Sub-Saharan Roundup October 2019

Sudan

[Sudan declares 'permanent ceasefire' as peace talks hit snag](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/africa/Sudan-declares-permanent-ceasefire-as-peace-talks-hit-snag/4552902-5314914-1yvwtn/index.html) (10/17/2019) Sudan’s new government under PM Abdalla Hamdok announced a permanent ceasefire between the country and two umbrella groups of rebels, though rebel forces have threatened to pull out of talks unless the government agreed to withdraw forces and accused the government of maintaining bombings.

[Sudan rebel leader says government agreed to open access for aid](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sudan-politics-peace/sudan-rebel-leader-says-government-agreed-to-open-access-for-aid-idUSKBN1X0140) (10/21/2019) The Sudanese government has agreed to open humanitarian access to war-torn regions of the country as part of an effort to restart peace talks with rebel groups, according to a rebel coalition. This would allow humanitarian aid to reach Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, and the Blue Nile; and calls for talks to resume in early November.

[A Constitutional Moment in Sudan](https://www.lawfareblog.com/constitutional-moment-sudan) (10/31/2019) Sudan’s popular uprising, which ended the 30-year rule of President Omar al-Bashir, represents an opportunity for democratic reform as opposition members and the military jockey for influence within the new interim government.

[Minister: ‘Financial support inadequate for Sudan's poor’](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-minister-financial-support-for-poor-inadequate) (10/20/2019) The Sudanese Minister of Labour questioned the existing microfinance schemes in Sudan, saying that they are inadequate to address the needs of the country's poor.

[Analyst: ‘Two potential military coups threaten Sudan’](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/analyst-two-potential-military-coups-threaten-sudan) (10/26/2019) A prominent Sudanese journalist El Haj Warrag said there is the risk from military takeover by two groups. The first is Islamists, and the second would be those connected with the previous regime.

[Sudan: Turbulent transformation from tyranny](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-turbulent-transformation-from-tyranny) (10/30/2019) A discussion of the events in Sudan following the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir's regime.

[Safeguarding Sudan’s Revolution](https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/horn-africa/sudan/281-safeguarding-sudans-revolution) (10/21/2019) The International Crisis Group reports on developments in Sudan since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted by the military, and the military and civilian opposition have struggled to reach an agreement.

China, the US, and others in Africa

[The US-China trade rivalry is underway in Africa, and Washington is playing catch-up](https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/09/the-us-china-trade-rivalry-is-underway-in-africa.html) (10/9/2019) China’s growing economic presence in Africa, where it has financed and built ports, rail systems, roads, and other infrastructure to facilitate trade and integration across Africa, and has quickly become the continent’s largest trading partner, and the total value of Chinese investment and construction in Africa since 2005 is approaching $2 trillion. From the perspective of Washington policymakers, China’s rise to dominance within the region represents a shock to an area where the US and Europe have not faced genuine competition for political and economic influence in decades.

[Africa: Russia Rejects 'Latecomer' Tag in Africa As It Seeks Role in Big Four](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910210045.html) (10/20/2019) Russia’s new Russia-Africa Summit represents a Russian re-entry into the region, and shows a recognition of Africa’s growing role in world affairs as well as opportunities for Russia to expand its economic and political influence following the example of China.

[At the First Russia-Africa Summit, Putin Tells African Leaders: Let’s Make a Deal](https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/28297/at-the-first-russia-africa-summit-putin-tells-african-leaders-let-s-make-a-deal) (10/25/2019) Russian President Vladmir Putin hosted 43 African heads of state in Sochi this October for the first ever Russia-African Summit, with Russia seeking to cement itself as a global power by landing two nuclear-capable bombers to South Africa and to expand Russia’s access to African resources. For African nations, the summit represents a chance to cooperate with Russia in development and investment opportunities.

Comoros

[India extends $20m Line of Credit to Comoros for defence, maritime cooperation](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-extends-20m-line-of-credit-to-comoros-for-defence-maritime-cooperation/articleshow/71545434.cms) (10/11/2019) Indian Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Comoros. Naidu announced a $20 million line of credit to Comoros for defense and renewable energy projects.

[African Friendlies wrap: Comoros stun Guinea, Tunisia and Cameroon draw](https://www.goal.com/en-us/news/comoros-stun-guinea-tunisia-and-cameroon-draw/blzfitfomuv11s4otgq2q1xss) (10/12/2019) Comoros won stunning successes in African friendly football matches. Comoros defeated Guinea and Tunisia, and played Cameroon to a draw.

[Workshop On Capitalizing the Opportunities of the AfCFTA in the Union of the Comoros, From 18 to 19 October 2019](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910140856.html) (10/14/2019) The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was scheduled to hold a workshop in Moroni on the economic issues affecting Comoros as a smaller island developing nation.

[Africa: States frustrate continental rights bodies’ efforts to uphold human rights](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/africa-states-frustrate-continental-rights-bodies-efforts-to-uphold-human-rights/) (10/29/2019) Amnesty International has released a report criticizing African continental human rights bodies for failing to protect human rights defenders or uphold human rights on the continent. Comoros was one of the examples of these violations.

Djibouti

[Ethiopian migrants decision-making is focus of new research in Djibouti](https://www.africanews.com/2019/10/25/ethiopian-migrants-decision-making-is-focus-of-new-research-in-djibouti/) (10/25/2019) The International Organiation for Migration is conducting a study of migrants in Djibouti, examining their motivations. They found many of the migrants hope to reach Saudi Arabia or other countries but lack a definite plan to do so.

[China’s great game in the Middle East](https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/china_great_game_middle_east) (10/21/2019) China is expanding its presence in Djibouti. The author discusses how European countries should address the expanded Chinese role in the region.

[An archaeologist returns to Djibouti to survey 13th- to 19th- century sites](https://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2019/an-archaeologist-returns-to-djibouti-to-survey-13th--to-19th--century-sites.php) (10/29/2019) Archaeologist Madeline Gunter Basset will be conducting studies of pastoralist sites in southeastern Djibouti.

[Djibouti supports Egyptian int’l stands, foreign policies](https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/2/76141/Djibouti-supports-Egyptian-int’l-stands-foreign-policies) (10/29/2019) Mohamed Ali Hamad - Speaker of the Djiboutian parliament - visited Egypt, where he announced Djibouti's support for Egyptian foreign policy stances.

[Saudi Arabia bans livestock imports from Sudan and Djibouti over RVF fears](https://www.arabnews.com/node/1570441/saudi-arabia) (10/29/2019) Saudi Arabia has decided to prohibit imports of cattle from Sudan and Djibouti because of a recent outbreak of Rift Valley fever.

[The significance of Djibouti’s UNSC bid goes far beyond a geo-political game](https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/eblog/the-significance-of-djiboutis-unsc-bid-goes-far-beyond-a-geo-political-game/) (10/16/2019) Djibouti deserves a UN security council seat due to peacekeeping efforts at least as much as Kenya, according to the former CEO of the American Institute in Dijibouti.

[The East African](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/africa/Djibouti-makes-hard-tackle-for-Igad-leadership/4552902-5326066-gyt304/index.html) (10/26/2019) Djibouti and Kenya have been recently battling over many different issues, including a UN Security Council seat, which Djibouti sought despite Kenya having secured African Union endorsement

Mali

[Mali president on the ropes as jihadist revolt mounts](https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/africa/2019-10-23-mali-president-on-the-ropes-as-jihadist-revolt-mounts/) (10/23/2019) Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is facing increased public discontent due to the military's setbacks fighting against a revolt by Islamic extremists. The extremists now operate in Burkina Faso in addition to Mali.

[UN Food depot in Mali vandalized](https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/262724621/un-food-depot-in-mali-vandalized) (10/13/2019) A United Nations food depot has been vandalized in Mali, where it was being used to distribute food to the population.

Mauritania

[Reasons behind Mauritania’s smooth power transfer](https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/reasons-behind-mauritanias-smooth-power-transfer/) (10/15/2019) This article describes the reasons why the recent handover of power from former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz and current President Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani went much more smoothly than previous transitions of power in Mauritania.

[First Look at Netflix 'Living Undocumented' Clip](https://thegrapevine.theroot.com/first-look-amadou-fled-mauritania-and-the-highest-rat-1838647317) (10/25/2019) Netflix is featuring members of the Mauritanian refugee community in its upcoming series entitled "Living Undocumented." Mauritanian refugees have been targeted by ICE for deportation over the last several years.

[Van Oord’s Largest Hopper Dredger Busy in Mauritania](https://www.dredgingtoday.com/2019/09/25/van-oords-largest-hopper-dredger-busy-in-mauritania/) (10/25/2019) NNDCVan Oord is working on a dredging project off the coast of Mauritania. The project will expand the access channel for an ore export facility located in Nouadhibou.

[Africa sets common currency goal by 2025](https://www.the-star.co.ke/business/kenya/2019-10-23-africa-sets-common-currency-goal-by-2025/) (10/23/2019) Mauritanian Acting Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yahtani spoke at the IMF-World Bank annual meeting about a common currency for Africa. He and other African finance ministers set 2025 as the target date for the launch of the new currency.

[Mauritania: Take Key Steps for Women’s Rights](https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/15/mauritania-take-key-steps-womens-rights) (10/15/2019) Human Rights Watch (HRW) wrote a letter to new Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani urging him to prioritize women's rights in his administration.

[Mauritania rights observatory denounces police repression of students](https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/mauritania-rights-observatory-denounces-police-repression-of-students/) (10/29/2019) Mauritania's human rights observatory criticized police for repressing students in Mauritania and called for inquiries to be held into torture allegations.

[An oasis of PV](https://www.pv-magazine.com/2019/10/07/an-oasis-of-pv/) (10/07/2019) Mauritania is experimenting with photovoltaic (solar) power in remote desert areas for irrigation. The solar power reduces the energy consumed by existing pumps.

Somalia

[Germany targets vocational training and infrstructure with $73 million aid](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/10/08/germany-target-vocational-training-and-infrastructure-with-73-million-aid/) (10/09/2019) Germany has pledged $73 million in aid to Somalia to assist with vocational education and infrastructure within the country.

[How Climate Change Is Pushing This Desert State to Fish](https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/why-climate-change-is-teaching-somaliland-to-fish/96827/) (10/27/2019) Danish shipping entrepreneur Per Gullestrup created the charity Fair Fishing to support development of an alternative to piracy in Somaliland. Climate change has caused this organization and others like it to see a surge of interest from local residents seeking to source fish from local waters.

[Ugandan Dictator Iddi Amin’s Somali Sons](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/10/29/ugandan-dictator-iddi-amins-somali-sons/) (10/29/2019) One of the sons of former Ugandan President Idi Amin is living in Somalia, and is serving in the Somali army.

[3 More dead, Hundreds displaced as heaviest rainfall in 30 years hits Somalia – Radio Dalsan FM 91.5 MHz](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/10/29/3-more-dead-hundreds-displaced-as-heaviest-rainfall-in-30-years-hits-somalia/) (10/29/2019) Recent rainstorms in Somalia have been the most serious in over thirty years.

[Kenya and Somalia’s maritime dispute: One winner, two losers?](https://africanarguments.org/2019/10/30/kenya-somalia-maritime-dispute-one-winner-two-losers/) (10/30/2019) Kenya and Somalia are preparing to take their maritime boundary dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), a move that could prove costly for the two nations' relations longer term.

[Maritime Dispute as a Diversionary Tactic from Internal Revolt in Somalia.](https://intpolicydigest.org/2019/10/20/maritime-dispute-as-a-diversionary-tactic-from-internal-revolt-in-somalia/) (10/20/2019) Victor Ndia argues the regime in Mogadishu is pushing a hard line in the maritime boundary dispute between Somalia and Kenya to distract from internal problems in Somalia.

[Conflict and drought displace 300,000 in Somalia so far this year](https://www.nrc.no/news/2019/october/somalia-displacement/) (10/20/2019) Conflict and drought conditions in Somalia have displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

South Sudan

[South Sudan pays $3m arrears owed to EAC bloc](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/South-sudan-pays-arrears-owed-to-eac-bloc/4552908-5317238-s2iqno/index.html) (10/19/2019) The East African Community has been paid $3 million by Sudan, leaving a $24 million remaining balance.

[Machar not granted asylum to live in Ethiopia: SPLM-IO](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article68412) (10/31/2019) Sudanese armed opposition leader Riek Machar has said that he has not been given asylum by any country, contrary to claims made by the SPLM-IO's spokesman that he had been given refuge in Addis Ababa

[CEPO: STATUS OF THE R-ARCSS IMPLEMENTATION](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article68341) (10/20/2019) A survey by CEPO on the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan

Ghana

[U.S. Takes Ghana Aid Money Off the Table as Power Deal Collapses](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-23/ghana-loses-190-million-u-s-grant-after-canceling-power-deal) (10/23/2019) The United States cut $190 million in funding for Ghana’s energy sector after Ghana canceled a contract with a private company to run the country’s power network over invalid payment guarantees.

[Ghana Warns of Unaffordable Debt Buildup Over Excess Power](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-31/ghana-warns-of-unaffordable-debt-buildup-over-excess-power-deals) (10/31/2019) Ghana’s Finance Minister warned that the country could accumulate more than $12.5 billion in losses if the government fails to reach agreements with private energy producers and gas suppliers.

[Ghana must stop backroom dealings to fix power crisis](https://www.theafricareport.com/19454/ghana-must-stop-backroom-dealings-to-fix-power-crisis/) (10/31/2019) A leading Ghanaian think tank criticizes the privatization process of Ghana’s electrical system, including the value of the terminated deal and the government’s contracting process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

[In eastern Congo, a local conflict flares as regional tensions rise](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/10/28/eastern-Congo-Kivu-conflict-regional-tensions) (10/28/2019) Over 200,000 have been displaced in recent months by fighting in the South Kivu highlands in the east of the country, as militias have burned villages, stolen cattle and killed members of a minority group of Rwandan origin.

[DR Congo launches large-scale operation against rebels](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/dr-congo-launches-large-scale-operation-rebels-191101163242390.html) (10/31/2019) The Congolese government has launched an offensive against rebel militias in the eastern highlands as efforts to combat an Ebola outbreak in the region continue.

[W.H.O. Continues Emergency Status for Ebola Outbreak in Congo](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/18/health/ebola-congo-who.html) (10/18/2019) The World Health Organization has extended the declaration of a public health emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to an outbreak of Ebola an additional three months, though new confirmed cases have fallen to 15 a week, down from 130 a week in April.

[Russian Railways, DR Congo to Discuss Possible $500m Rail Deal](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-26/russian-railways-dr-congo-to-discuss-possible-500m-rail-deal) (10/26/2019) The Congolese government has signed a deal with a Russian state-owned railway company to revamp the country’s rail system in a deal valued at $500 million, following a failed World Bank program to revive Congolese rail that was ended last year.

[Plague update for Ituri Province, DRC](http://outbreaknewstoday.com/plague-update-for-ituri-province-drc-33956/) (10/15/2019) UN officials report a total of 31 cases of the plague since the start of the year, with nine fatalities. If plague infects the lungs of a victim (pneumonic plague), it can spread human to human without rats or fleas.

Ethiopia

[Tensions rise between Ethiopia and Egypt over use of river Nile](https://www.ft.com/content/b0ae7a52-f18d-11e9-ad1e-4367d8281195) (10/20/2019) A dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt over plans to build a dam on the Ethiopian part of the Blue Nile has led to growing tensions between the two countries, as the filling of the reservoir, expected to begin in June.could threaten Egypt’s water supply as well as their own Aswan Dam.

[Ethiopia says 78 killed in protests against treatment of activist](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/ethiopia-78-killed-protests-treatment-activist-191031191424376.html) (10/31/2019) A spokesperson for Ethiopia’s Prime Minister has said that at least 78 were killed and 409 have been arrested as a result of unrest caused by protests in Addis Ababa and in Oromia after a Jawar Mohammed, a prominent activist and founder of the Oromia Media Network, claimed that security forces were planning an attack against him.

[NDERITU: Nobel is fine but Abiy needs goodwill to unite Ethiopia](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/oped/comment/Nobel-is-fine-but-abiy-ahmed-needs-goodwill-to-unite-ethiopia/434750-5317794-format-xhtml-9maox9z/index.html) (10/19/2019) In response to the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his democratic reforms and efforts at making peace with Eritrea, the author questions if Abiy will be able to unify the country and build ties between the government and the ethnically-based administrative regions.

[PM Abiy Ahmed warns Ethiopia ethnic violence could worsen](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/pm-abiy-ahmed-warns-ethiopia-ethnic-violence-worsen-191026193213861.html) (10/26/2019) Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has warned that ethnic violence in Ethiopia could worsen while vowing to bring to justice those responsible for violence that left many dead in the wake of protests. The Oromia police chief has claimed that most of those killed were slain in clashes between civilian groups rather than at the hands of security forces.

[Prominent activist won't rule out election challenge to Ethiopia PM](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/africa/Prominent-activist-wont-rule-out-election-challenge-abiy-ahmed/4552902-5324898-iqv4kcz/index.html) (10/25/2019) Jawar Mohammed, prominent activist and founder of the Oromia Media Network, has not ruled out challenging his former ally PM Abiy Ahmed after days of protests. Jawar’s ability to organize protests was a key factor in Abiy’s rise last year, but the PM now faces difficulty in retaining the support of his Ormo base.

Mozambique

[Mozambique goes to polls as gas billions begin to flow](https://www.ft.com/content/4b674888-db8d-11e9-8f9b-77216ebe1f17) (10/10/2019) Mozambique’s upcoming elections come as the country has discovered large natural gas reserves off its northern coast, and as outside investors have committed to billion dollar contracts that could bring a flood of wealth, but also the prospect of unrest and fears of increasing corruption after decades of single-party rule.

[Mozambique Opposition Rejects Election Results](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/mozambique-opposition-rejects-election-results-191019135525946.html) (10/19/2019) Opposition groups in Mozambique have accused the government of breaching peace deals by intimidating voters and using violence as early results showed the incumbent Frelimo party headed for a major victory, and have called for the annulment of the prior week’s election.

[Nyusi wins Mozambique presidential poll in landslide](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/nyusi-wins-mozambique-presidential-poll-landslide-191027131523719.html) (10/27/2019) Final tallies for the Mozambique presidential election have the incumbent President Filipe Nyusi winning with 73% of the total vote, leading to a rejection of the results by opposition parties and the potential for renewed violence after a peace deal signed last August ended hostilities.

[Will Mozambique’s Peace Deal Survive Contested Elections?](https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28301/will-mozambique-s-peace-deal-survive-contested-elections) (10/29/2019) The peace deal signed in August between Mozambique’s government and opposition forces is at threat of falling apart following this month’s election. The peace deal formally ended a renewed period of violence that began in 2013 and ended with a ceasefire the following year, but violence against the opposition in the recent election as well as allegations of fraud led to the opposition’s rejection of the results.

Nigeria

[Uproar As Nigerian Army Insists On 'Operation Identify Yourself'](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910310333.html) (10/31/2019) Members of Nigeria’s House of Representatives passed a unanimous motion urging President Muhammadu Buhari to halt an operation by Nigeria’s military to undertake systematic identity checks throughout the country of suspected ‘foreign criminal elements’, a move which MPs have claimed is an undeclared state of emergency tacitly approved by the president, which according to Nigeria’s constitution can only be made through an act of parliament.

[Police free nearly 150 from school in northern Nigeria](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/police-free-150-school-northern-nigeria-191019194022360.html) (10/19/2019) Nigerian security forces have freed around 150 students from a religious school in the north of the country that had subjected them to abuse, the fourth such operation in the past month, bringing the total of released students to over a thousand. The raids may put more pressure on Nigeria’s president to take action against loosely regulated Islamic schools across the north of the country.

[Nigeria: World Bank Approves $3 Billion Loan For Nigeria's Power Sector](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910210032.html) (10/21/2019) The World Bank approved Nigeria’s request for a $3 billion loan for the expansion of the country’s power sector, focusing primarily on power transmission and distribution. The government of Nigeria has also earmarked over $1.6 billion to ensure a constant power supply across the country.

[Nigeria: Supreme Court's Ruling On Atiku Vs Buhari, Resonance From Nigeria's Past](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910310332.html) (10/31/2019) The Supreme Court of Nigeria’s dismissal of an appeal by the People’s Democratic Party contesting the 2019 presidential election marks an end to legal contests against President Buhari’s All Progressive’s Congress, as well as another case of opposition loses in Nigeria’s highest court.

South Africa

[Africa: South Africa's Future Is In Africa, With Africa - Ramaphosa Says After Buhari Visit](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910070691.html) (10/7/2019) South Africa’s president, Cyril Ramaphosa, emphasized South Africa’s commitment to African unity during a meeting with Nigeria’s President Buhari, following recent xenophobic attacks against Niferian nationals within South Africa. Ramaphosa also emphasized the need for South Africa to embrace the African Contiental Free Trade Agreement, which would create an open market across the continent.

[South Africa: Desperate Times As SA Unemployment Rate Hits 11-Year High](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910300055.html) (10/30/2019) In spite of economic growth under President Cyril Ramaphosa's administration, unemployment in South Africa reached an 11-year high at 29.1%, and expanded unemployment, which includes those who have stopped seeking work, remains at 38.5%.

[DA IN CRISIS | Maimane set to be axed as parliamentary leader after slamming the party](https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/da-in-crisis-maimane-set-to-be-axed-as-parliamentary-leader-after-slamming-the-party-20191024) (10/24/2019) Mmusi Maimane, the leader of South Africa’s largest opposition party, has resigned following remarks condemning his own party. This crisis comes after criticisms of the election of former DA leader Helen Zille was elected to a leadership position within the party, who Maime has said is someone “who believed race was irrelevant in discussions of poverty and inequality in the country”.

Tanzania

[Magufuli is Bulldozing Human Rights in Tanzania](https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/28314/magufuli-is-bulldozing-human-rights-in-tanzania) (10/31/2019) Amnesty International has criticized the government of Tanzanian president John Magufuli for political repression, even as he campaigned in 2015 on a reform and anti-corruption agenda, accusing his government of jailing journalists, eroding the rights of opposition politicians and members of civil society, and banning opposition political rallies in 2016, among other violations.

[Tanzania gives Chinese firm conditions for Bagamoyo port](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Tanzania-gives-chinese-firm-conditions-for-bagamoyo-port-/2560-5318790-10s5do7/index.html) (10/21/2019) Tanzania’s government has issued an ultimatum to Chinese investors in the $10 billion Bagamoyo port project, issuing five demands of the investor and threatening to abandon the project if the government’s demands are not met; including a reduction on the lease to 33 years from 99, allowing the government to develop other ports, and to subject the investor to standard rates, regulation, and taxes.

[Tanzania Takes Another Swipe at Chinese Investment](https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/tanzania-takes-another-swipe-chinese-investment-foriegn-business-africa) (10/25/2019) Under president John Magufuli, Tanzania has become increasingly heavy-handed in dealing with foreign investors, including arresting Chinese nationals overseeing the construction of infrastructure for slow progress and other heavy-handed negotiation tactics.

[Editor’s take: Why nobody is talking about Ebola in Tanzania](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2019/10/11/Ebola-Tanzania-media-human-rights-Magufuli) (10/11/2019) In spite of the World Health Organization rebuking the Tanzanian government for a lack of transparency and ignoring requests by the WHO to hand over samples from patients suspected of infection, discussion of potential Ebola cases in Tanzania remains stifled, largely in part due to the crackdown on critical journalism by John Magufuli’s government.

Kenya

[Kenya banks on Lamu Port to gain regional shipping hub status](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Kenya-banks-on-lamu-port-to-gain-regional-shipping-hub-status/2560-5326624-pfnd92z/index.html) (10/27/2019) Kenya’s Lamu Port, which is set to open in November, positions the country to upset the balance of the East African coast, as competition with Djibouti’s main port and the stalled Tanzanian port could propel Kenya forward as a shipping hub.

[Kenya launches the second phase of its billion-dollar Chinese railway project](https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/16/africa/kenya-launches-chinese-railway-line/index.html) (10/16/2019) Following the completion of the first phase of Kenya’s largest infrastructure program post-independence in 2017, the second expansion of the rail system launched earlier in October. The project is being built by a Chinese construction company, and also financed by a Chinese bank.

[Kenya Pollution: President Kenyatta vows plastic ban by 2020](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/kenya-pollution-president-kenyatta-vows-plastic-ban-2020-191029101907206.html) (10/29/2019) Following a ban on plastic carrier bags in 2017, Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta has now vowed to ban single-use plastics altogether by June of 2020.

Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe to cut power to mines, others over $77m in unpaid bills](https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/zimbabwe-cut-power-mines-77m-unpaid-bills-191024094149063.html) (10/24/2019) With Zimbabwe facing a crisis of drought and economic sanctions, the state-owned electricity distributor has announced that it will cut power to mines, farms, and other industries over unpaid bills as the country struggles with daily power cuts in an attempt to manage the crisis.

[Zimbabwe: Shock As 50 Firms Cling to Half of Zim's $19 Billion Bank Balances](https://allafrica.com/stories/201910300391.html) (10/30/2019) The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has said that only 50 companies control more than half of the country’s $19 billion in bank balances across the country, stoking fears of economic manipulation and other illegal financial activities. The central bank has said it will monitor the flow of money from these accounts more closely.