



ML Strategies Update

ML
STRATEGIES

David Leiter

djleiter@mlstrategies.com

Georgette Spanjich

gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com

ML Strategies, LLC

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004 USA

202 296 3622

202 434 7400 fax

www.mlstrategies.com

JANUARY 16, 2014

AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

South Sudan

On January 9th, after briefing the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council on developments in South Sudan, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous announced the release of \$15 million from the U.N. rapid response fund for immediate humanitarian operations in the country. However, Under-Secretary-General Ladsous also said it could take as long as eight weeks to fully enact a surge in peacekeeping operations in South Sudan as personnel and equipment is deployed to the region. Comments from Under-Secretary General Ladsous can be seen [here](#).

On January 9th, President Barack Obama's National Security Advisor Susan Rice issued a statement on developments in South Sudan. Advisor Rice expressed support for the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to broker a peace deal and called on South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and former Vice President and rebel leader Riek Machar to immediately sign the IGAD agreement on the cessation of hostilities. The White House also expressed disappointment that the Government of South Sudan had yet to release political detainees. The full statement was shared [here](#).

On January 9th, the *New York Times* published an article explaining how the U.S. response to the crisis in South Sudan showcases U.S. military capabilities in the region. While the article states that military assistance in evacuating and securing the U.S. Embassy in Juba demonstrated the military's ability to quickly send crisis response forces to Africa, it also suggests recent operations in Sudan have revealed limitations in U.S. military intelligence and communications on the continent. The full article can be read [here](#).

On January 9th, the International Crisis Group estimated the death toll from fighting in South Sudan may be as high as 10,000 people. This figure represents a significant increase from earlier U.N. estimates suggesting only 1,000 people had been killed. The impacts of violence in South Sudan

were detailed [here](#).

On January 10th, the U.N. announced the travel of Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic to South Sudan to examine human rights violations committed by Government forces and rebels as part of the ongoing conflict. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted the Security Council would be consulted on the evidence of human rights violations and the U.N. response. Assistant Secretary-General Simonovic's travel was announced [here](#).

On January 10th, the U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) appealed for \$59 million in new funding for humanitarian efforts in South Sudan. The new funding is being requested through the end of March to provide support to more than 43,000 South Sudanese civilians that have fled to neighboring countries, such as Uganda, and to approximately 232,000 civilians that have been displaced from their homes and remain in the country. Details are available [here](#).

On January 10th, the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Wilson Center hosted a discussion on the crisis in South Sudan. Speakers included 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 Almquist Knopf, and Jon Temin of USIP. Event details can be seen [here](#).

On January 12th, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported strides in gaining access to parts of the country most impacted by ongoing fighting. In addition, UNMISS recognized recent media reports suggesting the death toll may be as high as 10,000, a significant increase above UNMISS's December estimate of 1,000 deaths. An update from UNMISS was provided [here](#).

On January 13th, mediators in peace negotiations between the South Sudanese Government and rebel forces, including U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth, met with former South Sudanese Vice President and rebel leader Riek Machar. Leaders allegedly discussed the release of rebels who have been taken by South Sudanese forces as political detainees, which continues to be a sticking point in peace talks. The meeting was reported [here](#).

On January 13th, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced a surge in relief efforts for South Sudan's agricultural sector as fighting continues during the time traditionally used for preparations for plantings and harvests. FAO and its crisis response partners are seeking \$61 million for various agricultural initiatives in South Sudan, including procuring seeds, vaccinating livestock, and delivering equipment and services to farmers impacted by the violence. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 14th, at least 200 refugees fleeing a rebel assault launched against the South Sudanese town of Malakal drowned when their barge sank in the White Nile. South Sudanese officials confirmed the barge had been overloaded. Meanwhile, there were conflicting reports as to whether or not rebel forces had taken complete control of Malakal. The incident was described [here](#).

On January 14th, more than 400 students in South Sudan began taking their Primary School Leaving Exams (PSLE) at the U.N. compound in Juba. The exams had initially been scheduled for the week of December 16th, but were ultimately postponed due to fighting in the capital between South Sudanese Government forces and forces loyal to former South Sudanese Vice President Riek Machar. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On January 14th, UNMISS announced new figures estimating the number of South Sudanese civilians displaced by continuing violence in the country. According to the latest report that reflects an uptick in displacement over the past week, more than 400,000 civilians have been driven from their homes. Additionally, UNMISS estimated 78,000 people have fled to neighboring countries, including Sudan and Ethiopia. The UNMISS figures were detailed [here](#).

On January 14th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement expressing alarm at the rising number of fatalities in South Sudan, including reports of drowning deaths associated with the sinking of a barge in the Nile River. Secretary-General Ban repeated calls for all parties to cease hostilities and noted those responsible for attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, and U.N.

personnel will be held accountable. Secretary-General Ban's statement was issued [here](#).

On January 16th, UNMISS provided additional information on new security measures implemented in South Sudan, including joint police and military patrols and the use of metal detectors. U.N. Police (UNPOL) are also performing regular weapons searches on all main U.N. bases, including those in Juba, Bor, Bentiu, and Malakal. UNMISS also reported enhancing screening procedures for refugees at U.N. bases. More information was provided [here](#).

On January 16th, following Rwandan President Yoweri Museveni's announcement that Ugandan troops are assisting South Sudanese Government Forces in fending off rebellion, a spokesperson for the Ugandan military confirmed that Uganda forces have deployed to Bor. Details were shared [here](#).

Central African Republic

On January 9th, Central African Republic (CAR) President Michel Djotodia resigned at a meeting of regional leaders convened by Chadian President Idriss Deby in N'Djamena. Regional leaders said President Djotodia was responsible for failing to stop sectarian violence in the CAR, including looting, kidnappings, and killings. President Djotodia's resignation was reported [here](#).

On January 9th, U.N. Special Representative to the CAR Babacar Gaye participated in a meeting of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) representatives on the conflict in the CAR. Special Representative Gaye warned that relations between Muslim and Christian communities in the CAR have been significantly damaged in the past year, posing a long term danger to the country's stability. The message delivered to the regional summit can be accessed [here](#).

On January 10th, UNHCR appealed for additional funding to provide humanitarian relief in the CAR. UNHCR requested an additional \$40.2 million in funding through the end of March, which will support more than 1 million people affected by conflict, including 86,400 refugees in neighboring countries and approximately 958,000 internally displaced persons. The appeal for additional aid was noted [here](#).

On January 10th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki welcomed ECCAS leadership in facilitating discussions on the political transition in the CAR following the resignation of President Michel Djotodia. Spokesperson Psaki urged the CAR's National Transition Council (CNT) to ensure transparency and inclusivity in selecting a new transitional president and to take the appropriate steps to hold elections no later than February 2015. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki were transcribed [here](#).

On January 11th, U.N. Special Representative to the CAR Babacar Gaye issued a statement on the resignations of CAR President Michel Djotodia and Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye. Special Representative Gaye called on the CNT to act quickly to elect new transitional leadership. Special Representative Gaye's statement is available [here](#).

On January 13th, CAR interim President Alexandre Ferdinand Nguendet said he has taken decisive steps to restore security in Bangui. He noted he had met with local militias to encourage them to embrace peace. President Nguendet also articulated plans to develop a task force consisting of police and other security personnel to restore order in the capitol city. Comments from President Nguendet were posted [here](#).

On January 13th, U.N. Special Representative to the CAR Babacar Gaye called for assistance from the international community in ensuring the speedy election of a new transition leader in the CAR and the start of the reconciliation process between Muslim and Christian communities. The CAR's CNT, led by CAR interim leader Alexandre Ferdinand Nguendet, has 15 days to organize the election of the CAR's new head of state. A report on the situation from Special Representative Gaye can be seen [here](#).

On January 14th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a release providing an update on conditions in the CAR. While OHCHR has observed a decrease in the number of clashes in recent days, U.N. officials reported that the security situation remains volatile,

with approximately 40 killings, and a number of kidnappings, mutilations, and looting reported over the weekend. Observations from OHCHR were reported [here](#).

On January 15th, the State Department issued a press statement noting its close observation of the deliberations of the CAR's CNT in selecting a new president and prime minister. State Department officials encouraged a transparent process, consistent with the Transitional Charter and the Libreville Agreements, which call for the Prime Minister to be selected from the democratic opposition. The statement was issued [here](#).

On January 15th, *Air Force Times* reported that U.S. Air Force C-17s are preparing to launch a second, three week-long airlift mission to the CAR. The aircraft will be used to transport a Rwandan infantry battalion from Uganda to the CAR to support French operations in the country. More information can be found [here](#).

Egypt

On July 9th, airport authorities in Egypt arrested Khaled Mahmoud Migahid, an Egyptian-born American and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Migahid appeared on a list of people prohibited from leaving the country and is accused of burning police stations in acts of violence against the Egyptian state. Migahid's arrest was reported [here](#).

On January 11th, Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi raised speculation that he will run for president. In delivering a statement urging high voter turnout in Egypt's constitutional referendum, General Sisi said he would consider running for president at the request of the people and with a mandate from the army. Comments from General Sisi can be viewed [here](#).

On January 12th U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi to discuss Egypt's January 14th-15th constitutional referendum. The leaders noted the importance of the vote to Egypt's political transition and Secretary Hagel urged transparency and full access for international domestic elections observers. A readout of the conversation was posted [here](#).

On January 13th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf expressed concern regarding reports of ongoing arrests of individuals in Egypt publically campaigning for a no vote on the constitutional referendum. Deputy Spokesperson Harf indicated while the State Department is seeking more information on these reports from Egyptian authorities, U.S. officials continue to suggest that allowing for campaigns both for and against the new constitution will lend greater credibility to the outcome of the vote. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf were transcribed [here](#).

On January 14th, Egyptians began voting in a referendum on the country's revised constitution. As the polls opened, members of the Muslim Brotherhood who were boycotting the vote engaged in clashes with security forces in several provinces, killing at least six people. In addition, authorities reported the arrests of 66 Muslim Brotherhood supporters for rioting at polling stations. Reports on the opening of the polls were shared [here](#).

On January 14th, Egyptian Minister of Interior Mohamed Ibrahim appeared in a television interview where he accused the Muslim Brotherhood of attempting to disrupt voting in Egypt's constitutional referendum. Minister Ibrahim threatened that anyone approaching the ballot boxes would be shot with live ammunition. The interview was summarized [here](#).

On January 14th, Egyptian military officials noted that undermining the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza will become a growing priority. Egypt has accused Hamas of supporting Al Qaeda – linked militant groups in the Sinai over the past several months. According to Egyptian officials, Egyptian intelligence operatives plan to work with Hamas' rivals to support protests by activists in Gaza, similar to the protests that occurred as part of the Arab Spring. An article on Egypt's plans to target Hamas can be read [here](#).

On January 14th, as voting on the new constitution began in Egypt, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon called on all Egyptians to express their differences without violence and stressed the importance of allowing for freedom of assembly and expression. Remarks from Secretary-General Ban on voting in Egypt can be seen [here](#).

On January 14th, *Politico* ran an article authored by Shadi Hamid of the Brookings Institution examining the effectiveness of recent calls between U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi. Hamid suggests while Secretary Hagel has repeatedly urged Egypt's military-led government to be less repressive and more inclusive, the conversations have done little to influence the conduct of the Egyptian Government. The full article can be read [here](#).

On January 16th, Egyptian state media reported that Egyptians had overwhelmingly approved the country's new constitution by referendum. According to authorities, approximately 90% of voters cast their votes in support of the new constitution. Egypt's Interior Ministry estimated voter turnout was roughly 55%. More information on the results of the constitutional referendum is available [here](#).

On January 16th, Egypt's Interior Ministry confirmed that one student was killed and four others were injured during clashes at Cairo University between supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of Egypt's military-led government. The incident was reported [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

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

On January 10th, the State Department officially designated Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi, Darnah, and Tunisia as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) and their leaders, Ahmed Abu Khattalah, Sufian bin Qumu, and Seifallah Ben Hassine as Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi and Darnah were created as separate organizations after the fall of Muammar Gadhafi in Libya and have been involved in terrorist attacks and political assassinations in the country. Ansar al-Sharia in Tunisia, which was created in 2011 and is tied to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was responsible for the September 2012 attack against the U.S. Embassy and American school in Tunis. The terrorist designations were announced [here](#).

On January 13th, Secretary of State John Kerry was on foreign travel to Paris, France, where he met with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. During his joint press appearance with Minister Fabius, Secretary Kerry thanked France for its leadership in Mali and the CAR. Secretary Kerry's comments can be seen [here](#).

On January 13th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement opposing Nigeria's enactment of the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act. Secretary Kerry said beyond prohibiting same sex marriage, the bill restricts freedoms of assembly, association, and free expression, and is inconsistent with Nigeria's international legal obligations, as well as human rights protections included in Nigeria's constitution. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On January 13th, the State Department announced Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Russ Feingold's overseas travel to Africa. On January 13th-16th, Special Envoy Feingold will travel to Angola to participate in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region's (ICGLR) Fifth Ordinary Heads of State Summit. Special Envoy Feingold will then visit Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma, and Bukavu to meet with stakeholders working to advance peace in the DRC. In addition, Special Envoy Feingold will travel to Burundi and Ethiopia to participate in the African Union (AU) Summit. Details on Special Envoy Feingold's travel were announced [here](#).

On January 15th, State Department officials reported progress in implementing recommendations issued by the Accountability Review Board (ARB) on Benghazi in December 2012. Since the ARB issued its report, the State Department has created the new position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for High Threat Programs, in addition to 151 other new diplomatic security positions. The Department has also added an additional 35 Marine security detachments to U.S. diplomatic facilities, increased training, and deployed new equipment. More information is available [here](#).

On January 14th, Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Frederick Barton delivered remarks on Ethiopia, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), in Washington, DC. Assistant Secretary Barton's remarks were noted [here](#).

On January 16th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs William Craft met with the Egypt Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) Delegation, in Washington, DC. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be found [here](#).

On January 16th, the State Department announced a \$2 million contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide emergency assistance to Ethiopian migrant returnees from Saudi Arabia. To date, more than 153,000 migrants have been returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia, including more than 8,000 children who were likely victims of human trafficking. A press release on the new funding was shared [here](#).

Department of Defense

On January 10th, speaking during a Pentagon roundtable session, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General David Rodriguez said AFRICOM will expeditiously deal with military operations on the continent, including those to address ongoing challenges in Mali, South Sudan, Somalia, and the CAR. Commander Rodriguez also detailed AFRICOM's strategy of growing African partner nations' military capabilities. Comments from Commander Rodriguez were transcribed [here](#).

On January 10th, the *Washington Post* reported on a previously undisclosed deployment of a small number of U.S. uniformed trainers and military advisors to Somalia, representing a the reversal of U.S. policy that has prohibited boots on the ground in Somalia since the failed Black Hawk Down operation in 1993. The troops were deployed to Mogadishu in fall 2013 to establish a coordination cell with Somali security forces and a regional coalition of African troops. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On January 13th, AFRICOM profiled Nigerian Lieutenant Colonel Umar Aminu, a student at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). Upon completing his degrees in Regional Studies with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, Lieutenant Colonel Aminu will return to Nigeria to teach at the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College. The full article can be read [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On January 9th, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez issued a statement on developments in Tunisia. While acknowledging that Tunisia will continue to face challenges in implementing reforms to generate economic growth and address youth unemployment, Senator Menendez welcomed positive political steps, including the resignation of Tunisian Prime Minister Ali Larayedh, the selection of an interim prime minister, and the ongoing process of ratifying a new constitution. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On January 9th, following a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the situation in South Sudan, Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) called on the Obama Administration to reconsider arms exports to countries, such as South Sudan and Egypt, whose leadership have used U.S. weapons against their own citizens. Senator Markey highlighted that the State Department authorized \$9 million in military sales to South Sudan in 2012, although the European Union (EU) maintained an arms embargo. Comments from Senator Markey can be seen [here](#).

On January 13th, the *Washington Post* published an op-ed written by Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) criticizing the Obama Administration's policies towards Sudan and South Sudan. Representative

Wolf chided the Obama Administration for the long time vacancy of the U.S. Special Envoy position to Sudan and South Sudan and argued the Administration has failed to isolate South Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and to support South Sudanese President Salva Kiir against President Bashir's assault on the Nuba people. The full op-ed can be read [here](#).

On January 13th, Senate and House appropriators unveiled an omnibus appropriations package to fund the federal government beyond January 15th. The bill includes a provision loosening restrictions on the Obama Administration related to providing aid to Egypt. The legislative language requires the president to certify that Egypt is sustaining its strategic relationship with the U.S. and meeting its obligations under the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty before providing \$250 million in economic support and \$1.3 million in military assistance. Details are available [here](#).

On January 14th, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) rejected recently announced findings of a *New York Times* investigation into the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. Senator Feinstein rejected the conclusion that Al Qaeda was not responsible for the attack. She also disputed that the attack was a reaction to a U.S.-made, anti-Islam video. Comments from Senator Feinstein were shared [here](#).

On January 14th, the House Armed Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee released a series of declassified transcripts from testimony received on the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. The transcripts can be accessed [here](#).

On January 15th, the Senate Intelligence Committee issued a declassified, bipartisan report on the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, approved by the full committee in September. The report finds the attack was preventable and includes 18 specific recommendations for improving the security of American diplomatic and intelligence facilities overseas. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On January 15th, a number of Senators reacted to the release of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on the September 2012 attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya. Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) encouraged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to examine the report. While Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) suggested that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton should testify again before the committee, Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) said the Committee had already exhausted the issue. Additional reactions were noted [here](#).

On January 15th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to re-approve many nominees who remained pending at the end of the legislative session in December. Nominations considered included those of Cynthia Akuetteh to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Gabon and to Sao Tome and Principe, Helen Meagher La Lime to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Angola, Larry Edward Andrew, Jr. to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Eric Schultz to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, John Hoover to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Frederick Daughton to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Dwight Bush to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, Matthew Harrington to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho, Mark Childress to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Hoza to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon, and Eunice Reddick to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Niger. The full business meeting agenda can be viewed [here](#).

On January 15th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman held a hearing to examine the ongoing crisis in South Sudan. The Committee received testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Assistant USAID Administrator for Africa Earl Gast. More information can be found [here](#).

North Africa

On January 10th, the International Institute for Strategic Studies' (IISS) Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) held a panel discussion entitled, Toppling Gaddafi: Libya and the Limits of Liberal Intervention. Panelists included Christopher Chivvis of RAND Corporation, former Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden Julianne Smith, and Ben Fishman of IISS. Event information was posted [here](#).

On January 10th, U.S.-based foundation Not Impossible presented on its 3D-printer technology for prosthetic limbs at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The presenters highlighted that the technology is currently being used to treat victims of violence between Christians and pro-Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Nuba people in Sudan's Nuba Mountains region. More information is available [here](#).

On January 14th, Tunisians celebrated the third anniversary of the country's revolution, marked by the ouster of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's regime. A small flag raising ceremony was held at government headquarters in Kasbah Square. Participants included Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki, outgoing Prime Minister Ali Larayedh, incoming Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa, and Parliament Speaker Mustapha Ben Jaafar. Details were shared [here](#).

On January 15th, *Bloomberg* reported that oil production in Libya has nearly tripled over the past three weeks to average production of 650,000 barrels per day. While this represents a significant increase since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, production remains less than half the daily production average over the last ten years due to instability that has led to the closure of ports and oil fields. An article on oil production in Libya can be accessed [here](#).

East Africa

On January 10th, *Human IPO* reported on the launch of the East African DreamAfrica app. The app, which is available on Apple and Android devices, provides users with e-books of African stories. The stories are available to users in North America and Europe for an annual fee of \$99 and for a monthly fee of \$1 to users elsewhere. The app was described [here](#).

On January 13th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people James Anaya called on the Government of Kenya to protect the rights of the Sengwer, or the Cherangany, indigenous people hunting and gathering in the Embobut Forest. Kenyan police forces have been increasing their presence in the area under the auspices of promoting the Kenyan Government's forest and water conservation goals. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 15th, a Nairobi Court begun a trial for Adan Mohamed Abidkadir Afan, Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdullah Omar, and Hussein Hassan Mustafash, four men accused of supporting the Al Shabaab gunmen who carried out the September terrorist attack on the Westgate shopping mall. All four men have pleaded not guilty. An article on the trial can be read [here](#).

On January 16th, Kenyan Actress Lupita Nyong'o was nominated for an Oscar in the category of Best Supporting Actress for her role in *12 Years a Slave*. The awards ceremony will air on March 2nd. The Oscar nominations were announced [here](#).

West Africa

On January 10th, Roger Jean-Claude Mbede, a gay man jailed in Cameroon for a text message sent to another man, died following treatment for a hernia that he developed while in prison. Mbede was arrested in March 2011 and sentenced to three years in prison under a Cameroonian law criticizing homosexual acts. Mbede's death coincided with the release of six men who were detained overnight in Gabon after being accused of taking part in a same sex wedding ceremony. While Gabon is one of 11 sub-Saharan African countries that have not criminalized homosexual acts, the ceremony was deemed obscenity and an affront to public order. Both incidents were reported [here](#).

On January 10th, U.N. officials reported progress on a pest control project launched in Senegal. The campaign targets the tsetse fly, which carries a disease with the potential to decimate livestock populations, using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). Details on the success of the campaign in Senegal can be seen [here](#).

On December 12th, Pope Francis named 16 new voting cardinals, including two African cardinals. The cardinals' primary responsibility will be to vote for a new pope in a secret conclave when the sitting pope dies or resigns. Ivorian Archbishop Jean-Pierre Kutwa of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and Burkinabe

Archbishop Philippe Ouedraogo of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, will be officially appointed at the Vatican on February 22nd. More information is available [here](#).

On January 13th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan's office confirmed that President Jonathan had signed the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, which provides penalties of up to 14 years in jail for a gay marriage and up to ten years in jail for joining or supporting gay organizations, on January 7th. Late last month, police in Bauchi state began arresting men on a list of 168 suspects named by gay men tortured for additional information. Human rights groups have expressed concern the enactment of the law will endanger efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in Nigeria's gay community. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On January 14th, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay criticized Nigeria's enactment of the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act. High Commissioner Pillay noted the law violates a number of basic human rights, including the rights to privacy and non-discrimination, freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and rights to freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention. High Commissioner Pillay's opposition was articulated [here](#).

On January 15th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement also expressing opposition to Nigeria's Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act entering into force. Secretary-General Ban expressed concern that the law will fuel prejudice and violence. He also expressed alarm at reports of the arrests and torture of individuals in Nigeria believed to be homosexuals. Secretary-General Ban's statement was posted [here](#).

On January 15th, Guinean Prime Minister Said Fofana resigned and submitted the resignation of his Cabinet to Guinean President Alpha Conde. The move was widely expected as part of the transition to a new government following parliamentary elections in September. The announcement comes two days after the first session of Guinea's new parliament. Details were reported [here](#).

On January 16th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan dismissed Nigerian Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim and the other service chiefs and appointed new defense officials. Speculation was high that President Jonathan might appoint a new defense staff as Boko Haram remains active in the country. A press release announcing the new appointments was posted [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On January 13th, U.N. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson and U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler briefed the Security Council on developments in the DRC since last month's defeat of the M23 rebel group. Both officials cautioned that the region is experiencing renewed turbulence and expressed support for using the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region to advance peace and stability. Highlights from the briefing were identified [here](#).

On January 13th, the *New York Times* issued a list of 52 places to go in 2014. Topping the list was Cape Town, South Africa. Also in the top 10 locations was Namibia. The full list can be accessed [here](#).

On January 14th, Mayi Mayi Sheka fighters in the DRC launched an attack against the town of Pinga in North Kivu province. Members of the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) responded to the attack, forcing the Mayi Mayi Sheka fighters to retreat after 30 minutes of gun fight. The U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) reported that close to 1,000 residents sought refuge near the U.N. base in Pinga during the fighting. The attack was detailed [here](#).

On January 14th, the World Bank released its Global Economic Prospects report. The report suggests that the prospects for economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa may be weakened by global financing conditions, declining commodity prices due to increased output and lower demand, and political unrest, including in the CAR and Nigeria. More information can be seen [here](#).

On January 15th, following protests over a lack of running water that killed at least two people in Mothutlung, South Africa, several African National Congress (ANC) government leaders, as well as

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema, traveled to the region. Water and Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa said running water will return to the township by Friday. More information is available [here](#).

On January 15th, the International Forum for Democratic Studies and the National Endowment for Democracy hosted a presentation on Zimbabwe's military and the prospects for democratic reform. Speakers included Charles Mangongera, Eric Robinson, and Christopher Walker of the National Endowment for Democracy. A recording of the event can be watched [here](#).

On January 15th, *Human IPO* reported that Africa is likely to see an increase in the number of free Wi-Fi hotspots this year. Many African countries are expected to follow examples the examples of Rwanda and South Africa, where initiatives were launched in Kigali and Tshwane to connect entire cities to the Internet. Details can be found [here](#).

On January 15th, the U.N. Department of Public Information (DPI), the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect hosted a special event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide at U.N headquarters. Participants included U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and head of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda during the genocide Romeo Dallaire. The event was detailed [here](#).

On January 15th, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay encouraged participants of the Fifth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to focus on delivering justice to human rights violators. She expressed specific concerns about suspects fleeing across borders to escape justice, including M23 officers who have fled from the DRC to Uganda and Rwanda. Comments from High Commissioner Pillay can be seen [here](#).

General Africa News

On January 9th, *BBC News* reported on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plans to announce \$14 billion in aid and trade deals during his travel this week to Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, and Mozambique. In Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abe was expected to announce plans for a geo-thermal plant. Other new Japanese investments were expected to focus on recent gas and coal discoveries in Mozambique and increased trade in Ivory Coast. Details were shared [here](#).

On January 10th, *Mother Jones* reported The Gates Foundation and USAID are coordinating business relationships between U.S. companies and small farmers in Africa that support the large chicken wholesalers that supply to Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurants in Africa. There are currently more than 750 KFCs in Sub-Saharan Africa and with support on developing adequate value chains, the company plans to expand to northern parts of the continent. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 15th, the Center for Global Development hosted an event to discuss short and long term implementation plans for the Obama Administration's Power Africa initiative. Panelists included Mimi Alemayehou of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Andrew Herscowitz of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Kamran Khan of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Nilmini Rubin of the House Foreign Affairs Committee staff. Event details were posted [here](#).

On January 16th, *The Guardian* reported that the number of deaths resulting from road accidents in Africa is on the rise. Africa already has the worst death rate for road accidents around the world and road accidents are expected to outpace malaria and HIV as the leading cause of child deaths by 2015. Experts believe requiring first aid training may be helpful in reducing the fatalities resulting from road accidents in Africa. An article on this issue can be read [here](#).

* * *

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

Copyright © 2012 ML Strategies. All rights reserved.

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

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