

Summary of Africa

BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Weekly Report 129

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POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

West Africa: The Scramble for a flag bearer with the ruling party in Nigeria over the zoning issue has generated heat among several political groupings which causes split among the Northern governors.

At border of **Mali and Mauritania** six suspected al Qaeda militants were killed, four other members escaped the operation led by the Mauritanian army.

In **Gambia** a judge has sentenced to death eight men, including The Gambia's former army chief, for their parts in a coup plot last year in the Country.

East Africa/Horn of Africa: The US State Department expressed disappointment over Chad's failure to arrest the Sudanese leader Omar Bashir during his visits to the country, as it was nominally obliged to do as an ICC signatory country.

The United Nations acknowledge the steps taken by **Eritrea and Djibouti** to resolve their border dispute through mediation by Qatar, and ready to provide technical support if needed to facilitate a settlement.

Central Africa: The appeals chamber of ICC ruled to put the Release Mr. Lubanga Dyilo (Warlord) on Hold Pending the determination of the prosecution's appeal of the verdict remain under the custody of the ICC.

Central African Republic: The army confirms the control over base after the Rebels in the Central African Republic attacked an army base near the country's border with Sudan.

South Africa: The island of Seychelles convicted 11 Somali pirates on Monday for attempting to hijack a Seychelles coast guard boat last December.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa: Humanitarian agencies and relief organizations pushed for continued economic support from the international community on behalf of the drought-ridden African countries in the Sahel region at the United Nations on Tuesday for their level of food insecurity, Like Niger and Mali.

East Africa/Horn of Africa: The main international backers of Somalia's government have pledged additional resources for the drive to defeat al-Qaida-linked militants trying to establish a beachhead in the Horn of Africa.

Representatives of the United Nations and the **Sudanese** opposition movement, the Justice and Equality Movement, have signed an agreement on the protection of children in the Darfur conflict area.

Central African Republic: The top officials from United Nations food and refugee expressed hope that security will soon improve to allow people of Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to return home and begin farming in their land.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

POLITICAL ECONOMY

West Africa: Ghana is expected to generate revenue from energy export through an estimated 75-million-dollar power transmission project that would link her to Burkina Faso and other countries in West Africa.

Liberia recovering from civil war has signed a one-year oil supply contract with Nigeria that will allow it to take 20,000 barrels of Nigerian crude per day and resell to bolster its Economy.

Ivory Coast's SIR refinery has taken a 50 billion CFA (\$98.37 million) loan from Groupe Banque Atlantique to buy crude oil at 80,000 barrel-per-day.

China Africa Relations:

Chinese aid and investment unlikely to pull Africa out of its predicament despite the recent money pump into Kenyan and other African countries economy.

News read that China's interest in Africa is frequently portrayed simply as that of a rising economic power seeking natural resources to outsmart the West in Africa.

Pan-African/AU issues:

Africa has seen a slow but marked decrease in the number of internal "refugees" during the last decade and has become more peaceful. While internal displacements continue to rise in the world at large.

African Union's current president Bingu wa Mutharika said at the opening of the AU summit on the Issue of ICC "To subject a sovereign head of state to a warrant of arrest is undermining African solidarity and African peace and security that we fought for so many years,"

The African Union has agreed to change the mandate of its peacekeeping mission, Amisom, in Somalia into peace enforcement in an effort to engage the Al Shabaab militia.

Elections:

West Africa: Doubt over January Election Date of the 2011 elections in **Nigeria** as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is now in a serious dilemma over the date while seeking N55bn for Fresh Voters registration.

While the **Nigeria** Senate has passed the new Electoral Act, putting the conduct of Presidential and National Assembly elections ahead of Governorship and Houses of Assembly elections.

Guinea's Supreme Court confirms first-round of the Presidential election results held on June 27 paving the way for a runoff vote between the two front-runner candidates.

East Africa/Horn of Africa: nationwide tension and potential violence surrounding the August 4 vote in **Kenya** coming up in Nine days to Vote for or campaign against the proposed Constitution. Close to 70 % of **Kenyans** have voted in favor of the country's new constitution, according to preliminary results, all but ensuring it will replace the colonial-era British document that preceded it.

Central African Republic: A leading member of Burundi's opposition Forces for National Liberation (FNL) has called on supporters of his party as well as other opposition parties to boycott the parliamentary election as done during the Presidential election.