

THE RIO TIMES · INTELLIGENCE DESK · 2026

Africa Intelligence Brief — Saturday, September 5, 2026

The Protection Gap

A vigilante group calling itself March and March raided a legally verified refugee camp in Durban on Thursday, the same week a mutiny inside Niger's own military exposed how little its junta trusts its own barracks, and families in Nigeria's Niger State are still waiting, two weeks on, for a single word from the kidnappers holding roughly 600 of their relatives.

Nigeria's government separately denied backing the Niger mutiny, at least 37 people died siphoning a pipeline in Rivers State, an attack in Sudan's South Kordofan killed more than 21 people on a front separate from the wider war, DR Congo confirmed a fresh Ebola case in rebel-held territory two months after the outbreak there was declared over, and the UN General Assembly voted 164 to 1 to adopt a world map that finally shows Africa at its true size.

This dossier reads the week five African states discovered the gap between the protection their governments promise and the protection their citizens, soldiers and refugees actually received, and the one clean institutional win — a map redrawn by consensus in New York — that cost nothing and changed no facts on the ground.

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 REFUGEE CAMP THE POLICE COULD NOT HOLD, A BARRACKS A JUNTA COULD NOT TRUST, A VILLAGE STILL WAITING ON ITS KIDNAPPERS, AND A MAP THE WORLD FINALLY REDREW FOR AFRICA

Nobody's Watch

Protection, this week, was a promise more than a service. Five African states discovered the gap between the authority their governments claim and the authority their citizens, soldiers and refugees could actually rely on.

Durban's reminder came from its own pavements. Members of the vigilante group March and March raided a camp of more than 300 legally verified refugees on Che Guevara Road on Thursday, hospitalising several people while police answered with rubber bullets rather than a line that held before the raid began.

Niamey's reminder came from inside its own gates. Gunfire tore through Base 101, the air base at the capital's airport, overnight on August 28, and junta leader Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani has still not appeared in public to confirm his own whereabouts.

Abuja added a reminder of its own on Friday, denying, unprompted, social-media claims that Nigeria or ECOWAS had a hand in Niger's mutiny — calling them 'baseless, irresponsible, and a deliberate attempt to misinform the public.' That a rumour required a same-day rebuttal says as much about regional trust as the mutiny itself.

Niger State's reminder has lasted two weeks with no word at all. Gunmen seized roughly 600 worshippers from a mosque in Dekera on August 22, and families like Isa Zaki's, with ten relatives missing, have heard nothing since — not a demand, not a threat, nothing.

Rivers State's reminder came from a river. More than 100 people gathered at Okari Jetty in Okrika before midnight Wednesday to siphon crude from a pipeline, and toxic fumes killed at least 37 of them doing a job that exists only because no other job does.

South Kordofan's reminder came from a front with no name of its own. An attack on the Debi and Luweri areas near Kauda killed more than 21 people among the Otoro this week, adding to at least 158 deaths since March in a land-dispute war running alongside Sudan's larger one.

North Kivu's reminder came from a hospital bed. A 21-year-old man tested positive for Ebola on September 3 in territory the M23 rebel movement itself had declared free of the disease in June, the fifth such case to surface behind rebel lines since May.

The one reminder that cut the other way arrived in New York. The UN General Assembly voted 164 to 1 on Friday to promote a map that shows Africa at its true size — fourteen times Greenland's — after Togo led the campaign on the African Union's behalf.

None of the five failures is a crisis by itself; every state runs on the gap between its writ and its reach. What is notable is how many African governments hit that gap publicly in the same week, and that the one clean win cost nothing and changed nothing on the ground.

A government's writ is only as good as the ground still willing to take orders from it.

The Editor

The deep dive on page 6 reads South Africa's vigilante wave as a test of how long a state can let informal enforcement do its job before it can no longer take the job back, and sets out three ways the camp crisis goes from here.

The health check on page 5 scores ten countries across politics, budget, money, markets and the outside world. Sudan and Somalia carry the morning's most serious strain, Niger and South Africa sit with one foot in each column, and Tanzania is this edition's calmest reading.

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	Nigeria's Niger State kidnappers still silent two weeks after seizing 600 (22 Aug-4 Sep)	Gunmen abducted roughly 600 worshippers from a mosque in Dekera village and nearby communities on August 22 and killed at least 40 people, and families say the kidnappers have made no contact since. President Bola Tinubu has ordered a rescue operation that has yet to produce hostages or an official casualty count.
2	Vigilante group raids legally verified refugee camp in Durban (3-4 Sep)	March and March, led by Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma, breached a police line at a Che Guevara Road camp housing more than 300 refugees from DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda, injuring several and prompting police to use rubber bullets and stun grenades. The group's leadership says it plans to return.
3	Mutiny at Niger's Base 101 leaves junta leader's whereabouts unclear (30 Aug-4 Sep)	Dissident soldiers took officers hostage overnight on August 28 at an air base hosting Turkish drones and Russian Africa Corps personnel, before loyalist forces regained control. Junta leader Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani has not appeared publicly since, in what state media call the third assault on the airport complex this year.
4	Nigeria denies backing Niger's failed coup (4 Sep)	Nigeria's foreign ministry rejected social-media claims that Abuja or ECOWAS supported the mutiny as 'baseless, irresponsible' misinformation. The unprompted denial reflects how little trust remains between Niger's junta and its neighbours since the 2023 takeover.
5	At least 37 die inhaling fumes during illegal pipeline tap in Rivers State (3 Sep)	More than 100 people gathered at Okari Jetty in Okrika to siphon crude before midnight Wednesday when toxic fumes overwhelmed them, Nigeria's deadliest such incident since 2023. A Civilian Joint Task Force commander at the scene called for jobs rather than arrests.
6	South Kordofan attack kills 21+ in Sudan's land-dispute front (3-4 Sep)	Forces aligned with the RSF-allied SPLM-N killed more than 21 people, including women and children, among the Otoro tribe near Kauda. The Sudan Doctors Network has now documented at least 158 deaths since March in this front, separate from the main war between Sudan's army and the RSF.
7	DR Congo confirms new Ebola case in rebel-held territory declared free of the disease (3 Sep)	A 21-year-old man tested positive in Lubero territory, North Kivu, more than two months after the M23 rebel movement had declared its territory's outbreak over. It is the fifth confirmed case inside M23-held ground since the epidemic began in May, with the national toll at 6,250 cases and 3,039 deaths.
8	UN votes 164-1 to promote a map showing Africa's true size (4 Sep)	The General Assembly encouraged governments, schools and tech companies to adopt the Equal Earth projection over the 1569 Mercator projection, which visually shrinks Africa to roughly Greenland's size. Togo led the campaign for the African Union; the US cast the sole opposing vote.
9	South Africa's migrant exodus keeps climbing amid the wider anti-migrant campaign (Jul-4 Sep)	A July tally counted nearly 25,000 migrants who had already left the country amid xenophobic violence under way since spring; groups tracking the exodus now put the figure several times higher. Some refugees from the Durban camp are opting for the Lindela Repatriation Centre rather than wait for the next raid.
10	Uganda begins nine days of mourning for King Oyo Nyimba ahead of September 12 burial (4 Sep)	The body of King Oyo, who became the world's youngest reigning monarch at age three in 1995 and died of cancer at 34, returned to the Tooro Kingdom to crowds lining the roads. President Museveni received the casket, and the kingdom has confirmed an heir exists.

600	37	300+	Aug 28
worshippers abducted, still missing	dead from an illegal pipeline tap	refugees at the raided Durban camp	date of the Niamey barracks mutiny
21+	158	6,250	164-1
killed in the South Kordofan attack	deaths in Sudan's land-dispute front	confirmed Ebola cases nationwide	UN vote adopting the Equal Earth map

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 South Kordofan attack killed more than 21 people this week on a land-dispute front that has claimed at least 158 lives since March, running alongside the main war between the army and the RSF. Two fronts, one collapsing health and aid system.
Somalia	4	5	3	2	5	The UN office funding the African Union's peacekeeping mission there continues auctioning its own vehicles as Washington's funding cutoff approaches, a crisis unresolved since last week and still without a donor bridge.
Niger	4	4	3	3	4	A mutiny at Base 101 left the junta leader's whereabouts unconfirmed for days, and Nigeria felt compelled to deny, unprompted, that it had any hand in it. A junta that cannot vouch for its own barracks is a junta whose authority is being tested from the inside.
South Africa	4	3	3	2	3	A vigilante group raided a legally verified refugee camp in Durban with police unable to prevent it, the latest escalation in a xenophobic campaign that has driven a rising toll of migrants out of the country since spring. State authority and public order are fraying at the same edge.
DR Congo	5	4	4	3	4	A fresh Ebola case surfaced in rebel-held territory that M23 itself had declared free of the disease two months ago, on top of a ceasefire that survives only under joint monitoring. Neither the epidemic nor the peace is verifiable behind the same rebel lines.
Nigeria	4	3	2	2	3	A mass abduction in Niger State has gone two weeks without a ransom demand, and a pipeline-theft disaster in Rivers State killed 37 more people this week. Currency stability is buying the presidency time it is not yet spending on either crisis.
Cameroon	4	3	3	2	3	The vice-presidency parliament created in April remains unfilled a fortnight after President Biya's return from a 74-day absence, an unresolved succession gap carried forward from prior editions with no new movement this week.
Kenya	3	3	3	3	3	Monday's deadline for foreign small traders to close shop is now two days away, an enforcement test still pending as this edition goes to press. Nothing new broke this week, but the countdown itself is the story.
Zimbabwe	3	4	4	3	3	Harare's vendor clean-up operation is due to begin September 9 against more than 30,000 traders who have vowed to defy it, an unresolved standoff carried forward with no new development this week.
Tanzania	3	2	2	2	3	Treasury bonds remain open to any foreign buyer while the chief opposition leader's treason trial continues, a steady posture unchanged this week and this edition's calmest reading.

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 HAPPENS WHEN A STATE LETS INFORMAL ENFORCEMENT DO ITS JOB FOR TOO LONG

South Africa's Vigilante Line

Durban's raided refugee camp is this week's clearest test of how far a government can lean on vigilantism before it can no longer take the job back.

Part One · What Actually Happened

Members of March and March, a vigilante group led by Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma that conducts self-styled 'clean-up' operations against foreign nationals, raided a camp of more than 300 refugees outside the Department of Home Affairs on Che Guevara Road in Durban on Thursday, September 3. Despite the group's own stated ban on weapons, participants arrived with sjamboks and sticks, moved belongings into the road, and breached a police line.

Two refugees suffered head injuries, a seven-year-old girl was stepped on as the crowd scattered, and a woman fainted and was taken away by ambulance; police dispersed the crowd with rubber bullets and stun grenades, striking at least one March and March supporter in the process. The group's leadership has said publicly that it intends to return to the same site.

Part Two · The Wave This Sits Inside

The camp's residents, mainly from DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda, are legally verified to be in South Africa and had lived at the site for months rather than risk the xenophobic threats that displaced them in the first place; the Siyafana Sonke Action Campaign says two people have already died there, one from a condition organisers believe was worsened by prolonged weather exposure. A July tally counted nearly 25,000 migrants who had already left the country amid a broader anti-migrant campaign under way since spring, and groups tracking the exodus this week put the figure several times higher.

Police response has been reactive rather than preventive in each recorded incident, arriving after clashes begin rather than before vigilante groups assemble, and refugee advocates argue the state has effectively outsourced enforcement of its own immigration policy to whichever group is loudest on a given day.

Part Three · Three Ways This Goes From Here

The most likely path is that the quiet exodus simply accelerates: refugees and migrants continue leaving for repatriation centres or crossing back over borders rather than wait for the next raid, without any single dramatic event forcing the government's hand. A harder path is that Pretoria moves to actually police vigilante groups rather than merely disperse their clashes, restoring a tenuous calm without addressing the underlying xenophobic sentiment driving the campaign.

The most consequential path, though least likely in the near term, is escalation: further raids drawing international attention and formal protests from the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, straining South Africa's regional diplomacy at a moment when it is already managing other reputational strain. Which path the country takes will be visible within weeks, not months, given how frequently March and March has already signalled its intent to return.

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	WHAT IT NEEDS	WHAT IT MEANS FOR LATIN AMERICA
Quiet Exodus Accelerates	50%	No single dramatic incident, but a steady drumbeat of raids and threats that pushes migrants toward repatriation centres or the border faster than any policy debate moves.	The pattern Peru and Chile already recognise from their own Venezuelan-migration strain: policy paralysis resolved not by government decision but by migrants simply leaving faster than the argument about them concludes.
Government Cracks Down On Vigilantism	30%	Pretoria treats groups like March and March as a public-order problem in their own right, deploying police preventively rather than reactively and prosecuting organisers rather than dispersing crowds.	The harder, more durable model this hemisphere's own governments have struggled to apply consistently against autodefensas and lynching mobs — proof it can be done, if the political will holds past the next news cycle.
Escalation Into Diplomatic Dispute	20%	Further raids draw formal protests from the DRC, Burundi or Rwanda and international rights bodies, forcing Pretoria to answer for its citizens' conduct rather than only its own policy.	A preview of the diplomatic cost any Latin American government risks when it lets vigilante sentiment against migrants go unpoliced for too long, turning a domestic policy failure into a regional relations problem.

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
March and March's next raid	NEGATIVE	Days	Whether the group actually returns to Che Guevara Road as promised, and whether police change tactics or simply repeat Thursday's response.
Niamey's silence	WATCHING	Days	Whether Gen. Tiani appears in public, or the junta's own credibility keeps eroding alongside the rumours it keeps denying.
Niger State's phone call	NEGATIVE	Days	Whether the kidnappers holding roughly 600 hostages ever make contact, or the silence itself becomes the story families are left with.
Rivers State's arrests	CAREFUL	Weeks	Whether anyone is charged over the Okrika deaths, or the 'no formal complaint' line proves to be the entire official response.
South Kordofan's next attack	NEGATIVE	Weeks	Whether the Sudan Doctors Network's 158-death tally keeps climbing before any ceasefire framework even acknowledges this front exists.
DRC's contact tracing	CAREFUL	Weeks	Whether health teams can reach everyone exposed to the new Lubero case inside M23-held territory before it seeds further spread.
Equal Earth's adoption	OPEN	Months	Which governments and tech platforms actually switch mapping defaults, beyond France's same-day commitment.
South Africa's exodus count	NEGATIVE	Weeks	Whether the number of migrants leaving the country keeps climbing past this week's multiple-of-25,000 estimate, or the pace finally slows.

POWER PLAYERS · 06

WHO IS DECIDING THIS WEEK

Five People Shaping The News

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

Jacinta Ngobese-Zuma · LEADER, MARCH AND MARCH

She is deciding how far a vigilante group can go in enforcing immigration policy the state itself has not enforced, having led Thursday's raid on a legally verified refugee camp. Her group's public promise to return makes her, for now, a more reliable predictor of what happens next in Durban than any government official.

Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani · JUNTA LEADER, NIGER

He is deciding, by his continued public absence, how much uncertainty his own government can absorb after a mutiny inside the barracks meant to protect it. Every day without an appearance is a day his neighbours and his own soldiers are left to guess at his authority.

Bola Tinubu · PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

He is managing a rescue operation for roughly 600 hostages that has produced no hostages and a foreign-ministry denial of coup involvement in the same week, while a pipeline disaster killed dozens more. Three security failures in one week test whether his government's crisis management matches its crisis volume.

Abdelaziz al-Hilu · LEADER, SPLM-N

He is prosecuting a land-dispute front in South Kordofan that has now killed at least 158 people since March, a war within Sudan's larger war that rarely reaches the same negotiating tables. His forces' alignment with the RSF ties a local land dispute to the country's broader civil war.

Robert Dussey · FOREIGN MINISTER OF TOGO

He led the diplomatic campaign that built a 164-country majority at the UN General Assembly for a map redrawn to Africa's true scale. His week is this edition's one uncomplicated institutional win, earned entirely at the negotiating table rather than on the ground.

DAILY BRIEFING · 07

WHAT HAPPENED WHERE

The Day, Country By Country

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

SOUTH AFRICA

Vigilante group March and March raided a refugee camp of more than 300 people on Durban's Che Guevara Road on Thursday, injuring several and prompting police to use rubber bullets and stun grenades.

A July tally counted nearly 25,000 migrants who had left South Africa amid a xenophobic campaign under way since spring, with groups this week putting the current figure several times higher.

NIGER

A mutiny broke out overnight on August 28 at Base 101 near Niamey's airport, with dissident soldiers taking officers hostage before loyalist forces regained control.

Junta leader Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani has not appeared publicly since the mutiny, and Nigeria's foreign ministry denied unprompted social-media claims linking Abuja to the unrest.

NIGERIA

Gunmen who abducted roughly 600 worshippers from a Niger State mosque on August 22 have made no contact with families two weeks on, and no group has claimed responsibility.

At least 37 people died inhaling fumes while illegally tapping a Rivers State pipeline before midnight Wednesday, in the country's deadliest such incident since 2023.

DAILY BRIEFING · CONTINUED**SUDAN**

An attack on the Debi and Luweri areas near Kauda, South Kordofan, killed more than 21 people among the Otoro tribe this week, according to the Sudan Doctors Network.

The medical group has documented at least 158 deaths since March in the same land-dispute front, running separately from the main war between Sudan's army and the RSF.

DR CONGO

A 21-year-old man tested positive for Ebola on September 3 in Lubero territory, M23-held ground the rebel movement had itself declared free of the disease in June.

The national toll stood at 6,250 confirmed cases and 3,039 deaths as of September 1, the largest Ebola epidemic in the country's history.

TOGO

The UN General Assembly voted 164 to 1 on Friday to promote the Equal Earth map projection over Mercator, following a campaign Togo led on the African Union's behalf.

Foreign Minister Robert Dussey said a fair map 'does not change the geography of the world, it changes how we see the world,' as France committed the same day to adopt it.

CORPORATE PIPELINE · 08

DEALS, SECTORS AND DATES

Pipeline, Sectors, And The Calendar

ITEM	TYPE	WHEN	STATUS
Niger State hostage rescue	Security operation	Days-weeks	President Tinubu has ordered a rescue operation for roughly 600 hostages seized August 22, but as of Friday no hostages had been recovered and no official casualty count released.
Rivers State pipeline enforcement	Energy security, policing	Weeks	Police confirmed 37 deaths came during an oil-theft attempt at Okari Jetty but had received no formal complaint as of Friday, with no arrests yet announced.
South Africa vigilante policing	Public order, immigration	Weeks	March and March has said it plans to return to the Durban camp it raided Thursday, with no indication yet that authorities will police the group pre-emptively rather than react to further clashes.
DRC Ebola containment in M23 territory	Public health	Weeks	Contact tracing began immediately after the September 3 Lubero case, but the Africa CDC says it remains too early to call the wider outbreak under control.
Equal Earth map rollout	Standards, technology	Months	The UN resolution is non-binding; France committed the same day to adopt Equal Earth, but major digital mapping platforms have not yet announced a switch from Mercator-based defaults.

Sector Watch · Four Things to Track

INFORMAL SECURITY AND VIGILANTISM

South Africa's March and March raid is this week's sharpest example of a state that has let informal enforcement substitute for its own policy for long enough that it can no longer easily reclaim the role. The pattern to track is whether any government facing the same dynamic moves pre-emptively rather than reactively.

KIDNAPPING-FOR-RANSOM ECONOMY

A two-week silence from Niger State's kidnappers, with no ransom demand at all, is an unusual variant of Nigeria's mass-abduction economy that usually moves faster toward negotiation. Any change in that silence — a demand, a video, a release — will be this front's most important signal.

ILLEGAL OIL BUNKERING

Rivers State's 37 deaths are Nigeria's deadliest pipeline-theft incident since 2023, in a Niger Delta economy where a Civilian Joint Task Force commander himself called for jobs rather than prosecutions. The sector's own security depends on an alternative to the theft it keeps failing to prevent.

MILITARY COHESION AND COUP RISK

Niger's Base 101 mutiny and Nigeria's unprompted denial of involvement both point to a Sahel security architecture where trust between allied governments is thinner than their formal alliances suggest. Any further mutiny inside a Sahel state's own barracks would confirm the pattern rather than introduce a new one.

Calendar · Next 30 Days

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
7 September	Kenya's deadline for foreign nationals to close small shops and hawking stalls.	The first real test of whether President Ruto's directive is enforced broadly or selectively.
9 September	Harare's vendor clean-up operation begins.	The first city in a crackdown the government says will spread nationwide, against vendors who have vowed to return.
10 September	UNSOS civilian staff contracts in Somalia lapse.	The next visible step in AUSSOM's wind-down as Washington's funding cutoff approaches.
12 September	King Oyo Nyimba's burial in Uganda's Tooro Kingdom.	The close of a nine-day mourning period for the monarch who became the world's youngest reigning king at three.
23 September	Morocco holds legislative elections.	The first significant North African vote since last year's Gen Z-led protests, and a test of whether street grievances reach a ballot paper.
31 December	Washington's deadline to block further AUSSOM funding.	The date by which donors must find bridge financing or the Somalia mission's drawdown accelerates.
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 on its facility.

BOTTOM LINE · SOURCES · 09

WHAT THE DAY ADDS UP TO

The Honest Sentence

Five governments this week discovered the same gap from five different angles: a promise of protection, and a camp, a barracks, a village, a river or a rebel-held clinic that the promise could not actually reach. Durban's police arrived after the vigilantes did; Niamey's junta had to ask whether its own soldiers were loyal; Niger State's families have outlasted two weeks of silence from men the state has not caught.

Rivers State's dead were doing a job that exists only because no other job does, and South Kordofan's Otoro buried their own with no ceasefire process built to notice them. DR Congo's rebel administration declared an epidemic over that its own health system could not actually verify, which is a smaller version of the same problem as everything else this week: authority claimed is not authority exercised.

The one exception is the map vote, and it is instructive precisely because it cost nothing: 164 governments agreeing on a symbol is easier than any one government enforcing its writ over an actual refugee camp, barracks or river. That gap between symbolic and material authority is this week's real subject, not the five crises that exposed it.

None of this is a continent in decline; every state everywhere runs on the distance between its writ and its reach, and gaps this size open on every continent that has ever governed unevenly settled ground. What distinguishes this week is only that five African governments met that gap in public at once, while the institutional win that actually succeeded changed no facts on the ground at all.

DETAIL

PRIMARY	GroundUp, Briefly.co.za, Sunday Times and IOL reporting on the March and March raid on the Che Guevara Road refugee camp, corroborated by the Siyafana Sonke Action Campaign and Congolese Solidarity Campaign (3-4 Sep); Rio Times Intelligence Desk reporting on the Niger Base 101 mutiny, corroborated by Africanews and Al Jazeera (30 Aug-4 Sep); Nairametrics, Vanguard and allAfrica reporting on Nigeria's denial of coup involvement (4 Sep); Tribune Online, Political Economist NG and Al Jazeera reporting on the Niger State mass abduction (22 Aug-4 Sep); Channels Television and allAfrica reporting on the Rivers State pipeline deaths (3-4 Sep); Sudan Doctors Network statements via the Associated Press and Eastleigh Voice on the South Kordofan attack (3-4 Sep); Xinhua reporting on the DR Congo Ebola case, citing the Africa CDC (3-4 Sep); UN News, Al Jazeera and the National on the Equal Earth map vote (4 Sep).
REPORTING	GroundUp; Briefly.co.za; Sunday Times; IOL; Africanews; Al Jazeera; Nairametrics; Vanguard; allAfrica; Tribune Online; Political Economist NG; Channels Television; Associated Press; Eastleigh Voice; Xinhua; UN News; The National; our own Africa desk.
LANGUAGES	English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili.
VERIFICATION NOTE	South Africa's migrant-exodus figures are inconsistent across sources: a July count put departures near 25,000, while reporting this week cites estimates several times higher without a single reconciled government figure; we carry both rather than average them. Niger State abduction figures (roughly 600 abducted, at least 40 killed) are drawn from resident and family accounts reported by Tribune Online and Political Economist NG, since Niger State police have not issued an official count. Rivers State's death toll (at least 37, with six further unidentified bodies) comes from police and Civilian Joint Task Force accounts and may rise as recovery continues. Sudan Doctors Network's South Kordofan attribution to SPLM-N forces is the medical group's own assessment; we have not independently verified responsibility.
UPDATED FIGURE	DR Congo's cumulative Ebola toll (6,250 cases, 3,039 deaths as of September 1) updates prior editions' lower running counts and reflects the Africa CDC's most recent published figures. Sudan's South Kordofan land-dispute toll (at least 158 deaths since March) is the Sudan Doctors Network's cumulative figure as of this week, an increase attributable to the latest attack rather than a revision of earlier reporting.
EXCLUDED	Any figure for how many March and March members participated in the Durban raid, which no source in our sweep provided precisely. Any official Niger State government casualty or ransom figure for the mosque abduction, which state police have not released. Any confirmed causal link between Niger's Base 101 mutiny and the broader Sahel security picture involving Russian Africa Corps personnel stationed there, which we treat as a parallel fact rather than a demonstrated connection. Nigeria's naira and reserves figures, which were unchanged enough since our last edition to not warrant repetition.
SKIPPED	Mali, Burkina Faso, Libya, Angola, Botswana, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia's National Dialogue follow-through, and Zanu-PF's congress preparations, none of which we could refresh with reporting dated 3-5 September clearing our verification bar. Kenya's Local Content Bill and Zimbabwe's vendor stand-off, both still pending their respective deadlines next week with no new development to report today.