

Kenya: Relations with China to be strengthened

At the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Kenyan President William Ruto in Beijing, it was announced that they had raised their relations to a 'new level'. Both leaders said they were determined to 'bring more stability to the world with the certainty of China-Africa solidarity and co-operation'. Xi and Ruto jointly signed 20 documents. These included agreements on cooperation in science and technology, vocational training, water resources, e-commerce, intelligent transport systems and the railway sector. Africa is a focus of Xi's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, which was launched in 2013 to expand China's geopolitical and economic influence through the development of global infrastructure. 24.04.25

Cybercrime syndicates are expanding worldwide

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) details how Chinese and Southeast Asian gangs are raking in tens of billions of dollars annually through a range of cybercrimes, including fake investments, cryptocurrencies, and other scams. According to the report, the syndicates have established a foothold in African countries, including Zambia, Angola and Namibia, as well as Pacific Island nations, including Fiji and Vanuatu. They are also said to have expanded their money laundering strategies and forged alliances with South American drug cartels, the Italian mafia and Irish mobsters. New technologies have made the situation even more complicated: criminal networks operate self-contained digital ecosystems and use encrypted messages, payment apps and cryptocurrencies to evade law enforcement agencies. 23.04.2025

Automated authorisation procedure for expatriates

From 1 May, Nigeria will fully automate the procedure for issuing residence permits for foreigners. This should significantly speed up the authorisation process and reduce opportunities for corruption. Previously, applicants wishing to apply for a residence permit had to go through a cumbersome process that required visits to banks, the purchase of forms and the manual submission of documents. 23.04.2025

South Sudan: Important city recaptured

The South Sudanese army said it had recaptured Nasir in Upper Nile state, which it lost in March in clashes with an ethnic Nuer militia that led to the arrest of First Vice President Riek Machar and an escalating political crisis. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni visited Kiir earlier this month after sending his army to secure the South Sudanese capital Juba amid rising political tensions. Ugandan military chief Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is also Museveni's son, claims his troops have since killed 1,500 White Army fighters who fought alongside Machar's forces in the civil war. 23.04.2025

Morocco: Protests suspicious arms deliveries

More than 1,000 people protested in the port city of Tangier against the expected arrival of a Danish Maersk cargo ship, which is believed to be transporting parts for fighter jets to Israel. Harbour workers and pro-Palestinian groups claimed that the ship was transporting military equipment from the US to Israel, leading to chants of 'No genocidal weapons in Moroccan waters'. The protest also called for Morocco to sever diplomatic relations with

Israel, which were normalised in 2020 under the US-brokered Abraham Accords. 22.04.2025

Sudan: Arms deliveries despite embargo

From a Bulgarian factory to Sudanese militias: FRANCE 24's observer team uncovers how European-made ammunition ends up on the Sudanese battlefield, despite the European Union's embargo on arms supplies to this war-torn country. The investigation shows that a number of French and European companies continue to do business with the *International Golden Group* (IGG) and the *Edge Group*, even though these Emirati companies are involved in the diversion of arms. 22.04.2025

Improving relations with the Sahel countries

Ghana's President Mahama calls on Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso to reconcile with ECOWAS and invites their heads of state to attend the West African bloc's 50th anniversary celebrations next week. The Ugandan government is also proposing a new law that would allow military courts to try civilians for certain offences. 22.04.25

Niger: Solar boom counteracts electricity shortage

Solar energy is booming in Niger, one of the sunniest countries in the world. An unprecedented energy shortage in 2023 was a turning point. Neighbouring Nigeria halted most of its electricity exports to the West African country as part of regional sanctions against the ruling junta. Nigeria has since resumed electricity supplies, 'but is only delivering 46 megawatts instead of the usual 80 megawatts'. People and companies are therefore increasingly turning to solar energy to fill the gaps. The panels, which are mostly imported from China, are regularly sold directly on the street. Solar energy is also often used to operate drinking water pumps in remote rural areas. 22.04.2025

Changing relations between the USA and Africa

The United States is changing its diplomatic presence in Africa. As part of a major overhaul of the State Department's budget, Washington could close up to six of its embassies and two consulates in Africa. The diplomatic missions slated for possible closure are the embassies of the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Lesotho, the Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The consulates that could be closed are located in Douala, Cameroon, and Durban, South Africa. While the plans have yet to be approved by the US Congress, they have already raised fears that China could take advantage of a reduced American presence on the continent and further expand its own influence. 22.04.2025

Zimbabwe: 45 years of independence

Zimbabwe celebrated its 45th Independence Day on 18 April 2025, but the celebrations continue to be overshadowed by problems such as corruption, political repression and economic instability. War veteran Blessed Geza reiterates his call for Mnangagwa to step down. He claims to be working with elements of the security apparatus, including the armed forces, in his campaign to unseat President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Geza has called for a two-day nationwide walkout on 22 and 23 April 2025 to protest against Mnangagwa.

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

Nigeria: ISWAP responsible for attacks