

A final Foul

The World Cup is being widely acknowledged as a triumph for the South African hosts and a boost for Africa's self esteem and international image. Ghana united the continent in the quarter finals – and were better losers and ambassadors for the sport and fairplay than the Netherlands in the final. Many lazy and often negative assumptions about Africa and its people have been changed if not overturned.

So the bomb blast in Kampala which killed almost 80 people as they watched the final on TV last Sunday were the ugliest possible intrusion on the celebrations. The timing was no doubt deliberate – and intended to exploit global attention to the continent.

Responsibility is claimed by al-Shabaab, a militant Islamist group, protesting at the presence of Ugandan peace keeping troops in the AU force in Somalia.

President Museveni summed up the sense of anger and dismay: "If you want to fight, go and look for soldiers, don't bomb people watching football". The attack has been universally condemned as cowardly but it has succeeded in drawing attention to African peace and security arrangements.

The attack has also highlighted the security threat represented by the most failed of states, Somalia – and not just to the West, the prism through which security is so often assessed, but to her own population, her neighbours and to Africa as a whole. There are no easy answers as to how economic, political and security interventions can be combined to increase the chances of regional stability.

Many African countries now contribute troops to UN and AU peacekeeping missions (see Chart) on the continent and elsewhere. African peacekeeping experience and capacity is increasing, with levels of financial support from donors growing. It makes sense for them, and is better for Africa and the credibility of its regional organizations, that peace deals are supported by African troops.

This callous attack has exposed the complexity and risks that accompany a more robust approach by Africa to peace and security. It is important that African countries bold enough to contribute to this enterprise recognize the dangers but do not lose heart, and that they continue to be supported politically and financially. Failure to do so could lead to more insecurity, and would dent Africa's growing confidence in its ability to manage its own affairs.

News Overview

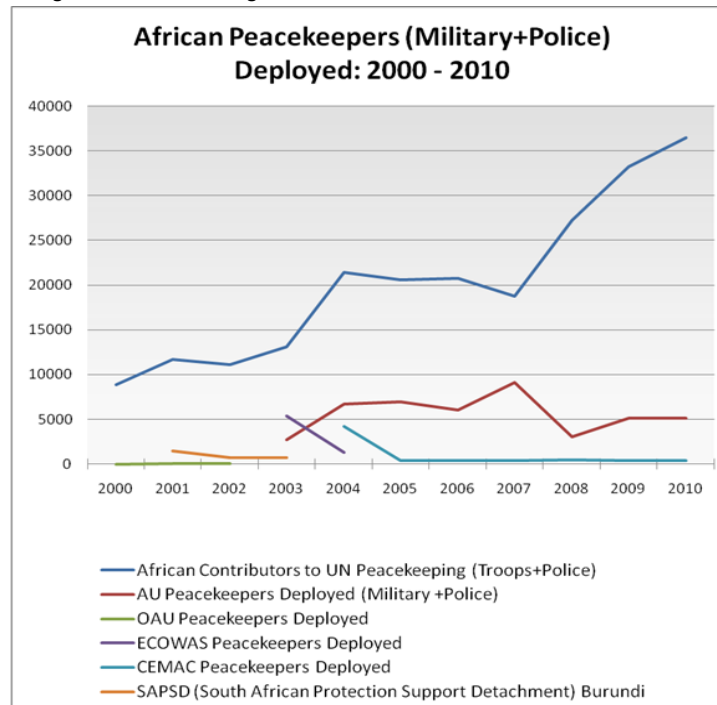
More than a year after being indicted on charges of war crimes by the ICC, [Sudan's president Omar al-Bashir now faces charges of genocide](#) for his alleged role as an indirect perpetrator of war crimes committed in Darfur. He has so far defied the court's orders and denied all accusations. [Will this latest charge make any difference considering he was recently re-elected as President in April.](#)

[There is growing international concern about the recent bomb blast in Kampala](#), in which Somalia's al-Shabab group claim responsibility. This may be the first realization of a threat to Uganda for contributing troops to the African Union's effort to stabilize the country. [Many questions remain unanswered; it's not clear how it was carried out or whether or not it was a suicide attack.](#)

[Experts warn that up to 10 million people in Niger are facing acute hunger](#) due to the absence of regular rainfall since 2009. The United Nations says that the situation is of a magnitude not previously seen.

[Ahmed Mohammed Silanyo, the leader of opposition Kulmiye party has won the recently concluded presidential elections in breakaway Somali region of Somaliland.](#) A major step toward the democratization of the country holds out the hope of progress toward resolving the nearly 20-year-long conflict in Somalia.

On August 4, [Kenyans are expected to vote for a new constitution that will have profound implications for the country](#), according to analysts. But [the hopes of holding a referendum may be in jeopardy](#) as government reveals lack of funding. Also, [the deep involvement of foreign powers in Kenya's constitution-making process is causing an acrimonious debate](#), with questions being asked whether it is good for the national interest.



Source : Center on International Cooperation, NYU (2010).

G20 Update

AUSTRALIA

[The Australian International Development Assistance has donated \\$1.2m to the UN Trust Fund to end violence against women in the developing world](#)

BRAZIL

[Brazil writes-off a \\$240m loan owed by Tanzania](#)

[Brazil and Zambia sign a MoU in the fields of bio-fuels production and food services aimed at reducing hunger in the two countries](#)

CHINA

[China and Nigeria sign an agreement to build an oil refinery worth \\$8 billion](#)

EU

[The EU allocates €150m to war-affected populations in Sudan](#)

FRANCE

[France grants 2 billion shilling to Kenya for power green energy](#)

ITALY

[The Italian Foreign Minister says 'the time for development is over' and that Italy needs to change its relationship with Africa with the aim of moving away from an 'assistance-based' approach](#)

UK

[The UK pledges to provide funding to WFP and UNICEF for their projects in Niger and Chad; and urges other international partners to also strengthen their support](#)

[DFID announces cost-saving measures on its government's aid budget to boost help for the world's poor](#)

USA

[President Obama releases a new approach emphasizing on results-based, strategic investments aimed at promoting long-term sustainable development](#)

[The US plans to provide \\$10m to support women in micro-finance development projects in Tanzania](#)

[The US Government signs an agreement to provide Liberia with a \\$15m grant to support the country's reform efforts to tackle land, girl's education and trade issues](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[The AfDB donates computers worth over \\$1m to the government of Zimbabwe to help improve its public management and finance system](#)

[The AfDB has signed a \\$150m corporate loan agreement with Tunisia to support its 2009-2010 investment plan and oil & gas field development project](#)

AU

[AU and UN join efforts to support the reconstruction efforts of post-conflict countries in Africa](#)

ECOWAS

[ECOWAS endorses a solar energy initiative by Senegal that will help to meet West Africa's growing energy needs](#)

IMF

[IMF raises its 2010 growth forecast for sub-Saharan Africa expecting that the region's economy will expand by 5% in 2010 and by 5.9% in 2011](#)

[IMF and WB announce \\$12.3 billion in debt relief for the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

THE GLOBAL FUND

[The Global Fund signs a new €42m grant to fight against AIDS in Senegal, aiming at strengthening the country's health system](#)

UN

[UNESCO warns that due to aid shortfalls, 32 million African children risks to be deprived of an education](#)

[The UN creates a dynamic entity to promote women's empowerment merging 4 UN offices focusing on gender equality](#)

[UNCTAD urges African countries to use the economic crisis to increase their productivity and economic ties with developing countries overseas](#)

[WFP is scaling up its operation to provide over 4.5 million people with food assistance in Niger](#)

WB

[WB has approved a \\$50m grant to the Democratic Republic of Congo to increase transparency and accountability in the mining sector](#)

[The International Finance Corporation of the WB Group pledges it will support Agribusiness in sub-Saharan Africa with \\$7m](#)

Opinions

[The New Times \(Rwanda\): We are far from exhausting our potential, 14 July 2010](#)

In an interview, Rwandan President Paul Kagame says "Africa is still lagging so far behind." He further discusses the failures of the African elite, the trouble with development aid coming from the West and the problems his country has had reconciling after the 1994 genocide.

[The Globe and Mail \(Canada\): Mbeki accuses summit leaders of abandoning Africa, 1 July 2010](#)

Geoffrey York summarizes the former South African President Thabo Mbeki's recent critique of the renewed marginalization of Africa at the G8/G20 Summits in June this year.

[Business Day \(South Africa\): Little to celebrate as nations lavishly mark liberty milestones, 12 July 2010](#)

As 17 African countries celebrate their 50th year of independence, the occasion raises the issue of achievements worthy of celebration. Dianna Games says, "no doubt that 50 year independence anniversaries should be marked in some way but 2010 needs to be a year of reflection and stocktaking as the future depends on it."

[Washington Post \(USA\) : How Africa won the world cup, 11 July 2010](#)

Dayo Olopade argues that the first African World Cup may not have belonged to Africa on the soccer field, but that winning isn't everything. The tournament brought international celebration to a continent "more widely known for malnourished bodies, grandstanding leaders and the ravages of AIDS."

[The Economist \(UK\): A faltering phoenix, 10 July 2010](#)

In a recent article on Mozambique's development, the Economist argues that corruption, crime and unemployment still threaten the country's notable success story.



Reports

Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings launches a report from their workshop on [New Partnerships for Growth Research in Africa](#)

Security Council Report has published an [Update Report on Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention](#)

“We have proven we can organize, we have proven we can receive, welcome and make people feel at home. And I think people have also discovered there's another side of Africa.”

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the 2010 World Cup.

In the blogs...

[World Development Report Blog 2011: Overcoming cultural barriers with sound economics, 7 July 2010](#)

This post is the first in a series on "Gender and Conflict" which explores gender issues in the context of crisis and violence. The author discusses the cultural complexities involved in improving the lives of women in fragile and conflict-affected states.

[Reuters Africa Blog: Africa optimism rising, 7 July 2010](#)

Interest in Africa has been increased by the 2010 World Cup. With this new international image, positive prospects and improved outlook for sub-Saharan Africa, there is plenty of optimism outside the continent. But "will it be fully realized this time around?"

[Poverty News Blog: Global Witness asks for transparency from Congo Republic to add to debt relief, 7 July 2010](#)

The anti-corruption advocate Global Witness says more transparency is needed in the resource sector for the recent debt forgiveness to the Republic of Congo to be effective.

Calendar

- 16-17 July** [IPU 6th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament](#): Bern, Switzerland
- 17-19 July** African Youth Forum: "Maternal, Infant and Child Health: African Youth Call for Action:" Kampala, Uganda
- 18 July** Mandela Day
- 18-23 July** XVIII International AIDS Conference: Vienna, Austria
- 19-27 July** African Union Summit: "Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa" Kampala, Uganda

For more information, contact:

Temitayo Omotola
Africa Progress Panel

P.O. B. 157, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Tel + 41 22 919 7520; E: Info@aficaprogresspanel.org