicts for early release. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Reuters* published an opinion piece authored by Nigerian economist Tony Elumelu outlining recommendations for addressing Africa's unemployment challenge. Elumelu suggests entrepreneurs, politicians, philanthropic foundations, and development organizations work together to promote policy reform and commitment to rule of law, investment in infrastructure, and growth of Africa's manufacturing and processing industries. The full op-ed can be accessed [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, a fuel tanker explosion and fire in Lagos, Nigeria killed 15 people and wounded several others. In addition, 60 shops were destroyed by fire that followed the initial explosion. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde arrived in Bamako for a three-day visit to Mali. Managing Director Lagarde was scheduled to meet with President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly, as well as other government officials and civil society leaders. A press release on Managing Director Lagarde's travel to Mali was issued [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, *Venture Burn* reported that Nigerian ecommerce website Jumia co-founders Tunde Kehinde and Raphael Afaedor will leave the company in mid-January to pursue other ventures. Rumors regarding the shakeup at Jumia have seen other ecommerce companies in Nigeria, including Shoppi.ng, increasing their efforts to compete in Nigeria's ecommerce market. More information was reported [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, peer-reviewed scientific journal *PLOS ONE* published a new study finding that lions in West Africa are critically endangered and now occupy only 25% of their historic range. In addition, the study calls for new conservation efforts to protect lions in the region. The full study is available [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian comedian Basketmouth continued to experience public backlash after posting an inappropriate joke about rape on social media. While Basketmouth has claimed that he made the joke about the difference between dating white girls and African girls to call attention to an important social issue, commentators continue to suggest the joke was made in poor taste given the prevalence of sexual violence in parts of Nigeria. The incident was noted [here](#).

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, South Africa National Parks (SANParks) officials responded to public criticism after deciding to kill an elephant that attacked two tourists in Kruger National Park. SANParks Spokesperson William Mbasa said the elephant was discovered to have been in musth, likely triggering higher levels of aggression. The aggression may have also been caused by an injury sustained by the elephant. Details were shared [here](#).

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the body of the former head of Rwanda's external intelligence service Colonel Patrick Karegeya was found strangled to death in the Michelangelo Towers hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. Colonel Karegeya had been living in South African in exile since 2007. Colonel Karegeya's assassination was reported [here](#).

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rwandan dissidents accused Rwandan President Paul Kagame of ordering the assassination of Rwanda's former spy chief Colonel Patrick Karegeya. Meanwhile, supporters of President Kagame in the Rwandan National Congress (RNC) denied allegations that government officials target opposition leaders. The accusations were detailed [here](#).

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) announced the purchase of the rights to the film *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* from The Weinstein Company (TWC). While the film is not expected to air on television for at least three years, it has picked up a number of Golden Globe nominations and is expected to be recognized at the Oscars. The sale was announced [here](#).

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said she had no sympathy for slain former Rwanda spy Chief Colonel Patrick Karegeya, who she labeled a self-declared enemy of Rwanda. In addition, while denying any reference to Colonel Karegeya's assassination, Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Habumuremyi tweeted a warning that betraying one's country will always result in consequences. More feedback to Colonel Karegeya's slaying was reported [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) celebrated its 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. Celebratory events, hosted by the ANC's top six officials, were held in the four regions of Mpumalanga. In recognition of the anniversary, South African President Jacob Zuma said the ANC, which has been South Africa's ruling party since 1994, will continue to rule the country forever. Celebrations of the ANC's anniversary were described [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, renewed fighting was reported between government forces and Renamo (The Mozambican National Resistance) rebels in Mozambique. Witnesses reported that violence in the southern province of Inhambane is forcing residents to flee their homes. Both government forces and Renamo have reported casualties in the latest bout of fighting. Developments in Mozambique were shared [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, *Law 360* reported on the growing interest of U.S. law firms in opening offices in Africa. As economic recovery in the U.S. continues at a slow pace, Africa is increasingly seen as an attractive market due to faster economic growth that is spurring significant investment in energy and infrastructure projects. President Obama's Power Africa initiative, announced during the President's trip to the continent this past summer, is also increasing law firms' interest in Africa. Details can be seen [here](#).

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, *Forbes* reported on the growing wealth of Africa's richest billionaires throughout 2013. The largest gains were made by Nigerian businessman Aliko Dangote, whose net worth increased from \$12.8 billion at the end of December 2012 to \$22.9 billion at the close of 2013. The second biggest gainer was Angolan investor Isabel Dos Santos, the daughter of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who is estimated to be worth \$3.7 billion. Information on additional African billionaires was reported [here](#).

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, tens of thousands of African migrants, including many from Sudan and Eritrea rallied in Tel Aviv, Israel, calling on the Israeli Government to offer them asylum. The Government of Israel views the estimated 50,000 African workers as illegal migrants and has offered a cash incentive to refugee seekers who agree to return to their home countries in Africa. An article on the demonstrations can be read [here](#).

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Brookings Institution held a briefing on top priorities for Africa in 2014. Panelists included Vice President for Africa at the World Bank Makhtar Diop, former U.S. Ambassador to the DRC and Nigeria Robin Renee Sanders, Ghanaian social entrepreneur and founder and President of the mPedigree Network Bright Simons, co-Founder of the Enough Project John Prendergast, and Africa Growth Initiative Senior Fellow Amadou Sy. Event information can be found [here](#).

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, *Forbes* profiled the ten leading family businesses in Africa. While family business accounts for a significant portion of the African economy, spanning the luxury goods, construction, agriculture, banking, and retail sectors, few African family businesses experience longevity. The most successful African family businesses were identified [here](#).

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a delegation including representatives of 29 Japanese businesses departed on foreign travel to Africa, with scheduled stops in Ivory Coast,

Mozambique, and Ethiopia. While Japan has pledged significant aid to Africa and made billions of dollars of private investments on the continent, Prime Minister Abe's travel is mostly likely inspired by Japan's desire to compete with China's growing influence in Africa. Prime Minister Abe's trip was detailed [here](#).

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