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<i>In This Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
EDITOR'S NOTE	3
COMMENTARY	4-6
<i>Terror Attack in Kenya: Resurgence of Al-Shabaab?</i> <i>Ruchita Beri</i>	
VIEWPOINT	7-10
<i>The Kenya-ICC Standoff</i> <i>Saurabh Mishra</i>	
BOOK REVIEW	11-12
<i>Anjan Sundaram, Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo</i> <i>Keerthi Sampath Kumar</i>	
NEWS TRACK	13-30

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Editor's Note

In the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Kenya, in this issue of *Africa Trends*, Ruchita Beri highlights the threat posed by the Al-Shabaab group on the African continent, and the security implications of this incident. Saurabh Mishra examines the stand-off between Kenya and the International Criminal Court following the election of Uhuru Kenyatta as the country's new president. In our book review section, Keerthi Sampath Kumar shares her take on Anjan Sundaram's *Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo*.

In developments across Africa, Egypt continues to witness unrest with the African Union suspending the country's membership following the early July military takeover; the country's interim prime minister has said that there is no fear of a civil war in the country with elections scheduled to be held within nine months. In Libya, the deputy prime minister resigned amid growing public anger, widespread violence and numerous political assassinations.

Meanwhile, Mali has elected a new president. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is a former prime minister of the country, and won more than 77 per cent of the vote. The Nigerian Army has claimed that it has killed the second-in-command of the Boko Haram group although there has been no independent confirmation on this. In the Central African Republic, the former rebel leader Michel Djotodia was sworn in as president of the country. Djotodia issued a presidential order setting up a council to lead the transitional government until elections can be held within 18 months and has announced that he would not stand for elections at the end of the transition.

In economic developments, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya have agreed to begin issuing single tourist visas for the three countries aimed at easing and promoting tourism. A US\$100 fee would be charged from the tourists intending to visit the three countries for up to 90 days. Mozambique's president Armando Guebuza formally inaugurated the coal mining and export activities of the Indian company JSPL Jindal, in the country's western province of Tete; by the time of its full production, the company's total investment is expected to reach about US\$10 billion. Separately, Tanzania received 679 vehicles from India - to be used for military purposes, rescue and peacekeeping operations. The country had signed an agreement with India for getting a line of credit through the Indian Exim Bank for the same in January 2012.

We hope you find this issue useful!

Commentary

TERROR ATTACK IN KENYA: RESURGENCE OF AL-SHABAAB?

The recent terror attack in Nairobi has brought focus on Kenya's involvement in Somalia and indicates that despite the African Union forces' successes last year the Somalia based terrorist group, Al Shabaab, may have regrouped and emerged stronger.

RUCHITA BERI*

The terror attack on the upmarket Westgate Mall in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, which left 62 people dead including three members of Indian community, has heightened the sense of insecurity in the country with regard to the Somalia based terrorist group Al Shabaab. The Westgate Mall attack is eerily reminiscent of the 2008 Mumbai attack with terrorists targeting a mall frequented by expatriates and holding shoppers hostage. Al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack in retaliation to the Kenyan government's deployment of troops in neighbouring Somalia.

The Al-Shabaab Threat

Roots of Al Shabaab can be traced back to the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC).¹ In 2006, Somalia made headlines with the rise of the UIC, a Taliban like movement that took control of Mogadishu. The UIC was a loose body consisting of 11 autonomous courts led by Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. It emerged in the early 1990s and its initial focus was to mete out justice because the collapse of the Somali state had undermined its formal judicial system. It is unclear exactly when, but at some point, the UIC was amalgamated with the Al-Ittihaad al-Islami (AIAI). The AIAI established in 1991, was led by Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, a person of vast resources with Al Qaeda links. The Al Shabaab, which translates as 'the youth' in Arabic, is a wing of the UIC. Initially a loose network of Islamists groups opposed to Ethiopian intervention, it has, of late, become more extremist. At the same time within the organisation the hardliners and foreign jihadis have gained ground. The group was renamed the Harkat Al Shabaab al-Mujahidin in 2009 and has global aspirations.² Last year, Al Shabaab suffered several setbacks because of the presence of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peacekeeping troops, and Somali government forces. They were thrown out of the southern Somali port city of Kismayo, at the end of September 2012, primarily by the Kenyan Contingent in AMISOM.

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Kenya's Involvement

In recent years there is rising insecurity in Kenya due to the chaotic situation in neighbouring Somalia. Conflict in Somalia can be traced back to the toppling of President Mohammed Said Barre in 1991 and the subsequent civil war. In recent years the Federal Government of Somalia has been trying to deal with the inter-clan rivalry, piracy off the Somali coast and the various terror acts perpetuated by the Al Shabaab, with the support of regional powers such as Ethiopia and Kenya and the international community. The Somali crisis has received significant international attention over the last two decades. A number of UN and multinational operations were undertaken between 1992 and 1995, to restore peace in the country, but they proved unsuccessful. During the long conflict thousands of lives have been lost and vast numbers of people have fled their homes in Somalia and sought refuge in the neighbouring countries. It has been reported that over a million people have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries, notably, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya, amongst others. In the last decade Kenya has played an active role in the Somali peace process.³

It hosted the Somali peace talks and allowed the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)⁴ to operate from Kenya before they moved into Mogadishu in 2005.

According to the Kenyan government, the repeated killings and kidnappings of Kenyan nationals and tourists by the Al-Shabaab and their control over the Juba region in Southern Somalia adjacent to northern Kenya, has led to the deteriorating security condition in the country. Al Shabaab has made several hand grenade attacks against soft targets in Kenya in recent years. However terror attacks in Kenya can be traced back to the August 1998 bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi that had left 213 people dead and another 4000 injured. This was followed by the November 2002 attacks in Mombasa where the terrorists targeted an Israel owned hotel and also launched two surface to air missiles (SAMs) at an Israeli passenger jet taking off from Mombasa airport. It was later reported that the terrorists accused of 1998 attacks (affiliates of Al Qaeda) were also responsible for the Mombasa attacks. Further they had fled from Kenya to Somalia and joined the militant Al Ittihad group and later when this group was liquidated by the efforts of the US and Ethiopia they joined the Al Shabaab. It was because of these grave circumstances that the Kenyan government agreed to deploy Kenyan troops in Somalia to root out the terrorists in an operation, code named *Linda Nchi* ("Protect the Country" in Swahili) in 2011.

Implications

The latest Westgate Mall siege is the worst terror incident since 1998, in Kenya and has several implications. The Al Shabaab claim that the attack was in reprisal for Kenyan military involvement in Somalia has led to a debate within the country on this approach. At the moment, Kenyan government has rejected any chance of withdrawal and "bowing to the terrorist's demand". However this latest terror incident threatens trade and tourism, the two vital sectors of Kenyan economy. Such incidents may make foreign investors more cautious about setting up office in the country. Further Kenya is the trade and financial hub of the East African region. Instability in the country will obviously have a negative impact on the entire region.

At the same time in other parts of the region, Ethiopia in particular, the Westgate attack has sparked off concerns regarding an imminent terror attack within the country by the Al Shabaab. Ethiopia along with Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Burundi, Djibouti and Sierra Leone has contributed

troops to the AMISOM. Officials from Medrek, Ethiopia's opposition group have called for withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia as there is high risk of Al Shabaab launching a large scale attack in the country.⁵

There is no doubt that the Kenya attack indicates that despite the AMISOM's successes last year Al Shabaab has regrouped and emerged stronger. While the last major regional attack launched by the terror outfit was in 2010 in Kampala, Uganda; in the last few months, Al Shabaab has escalated its attacks within Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu. In April, they targeted the court house which resulted in more than 50 deaths. A few months later, in June, they attacked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) compound in Mogadishu, leaving more than 20 dead. In July, the security situation worsened with the Al Shabaab claiming to have carried out more than 50 attacks; the most prominent being the attack on the Turkish embassy where three people were killed. In early September, Al Shabaab has also claimed responsibility for bombing, The Village, a popular restaurant in Mogadishu. At the same time the recent siege in Nairobi, that involved 15 heavily armed militants and who were able to hold out for four days against Kenya's security forces suggests that the Al Shabaab has acquired sophistication and fresh skills and capabilities.

While the international community, particularly, the United States, Israel, France, UK have been assisting Kenya and Somalia and the African Union in their fight against the Al Shabaab, the latest turn of events calls for a rethink of their strategy. Attempts should be made to choke financial aid and support to the Al Shabaab. In the past, Eritrea, Yemen, Syria and Qatar have been accused by the Somali TFG of providing funds and weapons to Al Shabaab. The Westgate siege has also brought to light the role of foreign militants and the Somalia diaspora based in the US and other parts of the world in the Al Shabaab cadre. In the past, there have been reports that militant organisations such as Lashkar- e - Toiba (LET), the Harkat- ul- Mujahideen (HUM) and others are active in Somalia and that volunteers from Af-Pak region also form a small part of the Al Shabaab.⁶ Moreover, Al Shabaab is also reported to have declared its intention of seeing "Kashmir liberated".⁷ While India has in past contributed US\$ 1 million to AMISOM, the killing of members of Indian community by Al Shabaab terrorists is a wakeup call for Indian officials about the threat from across the Indian Ocean.

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¹ A. Duale Sii'arag, "The Birth and Rise of Al-Ittihad Al-Islami in the Somali Inhabited Regions in the Horn of Africa", *WardheerNews.com*, November 13, 2005 at http://wardheernews.com/articles/November/13_Alittihad_Sii'arag.html

² Ibid.

³ Luckystar Miyandazi, "Kenyan military intervention in Somalia: an intricate process," *Policy & Practice Brief*, Issue No. 019, November 2012, p.2

⁴ The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) was the internationally recognized government of Somalia until August, 2012.

⁵ "Somalia: Ethiopia Could Face 'Large-Scale' Attacks From Somalia's Al-Shabaab - Opposition", *Sudan Tribune*, September 22, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201309230996.html>

⁶ B Raman, "Reports from Somalia", *Outlook*, August 23, 2010 at <http://www.outlookindia.com/article.aspx?266803>

⁷ *Times of India*, 24 August, 2010

Viewpoint

THE KENYA-ICC STANDOFF

Uhuru Kenyatta's election as the president of Kenya is important both with respect to the Kenyan internal politics and the larger implications for the legal regime of the International Criminal Court. It remains to be seen that who will bring justice to the families of the dead and displaced after the 2007-08 post election violence.

SAURABH MISHRA*

Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta's election as the president of Kenya, despite several allegations made by the opposition, is important both with respect to the Kenyan internal politics and the larger implications for the legal regime of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC had accused Kenyatta and others including his political foe turned running mate, William Ruto, of stoking the worst violence in Kenya's history after the December 2007 Kenyan elections.

The post election violence stopped only after Odinga, the opposition leader who lost, and Mwai Kibaki, the incumbent and victorious leader, agreed to form a coalition government. Kenyatta, who was appointed as the deputy prime minister in that coalition, had supported Kibaki in the 2007 elections. Both Kenyatta and Kibaki belong to the Kikuyu tribe that constitutes about 20 per cent of the population of Kenya. The opposition led by Raila Amollo Odinga was perceptibly supported by the Kalenjin, Luo and the Luhya ethnicities. Odinga was leading by approximately a million votes towards the end of the counting but the result unexpectedly turned in favour of Kibaki in the last few hours which the supporters of Odinga believe was the result of a large scale fraud by Kibaki and his supporters. Odinga's supporters turned violent and attacked Kikuyu tribe members after the declaration of the result. This was followed by an alleged organised retaliation by the Kikuyus led by Uhuru and his colleagues. The violence perpetrated by both sides had reportedly left more than 1,200 people dead and around 300,000 displaced.

There was a furious debate within Kenya prior to the March 4, 2013 presidential elections, over the candidature of Uhuru, an ICC accused, whether it was appropriate for him to contest an election for the highest seat in the country. But apparently his candidature for presidency was cleared by Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and the High Court. His election was closely monitored by the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), the European Union (EU), African Union (AU) and some other international bodies. Uhuru officially won the election, avoiding a run-off by just 8,100 votes, and crossed the 50 per cent mark just by 4,100 votes. The opposition leader Odinga, citing several technical factors, accused the administration

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of rigging the elections. However, the independent election observers from the African Union (AU) and the Commonwealth deemed the election to be fair. The African Union Election Observer Mission held that “the elections were conducted in a peaceful, transparent and credible manner, giving voters opportunity for free expression.”¹ The Commonwealth Observer Group commented that “Overall, the IEBC (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission) managed preparations in a transparent and effective manner.”² The victory was upheld by the Kenyan Supreme Court, which also characterised the polls as free and fair.

Despite the ICC indictment, Kenyatta was inaugurated as the President of Kenya on April 9, 2013 in the presence of many regional and world leaders including the presidents of Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania. Hailemariam Desalegn, prime minister of Ethiopia and the current chair of the African Union and IGAD, Joe Biden, the US vice president and the former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan were also present. It is to be noted that the AU members in general have welcomed the election. The AU had earlier passed a resolution asking the ICC to dismiss the case against Kenyatta and remit it to the courts in Nairobi.

The case of Kenyatta and Ruto starkly highlight the contradictions in the aspirations for a global rule of law and local and regional political realities.

Progress on the Kenyan case

Since its initiation in December 2010, the case has seen several twists and turns. It is special because it is the first time that the ICC Prosecutor has resorted to its *proprio motu* powers under Article 15(3) of the Rome Statute. It means that the Prosecutor may initiate an investigation within the jurisdiction of the ICC even without a referral of a case from the UN Security Council or a state party to the Statute. The ICC – designed to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed anywhere in world – started working as a court of the last resort in 2002 according to the Rome Statute of 1998.³ The court intervenes only in cases where the national judicial system and authorities cannot or do not intend to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes. After the permission was granted by of the pre-trial chamber, the ICC registered two cases from Kenya and summoned six individuals (William Samoei Ruto, Joshua Arap Sang, Henry Kiprono Kosgey, Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Hussein Ali and Francis Kirimi Muthaura) on March 8, 2011. The Pre-Trial Chamber II later confirmed charges against Ruto, Sang, Kenyatta and Muthaura and rejected the charges against Kosgey and Ali on January 23, 2013 for lack of a threshold of evidence required to try them. Later, on March 11, 2013 the charges against Muthaura were also dropped due to insufficient evidence, particularly because of a witness had recanted. Currently, in the first case, Ruto is to face trial for indirect co-operation in crimes against humanity and murder while Sang will face the same for the commission of crime. In case two, only Kenyatta stands to face trial on charges of crimes against humanity – murder, deportation or forcible transfer, and persecution. The accused leaders have tried to shift the trials from the ICC to courts in either Nairobi or Arusha since the confirmation of the charges, but without any success.

Ruto and Uhuru, who were earlier in opposite camps at the time of the violence for which they are being tried, came together to form a “Jubilee Alliance”. Ruto contested and campaigned with Kenyatta as his running mate. They have been successfully able to get their trials postponed, allegedly buying time to manipulate circumstances in their favour. They also successfully used the public statement by Johnnie Carson, the head of the Africa Division of the US State Department, warning of “consequences” if the Kenyans voted for Kenyatta and Ruto. It helped them raise

pan-African sentiments in favour of their election to the highest office and against the ICC as well.

Implications

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court has been ratified and acceded by 122 countries including 34 African states. The ICC was considered as a successful step towards an international judicial regime. But the court is facing an existential crisis for political reasons. The case of Kenyatta and Ruto starkly highlight the contradictions in the aspirations for a global rule of law and local and regional political realities. The Chief Prosecutor of the ICC is trying to bring the accused to justice but their political profile and legitimisation by their election as the president and vice president of the country respectively, have served to negate these efforts. Uhuru and Ruto are not the only politicians who are heads of state despite being charged by the ICC but Omar al-Bashir, the president of Sudan, is also facing a standing arrest warrant by the court.

The African leaders allege (which may not be baseless as the West has a long record of discriminatory policies) that the prosecution of the Kenyan leaders is a result of Western neo-colonial and racial policies. The leaders of Africa are looking at the matter in terms of the dichotomy of 'West vs Africa'. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda expressed this sentiment by characterising the scheduled ICC trials of the Kenyan leaders as "blackmail". He alleged, without naming any country, that some arrogant actors singing their careless analysis have distorted the purpose of that institution. He also claimed that some countries are using the ICC "to install leaders of their choice."

Kenya, however, is too important a country in Eastern Africa to be overlooked due to its influence, resources, economic prospects and indispensable role in Somalia. The West also does not want to see the country coming under the Chinese influence because of the void created by the non-cooperation and pressures on the leaders of the country to face ICC trials. The African Union had come to the rescue of these leaders by passing a resolution asking its members not to cooperate with the ICC with regard to these cases. Now, the recognition of the Uhuru government by regional and important world powers due to political interests has hampered the trial process.

Any credible global judicial system cannot work without the sincere support and participation of the major military and economic powers.

The Kenyan ICC cases have raised some pertinent questions on the dream for a global justice system. The most pertinent are: What is the use of the ICC if it cannot even bring an accused before it? How to put the high profile and powerful criminals on trial? How to have its summons, warrants and decisions implemented? Though Uhuru and Ruto have promised to cooperate with the court, the series of events before the beginning of the trials have already raised questions about its efficacy and utility. Sovereignty is still the essential and supreme value for nation-states and they do not want to lose it to any supranational legal institution. Though the US and Russia have signed the statute they have not ratified it. Some of the important countries like India and China, along with a number of others are still outside the jurisdiction of the ICC as they have not even signed the statute. Any credible global judicial system cannot work without the sincere support and participation of the major military and economic powers.

Kenyatta and Ruto have been elected and sworn into office but not without a set of many questionable events in their favour. Though they have promised to work for 'all Kenyans', still the fact remains that a large number of civilians were killed and displaced during the 2007-08 post election violence, and they are still far from getting justice. The Kenyan government did not

even identify the perpetrators while the ICC has taken an initiative that has turned into a controversy. As of now it remains to be seen that who will bring justice to the families of the dead and displaced; the ICC or the same people who are supposed to be the stakeholders in the violence against them. Whatever be the case, the standoff has raised real questions of justice.

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- ¹ "Observers say that Kenyan election was credible", *Business Daily*, March 6, 2013, at <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Observers+say+Kenyan+election+was+credible/-/539546/1713258/-/gks46z/-/index.html>
 - ² Ibid.
 - ³ The text of the Rome Statute was circulated as document A/CONF.183/9 of 17 July 1998 and corrected by procès-verbaux of 10 November 1998; 12 July 1999; 30 November 1999; 8 May 2000; 17 January 2001 and 16 January 2002. The Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002.

Book Review

Anjan Sundaram, *Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo*

Hamish Hamilton by Penguin Books, New Delhi, 2013, ISBN: 9780670086603, 230 pp.

KEERTHI SAMPATH KUMAR

There are a plethora of books that tell the story of the Congo, its people, its politics, its economy and so forth. Then there are books that narrate the story of the politics and the economy of the land in more human terms. Anjan Sundaram's *Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo* falls into the latter category. Sundaram had the privilege of staying with a Congolese family and thus had greater access to Congolese society which enabled him to closely observe the myriad facets of Congo. Anjan Sundaram's personal memoir of his journey inside the Democratic Republic of Congo reveals the true state of affairs of the country by virtue of his interaction with various sections of the Congolese society, in addition to his interface with foreign correspondents and UN employees.

Twenty-two and fresh out of university, Sundaram decided to go to the Congo and came face to face with the harsh realities of the land. As a result, the reader gets an insight into the author's experiences in the country which are narrated with a brutal honesty. The year and a half spent in the country in the early part of the 21st century as a stringer, coincided with a period of intense upheaval in the country. Sundaram was witness to the multi-party elections of 2006; the riots in Bunia and the rampant illegal logging and mining in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Sundaram's book depicts the country as one that is deeply entrenched in corruption, that is steeped in poverty and that is ravaged by the criminal rape of its resources by local and international actors.

Despite it being his debut work, Anjan gives a captivating and detailed account of his time in the Congo. His book is characterised by sharp observations and subtle humour. The three-part book begins with his initial months in the capital, Kinshasa; and then moves to the northern province of the Equateur and the unstable city of Bunia in the east; finally culminating with the author's return to Kinshasa. Attributing the current state of affairs to the country's history of dictatorship, Sundaram succinctly states that, "...almost unbelievably, each regime was worse than the previous. Every change worsened life. It created a distrust among the people, and a perverse nostalgia...".

To the reader, irrespective of the changing landscape and geography, Congo comes across as a country ravaged by past wars and current rebel attacks, poverty, corruption and instability whose mineral wealth is looted not only by its own countrymen but also by international players. Describing the Congo war with acuity, Sundaram writes:

...the war is Africa, but it is sustained by the world. Neighbouring powers-notably Uganda and Rwanda, whose armies are trained and equipped with by Western nations - feed the ambitions of Congolese warlords and sell them weapons. The warlords need the arms to control territory and valuable mines... And so Congo's war, isolated though it may seem, ebbs and flows with global consumption.

The paradox inherent in the Democratic Republic of Congo pervades Sundaram's book. A country that is rich in minerals, has appalling levels of poverty and thus whiles the world loots the country of its resources, a majority of the Congolese live in abject poverty.

Stringer: A Reporter's Journey in the Congo is a commendable piece of work despite it being a debut book. The simple and descriptive language employed by the author makes it ideal for easy and casual reading. Though it may not be recommended as a reference book for students of International Relations, it is nonetheless, a great introduction for a reader, unfamiliar with the politics of the Congo.

News Track

33rd SADC Summit held in Malawi

The 33rd summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held in Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi, on 17th and 18th August, 2013.¹ Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi, was elected as Chairperson of the SADC while Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, was elected as Deputy Chairperson of SADC. President Banda indicated that under her chairpersonship, poverty reduction and sustainable food production would be focused upon, among other things. On the agenda of this year's summit was the report of the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration along with a review of the political situation of the region, specifically DRC and Madagascar. The agenda also included progress review of targets set in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which came into force earlier this year.²

US refuses to lift sanctions against Mugabe

United States rejected a call by southern African leaders to lift sanctions imposed against Zimbabwe under Mugabe's regime. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that the U.S. program of what it calls "targeted" sanctions will remain in force as long as "serious flaws" persist in Zimbabwe's electoral process.³ Southern African leaders had called on Western nations to lift sanctions against Zimbabwe at the SADC summit held in Malawi on 17 and 18 August, 2013. They expressed satisfaction that the July 31 elections were free and peaceful despite widespread allegations of irregularities. The SADC has endorsed Robert Mugabe even as it has come under criticism for anointing him as the next chairman of the grouping.⁴ Britain, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions in the form of business, banking and travel bans against Mugabe and senior ZANU-PF leaders for human rights violations and suspected vote rigging and suspected rigging of previous elections.⁵

Tri-partite meeting between Angola, South Africa and DRC

José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South

¹ "33rd SADC Summit Communique", *Southern African Development Community*, August 19, 2013 at <http://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/33rd-sadc-summit-communique/>

² "Full agenda for 33rd SADC summit in Malawi", *The Herald*, August 9, 2013 at <http://www.herald.co.zw/full-agenda-for-33rd-sadc-summit-in-malawi/>

³ "US rejects calls to lift Zimbabwe sanctions", *Voice of America*, August 19, 2013 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-rejects-call-to-lift-zimbabwe-sanctions/1732795.html>

⁴ "SADC criticised as Mugabe chosen for regional chairmanship", *allAfrica*, August 19, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308192265.html>

⁵ "West should lift Zimbabwe sanctions: SADC", *Al Jazeera*, August 18, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/08/201381822151783167.html>

Africa, met at a tripartite summit on 23 August, 2013 in Luanda, Angola, to review the current conflict situation in the DRC. The three Heads of State reaffirmed the UN/AU Framework Agreement for Peace, Stability and Cooperation in the DRC as the most important and realistic initiative for a peaceful settlement of the crisis and conflict in the Eastern DRC.⁶ The peace deal was signed by eleven countries of the Great Lakes region and Southern Africa in February 2013.⁷

Northern Africa

Egypt

Egypt's suspension from AU not to harm Nile Basin talks; Mursi's Security Advisor and former Director of Office arrested; Protest camps stormed in Cairo, President declares national emergency; El-Baradei resigns from Vice Presidency; U.S. will maintain military ties with Egypt; No possibility of civil war, elections within 9 months; EU continues socio-economic aid to Egypt while suspending military ties

Egypt's water resources and irrigation minister said that suspending Egypt from the African Union would not affect the talks between Egypt and the Nile Basin countries. It would not harm talks with Sudan and Ethiopia as well. Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt had agreed to meet to discuss mechanisms for implementing the recommendations of the tripartite committee on assessing Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam. The Egyptian minister expected that the days ahead would witness greater convergence between the Nile Basin countries and Egypt. Earlier, the Egyptian foreign ministry had expressed last month its deep concern about Ethiopia's lack of response to the Egyptian water resources minister's invitation to hold a meeting in Cairo to discuss technical issues on the Ethiopian dam.⁸

The former Security Advisor and the Director of Office of the deposed President Mohammad Mursi were arrested on the orders of a Cairo prosecution office in connection with the Ittihadiya presidential palace violence leaving at least five killed and over 600 injured in December 2012. They are to be investigated for pending case of the clashes that erupted following a constitutional decree issued by Mursi exceeding and shielding his powers from review by the courts. They are accused of participating in violence, illegal detention, torture and murder of the protesters during the clashes.⁹

The President of Egypt declared a state of emergency for a month after many people died during the security forces operation against the protest camps in Cairo. The state of emergency began on

⁶ "South Africa: Final Communiqué of Tripartite Summit, Angola, Ministry of External Relations", *allAfrica*, August 23, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308270682.html>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "Suspending Egypt's AU membership won't harm Nile Basin negotiations", *Regional Investment Agency, Comesa*, August 5, 2013, at http://www.comesaria.org/site/en/news_details.php?chaine=suspending-egypt-s-au-membership-won-t-harm-nile-basin-negotiations-minister&id_news=19309&id_article=119

⁹ "Mursi's Office Director and Security Advisor arrested", *Aswat Masriya*, August 6, 2013, at <http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=b1e313b2-86f3-4b8c-b404-64a3cd5f2e2d>

August 14, 14:00 GMT. Both the sides have contradictory claims as the Muslim Brotherhood alleges hundreds of death whereas the government forces have declared only 95. The raided camps were occupied by supporters of Mursi, the former Egyptian President who was removed in early July. Armoured bulldozers moved deep into the main protest camp outside the eastern Rabaa al-Adawiya mosque shortly after dawn. The forces also claimed clearing of camps at the Nahda Square.¹⁰

Mohamed El-Baradei, Egyptian vice president for international affairs, tendered his resignation, which was accepted by Egypt's interim President Adli Mansour officially. Baradei resigned over the deaths that occurred during the clearing of Muslim Brotherhood's protest camps by security forces at Rabaa al-Adaweya and Nahda Squares in Cairo. Some considered the resignation as an embarrassment to Egypt's stance internationally. Baradei, after resigning, said that he could not take responsibility for decision he fears and does not agree with.¹¹

Chuck Hagel, the US Secretary of Defense, said that the United States will continue to maintain a military relationship with Egypt but he did not forget to mention that the violence and inadequate steps towards reconciliation of political divisions in Egypt are putting important elements of their longstanding defense cooperation at risk. Since the inception of the recent crisis in Egypt, the US has maintained that the Egyptian government must refrain from violence, respect freedom of assembly, and move toward an inclusive political transition. He reiterated that the US remains ready to work with all parties to help achieve peace.¹²

Hazem el-Beblawi, the Egyptian interim Prime Minister, declared that there is no fear of a civil war in a country. He asserted that Egypt is not on the same path as taken by some of its neighbours. He told the media that the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have pledged billions of dollars in aid to the new Egyptian government. The new authorities are thinking to have elections between the next six and nine months. He also referred to a kind of misunderstanding between the US and his country at the moment.¹³

The European Union (EU) suspended some military ties to Egypt but agreed for not freezing aid to the country. Export licenses to Egypt for equipment that could be used for internal repression have been suspended but the assistance in socio-economic sector and to civil society will continue. It is to be noted that the European nations are Egypt's largest trading partner. The Union condemned all acts of violence in Egypt and expressed worry about the alarming number of deaths in the country. The decision to suspend some export licenses was taken at an extraordinary meeting of the EU's foreign ministers in Brussels who gathered to discuss the Egyptian crisis.¹⁴

¹⁰ "Egypt declares national emergency", *Agence Tunis Afrique Press*, August 14, at <http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/world/10710-egypt-declares-national-emergency>

¹¹ "Egypt's president officially accepts ElBaradei's resignation as VP", *Aswat Masriya*, August 15, 2013, at <http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=b1bc33e8-1053-4c37-9d6b-31378485a93f>

¹² "U.S. to maintain military relationship with Egypt", *State Information Service (Cairo)*, August 16, at <http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Templates/Articles/tmpArticleNews.aspx?ArtID=69382>

¹³ "No civil war, elections expected within 9 months-PM", *Aswat Masriya*, August 21, at <http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=dd2978f8-8b73-4bce-86dc-13e069d2d4a5>

¹⁴ "EU suspends military ties with Egypt but continues aid", *State Information Service (Cairo)*, August 22, 2013, at <http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Templates/Articles/tmpArticleNews.aspx?ArtID=69515>

Libya

Deputy PM of Libya resigns; Disruptions continue in the Libyan oil sector

Awadh al Barassi, the Libyan deputy Prime Minister, resigned from his office alleging the government as “dysfunctional” and unable to end violence. Barassi announced his resignation amid growing public anger, widespread violence and numerous political assassinations. His resignation after the Prime Minister announced shelving plans to carry out a cabinet reshuffle intended to improve the Libyan government’s response to the people’s unrest. Barassi cited “a security breakdown and assassinations linked to the cabinet’s policies” as the reason for his action. Though Prime Minister Zeidan expressed his “surprise”, he accepted the resignation. Many Libyans blame political rivalries for the problems plaguing a country awash with militias and weaponry left over from the 2011 revolution. There has been a surge in attacks in the east of the country, the birthplace of the uprising.¹⁵

After a swift comeback following the revolution, Libya’s oil sector is facing tough challenges. Daily production in the country has dropped from 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) to 600,000 bpd. At the ports of Ras Lanuf, Sidra, Brega and Zueitina (the “oil crescent”), the members of the Oil Facilities Protection Forces protested against and blockaded what were allegedly sales to foreign tankers without metres to count the sold barrels. Amidst all these, Zueitina remained the only working port. The Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zidan also threatened to shell tankers that load oil at these ports without contracts from the National Oil Corporation (NOC).¹⁶

Sudan

Sudan President’s Plane denied Saudi fly-over en route to Iran; Refugees term conditions in Darfur as ‘second genocide phase’; Khartoum accused of moving troops beyond ‘centreline’; Accusations of ‘ethnic cleansing’ in East Darfur; Darfur rebels hold UNAMID-charter helicopter and crew hostage; Sudan Government rejects rebels’ plea for single platform holistic talks

An aircraft carrying President Omar Al Bashir, the President of Sudan and a delegation of Ministers to attend the inauguration ceremony President Hassan Rouhani of Iran, was denied over-flight rights by the Saudi Arabian authorities. The plane was hence forced to return to Khartoum. The Saudi-registered aircraft circled on the periphery of the Saudi airspace for an hour attempting to negotiate over-flight clearance. Though the aircraft had obtained prior authorization to fly-over, it was withdrawn after the crew announced that President Al Bashir was on board. The incident followed shortly after Bashir had a hasty return to Khartoum withdrawing early from an African Union (AU) health summit in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, in June. The International Criminal Court (ICC) called for his immediate arrest during his visit.¹⁷

¹⁵ “Libya’s deputy PM resigns citing violence”, *Al Jazeera*, August 4, 2013, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/08/201384112631486261.html>

¹⁶ “Libyan oil sector disruptions continue”, *Magharebia*, August 20, 2013, at http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/08/20/feature-02

¹⁷ “Sudan president’s plane denied Saudi fly-over en route to Iran”, *Radio Dabanga*, August 4, 2013, at <https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/54265>

Currently, only 17 of the 37 UNHCR international staff based in Darfur have valid permits to continue their work. The Sudan government has expelled 20 members of staff of the refugee agency. The Sudanese authorities have allegedly “expelled” more than ten NGOs working in Darfur in the past and blocked the delivery of relief to victims. Many refugees and displaced from Darfur consider the recent expulsions and restrictions imposed on the UN employees in Darfur as a “second phase of genocide”. They are requesting the UN and the international community, namely the USA, UK and France “not to be satisfied with condemnation and denunciation, but also impose a no-fly zone against the government air force over Darfur” and intervene directly for assuring the delivery of relief to the people.¹⁸

The government of Sudan has been accused by South Sudan authorities of moving troops into the contested centerline along the border that separates the two countries. Allegedly “unusual movement” of Sudanese troops was detected around Teskuin and Mile-14 areas in Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states respectively in the first week of August. The general security situation along the border areas has been relatively quiet but there was some irregular movement by the Sudanese side in the first week of August. The Teskuin and Mile-14 are claimed by both the two countries and they also disagree on the delimitation of the centreline, a matter that complicates the operationalisation of the buffer zone. The areas have held relative peace for long, occasional exchange of fire along the borderline puts it into strain a ceasefire between the two Sudans.¹⁹

Clashes between the Rizeigat and Ma’alia tribes in East Darfur took the total casualty toll into hundreds so far. Amidst all these, the Shura Council of the Ma’alia tribe accused the Rizeigat of “ethnic cleansing and forced deportation” with the knowledge and complicity of the state government. Although the battles stopped later, the schools, shops, and government institutions remained closed in fear and anticipation of looting and plundering. Many people got missing. The fighting between the two tribes broke out over land-use disputes in the administrative unit of Keleikel Abu Salama. They had held a four-day forum two days before the Eid Al Fitr holidays to solve the land disputes. However, the Rizeigat delegation did not sign the agreement leading to the explosion of the situation.²⁰

A United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) contract helicopter, tasked with delivering supplies to various UNAMID locations in South Darfur, was taken hostage by Darfur rebels on August 3, 2013. At the time of being taken hostage, the chopper had made an emergency landing due to severe weather conditions. Both the rebel group and the UNAMID did not make any statement about the detention of the helicopter. UNAMID continues to come under fire for being too close to the Sudanese government and has also been criticised for not been aggressive enough to fulfill the core mandate of protecting civilians.²¹

¹⁸ “Sudan’s UN restriction ‘Second Genocide Phase’”, *Radio Dabanga*, August 9, 2013, at <https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/54444>

¹⁹ “Juba accuses Khartoum of moving troops beyond centreline”, *Sudan Tribune*, August 12, 2013, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47632>

²⁰ “‘Ethnic cleansing’ accusations as East Darfur toll rises to 302”, *Radio Dabanga*, August 12, 2013, at <https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/54566>

²¹ “UNAMID-chartered helicopter and its crew held hostage by Darfur rebels”, *Sudan Tribune*, August 13, 2013, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47648>

Demands of the Darfur rebels for a common political platform to negotiate different crises, instead of the existing separate peace processes, has been rejected by Sudan. The rebels had stressed the need to harmonise and coordinate the existing mediation mechanisms to formulate a coherent and integrated approach. The meeting was considered an opportunity for the joint chief mediator to know the views and thinking of the rebel groups which did not witness any evolution in the position of the non-signatory rebel groups towards the peace process in Darfur. The Arusha meeting was attended by only two groups. The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) faction led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur refused to participate in the meeting, asking that all the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) forces be invited. The Sudanese official who chaired the government negotiating team to the Doha process pointed out that they welcome the participation of all the rebel groups in a comprehensive constitutional dialogue together with the other political forces.²²

South Sudan

Evidence of violence in satellite images from South Sudan; South Sudan prepares to join the Nile Basin Initiative; South Sudan minister claims 'improved relations' with Sudan; Chinese aid to flood-hit Sudanese; SPLM-N unilateral humanitarian truce rejected by Sudanese Army

The imagery of DigitalGlobe's Analytics Center shows the expansion of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Pibor. The Satellite Sentinel Project (SSP) has released new analysis of DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from May and June 2013, documenting destruction and abandonment of residential areas and civilian infrastructure in Pibor and Boma counties of South Sudan's restive Jonglei state. The satellite images offer a first glimpse of a mounting humanitarian crisis that has largely been unfolding in the dark due to impassable roads. Clashes between the South Sudanese army and the Khartoum-backed Yau Yau militia have emptied towns in Jonglei state and pushed an estimated 100,000 people into the bush during the height of the rainy season. The escalating humanitarian crisis for Jonglei's civilian population demands strong international action.²³

The two-year-old bid of South Sudan to join the Nile Basin Initiative has been endorsed by the South Sudan Cabinet by unanimously passing a resolution in favour of the initiative. The resolution would allow the country to become the ninth member of the Nile riparian group enabling it to engage with other states on Nile Water issues on an equal footing. It will help the country benefit from assistance that is given to support projects aimed at improving lives and living standard of people depending on water from the Nile. Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda are the other eight members of the Nile Basin Initiative.²⁴

South Sudan's foreign affairs minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin claimed that his government is experiencing "improved bilateral relations" with the neighbouring Sudan. Since its independence

²² "Khartoum rejects rebels' plea for holistic talks", *Radio Dabanga*, August 29, 2013, at <https://www.radiodabanga.org/node/55297>

²³ "Satellites show evidence of violence, civilian displacement in South Sudan", *Satellite Sentinel Project*, August 6, 2013, at <http://www.satsentinel.org/press-release/satellites-show-evidence-violence-civilian-displacement-south-sudan>

²⁴ "South Sudan cabinet endorses joining Nile Basin Initiative", *Sudan Tribune*, August 16, 2013, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47686>

in July 2011, Juba has been unable to resolve a number of contentious post-secession issues, including border, security, contested areas, citizenship and oil. But, the relationship with Sudan, according to the minister, has remarkably increased. Direct contacts exist between the two presidents and other institutions allowing free communication between them. Khartoum had threatened to stop South Sudan's oil passing through its territory and the latest extension of the deadline was announced by Sudan's oil minister, putting the shutdown off until September 6, 2013. Mr. Marial said that it is not actually a surprise that the oil is still flowing. He put the fact as an indication of remarkable improvement about the relations between the countries. He said that his country is opened to dialogue with Sudan at the African union and opening contacts between the two heads of state.²⁵

China provided humanitarian aid worth around US\$ 68,000 through Khartoum Embassy for the Sudanese in the Karary locality recently affected by flood. The assistance included shelter and other materials. The Chinese ambassador added that the embassy mobilized the Chinese companies operating in Sudan to help rehabilitate the affected areas and rebuild the destructed homes. At least 53 people had been killed and 77 others injured across the country due to the recent heavy rains and flooding, which destroyed thousands of homes since the beginning of August.²⁶

The unilateral cessation of hostilities announced by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been rejected by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), describing it as "cheap propaganda". A one-month unilateral truce was announced by the SPLM-N in response to the floods that hit the country. The group ordered its fighters to help affected civilians in the areas under their control in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. However, the SPLM-N had said that its unilateral announcement "does not include the moving targets and does not prejudice acts of self defence". The conflict was limited only to the South Kordofan since it erupted in June 2011 but it extended to the Blue Nile region after the failure of the regional efforts to contain the crisis.²⁷

Western Africa

Mali

Mali elects new President

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Ex- Prime Minister of Mali, became the new president after his rival Ex-Finance Minister Soumaila Cisse, conceded defeat in the second round runoff elections. The interior ministry confirmed Keita's victory and said that Keita captured 77.6 percent of the vote while Cisse won slightly more than 22 percent of the votes cast.²⁸ Keita also led the first round

²⁵ "South Sudan experiencing 'improved relations' with Sudan", *Sudan Tribune*, August 19, 2013, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47718>

²⁶ "Chinese embassy offers aid to flood-hit Sudanese", *Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, August 21, 2013, at <http://www.focac.org/eng/zxxx/t1068876.htm>

²⁷ "Sudanese army reject SPLM-N humanitarian truce in the two area", *Sudan Tribune*, August 31, 2013, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47882>

²⁸ "Constitutional court upholds Mali election results, *allAfrica*, August 20, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308210415.html>

vote as he garnered 39.23 percent votes but he fell short of the 50 percent needed to win outright. But, the second round vote sealed his victory. Cisse, who initially claimed that the vote had been tainted by intimidation, conceded defeat and wished Kieta good luck. International and local observers applauded the way Mali had conducted elections and said that, despite small irregularities, the process had been credible.²⁹ France, which had sent in thousands of troops in January, 2013 to break the al-Qaida-linked Islamist militants' grip on northern Mali, now aims to pull out its contingent with the successful completion of the electoral process and reduce it to a rapid response team of 1,000 troops to face the scattered threat, while handing broader security duties to a 12,600-strong UN peacekeeping mission being deployed.³⁰

Nigeria

Split in Nigeria's ruling party puts President Goodluck's Reelection prospects in question; Second-in-command of Boko Haram killed, claims Nigerian Army; Boko Haram kills 24 members of vigilante group

Nigeria's ruling party, splintered on Saturday, dealing a blow to President Goodluck Jonathan's hopes of winning another term in 2015. Seven state governors from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), along with former vice-president Atiku Abubakar, announced the formation of an as yet unnamed political group within the party. Tensions have been running high within the party for months as senior members are discontented both over the leadership of the party as well as President Jonathan's apparent intention to seek another four years in office.³¹ The PDP has won every election since military dictatorship ended in 1999. Some senior northern politicians felt cheated of their turn when Jonathan, a southerner succeeded Yar'Adua, also a southerner and are now opposed to Jonathan seeking another term.³²

Nigeria's military has said that it has killed Momodu Bama, the second-in-command of Boko Haram. A military spokesman said that his death was confirmed by other arrested terrorists although there has been no independent confirmation of his death and Boko Haram has not issued a statement. According to the spokesman, Bama was killed during fighting in Borno state along with seventeen other militants, including Bama's father Abatcha Flatari' "one of the spiritual guiding lights of the outlawed terrorist group".³³ Momodu Bama, also known by his alias "Abu Saad", was one of the most-wanted militants and had a 25 million naira (\$155,000) bounty on his head.

24 members of a vigilante group were killed in north-eastern Nigeria by Boko Haram fighters. The Civilian Joint Task Force vigilantes were ambushed in a village in the north-eastern state of

²⁹ "Keita wins Mali election after rival concedes", *Al Jazeera*, August 13, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/08/201381222306327330.html>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "Nigeria's ruling party splinters", *Financial times*, September 01, 2013 at <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/e0ea5798-12fc-11e3-804f-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2dkigllVr>

³² "Nigeria ruling party splinters as some urge change", *The Associated Press*, September 01, 2013 at http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation_world/20130902_ap_b05eacc8e25b4684b18abbbd1f00eec0.html?c=r

Borno. Thirty-four people are still missing after the attack.³⁴ The Nigerian military had encouraged the formation of vigilante groups to help it track down members of the militant Islamist outfit, Boko Haram, aiming to end their four-year insurgency. Recent events, such as this ambush, suggest that Boko Haram is taking revenge against such vigilante groups, adding weight to fears that the presence of these groups may trigger an escalation of violence in the war torn country.³⁵

Eastern Africa

Kenya

Amidst various regional issues Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda sign MOU for pipeline construction; Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda agree for single tourist visa arrangement; Kenya-Tanzania extremism links being investigated by Kenyan authorities

Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda have signed an MOU for the construction of two pipelines across East Africa of which one would connect South Sudan with Kenya's Lamu port and the other would extend a pipeline that currently runs between Mombasa port and Eldoret. South Sudan's dependence on Sudan would decrease and would also pave way for Kenya and Uganda to exploit the newly found oil resources in the region. It is expected that the new pipeline would allow the two countries to exploit their own resources and provide energy for much of the region and thereby reduce dependence on the Gulf oil that flows through the Indian Ocean. Ugandan political instability and disharmonious relationship with few of its neighbors is a serious concern in the region. The project if successfully implemented can have desirable results but there is a possibility that the hostility among the neighbors can exacerbate.³⁶

Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya have agreed to begin issuing single tourist visas for the three countries aimed at easing and promoting tourism. A US\$100 fee would be charged from the tourists intending to visit the three countries for up to 90 days. The arrangement would be implemented from January 2014. Tourists interested to visit only one country will have to pay US\$ 50 for Rwandan visa and US\$ 30 each for Uganda and Kenya. It has also been made clear by these three states that the other two countries of the Eastern African Community, Burundi and Tanzania, have not been excluded and they are welcome to join whenever they want.³⁷

³³ "Nigerian troops kill Boko Haram leader Momodu Bama", *BBC Africa*, August 14, 2013, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23704048>

³⁴ "Islamists kill 24 Nigerian Vigilantes in Ambush", *VOA News*, August 31, 2013 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/islamists-kill-24-nigerian-vigilantes-in-ambush/1741033.html>

³⁵ "Boko Haram kills '24 Nigerian Vigilantes in ambush', *BBC Africa*, September 01, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23918155>

³⁶ "East Africa: Can Pipeline Dreams Become Reality?" *Think Africa Press*, July 12th 2013 at <http://thinkafricapress.com/economy/east-african-pipeline-dream-reality>

³⁷ "Single tourist visa to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya", *The Rwanda Focus*, August 2, 2013, at <http://focus.rw/wp/2013/08/single-tourist-visa-to-rwanda-uganda-and-kenya/>

There are allegations that Mombasa cleric Sheikh Abubakar Shariff Ahmed, known as Makaburi, has become the new spiritual leader of al-Shabaab-affiliated Muslim Youth Centre (MYC). Kenyan authorities are investigating the allegations of the group's ties with the Tanzanian extremists. The MYC, allegedly, has been trying to assert itself as a regional influence under the guidance of Ahmed. A UN Monitoring Group report says that al-Hijra has been increasingly influenced by 'Makaburi' who is determined to turn the group's strategy from hitting 'soft targets' to complex, large-scale attacks in Kenya. According to the report, the MYC is attempting to extend its influence by tying with Tanzania's Ansar Muslim Youth Centre. The organisations have links to al-Qaeda in East Africa and its self-styled affiliates, including Abubakar Shariff Ahmed.³⁸

Ethiopia

Ethiopia assures to strengthen support to Sudan and South Sudan; Ethiopian Premier urges the upcoming Afro-Arab Summit to take practical decisions; AU High-Level Panel on Egypt meets with the PM of Ethiopia

With a view to help Sudan and South Sudan, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia said that his country would strengthen their support to end their crisis permanently. He also assured that Ethiopia would play its role for the peaceful resolution of the differences between the two countries. Efforts are being made to get extended the deadline declared by the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, to shut oil pipelines running from South Sudan. The EU would also continue to support the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU) and the Ethiopian Government to bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis.³⁹

The Ethiopian Premier, in a meeting with the Special Envoy to the Amir of Kuwait, Mohammed Abdullah Abu Al-Hassan, said that the upcoming Afro-Arab Summit in Kuwait in November should pass practical and implementable resolutions. He asserted that the third Afro-Arab Summit needs to give due attention to the implementation of its decisions. The Summit would focus on peace and security, investment, trade and infrastructure development and the Premier suggested that the Summit needs to prioritize its agendas which would benefit people in both the regions. The 1st and 2nd Afro-Arab Summits were held in 1977 and 2010, in Cairo and Sirte, respectively.⁴⁰

Hailemariam Desalegn, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, met with the African Union High-Level Panel for Egypt and discussed on the restoration of peace in the country. He offered the necessary support from his country to the Panel in order to help it resolve the crisis. He added that his country, as the current AU Chair, would support all the efforts being undertaken to restore peace.

³⁸ "Kenyan authorities probe links between Kenyan and Tanzanian extremists", *Sabahi*, August 1, 2013, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/08/01/feature-01

³⁹ "Ethiopia vows continued support to Sudan, S. Sudan", *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, August 1, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308020087.html>

⁴⁰ "Premier urges Afro-Arab Summit to pass practical decisions", *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, August 1, 2013, at <http://www.ertagov.com/news/index.php/component/k2/item/1176-premier-urges-afro-arab-summit-to-pass-practical-decisions>

The Panel, which visited Egypt from July 27 to August 4, provided a progress report on the situation in the country to the AU Peace and Security Council meeting.⁴¹

Mozambique

Jindal coal mining operations inaugurated by the President of Mozambique; Mozambique interested in Angolan diamond mining experience

The coal mining and export activities of the Indian company JSPL Jindal, in Changara district of the western province of Tete in Mozambique has been formally inaugurated by the country's President Armando Guebuza. Jindal is as a market leader in steel industry and has a strong presence in coal mining. It is active in seven African countries including Mozambique, hoping to achieve exports of three million tonnes of coal annually. By the time of its full production, the company's total investment is expected to reach about US\$10 billion. The concessions given to the company covers an area of 17,600 hectares and the company intends to employ 2,000 workers. There are three major multinational companies exporting coal from the Moatize coal basin in Tete. With Jindal being one, the other two are Vale of Brazil and Rio Tinto, an Anglo-Australian company.⁴²

The Mozambican Minister of Mineral Resources, Esperanca Bias, said that her government is interested in learning from Angola's experience in diamond mining. Ms. Bias said that though there are diamonds in Mozambique, little is known about their quality so far. Therefore, her country's government wants to use the Angolan knowledge to ascertain where and in what quantity exactly the diamonds could be found. It also wants cooperation between the public sector diamond mining companies of the two countries. A Mozambican team will visit Angola in the coming months to discuss with the Angolan institutions about the Kimberley process. The two countries have cooperated in the political and diplomatic spheres for a long time but now they are thinking for more economic and commercial cooperation in geology and mining.⁴³

Rwanda

Genocide Ideology Bill with lighter sentence provisions passed by Rwandan Senate; Open sky pact signed between Rwanda and Burundi; Central African Security Council rejoined by Rwanda; Mediation of the Ugandan President sought in Tanzania-Rwanda war of words

The Rwandan Senate has endorsed a new draft law on the crime of genocide ideology which could give way to lighter jail terms and sentences to the convicts. The document has been sent to

⁴¹ "PM Hailemariam meets AU High-Level Panel on Egypt", *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, August 15, 2013, at <http://www.ertagov.com/news/index.php/component/k2/item/1250-pm-hailemariam-meets-au-high-level-panel-on-egypt>

⁴² "Guebuza inaugurates Jindal coal operations", *All Africa*, August 15, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308161480.html>

⁴³ "Mozambique wants diamond cooperation with Angola", *All Africa*, August 23, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308240048.html>

for the assent of the President. The Rwandan senators unanimously passed the Genocide Ideology Bill without substantial changes from what the Chamber of Deputies had proposed. The new to be law will replace the 2008 anti-genocide legislation maligned for being “vague”. The existing law provides for heavy penalties which have now been reduced in the clear and elaborate new draft law. The law awaiting presidential assent can provide a person convicted of genocide ideology with a maximum of nine years in jail in contrast to the current law which provides a maximum of 25 years for the same.⁴⁴

A recent aviation agreement between Rwanda and Burundi will provide the two countries mutually unlimited frequencies of flights to their respective air spaces. This agreement signed by Rwanda regarding an open sky policy is the fourth after agreements with South Sudan, Lesotho and Swaziland. It not only aims at updating and improving an existing agreement that has been in place for the past 40 years but also to facilitate trade between the two countries and improve bilateral cooperation. Unlike in the past, where airlines were limited to flying three times a week, they will be able to fly as many times as they wish which would help in their growth.⁴⁵

The security council of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) has been joined by the Rwandan government. It is to be noted that, in line with the government’s agenda of putting more emphasis on the East African Community, Rwanda had withdrawn from CEEAC in 2006. As explained by the government of Rwanda it has joined the council again due to its strong commitment towards playing a key role in promoting peace, security and stability in the region especially in countries like the DRC and the Central African Republic. Rwanda is currently involved in peacekeeping missions in over seven countries across the world showing its commitment and political will to promote security across the world.⁴⁶

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has been asked by Tanzania to mediate in the country’s ongoing war of words with Rwanda. The tension between the two countries is related to the ongoing conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Tanzania is a major player in the UN intervention forces in the DRC that is fighting several rebel and militia forces and has been hit with a flood of refugees as a result of the fight in the country’s eastern Kivu region putting Tanzania at odds with Rwanda as it is seen as a backer of one of the main rebel groups in North Kivu called the March 23rd Movement (M23).⁴⁷

⁴⁴ “Senators endorse lighter sentence for genocide ideology”, *The New Times*, August 2, 2013, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=69178&i=15437>

⁴⁵ “Rwanda, Burundi sign pact to share airspace”, *The New Times*, August 17, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=69630&i=15452>

⁴⁶ “Rwanda joins Central African Security Council”, *The Rwanda Focus*, August 27, 2013, at <http://focus.rw/wp/2013/08/rwanda-joins-central-african-security-council/>

⁴⁷ “Ugandan president asked to mediate crisis between Tanzania and Rwanda”, *Sabahi*, August 30, 2013, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/08/30/newsbrief-01

⁴⁸ “Seychelles to be included in Africa’s ‘East3Route’ marketing strategy”, *Seychelles Nation*, August 24, 2013, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=117629>

Seychelles

'East3Route' planning new marketing strategy to include Seychelles; President Michel's maiden visit to Vietnam

The 'East3Route' grouping of African countries, initiated way back in 1998 by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, the King of Swaziland and President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, is contemplating to include Seychelles in its marketing strategy. Two members of 'East3Route', Seychelles and Kwazulu Natal Provincial Government of South Africa, are formulating new marketing approaches that will include Seychelles. These leaders of the grouping want to capitalise on the region's topography and the existing blend of cultural and historical heritage. With its admission to the 'East3Route' grouping in February 2013, Seychelles became its fourth member with South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. The grouping's marketing packages are encouraging tourists to visit South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. The members of the grouping are now looking for a new marketing strategy to include Seychelles in an all benefitting setting.⁴⁸

Seychelles' President James Michel officially visited Vietnam for the first time. The visit focused on strengthening of the political and bilateral relations between the two countries. They signed a total of five memorandums of understanding – MoU between the two foreign ministries, agreement on bilateral air transportation, agreement on education cooperation between the Hanoi Tourism College and the Seychelles Tourism Academy, MoU on friendly exchanges and cooperation between the cities of Hanoi and Victoria and an MoU on cooperation between the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI). President Michel had a strong delegation comprising of ministers, government officials, representatives of the Seychelles Investment Board, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority and the private sector. Both the countries are working together to appoint a Seychelles honorary consul in Hanoi.⁴⁹

Tanzania

TPDF receives 679 military, rescue vehicles from India; More Uranium discovered in the Lake Jipe of Tanzania; Tanzania-US Energy Pact to build power regulation capacity

Tanzania received 679 vehicles from India – to be used for military purposes, rescue and peace keeping operations. Tanzania had signed an agreement with India for getting a line of credit through the Indian Exim Bank for the same in January 2012. The vehicles will help solve the shortage of transport in the Tanzanian defence ministry. Four additional ambulances have also been provided by India as a gift to strengthen health care in the country's army as well as the civilians.⁵⁰

According to a preliminary finding by the Tanzania Minerals Adult Agencies (TMAA), there are traces of uranium at Lake Jipe, located in northern Tanzania. Tests are being conducted by the

⁴⁹ "President Michel officially welcomed in Vietnam", *Seychelles Nation*, August 29, 2013, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=117681>

⁵⁰ "India hands over 679 military, rescue vehicles to TPDF", *allAfrica*, August 8, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308080168.html>

geologists to determine the quantity and the economic viability of the uranium discovered. The country hopes that the uranium deposits will boost its foreign exchange earnings. Tanzania is one of the few producers of radioactive minerals in the world and is estimated to have a total deposit of 54 million kilograms of Uranium Oxide. Now, Tanzania is eyeing the world's biggest uranium producer slot. President Kikwete claims that his country can become the seventh leading uranium producer in the world if the available resources are optimally managed and utilised.⁵¹

An agreement for building a power regulation capacity to solve Tanzania's energy problems has been signed between Tanzania and the US. Tanzania faces formidable challenges in energy sector, despite its booming economy and vast natural resources. The pact will help improve access of electricity for businesses and people. It is a part of the Power Africa Initiative launched by US President Barack Obama during his recent trip to the continent. The US government has promised to mobilise private capital, provide technical tools, help Tanzania implement policy and regulatory reforms to attract investment and facilitate capacity building to advance energy transactions. The US National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners with support from the US Agency for International Development would be implementing the partnership. The US government intends to work with the Tanzanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral's Delivery Unit to generate approximately 500 megawatts of power from these projects by 2015.⁵²

Central Africa

Democratic Republic of Congo

Children freed from militia in DRC with the help of child protection agencies; Fighting resumes in DRC between the army and M23

MONUSCO reported that 82 children, including 13 girls, were rescued from the armed group 'Mai Mai Bakata Katanga' on 11 and 15 August, 2013. The children, aged between 8 and 17 years old, were identified and separated through concerted efforts of child protection agencies working together in Kibwela, Moba Territory, and Kayumba, Manono Territory in Katanga Province.⁵³ Forty of the children were immediately reunited with their families while the remaining receive interim care pending reunification. The children had been forcibly recruited in the past six months by the Mai Mai Bakata Katanga. According to MONUSCO, 163 children, including 22 girls, have been removed from the militia since the beginning of the year.⁵⁴

After a three week lull, fighting resumed outside Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between the army and M23. These were the first major hostilities since the army bombed the

⁵¹ "Tanzania discovers more Uranium", *allAfrica*, August 12, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308121876.html>

⁵² "Tanzania, United States sign energy pact", *Sabahi*, August 15, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/08/15/newsbrief-04

⁵³ "MONUSCO welcomes the separation of 82 children from Mayi Mayi Bakata Katanga", *MONUSCO Press Release*, August 16, 2013 at <http://monusco.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=10846&ctl=Details&mid=13890&ItemID=20069&language=en-US>

⁵⁴ "DR Congo unrest: Children freed from militia, says UN", *BBC News Africa*, August 17, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23736059>

rebel group's headquarters last month even as either side blamed the other for renewing hostilities.⁵⁵ Meanwhile, the UN Intervention Brigade finally went into action as the brigade's artillery unit fired its field artillery at the rebels' positions outside Goma on the second day of renewed fighting.

As the fighting continued, the government of Rwanda accused Democratic Republic of Congo forces of shelling Rwandan territory. After two weeks of fighting however, M23 suspended fighting and withdrew from the areas where clashes were most intense. M23 chief Bertrand Bisimwa told VOA his fighters are pulling back from their positions in the village of Kanyaruchinya, near Goma, which sits on the Congolese-Rwandan border. He also said his group has sent a letter to the United Nations asking the body to establish a commission to investigate the shelling across the border into Rwanda.⁵⁶

Central African Republic

Coup Leader sworn in as President in CAR

Former rebel leader, Michel Djotodia, who seized power after ousting President Francois Bozize in a coup in March 2013, was sworn in as President of the Central African Republic.⁵⁷ Djotodia issued a presidential order setting up a council to lead the transitional government until elections can be held within 18 months. Djotodia also said that he would not stand for elections at the end of the transition.⁵⁸ Meanwhile, Djotodia has been unsuccessful in reining in fighters from his rebel outfit Seleka with widespread reports coming in about arbitrary arrests and detention, sexual violence against women and children, torture, rape, targeted killings, recruitment of child soldiers and attacks being committed by the former rebels along with unidentified elements. As the humanitarian crisis escalates, The African Union is planning to deploy a 3,600-strong peacekeeping mission, incorporating a regional force of 1,100 soldiers already on the ground.⁵⁹

Cameroon

Bilateral discussions held between Cameroon and North Korea; First ever U.K. - Cameroon Joint Commission to be held in September

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pak Ui Chun visited Cameroon as part of his two week diplomatic tour of western and central African nations.

⁵⁵ "Fighting Resumes Outside Goma in DRC", *allAfrica*, August 22, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308221556.html>

⁵⁶ "DRC's M23 announces suspension of fighting", *VOA news*, August 30, 2013 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/drcs-m23-rebels-announce-suspension-of-fighting/1740193.html>

⁵⁷ "Coup leader sworn in as CAR president", *Al Jazeera*, August 19, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/08/2013818132255630242.html>

⁵⁸ "Ex-rebel sworn in as Central African Republic president", *Reuters*, August 18, 2013 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/18/us-centralafrican-president-idUSBRE97H0C320130818>

⁵⁹ "Former rebels sow terror in Central Africa Republic: residents", *Defence Web*, September 02, 2013 at http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=31747:former-rebels-sow-terror-in-central-africa-republic-residents&catid=49:National%20Security&Itemid=115

Pak Ui Chun led his country's delegation while holding discussions with Cameroon government officials with the objective of promoting and reinforcing bilateral relations between the two countries. Pak's tour of African nation comes amid a sharp increase in recent North Korean interest in the continent and has been touted by North Korean media as an effort to foster "friendly and cooperative" relations in the region.⁶⁰

The outgoing British High Commissioner to Cameroon announced the first ever U.K. – Cameroon joint commission, to be held from September 2-4, 2013 in London. He said the forum is a means of formalising ties between both countries and it envisages a formal process to which both countries will base their cooperation.⁶¹ The forum is expected to focus on political, economic and consular issues and will launch a new phase in bilateral relations between the two nations.

Southern Africa

Limited access to information poses serious challenge to the 2014 elections in Mozambique

The lack of information has been witnessed as the means through which the ruling Mozambican Liberation Front has been controlling the public and politics. Information accessibility has been a daring challenge in this thickly populated country suffering from high percentage of illiteracy and with minimal access to electricity and internet. The Media Institute of Southern Africa along with 20 civil society groups has been pressing for the Freedom of Information Bill through which they could regulate the fundamental rights and freedom of the people. However, the ruling party faces threats of opening violence from the Mozambican National Resistance on account of further deniability to loosen control over politics and economy⁶².

SADC pays heed to Southern African region's aspirations to grow as a global competitor

Infrastructure gap has been witnessed as one of the major drawbacks withholding the region's progress. According to the World Bank statistics the regional growth had been deteriorating by two percent a year due to infrastructural scarcity. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Infrastructure Investment meeting which was held in the Mozambican capital on June 27-28 paved way for the channeling of funds needed for the cross-border infrastructure network. In the light of the region facing infrastructural gaps like inaccessibility to electricity, especially in rural areas the SADC has planned to address the problems by developing hydro dams, power transmission lines, roads and railways, internet connectivity and broad band access across the region. The estimated costs for the projects are likely to be \$500 billion, public-private partnerships have been considered as an option due to the existing political instabilities in the region.⁶³

⁶⁰ "N. Korea strengthens ties with Cameroon, other African countries", *NK News*, August 23, 2013 at <http://www.nknews.org/2013/08/n-korea-strengthens-ties-with-cameroon-other-african-countries/>

⁶¹ "UK- Cameroon pioneer joint commission", *allAfrica*, August 25, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308261560.html>

⁶² "Mozambicans Living in the Shadow of a Secret State", *Inter Press Service*, June 29, 2013 at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/mozambicans-living-in-the-shadow-of-a-secret-state/>

⁶³ "Dreaming Big – But Who Will Fund Southern Africa's Infrastructure Plans?" *Inter Press Service*, June 28, 2013 at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/dreaming-big-but-who-will-fund-southern-africas-infrastructure-plans/>

Swaziland needs transformation from an island of autocratic rule

Ozais Tungwara, the director of AfriMAP, which monitors and promotes agreements within the African States with certain requirements such as good governance, democracy, human rights, etc., has accused the autocratic rule in Swaziland of tampering and withholding progress in economic and social developments. The group describes the country as 'an island of autocratic rule'. In this regard, the nation's democrats have approached to SADC to pressurize King Mswati III to allow democracy to function in the country.

The two democratic campaigners namely Swaziland United Democratic Front (SUDF) and the Swaziland Democracy Campaign (SDC) accuse the police of being used as 'private militia' to retain the regime in position. The upcoming elections in September 2013 are not expected to be completely successful as the country lacks democratic standards, minimum polling booths and certain pre-requisites such as right of assembly and formation of political parties.⁶⁴

Human settlement minister Tokyo Sexwale, communications minister Dina Pule and the minister of traditional affairs, Richard Baloyi are the three ministers sacked by South African President Jacob Zuma. Sexwale is a wealthy businessman and former anti-apartheid activist who have been critical of Zuma's administration. He also sought to replace Zuma at the ANC leadership convention. A number of ANC members believe that Zuma has drifted Mandela's former liberation movement away from its idealistic beginning and transformed it into a culture of self enrichment. South Africa's economic competitiveness is adversely impacted due to poor educational setup and stringent job opportunities. The South African recession of 2008 still does not seem to see changes despite Zuma being in power since then⁶⁵

South Africa

US grant to Ihubesi Offshore Gas project; President Zuma visits Malaysia; South Africa: three ministers sacked in fourth cabinet reshuffle

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signed a grant of \$700, 000 to South Africa's Sunbird Energy Ltd. To fund a sub-surface development plan for the Ihubesi offshore gas project, in an effort to support South Africa's transition to clean energy. Ihubesi is the largest undeveloped gas field in South Africa, with the capacity to produce 225 million cubic feet per day. The U.S. Embassy Chargé d' Affaires Catherine Hill-Herndon said that the project supports both President Obama's Climate Action Plan and South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan 2010, which calls for the expansion of gas-fired power generation from 2% to 11% of the total supply by 2030.⁶⁶

Jacob Zuma arrived in Malaysia for a three day visit, his first as President of South Africa. President Zuma termed Malaysia as a generous, trusted friend and an ally and encouraged Malaysian

⁶⁴ "Call for SADC to support democracy", *Swazi Media Commentary*, July 17, 2013 at <http://swazimedia.blogspot.in/2013/07/call-for-sadc-to-support-democracy.html>

⁶⁵ "Zuma sacks three ministers in reshuffle", *Aljazeera*, July 09, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/07/20137917372167268.html>

⁶⁶ "South Africa: U.S. Agency Provides Support for Ihubesi Offshore Gas Field Development", *allAfrica*, August 26, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308261280.html>

businessmen to continue investing in South Africa, especially in energy, transportation and manufacturing sectors where huge opportunities exist.⁶⁷ Malaysia is the largest investor in South Africa from South East Asia and bilateral trade between Malaysia and South Africa stands at \$2 billion in favour of Malaysia.

Human settlement minister Tokyo Sexwale, communications minister Dina Pule and the minister of traditional affairs, Richard Baloyi are the three ministers sacked by South African President Jacob Zuma. Sexwale is a wealthy businessman and former anti-apartheid activist who have been critical of Zuma's administration. He also sought to replace Zuma at the ANC leadership convention. A number of ANC members believe that Zuma has drifted Mandela's former liberation movement away from its idealistic beginning and transformed it into a culture of self enrichment. South Africa's economic competitiveness is adversely impacted due to poor educational setup and stringent job opportunities. The South African recession of 2008 still does not seem to see changes despite Zuma being in power since then⁶⁸

⁶⁷ "Zuma zooms in on Malaysia", *The Star Online*, August 27, 2013 at <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2013/08/27/Zuma-zooms-in-on-Msia-South-African-president-beckons-our-businessmen-again.aspx>

⁶⁸ "Zuma sacks three ministers in reshuffle", *Aljazeera*, July 09, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/07/20137917372167268.html>

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Commentaries can range between 1,000-1,500 words (excluding footnotes) and book reviews between 600-1,000 words. Guidelines for contributors may be found at: <http://www.idsa.in/africatrends>. Submissions may be emailed to the Editor at idsa.africatrends@gmail.com.

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