1. Democratic Republic of Congo

**DR Congo election: 'Two killed' at Martin Fayulu rally**

At least two people have been killed and more than 40 injured after police attacked opposition supporters at a rally in the Democratic Republic of Congo second-largest city of Lubumbashi, rights activists say. Fifteen supporters of main opposition presidential candidate Martin Fayulu had bullet wounds, they say. Police deny anyone was killed but say two people were injured. DR Congo is holding delayed general elections on 23 December. BBC

**Ten Slain in New Massacre in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo**

Suspected militiamen killed ten civilians in a fresh attack in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s troubled east, civil and military sources said Tuesday. The massacre occurred overnight in the town of Oicha, in the Beni region, local administrator Donat Kibwana told AFP. The assailants were suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group blamed for hundreds of killings since 2014. “They entered Oicha late at night; they pillaged and made off with farm animals. We lost nine people in the attack,” Kibwana said, adding that two others were reported missing. Citizen

2. Egypt

**Egypt restricts sale of yellow vests amid fear of protests**

An Egyptian prosecutor ordered the arrest of a lawyer after the publication of a picture of him wearing a yellow vest similar to those worn by protesters in France, a local rights activist said. Aljazeera

3. Eritrea

**2018 Review: Eritrea’s year of significant peace with neighbours**

Eritrea prior to July 2018 had been projected as an isolated nation. Stifled by perceived Ethiopian aggression following a border war and also by a United Nations Security Council, UNSC, and sanctions regime dating back to 2009. Information Minister Yemane Meskel in an interview with the BBC says, all was okay with Asmara’s relations in the international community save for a deliberate smear campaign. So much has changed
since one peace deal was signed – the July 9, 2018 peace and cooperation deal between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki in Asmara. **Africa News**

4. **Kenya**

**Uhuru Kenyatta leads Kenya in marking 55 years of self-rule**

Kenya on Wednesday marked 55 years after attaining its independence from Britain in 1963. The national celebrations, led by President Uhuru Kenyatta, were being held at Nyayo stadium in the capital Nairobi. Mr Kenyatta, the commander-in-chief of Kenya's Defence Forces, for the first time sported full military regalia during a national function. **Daily Nation**

**Uhuru sets Kenyans on the corrupt**

The noose is tightening on graft lords, and the corrupt have nowhere to hide, President Uhuru Kenyatta has declared. On the back of dozens of high profile arrests and prosecutions, the President also pointed at recent agreements with foreign nations to seize ill-gotten wealth stashed in banks abroad to demonstrate his "unshakeable resolve" and challenged Kenyans "to show me yours." “All arms of Government must work together to ensure our nation gets rid of this menace. To those engaging in fraud and abuse of office, please listen to me keenly: You can run, but you cannot hide,” Uhuru said yesterday when he officiated the 55th Jamhuri Day celebrations at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi. He continued: “We will catch up with you, and make you pay dearly for every coin stolen from Kenyans.” **Standard Media**

5. **Mali**

**Germany opens negligent homicide probe in Mali Airbus chopper crash**

German prosecutors said on Wednesday they had opened a probe against three individuals for negligent homicide in the 2017 crash of a German military helicopter in a UN operation in Mali. **News 24**

6. **Mauritania**

**France’s Total wins contracts for two offshore blocks in Mauritania**

French energy company Total has strengthened its position in Mauritania by winning contracts for two new exploration blocks. “Total and the Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mines of Mauritania have signed an agreement awarding Total two new exploration and production contracts for Blocks C15 and C31 deep offshore Mauritania, covering an area of 14,175 square kilometers,” Total said in a statement on Wednesday. **Reuters**

7. **Niger**

**Niger to shut down Airtel**
Barely a month after the closure of French telecoms group Orange because of a tax dispute, the country’s biggest telecoms operator Airtel, a subsidiary of the Bharti Airtel group is on the chopping board. On Saturday the government ordered the closure of Airtel which has been present in Niger since 2001 and holds a 51 percent market share.

Africa News

8. Nigeria

Nigeria presidential candidate denies peace deal snub

Nigeria's main opposition party has blamed a "communication lapse" for its candidate not being present to sign a deal with other candidates for peaceful elections. Atiku Abubakar was a notable absentee at Tuesday’s ceremony in Abuja, at which President Muhammadu Buhari and dozens of other candidates vowed to ensure non-violence.

News 24

9. Rwanda

Rwanda genocide: 5 to stand trial, Danish man extradited

Five Rwandans will go on trial in Belgium over their alleged role in war crimes and genocide in Rwanda in 1994, federal prosecutors said on Wednesday. "This is the first time that a Belgian (criminal court) will have to deal with facts qualified as genocide crimes," the prosecutor's office said. Daily Nation

Rwanda appeals acquittal of Kagame critic Diane Rwigara

Rwanda's chief prosecutor on Wednesday said he would appeal after dissident politician Diane Rwigara was acquitted in a high-profile trial. On December 6, the High Court found Ms Rwigara not guilty of forgery and inciting insurrection -- charges that had seen her imprisoned for more than a year and highlighted a crackdown on opposition in the East African country. Daily Nation

10. Somalia

Somalia's GDP expanding to 3.1 percent in 2018

Somalia's economic growth is expected to pick up in 2018 as it recovers from drought that had reduced farming output, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday. It said it projected gross domestic product at 3.1 percent this year from 2.3 percent in 2017. Somalia exports bananas and also produces sorghum. "Economic activity in 2018 is recovering from the 2016–17 droughts. A favourable rainy season is supporting the economic recovery, particularly in the agricultural and livestock sectors; this is leading to a decline in food prices," the fund said in a statement. Standard Media

11. Tanzania

Tanzania picks Egyptian firms for controversial dam scheme

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.
Tanzania on Wednesday awarded a $3-billion (2.64-billion-euro) contract to two Egyptian firms to build a hydro-electric dam in a renowned nature reserve. The 2,100-megawatt scheme will straddle the Rufiji River in the Selous Game Reserve, a 50,000-square-kilometre (19,000-square-mile) protected area which was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1982. Daily Nation