

## **Sudan: Paramilitaries declare a government**

Two years after the start of the civil war in Sudan, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, leader of the RSF militia fighting against the junta, has announced the formation of a counter-government. Daglo also announced the introduction of a 'new currency' and the issue of 'new identity cards'. The north and east of the country are under the control of the military government, while the RSF controls large areas of the south and almost the entire western region of Darfur. According to the UN, tens of thousands of people have been killed in the conflict so far and more than twelve million people have fled. Both the army and the RSF militia are accused of war crimes.

## **Guinea: Traditional Leppi fabric - a cultural heritage**

Leppi, Guinea's traditional fabric, has been officially recognised as a cultural heritage of the West African country and is now protected by the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI). The new status not only protects the craftsmanship required to weave the fabric but also protects the fabric from counterfeiting. 15.04.2025

## **Zambia: Power lines to Tanzania**

Zambia will resume construction of a 620 km power line and 400 kV double-circuit line from Iringa in Tanzania to the Zambian border (Sumbawanga). The project will connect the Tanzanian grid to the Zambian grid and include a substation in Tunduma near the Zambian border. The work is scheduled for completion in 2028. The 320-million-dollar project is being financed by the World Bank, the European Union and the UK. Connecting the power grids of Southern and Eastern Africa is expected to help reduce electricity costs, increase energy security and create new opportunities. 15.04.2025

## **Kenya: Ant smugglers**

Two Belgians, a Vietnamese and a Kenyan have pleaded guilty in Kenya to attempting to smuggle hundreds of coveted ants out of the country. The contraband included giant African harvester ants, estimated by some British traders to be worth up to US\$250 each. The Giant African Harvester Ant - or Messor cephalotes - is the largest of its kind and can grow up to 20mm in size, with the queen growing up to 25mm. In Kenya, the ants are protected by international biodiversity treaties and their trade is strictly regulated. The case highlights a worrying shift in trade patterns - from iconic mammals to lesser-known species that are crucial to the ecological balance.

## **Cameroon: 'Temporary protection status' cancelled**

More than 14,600 Afghans and 7,900 Cameroonians are legally residing in the US with 'Temporary Protected Status' or TPS. President Donald Trump's administration has now decided to remove legal protections for thousands of Afghans and Cameroonians. Meanwhile, US lawmakers earlier this month called on the Trump administration to extend status for Cameroonians facing attacks on civilians in their home country. This protection will now be withdrawn from them in June. Cameroon has seen clashes between Anglophone separatists and Francophone security forces that have led to extrajudicial killings, attacks on civilians and widespread displacement. 15.04.2025

## **Zimbabwe: NGO Amendment Act - EU suspends aid**

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has signed into law the controversial Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO)

Amendment Bill, which makes far-reaching changes to Zimbabwe's legal framework for civil society groups and non-governmental organisations. The new law gives the authorities wide-ranging powers to monitor and control the activities of private voluntary organisations, including the ability to inspect their ownership structures, funding sources and affiliations; it also empowers organisations to deregister, seize assets or dissolve entities. As a result, the European Union has suspended its planned funding for good governance initiatives in Zimbabwe in 2025. Human rights groups believe the new law could be used to target organisations that question state policy or expose official corruption. 14.04.2025

## **Tanzania: Opposition excluded from elections**

The Tanzanian electoral commission has barred the main opposition party Chadema from taking part in the presidential and parliamentary elections, which are due to take place later this year. Its opposition leader Tundu Lissu was charged with treason after his arrest following a rally in the south of the country. The charge stems from his nationwide campaign in which he called for electoral reforms under the slogan 'No reforms, no elections' in the run-up to the October elections. He was expected to challenge President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who only came to power in 2021 after the death of her predecessor John Magufuli. Hassan was praised for abandoning some of his authoritarian tendencies. However, her government was later criticised for targeting members of the opposition. 14.04.2025

## **Gabon: For the next 7 years**

Military leader General Brice Oligui Nguema - who led a coup in 2023 that ended a nearly 60-year dynasty - won Saturday's presidential election with more than 90% of the vote. In the run-up to the election, critics had claimed that the new constitution and electoral law were designed to give Oligui Nguema a comfortable path to the top of the country. Some opposition members who could have posed a serious political challenge were excluded from the race. 14.04.2025

## **EU agreement to combat organised crime**

Europol and the Egyptian Ministry of Interior have signed a new working agreement to step up the fight against serious and organised crime, including human trafficking, migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and child exploitation. It allows Egypt to send a liaison officer to Europol's headquarters in The Hague, joining a network of over 300 officers from more than 50 countries. 11.04.2025

## **Zimbabwe: Dollar bonds as compensation payment**

Zimbabwe issued \$308 million worth of government bonds and made small cash payments to white farmers who were dispossessed 25 years ago as part of a state-backed land reform programme. Former Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe had encouraged liberation war veterans to evict landowners and their labourers from their land gain support in tight elections in 2000. A land compensation committee has approved compensation for 740 former farm owners, with the first 378 farmers receiving 1% of the total compensation of USD 311 million and government bonds at the end of March. 11.04

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

Algerian: New flight routes