On the Margins Roundup - August 2019

Comoros

[Comoros president pardons four jailed opponents](http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/11472/Comoros+president+pardons+four+jailed+opponents) (12 August 2019) The President of Comoros has pardoned four critics of the regime, after they had their life sentences reduced to twenty years in May.

[I didn’t expect to score so many goals - Banyana’s Jane after Comoros thrashing](https://www.iol.co.za/sport/soccer/bafana/i-didnt-expect-to-score-so-many-goals-banyanas-jane-after-comoros-thrashing-30161131) (1 August 2019) Banyana Banyana's midfielder Refiloe Jane insisted her team did not attempt to run up the score against Comoros despite winning a football match 17-0. In 2014 Banyana Banyana scored 14 goals their previous game against Comoros.

[Banyana thrash Comoros 17-0](https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/sport/soccer/2019-08-01-banyana-thrash-comoros-17-0/) (1 August 2019) Banyana Banyana defeated Comoros 17-0 in a lopsided football match, which tops the score of 14 goals from two years earlier.

Djibouti

[AfDB approves $98m grant for Ethiopia road project to Djibouti](https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/07/afdb-approves-98m-grant-for-ethiopia-road-project-to-djibouti/) (7 August 2019) The African Development Bank (AfDB) announced it approved a grant to Ethiopia, with a small amount granted to Djibouti. The grant is for a road linking Ethiopia and Djibouti, and covers approximately $105m of the approximately $250m total cost.

[New commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) General Stephen J. Townsend visits Djibouti](https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/08/new-commander-of-us-africa-command-africom-general-stephen-j-townsend-visits-djibouti/) (8 August 2019) General Steven J. Townsend, the new US Africom commander, visited Djibouti for the first time in his new role from 6 to 8 August 2019, and gave a speech praising cooperation between Djibouti and the United States.

[Kenya’s UN Security Council bid: African Union makes final vote](https://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Kenya-UN-Security-Council-bid-African-Union-vote/1066-5243446-qr5i73z/index.html) (21 August 2019) Djibouti and Kenya are in a dispute over who will occupy a seat on the UN Security Council on behalf of the African Union. The AU members will determine which of the two nations will occupy the seat for a rotating two year period.

[Kenya beats Djibouti in race for non-permanent seat at UN Security Council](https://citizentv.co.ke/news/kenya-beats-djibouti-in-race-for-non-permanent-seat-at-un-security-council-270319/) (21 August 2019) The African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) voted 37-13 to select Kenya to represent them at the UN Security Council, prevailing over second-place Djibouti.

[DP World Slams Djibouti Following Supreme Court Ruling](https://www.porttechnology.org/news/dp-world-slams-djibouti-following-supreme-court-ruling/) (1 August 2019) Dubai-based port operator DP world has criticizied the government of Djibouti following a Djibouti Supreme Court ruling disregarding international arbitration over a container port concession in Djibouti.

[Djibouti has 'no choice' but China for infrastructure development](https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Belt-and-Road/Djibouti-has-no-choice-but-China-for-infrastructure-development) (29 August 2019) The Djibouti Ports Authority chairman claimed the country has no alternative to securing Chinese investment as it seeks to develop its infrastructure.

[UNICEF Djibouti Humanitarian Situation Report, Mid-Year 2019 - Djibouti](https://reliefweb.int/report/djibouti/unicef-djibouti-humanitarian-situation-report-mid-year-2019) (26 August 2019) UNICEF has released a mid-year report on its operations in Djibouti, including relief aid for 5003 children and psychosocial support for 1348 refugee children.

Mali

[UN warns of spike in grave violations against children in Mali as ‘the new normal’](https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/08/1044151) (13 August 2019) UNICEF decried human rights violations against children in Mali, particularly in the northern and central regions of the country.

[The East African](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Winnie-Byanyima-appointed-UNAids-executive-director/4552908-5236168-n1yr8k/index.html) (15 August 2019) Former Oxfam executive Winnie Byanyima was appointed as the new director of UNaids, after holding a similar position at Oxfam for six years.

[Kita solar power plant in Mali to be commissioned by February 2020](https://constructionreviewonline.com/2019/08/kita-solar-power-plant-in-mali-to-be-commissioned-by-february-2020/) (6 August 2019) The Malian government has announced that construction of the Kita solar power project will be completed by February 2020.

[Canada to send team back to Mali to help Romania minimize gap in evacuation.](https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-mali-romania-1.5263048) (28 August 2019) Canada is rescheduling its deployment of peacekeepers to Somalia to fill the void as Romania withdraws its forces.

Mauritania

[Mauritania:  New President must prioritise human rights](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/mauritania-new-president-must-prioritise-human-rights/) (1 August 2019) Amnesty International urged the new Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouni to respect human rights and release detainees held without charges.

[Mauritania 'blasphemy' blogger says he saw the sun six times duri](https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/8/7/mauritania-blogger-saw-sun-six-times-during-five-year-detention) (7 August 2019) Mauritanian blogger Cheikh Ould Mohamed Ould Mekhtar was released five years after he was arrested for blasphemy. He had initially been sentenced to death, but this sentence was later reduced. Amnesty International also called on Mauritania to repeal its blasphemy law.

[“During five years in detention, I just saw the sun six times” - Mauritanian blogger tells Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/mauritanian-blogger-tells-amnesty-international/) (5 August 2019) Amnesty International details the story of a Mauritanian blogger released after five years arbitrary detention.

[ICE Deports Man Awaiting Hip Replacement Surgery to Mauritania](https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/national-international/ICE-Deports-Man-Awaiting-Hip-Replacement-Surgery-Mauritania-535741371.html) (11 August 2019) ICE has deported a Mauritanian refugee to Mauritania while he was awaiting a hip replacement.

[Mauritanian TV highlights Egypt's role in helping Mauritanian cadres](https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/73609/Mauritanian-TV-highlights-Egypt-s-role-in-helping-Mauritanian-cadres) (6 August 2019) Mauritanian TV has highlighted the close ties between Egypt and Mauritania, including ties between the youth cadres in Mauritania and their Egyptian counterparts dating back several decades.

[GIEWS Country Brief: Mauritania: 5-August-2019 - Mauritania](https://reliefweb.int/report/mauritania/giews-country-brief-mauritania-5-august-2019) (5 August 2019) Mauritania's crop harvest in 2018 was one of the strongest in recent memory, resulting in record harvests for crops in the southern region of the country.

[Mauritania PM forms new gov’t](https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/mauritania-pm-forms-new-govt/) (9 August 2019) Mauritanian Prime Minister Ismail Ould Bedde Ould Sheikh Sidiy has formed his government, with 25 cabinet ministers, of whom twenty percent are women.

[Africa in the news: Mauritania’s new President Ghazouani, Mozambique’s peace deal, and Pelosi and US delegation’s visit to Ghana](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/08/03/africa-in-the-news-mauritanias-new-president-ghazouani-mozambiques-peace-deal-and-pelosi-and-us-delegations-visit-to-ghana/) (3 August 2019) Mauritania has had the first peaceful transfer of power in its history as new President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani assumed office after his predecessor was term-limited.

[Living in the Shadow of Guantánamo](https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/tnyradiohour/episodes/living-shadow-guantanamo) (2 August 2019) A former Guantanamo detainee from Mauritania tells his story to WCNY studios.

[Mauritania remains stuck in the past](https://mondediplo.com/2019/08/04mauretania) (1 August 2019) According to the author, Mauritania remains hamstrung by racial divisions cemented when the country first became independent.

[Difficult Eid al-Adha in Mauritania](https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190812-difficult-eid-al-adha-in-mauritania/) (12 August 2019) Drought has caused the value of sacrificial animals for Eid Al-Adha in Mauritania to increase dramatically.

Somalia

[Aden Dualle Tables Motion To Allow KDF Intervene In Somalia Kenya Maritime Row](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/08/09/aden-dualle-tables-motion-to-allow-kdf-intervene-in-somalia-kenya-maritime-row/) (9 August 2019) Kenyan MPs have voted to protest a decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to mediate the maritime dispute between Somalia and Kenya. Kenyan House Majority Leader Aden Duale called for mediation by IGAD and the East African Community.

[Female Suicide Bombers Behind Mayor Office Attack May Have Planned To Target Farmaajo On Independence Day](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/08/09/female-suicide-bombers-behind-mayor-office-attack-may-have-planned-to-target-farmaajo-on-independence-day/) (9 August 2019) Two female suicide bombers in Somalia seem to have used their position to target President Farmaajo during Somali independence day celebrations.

[Boris Johnson’s girlfriend barred from the US over visit to Somalia](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/08/22/boris-johnsons-girlfriend-barred-from-the-us-over-visit-to-somalia/) (22 August 2019) Carrie Symonds is the partner of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, but she is currently barred from the United States due to her visit to Somaliland in 2018, which the United States does not recognize as separate from Somalia.

[UN Security Council blocks Kenya’s bid to put Al-Shabab under international sanctions](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/08/30/un-security-council-blocks-kenyas-bid-to-put-al-shabab-under-international-sanctions/) (30 August 2019) The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) blocked a move to sanction al-Shabaab, after the United States, Belgium, Germany, France, Poland, and Kuwait voted against the sanctions.

[Somalia: World Refugee Day - 2018 Summarized Trends - Somalia](https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-world-refugee-day-2018-summarized-trends) (27 August 2019) According to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), there are about 3.6 million Somalis who are displaced around the world, with 2.6 million internally displaced and 1 million living around the world.

[Jubbaland electoral body announce new schedule for Presidential poll](https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2019/08/15/jubbaland-electoral-body-announce-new-schedule-for-presidential-poll/) (15 August 2019) The electoral authorities in the Jubbaland region set regional polls for 19 August, after they were delayed following a dispute between two major contenders.

Sudan

[South Sudan: Enough Project Condemns Military Attack on Civilian Protesters in Khartoum - allAfrica.com](https://allafrica.com/stories/201906030882.html) (3 August 2019) The Enough Project has condemned the use of force by security forces in Khartoum Sudan against protesters calling for a civilian government.

[Announcement of new Sudan govt postponed](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/announcement-of-new-sudan-govt-postponed) (30 August 2019) The announcement of Sudan's new government has been delayed pending a controversy about Omar Bashir, the proposed Foreign Minister. Omar Bashir had served as an ambassador under the previous President Omar al-Bashir (no immediate relation).

[Sudan opposition and military sign final power-sharing accord](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/17/sudan-opposition-group-and-military-sign-power-sharing-accord) (17 August 2019) Sudanese regime opponents and the military reached an agreement to establsih a transitional government in the country. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia and President of South Sudan were present at the signing.

[Sudan at a crossroads](https://voices.transparency.org/sudan-at-a-crossroads-79715504d956) (23 August 2019) A detective testifying at Omar al-Bashir's trial in Sudan said Bashir received money from the Saudi royal family. The cash may have been among $113 million that was seized from Bashir's residence by police when he was arrested.

[The UN Security Council calls for peace talks in Sudan](https://regionweek.com/the-un-security-council-calls-for-peace-talks-in-sudan/) (23 August 2019) The United Nations Security Council urged the parties in Sudan to continue talks to address the causes of conflict in the country.

[Op-ed: The Constitutional Charter and the future of Sudan](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/op-ed-the-constitutional-charter-and-the-future-of-sudan) (7 August 2019) Professor Eric Reeves argues that the Sudanese constitutional charter as written gives the military too much power, even after the ouster of former President Omar al-Bashir.

[Sudan uprising: Timeline of tumultuous change](https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-uprising-timeline-of-tumultuous-change) (12 August 2019) A timeline from Radio Dabanga of the uprisings that forced the ouster of Bashir and the ongoing stalemate between protesters and the military.

South Sudan

[South Sudan’s Kiir meets with Darfur rebel leader](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/South-sudan-salva-kiir-meets-with-darfur-rebel-leader/4552908-5235582-r7spj0z/index.html) (14 August 2019) South Sudanese President Salva Kiir met with the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement in Darfur.

[One Year On, South Sudan’s Stalled Peace Deal Is Proving Its Skeptics Right](https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28156/one-year-on-south-sudan-s-stalled-peace-deal-is-proving-its-skeptics-right) (30 August 2019) The recent peace plans in South Sudan are insufficient to end the ongoing crisis because they do not address the root causes of violence.

[Igad asks Kiir to disburse peace deal funds](https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Igad-asks-Kiir-to-disburse-peace-deal-funds/688334-5246596-ec42r2z/index.html) (23 August 2019) IGAD has asked President Salva Kiir of South Sudan to disburse $100 million for security arrangements after only $6.5 million has been disbursed so far.

[This Mobile App Helps Reunite Displaced Children With Their Families](https://moguldom.com/221473/this-mobile-app-helps-reunite-displaced-children-with-their-families-in-south-sudan/) (21 August 2019) NGOs are using a new Lost Children app to track their efforts to reunite children with their parents in Sudan.

[The East African](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/ea/Pagan-amum-salva-kiir-goal-is-not-to-achieve-peace/4552908-5239882-qj1yimz/index.html) (18 August 2019) President Salva Kiir of South Sudan is intent on cementing his power base in the country as part of a peace agreement, according to the author. This is one of the causes of the conflicts seeming intractability.

[Israeli, UK firms tussle over mining activities in South Sudan](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Israeli-UK-firms-tussle-over-mining-activities/2560-5231666-ym5y7xz/index.html) (11 August 2019) Israeli and British firms were in British courts over a mining dispute in South Sudan.