

# What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies  
20th week of 2015 (11.5 – 18.5.2015)

## Top story of the week

### **Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza thanks army on return 15 May 2015**

Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza has thanked the army for thwarting a coup and called for calm on his return to the capital, Bujumbura. Mr Nkurunziza also urged people to turn out "in tranquillity" for elections expected in June. The president was in Tanzania when military leaders moved against his bid for a third term on Wednesday. Three coup leaders have been arrested, though the main leader is still on the run, a presidential spokesman said. More than 105,000 people have fled the country since unrest began in Burundi last month, the UN says. After returning from Tanzania, Mr Nkurunziza initially travelled to his northern hometown of Ngozi, before continuing to the presidential palace in Bujumbura. In an address to the nation published on the president's website, he said there was "peace and security all over the country", including the capital, where he said a "handful of rebels set out to shed blood".



Read more [here](#)

## Other stories

### Malawi 'cashgate': Ex-army chief Odillo arrested 'over corruption'

12 May 2015

Malawi's former army chief has been arrested over a multi-million dollar corruption allegation. Gen Henry Odillo and his former deputy, Lt Col Clement Kafuwa, are accused of arranging a contract to supply military equipment which was never delivered. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has detained them as part of an on going investigation into government corruption known as "cashgate". Neither Gen Odillo nor Col Kafuwa have commented on the allegations. An investigation has found that the army paid \$4.4m (£2.8m) for the equipment that was not supplied. Malawi's donors then withheld \$150m pending further investigation into the scandal

Read more [here](#)

### Kenya floods: Deadly mosque wall collapse in Nairobi

12 May 2015

At least nine people have died after a wall surrounding a mosque collapsed, amid heavy rains in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, according to authorities. Many people are feared to be trapped beneath the rubble after the wall fell on shanty homes in the Mukuru slum area of the city. Rescue workers have been looking for survivors. Several parts of Kenya have been hit by flooding after abnormally high rainfall. In north-eastern Kenya, heavy rains have forced hundreds of families to leave their homes different villages across the region. The rains have also affected nomadic communities in the region, with many of them losing their livestock, he says.

Read more [here](#)

### Mozambique: Mediators Say Talks Have Failed - Dhlakama & Nyusi Must Meet

12 May 2015

Disgusted mediators yesterday said the Renamo-government talks have failed. Father Filipe Couto, speaking for all the mediators after the 104th session Monday, said "we lack the courage to admit that we do not have the energy to go forward and there is no chance to solve the problems. "In this case, only two people have the solutions, namely, the President of Republic, Filipe Nyusi and the Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama."

Read more [here](#)

## **Niger passes law to tackle migrant smuggling, first in West Africa**

### **12 May 2015**

Niger has approved a law against the smuggling of migrants in an effort to stem the deadly flow of vulnerable Africans across its vast desert north, many of them headed toward Libya and on to Europe. The law, approved unanimously by parliament late on Monday, translates onto Niger's statutes a United Nations protocol against the smuggling of migrants, allowing judges and police to take action. Authorities in Niger promised a crackdown after at least 92 migrants from Niger died of hunger and thirst in the desert in October 2013 after being abandoned by traffickers who were taking them to Algeria.

Read more [here](#)

## **Nigeria: Boko Haram Members Killed While in Training in Iraq**

### **14 May 2015**

At least five Boko Haram members have been reportedly killed in faraway Iraq by Mosul Youth Resistance Movement on Wednesday, May 13. This is the first report of the presence of Boko Haram militants in Iraq following the sect's allegiance to deadly ISIS and ISIS's acceptance of Boko Haram's allegiance. According to reports by Basnews.com, the Boko Haram insurgents were attacked in the Dargaza neighbourhood of eastern Mosul. Saed Mamuzini, Mosul's spokesperson was quoted by BasNews as saying, "The Nigerian Boko Haram militants were in Mosul to take part in a military training course conducted by Islamic State (IS)."

Read more [here](#)

## **Kenya plans to privatise sugar companies within 12 months**

### **15 May 2015**

Kenya has approved the sale of the government's stakes in five sugar companies and expects to sell 75 percent stakes in transactions that will be completed in the next nine to 12 months, the Privatization Commission said on Friday. The five companies are in urgent need of modernisation to survive competition from the entry of other sugar producers and an impending end to sugar import limits from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade bloc after the end of a one-year extension given early this year. The Privatization Commission said it plans to sell 51 percent of each of the millers to strategic investors with a track record of managing sugar companies.

Read more [here](#)

## South Africa deports Mozambicans after anti-foreigner violence 17 May 2015

The South Africa has deported more than 400 Mozambicans, weeks after anti-foreigner violence in Durban and Johannesburg left several people dead. The move follows a police operation that uncovered hundreds of undocumented migrants. Many unemployed South Africans accuse foreigners of taking their jobs in a country where the unemployment rate is 24%. Mozambique's government said it was surprised by the deportations. Many of the deported Mozambicans have been housed in tents in a transit centre near the capital Maputo. When violence erupted, Mozambique set up border camps to cope with the exodus of its citizens.

Read more [here](#)

## Did you know that?

**A picture of loneliness: you are looking at the last male northern white rhino**  
14 May 2015

Sudan is the last male northern white rhino on the planet. If he does not mate successfully soon with one of two female northern white rhinos at Ol Pejeta conservancy, there will be no more of their kind, male or female, born anywhere. And it seems a slim chance, as Sudan is getting old at 42 and breeding efforts have so far failed. Apart from these three animals there are only two other northern white rhinos in the world, both in zoos, both female.



Read more [here](#)

The weekly newsletter "What's new in Africa?" is published by the Polish Centre for African Studies, address: ul. Latawcowy 8/23, 54-130 Wrocław, Poland; e-mail: [pcsa@pcsa.org.pl](mailto:pcsa@pcsa.org.pl)

Author: Mária Kučerová

Analyst and Research Fellow in the Polish Centre for African Studies

E-mail: [maria.kucerova@pcsa.org.pl](mailto:maria.kucerova@pcsa.org.pl)