

# What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies  
16th week of 2015 (13.4 – 20.4.2015)

## Top story of the week

### Foreign nationals abandon Johannesburg shops 16 April 2015

Foreign shop owners in South Africa's commercial capital Johannesburg were taking away their wares on Thursday after receiving threatening messages. Foreign shopkeepers were moving to safe areas despite assurances by the police that they will be safe. Horrific pictures of women fleeing with their babies, men brandishing knives and police keeping locals and foreign national apart have dominated local television screens. Reports say five have been killed and over 2 000 displaced by the violence. Meanwhile, thousands of people marched through the streets of Durban Thursday calling for an end to the violence against foreigners. Marchers carried various placards including one with a painting of birds' drinking water symbolising their love for neighbours. Police warned that they would not tolerate any violence and maintained a heavy presence in the city centre.



Read more [here](#)

## Other stories

### Angola and Russia Sign Cooperation Agreement

13 April 2015

The agreement was signed by the secretary of State for National Defence Policy, Gaspar Santos Rufino, and the head of the Russian delegation, Andrey Boitsov. Speaking briefly to the press, Gaspar Rufino said that with this accord it is intended a strengthening of the cooperation, having into account that the relations between both countries go a long way back. The agreement was signed in the end of the Angola/Russia inter-governmental committee third meeting, which comprised technicians from both countries.

Read more [here](#)

### Sudan votes in elections boycotted by opposition groups

13 April 2015

Sudanese voters trickled in to polling stations on Monday at the start of a three-day election boycotted by the main opposition parties, with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir set to extend his quarter-century in power. The presidential and parliamentary polls are the first since Sudan saw its south secede in 2011, losing a third of its land and nearly all of its oil production. Bashir has campaigned on improving the economy, in which inflation and unemployment remain high. He has also promised to maintain stability, warning against a change in government while the region is embroiled in violence from Libya to Yemen. The boycotting parties say a clamp down on the opposition, media and civil society has created an impossible environment to compete against Bashir, who has ruled since a 1989 Islamist and army-backed coup.

Read more [here](#)

### Kenya: Construction of Kenya-Somalia Security Wall Begins

13 April 2015

Construction of the Kenya-Somalia security wall has started. Director of Immigration Services Gordon Kihalangwa on Monday said the wall will demarcate the Kenya-Somalia border besides securing the country from al Shabaab militants. Kihalangwa said the wall, which will run from the Mandera border, through Wajir, Garissa and Lamu, would not bar cross border movements, as there would be designated exit and entry points. The wall will have a surveillance road to prevent infiltrators using undesigned areas from accessing the country.

Read more [here](#)

## Energy: Nigeria and Russia in nuclear plant talks 15 April 2015

As it seeks solutions to deal with decades of blackouts that has blighted its economy, Nigeria has entered talks with Russia's state-owned Rosatom to build nuclear power plants. Although Africa's most populous nation and biggest economy has no experience in developing and operating nuclear power plants; it has a gamma facility and small reactors producing around 30 kilowatts for research. Nigeria broke up its monopoly on power generation and distribution by privatising the sector two-years ago, hoping to attract foreign investors. But the amount of power produced has stagnated at around half total capacity.

Read more [here](#)

## Tensions rise in Burundi ahead of May 26 polls 16 April 2015

Burundi's ruling party has been accused of arming its youth wing as tension worsens in the East African country ahead of presidential elections where President Pierre Nkurunziza could run for a contentious third term. Nkurunziza's has not come out clearly whether he will contest the May 26 polls but the country is already on the edge following indications he may run for another term. The main opposition Alliance of Democrats for Change (ADC) says the president's National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) has been arming its youths as it spoils for a fight. CNDD-FDD's youth wing known as Imbonerakure or "those that see far" has been implicated in attacks against opposition party supporters in the past. Observers say the arming of the Imbonerakure is a threat to a peace accord that ended Burundi's civil war in 2005.

Read more [here](#)

## West Africa: World Bank Increases Aid to Ebola-Hit West Africa 17 April 2015

The Ebola crisis and the collapse of Sierra Leone's mining industry are devastating the economies of West Africa, the World Bank said on Friday in announcing a major increase in aid. The presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are meeting with global development leaders at an Ebola summit here on Friday, where they will present a \$5-6 billion regional recovery plan from the deadly virus that has claimed over 10,000 lives. Already the international community has committed \$5.6 billion. But they need twice that amount for a healthcare system in ruins and to build up social services and new infrastructure over the next two years, according to Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma.

Read more [here](#)

## S. Sudan's Council of Churches unveil peace plan 18 April 2015

The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) has unveiled a peace plan to help the warring parties end the conflict that has destabilised the young nation. The religious body, in a statement, said they were determined to play leading roles to bring peace in the young nation, calling on church heads to commit themselves by uniting together for peace. The IGAD-Plus peace initiative, under a new expanded mediation mechanism, has prepared a draft proposal for a final peace agreement which would be the last opportunity for South Sudan's two warring factions to restore peace in the country. The new proposal came weeks after the last round of peace talks collapsed on 6 March when the two principal leaders failed to agree on almost every outstanding issue. IGAD, which had been mediating the peace process between the two rivals since January 2014, has so far been unsuccessful in brokering a deal to end the ongoing conflict.

Read more [here](#)

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## Did you know that?

**Nigeria ´Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
on 100 most-influential list  
16 April 2015**

Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has been listed by Time magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people. Three other Nigerians - Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, President-elect Muhammadu Buhari, and #BringBackOurGirls campaigner Obiageli Ezekwesil - also appear on the list. The four Nigerians appear with three other Africans on the annual list. They include Sudanese aid worker Mustafa Hassan, Liberia's Ebola-fighting doctor Jerry Brown and Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi.



Read more [here](#)

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