

THE RIO TIMES · INTELLIGENCE DESK · 2026

Africa Intelligence Brief — Thursday, September 3, 2026

The Outsourced State

A UN fact-finding mission said Thursday that up to 2,000 former Colombian military contractors are operating combat drones and heavy weapons for Sudan's Rapid Support Forces, the same week a Madagascar court sentenced its former Senate president to ten years of hard labour for the killing of protesters and Uber shut down in Nigeria and Uganda.

Tanzania opened its treasury bills and bonds to foreign investors of any nationality in a shift dating to August, while its main opposition leader's treason trial continued in Dar es Salaam, Algeria's president replaced four ministers without explanation, and a ceasefire-verification mission worked through Congo's front lines in South Kivu.

This dossier reads the continent's outsourcing: which governments are letting a courtroom, a contractor, an investor or a foreign monitor do the work their own politics will not, and what that borrowed capacity costs the citizens who still answer for it.

Read in English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili, across the region's largest outlets and our own desk.

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EDITOR'S LEADER · 01

A WAR RUN ON FOREIGN CONTRACTORS, A CEASEFIRE ONLY OUTSIDERS CAN VERIFY, A CONVICTION THAT LEAVES THE UNIFORMS UNTOUCHED, AND A MARKET THAT SAID NO

Someone Else's Job

A government's authority is measured by the work it insists on doing itself, and this week five African states handed the hardest part of that work to somebody else. A courtroom, a foreign contractor army, a foreign bond desk, an unarmed observer mission and an app that simply logged off did the jobs politics did not.

Antananarivo's reminder came from its own courts. A court sentenced Richard Ravalomanana, the retired general who served as Senate president under Andry Rajoelina, to ten years of hard labour on Tuesday for complicity in murder over last year's deadly crackdown on Gen Z-led protests, while the officers accused of firing the shots remain uncharged.

Convicting a civilian face of the old order is real accountability, and it is also the easiest kind. It does not touch the uniforms the transitional government under Colonel Michael Randrianirina still needs.

Khartoum's reminder came from Geneva. The UN's fact-finding mission for Sudan said Thursday that up to 2,000 former Colombian military contractors have operated combat drones and heavy weapons for the Rapid Support Forces, part of a network spanning the United Arab Emirates, Chad, Libya and Somalia, and documented a single RSF drone strike on Kalogi that killed 114 people, around 60 of them children.

The mission's chair said the support has brought civilians no greater protection, and its investigators said accountability cannot stop with whoever pulled the trigger. Sudan's war is now substantially staffed by people with no stake in who governs the country when it ends.

The same war is arriving in Chad by the tent-load. Sudanese refugees at the Marra camp walked twenty kilometres to Amliouna this week to demand aid after roughly four months without food or cash assistance, while storms tore through shelters at the nearby Mile camp in the same week.

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Lagos's reminder came from a spreadsheet. Uber shut down in Nigeria and Uganda on Tuesday, ending twelve and ten years of operation and leaving Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa as its remaining African markets, citing 'evolving business priorities' rather than any single dispute.

The same week, the FBI filed a sworn declaration confirming that Bola Tinubu was the subject of a criminal drug-trafficking investigation in Chicago in the early 1990s, a fact his presidency calls old news revived for 2027 politics. A market of more than two hundred million people being judged not worth the trouble, the same week the president's oldest unresolved file resurfaces, is not a coincidence a re-election campaign would choose.

Dar es Salaam's reminder cut two ways. The central bank opened treasury bills and government bonds, once restricted to regional blocs and the diaspora, to foreign investors of any nationality this week, while judges in the treason trial of opposition leader Tundu Lissu rejected a government attempt to add late evidence against him.

Kinshasa's reminder is that its own ceasefire needs a witness. A verification mission of Congolese officials, M23 representatives and regional observers has spent two weeks touring South Kivu front lines under the roadmap agreed in Doha on August 23, after each side accused the other of drone strikes within a day of signing it.

Sudan's war has a payroll now; Congo's peace needs a witness.

The Editor

The deep dive on page 6 reads Sudan's war as a market for foreign muscle, and sets out three ways the UN's naming of the networks behind it can go from here.

The health check on page 5 scores ten countries across politics, budget, money, markets and the outside world. Sudan and DR Congo carry the morning's most serious strain, Tanzania sits with one foot in each column, and Guinea-Bissau and Senegal remain on the table as unfinished business from earlier in the week.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · 02

TEN ITEMS, RANKED BY CONSEQUENCE

The Day At A Glance

Ten things that matter today, ranked by consequence — not by volume.

#	ITEM	WHY IT MATTERS
1	UN mission says up to 2,000 Colombian contractors operate drones for Sudan's RSF (3 Sep)	The fact-finding mission for Sudan documented a network spanning Colombia, the United Arab Emirates, Chad, Libya and Somalia, and an RSF drone strike on Kalogi that killed 114 people, around 60 of them children. A Sudanese army drone strike on Ad-Da'ein killed at least 70 more and destroyed the town's main hospital.
2	Madagascar sentences former Senate president to ten years of hard labour (1 Sep)	A court in Antananarivo convicted Richard Ravalomanana of complicity in murder over last year's deadly crackdown on Gen Z-led protests, which UN figures put at twenty-two dead and more than a hundred injured. He denies the charges and is appealing; the officers accused of firing on protesters remain uncharged.
3	Uber shuts down in Nigeria and Uganda (2 Sep)	The exit ends twelve and ten years of operation respectively and leaves Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa as Uber's remaining African markets, with the company citing 'evolving business priorities' rather than any single dispute. Bolt and local operators are expected to absorb the drivers and riders left behind.
4	FBI confirms Tinubu was investigated for drug trafficking in the 1990s (28 Aug-2 Sep)	A sworn declaration filed August 28 confirmed the Nigerian president was the subject of a criminal investigation in Chicago, following a US court ruling that barred the FBI and DEA from refusing to confirm or deny the case's existence. His presidency calls the disclosure old news revived ahead of the 2027 election.
5	Tanzania opens treasury bills and bonds to all foreign investors (Aug-Sep)	The Bank of Tanzania's amended foreign exchange regulations, in effect since August, end restrictions that previously limited government securities purchases to East African and southern African bloc residents and the diaspora. The reform targets a domestic debt market worth close to fifteen billion dollars.
6	Tundu Lissu's treason trial resumes after evidence ruling (Sep)	Judges rejected a government attempt to introduce late testimony against the Chadema chairman, in a case running since his arrest last year over calls to boycott the 2025 election. The trial resumes September 7 with fifteen prosecution witnesses already having testified.
7	Ceasefire-verification mission tours DR Congo's South Kivu front lines (Aug-Sep)	Congolese officials, M23 representatives and regional observers have spent two weeks visiting Minembwe and Uvira under the roadmap agreed in Doha on August 23, after both sides accused each other of drone strikes within a day of signing it. The conflict has displaced an estimated 5.3 million people since 2021.
8	Sudanese refugees march for aid in eastern Chad as storms damage camps (2-3 Sep)	Refugees at the Marra camp walked twenty kilometres to Amliouna to demand food and cash assistance they say has not arrived in roughly four months, while storms tore through shelters at the nearby Mile camp the same week. It is the second such march in two years.
9	Algeria's president replaces four ministers without explanation (1 Sep)	Abdelmadjid Tebboune installed Mohamed Lamine Lebbou at finance alongside new ministers for labour, agriculture and communication, in a presidential statement that named the changes and offered no reason for them. The reshuffle lands in a budget year leaning on gas revenue against softer European demand.
10	Ramaphosa's lawyers argue the Phala Phala panel used the wrong legal test (3 Sep)	Counsel told the Western Cape High Court that the independent panel applied a lower threshold than the law requires and never assessed whether the president acted in bad faith, six years after the theft from his farm. The court's ruling will decide whether a parliamentary impeachment inquiry proceeds.

10 yrs

a former Senate president's sentence

2,000

contractors the UN says fought for the RSF

114

killed in one strike, most of them children

20km

walked for aid that was four months late

12 yrs

years Uber lasted before leaving Nigeria

US\$15bn

domestic debt market opened to foreigners

5.3m

displaced since the war began in 2021

4

ministers replaced without explanation

HOW THE COUNTRIES ARE DOING · 03

OUR SIMPLE HEALTH CHECK - 10 ECONOMIES

How The Countries Are Doing

Scores run from 1 (calm) to 5 (serious strain) across politics, budget, money, markets and the outside world. The note carries the reasoning; the score carries the mood.

	POL	BUD	MON	MKT	OUT	WHAT WE SEE
Sudan	5	5	4	4	5	A war now substantially staffed by foreign contractors operating drones and heavy weapons for the Rapid Support Forces, with a single strike killing 114 people including around 60 children. The state's own monopoly on violence is, in the areas that matter most, a subcontract.
DR Congo	5	4	4	3	4	A ceasefire that survives only because Congolese officials, M23 representatives and foreign observers are jointly patrolling it, after each side accused the other of drone strikes within a day of agreeing the roadmap. Peace here is currently a monitored condition, not an achieved one.
Chad	4	4	3	3	4	Refugees walking twenty kilometres to demand aid that has not arrived in four months, and storms destroying tents in camps meant to be temporary two years ago. Chad is absorbing Sudan's war on a humanitarian budget built for a shorter one.
Madagascar	4	4	3	3	3	A former Senate president convicted and sentenced to hard labour, while the soldiers accused of firing on protesters remain uncharged and the transitional government keeps its own personnel. Accountability has arrived for the easiest target first.
Tanzania	3	2	2	2	3	Treasury bonds thrown open to any foreign buyer in the same month the chief opposition leader's treason trial grinds on in its second year. Foreign capital and domestic dissent are being asked to trust the same institutions differently.
Nigeria	3	3	2	2	3	Uber's exit and the FBI's confirmation of an old drug investigation landed in the same week, eighteen months before an election neither story alone would decide. The naira holds close to its firmest official level in two years regardless.
Algeria	3	3	2	3	3	Four ministers replaced without a stated reason, in a budget year leaning on gas revenue against softer European demand. Personnel changes explain nothing when nobody is told what problem they were meant to solve.
South Africa	3	3	2	2	3	Ramaphosa's lawyers spent Wednesday arguing procedure rather than facts in the Western Cape High Court's review of the Phala Phala panel report, six years after the theft. A presidency that wins on method still has not offered an account of the money.
Senegal	4	5	4	4	4	The Fund facility agreed at staff level last week still needs financing assurances from Senegal's other creditors and a vote from an Assembly whose Speaker called restructuring disgraceful. Nothing has moved since Tuesday, which is itself the story.
Guinea-Bissau	4	4	3	3	3	A referendum that passed cleanly on roughly seventy per cent still awaits the Supreme Court's certified figure, with December's election the next test of whether the new powers get used or abused. Consent freely given remains a stronger mandate and a weaker safeguard.

How to read the colours: 1 = calm, 2 = fairly good, 3 = mixed, 4 = some strain, 5 = serious strain. Scores are the desk's judgement on the morning's evidence, not a model output.

DEEP DIVE · THE WEEK'S ANCHOR STORY · 04**WHAT A WAR RUNS ON WHEN THE COMBATANTS RUN OUT OF THEIR OWN**

The Contracted War

Sudan's war has entered a phase where much of the fighting is done by people who have no stake in who wins it.

Part One · What The UN Actually Found

The UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan said on Thursday that up to 2,000 former Colombian military contractors have directly operated combat drones, artillery and other advanced weapons alongside Rapid Support Forces units in Darfur and Kordofan. It described a transnational network spanning Colombia, the United Arab Emirates, Chad, southeastern Libya and Somalia that has supplied the RSF with foreign personnel, training, weapons and logistics.

The mission's chair, Mohamed Chande Othman, said the external support had not brought civilians greater protection, and pointed to two incidents as evidence. An RSF drone strike on Kalogi, in South Kordofan, killed 114 people, around 60 of them children, and a Sudanese army drone strike on Ad-Da'ein, in East Darfur, killed at least 70 people and destroyed the town's main hospital — proof, the mission argued, that both sides are now waging the war with imported technology neither can be made to answer for.

The mission's language on El Fasher was blunter still, describing violations there that display 'hallmarks of genocide.' Investigator Mona Rishmawi said the chain of networks supplying the RSF spans several countries and multiple layers of personnel, training, weapons and logistics; colleague Joy Ngozi Ezeilo said accountability cannot stop with whoever pulls the trigger.

Part Two · How The Network Actually Works

Human Rights Watch reported in May that Colombian recruits have been trained at bases inside the United Arab Emirates before deployment to Sudan, often through private contracting firms with murky ownership and Gulf-adjacent registration. Earlier reporting has documented recruitment drives inside Colombia itself, targeting demobilised soldiers from a military that has spent decades fighting an internal conflict and produced a large pool of men with combat skills and few civilian prospects.

None of this makes Colombia a party to Sudan's war in any formal sense, and the Colombian state has not been accused of directing the recruitment. But a state's demobilisation policy becomes a foreign policy question the moment its veterans start appearing on someone else's battlefield, and Bogota has been slower than its own human rights institutions would like to treat it as one.

The RSF's need for this labour is itself revealing. A paramilitary force that grew out of the Janjaweed militias, and that the UN mission's language now links to conduct 'displaying hallmarks of genocide,' cannot recruit and retain enough of its own fighters to operate the drones and artillery its patrons keep supplying — so it rents the operators instead.

The Sudanese Armed Forces are not innocent of the same logic; the Ad-Da'ein strike shows the state's own military using drone technology with a comparable disregard for what it hits. Both sides of Sudan's war are increasingly waged by machines and the specialists who fly them, which is a different war from the one Sudan's population signed up to survive in 2023.

Part Three · Three Ways This Goes From Here

The mission's own recommendation — enforce the existing Darfur arms embargo, extend it across all of Sudan, and investigate the individuals and entities in the support networks it named — is the base case for what should happen. Whether it is the base case for what will happen depends on whether any of the five governments named in the report face costs for the networks operating from their territory.

The report gives the UN Security Council a document it cannot claim not to have seen, which is itself a form of pressure even without an immediate vote. But fact-finding missions have named networks before without triggering enforcement, and the report's own language — that external support 'has not brought greater protection' — reads as an acknowledgment that naming, on its own, has not worked yet.

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	WHAT IT NEEDS	WHAT IT MEANS FOR LATIN AMERICA
Naming Without Enforcement	55%	The Security Council notes the report, no new sanctions follow, and the networks named continue operating with minor reputational cost.	Colombia's own accountability institutions face the harder question absent international pressure — whether demobilised soldiers recruiting for foreign wars becomes a domestic prosecution priority or stays a story other countries' human rights groups tell.
Targeted Sanctions	30%	At least one government or entity named in the report faces new sanctions or a formal investigation, most plausibly against individuals rather than states.	A prosecution or sanction naming Colombian nationals would be the first hard legal precedent for Bogota's veterans-for-hire question, with implications for how Latin American states police their own demobilisation pipelines.
Embargo Extended And Enforced	15%	The Security Council extends the Darfur arms embargo across Sudan and empowers monitoring with real inspection authority, cutting off at least one supply route named in the report.	This is the outcome Colombia's foreign ministry would most want on the record, since it would end the recruitment pipeline without requiring Bogota to prosecute its own veterans retroactively.

Probabilities are Rio Times Intelligence Desk estimates and not financial advice.

WHAT WE ARE WATCHING · OUR OPINIONS · 05

EIGHT THINGS, WITH OUR OWN VIEW

Eight Things We Are Watching

Eight files the desk will check before the next edition — ranked by how soon they move.

WHAT	STANCE	WHEN	OUR VIEW
Madagascar's officers	NEGATIVE	Weeks	Whether prosecutors bring charges against the security personnel accused on video of firing on protesters, or whether Ravalomanana's conviction turns out to be the transition's only reckoning.
The Darfur embargo	CAREFUL	Weeks	Whether the UN Security Council responds to the fact-finding mission's call to enforce and extend the arms embargo, or whether the networks it named keep operating unremarked.
Chad's donors	NEGATIVE	Days	Whether the aid gap behind this week's twenty-kilometre march gets closed, or whether Marra and Mile become the next camps refugees have to walk out of to be noticed.
Lissu's trial	OPEN	Weeks	Whether the case concludes, and on what evidence, before Tanzania's foreign bond buyers get their first real test of the reforms' credibility.
Tanzania's first foreign buyers	POSITIVE	Weeks	Whether the opened treasury auctions draw meaningful non-resident demand, or whether the reform proves easier to announce than to fill.
Minembwe's monitors	CAREFUL	Weeks	Whether the verification mission's first assessment of the Doha roadmap assigns blame for the drone-strike accusations, or leaves both sides free to keep claiming the other started it.
Nigeria's replacement platforms	WATCHING	Weeks	Whether Bolt and local operators absorb Uber's Nigerian and Ugandan drivers at comparable fares, or whether riders in Lagos and Kampala simply pay more for less choice.
Algeria's finance ministry	WATCHING	Weeks	Whether Mohamed Lamine Lebbou signals any change in a budget built on gas revenue, or whether the reshuffle turns out to be personnel without policy.

POWER PLAYERS · 06

WHO IS DECIDING THIS WEEK

Five People Shaping The News

Five people whose decisions this week set the region's weather.

Michael Randrianirina · TRANSITIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

He is deciding whether Ravalomanana's conviction is the start of a wider reckoning or its entire substance, with the officers accused of firing on protesters still uncharged under his watch. A transition that promised change is now being judged by whether its courts can reach people in uniform, not just people who used to hold office.

Mohamed Chande Othman · CHAIR, UN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION FOR THE SUDAN

He is deciding how hard to push the Security Council on an arms embargo his own mission says has not been enforced, having just named the countries whose territory the RSF's contractor network runs through. His report gives the Council a document it cannot claim not to have seen; whether that becomes sanctions is no longer his decision to make.

Tundu Lissu · CHAIRMAN, CHADEMA (TANZANIA)

He is on trial for treason over calls to boycott last year's election, in a case that has run since his arrest and resumes September 7 after a rare procedural win. His fate will land in the same weeks Tanzania is asking foreign bondholders to trust the same institutions trying him.

Bola Tinubu · PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

He is deciding how to manage a thirty-year-old FBI file his own government calls politically timed, in the same week a global platform quietly decided his country was not worth the trouble. Both stories will outlive this week; only one of them is his to control.

Abdelmadjid Tebboune · PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

He is deciding what his new finance minister does differently in a budget year leaning on gas revenue against softer European demand, having offered no public reason for replacing four ministers at once. Silence about the reshuffle's purpose is itself a signal to anyone pricing Algerian risk.

DAILY BRIEFING · 07

WHAT HAPPENED WHERE

The Day, Country By Country

The day, country by country — two sentences each, no decoration.

MADAGASCAR

A court in Antananarivo sentenced Richard Ravalomanana, the retired general and former Senate president, to ten years of hard labour on Tuesday for complicity in murder over last year's deadly crackdown on Gen Z-led protests.

His lawyer says the case shows Malagasy justice can convict a former leader on evidence, though he noted that officers allegedly caught on video firing on protesters remain uncharged, and Ravalomanana denies the charges and is appealing.

SUDAN

A UN fact-finding mission said up to 2,000 former Colombian military contractors have operated combat drones and heavy weapons for Sudan's Rapid Support Forces, part of a network spanning the United Arab Emirates, Chad, Libya and Somalia.

The mission documented an RSF drone strike on Kalogi, in South Kordofan, that killed 114 people including around 60 children, and a Sudanese army drone strike on Ad-Da'ein that killed at least 70 and destroyed the town's main hospital.

CHAD

Sudanese refugees at the Marra camp walked twenty kilometres to the town of Amliouna this week to demand food and cash assistance they say has not arrived in roughly four months.

Storms tore through shelters at the nearby Mile camp the same week, displacing already-displaced families a second time and adding to appeals for emergency shelter materials.

DAILY BRIEFING · CONTINUED**NIGERIA**

Uber shut down in Nigeria and Uganda on Tuesday, ending twelve and ten years of operation respectively and leaving Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa as its remaining African markets.

The FBI filed a sworn declaration confirming Bola Tinubu was the subject of a criminal drug-trafficking investigation in Chicago in the early 1990s, which the presidency dismissed as politically timed ahead of 2027.

TANZANIA

The Bank of Tanzania opened treasury bills and government bonds to foreign investors of any nationality in a change in force since August, ending restrictions that previously limited buyers to regional blocs and the diaspora.

Judges in Tundu Lissu's treason trial rejected a government attempt to introduce late evidence against him, in a case that has run since his arrest last year and resumes on September 7.

DR CONGO

A ceasefire-verification mission of Congolese officials, M23 representatives and regional observers has spent two weeks touring South Kivu front lines under the roadmap agreed in Doha on August 23.

Each side accused the other of drone strikes around Minembwe within a day of signing the roadmap, claims neither international monitors nor this desk could independently confirm.

CORPORATE PIPELINE · 08

DEALS, SECTORS AND DATES

Pipeline, Sectors, And The Calendar

ITEM	TYPE	WHEN	STATUS
Tanzania's foreign bond opening	Sovereign debt, capital-account liberalisation	Now	Regulations opening treasury bills and government bonds to non-resident investors of any nationality took effect in August, ending curbs that had restricted buyers to regional blocs and the diaspora. The first broad test comes at the next scheduled auction, when the desk will be watching whether real foreign demand shows up or only the announcement did.
Darfur arms embargo enforcement	Conflict economy, sanctions	Weeks	The UN fact-finding mission has called for the existing embargo to be enforced and extended across Sudan, naming networks in five countries as the channel supplying the Rapid Support Forces. No Security Council response had followed as of Thursday.
Madagascar's post-verdict accountability	Justice, transition politics	Weeks-months	Ravalomanana is appealing his ten-year sentence, and no security personnel have yet been charged over the protest deaths despite video evidence cited by his own defence. Whether that changes is the real test of the transition's promises.
Tundu Lissu's treason trial	Justice, opposition politics	Days-weeks	The case resumes September 7 after judges rejected a government bid to add late evidence, with fifteen prosecution witnesses already having testified. A verdict would land in the same window Tanzania is asking foreign bondholders to trust its institutions.
DRC ceasefire verification	Security, peace process	Now	A joint Congolese-M23-regional mission is touring South Kivu front lines under the August 23 Doha roadmap, days after both sides accused each other of new drone strikes. Its first assessment will show whether the roadmap survives contact with the same distrust that has broken past agreements.

Sector Watch · Four Things to Track

CONFLICT ECONOMIES

Sudan's war is increasingly run on contracted labour and hardware routed through the UAE, Chad, Libya and Somalia, with Colombian veterans confirmed operating the drones on one side. Any investor with exposure to Gulf logistics or private military contracting now has a specific, named network to price against.

SOVEREIGN DEBT

Tanzania joins a growing list of African issuers — Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana among them — competing for the same pool of yield-seeking foreign capital that also prices Brazilian, Mexican and Colombian paper. The direction of travel is toward opening, not restricting, which is the opposite of where several Latin American treasuries started the last decade.

DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND MOBILITY

Uber's exit from two of its longest-running African markets is a data point on platform economics under strain, not a one-off; the company has also left Tanzania (February 2026) and Cote d'Ivoire (2025) in its broader African retreat. Local operators inherit the riders, and the test is whether they inherit the service quality as well.

JUSTICE AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Madagascar's conviction, Tanzania's treason trial and Algeria's unexplained reshuffle are three different tests of whether formal institutions are doing real accountability work or performing it. The pattern worth tracking is which of the three, if any, reaches the people who actually hold power rather than the people around them.

Calendar · Next 30 Days

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
4 September	African Food Systems Forum concludes in Kigali, Rwanda.	More than 5,000 leaders and investors have spent the week setting the continent's agri-investment agenda for the year ahead.
7 September	Tundu Lissu's treason trial resumes in Dar es Salaam.	The case has run since his arrest last year over calls to boycott the 2025 election, with fifteen prosecution witnesses already heard.
7 September	Riek Machar's treason trial resumes in Juba.	South Sudan's unity government continues to be unwound through a courtroom rather than a negotiating table.
12 September	South African Football Association presidential election.	A domestic contest widely read as a proxy for how South African institutions handle incumbents who will not leave.
23 September	Morocco holds legislative elections.	The first significant North African vote since last year's Gen Z-led protests, and the first test of whether the street's grievances reach a ballot paper.
Late September	Guinea-Bissau's Supreme Court expected to certify final referendum results.	The certified figure decides whether December's election proceeds on undisputed ground or on an argument about how it was reached.
Weeks (no date set)	UN Security Council expected to discuss the fact-finding mission's Sudan report.	The first indication of whether naming the networks behind the RSF's drone campaign produces enforcement or simply a record.
October	IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, Bangkok.	Senegal's creditors will be in the same building for the first time since the Fund reached staff-level agreement, the usual venue where financing assurances get settled.

BOTTOM LINE · SOURCES · 09

WHAT THE DAY ADDS UP TO

The Honest Sentence

Every institution named this week — a Malagasy court, a UN panel, a Tanzanian central bank, a verification mission in South Kivu — was doing work that politics, at home, had either failed to do or declined to attempt. That is not necessarily decay; borrowed capacity has built functioning bond markets and functioning peace architecture elsewhere before.

But borrowed capacity has a landlord, and this week's landlords were foreign contractors, foreign investors and foreign courts, none of whom answer to the citizens whose states they are propping up or exposing. Sudan's war is the extreme version — a conflict now substantially staffed by people with no stake in who governs Khartoum when it ends.

Madagascar's verdict and Algeria's silent reshuffle are the quieter version of the same problem: institutions performing the motions of accountability and management without disturbing the actual chain of command. A convicted civilian and an unexplained minister are both, in their way, a government answering a question it was not actually asked.

The honest read is that Africa outsourced more of its hardest jobs than it kept this week, and every one of the substitutes — contractor, investor, monitor, judge — can walk away in a way an accountable government cannot.

DETAIL

PRIMARY	UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan press release (3 Sep) via OHCHR; Bank of Tanzania public notice and Foreign Exchange (Amendment) Regulations 2026, Government Notice No. 206, via TanzaniaInvest and The Citizen Tanzania (17 Jul-2 Sep); Antananarivo court verdict on Richard Ravalomanana (1 Sep) via Legit.ng, Yahoo News and fr.allafrica's reaction reporting (1-3 Sep); Uber corporate statement on its Nigeria and Uganda exit (2 Sep) via Techpoint Africa, Bloomberg and Businessday; FBI sworn declaration of 28 August confirming the Tinubu investigation, via allAfrica and Guardian Nigeria; Algerian presidency statement on the cabinet reshuffle (1 Sep) via allAfrica; Mwananchi reporting on the Tundu Lissu treason trial; Al Jazeera and Africanews on the DRC-M23 Doha roadmap and the ceasefire-verification mission's deployment (23-24 Aug); allAfrica's report on Sudanese refugees at Chad's Marra and Mile camps, via Dabanga Sudan (2-3 Sep); Western Cape High Court proceedings on the Phala Phala review via Sowetan and EWN (3 Sep).
REPORTING	OHCHR; UN News; Al Jazeera; Africanews; Reuters; Bloomberg; AllAfrica; Techpoint Africa; TanzaniaInvest; The Citizen Tanzania; Mwananchi; Jeune Afrique; Legit.ng; Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; Dabanga Sudan; Sowetan; EWN; our own Africa desk.
LANGUAGES	English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili.
VERIFICATION NOTE	The UN fact-finding mission's own release did not date the Kalogi or Ad-Da'ein strikes; earlier reporting from December 2025 put the Kalogi toll at 116 killed including 46 children, while the mission's September 2026 figures — 114 killed, around 60 children — are the ones we carry, as the panel's own current count, without reconciling the two. Sources disagree on Richard Ravalomanana's exact sentencing date, with some outlets labelling it '2 September'; cross-checked against francophone reporting published the same day, we carry Tuesday, 1 September as the verdict date. Tanzania's domestic debt figure of roughly fifteen billion dollars comes from TanzaniaInvest's reading of Bank of Tanzania data current to around mid-2026 and is not from a Bank of Tanzania press statement directly. We carry both sides' Minembwe drone-strike accusations from late August as unconfirmed by international monitors or by this desk, and make no finding on which side, if either, is accurate.
UPDATED FIGURE	Nigeria's exchange rate and reserves figures, carried in this brief's 2 September edition, are not refreshed here as no new Central Bank of Nigeria data was available in this window; the naira continued to be quoted near 1,329 to the dollar on 3 September according to CBN-derived reporting. Guinea-Bissau's referendum turnout and the Senegal IMF facility timeline carried in the 2 September edition are unchanged as of this edition and are not repeated as lead items here, only as scorecard context.
EXCLUDED	A Sudanese army claim, reported in August, that more than forty Colombian contractors were killed when an Emirati-linked aircraft was destroyed near Nyala, which the UN mission's 3 September release does not corroborate and which we could not verify independently. Any causal link between Nigeria's FAAN airport e-hailing dispute and Uber's exit, which Uber explicitly denied and which we therefore exclude as an explanation while noting it as context. Any specific date for the UN Security Council's expected discussion of the Sudan report, which has not been scheduled. Any number of Ugandan or Nigerian Uber drivers or trips affected, which Uber did not disclose.
SKIPPED	Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mozambique and Libya's internal front lines, none of which we could refresh with reporting dated 2 or 3 September; the Egypt-China state visit that concluded this week is not covered here, having run as this brief's own lead on 1 September. Kenya, where we found no single development dated 2-3 September clearing our verification bar. Cabo Verde, Angola and the Lusophone islands, where the day's reporting was limited to football-qualifying coverage we do not carry as intelligence.