

Russian military advisors

Russia has reportedly sent up to 200 soldiers to Equatorial Guinea to protect the president and his family. The men have been spotted in the capital Malabo and in Bata, the country's second largest city. Reports of Russian troops being sent to the country first emerged in August. The oil-rich President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has been in power since 1979, maintains close relations with Moscow. Russia, which is endeavouring to gain more influence in Africa, has sent thousands of mercenaries to West and Central Africa in recent years to protect military regimes and support them in the fight against insurgents.

Further unrest

Mozambican police have reportedly shot dead seven protesters and wounded a dozen more in Namicopo, in Nampula. There have been 50 deaths since the demonstrations began on 21 October 2024. An end to the violence after the elections does not appear to be in sight, as the leader of the opposition party Podemos, Venancio Mondlane, announced three more days of protests. Mondlane also called on the demonstrators to invoke the right to self-defence, while the government warned of possible military intervention.

14.11.2024

Agalega a secret spy station?

Until recently, only 350 people lived on Agalega, fishing and growing coconuts. Other foodstuffs were delivered four times a year by ship from the capital Mauritius, 1,100 kilometres to the south. A small airstrip was rarely used except for medical emergencies. But in 2015, Mauritius signed an agreement allowing India to build a huge 3,000 metre airstrip and a large new jetty as part of the two countries' deepening cooperation on maritime security. However, some Agalegians fear that this could expand into a full-fledged military presence. Agalega - two small islands covering an area of 25 square kilometres in the southwest of the Indian Ocean - would be an ideal location for India to monitor shipping traffic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described India and Mauritius as 'natural partners' in maritime security, addressing traditional and non-traditional challenges in the Indian Ocean region. India and its Western allies are concerned about China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.

Mauritius: Prime Minister accepts election defeat

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has conceded defeat to Navin Ramgoolam's Alliance du Changement in the parliamentary elections in Mauritius. Ramgoolam's alliance promised higher pensions, free transport and lower fuel prices. Voter turnout was 79.3% and the final results are expected shortly to determine the new Prime Minister.

12.11.2024

Botswana: Legalisation of Zimbabweans

Undocumented Zimbabweans are to be regularised by giving them temporary work and residence permits. President Duma Boko says: 'They are doing jobs that would otherwise not be done' and 'also an opportunity for compatriots to learn basic skills such as welding and plumbing from Zimbabweans'. He goes on to say, 'We are facing an unemployment crisis - with a population of 2.4 million people, almost 30% of whom are unemployed, this is a crisis. It's a ticking time bomb'. It is unclear exactly how many Zimbabweans are in Botswana, but

thousands have travelled back and forth since Zimbabwe's economy collapsed due to hyperinflation two decades ago. Some have also sought political refuge. The decision is unlikely to be met with favour in the diamond-rich country.

12.11.2024

Putin offers 'full support'

Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered Africa 'full support', including in the fight against terrorism and extremism. The speech was read out to his African counterparts by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at a summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. During the summit, the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré, declared that Russia was a more suitable international partner than the former colonial power France. This view is shared by several of France's former colonies and was reiterated by Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, who contrasted the Kremlin's 'sincere' partnership with the 'neo-colonial' relations of Western powers. He explained that in addition to military co-operation, Mali was also examining other joint projects in the fields of energy, telecommunications, technology and mining.

11.11.2024

Chad takes in over 680,000 Sudanese refugees

Last month, 60,000 new Sudanese refugees arrived, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The vast majority of the new arrivals are women and children. Many of them reach the border after walking long distances before entering neighbouring Chad. However, the suffering does not end in Chad. The refugees arrive in a country with limited resources. The country, with its weak economy and poor infrastructure, is struggling with a mixture of conflict, climate crisis and food insecurity. Chad is facing the largest refugee influx in its history.

11.11.2024

Lesotho: Import of bottled water banned

The National Assembly of Lesotho has passed a motion to ban the importation of bottled water into the country as part of measures to boost local industry. Agriculture Minister Tefo Mapesela said this week that Lesotho spends R69 million annually on the importation of bottled water, which represents a significant erosion of the Lesotho economy.

11.11.2024

Russian mercenary groups in Africa sanctioned

The UK has announced dozens of new sanctions against Russia targeting African mercenary groups supported by Moscow. Three private mercenary groups, including the Wagner Group's successor company Africa Corps, and '11 individuals linked to Russian proxies' have also been sanctioned. 'These targets have direct links to the Kremlin, have threatened peace and security in Libya, Mali and the Central African Republic, and have committed widespread human rights abuses across the continent,' the Foreign Office said. The sanctions were imposed as Russia seeks to expand its presence in Africa, particularly in the western parts of the continent and in the Sahel, in light of the war with Ukraine.

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

15th edition of the Biennale for Contemporary African Art World Urban Forum and mobility in Africa

Zimbabwe: WhatsApp groups are subject to strict regulations