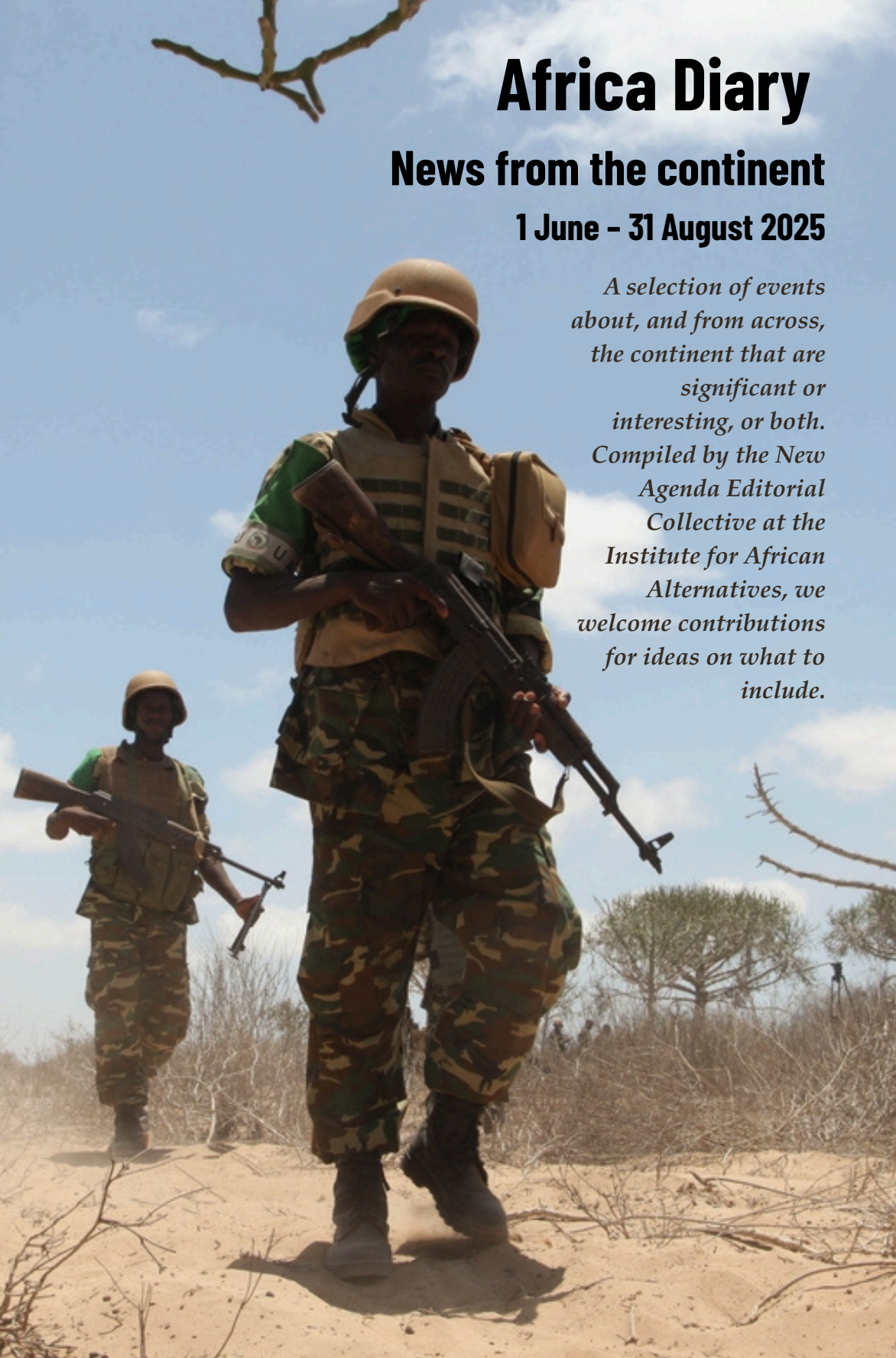


Africa Diary

News from the continent

1 June - 31 August 2025

*A selection of events
about, and from across,
the continent that are
significant or
interesting, or both.
Compiled by the New
Agenda Editorial
Collective at the
Institute for African
Alternatives, we
welcome contributions
for ideas on what to
include.*





August

26 August: The Sudanese cabinet held its first meeting in the capital city, Khartoum, since the present conflict started in April 2023. The government continues to be based in the eastern city of Port Sudan. Khartoum still lies in ruins after its occupation by militias, during which many of its population fled or were killed.

15 August: Following Zambia's catastrophic copper tailings dam failure in February 2025, Mike Mposha, Zambian Minister of Green Economy and Environment, has declared "The water is fit for consumption." While studies on the long-term effects on the ecosystem of the Kufue River are still underway, the foreign-managed company responsible for the mine has apologised, distributed initial compensation to farmers directly impacted, and paid a fine of 1.5 million kwacha (about US\$65,000 or more than R1m).

12 August: Mathilde Vu from the Norwegian Refugee Council in Sudan said the number of aid workers being targeted in Sudan has increased this year. In an interview with Richard Kagoe of BBC Focus on Africa she said "... we have more than 30 aid workers, colleagues, who've been killed since the beginning of the year, nine of them very recently from Relief International in Darfur.... I'm not even counting the number of local volunteers (who would not belong to any organization, who were just feeling like you and I, who decided to step in and to support people, without any affiliation) who are being killed on a monthly basis in Sudan. It's very, very difficult to be a humanitarian worker in this day and age, at a time where international humanitarian law is not being respected, is being violated, and where there is zero accountability."

7 August: Nema Sagara, one of the highest-ranking military women in Africa, was arrested and accused of complicity in an unsuccessful coup attempt in Mali. Sagara, a Brigadier General in the Mali Air Force, has received military training in Mali, France and the United States. Since its independence from France Mali has experienced five successful military coups d'état – in 1968, 1991, 2012, 2020 and 2021 – and three coups that have failed.





July

30 July: FC Barcelona and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have announced a strategic four-year partnership to promote football – and the culture of sport and peace – in the DRC. FC Barcelona professional teams will wear the motto “R.D. Congo – Coeur d’Afrique” on the back of their training shirts for the next four seasons and the club will hold camps and clinics for children to build young athletes in the country. For adults programmes on coaching and the organisation of sporting events will also be developed. The DRC sports ministry reportedly paid US\$11 million to the club for the first season. This is a partnership, not a sponsorship.



25 July: South Africa’s ANC hosted leaders from six southern African liberation movements at a summit near Johannesburg under the theme: “Defending the Liberation Gains, Advancing Integrated Socio-Economic Development, Strengthening Solidarity for a Better Africa.” The ANC (founded in 1912) is the oldest liberation movement still in existence. Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the “Party of the Revolution”, has been the ruling party in Tanzania since it was formed in 1977. The People's Movement



for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was formed in 1956 and has been in power in Angola since independence from Portugal in 1975. The South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), now officially known as the Swapo Party of Namibia, was formed in 1960 and has ruled Namibia since independence in 1990. Frelimo, formed in 1962, has been the government of Mozambique since independence from Portugal in 1975. Zanu-PF has been the ruling party in Zimbabwe since it was formed in 1987.

16 July: Thabile Mdluli, Assistant Press Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister in Eswatini, told Reuters that following “months of robust high-level engagements” with the United States government, Eswatini would facilitate the transit of five criminal deportees from the US to their countries of origin. When the Trump administration deported the five to Eswatini in July, a US government official described them as “individuals so uniquely barbaric that their home countries refused to take them back”. In a post on X he said, “[T]hese depraved monsters have been terrorizing American communities.”

3 July: Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, addressed a joint session of Ghana's parliament in the capital, Accra. He said: “The histories of India and Ghana bear the scars of colonial rule, but our spirits have always remained free and fearless.” Ghana was incorporated into the British Empire as “the Gold Coast” in 1901. This followed “the war of the golden stool” where the local Ashanti/Asante were confronted by invading troops from all over the Empire, including India. The British General (then Colonel) James Willcocks wrote: “All ranks, especially those fine soldiers, the Sikhs, behaved admirably, and if it were not for this impossible forest we would soon wipe out most of the Ashantis”. Modi was on his way to the BRICS summit in Brazil. He also visited Namibia before returning home.

1 July: BBC Focus on Africa reported that Islamist militants are using Starlink technology to co-ordinate their attacks on both government forces and civilians across the Sahel. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX, owned by Elon Musk. Starlink, which works everywhere, including places without cell phone connectivity, is also used for fundraising and recruitment. Starlink terminals are purchased legally in countries such as Nigeria and smuggled across borders. Not available in South Africa because of its telecom laws, Starlink is available in 24 other countries in Africa.



Massive polio vaccination campaign underway in Angola. Photo: World Health Organisation Regional Office for Africa

27 June: Angola launched an intensive polio vaccination campaign in response to 13 confirmed poliovirus cases in Benguela province. Over three days, the campaign aimed to vaccinate over 554,000 children under the age of five. Around 5,000 people, including community volunteers, were mobilised for the polio vaccination campaign, with an investment of approximately US\$3.6 million, mainly funded by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative through the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Young children are most vulnerable to polio, which can cause permanent physical damage, such as paralysis. Polio has been eradicated across most of the world through vaccination. Angola was certified polio-free in 2015, but routine immunization was not sustained.

'The vaccine is one of the greatest achievements of medicine, through which we have the possibility [of] preventing and protecting our children against diseases, particularly polio which causes childhood paralysis.'

World Health Organisation Regional Office for Africa



17 June: South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority told Parliament that the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had still not explained why a 2023 request by South Africa to extradite the Gupta brothers from Dubai to face corruption and other criminal charges had been unsuccessful. Twelve formal requests for an explanation have been ignored by the UAE. The extradition request will be resubmitted with additional matters.

11 June: Fifty-three African countries will not face any tariffs at all on goods they export to China. (Eswatini, which has diplomatic ties with Taiwan, is the only country excluded.) This was announced by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a ministerial gathering for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac) in Changsha. This is not entirely new. A total of 33 African least-developed countries (LDCs) already had zero-tariff access to the Chinese market in January 2025 as part of a trade benefit programme introduced at the 2003 Focac meeting, and since expanded. China has been sub-Saharan Africa's largest bilateral trading partner for over two decades. The figures are huge, but the composition of trade is skewed. As with the colonial powers of old, primary commodities – such as metals, minerals, and fuel (which are not subject to tariffs anyway) – are the great bulk of Africa's exports to China (about 60%). Manufactured goods dominate Africa's imports from China.

10 June: The African Airlines Association said that the air transport industry on the continent remains unprofitable. Air transport is perceived as a luxury service, so it faces particularly high taxes and charges. Governments, airports, and service providers tend to overcharge airlines even though many need help to survive. Also national rules bar airlines from operating routes with stopovers in several countries. A passenger flying out of Gabon to another African country has to pay US\$260 in departure tax. The average taxes, charges and fees paid by passengers for regional departures in Africa is US\$68, more than double the US\$32 passengers are charged in Europe.