Darfur: what's to understand of the recent violence?

<https://bit.ly/3pg8pzJ>

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23/01

DARFUR SUDAN

After 13 years, the joint United Nations/African Union peace mission to the Darfur region came to an end on December 31st. Since then over 200 people died in just three days, in what has been described as another episode of inter-communal violence. Many fear with international forces gone, the situation could worsen in the coming months. With the joint United Nations/African Union peace mission’s withdrawal, the Sudanese security forces will take over responsibility for the protection of civilians in the area.

Sahel violence displaces two million internally- UN says

<https://bit.ly/39b7Vp6>

22/01

Africanews

For the first time, more than 2 million people have been displaced in the Sahel within the borders of their countries, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported on Friday. The Sahel, which has been plagued by armed insurgent groups and criminal gangs since 2012, includes Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger.

But the UN says the Sahel is also seeing rising needs such as extreme poverty, food insecurity, climatic changes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the generosity of their hosts, many internally displaced people do not even have basic shelter and sleep in the open air.

Meanwhile, the African Development Bank said in January it would mobilize $6.5 Billion to support efforts by countries in the Sahel. Launched in 2007 by the African African Union, the Great Green Wall is a concerted attempt to roll back the Sahara desert. It seeks to help communities in the Sahel and Sahara regions to mitigate and adapt to climate change but also to improve food security.

EU, U.S call for probe into Uganda election violence

21/01. The European Union and the US have called for probe into Uganda’s election violence even as the opposition leader Bobi Wine remains under house arrest. Uganda's longtime leader President Yoweri Museveni was declared the winner for a record sixth term, amid an internet blackout and allegations of abuse. Uganda’s opposition leaders and supporters have complained of numerous harassment by the state security before and after the election. Uganda's government spokesman on Tuesday accused the US ambassador of breaching diplomatic norms and engaging in "mischief" over her attempt to visit opposition leader Bobi Wine, who is confined to his home. The European Union (EU) says it is concerned about the continued harassment of politicians and civil society activists in Uganda after last week's general election. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad) and the African Union said the elections were peaceful. Africanews <https://bit.ly/39YoovX>

29.01.2021

Europe should move away from a donor-recipient relationship with Africa and cooperate as equals instead, EU lawmakers have said in a new report adopted on Thursday (28 January). “Europe and Africa need each other; a new and equal partnership must reflect this,” said Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, a French centrist MEP who drafted the Parliament’s report, which was adopted by a 20 to 3 majority. Euractiv <https://bit.ly/2Yx1feJ>

**EU security, defence missions in Africa do not translate into ‘real political influence’, says minister**

29.01.2021. The financial efforts and missions of the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in Africa do not translate into “real political influence”, Portugal’s defence minister, João Gomes Cravinho, argued on Thursday (28 January). “There is a lack of political commitment, a lack of translation of the financial effort and capabilities that we invest in the African continent, particularly in CSDP missions, into real political influence and a real capacity for dialogue with African political actors who ultimately decide on security and peace on the continent”, Cravinho told a hearing in the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Security and Defence (EP). (Euractiv) [**https://bit.ly/3alnSID**](https://bit.ly/3alnSID)

**Canada and UK among countries with most vaccine doses ordered per person**

**29.01.2021.** Canada, the UK and Chile have ordered the highest number of vaccine doses relative to their populations, according to Guardian analysis of the latest available data.Each of these countries has procured enough supplies to give each person at least four doses. By contrast, the African Union and Latin American countries – with the exception of Brazil – have confirmed orders amounting to one jab each for less than half their people. Some vaccines require two doses to achieve maximum efficacy. (Theguardian)[**https://bit.ly/3pBRjwh**](https://bit.ly/3pBRjwh)

**Coronavirus dominates African Union Virtual summit**

06.02.2021. The COVID-19 pandemic dominated discussion at the African Union summit this weekend almost a year after the first case was reported in Egypt. Although the death toll is relatively low, about 4 percent of deaths worldwide, many countries now face a second, more serious wave. The global race for vaccines has also left African leaders worried, but preparations are underway to vaccinate 60 percent of the African population by the end of the year. Africanews <https://bit.ly/3q205nF>

DR Congo's President Tshisekedi becomes African Union chairman

The DRC's President Félix Tshisekedi has now taken over the helm of the African Union to serve as the chairman for one-year. He replaces His south African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa, following the AU's 34th summit on Saturday. But Tshisekedi faces big challenges this year with the coronavirus pandemic hitting health service and economies hard. The continent has so far been hit less hard than other regions, recording 3.5 percent of global virus cases and 4 percent of global deaths, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). <https://bit.ly/3rAHJKZ>

02.01.2021. Shipping containers have become overflow mortuaries for the dead from COVID-19 in South Africa, while some other African nations are now looking to China for the next wave of vaccine doses. Many African countries will get vaccines from the AU initiative, which has sourced 600 million doses through COVAX and acquired another 400 million from manufacturers including AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson, Ramaphosa said Monday night. Independent <https://bit.ly/3pWXoDO>

**AU faces old problems, missed targets in bid to raise Africa's profile**

**14.02.2021**. The African Union may be facing old problems even with a new structure that officials say could make it more effective. The new structure is the brainchild of Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who has proposed reducing the number of departments to deal with overlapping roles. For example, there were different commissioners for Economic Affairs and Trade, and Political Affairs and Security. This time, the AU renamed the two as Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining; and Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security. Faki and his team say the launch of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCTA), the Open Skies Initiative and continual collaboration on health emergencies like Ebola and Covid-19 could help improve the continent. On Monday, the African Union launched the Programme on Infrastructure, Development in Africa (PIDA), a 10-year vision meant to improve connectivity in Africa. But the continental body could still have to deal with old problems and missed targets. The AU has cited resumption of peace in Sudan, South Sudan and the rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia as some of the successes realised in the last four years under collaboration between the AU and regional blocs. (Nation Africa) [**https://bit.ly/3k1qrUR**](https://bit.ly/3k1qrUR)

**EU-Africa relations must step up on defence, says Portuguese presidency**

**18.02.2021.** Portugal’s defence minister wants to strengthen political dialogue between the European Union and African decision-makers, which he believes is insufficient despite the fact that most European military missions are in Africa, he told EURACTIV’s partner Lusa in an interview. (Euractiv.com) <https://bit.ly/2ZDqhcQ>

**UA- Déclaration conjointe pour une élection apaisée au Niger**

**20.02.2021.** Second tour du scrutin presidentiel du 21 Fevrier 2021. L’Union Africaine (UA), la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), l'Union Européenne (UE), et les Nations Unies (ONU) renouvellent leurs félicitations au peuple du Niger pour la tenue des scrutins des 13 et 27 décembre 2020 et appellent les institutions nationales, les parties prenantes, la société civile, les forces vives, et de façon plus spécifique, les femmes et les jeunes qui ont massivement participé aux précédentes consultations, à s’engager de bonne foi en vue d’un scrutin présidentiel apaisé le 21 février 2021.(Union Africaine) <https://bit.ly/3qHNLcG>

**Seven Niger election officials killed by landmine on poll day**

**21.02.2021.** Seven members of the electoral commission in Niger have been killed in a landmine explosion. The team's car drove over an improvised explosive device in the Tillaberi region in the country's south-west. It is not known whether the vehicle was deliberately targeted.Nigeriens were voting on Sunday in the second round of the presidential election that will see the first democratic transition of power since independence from France in 1960.(BBC News) <https://bbc.in/3kbyyOl>

**Ghana becomes first country to receive Covid vaccine through COVAX program**

**24.02.2021.** Ghana has become the first country to receive Covid-19 vaccines through the World Health Organization's COVAX program on Wednesday, a joint statement issued by UNICEF Ghana and WHO Ghana said. The shipment, consisting of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccines, arrived at Ghana's capital Accra."Today marks the historic moment for which we have been planning and working so hard," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "With the first shipment of doses, we can make good on the promise of the COVAX facility to ensure people from less wealthy countries are not left behind in the race for life-saving vaccines." Last month, India and the African Union announced plans for the Serum Institute to supply 400 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines to Africa. Ghana has reported at least 80,759 cases of Covid-19 and 582 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. **(CNN)** <https://cnn.it/3uHp42s>

**Washington Condemns the atrocities of the Ethiopian Army and Eritrean Forces in Tigray: Crimes Against Humanity.**

**28.02.2021.** The US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, condemned the atrocities that occurred in the Tigray region in Ethiopia, and called on the African Union and other international partners to help address the crisis in the stricken region. Blinken’s statements came the day after Amnesty International published a report stating that Eritrean soldiers are fighting in Tigray with The Ethiopian government army, and militias from the Amhara ethnic group, killed hundreds of civilians last November, and the organization considered that this could constitute a crime against humanity. (almasryalyoum.com) <https://bit.ly/3aZICau>

**Africa welcomes COVAX doses but warns against 'selfishness'**

**06.03.2021.** Urgent calls for COVID-19 vaccine fairness rang through African countries on Friday as more welcomed or rolled out doses from the global COVAX initiative, with officials acutely aware their continent needs much more. The East African nation of 45 million people was seeing the arrival of under 1 million vaccine doses — 864,000. It’s the first batch of a total of 18 million COVAX doses for Uganda, but when all will arrive is not known. Monica Musenero, an epidemiologist and presidential adviser urged Africa’s 54 countries to devote more resources, however limited, to secure more doses: “As a bloc we should organize ourselves ... instead of sitting there to cry.” One WHO official in Africa, Richard Mihigo, on Thursday discouraged African countries from bilateral deals because of the risk of paying a high price. The African Union instead is pursuing bulk deals for the continent, but that also has faced delays. (Independent) <https://bit.ly/3sV9cYk>

**Egypt president el-Sissi visits Sudan amid rapprochement**

**07.03.2021.** Egypt’s president arrived in Sudan on Saturday, his first visit to the country since a popular uprising led to the military’s overthrow of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in 2019. The Egyptian leader was scheduled to discuss with Sudanese officials an array of issues, including economic and military ties and the two nations’ dispute with Ethiopia over a massive dam it is building on the Blue Nile, Egypt’s presidency said. Though decade-long negotiations, the two countries have repeatedly failed to reach a three-party deal with Ethiopia over its massive dam. Cairo and Khartoum have recently called for internationalizing the dispute, to include the U.S., the European Union, the U.N. and the African Union to facilitate reaching a deal on the filling and operation of the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam. (Independent) <https://bit.ly/3ccg5O3>

**The Chairperson of the Commission condemns the latest terrorist attack in Mogadishu**

**06.03.2021.** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, strongly condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated against the Lul Yemeni restaurant in Mogadishu, that led to a number of casualties. The Chairperson extends his sincere condolences to the bereaved families and the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and wishes a quick recovery to the injured. (African Union) <https://bit.ly/3v5RMKn>

**UN urges Somalia to organize elections without delay**

**13.03.2021.** The U.N. Security Council urged Somalia’s government on Friday to organize elections “without delay” in a resolution that stressed the pressing threat to the country’s security from al-Shabab and armed opposition groups. The resolution, which was adopted unanimously, authorized the African Union to maintain its nearly 20,000-strong force in Somalia until the end of the year with a mandate to reduce the threat from the extremist groups to enable “a stable, federal, sovereign and united Somalia.” (Independent) <https://bit.ly/2On4pAv>

**Human Rights Report: The African Coast is a transit route for illegal immigrants.**

**14.03.2021.** A human rights report confirmed that the Sahel region is an important international transit route for illegal immigrants. It estimates the number of migrants from Africa to Europe via the Sahel route at about 55,000 migrants, of whom smugglers make $ 150 million. The report called for strengthening the efforts of the African Union and its organizations in order to better support the problem of the Sahel countries and the need to provide camps with a measure of humanity and services that provide the displaced with a quasi-human life for them, and to provide the necessary funds for the provision of means of education. (almasryalyoum.com) <https://bit.ly/3eKS9US>

**Election conduct in the Central African Republic is satisfactory - AU Mission**

**17.03.2021.** An AU mission arrived in the Central African Republic a few days ago with the dual objective of creating political mediation between the government and armed groups, and observing the partial legislative elections, including run-offs currently underway in the country. Talks were tough between the mission and the two opposing parties, so much so that the mission was unable to visit the entire country. However, the mission is satisfied with the conduct of the elections since March 14 and calls on the government to engage in the dialogue advocated by the Coalition of Patriots for Change. (Africanews) [**https://bit.ly/3vJFB6q**](https://bit.ly/3vJFB6q)

**AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine rollout should continue, African Union**

**18.03.2021.** The African Union said that African countries should continue to use the Oxford-AstraZeneca’s coronavirus vaccine, as several nations in Europe and the Democratic Republic of Congo have suspended its use due to concerns of blood clots. Many countries in Africa are relying on the AstraZeneca vaccine as it is cheaper and easier to store. Under the Covax initiative, around 14,5 million doses have been delivered to African countries. (Africanews) <https://bit.ly/2Pi1xVi>

**'Champion of pan-Africanism:' World leaders pay respects to Magufuli**

**18.03.2021.** World leaders are paying their respects to Tanzania's President John Magufuli, who died on from heart complications, the vice-president anounced on Wednesday. The African Union's chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said on Twitter: "The African Union family is united in grief with the Govt&People of #Tanzania by the untimely passing of H.E. President John Pombe Magufuli. "Africa has lost a champion of regional cooperation in the East African region and a committed Pan Africanist leader. May he rest in peace." (Africanews) [**https://bit.ly/3vI9jZH**](https://bit.ly/3vI9jZH)

**Africa's second Covid-19 wave was more severe than the first**

**25.03.2021.** Africa's second coronavirus wave was more severe than the first, according to a new study by the medical journal The Lancet released on Thursday. It reported a 30% increase of new daily cases during the second wave compared to the peak in the first wave, which accounts for 3 million Covid-19 cases and more than 65,000 deaths between 14th February and 31st December 2020. Out of the 55 African Union countries the most coronavirus-related deaths occurred in South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3sB7Li0>

**China outlines COVID-origin findings, ahead of WHO report**

**26.03.2021.** Chinese officials briefed diplomats Friday on the ongoing research into the origin of COVID-19, ahead of the expected release of a long-awaited report from the World Health Organization. The briefing appeared to be an attempt by China to get out its view on the report, which has become enmeshed in a diplomatic spat. The U.S. and others have raised questions about Chinese influence and the independence of the findings, and China has accused critics of politicizing a scientific study. His remarks were reported by state broadcaster CCTV, which said envoys from 50 countries and the League of Arab States and the African Union attended the briefing at the Foreign Ministry. **(Independent)** [**https://bit.ly/3rvPMbs**](https://bit.ly/3rvPMbs)

**Egypt: Counting the cost of Suez Canal blockade on industries**

**01.04.2021.** A stranded ship finally freed after nearly a week of blockade. Christened as ‘’Ever Given,’’ the blockage on the Suez Canal in Egypt kept companies on their toes. With daily costs piling up, some had to reroute ships. Meaning several more days of travel time, fuel and other costs for the over 360 vessels aboard the ship. An estimated 9.6 billion dollars’ worth of goods are held up. Egypt alone lost between 12 to 15 million dollars a day. About 12 percent of global trade transit through the Suez Canal. In 2020, Africa recorded its worst economic recession in half a century due to the health crisis. But, there’s some relief ahead in 2021, as the African Development Bank forecasts a positive economic outlook for all African economies. A rebound in tourism, commodity prices and a rollback of covid-19 related restrictions are expected to lead to this projected recovery. In its economic outlook 2021 report, the AFDB says Libya’s economy which suffered a contraction of -60.3% last year, will lead the continent with an economic growth rate of 37.5% this year. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/2Q0FN0w>

**Appeal for 'fresh start' as Nile dam talks kick off in DR Congo**

**04.04.2021.** Foreign ministers from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan kicked off negotiations in Kinshasa on Sunday over Addis Ababa's contestedGrand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile, officials said. The dispute over the giant dam, built across this treasured river, has been brewing for around a decade. President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Félix Tshisekedi -- who became chairman of the African Union in February, urged the foreign ministers "to launch a new dynamic". (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3moDTD9>

**UN chief: Sudan-South Sudan dispute will keep UN in Abyei**

**08.04.2021.** U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has informed the Security Council that he couldn’t provide options to reduce and terminate the nearly 3,700-strong peacekeeping force in the disputed Abyei region on the Sudan-South Sudan border because of differences between the two countries. **(Independent)**  <https://bit.ly/3a5PrX1>

**African Union praises Chad's 'peaceful' presidential election**

**11.04.2021.** As ballots are being counted after Chad's presidential election on Sunday, the African Union praised the vote for running peacefully. During campaigning, demonstrations were banned or violently dispersed, prompting concern from rights groups who have said authorities have cracked down on dissent. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3wMEq6I>

**African Union drops plans to buy Covid-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India**

15.04.2021. The African Union (AU) has today dropped plans to secure Covid-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India. Instead the AU is exploring purchasing jabs from US firm Johnson & Johnson, said the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The institute will still supply the AstraZeneca vaccine to Africa through the COVAX vaccine-sharing facility that is being run by the World Health Organisation (WHO). (Independent) <https://bit.ly/3gnhRzU>

**Senegal court refuses release of former Chad president Habré**

18.04.2021. The Senegalese judiciary has refused a request for the release of former Chadian president Hissène Habré, sentenced to life imprisonment by an African court in Dakar for crimes against humanity, his lawyers said on Sunday. He was sentenced on May 30, 2016, to life imprisonment after an unprecedented trial in Dakar, after being found guilty of crimes against humanity, rape, executions, slavery and kidnapping. A Chadian commission of inquiry put the number of victims of repression under the Habré regime at 40,000. Overthrown in 1990, the former Chadian president found refuge in Senegal, where, under international pressure, the conditions for his trial were created. He was arrested there in 2013 and charged by a special court set up in cooperation with the African Union. Since his conviction, he has been serving his sentence in a prison in Dakar.(Africanews) <https://bit.ly/3dqzYTA>

**AU calls for restoration of civilian rule in Chad**

24.04.2021. The African Union (AU) called Friday evening for the restoration of civilian rule in Chad, where General Mahamat Idriss Déby took power this week following the death of his father Idriss Déby Itno. In a statement, the AU Peace and Security Council, which is in charge of peace and security issues within the continental organisation, expressed its "grave concern" about the establishment of a military council headed by the son of the late president. Idriss Déby Itno, 68, who led the country with an iron fist for 30 years, died on Monday, according to the presidency, as a result of wounds sustained at the front, in the north of the country, against rebels. Mahamat Idriss Déby, 37, who dissolved the national assembly and government, has full powers but has promised new institutions after "free and democratic" elections in a year and a half. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3sMC1Wp>

**Covid-19 Africa: What is happening with vaccines?**

24.04.2021. The World Health Organization (WHO) says African countries are running out of supplies of Covid-19 vaccines, and there is concern over the availability of further doses. So far, seven countries have already exhausted the vaccines they received from the UN-backed Covax scheme. And some countries have not been able to use AstraZeneca vaccines before their advertised expiry date. Deliveries of vaccine supplies under the Covax programme started in February, and most countries in Africa have signed up and received vaccine doses. The Covax initiative has so far delivered 18 million vaccine doses to 41 African countries, according to the WHO. Some African nations got AstraZeneca vaccines donated via an arrangement between the South African-based MTN mobile communications company and the African Union. (BBC News) <https://bbc.in/3aG8qaS>

**AU, EU to prioritize pharmaceutical sector in Africa**

30.04.2021. The construction of more factories in the pharmaceutical sector in Africa is one of the priorities in the cooperation between the African Union and the European Union. In Luanda, during a visit to the Covid-19 vaccination centre, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, said that the strong European bloc is working with African countries to achieve this goal. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3ue95bs>

**African Union officials arrive in Chad amid political unrest**

30.04.2021. A team from the African Union arrived Thursday in N’Djamena, Chad on a seven-day Fact-Finding Mission to assess the situation in country and examine ways of a speedy return to democratic rule. Following several days of internal pressure, the delegation will produce a report at the end of its mission which will enable the Peace and Security Council to adopt a definitive position on the measures to be taken. Several member countries have called for Chad to be suspended from the African Union because of the Transitional Military Council's takeover of power. Many also estimated that this was a coup d'état, as the Constitution was not respected. [**https://bit.ly/3eMFz61**](https://bit.ly/3eMFz61)

**Somalia: Elections to hold as President Farmajo drops term extension**

02.05.2021. Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo on Saturday reopened talks to hold elections as soon as possible, a move welcomed by the opposition and raising the spectre of further deadly violence. In a short speech to MPs, broadcast live on television, the president called for a negotiated solution to the ongoing political crisis, abandoning the two-year extension of his presidential term adopted on 12 April. The government in Mogadishu still controls only a small portion of the country's territory, with the crucial help of some 20,000 troops of the African Union force in the country (Amisom). (Africa News) [**https://bit.ly/338Nmpr**](https://bit.ly/338Nmpr)

**African Union drops plans to buy Covid-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India**

**08.05.2021.** The African Union (AU) has today dropped plans to secure Covid-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India. Instead the AU is exploring purchasing jabs from US firm Johnson & Johnson, said the head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The institute will still supply the AstraZeneca vaccine to Africa through the COVAX vaccine-sharing facility that is being run by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The COVAX scheme is designed to get vaccine supplies to less wealthy countries. The WHO last month published a list of the first vaccine allocations under the project. (Independent) <https://bit.ly/3hfehrJ>

**John Mahama Somalia: African Union give Somali envoy appointment to Ghana former Prez**

**08.05.2021.** Former Ghana president appointed to represent African Union [AU] for Somalia. He will serve as High Representative of AU to Somalia. (BBC News) <https://bbc.in/3f7AmWC>

**Leaders hold talks in Paris to revive African economies**

**18.05.2021.** More than 20 heads of state and government from Africa held talks in Paris with the heads of international organizations Tuesday on how to revive the continent's economy, which the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted deeply. Some European leaders and high-level representatives from the U.K., Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also attended the summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron Other officials, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng and U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, planned to take part via videoconference. The discussion is focused on finding ways to inject billions of dollars into African economies with the support of international organizations, including the International Monetary Fund the World Bank and the African Union. (Independent) [**https://bit.ly/2ShQJrW**](https://bit.ly/2ShQJrW)

**Exclusive Interview: DRC President and African Union chief Felix Tshisekedi**

**21.05.2021.** For the first time in 25 years, African economies entered a recession, as they were badly shaken up by the Covid-19 pandemic. The IMF estimates that $300 billion is needed for the African continent to get out of this difficult situation. The migrant crisis, terrorist threats, good governance and vaccine scepticsm are other challenges facing the continent. In an exclusive interview, Africanews' Francois Chignac spoke to Democratic Republic of Congo President and current President of the African Union, Félix Tshisekedi. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/347ynMW>

**African Union urges civilians and soldiers to share power in Chad**

**21.05.2021.** The African Union on Thursday called for civilian and military leaders in Chad to share power until elections can be organised following the death of President Idriss Deby and subsequent military takeover last month. While the AU repeated its earlier calls for a civilian-led transition to elections after 18 months, it said the military officers that seized power, led by Deby's son Mahamat, could continue to oversee security matters. (Reuters) <https://reut.rs/3oU7EgF>

**AU, ECOWAS, and French president condemn Mali coup**

**26.05.2021.** Police vehicles patrolled the streets of Bamako, Mali's capital on Tuesday in a show or state that mirrored the uncertain political developments in the west African nation. Earlier on in the day, former coup leader Assimi Goita fired the president and prime minister of the transitional government but promised to still hold new elections next year. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3uBbdt2>

**Somalia to hold elections within 60 days-Gov't says**

**27.05.2021.** Somalia's government announced on Thursday that delayed elections would be held within 60 days, following months of deadlock over the vote that erupted into violence in the troubled country.In mid-April, the two-year extension mandate of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo expired on February 8 without elections being held, leading to violent clashes in the capital. The government in Mogadishu still controls only a small portion of the country's territory, with the crucial help of the 20,000-strong African Union (AU) Amisom force, which operates under a UN mandate. (Africa News) <https://bit.ly/3yMY7fN>

**The African Union suspends Mali and threatens sanctions**

**02.06.2021.** In a statement, the AU called for a return to civilian government in Mali and for the military to go back to barracks. The AU has suspended Mali in response to the second military coup in nine months. The move comes as the military junta names a leader of the M5 RFP movement as the new prime minister. (BBC) <https://bbc.in/2T4XjCF>

**Coups: Why the AU acted tough on Mali but ignored Chad**

**05.06.2021.** On Tuesday, the African Union announced the suspension of Mali and threatened to slap sanctions on the West African country following a military coup last week. The suspension is and has been the AU’s standard operating procedure since 2033 until Chad happened. Following the April 20 death of Chadian President Idriss Deby on the battlefront, the military quickly took over and announced a de facto government – the Transitional Military Council (TMC) headed by the son of the slain leader, and an 18-month roadmap to restore civilian rule. A meeting of the AU’s Peace and Security Council (PSC), acting on a report authored by its fact-finding mission to N’djamena, on May 14 effectively endorsed the junta’s plan, contradicting the bloc’s long-standing tradition on dealing with unconstitutional seizures of power. “It exposes the African Union’s double standards”, said Obambe Gakosso, a Congolese political analyst. (African News) <https://bit.ly/2Rt4mEB>

**African Union launches probe into alleged rights abuses in Tigray**

**17.06.2021.** The African Union (AU) has launched a commission of inquiry into alleged human rights violations in Ethiopia’s northernmost region of Tigray, where a bloody seven-month conflict has led to warnings of famine and allegations of ethnic cleansing. In a statement, the body said the commission, created under the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, will begin its work in the capital of Gambia, Banjul, and will conduct investigations on “the ground and in neighbouring countries when the conditions are met”.. (Al Jazeera) <https://bit.ly/3cYdkkL>

**Ethiopia wants independent African Union Tigray probe to halt at once!**

**18.06.2021.** Ethiopia’s foreign ministry has called for the African Union (AU) to “immediately cease” a new commission of inquiry into allegations of abuse in the nation’s Tigray region. Reportedly, thousands of civilians have been killed since the conflict began in November between Ethiopian forces -- with backing from neighbouring Eritrea, and Tigrayan fighters supporting the area’s now-fugitive leaders. (African News) <https://bit.ly/2Sfip15>

**ECOWAS keeps Mali suspended despite civilian prime minister**

**20.06.2021.** West African states said on Saturday they will carry on monitoring events in Mali following a coup before lifting its suspension from a regional bloc. Bamako has announced a new civilian government and promised to adhere to a roadmap to elections early next year, after the coup in May led by Colonel Assimi Goita. (African News) <https://bit.ly/3gLzHv0>

**Ivory Coast's ex-President Gbagbo returns home after ICC acquittal**

**17.06.2021.** Former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has returned home, 10 years after he was taken to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of crimes against humanity. Mr Gbagbo has been living in the Belgian capital Brussels since his release from detention three years ago. His successor and rival President Alassane Ouattara invited him back. He was the first former head of state to go on trial at the ICC but was acquitted of all charges. (BBC News) <https://bbc.in/35VR4nM>

**Mali: Protesters call for French troops to leave, some call for greater Russia cooperation**

**26.06.2021.** Activists in Mali stage protest against French military presence in Bamako, calling for the total withdrawal of French troops from the country. Some waved Russian flags and held banners calling for greater cooperation between Mali and Russia. The demonstration organised by political fringe group 'Yerewolo Debouts sur les remparts' was relatively subdued. (African News) <https://bit.ly/2U7ZgPf>

**A regional capital falls, and so does the stature of Ethiopia’s leader and its military**

**02.07.2021.** The surprise fall of the Tigrayan regional capital, Mekelle, this week has put Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in a tough spot, dealt a blow to the country’s military and placed the Tigrayan forces in a position of strength. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed may have won a Nobel Peace Prize, but on Monday, June 28, he seemed unable to grasp the difference between war and peace, ceasefire and defeat, and – more critically – the distinction between spin and the hard realities on the ground. (France 24) <https://bit.ly/2VqZktP>

**Egypt, Sudan urge UN action on Nile dam, Ethiopia says 'no'**

**09.07.2021.** Egypt and Sudan urged the U.N. Security Council on Thursday to undertake “preventive diplomacy” and call for a legally binding agreement to resolve a dispute with Ethiopia over the availability of water from its dam on the Nile River, but Ethiopia insisted the matter can be solved by the African Union and many council members agreed. (Independent) <https://bit.ly/3xAy8Hh>

**Rwanda deploys 1000 troops to Mozambique in SADC anti-jihadist mission**

**11.07.2021.** Rwanda sent members of its defence forces and officers from its national police to northern Mozambique on Saturday.The move is in response to a request for support in the gas-rich nation's battle against the growing Islamist extremist insurgency which has claimed over 2,000 lives and displaced 700,000 people. Rwanda has promised 1,000 troops -- who will be joined by a 12 million US dollar deployment Standby Force Mission from the 16-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC). (African News) <https://bit.ly/3wAsGCS>

**AfCFTA chief: Free trade can help Africa beat recession**

**12.07.2021.** Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) finally kicked off on January 1, 2021, to a lot of excitement, after being delayed for six months due to the pandemic. The AfCFTA unites an estimated $3 trillion market and could help to realize more than $84 billion in untapped intra-African exports, according to a report by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). (African News) <https://bit.ly/3kuulHM>

**US to send first vaccine doses to Africa in coming days**

**16.07.2021.** The U.S. will begin making its first COVID-19 vaccine shipments to Africa in the coming days, with the ultimate goal of sharing 25 million doses this summer across the continent in partnership with the African Union. The first donated doses will be sent to Ethiopia, Djibouti and Burkina Faso, said State Department spokeswoman Jalina Porter, with the U.S. working with the COVAX global vaccine alliance. In all, doses will eventually go to 49 African countries. (AP) <https://bit.ly/3kudZiz>

**Ethiopia completes second phase of filling of the"Grand Renaissance" dam**

**20.07.2021.** Ethiopia said Monday it had attained its second-year target for filling a mega-dam on the Blue Nile River that has stoked tensions with downstream countries Egypt and Sudan. "The first filling already was done last year. The second one is already done today. So today or tomorrow, second filling will be announced," an official told AFP, adding there is now enough water stored to begin producing energy. Talks held under the auspices of the African Union (AU) have failed to yield a three-way agreement on the dam's filling and operations, and Cairo and Khartoum have demanded Addis Ababa cease filling the massive reservoir until such a deal is reached. (African News) <https://bit.ly/3x7e0LX>

**Israël obtient le statut d'observateur à l'Union africaine**

**23.07.2021.** Israël a obtenu le statut d'observateur à l'Union africaine (UA), qu'il réclamait depuis des années, a appris l'AFP jeudi 22 juillet auprès des deux parties. L'ambassadeur israélien Aleli Admasu a présenté jeudi ses lettres de créances au président de la Commission de l'UA, Moussa Faki Mahamat, selon des communiqués de l'organisation panafricaine et de la diplomatie israélienne. «Cela corrige une anomalie qui a perduré pendant près de deux décennies et représente une partie importante du renforcement des relations extérieures d'Israël», s'est félicité dans un communiqué le ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères Yaïr Lapid.(Le Figaro) <https://bit.ly/3wZIJKJ>

**African countries to receive six million Johnson and Johnson vaccines, the African Union says**

**23.07.2021.** Around six million doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine will be delivered by the African Union to 27 African nations that have paid for the shipments through the end of August, an AU special envoy said on Thursday. AU coronavirus envoy Strive Masiyiwa said 18 countries are finalizing loans from the World Bank and other global lenders before they make payment. Deliveries will rise to an average of 10 million a month from September, increasing to 20 million in January until the order is fulfilled by September next year. (CNN) [**https://cnn.it/3iKuSD2**](https://cnn.it/3iKuSD2)