

# What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies  
28th week of 2015 (06.7 – 13.7.2015)

## Top story of the week

### Ethiopia: Breaking News - Court Finds Abubeker Et Al Guilty

06 July 2015

The Federal High Court fourth criminal bench today found guilty Abubeker Mohammed and 17 others charged with terrorism two years ago. The accused were detained in July 2012 on charges of attempting to establish a religious government, practicing a religion that preaches extremism, and breach of religious rights enshrined under the constitution. Their arrest followed weeks of protests against the then Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council (EIASC) leadership, which many in the Muslim community claimed does not represent them. Abubeker and some of the convicts were members of a committee which was set up to seek solution for the leadership crisis.



Read more [here](#)

## Other stories

### **Nigeria: BREAKING: Bomb Blast Kills 20 in Zaria** 07 July 2015

The reign of terror by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect continued Tuesday with a deadly bomb blast killing at least 20 people in the Sabon Gari area of Zaria town, Kaduna state. The governor of the state, Nasir El-Rufai, confirmed the casualty figure via his Twitter handle. The attack came hours after a suicide bomb attack at a Mosque in Kano on Monday. Similar explosions killed 44 people in Jos, Plateau State, on Sunday, the same day six persons were killed at a church in Potiskum, Yobe State, by a suicide bomber.

Read more [here](#)

### **South Sudan: Cholera Kills 32 in South Sudan, Education Key to Stemming Outbreak - U.N.** 07 July 2015

A cholera outbreak in war-torn South Sudan has killed at least 32 people, a fifth of them children under five, and schools have a major role to play in stemming the spread of the disease, the United Nations said on Tuesday. More than 700 cholera cases have been reported in the capital Juba and Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, in the last five weeks, according to the U.N. children's agency UNICEF. An intestinal infection often linked to contaminated drinking water, cholera causes diarrhoea and vomiting, leaving small children especially vulnerable to death from dehydration.

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### **Samsung leads the African investment charge** 09 July 2015

Korean firms Samsung and Hyundai are the standard bearers in the country's trade thrust in Africa, while its debt-ridden state-owned companies cut back on investment. South Korean brands are becoming household names in Africa. "Hyundai in terms of cars, Samsung in terms of mobile phones, LG in terms of televisions and home appliances: these are well-known global brands in Africa that are reliable," says Mthuli Ncube, professor of public policy at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government.

Read more [here](#)

## **Former Guinea military ruler, Dadis Camara indicted over stadium massacre** **09 July 2015**

Former Guinea military leader Moussa Dadis Camara has been indicted over a 2009 massacre where soldiers allegedly killed over 157 people at a stadium in the capital Conakry. Camara is now leader of the newly formed Patriotic Forces for Democracy and Development (FPDD), and plans to contest the October presidential poll against President Alpha Conde. Camara ruled the country for a year after seizing power in a 2008 coup and remains popular in his native region of southeastern Guinea. The charges brought against the former military leader may harm his presidential ambitions. According to human rights groups, over 157 people were killed and at least 100 women were raped. Camara was charged in Burkina Faso where he has lived in exile since resigning from the presidency.

Read more [here](#)

## **Somalia hotels attacked by militants in Mogadishu** **10 July 2015**

At least five people were killed when militants in the Somali capital Mogadishu attacked two hotels. The Islamist militant group al-Shabab has said it was behind the attack. "Car bombs rammed into the hotels named Wehliya and Siyaad. Then our fighters stormed in," an al-Shabab spokesman told Reuters. There was also a mortar attack on a base of the African Union (AU) force in the city at the same time. The AU is helping the government battle al-Shabab, which is linked to al-Qaeda. Security in Somalia has improved, but al-Shabab still attacks Mogadishu regularly. The militants have also targeted neighbouring countries, killing almost 150 people in an assault on Garissa University College in Kenya in April.

Read more [here](#)

## **Health: Test shows new Liberian Ebola case similar to earlier virus** **10 July 2015**

Tests on the Ebola virus that claimed Liberia's first victim since it was declared Ebola-free in May showed it was closely related to an earlier Liberian strain, the World Health Organization and a health official said on Friday. The findings suggest the disease was never entirely eliminated from the West African country. Liberia's first Ebola case in nearly two months was reported on June 30 when the body of a 17-year-old boy, Abraham Memaigar, tested positive for the virus in Margibi County.

Read more [here](#)

## Uganda's Amama Mbabazi: I will not back down after arrest 10 July 2015

Uganda's former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi has told the BBC he "will not back down" in his preparations for a presidential bid, despite his arrest on Thursday. Mr Mbabazi, a former close ally of President Yoweri Museveni, was arrested while travelling to canvass support. The government says that he violated public order laws by attempting to hold meetings without permission. The long-serving president is widely expected to seek re-election next year. Leading opposition figure Kizza Besigye was also arrested on Thursday ahead of a planned campaign rally outside the capital Kampala. Both men were later released without charge.

Read more [here](#)

## Did you know that?

### Kenya: Zambian Namwali Serpell Wins Sixteenth Caine Prize for African Writing 09 July 2015

Zambia's Namwali Serpell has won the 2015 Caine Prize for African Writing, described as Africa's leading literary award, for her short story entitled "The Sack". "The Sack" explores a world where dreams and reality are both claustrophobic and dark. The relationship between two men and an absent woman are explored through troubled interactions and power relationships which jar with the views held by the characters.



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