

Signing of the Chagos Agreement

Sir Keir Starmer signs an agreement handing over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. Under the agreement, Mauritius will receive sovereignty over the islands from the UK but will allow the US and the UK to continue to operate a strategically important military base on one of the islands for an initial period of 99 years in return for a payment of several billion pounds. Previously, the deal appeared to have stalled following a change of government in both Mauritius and the US, where Donald Trump's advisers had time to review the plan. 23.05.2025

Meeting of West African civil protection experts

The Heads of Disaster Management and Civil Protection Authorities of ECOWAS Member States have gathered in Accra, Ghana for the 16th Consultative Meeting of the Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO). The three-day meeting, organised by the ECOWAS Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs (DHSA), aims to review the regional recovery plan and roster, strengthen disaster coordination and improve resilience across the region. 22.05.2025

Life insurance company plants 10,000 mangroves

Absa Life Assurance Kenya has launched a mangrove restoration initiative in Tsunza, Kwale County, planting 10,000 trees. The initiative, which is in collaboration with local community groups, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and environmental partners such as Furaha and Bakara Farms, targets nearly 10 hectares of degraded coastline. Mangroves, known for their ability to absorb carbon and protect coastlines from erosion and storm surges, are increasingly seen as critical to both climate change mitigation and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Tanzania: Repression before the elections

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has warned activists from neighbouring Kenya that she will not allow them to interfere in her country's affairs and cause 'chaos'. Her comments came after prominent Kenyan lawyers and human rights activists were expelled to prevent them from attending the trial of an opposition leader accused of treason. Human rights groups are concerned that the Tanzanian government is increasingly cracking down on the opposition in the run-up to the October elections. President Samia was widely praised for giving Tanzanians more political freedom when she took office in 2021 after the death of incumbent John Magufuli. But her critics say Tanzania is again experiencing the repression that characterised Magufuli's rule. The government denies this claim. 21.05.2025

Rwanda: First stroke-related heart operation

At King Faisal Hospital in Kigali, the first percutaneous closure of an open foramen ovale (valve-like hole between the upper chambers of the heart) was successfully performed in Rwanda, a rare catheter-supported procedure on the heart of a stroke patient. This is a milestone in patient care in the country. 20.05.2025

Mali: Political parties dissolved

The military junta in Mali has banned all political parties, silenced dissent and postponed elections. In view of the increasing repression, analysts warn that the country's democratic future is at stake. A statement said the measure had become necessary because the

government was undergoing a 'reform process' and a law was being drafted to 'govern political life in Mali'. Democracy in the country is now severely jeopardised. People protested in Bamako, holding up signs and chanting 'Down with dictatorship, long live democracy'.

UN court supports Equatorial Guinea's claim

The United Nations Supreme Court has ruled in favour of Equatorial Guinea in a dispute with Gabon over the islands of Conga, Mbaníé and Cocoteros in potentially oil-rich waters. The islands are practically uninhabited but are in a marine zone where significant oil deposits are suspected. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Equatorial Guinea's claim, which is based on a 1900 treaty on the division of French and Spanish colonial assets, should be recognised.

EU called upon to act anew

The European Union has been urged to develop a 'bold political strategy' for its engagement in the Sahel. In an open letter to the EU Vice-President, Human Rights Watch stated that the 'Integrated Strategy in the Sahel', which came into force in April 2021, was largely outdated following the military coups in the central Sahel. In the absence of a 'clear common strategy', the EU has lost relevance and missed many opportunities to 'make a positive contribution to the well-being and protection of civilians in the region', the human rights group said. 19.05.

Xenophobia - mass deportation of migrants

The governments of Senegal and Mali are angry about the treatment of their nationals in Mauritania. According to human rights groups, many foreign nationals have been apprehended, detained and sent across the border to Senegal and Mali by Mauritanian security forces in recent months. According to an estimate by the Mauritanian Association for Human Rights (AMDH), 1,200 people were sent back in March alone, although around 700 of them had a residence permit. Those who were sent back told reporters that they were questioned at random and then arrested, held for days in cramped prison cells with insufficient food and water and tortured. Many people remained in prison in Mauritania. The largely desert country - which has signed expensive agreements with the European Union to deter migrants from making the risky boat journey across the Atlantic to western shores - has said the pushbacks are necessary to crack down on people-smuggling networks. 19.05.2025

Sudan: Drone attacks exacerbate the civil war

Just weeks after the army celebrated the recapture of Khartoum, the enemy Rapid Support Forces (RSF) launched a series of unprecedented drone attacks on Port Sudan in the east of the country. The attacks have led to worsening power cuts and the city's residents are facing water shortages. The barrage of attacks on the capital of the war and the centre of humanitarian aid shows that the RSF is determined and capable of continuing the fight despite significant territorial losses. The growth of modern drone warfare in Africa is demonstrated here. Drones have played an increasingly important role in the conflict, which is now entering its third year. 19.05.2025

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

Ethiopia: Unrest on the Red Sea