

Call for regional stability

The heads of state and government of Egypt, Cyprus and Greece have met in Cairo to address the escalating tensions in the Middle East, including the conflicts in Gaza, Israel and Lebanon as well as the general instability in Syria, Libya, Yemen and Sudan. 09.01.2025

Chad: Military foils destabilisation attempt

The government said security forces foiled an attempt to destabilise the country on Wednesday night after gunfire erupted in the capital N'Djamena. Chad is led by President Mahamat Idriss Deby, who came to power after rebels killed his father, long-time President Idriss Deby, when he visited troops fighting militias in the north of the country in 2021. The elder Deby had ruled Chad, which is rich in oil but one of the poorest countries in Africa, since a coup in the early 1990s. 09.01.2025

Ghana: John Mahama returns as president

John Mahama was sworn in as President of Ghana for the third time on 7 January. The 65-year-old was previously president from July 2012 to January 2017. He replaces Nana Akufo-Addo. Mahama was first sworn in as president when President John Evans Atta Mills died in July 2012. He remained in office until the end of his term and then won an election in 2012. 08.01.2025

Congo DRC: More than 100,000 displaced people in 1 week

Between 1 and 3 January 2025, fierce clashes broke out between the Congolese army and a non-state armed group in the centre of Masisi in North Kivu province, displacing an estimated 102,000 people, according to local reports. M23 rebels took control of Masisi, an important town in the mineral-rich DRC, on Saturday.

African traditions - intangible cultural heritage

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) has added 40 new objects to the list of intangible cultural heritage. Among them from Africa: **Egypt** - Making and playing the Simsimiyya; **Algeria**, Gandoura and Melehfa - Ceremonial costumes of women in eastern Algeria; **Côte d'Ivoire** - Attiéké making; **Ghana** - Kente weaving; **Cameroon** - Ngondo: Water oracle of the Sawa; **Rwanda** - Intore dance; **Zambia** - Mangwengwe dance; **Tunisia** - The Twāyef art of the Ghbonten. 06.01.2025

Africa's overlooked independence heroine

Andrée Blouin (1921 - 1986), with knowledge of the atrocities committed by the French colonialists, mobilised women in the Democratic Republic of Congo against colonialism and became an important advisor to Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the DR Congo and revered independence hero. She exchanged ideas with famous revolutionaries such as Kwame Nkrumah from Ghana, Sékou Touré from Guinea and Ahmed Ben Bella from Algeria, but her story is little known. Her memoir 'My Country, Africa: *Autobiography of the Black Pasionaria*' is now being republished. 06.01.2025

Ethiopia: Imminent volcanic eruption?!

Smoke rose from Mount Dofan, a volcano in north-east Ethiopia, 165 km north-east of Addis Ababa on Friday. Hundreds of people left their homes in panic. The authorities have set up emergency shelters. In recent weeks, there have been more than a dozen seismic events in Awash Fentale, an earthquake-prone area in Ethiopia's Afar region. 04.01.2025

Metal ring from space hits Kenya

Space debris landed in Mukuku, a community in Makueni County in southern Kenya; a metal ring weighing around 500kg and measuring 2.5 metres in diameter. The authorities are endeavouring to find out the origin of the space debris. Under international space law, countries are responsible for the objects they launch. According to NASA, there are now almost 6000 tonnes of space debris orbiting the Earth. 03.01.2025

Côte d'Ivoire: French troops leave the country

In a speech at the end of the year, the President Alassane Ouattara, declared that French troops would be withdrawing from the country; this step was an expression of the modernisation of the country's armed forces. Independently of this, Senegal, which announced last month that France would have to close its military bases on its territory, confirmed that the withdrawal would be completed by the end of 2025. Côte d'Ivoire is home to the largest remaining French troop contingent in West Africa. France's military influence in the region will be further reduced. 02.01.2025

Ghana: Entry without visa

Outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo has declared that all African passport holders can now enter Ghana without a visa. Visa-free travel within the African continent has long been a goal of those promoting pan-African values and is seen as crucial for economic co-operation. Alongside Rwanda, the Seychelles, Gambia and Benin, Ghana is now the fifth African country to offer this option.

Congo DRC: Cardinal criticises government

The Christmas message of the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo, is likely to lead to further tensions between the Catholic Church and the state in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He accused the authorities of failing to bring peace and end the misery of the population. Cardinal Ambongo said that the country was living in 'hellish conditions' and referred to the war in the east and the widespread poverty. Earlier this year, the public prosecutor's office launched a judicial investigation against him for allegedly making 'seditious remarks'. He was accused of 'incitement' after speaking out during his Easter mass against the insecure situation in the east of the country, where the army is fighting the M23 rebels. The Catholic Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been a vocal critic of corruption, human rights abuses and poor governance for decades.

Escape to Malawi

More than 2,000 Mozambican families have sought refuge in Malawi this week. Mozambique has been rocked by violent protests for about two months since the electoral commission determined that the ruling Frelimo party remained in power and its candidate won the presidency in the election. Opposition leader, Venancio Mondlane rejected the results, has called on his supporters to continue protesting. 30.12.2024

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

Sudan: During UN talks - stronghold captured
Mozambique: Civil unrest escalates
Namibia: Plant poaching flourishes
Chad: First base handed over