1. Burundi

**Burundi orders UN rights office shut, foreign staff redeployed**

The Burundi government has ordered the United Nations Human Rights Council to shut its office in the country within two months, foreign ministry and UN sources told AFP. The government on Wednesday sent a verbal note to resident UN coordinator Garry Conille to transmit the message to the rights council's High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet in Geneva. "All international staff must be immediately redeployed and the office has two months to pack up and close its doors," according to the high-ranking source at the foreign ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity. *Daily Nation*

2. Djibouti

**Electric railway to end Djibouti port congestion**

The Ethiopia-Djibouti electric railway will start transporting containerised goods from next January, official said. Mr Abdillahi Adaweh Sigad, the CEO of Société de Gestion du Terminal a conteneur de Doraleh (SGTD), said the line will, in three weeks, start transporting 200 containers daily. *The East Africa*

3. Egypt

**Italy pressures Egypt over Giulio Regeni torture, murder**

Italy is ramping up pressure on Egypt over the torture and killing of a 28-year-old Italian student in Cairo nearly three years ago. The lawyer representing Giulio Regeni's family says five Egyptian policemen and secret service members are under investigation by Rome. *Aljazeera*

4. Eritrea

**Here's why Uganda, Zimbabwe, Eritrea are 'cool places' to visit in 2019**

Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Uganda and South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province are the African destinations named in National Geographic Traveler’s ‘Cool list’ for 2019. The much
anticipated Cool List 2019 lists the must-see countries and cities for the year ahead. “Our team of editors, writers and industry experts have compiled the 19 destinations set to hit the headlines, with key openings, new routes and rising-star destinations,” said Pat Riddell, the editor of National Geographic Traveler. Africa News

5. Gabon

Gabon president Ali Bongo leaves Morocco hospital

Gabon’s President Ali Bongo has left hospital in Rabat and will stay at a private residence in the Moroccan capital as he recovers from illness, a presidency source said Wednesday. The 59-year-old, who fell ill on October 24 at an economic forum, arrived in Morocco last week following treatment in Saudi Arabia for an illness that has not been officially revealed. Daily Nation

6. Kenya

Kenya Airways US flights down to 5 a week

Kenya Airways #ticker:KQ has reduced the number of flights on the newly launched New York route from the current seven to five a week effective January 15. The national carrier made the announcement Thursday that flights to the US will now be on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday every week. Daily nation

Kenya’s fight against corruption cartels gets US backing

The United States is encouraged by Kenya's efforts to reduce corruption, the top US diplomat for Africa has said after holding talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday. "We discussed with the Kenyan government on an ongoing basis the whole issue of graft and corruption," Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Tibor Nagy said yesterday in a press briefing. Business Daily

7. Libya

Libya to vote on new constitution before February

The chairperson of Libya's elections commission say the beleaguered North African nation will hold a referendum on a new constitution before the end of February. News 24

8. Malawi

Malawi anti-corruption force swoops on president's ally

Malawi's Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a top police commander and a businessman with ties to President Peter Mutharika on Wednesday over a graft scandal that has embarrassed his government ahead of polls. News 24

Please note: The news items presented here are for informational purposes only. The views expressed within them are those of the authors and/or individuals quoted, not those of the Africa Policy Institute.
9. Senegal

Senegal unveils Museum of Black Civilisations

The idea of opening such a museum in Senegal dates back more than 50 years. President Macky Sall has inaugurated Senegal's new Museum of Black Civilisations in the capital, Dakar. Among the first temporary exhibitions to be shown is work from artists from Mali and Burkina Faso as well as from Cuba and Haiti. After decades of inaction, construction was finally made possible after a $34m (£27m) Chinese investment. BBC Africa

10. Seychelles

Seychelles High Commissioner Presents Credentials to President of Malta

The new non-resident Seychelles High Commissioner to the Republic of Malta, Mr. Derick Ally presented his credentials to President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca in a ceremony at The Palace in Valletta, Malta on Tuesday 04 December 2018. During his audience with President Preca, High Commissioner Ally briefed the President on the recent developments in Seychelles. On her part the President was very keen to see an increased level of cooperation between Seychelles and Malta, citing the many similarities between the two island nations. The High Commissioner assured the President that Seychelles is poised to escalate its cooperation with Malta in various sectors and that during his tenure he will endeavour to work towards that end. Africa News

11. Somalia

Nigeria, Somalia: Africa's most terrorized countries in 2018 - Report

Nigeria is Africa's most terrorized nation in 2018 according to a report released by the Australia-based Institute for Economic and Peace. The Global Terrorism Index 2018 scored Nigeria third on a list of 138 countries. Africa's most populous nation was ranked only behind Iraq and Afghanistan. Behind Nigeria was Syria and Pakistan whiles Somalia rounded up the list of countries in the countries that suffered “very high” impact of terrorism. India, Yemen, Egypt and Phillipines occupied the seventh to tenth spot respectively. Nigeria-based terrorist group, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab in Somalia were also listed among the top four deadliest groups. Africa News

Bloody rivalry erupts between al-Shabab, IS group in Somalia

Bloody rivalry has emerged between extremist groups in Somalia as the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab hunts upstart fighters allied to the Islamic State group, who have begun demanding protection payments from major businesses, officials tell The Associated Press. The rivalry supports some observers’ suspicions that al-Shabab, now scrambling to defend its monopoly on the mafia-style extortion racket that funds its high-profile attacks, is drifting from its long-declared goal of establishing a strict Islamic state. Washington Post
**Blast Kills 2 Senior Military Commanders in Somalia**

Two senior Somali military commanders and several soldiers were killed Thursday when a roadside bomb blast hit their vehicle south of Mogadishu. Officials and witnesses said the generals were traveling with a military convoy near the village of Dhanaaane, on the coastal road linking the Somali capital to the port city of Marka, when their pickup truck was targeted. *VOA*

12. **Sudan**

**Thousands remain in need of humanitarian aid in Sudan’s Darfur**

Sudan’s government and armed groups from the region of Darfur are meeting in Berlin for talks on finding a deal to end the long-standing war between them. It has been more than 15 years since war broke out in the region. And although the fighting has lessened considerably from what it used to be, thousands remain in need of humanitarian aid. *Aljazeera*

**Sudan lawmakers back amendment to let Bashir stand again**

Sudan’s long-serving President Omar Bashir came closer on Tuesday to another term in office after a majority of lawmakers backed a constitutional amendment to extend term limits that would have required him to step down in 2020 Unless the constitution is changed, Bashir, in power since 1989, is not permitted to stand again when his present term ends, having won two elections since a 2005 constitutional amendment took effect imposing a two-term limit. Parliament speaker Ibrahim Ahmed Omar said he had received a letter signed by a majority of lawmakers backing an amendment that would extend the limit. *Standard Media*

13. **Togo**

**Togo bans opposition protests**

Togo's government has banned a series of planned opposition protests on security grounds, saying the marches posed a security risk. A coalition of 14 opposition parties announced earlier this week that they would boycott a parliamentary election planned for December 20 and instead try to stop the electoral process. But the government said on Wednesday in a letter seen by AFP that they would not be allowed to take to the streets. *The East Africa*

14. **Uganda**

**Uganda MPs query legality of East African passport**

The move to have an East African Community (EAC) international passport has hit a snag in Uganda after MPs blocked it over its legality and the cost to users. In 2016, EAC leaders agreed to upgrade the EAC passport from a regional to an international document, with
Kenya and Tanzania launching it last year. Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan were given until January 2019. Daily Nation