

Egypt: President Sisi sworn in for third term

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been sworn in for his third term as head of the Arab world's most populous country. The 69-year-old former army chief, who has been in power for ten years, is to remain president until 2030. In the elections in December, the president prevailed with 89.6% of the vote against three unknown candidates after the opposition challengers were sidelined or imprisoned. The oath of office on Tuesday also marked the inauguration of Egypt's new administrative capital (NAC), which is located in the desert east of Cairo. The 58 billion dollar megaproject is the calling card of the Sisi government, which has invested billions in Egypt's infrastructure but has also been criticised for its massive debt-financed spending.

Sudan: Pan-Arab TV channels suspended

Sky News Arabia from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Al Arabiya and Al Hadath from Saudi Arabia have been suspended for "unprofessional reporting and harmful publications"; they have reported extensively on the civil war and political unrest in Sudan. The reason for the suspension was the broadcasters' "lack of commitment to the required professionalism and transparency" and their failure to renew their licences, according to Information Minister Graham Abdel Gader. Relations between Sudan and the UAE have been strained after the Sudanese army and Western media accused the UAE of supplying weapons to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the nearly year-long conflict. The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS) described the decision as a "clear violation of freedom of expression and freedom of the press".

Somalia: Puntland asserts its autonomy

The semi-autonomous Somali region of Puntland has announced its withdrawal from the federal system and intends to govern independently until the constitutional amendments proposed by the central government are ratified by a nationwide referendum. The federal parliament recently passed several constitutional amendments aimed at creating a more stable political system. However, critics argue that these amendments, including provisions for direct presidential elections and expanded executive powers, risk over-centralizing authority. Puntland's decision to assert its autonomy poses a challenge to President H. Sheikh Mohamud, who is already grappling with security threats from al-Qaeda-linked insurgents and a resurgence of piracy.

Fire in Cape Town - over 700 people homeless

A devastating Easter fire has ravaged Cape Town's slums, leaving more than 700 people homeless. At four locations, 339 houses were destroyed and 759 people were affected. Humanitarian aid from organizations such as *Gift of the Givers* and *Islamic Relief* provided people with hot meals, clothing and hygiene products over the next five days. 02.04.2024

Congo DR: First female prime minister

President Felix Tshisekedi has announced the appointment of Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first female Prime Minister. With this decision, President

Tshisekedi is fulfilling an election promise. Judith Suminwa Tuluka, a former Minister of Planning, takes office at a critical time for the country, particularly in the troubled Eastern Region. The area, rich in mineral wealth and resources, is plagued by unrelenting violence that has led to the displacement of millions of civilians and earned the dubious honor of being one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. 02.04.2024

Malian army and Wagner atrocities

The latest report by Human Rights Watch accuses the Malian armed forces and the mercenaries of the Wagner Group of committing war crimes against the civilian population in central and northern Mali. The report lists executions, drone attacks on celebrations and funerals with civilian victims as well as looting. The Malian government denies the allegations and claims that it is investigating the human rights violations. However, the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping mission and Mali's withdrawal from a regional economic community raise doubts about an independent investigation and accountability. 30.03.2024

Turning old into new

The three countries (DRC, Zambia, Angola) want to revive the railroad line through the Lobito Corridor, which was built in colonial times (1902 - 1929) for the export of copper to the Atlantic. The advantages are: there is no need to cut a new path in nature as the old route will be used, transportation is more climate-friendly and decidedly shorter than the long route to Durban, which currently brings copper and quantities of the much sought-after Congolese cobalt to Durban, where ships from Asia and especially China are waiting. The queues of trucks often stand in 20 km long traffic jams and take a month to reach Durban. It only takes a few days to Lobito. As the USA and Europe are interested in the raw materials for the energy transition, they are supporting the project with huge sums of money. 30.03.2024

Nigeria: Mega solar power plant

Nigeria has signed a contract for the construction of a 20 MW hybrid hydropower and solar power plant, the first tranche of a 300 MW project. The project is part of the country's plan to transition to clean and renewable energy solutions. The project will be built in Shiroro, in the central state of Niger, and is a collaboration between the private North South Power (NSP) Company and the state-owned Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA). 30.03.2024

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

Rhino poaching
Madagascar: Hurricane hits the north
Senegal: Ousmane Sonko Prime Minister
Ethiopia: Foreigners can buy real estate
Zimbabwe has declared a drought disaster
Präsident Emmerson Mnangagwa erklärte, die Dürre zu einer nationalen Katastrophe sagte das Land benötige 2 Milliarden Dollar an Hilfe, um Millionen von Menschen zu helfen, die Hunger leiden. Eine durch das El-Nino-Wettermuster ausgelöste Dürreperiode richtet im gesamten südlichen Afrika verheerende Schäden an. Im südlichen Afrika ist Simbabwe nach Malawi und Sambia das dritte Land, das die Dürre zu einer nationalen Katastrophe erklärt hat.