

What's new in Africa?

Weekly newsletter of the Polish Center for African Studies
35th week of 2015 (24.8 – 31.8.2015)

Top story of the week

Nigeria: 500 Days Without the Chibok Girls

27 August 2015

When 276 girls were abducted on the night of April 14, 2014, from Government Secondary School, Chibok in Borno State, nobody imagined that they would still be missing more than one year after. But reality has dawned today not only for their grieving parents but indeed for all Nigerians: 500 days on, we still don't have any clue as to where the girls are and how many of them are still alive. Even the 57 (of the girls) who found their way back to safety in the weeks following their abduction are still struggling to come to terms with the realities of having to adjust to living as 'normal' a life as is possible, after such a traumatic ordeal. One can then imagine the fate of those still in captivity. However, with the new resolve by the President Muhammadu Buhari administration to end the insurgency within the shortest possible timeframe, Nigerians continue to hope that all the girls will be brought home, sooner than later.



Read more [here](#)

Other stories

Nigeria: As EU's Sledgehammer Falls on Nigeria's Food Export **23 August 2015**

Following the ban on Nigerian food export to European countries by the European Union, stakeholders have been lamenting its implications and have, in the same vein, been proffering solutions to forestall a recurrence. Nigerian food export incurred the wrath of the European Union through the European Food Safety Authority when some of its beans export were found to contain between 0.03mg per kilogramme to 4.6mg per kilogramme of dichlorvos pesticides more than acceptable maximum residue limit of 0.1mg per kilogramme.

Read more [here](#)

Burundi: In Burundi Looms New Civil War **24 August 2015**

Mourners attend the vigil of Burundian General Adolphe Nshimirimana in Bujumbura, at the site where he was killed, on Aug.9. Nshimirimana, widely seen as Burundi's de-facto internal security chief and close aide of President Nkurunziza, was killed in a rocket attack on August 2. It started as street protests three months ago, with furious citizens demonstrating against Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza's now successful bid for a third term in power. But while the demonstrators who blocked city streets in daily protests are now gone, analysts warn the nature of violence has shifted -- and some fear they may have already seen the opening shots in a new civil war.

Read more [here](#)

Djibouti: The New Railway Line Connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti to Start **Early 2016** **25 August 2015**

The new railway line connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti will open starting early 2016 the head of the Ethiopian Railways told the press. The 450-mile line which is being built by China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) and China Civil Engineering Construction (CCECC) at a cost of \$4 billion is one of the major projects towards creating new manufacturing industries in Ethiopia. The project is also part of Ethiopia's plan of constructing around 5,000 km of new lines across the country by 2020.

Read more [here](#)

Kenya: Bill to Gag Media Wins MPs Backing

26 August 2015

A Bill that seeks to curtail the media from reporting Parliamentary proceedings got support from most MPs on Wednesday. Among the offending clauses seen as a setback to media freedom and the right to information is the one seeking fines of Sh500,000 or a two-year jail term or both, for anyone "who publishes false or scandalous libel on Parliament, its committees or proceedings". The Bill also bars journalists from "speaking words defamatory of Parliament, its committees or its proceedings". Another provision seen as draconian and a hindrance to media freedom, is the requirement for approval by the speaker or chairman of a committee before proceedings are broadcast.

Read more [here](#)

Africa: UN Refugee Agency Chief Urges Europe to Formulate Collective Response to Migrant Crisis

26 August 2015

With the number of migrants fleeing to Europe the violence in their countries of origin continuing to increase, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, today urged the European Union to speed up the formulation of an adequate collective response to this unprecedented crisis. Joined by the French Minister of Internal Affairs, Bernard Cazeneuve, who was on a visit to the Swiss city, Mr. Guterres called on European countries not to deal individually with the migration crisis. "It is clear that Europe has the capacities and the size needed to meet the challenges, assuming that it shows unity and jointly assume this responsibility," concluded Mr. Guterres.

Read more [here](#)

UN warns South Sudan rivals to honour ceasefire

28 August 2015

The UN Security Council has warned the warring sides in South Sudan they face an arms embargo and other sanctions if they do not implement a peace deal due to come into force on Saturday. In a unanimous statement, the council called on both parties "to adhere to the permanent ceasefire immediately". President Salva Kiir signed the agreement on Wednesday but expressed reservations about it. Rebel leader Riek Machar signed the deal a week earlier. At least seven previous ceasefires have been agreed and then shattered within days or even hours. Under the agreement, the rebels will be given the post of first vice-president, a position Mr Machar held until 2013 when he was dismissed by President Kiir.

Read more [here](#)

Chad executes 10 Boko Haram fighters over deadly attacks 29 August 2015

Ten members of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram have been executed by firing squad in Chad. It comes a day after they were found guilty of terror charges at a trial in the capital N'Djamena. Security sources said they were shot at a firing range north of the capital. All 10 were convicted over their roles in twin attacks on the capital in June, which killed at least 38. A month after the attack, Chad reintroduced the death penalty for acts of terror. Among those to die was Mahamat Mustapha, aka Bana Fanaye, who had been described as the "mastermind" of June's attacks. A school and a police building in the capital were targeted by suicide bombers on motorcycles, leaving more than 100 people injured in addition to the dead. Those attacks were followed by a blast at a market in the capital in July, which killed 15 people.

Read more [here](#)

Did you know that?

West African Art Through The Years 28 August 2015

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is hosting an exhibition on portrait photographs from West Africa. 'In and Out of the Studio: Photographic Portraits from West Africa' presents 100 years of portrait photography, it includes nearly 80 photographs taken between the 1870s and the 1970s.



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