

# What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies  
26th week of 2015 (22.6 – 29.6.2015)

## Top story of the week

### Tunisia: Many Killed in Attack On Tunisian Beach Resort

26 June 2015

At least 27 people, including foreign nationals were killed the attack at the Imperial Marhaba hotel in the Tunisian resort of Sousse, around 140 kilometers (87 miles) south of the capital, Tunis on Friday. Several others were reported to have been injured and were being treated in local hospitals. Interior Ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui told the AFP news agency that tourists were among the dead, but he was not immediately able to confirm their nationalities. Earlier, the Reuters news agency quoted an unnamed source, which reported seeing the body of the gunman lying dead at the scene, with a Kalashnikov assault rifle by his side. The attack in Sousse came on a day when terrorist attacks were also reported in Kuwait and France.



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## Other stories

### Mali: Peace Deal Raises Hopes of Stability

22 June 2015

Tuareg rebels finally appear to be willing to sign the May peace accord. While the Malian population welcomes this as a step toward more security, it has little faith in the UN stabilization mission, MINUSMA. Representatives of a Tuareg-dominated alliance called the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) have now agreed to sign the accord on Saturday (20.06.2015). Negotiations repeatedly failed in the past. About 11,500 soldiers and police officers are currently involved in the peacekeeping operation. In early April, Germany, which has contributed eight soldiers, extended its participation for another year.

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### Ghana police tear-gas residents at demolition of Accra slum

22 June 2015

Police have used tear gas on residents demonstrating against the demolition of their slum in Ghana's capital Accra. Thousands were protesting in the slum popularly known as Sodom and Gomorrah. They blockaded roads after soldiers and police used earth-moving equipment to clear part of the slum. Authorities say the slum blocks drains taking water to the ocean, causing caused floods at the beginning of June where an explosion at a petrol station killed at least 150 people. Protest organiser Osman Alhassan said people now don't have anywhere to sleep. Some 50,000 people live in the slum which is thought to be the biggest and oldest slum in the country.

Read more [here](#)

### Barack Obama to visit Ethiopia and AU headquarters

22 June 2015

US President Barack Obama will next month travel to Ethiopia, making him the first sitting president of that country to visit the Horn of Africa nation and the African Union headquarters. The visit will come after an already announced trip to Kenya. Obama's trip to his father's homeland of Kenya in July will also be his first as president. He previously went to Kenya before winning the presidency and another while he was a US senator. The president is due to attend the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

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## Rwandan Spy Chief Karake Held in London

### 23 June 2015

Rwanda's intelligence chief Karenzi Karake has been arrested in Britain on a warrant issued by Spain for alleged war crimes. The government in Kigali has reacted by describing the detention as an "outrage" and "lunacy." Britain's Foreign Office confirmed on Tuesday that Karenzi Karake was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday and was remanded in custody to re-appear in court on Thursday. The European Arrest Warrant issued by Spain follows a Spanish High Court ruling in 2008 that accused 40 Rwandan military and political leaders, including Karake, of engaging in reprisal killings after Rwanda's 1994 genocide. The indictment by Spanish judge Fernando Andreu cited the deaths of thousands of civilians, including Spaniards. Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said via Twitter: It is an outrage to arrest Rwandan official based on pro-Genocidaires lunacy!" Rwandan Justice Minister Johnston Busingye said both Rwanda and Britain were "talking to resolve the matter," but insisted Spain's indictment of Karake was illegitimate.

Read more [here](#)

## Ethiopia: Near Total Victory for Ethiopia's Ruling Party

### 23 June 2015

It was expected, but now it's official: The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia has confirmed the overwhelming victory of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) in the May 24 parliamentary elections. In fact, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn's party and its allies have won all 547 parliamentary seats except perhaps one. The winner of that last seat still remains to be confirmed. The only foreign observers sent by the African Union (AU) had reported no major incidents and concluded that the elections had been "calm, peaceful, and credible." But the deputy chairman of the opposition MEDREK coalition, Merara Gudina, dismissed the AU report, telling Reuters news agency that some of his group's observers had been arrested ahead of the vote.

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## South Africa may leave ICC over Bashir arrest row

### 25 June 2015

South Africa has said it might leave the International Criminal Court (ICC) after a row over the court's attempt to have Sudan's president arrested there. Omar al-Bashir was allowed to attend an African Union summit in South Africa despite being wanted by the ICC on charges of genocide and war crimes. After a cabinet meeting, the government said it would review membership "for a number of reasons". But it stressed it took its international obligations "seriously"

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## Burundi: Dozens of Burundi Soldiers Killed in Al-Shabaab Attack in Somalia 27 June 2015

More than 50 soldiers from Burundi were killed in Friday's attack by the Islamist group on a military base in the village of Lego in southern Somalia, a Burundian army spokesman said on Saturday. The death toll has not been independently verified. Eyewitnesses said the attack began when a suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden car into the entrance of the base, manned by some 100 Burundian soldiers who are taking part in an African Union (AU) mission in Somalia to help the government fight al-Shabab. Militants armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades then moved into the base, situated 100 kilometers (60 miles) northwest of the capital, Mogadishu, they said.

Read more [here](#)

## Did you know that?

### Ethiopia opens first space observatory in East Africa 26 June 2015

Ethiopia has begun operating the first space observatory in East Africa in an effort to promote astronomy. Two telescopes have recently been unveiled on the outskirts of the capital Addis Ababa. Observatories with the newest technologies will be used by the university students to developed their skills and knowledge



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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)

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