

## Senegal: Homosexuality and freedom of opinion

The activist Bah Diakhate and the Imam Cheikh Ahmed Tidiane Ndao were sentenced to three months in prison and a fine of 100,000 CFA francs (165 dollars) each for 'spreading false news'. They had been angry that Prime Minister Sonko had allowed French politician Mélenchon to speak out on same-sex marriage at a student forum in Dakar. His comments were reportedly met with boos from the audience at Cheikh Anta Diop University. In response, Sonko said that Western countries should exercise restraint on social issues such as LGBTQ rights, as this could lead to 'anti-Western sentiment'. Senegal will continue to regulate issues related to homosexuality in accordance with its socio-cultural norms, homosexuality is 'not accepted but tolerated', the Prime Minister said. Homosexual acts are prohibited in the country and are punishable by up to five years in prison.

## Kenya: Race for antidote

Around 20,000 people are bitten by snakes in Kenya every year. Almost 4,000 bites are fatal, while 7,000 cause paralysis, amputations and other damage. The antivenoms previously introduced by India and Mexico are becoming increasingly ineffective, while deforestation, expanded farmland and climate change are pushing snakes closer and closer to human territories for water and food. The KSRIC (Kenya Snakebite Research and Intervention Centre) is working hard to develop a new generation of antivenom from the venom of the black mamba. As snakebites are on the increase, KSRIC is also working in the communities to prevent bites and provide first aid to victims.

## Tanzania: EACOP project and STOP

The *StopEACOP Coalition* condemns the ongoing harassment and intimidation of people affected by the *East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)* project in Tanzania. The *East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP)* is a 1,443 km heated pipeline that will transport oil extracted from Uganda's Lake Albert Oil Fields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania, from where it will be sold on to world markets. The governments of Uganda and Tanzania are building the EACOP together with TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC).

## Somalia threatens Ethiopia over port deal with Somaliland

Somalia will withdraw thousands of Ethiopian troops stationed in the country to ensure security by the end of the year unless Addis Ababa cancels a controversial port agreement with the Somaliland region. Ethiopia offered Somaliland possible recognition in return for being allowed to set up a naval base and a commercial harbour - a move Mogadishu calls illegal. At least 3,000 Ethiopian troops are stationed in Somalia as part of an *African Union peacekeeping mission (ATMIS)* fighting Al Shabaab, which controls large parts of Somalia, while an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 troops are stationed in various regions under a bilateral agreement.

## Meeting of "African Development Bank Group"

Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, proposed ten innovative ideas in Nairobi to strengthen regional integration and development in Africa. The 10 ideas presented include: strengthening support for the Executive Secretariat of the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), expanding regional corridors (road, rail) that are critical to regional integration and the implementation of the AfCFTA; furthermore, the expansion of power transmission lines and power generation, job creation through the expansion of manufacturing and agriculture, the development of the digital economy including artificial intelligence and the creation of data centres, the establishment of dedicated agri-food zones to harness the continent's vast agricultural potential, the development of manufacturing by creating value in the manufacturing industry, the introduction of digital payments and investment in fintech and an expansion of the capital market and the creation of a true aviation market to reduce exorbitant intra-African costs and strengthen regional integration.

## Nigeria: Nationwide strike

Labour unions have suspended the workers' general strike that has brought economic activity to a standstill this week. The decision was taken after the government pledged to increase the national minimum wage to at least 60,000 naira (\$40) per month. Although this is less than the \$330 demanded by the unions, it is double the current monthly wage. The strike began on Monday and led to the shutdown of the country's power grid, leaving millions of people without electricity.

## Zambia: Ex-first lady arrested for fraud

Former first lady Esther Lungu and her daughter Chiyeso Katete have been arrested for possession of properties believed to be assets from criminal offences. Mrs Lungu had failed to give 'a reasonable explanation' as to how she acquired a property in the capital worth \$1.5 million, the State Drug Enforcement Agency said. Former president Edgar Lungu said the family would challenge the allegations in court. He accuses the government of harassing him and members of his Patriotic Front (PF) party to prevent his return to politics ahead of the 2026 elections. Several former ministers, government officials and members of the Lungu family have been targeted by Zambian investigators as part of an anti-corruption campaign launched by President Hichilema. Hichilema has vowed to recover all funds allegedly looted during Lungu's time in office.

## Egypt: Luxury fragrances and child labour

A BBC investigation into perfume supply chains found that the jasmine used by Lancôme and Aerin Beauty suppliers was harvested by minors. The jasmine used in Lancôme Idôle L'Intense - and in Ikat Jasmine and Limone Di Sicilia for Aerin Beauty - comes from Egypt, where around half of the world's jasmine flowers - a key ingredient in perfumes - are grown. It is difficult to say exactly how many of the 30,000 people working in the Egyptian jasmine industry are children. But in the summer of 2023, the BBC filmed and spoke to many residents who said the low price of jasmine meant they had to involve their children in their work.

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

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