



ML Strategies Update

David Leiter, djleiter@mlstrategies.com
Georgette Spanjich, gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com
Madeleine Herr, mherr@mlstrategies.com

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

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Africa Update

Leading the News

Burundi

On June 19th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence Pablo de Grieff presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council on the situation in Burundi. Special Rapporteur de Grieff said Burundi has recently seen blatant failures to respect freedom of expression and assembly, citing the lack of transparency in political parties, disregard for the judiciary, ignorance for the rights of citizens, and increased manipulation of ethnicity, that could jeopardize the upcoming elections. In response, he called for greater global efforts to ensure independent monitoring and reporting and for all Burundian parties to safeguard fair elections and keep protests peaceful. Excerpts from the briefing were highlighted [here](#).

On June 20th, 11 Burundian police officials were wounded in a string of overnight grenade attacks in Bujumbura. The attacks took place in the districts of Citiboke, Nyakabiga, Musaga, and Jabe, which have been at the center of the unrest over the past several weeks related to President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term. Police blamed the attacks on demonstrators opposed to President Nkurunziza's candidacy and responded with gunfire. Details were reported [here](#).

On June 21st, U.N. Special Representative and head of the U.N. Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) Abdoulaye Bathily arrived in Bujumbura, Burundi to support regional efforts to reduce tensions and help Burundians peacefully settle their differences. While in Burundi, Special Representative Bathily is expected to work closely with representatives of the African Union (AU), the East African Community (EAC), and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to achieve a solution to the political crisis in Burundi. His arrival in Bujumbura was announced [here](#).

On June 21st, additional grenade attacks in Bujumbura, Burundi killed four people, increasing tensions ahead of the June 26th parliamentary elections and the presidential election slated for July 15th. A grenade attack on a bar in Ngozi killed four people and wounded 27 others, while a blast near a bank in Kirunfo injured two people. Another grenade attack in the Musaga district of Bujumbura also wounded a police officer. An update on grenade attacks in Bujumbura was provided [here](#).

On June 22nd, the European Union (EU) warned Burundi it might impose sanctions on those responsible for violence and take other steps to address the tensions caused by President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term. EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg agreed to take targeted restrictive measures against those whose actions might have led or might lead to acts of violence and repression and human rights violations in Burundi. EU leaders also suggested ongoing tensions could lead to the suspension of some aid to the country. The EU currently funds about half of the country's annual budget. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, Burundian Vice President Gervais Rufyikiri fled the country, claiming he felt threatened after opposing President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek a third term, a move Vice President Rufyikiri argued is unconstitutional. Vice President Rufyikiri first fell out of favor with the ruling National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party in April when he said he could not support President Nkurunziza's reelection. While the Burundian Government has tried to link Vice President Rufyikiri to the May coup attempt against President Nkurunziza, it denies any intimidation as Vice President Rufyikiri suggests. The full story is available [here](#).

Libya

On June 18th, Sahara-based Islamist group al-Mourabitoun explicitly denied reports that Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar had been killed in a recent U.S. air strike in Libya. The group released a statement indicating Belmokhtar was not present in the area targeted by the raid. On June 14th, the internationally recognized Libyan government announced that Belmokhtar, the alleged mastermind of 2013 attack on an Algerian gas field, was killed. U.S. officials have confirmed Belmokhtar was the target of the strike, but have yet to confirm his death. The full story is available [here](#).

On June 22nd, the self-declared Libyan government in control of Tripoli launched air strikes against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters in Sirte. Officials said the attacks carried out late Sunday night and into Monday morning targeted an internal security building where ISIL fighters had gathered. According to witnesses, the air strikes were successful and many militants were wounded. The air strikes were reported [here](#).

On June 23rd, U.N. Special Representative for Libya and head of the U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Bernardino Leon met in Misrata with representatives of armed groups to stress the importance of local ceasefires and reconciliation agreements as part of the draft political agreement to end the conflict in Libya. The meeting was held as part of UNSMIL's broader efforts on the security track of the Libyan dialogue. UNSMIL is in the process of planning similar meetings in other regions, including in Zintan, as well as a meeting with representatives of the Libyan army and armed groups from regions in the east to be held in Cairo, Egypt. An update on the Libyan peace process was provided [here](#).

On June 24th, Libya's elected parliament voted to continue participating in the U.N.-led political dialogue after calling for amendments to the proposed power-sharing deal aimed at ending the conflict between the country's two rival governments. The Libyan House of Representatives agreed to amendments to the last draft of the U.N. proposal with the support of 66 of 76 voting members. The amendments were intended to weaken the powers of the proposed second body and make membership balanced between the two factions. The parliament of the self-declared government, the General National Congress (GNC), is also expected to consider its own amendments before returning to Morocco for the next round of peace talks. For more information, click [here](#).

Nigeria

On June 17th, following the Chadian air strikes conducted against six Boko Haram bases in Nigeria in retaliation for two suicide bombings that killed at least 34 people in Chad last week, Nigeria denied that any attacks hit targets within Nigeria, saying the strikes likely landed in Niger. Statements from both Chadian and Nigerian military spokesmen can be seen [here](#).

On June 19th, the U.S. Department of State condemned the attacks by Boko Haram in Lamana, Boulamare, and Goumao, Niger, that killed approximately 40 villagers, including women and children, and offered condolences to the Government of Niger and the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives. The State Department noted Boko Haram has perpetrated countless unprovoked attacks on

men, women, and children in their homes, schools, places of worship, and business. Additionally, the State Department reiterated its commitment to working closely with partners in the region to root out the threat posed by Boko Haram. A statement was issued [here](#).

On June 23rd, a female suicide bomber believed to be 12 years old killed at least ten people in an attack on the weekly market in Wagir in Yobe state, Nigeria. Another 30 people were injured by the blast. The incident at the market came a day after a girl thought to be 17 years old killed at least 20 people at a bus station near a fish market in the Borno state capital of Maiduguri when she detonated the explosives she was carrying. Security analysts believe both attacks were orchestrated by Boko Haram. The bombings were noted [here](#).

On June 24th, the U.S. Department of State offered sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the victims of recent attacks in Borno state, Nigeria that resulted in more than 40 deaths. The State Department condemned the continued and widespread violence inflicted by Boko Haram on innocent men, women, and children in Nigeria and said those responsible must be held accountable. Additionally, the State Department commended the militaries of Chad, Niger, and Cameroon for the gains they have made in fighting Boko Haram and encouraged the Government of Nigeria to take steps to secure and govern liberated areas by filling in behind military success with police and civilian administrations. Feedback from the State Department was shared [here](#).

On June 25th, the Nigerien Ministry of Defense announced it killed 15 Boko Haram militants in land and air operations and took another 20 fighters captive. An armored vehicle and 26 motorcycles in Boko Haram possession were also destroyed in the raid. While the Defense Ministry declined to detail the exact location of the operation, Boko Haram has been active in the southeastern part of Niger, near Lake Chad and the Nigerian and Chadian borders. The latest Nigerien offensive against Boko Haram was detailed [here](#).

On June 25th, gunmen shot and killed two police officers and abducted two Lebanese nationals from a construction site in the Ogbia area of Bayelsa state, Nigeria. The local police launched a manhunt for the kidnappers and their victims and encouraged Bayelsans to go about their daily routines. The attack occurred in the same area where three expatriate construction workers were kidnapped in November. Details can be seen [here](#).

Mali

On June 18th, the U.N. Security Council expressed support for the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and said it looked forward to the armed groups of the Coordination of Movements of Azawad (CMA) signing the accord the coming weekend. The Security Council also voiced concern over the security situation in eastern Mali and urged armed groups to withdraw their forces. A press statement was issued [here](#).

On June 19th, pro-government militias known as the Platform coalition withdrew from Menaka in northern Mali after Tuareg separatist rebels agreed to sign a peace deal. The groups planned to sign the agreement on June 20th. Western powers appeared optimistic that the finalization of the peace deal will allow Mali to refocus resources to fighting Islamist militants. Details were shared [here](#).

On June 19th, the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) welcomed the announcement made by the armed groups of the Platform coalition to withdraw from the town of Menaka in accordance with the arrangements for a cessation of hostilities. In coordination with the relevant authorities, MINUSMA said it would accelerate the implementation of security provisions included as part of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali around the area of Menaka. MINUSMA's response was articulated [here](#).

On June 20th, the CMA alliance of Tuareg-rebels and the Malian Government signed the Algerian-brokered peace deal intended to help bring stability to the northern part of the country which has been home to Al Qaeda linked terrorist organizations. While an earlier version of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali had been signed by the government in May, the CMA delayed its approval until amendments were adopted to allow for greater autonomy for northern Mali. The signing of the peace deal was acknowledged [here](#).

On June 20th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the signature of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali by the CMA coalition of armed groups in Bamako. Secretary-General Ban said that signature by all groups paves the way for peace and urged all parties to continue to work in good faith to advance progress and to fully implement the provisions of an earlier ceasefire. He also congratulated the Algerian-led mediation team for their efforts to bring the signing process to successful completion. Secretary-General Ban's comments were recorded [here](#).

On June 21st, the U.S. Department of State congratulated the Malian people, including the parties to the peace negotiations undertaken in Algiers, Algeria, for the full signature of the Accord for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, signed on Saturday in Bamako. The State Department commended the parties for their commitment to compromise and to resolving their differences through dialogue. Further, the State Department thanked the Algerian Government for serving as the lead mediator throughout the negotiations and underscored its continuing support for MINUSMA as the peace agreement is implemented. Feedback from the State Department can be viewed [here](#).

On June 23rd, U.N. Special Representative for Mali and head of MINUSMA Mongi Hamdi briefed the U.N. Security Council on recent developments in Mali. Noting that all parties had signed the Accord for Peace and Reconciliation, Special Representative Hamdi called on the global community and financial institutions to help support its implementation. While welcoming the signing of the peace agreement, as well as the withdrawal of the Platform from Menaka, Special Representative Hamdi expressed concern for the recent violence in the northern part of the country that has caused massive population displacements. The briefing was summarized [here](#).

South Sudan

On June 17th, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director Anthony Lake issued a statement calling for an immediate halt to the unspeakable violence against children in South Sudan. As many as 129 children from Unity state were brutally killed over three weeks in May and an estimated 13,000 children have been forcibly recruited into armed groups. Details on the situation can be found [here](#).

On June 22nd, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported that five internally displaced persons (IDPs) were shot on Saturday at a marketplace adjacent to the U.N. civilian protection site in Juba. Four of the victims were seriously wounded and taken to a clinic inside the U.N. site for medical treatment. The shooting occurred on the sixth consecutive day that U.N. aircraft have been denied by local armed forces the permission to land a UNMISS support base near the town of Nassir in Upper Nile state. More information was reported [here](#).

On June 23rd, South Sudanese Minister of Health Riek Gai Kok reported 18 cholera deaths in Juba in the last three weeks. Minister Kok said the capital has seen more than 170 suspected cholera cases so far in the current outbreak, while the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 167 cholera deaths in South Sudan last year. In response to the latest outbreak, Minister Gok said cholera treatment centers have been set up at Juba's teaching hospital and at a clinic at the U.N. site housing civilians, while the WHO and other aid organizations are conducting vaccination campaigns. Details can be accessed [here](#).

On June 24th, UNICEF warned the cholera outbreak in South Sudan is threatening children in the country, including many who have already been displaced by the ongoing conflict. According to UNICEF, two of the most recent cholera victims were children under the age of five. UNICEF expressed concern that as many as 5,000 children under the age of five are at risk of dying from cholera unless urgent action is taken to combat the disease. UNICEF is engaged in a series of urgent interventions aimed at increasing awareness on how to prevent, detect, and treat cholera. The situation was detailed [here](#).

African Migrant Crisis in the Mediterranean

On June 19th, *Reuters* reported that Agadez, Niger is a key transport city for West African migrants on their way to Europe. Roughly 100,000 migrants are expected to go through Niger this year into Libya and eventually on to Europe. European powers are looking to Niger to crack down on police corruption that allows smugglers essentially free passage across the Sahara. Many in Agadez see smuggling as their only economic option. The Nigerien Government recently enacted a new law to combat migrant

smuggling. An article on the situation can be read [here](#).

On June 22nd, EU foreign ministers met in Luxembourg and agreed to use submarines, warships, drones, and helicopters in an operation to gather intelligence on gangs who smuggle asylum seekers to Europe from Libya. The operation will launch in an intelligence gathering phase until it obtains the appropriation U.N. authorization. An earlier proposal had envisioned disrupting, capturing, and destroying smuggler shops. The full story is available [here](#).

On June 23rd, after EU leaders agreed on a plan for combating smugglers helping African migrants depart Libya for Europe, Libya's internationally recognized air force warned European countries that any vessels entering Libyan waters without permission would be targeted by air strikes. Securing consent from Libya for counter-smuggling operations has been a challenge for the EU as control of Libya remains divided between two rival governments. Libya's reaction to the EU proposal was outlined [here](#).

On June 23rd, the Italian coast guard said it had rescued more than 2,700 migrants from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean on Monday. A coast guard spokeswoman said ships from several European countries went to the aid of 18 different boats carrying a total of 2,741 migrants. The latest rescue mission follows an incident over the weekend in which an additional 300 African migrants were rescued. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 25th, the internationally recognized Libyan government said it planned to send a delegation to meet with EU officials regarding EU proposals to address migrant smuggling. A spokesman for the Libyan government said territorial sovereignty would be a red line in any operation and noted the Libyan government planned to offer its own proposals to address the issue. Details can be viewed [here](#).

West Africa Ebola Outbreak

On June 18th, Denise Rollins of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Africa Ebola Unit authored a blog post detailing her recent trip to Liberia, Sierra, and Guinea with USAID Associate Administrator Eric Postel to observe USAID's efforts on the ground, meet with officials, and hear from communities about the response. Following her trip, Rollins said getting to zero Ebola cases is critical and the goal for USAID is helping these countries end the epidemic, get back on track, and be better prepared to stop any future outbreaks before they become epidemics. The blog post can be accessed [here](#).

On June 19th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) highlighted the lessons learned from Operation United Assistance (OUA) in fighting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Noting that OUA was launched in September 2014 and tasked with rapidly establishing a field hospital for treatment of Ebola health care workers, diagnostic labs, and treatment units, AFRICOM said deliberate planning and actions across the entire logistics enterprise were essential to success in the early stages of the mission and now as the logistics team works toward a smooth transition of support to civilian entities. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On June 19th, *The New York Times* highlighted recent studies that have shed light on how Ebola initially spread through West Africa, resulting in the disease outbreak. Research that examined the genetic sequences of viruses from more than 400 patients in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia suggested that early efforts to combat the epidemic in spring 2014 nearly ended transmission in the area in Guinea where the outbreak first started. However, before containment efforts ramped up, sick people from the area had already crossed the border into Sierra Leone and began infecting other people. The research was summarized [here](#).

On June 22nd, after a three-week gap, Sierra Leonean officials in Freetown recorded two new cases of Ebola in the capital city, disproving the assumption that Freetown had already defeated the virus. Sierra Leone's National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) expressed concern the new cases could lead to disease transmission, especially as they were reported in Magazine, a densely populated slum lacking adequate hygiene facilities. Also troublesome, following weeks without new cases, all Ebola quarantine facilities in Freetown have been closed. The new cases were noted [here](#).

On June 22nd, scientists speculated the first recorded Ebola outbreak might have occurred not in Africa, but in ancient Greece. While most researchers say the first outbreak of Ebola happened in 1976 in the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), research has uncovered the remnants of identical Ebola DNA in several species of rodents that could prove Ebola was the culprit in the Plague of Athens that began in 430 B.C. For details, click [here](#).

On June 23rd, Liberian authorities expressed concern about the persistence of Ebola in Guinea and Sierra Leone, especially near the border. Liberian health authorities specifically worry that cross-border commerce could bring the virus back into Liberia, which has already been declared Ebola-free. Tolbert Nyensuah, the head of Liberia's Ebola Incidence Management Team, said the government is training workers at the border and providing thermometers for cross-border surveillance exercises to try to keep the virus from crossing the border. Liberia's reaction to the ongoing Ebola crisis was outlined [here](#).

On June 24th, the WHO updated its statistics on the number of Ebola cases in West Africa. There were 20 confirmed cases of Ebola reported in the week ending June 21st, compared with 24 cases the previous week. In Guinea, 12 cases were reported from the same four prefectures as reported cases in the previous week. In Sierra Leone, eight cases were reported from three districts, including the district where Freetown is located, which reported confirmed cases for the first time in over two weeks. Additional data was analyzed [here](#).

On June 24th, Acting Special Representative and head of the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) Peter Graaff traveled to Guinea-Bissau to meet with Prime Minister Domingo Simoes Pereira and Minister of Health Valentina Mendes to discuss Ebola preparedness measures. While Guinea-Bissau has had no confirmed cases of Ebola to date, the country remains at high risk for Ebola given its proximity to Guinea where new cases of the virus were recently reported in an urban area bordering the two countries. Special Representative Graaff's visit to Guinea-Bissau was noted [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On June 18th, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Julie Furuta-Toy to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea. Furuta-Toy, a career member of the Foreign Service, currently serves as Charge d'Affaires ad interim at the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway. She has previously held several other diplomatic positions and has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana. Her nomination was noticed [here](#).

On June 19th, the White House announced President Barack Obama will travel to Ethiopia in late July for bilateral meetings with the Government of Ethiopia and with the leadership of the AU. This visit, which will follow President Obama's travel to Kenya, will build on the success of the August 2014 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit by strengthening ties with African partners and highlighted America's longstanding commitment to investment in Africa. This will also be the first visit of a sitting U.S. President to Ethiopia and to AU headquarters and it is intended to underscore U.S. efforts to work with the countries and citizens of sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate economic growth, strengthen democratic institutions, and improve security. President Obama's upcoming travel to Ethiopia was announced [here](#).

On June 19th, the White House issued a statement on World Refugee Day. The White House noted more than 60 million people have been uprooted by wars, violence, and persecution and called attention to the escalating number of displaced and vulnerable people from Burundi and South Sudan. In addition, the White House noted U.S. support for programs that provide food, water, shelter, and medical care to refugees and other displaced persons and thanked aid workers who deliver assistance. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On June 21st, *The Washington Post* discussed President Barack Obama's upcoming visit to Kenya and questioned whether President Obama may visit his father's village, Kogelo. Since President Obama's rise in American politics, the village has attracted thousands of tourists wanting to visit the village the President described in his memoir. A number of schools, hotels, and tourism companies in the village have also been named for President Obama. The transformation of the village was described [here](#).

On June 22nd, President Barack Obama hosted an Iftar in observance of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in the East Room of the White House. Participants included Ambassador of Gabon to the U.S.

Michael Moussa Adama, Ambassador of Niger to the U.S. Hassana Alidou, Ambassador of Algeria to the U.S. Madjid Bouguerra, Ambassador of Morocco to the U.S. Alia Bouran, Charge d'Affaires for the Libyan Embassy Wafa Bughaighis, Ambassador of Mali to the U.S. Tiena Coulibaly, Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire to the U.S. Daouda Diabate, Ambassador of Mauritania to the U.S. Mohamed El Haycen, Ambassador of The Gambia to the U.S. Sheikh Faye, Ambassador of Tunisia to the U.S. Faycal Gouia, Ambassador of Chad to the U.S. Mahamat Hassane, Charge d'Affaires for the Embassy of Burkina Faso Seydou Sinka, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the U.S. Bockari Stevens, Ambassador of Mozambique to the U.S. Amelia Sumbana, and Ambassador of Egypt to the U.S. Mohamed Mostaga Mohamed Tawfik. A full list of attendees was posted [here](#).

On June 25th, the White House announced President Barack Obama will host Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at the White House on July 20th. The visit is intended to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to strengthening and expanding the U.S. partnership with Nigeria's new government and support for the Nigerian people following the historic democratic elections and peaceful transition of power. President Obama and President Buhari are expected to discuss regional efforts to combat Boko Haram and Nigeria's efforts to advance economic and political reforms. President Buhari's upcoming visit was announced [here](#).

State Department

On June 19th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith Garber participated in a ceremonial ivory crush in New York City's Times Square. During the event, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, approximately one ton of ivory was crushed to send a message to traffickers and their customers that the U.S. will not tolerate the trade of illegal ivory. Assistant Secretary Garber also delivered remarks at a related reception on June 18th. More information was shared [here](#).

On June 19th, the State Department issued its Country Reports on Terrorism for 2014, which review the state of terrorism worldwide and define the nature and scope of the terrorist threat. Ambassador-At-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism Tina Kaidanow highlighted the growing threat posed by Boko Haram, noting an increase in the number of terrorist attacks and fatalities, due in large part to Boko Haram's activities in Nigeria. Ambassador Kaidanow also said while Al Qaeda's central leadership has been weakened, the organization continues to serve as a focal point of inspiration for other affiliated groups, including Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al Shabaab. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 24th-27th, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Sarah Sewall will travel to Kenya to lead the U.S. Delegation to the June 25th-27th East Africa Regional Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), hosted by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi. The Summit, the fourth in a series of regional summits following the February White House Summit on CVE, will provide an opportunity for governments, civil society, and the private sector to discuss collaborative, innovative efforts to address the spread of violent extremism. Topics will include the typologies and drivers of violent extremism, the architecture and dynamics of radicalization and recruitment, countering violent extremism in cyberspace and the media, promoting research and learning for evidence-driven action, and strengthening local preventive work. Under Secretary Sewall's travel was announced [here](#).

On June 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry submitted the 2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices to Congress. In submitting the reports to inform U.S. foreign policy and foreign assistance, Secretary Kerry flagged noteworthy developments in the 2014 reports, including the activities of non-state actors such as AQIM, Boko Haram, and Al Shabaab. The 2014 Human Rights Reports were released [here](#).

On June 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry offered best wishes to all Mozambicans on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Mozambique's independence. Secretary Kerry noted his wife, Teresa, was born in Mozambique, where her father was a doctor. In addition, Secretary Kerry highlighted how the U.S.-Mozambique relationship has grown to reflect a shared commitment to achieving lasting peace, progress, and shared prosperity and how the U.S. and Mozambique have partnered to strengthen democracy, promote trade and investment, improve health, expand educational opportunities, conserve the environment, and combat transnational crime. Secretary Kerry's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On June 21st-23rd, AFRICOM, the U.S. Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), and the AU sponsored the Africa Logistics Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum brought together military and civilian logistics experts from 36 African countries, the U.S., and several European countries to discuss best practices for logistics in assisting refugees, responding to crises, and combating violent extremists. The Forum was highlighted [here](#).

On June 22nd, Pentagon Spokesman Colonel Steve Warren said ISIL operative Ali Awni Al-Harzi during a U.S. drone strike in Mosul, Iraq on June 15th. Al-Harzi was a person of interest in the September 2012 attack against U.S. personnel in Benghazi, Libya. According to Colonel Warren, Al-Harzi operated closely with multiple ISIL-associated extremists throughout North Africa and the Middle East and his death degrades ISIL's ability to integrate North African jihadists into the fight in Syria and Iraq. His death was announced [here](#).

Department of Transportation

On June 18th-26th, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets Arun Kumar led a delegation of 14 U.S. companies on a multi-sector trade mission to sub-Saharan Africa. The trade mission, which visited Mozambique, South Africa, and Kenya, was designed to introduce U.S. firms in the transportation, energy equipment and services, and the agricultural equipment sectors to the sub-Saharan African region while also promoting the importance of exports of these U.S. goods and services. This is the first trade mission led by a U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Prior to the start of the trade mission, Secretary Foxx also visited Ghana, where he met with government officials about the Safe Skies for Africa program, which helps African countries with technical assistance, training courses, and workshops on travel safety. Secretary Foxx's travel was outlined [here](#).

Export-Import Bank of the U.S.

On June 23rd, Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (Ex-Im Bank) Chairman and President Fred Hochberg announced the Bank will finance the sale of Acrow Corporation of America's modular steel bridge components to the Road Development Agency to Zambia. As part of the deal, Ex-Im Bank is guaranteeing a \$73 million commercial loan to facilitate the export of 144 steel bridges. By providing financing, Ex-Im Bank is expected to support approximately 200 jobs at Acrow's manufacturing facilities in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey, while also providing a high-quality bridge solution in sub-Saharan Africa. Details can be seen [here](#).

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

On June 24th, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) shared information on how its client, Wanachi, is working to expand internet connectivity in Kenya. In 2012, Wanachi obtained \$72 million in OPIC financing for a project that is helping to improve data, voice, and video services in more than 100 schools in Kenya. Wanachi has most recently started to reach schools through a partnership with the Nairobi Country Government and the Kenya Education Network. To date, Wanachi has introduced free internet to 133 schools and hopes to be able to reach the remaining 2,500 schools in Nairobi over the next three years. The project was highlighted [here](#).

Congress

On June 18th, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Kelly Ayotte (D-NH) introduced legislation to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram. The bill was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Details were posted [here](#).

On June 18th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced a bipartisan resolution recognizing World Refugee Day on June 20th. In introducing the resolution, Senators Cardin and Rubio

noted that conflict and persecution over the past year has pushed millions of people out of Sub-Saharan Africa. A press release was issued [here](#).

On June 22nd, the House Select Committee on Benghazi released roughly 60 emails exchanged between former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former adviser Sidney Blumenthal pertaining to the September 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi. In reviewing the emails, Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) said the Committee established the fact that Blumenthal did not author a single intelligence memo, but forwarded them on to Secretary Clinton, along with candid advice about political matters and suggested messaging articulating that U.S. policy in Libya was a success. The release of the emails was highlighted [here](#).

On June 22nd, House Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) rejected a request from Committee Democrats to release the transcript of a nearly nine-hour long deposition provided by Sidney Blumenthal last week. In a letter to Ranking Member Elijah Cumming (D-MD), Congressman Gowdy said releasing the transcript could impact the recollections of other witnesses, jeopardize the efficacy of the investigation, alert witnesses to lines of inquiry best not made public, and publicize personal information. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On June 23rd, the Senate Human Rights Caucus hosted a news conference titled, "The Crisis in Sudan: Prospects for Justice and Peace." Participants included Human Rights Caucus Co-Chairs Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Chris Coons (D-DE). The event was noticed [here](#).

On June 23rd, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) introduced the Electrify Africa Act of 2015. The bipartisan legislation declares it is a U.S. policy to encourage access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa and directs the U.S. Government to take actions that increase electricity generation and access without added spending. In the 113th Congress, the Members introduced Electrify Africa legislation, which was passed by the Committee and the House. The bill text and a section-by-section summary were posted [here](#).

On June 23rd, House Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) announced the State Department has failed to produce copies, if it has any, of the 60 new emails on Benghazi and Libya from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that were recently uncovered by the Committee. While noting the State Department has requested an extension, Congressman Gowdy said the State Department should immediately produce emails that should have been produced months ago or explain why it is not in possession of these emails from Secretary Clinton. Congressman Gowdy's comments were captured [here](#).

On June 24th, the Senate passed the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, which included a long-term reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The legislation was adopted by a voice vote. The House also passed legislation extending AGOA on June 11th. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 24th, House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) issued the latest edition of her biweekly Africa newsletter. The most recent Africa Update highlights Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's evasion of arrest while visiting South Africa, the new 26-country African free trade zone, and the ruling party of Rwanda's approval of a constitutional amendment that will allow President Paul Kagame to run for a third term. The newsletter can be accessed [here](#).

On June 25th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MID) issued a statement regarding the State Department's release of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. In particular, Senator Cardin highlighted the report on South Sudan, noting that shocking human rights abuses in the country continue unabated by the government, military forces, and rebel groups. Senator Cardin's full statement was published [here](#).

On June 25th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee marked up the Global Anti-Poaching Act. Introduced by Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY), the bill would support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, and designate major wildlife trafficking countries. The markup was noticed [here](#).

On June 25th, House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) issued a statement after the Senate voted to pass legislation reauthorizing AGOA. Congresswoman Bass said the Senate vote on extending AGOA was critically important in guaranteeing both a seamless and long-term extension of a law that has been considered the cornerstone of U.S.-Africa trade engagement. She said she will vote for the legislation passed by the Senate and expressed hope that House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) will quickly bring the legislation to the House floor. Congresswoman Bass's statement can be read [here](#).

North Africa

On June 18th, the African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with the United Kingdom (U.K.)-based One World Media, awarded the first Women's Rights in Africa Media Award, designed to promote gender equality through the media. The first award recipient was *Al Jazeera Television* journalist Rosa Rogers for her report, "Casablanca Calling," a portrait of three female religious leaders in Morocco. A press release was issued [here](#).

On June 18th, former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi's lawyers said they will appeal his conviction for violence, kidnapping, and torture. A Cairo court sentenced Morsi death on June 16th. Background on President Morsi's regime and the court proceedings is detailed [here](#).

On June 19th, ten members of Tunisia's diplomatic staff were freed after being kidnapped in Libya one week ago. No group has claimed responsibility. Tunisia was one of the few countries to keep its diplomatic presence in Tripoli since a rival government claimed Tripoli as its capital, but Foreign Minister Taieb Bakouch reported Tunisia will now close its consulate and urge all Tunisians to leave Libya. His comments can be found [here](#).

On June 20th, *The Economist* highlighted the poor conditions in Egypt's state-run hospitals. Earlier this month, Egyptian Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab visited two hospitals, where he saw dirty equipment, overflowing sewage, and patients surrounded by stray animals. About 500 of Egypt's state-run clinics do not have a doctor on site and many struggle to manage dwindling resources. Given the circumstances, of the 54 percent of the population covered by a government insurance program, nearly 75 percent of those on government insurance opt for private sector care and pay health care costs out-of-pocket. The situation was described [here](#).

On June 25th, the World Bank released a research paper uncovering new evidence of corruption and tax evasion by firms owned by the family of former Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who was ousted four years ago. According to the World Bank, the Ben Ali family is estimated to have defrauded the state of as much as \$2.6 billion over a seven year period by avoiding import tariffs. The World Bank also warned that graft and other corruption have intensified in Tunisia over the past several years. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

East Africa

On June 17th, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team concluded a visit to Addis Ababa to conduct discussions for the 2015 Article IV Consultation with Ethiopia. The IMF team acknowledged Ethiopia's state-led development model has delivered rapid and broad-based growth over many years. Looking to the future, the IMF encouraged Ethiopia to boost domestic and foreign resource mobilization and reduce obstacles to doing business in order to sustain recent economic growth. The IMF's visit to Ethiopia was summarized [here](#).

On June 18th, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) Representative for Tanzania Dr. Rufaro Chatora reported the cholera outbreak has spread amid the influx of Burundian refugees. Since the onset of the outbreak May 10th, 34 people have died and roughly 4,662 cases have been reported. The WHO has sent 164,000 doses of oral cholera vaccines to high risk areas, including a refugee camp. The outbreak was described [here](#).

On June 18th, the IMF concluded discussions on the Article IV Consultation with Somalia in Nairobi, Kenya. These are the first such discussions held in over 25 years. The IMF team observed Somalia

needs financial help from the international community, as well as technical assistance on capacity building, to help rebuild the economy from civil war. While Somalia's political and security situations remain challenging, the IMF also recognized Somalia has made tremendous gains since resuming relations with the IMF in April 2013. The situation in Somalia was analyzed [here](#).

On June 19th, the AfDB, the World Bank, and the IMF East Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center (East AFRITAC) concluded a workshop on public sector debt statistics in Zanzibar. The workshop attracted 30 officials from seven East African countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda, for discussions on improving data quality, management, and dissemination. The workshop was highlighted [here](#).

On June 19th, Al Shabaab released a statement and photos claiming to have ambushed and killed more than 60 Ethiopian troops in southern Somalia last week. Al Shabaab said 13 vehicles were destroyed in a suicide bombing and dozens of soldiers were shot dead with machine guns. When the photos were released, Al Shabaab's claims had yet to be confirmed by the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) or the Ethiopian Government. For more information, click [here](#).

On June 19th, Ugandan General David Sejusa was arrested in Kampala for holding an illegal assembly. Since his return to Uganda in December 2014, General Sejusa has remained critical of President Yoweri Museveni and his plan to hand over power to his son in the elections early next year. General Sejusa is just one of about 87 opposition supporters who have been arrested by police. Details on the contention surrounding Uganda's elections can be viewed [here](#).

On June 21st, there Kenyan soldiers were wounded when their truck hit a make-shift bomb that police believe was planted by Somali Al Shabaab fighters. The blast occurred in Lamu County, where Kenyan soldiers clashed with Al Shabaab fighters at a military base last week. The latest incident has led some security officials to believe that Al Shabaab may be regrouping in the area after last week's fighting. Details can be seen [here](#).

On June 21st, four Al Shabaab gunmen were killed after detonating a car bomb and shooting their way into a national intelligence agency training site in Mogadishu. A spokesman for Al Shabaab reported the group's fighters had killed more than ten intelligences officials. Meanwhile, the Somali Internal Security Ministry said the government did not suffer any casualties during the attack. Both accounts of the incident were captured [here](#).

On June 22nd, Ethiopia's electoral board announced the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) was poised to control every seat in parliament, with the governing party and its allies winning control of 100 percent of the races for 547 seats. Chairman of the electoral board Merga Bekana said this year's elections were free, fair, peaceful, credible, and democratic, but the opposition disagreed and blamed the EPRDF of intimidating voters who opposed its rule. The election results were analyzed [here](#).

On June 22nd, *Reuters'* discussed the Kenyan Government's efforts to dismantle the decades-old sugar smuggling trade that has been used to finance the activities of Somali terrorist group Al Shabaab. While cash from sugar smuggling may amount to only a few million dollars, experts say such sums are enough for attacks that need just a few assault rifles, transportation, and suicide fighters. To root out this financing, experts encouraged the Kenyan Government to tackle corruption within the police force and go after smuggling cartel bosses. The full story is available [here](#).

On June 23rd, the World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved a \$100 million International Development Association (IDA) credit to support Tanzania's First Open Government and Public Financial Management Development Policy Operation (OGPFM). The goal of the OGPFM is to help increase transparency and accountability in governance and to help improve public financial management. A press release was published [here](#).

On June 23rd, the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy hosted a presentation titled, "Too Scared to Post: Freedom of Expression Under Ethiopia's Anti-Terrorism Legislation." Speakers included Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow Simegnish (Lily) Mengesha, Yohanan Assefa of the National Endowment for Democracy, and Sally Blair of the

International Forum for Democratic Studies. Event details were posted [here](#).

On June 24th, the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea presented the findings of its report to the U.N. Human Rights Council. Commission Chairperson Mike Smith reported an estimated 5,000 Eritreans leave the country each month and the number of Eritreans fleeing their country has now reached more than 400,000. The Commission called on the Human Rights Council to maintain close scrutiny on human rights violations committed under the authority of the government, especially those that may constitute crimes against humanity. The presentation of the report was noted [here](#).

On June 24th, speaking ahead of a three-day CVE conference due to start on Thursday in Nairobi, Kenya, the EU's political section in Kenya said the EU will soon offer counterterrorism training to help East African security agencies improve cross-border investigations and prosecutions of Islamist militants. The new program, expected to launch either late this year or early next year, will provide \$12 million in new training resources to Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. Details were shared [here](#).

On June 24th, Ugandan Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kale Kayihura informed former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi that he would be prohibited from holding meetings to promote his challenge to President Yoweri Museveni in the country's presidential elections anticipated in February or March 2016. Prime Minister Mbabazi was sacked by President Museveni in September. The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party is expected to select its presidential candidate in September. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On June 24th, Al Shabaab militants detonated a car bomb in Mogadishu targeting military trainers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and killing three Somali soldiers. The UAE trainers were traveling in a bulletproof car and were not wounded during the attack. An additional seven bystanders were injured by the blast. The bombing was reported [here](#).

On June 24th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia and head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) Nicholas Kay condemned the Al Shabaab terrorist attack against a convoy from the UAE in Mogadishu. Special Representative Kay said the attack was a clear attempt to deter and undermine those from the international community working with Somalia to build a better Somalia. His comments were transcribed [here](#).

On June 24th, Kenya's Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Authority updated its statistics on tea production in the country. According to authorities, black tea output dropped by 27 percent in the first quarter of 2015 compared to production rates at this time last year. The dip in black tea production has been attributed to drier than normal weather conditions. Kenya is the world's leading exporter of black tea. More information can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On June 20th, Russia's state-owned nuclear power company Rosatom said it had been in talks with Nigeria to construct two nuclear power plants and sites had been selected. While neither Russia nor Nigeria would confirm the exact location of the sites, it is rumored Nigeria is seeking to construct the plants in Akwa Ibom state and Kogi state. Each plant is expected to cost between \$5 and \$8 billion. For more information, click [here](#).

On June 21st, the Ghanaian Government bulldozed hundreds of homes and businesses in the poor Sodom and Gomorrah neighborhoods of Accra so authorities can start widening a lagoon to prevent a repeat of the deadly flooding that occurred earlier this month. Residents reported security forces sprayed them with tear gas after they threw stones attempting to protect their properties from the bulldozers. By the end of the day, thousands were reportedly stranded in the rain amid rubble and households goods strewn for more than a mile. More information can be found [here](#).

On June 22nd, protestors from Sodom and Gomorrah neighborhoods of Accra, Ghana, clashed with police in response to the government's demolition of shanties as part of measures to mitigate heavy flooding. Police reportedly fired tear gas and demonstrators and arrested 20 people during the altercation. A number of officers were also injured. The tensions in Accra were profiled [here](#).

On June 22nd, an IMF mission concluded a trip to Banjul, The Gambia, to conduct discussions for the 2015 Article IV consultants and to take stock of performance under the Staff Monitored Program (SMP) approved in April 2015. The mission met with Gambian Finance Minister Abdou Kolley, Secretary General and Minister for Presidential Affairs Lamin Nyabally, Central Bank Governor Amadou Colley, and other senior government officials, members of parliament, senior officials in public enterprises, and representatives of the private sector, civil society organizations, the banking sector, and development partners. The IMF team observed the Gambian economy has recently experienced a number of exogenous shocks due to the regional Ebola outbreak, delayed rains, and decreased crop production. Additional analysis was provided [here](#).

On June 22nd, sources revealed that Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has been advised by his transition committee to end a fuel subsidy program and to privatize the country's four refineries. While past attempts to end government fuel subsidies have been met with strikes, the program has become increasingly costly, especially due to fraudulent claims. Further, Nigeria's refinery system generally runs well below capacity, sometimes at just 20 percent, due to neglect and pipeline sabotage. The full story is available [here](#).

On June 22nd, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari convened a meeting of state governors to discuss Nigeria's financial crisis, as Nigeria's treasury is virtually empty. Zamfara state Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar said Nigeria's states owe the government roughly \$3.3 billion and one way to address the issue might be for banks to extend loans to the state to up to 20 years. President Buhari also suggested the government could reinvigorate its efforts to recover stolen funds and use some money from the Excess Crude Account to cover public salaries. The discussion at the meeting was summarized [here](#).

On June 23rd, a Swedish hostage and a South African hostage kidnapped by Al Qaeda militants in northern Mali in November 2011 issued a video urging their governments to help secure their release. The video, which was posted on YouTube and on a separate website in Mauritania by al-Andalus, shows Stephen Malcolm McGowan of South Africa and Johan Gustafsson of Sweden being interviewed by their captors. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On June 23rd, police in Cote d'Ivoire freed 48 child slaves in raids on plantations in the country's Western cocoa belt and arrested 22 people accused of trafficking or exploiting children. The children, aged 5 to 16, came from Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and northern parts of Cote d'Ivoire. According to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), some of the children had been working in fields up to a year under conditions that seriously jeopardized their health. Their release was reported [here](#).

On June 24th, the Executive Board of the IMF approved a three-year Policy Support Instrument (PSI) for Senegal. The PSI supports implementation of a three-year program of macroeconomic reforms designed to advance Senegalese authorities' plan for increasing economic growth, reducing poverty, and preserving macroeconomic stability. With proposed measures such as increasing tax revenues by broadening the tax base, Senegal aims to achieve an economic growth rate of at least five percent in 2015. A press release was published [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On June 18th, a mission from the IMF completed a visit to Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) to hold discussions on possible financial assistance under the IMF's Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) to support the Central African authorities' emergency program. During the visit, the CAR's transitional government and the IMF mission reached a staff-level understanding on a macroeconomic framework and policies to reinforce the progress made since the second RCF was approved by the IMF Executive Board in March 2015. Board discussion for the third RCF request is expected to take place in mid-September 2015. The IMF mission to the CAR was summarized [here](#).

On June 19th, Angolan Finance Minister Armando Manuel denied media reports that President Eduardo dos Santos asked China for a two-year moratorium on debt repayments during his recent state visit to Beijing. Foreign Minister Manuel's statement was posted [here](#).

On June 20th, Director General of Rwanda's National Intelligence and Security Services Karenzi Karake

was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport at the request of Spain on war crimes charges. Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo expressed outrage at the arrest, calling the incident demeaning to Africans. Meanwhile, the British Embassy in Kigali said the arrest was a legal obligation following the issue of a valid European arrest warrant. Both positions were articulated [here](#).

On June 22nd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a panel to investigate the response of the U.N. to allegations of sexual abuse surrounding a deployment of foreign military forces in the CAR. The three-member panel will include Marie Deschamps of Canada, Hassan Bubacar Jallow of The Gambia, and Yasmin Louise Sooka of South Africa. The panel will be tasked with reviewing the allegations and the U.N. response and is expected to submit a report in ten weeks with recommendations on how the U.N. should respond to similar allegations in the future. The panelists were announced [here](#).

On June 22nd, the South African Government denied reports that ministers secretly plotted to assist Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in his departure from the country following the AU summit last week. President Bashir faced the possibility of arrest on International Criminal Court (ICC) charges of genocide. The High Court has given the government until Thursday to reveal the circumstances that allowed for President Bashir's departure. An update on the situation was provided [here](#).

On June 23rd, AfDB President Donald Kaberuka visited Rwandan President Paul Kagame to brief him on progress made since he was elected and re-elected as the Bank's head in 2005 and 2010. President Kaberuka and President Kagame discussed the development of Africa, the global economy, and the relationship between Rwanda and the AfDB. The AfDB's current portfolio in Rwanda totals roughly \$1.65 billion in support for infrastructure development, skills development, agriculture, science and technology, private sector advancement, and regional integration. The meeting was summarized [here](#).

On June 23rd, South African Mines Minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi said 2014 was the safest year in the history of the country's mining industry. Minister Ramatlhodi said there has been a reduction of about 86 percent in fatalities from 615 in 1993 to 84 in 2014. While the numbers for 2014 appear promising, analysts believe the all-time low number of fatalities was due primarily to a five-month platinum mining strike, as opposed to actual improvements in safety. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On June 23rd, African National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Gwede Mantashe, the leader of South Africa's ruling political party, said the ICC is dangerous and encouraged South Africa to withdraw from the organization. His comments were made on a radio program in defense of the government's decision not to arrest indicted Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir last week. His comments were captured [here](#).

On June 24th, the AfDB Board of Directors approved a loan of \$50 million to finance Zambia's Lusaka Sanitation Program. The project will deliver improved public health by improving access to climate-resilient sanitation and hygiene services to the peri-urban areas where the majority of the urban poor reside. It will also strengthen the Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company's management, institutional capacity, and the sustainability of sanitation services. The loan was announced [here](#).

On June 24th, speaking ahead of the release of a report on the investigation of the 2012 Marikana mine massacre anticipated on Thursday, South African President Jacob Zuma defended the actions of police who killed 34 striking miners in the clashes. President Zuma said the police acted to stop the victims from killing other people, although the shootings sparked intense criticism of the police, mining companies, unions, and the ANC. President Zuma's comments were recorded [here](#).

On June 24th, the Nigerian Union in South Africa reported new xenophobic attacks against Nigerians and other foreigners in Sternekopf, South Africa, similar to the attacks that occurred earlier this year. Union President Ikechukwu Anyene reported two cars belonging to Nigerians were burnt and other Nigerians in the area have seen their houses looted and other property destroyed. The latest incidents were reported [here](#).

On June 24th, striking Air Madagascar workers said the nearly weeklong strike would continue until the airline addresses their demands. The workers are on strike to oppose poor governance and mismanagement at the airline, which serves 14 cities on the island and 13 foreign destinations. Air Madagascar Chief Executive Haja Raelison said if the strike continues the airline will be unable to pay its

bills. The situation was described [here](#).

On June 25th, South African Cabinet Minister Jeff Radebe said the South African Government plans to review its membership in the ICC following continuing tensions over South Africa's failure to arrest Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on June 15th. Minister Radebe also said government officials planned to address their concerns directly with the ICC and propose amendments to the statute. For more information, click [here](#).

General Africa News

On June 19th, speaking at the Second Technical Meeting on Health, Gender Equality, and Capital Projects, AfDB Vice President and Special Envoy on Gender Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said African countries that are pursuing infrastructure development to grow their economies must take into consideration the impact of capital projects on the health of workers and nearby communities, and on women and girls in particular, to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth. The meeting, co-hosted by the AfDB and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) brought together representatives from 18 African countries to discuss emerging health issues in Africa. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On June 23rd, AfDB President Donald Kaberuka addressed the U.N. Peacebuilding Commission in New York on the importance of sustained predictable resources for peace building. While recognizing the need for additional resources, President Kaberuka acknowledged every crisis is different and money is only part of the solution and stressed the importance of country-specific conflict resolution processes. Excerpts from President Kaberuka's remarks were highlighted [here](#).

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