

# Africa Trends

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*A Bimonthly Newsletter on Africa and the Indian Ocean Region*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Despite traditional ties with Africa, a continent that comprises fifty four countries, awareness of geopolitical developments and security in the region is limited within India. In a bid to address this gap, the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) has taken the initiative to launch *Africa Trends*, a bimonthly newsletter on Africa and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The newsletter aims to provide readers with reviews of significant and strategic developments taking place in these regions that impact regional and global security. This inaugural issue of the newsletter carries the News Track and a book review by Babjee Pothuraju.

There have a number of been significant developments in Africa in the last couple of months. During the recent assembly elections in Egypt, the Islamist parties secured over 70 per cent of the seats. Similarly, in Morocco, the Islamist Justice and Development Party has formed a coalition government with the Istiqlal or Independence party. Meanwhile, South Sudan has accused Sudan of diverting its oil to Sudan's refineries and has decided to halt oil production in response.

In West Africa, Nigeria witnessed multiple bombings of religious and public places by the militant group, Boko Haram. The international community has condemned the attacks. In another development, Central African countries and the United Nations (UN) have agreed to tighten measures against the Lord's Resistance Army. Somalia continues to hog the headlines with the Al-Shabaab group's ban on aid distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The group has threatened to hand over the country to Al-Qaeda.

China continues its forays in the continent with the Chinese foreign minister Yang Jiechi urging Namibia to look east for its own development. At the same time, it was reported that Chinese Central Television intends to open representation in Angola and other African countries in a bid to expand influence. Following a price row, the Chadian government has shut down a major oil refinery owned by the Chinese.

While the United States continues to pressurise African countries to reduce commercial ties with Iran, the latter is all set to woo African nations with Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Salehi placing expansion of ties with African nations as one of Iran's top foreign policy priorities during a recent visit to Guinea.

India's interest in Africa's energy sector continues, with state-owned Oil India Ltd all set to buy stakes in Gabon Oil Company. Moreover, in keeping with India's efforts towards partnering with African countries in skills enhancement, an Indian firm is going to establish an institution of higher learning in Rwanda. External powers like Brazil and Russia have also stepped up their interest in the continent. The United States, Brazil and Mozambique signed a tripartite agreement to enhance Mozambique's food security, agriculture and health. Similarly the Russian government and businesses have expressed interest in investing in Mozambique.

Increasing incidents of piracy in the IOR have led regional organisations and external powers to cooperate in dealing with the scourge. The African Union has recently entered into dialogue with the Indian Ocean Commission to deal with this matter. In addition, it was reported that India and the European Union will work together to fight piracy in the IOR. Separately, the

Indian navy recently hosted 14 counterparts from East Asia, the Asia Pacific and IOR with the aim of strengthening cooperation.

We hope that this newsletter will prove useful to policymakers and scholars, as well as readers with an interest in Africa and the IOR. We look forward to your feedback and participation in this exciting new initiative!

## BOOK REVIEW

Cheru, Fantu and Cyril Obi (eds.), *The Rise of China & India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions*, London and New York: Zed Books, 2010, pp. xii+276, 978-1-84813-437-9

*Babjee Pothuraju*

Africa and Asia have a long history of politico- economic relations and the scale and pace of trade and investment flows has been growing in recent times. African countries are no silent spectators to the economic rise of China and India; they are party to the growth story. In this context, *The Rise of China & India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions* offers a timely analysis of China and India's engagement in Africa. It demonstrates how the growing economic power of India and China is influencing the growth patterns of African countries, particularly the oil and commodities-exporting countries, and the consequences of such influence.

While discussing the 21<sup>st</sup> century strategic and developmental challenges for Africa, the authors opine that the post-Cold War world provides an opportunity for Africa to move from the margins into the mainstream of the politico-economic scenario. Southern powers like China and India have become Africa's most important economic partners thus affecting a transformation in Africa's international relations dynamic. Other emerging economies such as Brazil, South Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam are also actively engaging in Africa indicating that North-South relations are being superseded by the Southeast and emerging Africa-Gulf-Asia triangular relations.

Given this context, the first section on *The Big Picture: China and India as Emerging Giants* highlights China, India and South Africa's engagement within the CIBS (China, India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue), BRICS and IBSA, and discusses whether South Africa dominates or facilitates Africa's interests in these groups. However, the authors have ignored other players like Nigeria. This section also elaborates India's African engagement relative to the Chinese with reference to broadening of its economic horizons and the quest for energy security, trade and investment opportunities. However, the strategies both countries employ to extend their influence in Africa are different and India recognises the challenge posed by China. Though initiatives have been taken by the Indian government to encourage its private sector to expand into Africa, these are minuscule compared to the high degree of political and financial support that Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) receive from their government. While China currently dominates the African market, India will have the comparative advantage in the long run given its strong diaspora, geographical proximity, first-class educational system and democratic polity.

*China and India's Relations with Africa: A Historical Perspective* gives an overview of China and India's relationship with Africa. China's engagement with Africa started in the form of cultural cooperation and has evolved into Sino-African development cooperation since 1955. Yet, China began its serious foray into Africa only after the colonial era, when it tried to reinvent its cultural diplomacy and started investing in Africa, particularly in infrastructure. Conversely, India's trade with Africa, mainly its eastern and southern regions, dates back, at least to the days of the Silk Road. Post-1947, their relations primarily focused on political engagement for promoting global peace and international cooperation under the banner of the Non-Aligned Movement

(NAM). India's relationship with Africa became more pragmatic from the 1990s.

*China and India's Growth Surge in Africa* outlines the implications of China and India's presence in Africa. For Africa, the emergence of China and India as potential development partners came at a time when it was looking for solutions for its developmental challenges. China and India's history as former colonies and their growth raised hopes among African nations to tackle poverty, underdevelopment and aid dependency. The section details China's exports of manufactured goods and investments in network industries especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya. From the Indian perspective, the role of the private sector in the health and agricultural sectors of Africa is explored. The evidence, however, questions whether the ascendancy of the Asian giants in Africa can really open up the 'alternative policy space' that the African countries are looking for.

*The Conflict-Development Nexus: A Precarious Balance* analyses the debate over 'conflict vs. development'. As the West is losing influence in Africa, China is endeavouring to evolve a new security relationship with the African Union (AU) in response to conflicts such as in Darfur; this is a new test for China's Africa policy. The section further deals with a range of related issues such as genocide, non-interference, responsibility to protect, the approach to engagement and China's role in these. This section also covers the bilateral relationship between China and Zambia.

*The Scramble for African Oil and Resources* focuses on energy security calculations of China and India. The authors have argued that these countries actively engage African countries through developmental aid, and expanding trade and investment in strategic sectors to influence international politics, gain access to growing markets and acquire much-needed raw materials from the continent. African policy-makers and some scholars widely believe that China and India can provide strategic options and a policy space that they have been compelled to surrender.

The authors have cautioned against 'neo-colonialism by invitation', arguing that Africa's growing engagement with Asian countries can only be positive if they negotiate from a stronger and informed platform at both the national and regional level. The overall impact of this engagement has been positive in the short term. Yet, there is little research on its actual influence on Africa's economic transformation. The book, instead of replicating existing studies, defines the priorities for an African response that will be able to harness the opportunities provided by the presence of China and India to reduce poverty and ensure people-oriented development. Overall, the book is rich in content, is thoroughly researched with in-depth analyses and case studies. It is also timely as the debates on Africa's place in establishing global peace, energy security and politics continue.

## NEWS TRACK

### NORTHERN AFRICA

#### ALGERIA

##### **AQIM Kidnaps Algerian Governor in Illizi Region; Algeria Sentences AQIM Chief and Three Others to Death**

In the second week of January, the group al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) took hostage of the regional governor of the Illizi region near the Libyan border, an incident that raised new concerns about militants exploiting Libya's security vacuum. The kidnapping, deep in the Sahara desert, was the most audacious attack on a senior Algerian official in years.<sup>1</sup> Later that week, the regional governor had been freed after his captors were intercepted inside Libya.<sup>2</sup>

After a day-long trial in Algiers on January 23, an Algerian court sentenced the fugitive leader of the AQIM, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, and three of his followers to death for involvement in acts of terrorism and 'participation in voluntary acts of homicide' against members of the armed forces, including the May 2010 attack which resulted in the death of two Algerian soldiers. Six other suspected members of the AQIM received sentences of between two to 20 years. Algeria has observed a moratorium on capital punishment since 1993.<sup>3</sup>

#### EGYPT

##### **Egypt asks for US\$3.2 billion Support from IMF; Islamists Win 70% of Egypt People's Assembly Party List Seats; US and Egypt to Develop Action Plan to Boost Trade; Egypt Emerges as Major Hub of Illegal Ivory Trade**

Egypt's Planning and International Cooperation Minister Faiza Abu el-Naga has said that Egypt has asked the International Monetary Fund for US\$3.2 billion in support, as the country's interim cabinet seeks to fill a budget gap pushed wider by almost a year of political and economic turmoil. The previous army-backed government turned down an offer of US\$ 3 billion in financial assistance from the IMF in June 2011, but since then the country's funding problems have worsened and its currency has come under heavy pressure. The IMF regional director has indicated that many technical details of an agreement are yet to be resolved.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Al Qaeda kidnaps Algerian governor: security sources", *Yahoo News*, January 17, 2012, at <http://news.yahoo.com/al-qaeda-kidnaps-algerian-governor-security-sources-162029420.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Algeria says kidnapped governor freed on Libyan soil", *Yahoo News*, January 17, 2012, at <http://news.yahoo.com/algeria-says-kidnapped-governor-freed-libyan-soil-174715652.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Algeria sentences fugitive Qaeda chief to death", *Deccan Chronicle*, January 23, 2012, at <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/world/africa/algeria-sentences-fugitive-qaeda-chief-death-186>

<sup>4</sup> "Egypt asks IMF for \$3.2 billion in support", *Reuters*, January 16, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/16/us-egypt-imf-idUSTRE80F15E20120116>

Following elections for Egypt's People's Assembly, the Supreme Electoral Commission announced the overall make-up of the party list seats. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) won the lion's share with over 38 per cent of the seats. The Salafist Al-Nour Party came second and secured 29 per cent of the list seats. As a whole, the Islamist parties accounted for 70 per cent of the Assembly. The Wafd Party was the most successful of the non-Islamist parties, winning 36 seats, or around 11 per cent. The Free Egyptians, the leading party of the Egyptian Bloc, was unexpectedly among the parties that failed to achieve the minimum proportion of seats – 0.5 per cent – in order to be conferred with independent representation in Parliament.<sup>5</sup>

The US Trade Representative's (USTR) office announced that the US and Egypt would develop an action plan to boost trade and assist the Arab world's most populist country through a difficult transition. The announcement came on the first anniversary of the start of a popular uprising centered in Cairo's Tahrir Square that drove former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak from power. The USTR said the action plan would have three main objectives: boosting exports, expanding investment and supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises, with a focus on creating jobs.<sup>6</sup>

According to a report, Egypt has emerged as the centre of illegal ivory trade and smuggling in Africa following the political unrest resulting from the Arab Spring. The report, which appeared in *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, a journal focusing on wildlife trade issues, has observed that illegal ivory products were readily available in Cairo and Luxor. The report also added that China was the biggest market for illegal ivory, but much is also smuggled to the Persian Gulf states in the form of prayer beads and walking sticks.<sup>7</sup>

## LIBYA

### **Libya and Saudi Arabia Agree to Restore Full Diplomatic Relations; Libya Lifts Sanctions against Switzerland and Lebanon**

Following a meeting in Riyadh, between minister of foreign affairs, Prince Saud Al-Faisal, and Abdulbasit Abdulqadir Al-Badri, envoy of the Chairman of Libyan National Transitional Council, Libya and Saudi Arabia have agreed to restore full diplomatic ties and exchange ambassadors. The Saudi foreign minister also asserted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would stand by Libya in restoring the country to stability and prosperity.<sup>8</sup>

In a related development, Libyan Undersecretary for Economy Ahmad al-Kouchli announced that Libya has officially ended its trade and economic sanctions against Switzerland and Lebanon,

<sup>5</sup> "Islamists win 70% of Egypt People's Assembly party list seats", *AhramOnline*, January 21, 2012, at <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/33/100/32287/Elections-/News/Islamists-win-of-Egypt-Peoples-Assembly-party-lis.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> "US and Egypt to develop action plan to boost trade", *Reuters*, January 25, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/25/us-usa-egypt-trade-idUSTRE80O25P20120125>

<sup>7</sup> "Egypt Called Major Hub of Illegal Ivory Trade", *VOA News*, January 30, 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-egypt-ivory-3-jan12-138327439.html>

<sup>8</sup> "Libya, Saudi Arabia to Restore Full Relations", *The Tripoli Post*, January 3, 2012, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7607&archive=1>



leaving the country free to do business with both countries which former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi had boycotted.<sup>9</sup>

## MOROCCO

### **Abdelilah Benkirane forms New Government in Morocco; European Maritime Official Presses for Fishing Treaty with Morocco; Fresh Protests in Morocco Demand Deeper Political Reforms**

After days of arduous negotiations following the November 25 parliamentary elections, Abdelilah Benkirane of the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) formed a coalition government in Morocco along with the *Istiqlal* or Independence Party. There were huge expectations from the new government as the Benkirane government will be the first to implement the provisions of the new Constitution. There was also endorsement for the government's decision to give high priority to justice, education, employment, housing and health care.<sup>10</sup>

The European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries has pledged to work for a new fishing treaty with Morocco after the previous agreement was dropped by the European Parliament over concerns of overfishing, expensive subsidies and the rights of the people of Western Sahara (a disputed area claimed by Morocco) and other issues. Morocco responded after the vote to what it called the Parliament's "regrettable" decision, warning that it could damage its relations with Europe. It immediately ordered all European fishing boats out of its waters.<sup>11</sup>

People in Morocco once again took to the streets in several cities to protest against government policies and call for more reforms. Demonstrators in several cities said the implemented reforms were not sufficient since the King still retains key powers and remains the head of the military. The protesters also urged the administration to create more jobs, put an end to government corruption and release dozens of rights activists. They further complained about high food prices and government ownership of major institutions.<sup>12</sup>

## SOUTH SUDAN

### **UN Defends the Role of Peacekeepers in Deterring Violence; African Union Voices Alarm over Unilateral Actions over Oil; South Sudan and Kenya sign MoU on construction of oil pipeline; Russia Orders Troop Withdrawal from South Sudan**

Following ethnic clashes near Pibor town in Jonglei state over accusations of cattle rustling, which left nearly 150 dead, the United Nations (UN) humanitarian coordinator in the region

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<sup>9</sup> "Libya Lifts Sanctions against Switzerland, Lebanon", *The Tripoli Post*, January 12, 2012, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7672&archive=1>

<sup>10</sup> "Democracy In Morocco - New Government To Implement Reforms", *Morocco News Agency*, January 3, 2012, at <http://morocconewsagency.com/democracy-in-morocco-new-government-implement-reforms-1-3-12.html>

<sup>11</sup> "European Official Presses for Moroccan Fishing Treaty", *The New York Times*, January 10, 2012, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/11/world/europe/official-vows-fishing-treaty-unity.html?ref=morocco>

<sup>12</sup> "Popular Protests in Morocco, Egypt", *The Tripoli Post*, January 14, 2012, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7689&archive=1>

defended the role of its peacekeepers and South Sudan soldiers in deterring violence. Earlier, gunmen burned down thatched huts and looted two medical facilities run by the humanitarian aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières; persisting violence has threatened to destabilise the seven-month old nation.<sup>13</sup>

The African Union (AU) has voiced alarm over the dangerous brinkmanship between Sudan and South Sudan over an oil dispute and urged the countries to refrain from unilateral actions. Sudan and South Sudan have been deadlocked in a dispute over the fees that the landlocked South should pay to use Khartoum's pipeline infrastructure to bring its oil to Sudan's main Red Sea outlet in Port Sudan. Khartoum, citing Juba's failure to pay transit fees, confiscated and diverted South Sudan's oil to its refineries, prompting the latter to accuse it of stealing. As talks between the two sides under the mediation of the AU High Level Panel (AUHIP) led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa stalled, South Sudan decided to halt oil production in response to Khartoum's unilateral action.<sup>14</sup>

In other developments, South Sudan and Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the building of an oil pipeline from South Sudan to the Kenyan port of Lamu. A high-level delegation from Kenya, led by the Prime Minister, Raila Odingo, arrived in Juba to negotiate the memorandum with their South Sudanese counterparts, which resulted in the signing ceremony. The memorandum also provided for the installation of fibre optic connections between the neighbouring countries.<sup>15</sup>

The Russian president Dmitry Medvedev issued a decree ordering Russian troops who were serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to withdraw from South Sudan by April 1, 2012 after "honorably" fulfilling the tasks of maintaining peace and security in the country.<sup>16</sup>

## SUDAN

### **Sudan Establishes First Anti-Corruption Task Force; Egypt's Foreign Minister Visits Sudan and South Sudan**

In a presidential decree, the Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir ordered the formation of an anti-corruption taskforce, the first in the country's history and his 22-year rule, under the chairmanship of Al-Tayeb Abu Qanaia, former under-secretary of Sudan's Ministry of Finance and National Economy. The Anti-Corruption Mechanism is instructed to "monitor and follow what is being published in the media about corruption," and to coordinate with the Presidency

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<sup>13</sup> "UN Claims Peacekeepers Helped Deter Violence in South Sudan", *The Tripoli Post*, January 5, 2012, at <http://www.tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7618&archive=1>

<sup>14</sup> "AU urges Sudan & South Sudan to reverse unilateral actions over oil", *Sudan Tribune*, January 23, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/AU-urges-Sudan-South-Sudan-to,41388>

<sup>15</sup> "South Sudan and Kenya sign memorandum on construction of oil pipeline", *Sudan Tribune*, January 24, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/South-Sudan-and-Kenya-sign,41394>

<sup>16</sup> "Medvedev orders Russian troops out of South Sudan", *Sudan Tribune*, January 24, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Medvedev-orders-Russian-troops-out,41390>

of the Republic and other competent authorities in the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly.<sup>17</sup>

Separately, following Cairo's offer to mediate between Sudan and South Sudan on their outstanding issues, Egypt's foreign minister Mohamed Amr visited both countries in the second week of January. In South Sudan, he revealed his country's plans to increase development support to the newly independent state. The Sudanese foreign minister Ali Karti urged Cairo to break free from what he termed as the "security delusions" that Egypt's ousted regime of Mubarak had towards Khartoum.<sup>18</sup>

## TUNISIA

### **Tunisia and Libya sign MoU on Security; EBRD to lend 100 Million Euros for Technical Cooperation with Mediterranean Countries**

According to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Tripoli, Libya and Tunisia agreed to boost co-operation on security, the fight against terrorism and border controls. They agreed to "exchange information on the activities and crimes of terrorist groups... their sources of financing and the movements of their leaders". It also envisaged "redoubling efforts" to combat illegal immigration and the smuggling of weapons, drugs and stolen cars across the border, at the same time, facilitating the movement of citizens across the frontier.<sup>19</sup>

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) announced that it would provide a •100 million loan to be divided among Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco, for financing programs of technical cooperation related to renewable energy sectors, finance and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development. EBRD vice president Jan Fischer also stated that the bank would grant loans annually of around •2.5 billion to the four countries to support their transition to democracy focusing mainly on promoting democratic achievements such as good governance, freedom of expression and respect for human rights, in addition to increasing the degree of cooperation between governments and civil society.<sup>20</sup>

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

## NAMIBIA

### **China urges Namibia to Look East; Illicit Dealings Cost Namibia N\$6 Billion**

As Western countries face the worst economic crisis in decades, China urged Namibia to look

<sup>17</sup> "Bashir establishes Sudan's first anti-graft agency", *Sudan Tribune*, January 2, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Bashir-establishes-Sudan-s-first,41166>

<sup>18</sup> "Egypt's FM visits Juba, Khartoum", *Sudan Tribune*, January 14, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Egypt-s-FM-visits-Juba-Khartoum,41299>

<sup>19</sup> "Libya and Tunisia sign security accord", *News 24*, January 19, 2012, at <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Libya-and-Tunisia-sign-security-accord-20120119>

<sup>20</sup> "Tunisia: Major European Bank Lends 100 Million euro for Technical Cooperation With Mediterranean Countries", *AllAfrica*, January 26, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201271014.html>

east for its own economic well-being and growth. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, during his visit to Namibia, argued that while Namibia is spoilt for choice of choosing economic partners, the wisest would be to look to Asia for her own development. In response, Namibian foreign minister Utoni Nujoma reaffirmed his country's commitment to doing business with China.<sup>21</sup>

According to Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a research and advocacy organisation, Namibia is estimated to have lost US\$ 750 million (over N\$5.8 billion) between 2000 and 2009 in illicit dealings such as trade mispricing, tax evasions, corruption, bribery and kickbacks. The syndicate involves foreign companies that are doing business in Namibia, most of which are headquartered in the West. Namibia is ranked the 73rd safest haven for illicit financial flows in the world.<sup>22</sup>

## SOUTH AFRICA

### South Africa and Cuba strengthen Defence Ties

South Africa and Cuba have strengthened cooperation in the field of defence especially in areas such as military veterans, defence industries, military health, and training and exchange programs with the signing of a MoU. South Africa's Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Cuban Vice President of the Council of Ministers Ulises Rosales del Toro signed the Agreement on Defence Cooperation in Pretoria January 10, 2012.<sup>23</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### Central African countries and UN agree to tighten measures against LRA; US pressurises African countries to reduce ties with Iran; UN Secretary-General: Human trafficking matter of regional concern; Central Africa launches regional campaign to prevent human trafficking

Central African countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the UN have agreed to tighten measures against the rebel group in a meeting held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Both sides discussed ways to collaborate to combat the LRA and address future challenges that can be tackled jointly. A key advancement made during the meeting was the acceptance of the Central African countries to allow their troops to cross borders without hindrance to pursue the LRA.<sup>24</sup>

Following pressure from US diplomats and lobbyists to reduce African commercial ties with Iran, Angola's state-owned energy company is pulling out of an Iranian gas deal while another

<sup>21</sup> "Namibia: Country Urged to Look East", *AllAfrica*, January 18, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201180930.html>

<sup>22</sup> "Namibia: Illicit Flows Cost Namibia N\$6 Billion", *AllAfrica*, January 30, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201301160.html>

<sup>23</sup> "South Africa: Country, Cuba Cement Defence Ties", *AllAfrica*, January 12, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201120857.html>

<sup>24</sup> "Security: UN, Central African nations tighten measures against LRA", *Afrique en ligne*, January 11, 2012 at <http://www.afriquejet.com/security-un-central-african-nations-tighten-measures-against-lra-2012011131288.html>

company in South Africa is discussing if it should divest itself of its 50% shares in an Iranian petrochemical project.<sup>25</sup>

Addressing delegates from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in N'Djamena, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon said that the spread of weapons and human trafficking across the borders of Central African countries is a matter of regional concern. This, he said 'could potentially set back the significant progress achieved by the sub-region toward a better future in peace, security and development'.<sup>26</sup> In a following development, Central Africa launched a regional campaign to prevent women and child trafficking within the framework of the regional fight against the trafficking of persons with the support of the UN Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.<sup>27</sup>

## ANGOLA

**Angola is US' second largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa and Canada's largest; Chinese Central TV choose Angola to expand its influence; Country's armed forces upgrade capabilities to counter eventual piracy**

According to a press release by the US deputy assistant secretary of state for Southern Africa, Angola was considered as the US' second largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. The release stated that the US will continue to support the Angolan government to enable its citizens to benefit from the country's resources. The two countries also discussed specific areas such as education and agriculture to strengthen their partnership.<sup>28</sup> The country is also Canada's largest trading partner taking into account the promotion of business between the two countries.<sup>29</sup>

In other developments, the Chinese Central Television (CCTV) chose Angola as one among the many African nations where it intends to open delegations this year. This expansion aims to increase the international influence of China.<sup>30</sup>

According to reports, the Angolan Defence Minister said that the country's Armed Forces have

<sup>25</sup> "US looks to Africa to squeeze Iran", *The Wall Street Journal*, January 23, 2012 at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203721704577159082004562096.html>

<sup>26</sup> "Ban calls for action in Central Africa", *UPI.com*, January 17, 2012 at [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Special/2012/01/17/Ban-calls-for-action-in-Central-Africa/UPI-26571326825710/?spt=hs&or=tn](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2012/01/17/Ban-calls-for-action-in-Central-Africa/UPI-26571326825710/?spt=hs&or=tn)

<sup>27</sup> Central Africa: Campaign to prevent women, child trafficking", *Afrique en ligne*, January 18, 2012 at <http://www.afriquejet.com/women-child-2012011831640.html>

<sup>28</sup> "Angola considered US second trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa", *AngolaPress*, January 20, 2012 at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2012/0/3/Angola-considered-second-trading-partner-sub-Saharan-Africa,96e9c84c-643d-40da-ac47-dc713b85ce38.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/0/3/Angola-considered-second-trading-partner-sub-Saharan-Africa,96e9c84c-643d-40da-ac47-dc713b85ce38.html)

<sup>29</sup> "Angola is Canada's largest trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa", *AngolaPress*, February 16, 2012 at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2012/1/7/Angola-Canada-largest-trading-partner-Sub-Saharan-Africa,8f36f472-cee2-40ad-8af2-a046d1235e9b.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/1/7/Angola-Canada-largest-trading-partner-Sub-Saharan-Africa,8f36f472-cee2-40ad-8af2-a046d1235e9b.html)

<sup>30</sup> "Chinese television interested in opening delegations in Angola", *AngolaPress*, January 20, 2012 at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/sociedade/2012/0/3/Chinese-television-interested-opening-delegations-Angola,aa30241b-4429-4194-9619-9e1f32d0d778.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/sociedade/2012/0/3/Chinese-television-interested-opening-delegations-Angola,aa30241b-4429-4194-9619-9e1f32d0d778.html)

upgraded their intervention capabilities to counter acts of piracy in territorial waters. Angola is also cooperating with other countries to ensure stability on the territorial waters of the region.<sup>31</sup>

## CAMEROON

### **Boko Haram infiltrates into Cameroon; Sri Lanka's new thrust on Africa welcomed**

After the Nigerian government intensified its clampdown of the Boko Haram, the sect has reportedly infiltrated northern parts of Cameroon. The Nigerian government temporarily shut down its land borders with Cameroon, Chad and Niger in an effort to prevent cross-border activities of the sect.<sup>32</sup>

Cameroon's Prime Minister, Philemon Yang, welcomed the new thrust in Sri Lanka's foreign policy of giving greater weight to relations with countries in Africa. This development is a result of Sri Lanka's eagerness to reorient her diplomatic representation overseas to reflect emerging priorities.<sup>33</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### **President dissolves boards of 9 state-run companies; CAR rebel group withdraws from peace process**

The Central African Republic (CAR) President, Francois Bozize, dissolved the boards of directors of a number of state-run companies as they had failed to produce good results. The nine companies dealt with electricity provision, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and textiles. The boards of eight government agencies that dealt with employment, housing, economic development, and road maintenance were also fired.<sup>34</sup>

The People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD), a rebel group operating in the CAR, pulled out of the peace process with the government, accusing the CAR President, Francois Bozize, of 'violating the peace accords' by arresting its chief, Jean-Jacques Demafouth. It also added the group was 'provisionally withdrawing' till the leader was freed.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>31</sup> "Armed forces prepared to counter terrorism - Minister", *AngolaPress*, January 23, 2012 at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2012/0/4/Armed-Forces-prepared-counter-terrorism-Minister,f3bc5e2e-f302-42fe-b0fe-42df4552f4ba.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/0/4/Armed-Forces-prepared-counter-terrorism-Minister,f3bc5e2e-f302-42fe-b0fe-42df4552f4ba.html)

<sup>32</sup> "Boko Haram infiltrates Cameroon", *Africanews.com*, January 11, 2012 at [http://www.africanews.com/site/Boko\\_Haram\\_infiltrates\\_Cameroon/list\\_messages/40827](http://www.africanews.com/site/Boko_Haram_infiltrates_Cameroon/list_messages/40827)

<sup>33</sup> "Cameroon PM welcomes stronger ties with SL", *Daily News*, February 01, 2012 at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/02/01/news23.asp>

<sup>34</sup> "CAR President dissolves boards of 'failed' state companies", *MSN News*, January 11, 2012 at <http://news.ph.msn.com/business/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5753261>

<sup>35</sup> "Central African rebel group quits peace process", *AFP*, January 12, 2012 at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g2c51Q8r7X8gvO9DYe8-VLGnyvVw?docId=CNG.27e61c999b2d51423462da8bc06a091e.af1>

## CHAD

### **First local elections held; Government shuts down major oil refinery largely owned by China; Chadian rebel group prepares an offensive on N'Djamena**

Chad held its first local elections on January 22 after it was rescheduled several times. Around one million eligible voters cast their ballots and the voting appeared peaceful.<sup>36</sup>

Following a price row with the Chinese, the Chad authorities shut down a major oil refinery largely owned by China National Petroleum Corporation International (CNPCI). According to a government source, a disagreement over the price of oil between the Chadian authorities and CNPCI, which owns 60 per cent of the refinery, was at the root of the problem.<sup>37</sup>

According to reports, a Chadian rebel group, the Popular Front for Recovery (PFR) has claimed that its forces based in Central African Republic were preparing an offensive that would put them within striking distance of Chad's capital city, N'Djamena. Though the seriousness of the threat posed to N'Djamena is unclear, the havoc created by the group in CAR since 2008 cannot be overlooked.<sup>38</sup>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### **Growing violence forces people out of homes; UN mission welcomes US strategy to defeat insurgents; Protests against Kabila's election victory**

Following an upsurge in violence involving government troops and militia in eastern DRC, 100,000 people have been forced out of their homes since November 2012. Though the cause has not yet been established, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that the violence follows the fraudulent elections held that month. The UNHCR suspects government troops, Rwandan rebel group, FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) and local defence groups behind the violence.<sup>39</sup>

In other developments, the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC welcomed a US military strategy to defeat armed insurgents in the Great Lakes region which will help bolster security especially in the restive parts of Congo.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>36</sup> "Chad holds first local elections", *IC Publications*, [http://www.africasia.com/services/news\\_africa/article.php?ID=CNG.e42b67ba223fa83c310d3aeeb32ac077.6b1](http://www.africasia.com/services/news_africa/article.php?ID=CNG.e42b67ba223fa83c310d3aeeb32ac077.6b1)

<sup>37</sup> "Oil price row closes China-built refinery in Chad", *StarAfrica.com*, January 20, 2012 at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/oil-price-row-closes-china-built-refiner-214066.html>

<sup>38</sup> "Chad Rebels Threaten to Advance On N'Djamena", *Osun Defender*, February 14, 2012 at <http://www.osundefender.org/?p=27029>

<sup>39</sup> "DR Congo violence forces 100,000 from homes: UN", *AFP*, January 20, 2012 at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iOzVPIO8AcBXHYehpC4KW8o3ryrw?docId=CNG.7660b07cc66bea3af95e87a91afccd5d.601>

<sup>40</sup> UN Mission hails new strategy to defeat Congo militia groups", *Voice of America*, January 31, 2012 at <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/UN-Mission-Hails-New-Strategy-to-Defeat-Congo-Militia-Groups-138447719.html>

Meanwhile, official results from the first elections since the 2003 war in the DRC gave President Joseph Kabila and his allies outright parliamentary majority. However, there have been allegations from international and local observers that the election was flawed.<sup>41</sup> Following the results, there have been several protests in the country against the controversial victory of Kabila. State-run media shut out the opposition and security forces broke up protests organised by the opposition parties and other groups.<sup>42</sup>

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

### **Implementation of LNG Train II project finalised; Equatorial Guinea to supply crude oil to Swaziland**

The Ministry of Mines, Industry and Energy finalised agreements on the implementation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Train II project in Lisbon. This project follows the development of Train I which began to monetise the expansive gas reserves throughout Equatorial Guinea.<sup>43</sup> In other developments, the country has agreed to supply Swaziland with crude oil which will first need to be refined in neighbouring South Africa. However, there were no details on the volume of crude oil to be sold or how Swaziland would pay for it.<sup>44</sup>

## GABON

### **India's OIL receives approval to buy stakes in Gabon Oil Company; Gabon transfers control of iron-ore project from China to Australian company**

State-owned Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has received board approval to co-opt Gabon Oil Co., the national oil company of Gabon in the Indian consortium. This could enable India to buy a stake in the French oil exporter Maurel and Prom SA blocks valued at around US\$ 2 billion.<sup>45</sup>

In other developments, Gabon is in the process of transferring the control of its largest iron ore project from China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMECEZ) to BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP), a natural resources company headquartered in Australia. BHP could partner with India's Abhijeet Infrastructure Ltd. in the Belinga Project of Gabon.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>41</sup> "DR Congo: Joseph Kabila wins majority in parliament", *BBC News Africa*, February 02, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16851211>

<sup>42</sup> "Activists denounce crackdown in DR Congo", *AFP*, February 17, 2012 at [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g8\\_zBR0jGz1l6vAg1UR0YVS19w?docId=CNG.4a4d727e25cca96e6035c2b7cee70153.131](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g8_zBR0jGz1l6vAg1UR0YVS19w?docId=CNG.4a4d727e25cca96e6035c2b7cee70153.131)

<sup>43</sup> "Equatorial Guinea Expands LNG Project", *Market Watch*, January 24, 2012 at <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/equatorial-guinea-expands-lng-project-2012-01-24>

<sup>44</sup> "Equatorial Guinea to sell crude oil to Swaziland", *Reuters Africa*, January 13, 2012 at <http://af.reuters.com/article/swazilandNews/idAFL6E8CD03J20120113>

<sup>45</sup> "OIL in talks for \$200 mn shale gas buy", *Livemint.com*, January 16, 2012 at <http://www.livemint.com/2012/01/16010417/OIL-in-talks-for-200-mn-shale.html>

<sup>46</sup> "Gabon says BHP close to winning Belinga Iron-ore deposit rights", *Bloomberg*, January 30, 2012 at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-30/gabon-says-bhp-close-to-winning-belinga-iron-ore-deposit-rights.html>



## REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### RoC new iron-ore development frontier in Africa

South Africa's mining company Exxaro Resources put the Republic of Congo on the map as a new African iron-ore development frontier with its US\$ 338 million cash takeover offer of African Iron.<sup>47</sup>

## WESTERN AFRICA

## GHANA

### Ghana intercepts arms, ammunition consignment headed for Nigeria

Against the backdrop of the recent violence in Nigeria involving the Boko Haram movement, Ghanaian police intercepted on January 7 consignments of arms and ammunitions that were allegedly destined for Nigeria. Nigerian authorities have been negotiating with Ghana to transfer custody of the five arrested – three Ghanaians and two Nigerians – in order to carry out further investigations.<sup>48</sup> Ghanaian police report that the arms sponsors had earlier made one successful entry into Nigeria.

## GUINEA

### Iran reaffirms support for African nations

In a meeting with the outgoing Guinean ambassador to Iran, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi stated that Western countries that are pressuring Iran are trying to hamper the country's progress, and that Iran is determined to safeguard the country's independence. He also stated that the expansion of ties with African nations is one of Iran's top foreign policy priorities. Guinea has requested for continued Iranian support for its political and economic development.<sup>49</sup>

## GUINEA-BISSAU

### Guinea-Bissau President dies; Acting president calls for unity; Presidential elections set for March 18

Guinea-Bissau President Malam Bacai Sanha died on January 9 in a Paris hospital following a prolonged illness.<sup>50</sup> Raimundo Pereira, Chairman of the People's National Assembly, has taken

<sup>47</sup> "Exxaro bid puts Republic of Congo on iron-ore map", *Miningweekly.com*, January 11, 2012 at <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/exxaro-puts-republic-of-congo-on-iron-ore-map-with-r4bn-takeover-bid-2012-01-11>

<sup>48</sup> "Nigeria-bound arms seizures", *Daily Sun*, January 20, 2012 at <http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/opinion/editorial/2012/jan/20/editorial-20-01-2012-001.html>

<sup>49</sup> "Certain western countries trying to hamper Iran's progress – minister", *Islamic Republic News Agency*, January 3, 2012

<sup>50</sup> "Guinea-Bissau president dies in France", *Reuters*, January 9, 2012 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/09/us-bissau-president-idUSTRE8082DS20120109>

over as acting president. Pereira called for “national unity and cohesion at this difficult time of grief and consternation”.<sup>51</sup> The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) called for a smooth transfer of power following the president’s death. There are fears that the country could face instability; Guinea-Bissau has a history of unrest and has battled with being a hub for international drug trafficking.<sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, following meetings between party representatives and the interim government, it was announced that presidential elections are due to take place on March 18, 2012.<sup>53</sup>

## MALI

### **Mali faces aftershocks of the Arab Spring**

Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure has expressed his apprehension of possible impacts of the Arab Spring on Mali. Toure spoke about the spill-over effects of the Libyan situation on existing issues in the Sub-Saharan belt such as terrorist threats and trafficking in drugs, ammunition, and human beings. In addition, the dismantlement of the Libyan army has resulted in the return of around 600 soldiers of Malian origin who had previously served with the army as Libyan nationals; these soldiers are heavily armed and pose the risk of destabilising Mali.<sup>54</sup>

Meanwhile, as clashes continued between the Malian army and Tuareg rebels in northern Mali, thousands of refugees fleeing the fighting have been pouring into neighbouring Mauritania and Niger. The UN High Commission for Refugees is monitoring the escalating humanitarian crisis.<sup>55</sup> It is estimated that close to 50,000 people - Tuareg and Arab - have fled parts of Mali.<sup>56</sup>

## NIGERIA

### **Boko Haram attacks leave more than 200 dead; Nigeria seeks cooperation from bordering countries, UN and international community; Boko Haram splinter group emerges; Bonga oilfield resumes production following oil spill clean-up; Report concludes Nigeria may fail by 2030; Inflation rate may rise to 14 per cent in 2012**

Nigeria witnessed multiple bombings of religious and public places by the Boko Haram Islamic militant group, beginning with the Christmas day bombings across several parts of the country, including at a church where worshippers had gathered. The attacks have brought together Christian and Muslim religious leaders in condemning the violence as going against the tenets of Islam or any other religion.<sup>57</sup> State leaders have attempted to dismiss any insinuations to

<sup>51</sup> “Acting Guinea Bissau leader calls for unity following president’s death”, *RTP Africa TV*, January 9, 2012

<sup>52</sup> “Regional body calls for “smooth” transfer of power in Guinea Bissau”, *Daily Trust*, January 11, 2012

<sup>53</sup> “Guinea-Bissau to hold presidential elections 18 March “, *Misna News Agency*, January 20, 2012

<sup>54</sup> “Malian president apprehensive of aftershocks of Arab Spring”, *La Stampa*, January 15, 2012

<sup>55</sup> “Refugees fleeing Mali fighting continue to pour into Mauritania”, *Al-Jazeera TV*, February 5, 2012; “Malians fleeing violence arrive in north-west Niger”, *Tele Sahel*, February 6, 2012

<sup>56</sup> “Algerian paper views exodus of Malian Tuaregs, Arabs in region”, *El Watan*, February 20, 2012

<sup>57</sup> Nigeria: Islamic clerics condemn bombings by Boko Haram, *The Guardian Nigeria*, December 30, 2011

enmity between Christians and Muslims in the country. By January 2, a partial state of emergency had been declared in several local councils across four states – Borno, Niger, Plateau and Yobe – where there have been inter-tribal and Boko Haram attacks in the last month, provoking rights and monitoring groups to warn security forces against violating the rights of innocent civilians while carrying out operations.<sup>58</sup> State governors and forums called it timely to deal with the unstable security situation.<sup>59</sup> Around 35,000 security personnel were deployed in the capital Abuja, in the vicinity of possible targets such as churches, mosques and other strategic locations. Following the multiple attacks in early January, Boko Haram also issued an ultimatum to southern Christians in some northern regions of Nigeria to leave their homes within three days. Despite security agencies mounting 24-hour surveillance, close to 5,000 residents fled mainly from Bayelsa State.<sup>60</sup>

President Goodluck Jonathan has sought the cooperation of neighbouring countries to assist in policing common borders to restrict movement of Boko Haram members and trafficking of arms and ammunition.<sup>61</sup> (Nigeria plans to establish defence intelligence missions in neighbouring Niger and Mali to further check Boko Haram's activities in the region).<sup>62</sup> He has also stated that the federal government was unable to contain the violence because the Boko Haram group had infiltrated the three arms of the government, including the armed forces, police and security agencies.<sup>63</sup> This statement came at a time when the government set up an investigative committee to probe how a suspected Boko Haram member escaped from police custody.<sup>64</sup> By the end of January, President Jonathan announced that the government would dialogue with Boko Haram if its members identified themselves and clearly stated their demands.<sup>65</sup> The offer was rejected by the group's leader in a YouTube video.<sup>66</sup>

Nigeria has sought the assistance of the UN Counter Terrorism Office and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum to tackle internal insecurity. Nigerian officials also held high-level talks with a US delegation from the State Department and Department of Defense, and a British delegation of the Department for International Development (DFID) on cooperation in addressing extremism and security threats.<sup>67</sup> The Nigerian parliament is also reviewing its Anti-Terrorism Act to boost legislative and legal support to fight the recent violence.<sup>68</sup> The Third Nigeria-European Union (EU) Ministerial meeting held from February 7-8 in Abuja also addressed issues facing Nigeria including terrorism, organised crime, violent extremism, radicalisation as well as the unintended

<sup>58</sup> "Nigerian group terms declaration of state of emergency "panicky"", *Daily Trust*, January 2, 2012

<sup>59</sup> "Nigerians figure back declaration of state of emergency", *The Guardian Nigeria*, January 1, 2012

<sup>60</sup> "Nigeria: Over 5,000 northerners in Bayelsa flee over possible reprisal attack", *Daily Trust*, January 13, 2012

<sup>61</sup> "Nigeria: Jonathan pledges to tackle Islamic sect", *ThisDay*, December 31, 2011

<sup>62</sup> "Nigerian government establishes defence missions to check Boko Haram", *Daily Trust*, February 13, 2012

<sup>63</sup> "Nigerian president says Boko Haram "infiltrated" government", *Daily Trust*, January 9, 2012

<sup>64</sup> "Nigeria sets up committee to probe escape of Boko Haram suspects", *Radio Nigeria*, January 20, 2012

<sup>65</sup> "Nigerian president says dialogue likely if sect declares identity, demands", *Vanguard*, January 27, 2012

<sup>66</sup> "Nigerian Islamic sect leader rejects president's proposal for "possible" talks", *ThisDay*, January 28, 2012

<sup>67</sup> "US team due for "high-level" talks with Nigerian officials on insecurity", *ThisDay*, January 21, 2012; "Nigerian Speaker seeks UK government's support to tackle Boko Haram", *Daily Trust*, February 3, 2012

<sup>68</sup> "Nigerian parliament to review anti-terrorism law", *Daily Trust*, January 24, 2012

consequences of the Arab spring on the Sahel region. The EU and Nigeria have agreed to jointly support national and regional strategies to combat security challenges.<sup>69</sup> Iran has also pledged to support Nigeria in the fight against terrorism.<sup>70</sup>

Boko Haram has killed close to 1,000 people since it began an uprising in north-east Nigeria in 2009 aiming to install an Islamic government in the country and impose Sharia law. The attacks in Kano city on January 20, 2012, is its most deadliest to date, killing 186 people.<sup>71</sup>

The attacks have invited condemnation by several international, regional and sub-regional bodies including the UN, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and several heads of state. Neighbouring Niger has pointed out the link between the AQIM, the Al-Shabaab militant group and Boko Haram; evidence indicates that members of the group have received training in the making of explosives at AQIM bases in the Sahel region in northern Africa. The Nigerian foreign minister has called for a unified regional approach to combat terrorism.<sup>72</sup> The Indian foreign minister has also condemned the attacks after at least one Indian national was killed and six others injured in the Kano city violence.<sup>73</sup>

In a related development, a splinter group of the Boko Haram has emerged. Media reports indicate that an ideological feud within the group may have led to the formation of the new outfit. The new group calls itself 'Ansaru' (its full name translates to 'Vanguards for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa'); it has expressed displeasure at Boko Haram's actions and has vowed to "restore the dignity of Islam in Nigeria".<sup>74</sup>

As the country attempted to deal with the sectarian violence, in the first week of January, the Nigerian government withdrew the fuel subsidy that had been in place to subsidise petroleum costs in the country, in an attempt to tackle corruption and mismanagement, and divert the annual subsidy of US\$ 8 billion to improve infrastructure.<sup>75</sup> The capital witnessed mass protests in response to this; Nigerian opposition parties criticised the move, with labour and trade unions calling for President Jonathan's impeachment for alleged contravention of the constitution.<sup>76</sup> The US government openly supported the removal of the subsidy.<sup>77</sup> After negotiations between the government and striking labour unions failed, the government had restored the fuel subsidy by January 16 to quell nationwide protests.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>69</sup> "Nigeria, EU agree to back national, regional strategies to fight security issues", *The Guardian*, February 8, 2012

<sup>70</sup> "Iran offers to help Nigeria fight terrorism", *Vanguard*, February 20, 2012

<sup>71</sup> "Nigerian Death Toll from Boko Haram attacks 'nears 1,000'", *The Guardian*, January 24, 2012, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/24/boko-haram-killed-nearly-1000>

<sup>72</sup> "Niger Republic links Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamists to Al-Qai'dah", *The Guardian Nigeria*, January 25, 2012

<sup>73</sup> "Indian foreign minister condemns Nigerian attacks - agency", *PTI News Agency*, January 22, 2012

<sup>74</sup> "Boko Haram splinter group emerges in Nigeria", *Vanguard*, February 1, 2012

<sup>75</sup> "Nigeria Fuel Subsidy Strike: Protests Suspended", *BBC News Africa*, January 13, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16544533>

<sup>76</sup> "Nigerian Labor congress, trade union call for President Jonathan's impeachment", *Vanguard*, January 3, 2012; "Rights group slams Nigerian government's decision to hike fuel price", *ThisDay*, January 5, 2012

<sup>77</sup> "US supports removal of fuel subsidy in Nigeria", *The Guardian Nigeria*, January 16, 2012

<sup>78</sup> "Nigeria restores fuel subsidy to quell nationwide protests", *The Guardian*, January 16 2012, at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/16/nigeria-restores-fuel-subsidy-protests>

In another development, news of an oil spill off the coast of Nigeria emerged in the last week of December 2011. The spill was caused by a leak at the Shell facility at the Bonga oilfield, 120 kilometers off Nigeria's coast. It was the biggest leak in the country in 13 years.<sup>79</sup> Oil production resumed at the Bonga oilfield on January 5 after a clean-up operation.<sup>80</sup>

The Nigerian government has set up a special joint military task force to tackle widespread illegal oil bunkering and sea piracy in the Niger Delta region. The unit comprises army, navy and air force personnel, and is mandated with protecting oil installations, capturing persons involved in oil theft and preventing arms and ammunitions flow into the Niger Delta.<sup>81</sup> By the end of January, the unit had destroyed 6,000 illegal refineries, and arrested around 150 people suspected of oil theft.<sup>82</sup>

Separately, a report released by US military scholars has concluded that Nigeria may collapse by 2030. The scenario building analysis by the Centre for Strategy and Technology, Air University, observes that "Nigeria's lack of unifying national identity, history of corrupt governance, religious and cultural schisms, and shifting demographics may cause the state, over time, to break apart."<sup>83</sup> The report outlines scenarios of civil war and instability for neighbouring countries as a result of Nigeria failing as a state.

In another important development, the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria has indicated that the country's inflation rate is likely to rise to around 14 per cent during this year. The projected rise has been attributed to a number of factors including the recent partial deregulation of the oil sector.<sup>84</sup>

## TOGO

### **Togo elected as UNSC non-permanent member; Togolese PM calls Clinton visit "historic"**

Togolese president Faure Gnassingbe met with visiting Serbian foreign minister Vuc Jeremic on January 4. The talks touched upon extending cooperation in the fields of education (including military training), defence, agriculture and economic ties. Serbia had supported Togo's election to the UN Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member in October 2011 and views the country as a good representative for West Africa.<sup>85</sup> Togo has indicated it wants West Africa to be the focus of its chairmanship and plans to stress the need to strengthen peacekeeping and the fight against poverty.<sup>86</sup> In a related development, China has urged the international community to actively participate in assisting West African and Sahel countries, and regional organisations

<sup>79</sup> "Shell's Nigeria Oil Spill Gets Muted Response", *The Guardian*, December 23, 2011 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/23/us-shell-nigeria-leak-idUSTRE7BM1BZ20111223>

<sup>80</sup> "Nigeria: Dutch oil firm resumes production at Bonga, EA oil fields", *The Guardian Nigeria*, January 5, 2012

<sup>81</sup> "Nigeria sets up task force to tackle oil theft, piracy in Niger Delta", *The Guardian Nigeria*, January 16, 2012

<sup>82</sup> "Nigerian military destroys "6,000 illegal refineries" in Niger Delta", *Daily Trust*, January 23, 2012

<sup>83</sup> See full report at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/cst/cs67.pdf>; "US military report predicts Nigeria's collapse by 2030", *Daily Trust*, January 18, 2012

<sup>84</sup> "Nigerian Central Bank governor predicts inflation to rise to 14 per cent", *Radio Nigeria*, January 31, 2012

<sup>85</sup> "Togolese president, visiting Serbian foreign minister discuss ties", *Radio Togo*, January 5, 2012

<sup>86</sup> "Togo outlines agenda for UN Security Council, urges focus on poverty", *République Togolaise*, February 2, 2012

to address transnational crime. The Chinese deputy permanent representative to the UN, while addressing a UNSC debate on peace and security in Africa, appealed to countries to increase capital and technology input to improve economic and social development in the region.<sup>87</sup>

Later in the month, the president also met with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the United Kingdom's (UK) Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham. Both meetings touched upon Togo's chairmanship of the UNSC beginning in the month of February 2012.<sup>88</sup> Clinton's visit to Togo is the first to the country by a US Secretary of State following Togo's independence in 1960; Prime Minister Gilbert Houngbo called the visit "a major event, a historic visit".<sup>89</sup> The Togolese and American delegations discussed boosting of bilateral ties and cooperation in counterterrorism efforts, drug trafficking and maritime piracy. In addition, they also discussed the situation in Syria and Iran, and the Palestinian bid for recognition at the UN.<sup>90</sup> The US has pledged its support in strengthening democracy in Togo and involving more women in the political arena.<sup>91</sup>

## *EASTERN AFRICA*

### **BURUNDI**

#### **Fears of Looming Food Shortage; Tanzania Government Tightens Security on Border with Burundi; Rwanda, Burundi Sign Pact to Facilitate Cross Border Trade**

There are fears of a looming food shortage in Burundi after heavy rains damaged two successive harvests. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has reported that more than half of the expected harvest has been lost in flooding and siltation. The rains peaked in mid-September and November and were the heaviest since October 1961.<sup>92</sup>

Tanzania has beefed up security along its border with Burundi following reports of internal fighting in the neighbouring country. Measures taken by Tanzania include deployment of Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) soldiers for intensified patrol along the common border.<sup>93</sup>

Rwanda has signed a bilateral agreement with Burundi to establish a one-stop border post at Gasenyi 1/ Nemba border. The move is expected to bolster trade across the two countries by harmonising border control regulations and procedures and enabling expeditious and more

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<sup>87</sup> "China calls for global efforts to address trans-national crime in West Africa", *Xinhua news agency*, February 21, 2012

<sup>88</sup> "Togolese leader, UK minister hold talks on UN Security Council, security", *Radio Togo*, January 25, 2012

<sup>89</sup> "Togo PM says Clinton visit "historic"", *République Togolaise*, January 17, 2012

<sup>90</sup> "Hillary Clinton visits Togo, holds talks with president", *République Togolaise*, January 17, 2012

<sup>91</sup> "Clinton ends Togo visit, pledges US partnership in strengthening democracy", *République Togolaise*, January 17, 2012

<sup>92</sup> "Burundi: Fears of Looming Food Shortage", *AllAfrica*, January 27, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201271142.html>

<sup>93</sup> "Tanzania: Govt Tightens Security on Border with Burundi", *AllAfrica*, January 19, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201201063.html>

effective border control mechanisms. According to the agreement, the two countries will also maximise the use of Information and Communication Technologies in order to enhance easier and speedier sharing of border control data.<sup>94</sup>

## DJIBOUTI

### **Djibouti Government Refutes Al-Shabaab's Claims; US Sees Base As 'Central' to Its Plans**

The Djibouti government issued a statement denying allegations from Al-Shabaab that Djibouti troops who joined the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peacekeepers last month shelled a mosque in Mogadishu on January 7. The Djibouti Deputy Ambassador for Somalia said that the Al-Shabaab is trying to create a rift between Djibouti troops and the Somali people.<sup>95</sup>

The recent rescue of two hostages in Somalia by US Special Forces highlights the strategic significance of the American installation in Djibouti, which is being touted as a model for future US bases in Africa and elsewhere. Camp Lemonnier, established in 2003 as the home of the Pentagon's Combined Joint Task Force/Horn of Africa, was described by US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta during a December visit to Djibouti as "the central location for continuing the effort against terrorism."<sup>96</sup>

## ETHIOPIA

### **Joint tripartite committee set up by Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan; Ethiopia-Sudan power transmission to be complete in the first quarter of the year; Egyptian Investments in Ethiopia Up By US \$2.2 Billion**

A joint tripartite technical committee set up by Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan has begun assessing the possible impacts of the massive hydro-power dam project Ethiopia intends to build in the Blue Nile River. Ethiopia proposed the establishment of the technical team to create transparency and to guarantee Sudan and Egypt that the construction of the dam will not negatively affect their water share downstream.<sup>97</sup>

Meanwhile, the Ethiopia-Sudan power transmission line is expected to be completed by first quarter of this year and will allow power trading between the two east African neighbours, according to the Ethiopia Electric and Power Corporation (EEPCO). Ethiopia plans to sell an initial 100MW of electricity to Sudan as an example of Ethiopia's capacity to export power. The

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<sup>94</sup> "Rwanda, Burundi Sign Pact to Facilitate Cross Border Trade", *AllAfrica*, February 13, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202132272.html>

<sup>95</sup> "Djibouti: Government Refutes Al-Shabaab's Claims", *AllAfrica*, January 12, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201120334.html>

<sup>96</sup> "Djibouti: US Sees Base As 'Central' to Its Plans", *Silobreaker*, February 06, 2012 at [http://www.silobreaker.com/us-sees-djibouti-base-as-central-to-its-plans-5\\_2265465397819998463](http://www.silobreaker.com/us-sees-djibouti-base-as-central-to-its-plans-5_2265465397819998463)

<sup>97</sup> "Ethiopia: Country, Sudan and Egypt Begin Studying Nile Dam Impact", *AllAfrica*, January 11, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201120999.html>

Horn of Africa country has recently begun exporting 35 MW of electricity a month to Djibouti earning up to USD\$ 1.5 million every four weeks.<sup>98</sup>

Egyptian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mohamed Fathi Edris, has asserted that the volume of Egyptian investments in Ethiopia has hit US\$ 2.2 billion while Egyptian-Ethiopian relations have ushered in a new positive phase, adding new ideas and proposals are being discussed by officials of the two countries to establish an Egyptian trade and industrial zone in Addis Ababa.<sup>99</sup>

## KENYA

### ICC confirms charges against six Kenyans

The International Criminal Court confirmed charges against four of the six Kenyans charged with crimes against humanity following the deadly 2008 post-election violence in Kenya. Deputy prime minister and minister of finance Uhuru Kenyatta, former Higher Education minister William Ruto, Head of Civil Service Francis Muthaura, and Kass FM programmes chief Joshua Sang will have to defend themselves at the court while former police boss Maj. Gen. Hussein Ali and former industrialisation minister Henry Kosgey were let off the hook.<sup>100</sup>

## MADAGASCAR

### South Africa Helped With Weapons Import – Report

Madagascar's ousted president was helped by South Africa to import crowd control weapons before he lost power, Wikileaks has revealed. The Sunday Independent Newspaper reported that a leaked US state department document showed that South Africa was used as a trans-shipment point for riot control equipment, including grenades, rubber bullets and teargas. It claimed that the Chinese-manufactured part of the arsenal was unloaded in South Africa and collected by then President Marc Ravalomanana's private jet.<sup>101</sup>

## MAURITIUS

### High-level US delegation visits Mauritius to discuss cooperation in trade and investment

US Deputy Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis began a visit to Mauritius January 17 with a high-level US delegation for talks with the Mauritian government under the US-Mauritius Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The TIFA establishes a high-level forum

<sup>98</sup> "East Africa: Ethiopia and Sudan Power Grids Soon to Be Linked", *AllAfrica*, January 14, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201170267.html>

<sup>99</sup> Egypt: Local Investments in Ethiopia Up By US\$ 2.2 Billion, *AllAfrica*, February 16, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202161040.html>

<sup>100</sup> "For Africans, the ICC is more about politics than delivering justice ", *Daily Monitor*, January 28, 2012 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1314938/-/view/printVersion/-/snbr1t/-/index.html>

<sup>101</sup> "Madagascar: South Africa Helped with Weapons Import – Report", *AllAfrica*, February 12, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202120095.html>

<sup>102</sup> "Mauritius: Ambassador Marantis Leads US Trade Consultations", *AllAfrica*, January 18, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201201280.html>



for advancing a cooperative partnership on trade and investment issues, and this was the fifth TIFA Council meeting with Mauritius.<sup>102</sup>

## MOZAMBIQUE

### **European Union Formalises Fisheries Agreement; Tripartite Cooperation with U.S and Brazil on food security; 500,000 Dollars to Increase Mozambique-US Trade; Russia Wants to Invest in the Country**

The EU on Monday ratified a new fisheries partnership agreement with Mozambique. Under the agreement, which actually came into force on 1 January 2012, 75 European fishing boats will be allowed access to Mozambican waters.<sup>103</sup>

Mozambican, Brazilian and US technical staff are to work together to improve Mozambique's performance in food security, agriculture and health, under a declaration of intent signed by the three governments in Maputo on January 23.<sup>104</sup>

Meanwhile, the US government announced in Maputo on January 19 that it is making US\$ 500,000 available to support activities intended to increase trade between Mozambique and the US. According to the visiting US Deputy Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis, this sum will be spent on increasing exports made by businesses of each of the countries to the other, and to improve the use made by Mozambican companies of the facilities available under AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act).<sup>105</sup>

The Russian government and Russian businesses are interested in investing in Mozambique, attracted by the macro-economic stability the country has experienced in recent years. This desire was expressed in Bloemfontein, South Africa by Mikhail Margelov, special representative of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. He stressed that Russia was always "a natural ally" of the African continent.<sup>106</sup>

## RWANDA

### **Indian Firm to Set Up Campus in Country**

An Indian consultant firm, SRI SAI Group, is set to establish an institution of higher learning in the country early this year, according to one of the company's officials. Jai Singh Banafal, the Business Head of SRI SAI Group Rwanda, told The New Times that the firm is going to invest in Rwanda due to the country's conducive investment environment.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>103</sup> "Mozambique: European Union Formalises Fisheries Agreement", *AllAfrica*, January 26, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201270986.html>

<sup>104</sup> "Mozambique: Tripartite Cooperation With U.S and Brazil", *AllAfrica*, January 24, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201250017.html>

<sup>105</sup> "Mozambique: 500,000 Dollars to Increase Country/US Trade", *AllAfrica*, January 20, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201201544.html>

<sup>106</sup> "Mozambique: Russia Wants to Invest in the Country", *AllAfrica*, January 9, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201100242.html>

<sup>107</sup> "Rwanda: Indian Firm to Set Up Campus in Country", *AllAfrica*, January 28, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201300125.html>

## SEYCHELLES

**18 suspected pirates to be prosecuted; Seychelles proves worth investing in amid global crises; Seychelles gets funding for major water project; Indian naval ship on patrol in Seychelles' EEZ**

International cooperation to counter the increasing threat of piracy has led to the successful detention of 18 suspected pirates who have been transferred to and will be prosecuted in Seychelles. The government of Seychelles has agreed to take custody of the prisoners for prosecution, given initial reports suggesting overwhelming evidence, and after seeking assurances to address concerns on issues of transfer mechanisms.<sup>108</sup>

Seychelles has been named among three African countries where investors were able to get good returns for their assets in 2011 as political and economic woes affected other nations. World media said bonds from Seychelles and Congo returned 14-16 per cent in 2011 as negative effects elsewhere "damaged the economy and forced investors to reassess their optimism over the short-term returns available in African countries".<sup>109</sup>

A •27 million financing agreement for a major water and sanitation project in Seychelles has been signed with the European Investment Bank (EIB). The water network will be rationalised to improve pressure management and reduce leakages.<sup>110</sup>

An Indian naval ship, Savitri, an offshore patrol vessel (OPV) of the Indian Navy, has been deployed to patrol Seychelles' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). During the deployment, which lasted five days beginning on January 17, the ship visited Port Victoria and carried out extensive training for personnel of the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF)/Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) on counter-piracy and boarding operations, damage control and firefighting, vessel protection duties and first aid.<sup>111</sup>

## SOMALIA

**UN Condemns Al-Shabaab's Ban On ICRC; Ethiopian troops to leave Somalia 'as soon as feasible'; Turkey among new donors shaking up humanitarian aid; Iran Sends over US\$ 30 million Worth of Aid to Somalia; Somalia meets over Federal Constitution; Puntland's Galgala Militants 'Join Al Qaeda'; Al-Shabaab Says it Will Hand Country Over to Al-Qaeda**

The UN has expressed concern over a ban by the Al-Shabaab group on aid distributions by the

<sup>108</sup> "18 suspected pirates to be prosecuted here", *Seychelles Nation*, January 30, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=26370>

<sup>109</sup> "Seychelles proves worth investing in amid global crises", *Seychelles Nation*, January 25, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=26326>

<sup>110</sup> "Seychelles gets funding for major water project", *Seychelles Nation*, January 23, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=26303>

<sup>111</sup> "Indian naval ship on patrol in Seychelles' EEZ", *Seychelles Nation*, January 19, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=26273>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia saying the move would reverse gains made in improving the country's food security.<sup>112</sup>

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced in the last week of January that he would pull troops out of Somalia "as soon as feasible," admitting for the first time that forces had crossed into the war-torn neighbouring country.<sup>113</sup>

Turkey has landed itself a spot among emerging donors on the international humanitarian aid scene, most evidently in its outpouring of support to famine-stricken Somalia. According to humanitarian aid reports made to the UN between 2006 and 2010, the country ranks among the top 10 new donors in terms of international humanitarian aid.<sup>114</sup>

A senior official of Iran's Red Crescent Society (RCS) announced that Iranians have dispatched over US\$ 30 million worth of humanitarian aid to drought-hit Somalia. Iran was among the first countries which rushed to the aid of the Somali people; over 14 aid cargos have been delivered to the African nation thus far. In October, Iran shipped its largest cargo of humanitarian aid weighing about 5000 tons to Somalia.<sup>115</sup>

The final draft of the Somalia Constitution will be completed in April 2012 to allow for elections in August, when the mandate of the Transitional Federal Government ends.

The decision to finalise the constitution by the first quarter of next year, was one of the many resolutions during the first Constitutional Conference held in Garowe, Puntland between December 21 and 23, 2011.<sup>116</sup>

Meanwhile, militants in Somalia's northern Puntland region have declared their allegiance to the Al Qaeda terrorist group. The nearly three minute recording of Yasin Kilwe, the self proclaimed 'leader of the Galgala martyrs' verified that the Golis Mountain range militia officially joined Al Shabaab and its parent group Al Qaeda.<sup>117</sup> Separately, the Islamist militant group of Al-Shabaab has said it will hand Somalia over to Al-Qaeda in order to expand their operations against the UN-backed Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. An Al-Shabaab spokesman told a militant controlled Radio station that the insurgents are committed to extend reach Al-Qaeda into all of Somalia's regions and territory.<sup>118</sup>

<sup>112</sup> "Somalia: UN Condemns Al-Shabab's Ban on ICRC", *AllAfrica*, January 31, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201201311208.html>

<sup>113</sup> "Somali: Ethiopian troops to leave Somalia 'as soon as feasible': PM", *Horseed Media*, January 28, 2012 at <http://horseedmedia.net/2012/01/02/somali-somalia-meets-over-federal-constitution/>

<sup>114</sup> "Somalia: Turkey among new donors shaking up humanitarian aid", *Horseed Media*, January 26, 2012 at <http://horseedmedia.net/2012/01/27/somalia-turkey-among-new-donors-shaking-up-humanitarian-aid/>

<sup>115</sup> "Somalia: Iranian People Send over \$30mln Worth of Aids to Somalia", *Horseed Media*, January 7, 2012 at <http://horseedmedia.net/2012/01/07/somalia-iranian-people-send-over-30mln-worth-of-aids-to-somalia/>

<sup>116</sup> "Somalia Meets over Federal Constitution", *Horseed Media*, January 28, 2012 at <http://horseedmedia.net/2012/01/02/somali-somalia-meets-over-federal-constitution/>

<sup>117</sup> "Puntland's Galgala Militants 'Join Al Qaeda'", *AllAfrica*, February 26, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202270599.html>

<sup>118</sup> "Al-Shababa Says it Will Hand Country Over to Al-Qaeda", *AllAfrica*, February 26, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202270370.html>

## ZAMBIA

### Zambia seeks Angolan fuel products import deal

Zambia plans to start importing refined petroleum products from neighbouring Angola to lower the cost of fuel. Energy Secretary George Zulu told Reuters that oil-rich Angola was willing to supply Zambia with petroleum, which the land-locked southern African state had been importing from the Middle East.<sup>119</sup>

## INDIAN OCEAN REGION

**Indian Ocean Commission to strengthen engagement with African Union against piracy; Regional, international bodies discuss maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region; Indian Navy to host navies from South-east Asia to strengthen cooperation; India and EU to work together to fight piracy in IOR; US investigating long-term plans with India to provide security in IOR; Agreement signed to manage and develop fishery sector; Spain to reap the most benefits from fishing agreement; Diplomatic row between India and Italy over killing in Indian Ocean**

Visiting African Union (AU) chairman, Jean Ping, met with Seychelles foreign minister, Jean-Paul Adam, on January 9, 2012. Seychelles has recently assumed presidency of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI), an intergovernmental organisation that comprises Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, France and Seychelles, to encourage cooperation. The COI has recently been accepted to observer status within the AU. Both sides discussed increasing the COI's engagement with the AU in the fight against piracy. They also discussed strengthening the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to possibly develop a naval element to its operations.<sup>120</sup>

Seychelles has also joined with other regional and international bodies to discuss the formulation of a maritime security project for the region. This comes after the ministers of eastern and southern Africa, at a meeting in Mauritius in October 2010 adopted the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Piracy and for Promoting Maritime Security.<sup>121</sup>

In the month of February, the Indian Navy will host 14 counterparts from South East Asia, Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region for the eight edition of the Milan exercise in Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the aim of strengthening cooperation among the navies of the region. This exercise is aimed to enhance the inter-operability and Standard Operating Procedures of the Navies if a need arises to operate together in the event of a natural disaster or a tsunami-like situation.<sup>122</sup>

<sup>119</sup> "Zambia seeks Angolan fuel products import deal", *izambia.co.zm*, January 4, 2012 at <http://www.izambia.co.zm/news/local/item/11183-zambia-seeks-angolan-fuel-products-import-deal.html>

<sup>120</sup> "Seychelles, AU discuss cooperation in fight against piracy in Indian Ocean", *Seychelles Nation*, January 12, 2012

<sup>121</sup> "Piracy in the Indian Ocean region, Coastal states unite to better guard their EEZ", *Seychelles Nation*, January 17, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=26252>

<sup>122</sup> "14 countries to join hands in naval exercise", *The Economic Times*, January 30, 2012 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-01-30/news/31005751\\_1\\_indian-navy-andaman-and-nicobar-command-exercise](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-01-30/news/31005751_1_indian-navy-andaman-and-nicobar-command-exercise)

In other developments, India and the EU will work together to launch joint military operations in the Indian Ocean to fight piracy. In addition to its Operation Atlanta in the Indian Ocean, the EU will collaborate with the Indian Navy to deal with piracy. They are working on a concrete strategy to launch anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean, share intelligence and exchange high-level visits to forge a strategic partnership to deal with the new global security dimensions.<sup>123</sup>

According to a defence strategic document brought out by the Obama government titled 'Sustaining US Global Leadership: Priorities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Defense', the US is investing in a long-term strategic partnership with India to 'support its ability to serve as regional economic anchor and provider of security in the broader Indian Ocean region'.<sup>124</sup>

The EU, the UN FAO and the representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) signed a grant agreement of 6 million Euros to prepare an Action Plan for the management and development of the fishery sector and to strengthen fish and fish products contribution to food and nutrition security to the Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) region.<sup>125</sup>

With the ratification of the fishing agreement between EU Council of Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Mozambican government, a Spanish fleet will reap the most benefits with 38 licenses to fish in the waters of the African country. Other beneficiaries include France, Portugal, Italy and the UK. The EU will pay 2.9 million Euros during the three years of the duration of the agreement.<sup>126</sup>

The incident where two Indian fishermen were killed by Italian naval personnel off the coast of Kerala has focused attention on the potentially lethal outcomes of the practice of deploying armed groups on ships to fight piracy in the Indian Ocean. The killing also threatened to escalate into a diplomatic row between India and Italy.<sup>127</sup> Following the incident, the two Italian naval guards who were part of the security detachment of the merchant vessel were arrested by the Indian police.<sup>128</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> "India, EU join hands for anti-piracy military operation", *The Hindu*, January 24, 2012 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2826395.ece>

<sup>124</sup> "US investing in long-term strategic partnership with India", *NDTV.com*, January 06, 2012 at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/us-investing-in-long-term-strategic-partnership-with-india-164257>

<sup>125</sup> "The European Union grants EUR 6 million in support of sustainable development of the fishery sector in the Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region", *Star Africa.com*, January 25, 2012 at <http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/the-european-union-grants-eur-6-million-214961.html>

<sup>126</sup> "Spanish fleet, main beneficiary of EU-Mozambique fisheries agreement", *FIS India*, January 25, 2012 at <http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=25&id=49373&l=e&special=&nb=1%20target=>

<sup>127</sup> "Diplomatic row brewing over killing of fishermen off Kerala", *The Hindu*, February 16, 2012 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2900144.ece>

<sup>128</sup> "Italy slams Indian police for arresting its naval guards", *The Times of India*, February 20, 2012 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-02-20/india/31079157\\_1\\_enrica-lexie-pirate-vessels-fishing-boat](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-02-20/india/31079157_1_enrica-lexie-pirate-vessels-fishing-boat)

## **About the IDSA Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre**

The Centre's research focus includes understanding developments in the African region and analysing various hotspots like Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, and the Indian Ocean Region. It also focuses on bilateral, regional as well as multilateral engagements between India and the countries of Africa. The Centre also endeavours to analyse India's engagement with Latin American countries, particularly in forums such as the IBSA and BRICS.

In addition, the Centre carries out research on the broader theme of India and the United Nations. It deals with important topics that come up in the Security Council and those that hold relevance and significance to India's foreign policy.

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