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This document provides an overview of developments in the Mediterranean Basin and other regions of interest from 13 November–03 December, with hyperlinks to source material highlighted and underlined in the text. For more information on the topics below or other issues pertaining to the region, please contact the members of the Med Basin Team, or visit our website at www.cimicweb.org.



Sudan and South Sudan: A Comprehensive Peace Agreement By Sasha Ernest

After three weeks of negotiation in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit [signed](#) a comprehensive peace agreement on 27 September 2012 that will pave the way for increased trade and cooperation between the two countries. Under the mediation of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), this celebrated step forward [comprises](#) a general cooperation agreement and eight protocols on oil, security, citizenship, post service benefits, trade, banking, border issues and economic matters. The peace summit was scheduled after the United Nations (UN) Security Council in May 2012 [warned](#) Sudan and South Sudan that if they did not cease all hostilities and reach agreements concerning oil, citizenship, border demarcation and other disputes, it would take appropriate additional measures under [Article 41](#) of the UN Charter. Although gains were made in Addis Ababa, the issues of border security and demarcation remain unresolved. Khartoum and Juba failed to reach an agreement on the disputed border region of [Abyei](#), which is coveted for its oil fields and grazing lands. The lead South Sudanese negotiator in the Addis Ababa summit, Pagan Amum, stated that the cooperation agreement will be [valid](#) for only three and a half years in total and each state has the power to revoke or cancel it with sixty days' notice.

Oil Agreement

When South Sudan seceded in July 2011 it took 75% of Sudan's oil resources but remained reliant on Sudan's [infrastructure](#) to export the oil. Tensions rose when Sudan seized southern oil tankers in early January 2012 as recompense for unpaid transit fees. South Sudan [accused](#) Khartoum of confiscating USD 815 million worth of oil and summarily suspended all oil production until a comprehen-

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North Africa

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Algeria

Algeria repeated calls for a [political solution](#) to the crisis in Mali following a meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 11 November. During the meeting, West African heads of state agreed on a 3,300-strong international force to invade and regain control of northern Mali, reports *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*. Foreign Ministry spokesman Amar Belani said “[w]e have not stopped emphasising that a way out of the crisis, through dialogue between the Malian authorities and the rebel groups in the north, is completely possible” and added that the on-going discussions with the rebel groups will result in a viable political solution. Algerian Minister of Interior Daho Ould Kablia warned on 20 November that [military action](#) in Mali is doomed to fail, and repeated that his country’s top priority is to bring together the armed groups in Mali, including the Tuareg rebels, the al Qaeda-affiliated Ansar al Dine, and the Malian government to reach a solution for the reunification of the country, reports *Reuters*. He added that after such dialogue “the war against terrorist groups and drug traffickers, which is essential to expurgate the area of the whole threat, will be much easier”. Moreover, ECOWAS commission chief Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, said that Algeria will [close its southern border](#) in case of a military intervention in northern Mali. This following a 13 November statement by spokesman Belani, stating: “Algeria will anticipate all possible developments in the Sahel region and will therefore take, in a sovereign manner, the appropriate steps to protect its interests and defend its borders to the fullest extent possible”. In addition, Algeria raised the [alert level](#) in the south of the country; military vehicles and equipment were mobilised to the border areas of Adrar, Tamanrasset and Illizi provinces, informs *Magharebia*.

Source: [Morocco on the Move](#)

The ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party, along with National Rally for Democracy (RND), dominated [local elections](#) defeating the Islamist parties, according to the results released on 30 November reports *Magharebia*. FLN had to form alliances with other parties in many communes in order to win the majority. Ould Kabila described the 44% turnout rate as “acceptable”. Opposition parties argued that [fraud was involved](#) in the elections suggesting the country’s military forces were ordered to vote for the government parties, reports *Associated Press (AP)*. According to the report special voting stations were opened for security force members who received orders to vote in favour of the FLN. Kabila [denied the allegations](#) saying, “[t]hings went according to the rules. Soldiers voted either by proxy or in the communes where their barracks are located”, and added that “[i]n the latter case, they presented certificates proving that they have been removed from the electoral rolls in their communes of origin”.

The Algerian Ministry of Defence is seeking a [budget increase](#) for 2013 to upgrade military assets and augment its counterterrorism capabilities, reports *Defence Web*. The ministry requested USD 10.3 billion, which is 14.2% higher than the budget for 2012. The additional funds take into account the expansion of the ministry’s authority into areas previously administered by the Ministry of Interior. Algeria has the second largest military in North Africa after Egypt and is among the world’s largest weapon importers.

Libya

At the onset of the talks between the Libyan leaders and oil refining corporations, which will cover contracts worth USD fifty billion, [investors appear reluctant](#) due to political instability in the country reports *Christian Science Monitor*. Despite the fact that oil production in Libya has returned to its pre-revolution levels, recent protests and strikes act as a deterrent for investors. Moreover, with the closures of several European plants that refined sweet crude, the popularity of high quality sweet Libyan crude oil popularity is waning in the market; refiners are moving towards cleaner sour crude produced elsewhere. In related news, wounded civil war veterans [shut down](#) the Zawiya oil refinery in Tripoli on 29 November in protest, demanding the government send them abroad for medical treatment, reports *Reuters*. Company spokesman Essam al-Muntasir announced that the refinery resumed its regular operations the next day. A similar protest shut down operations at the refinery for two days in early November.

The Authority of National Integrity, which leads investigations to ensure that new government officials have no links to the former regime of Moammar Gaddafi, [approved Ali Suleiman Aujali](#) as Foreign Minister, reports *AP*. Aujali must still receive a nod from

parliament. The Authority of National Integrity also announced the approvals of the ministers for agriculture and social affairs; however, eight potential cabinet officials proposed by the Prime Minister Ali Zidan were not sworn in with the rest of the cabinet at the beginning of November.

Libya's national assembly ratified a new law on 13 November that governs the [organisation of protests](#), reports *AFP*. The law requires organisers to provide 48 hours' notice to authorities regarding the location and time of the protest. Offenders are punishable by up to six months in prison and fines up to 5,000 Libyan dinars (USD 4,000). General National Congress spokesman Omar Hmeidan said the law does not restrict the right to demonstrate; rather, it aims to prevent chaos.

Morocco

The Moroccan Ministry of Interior said on 24 November that security forces had dismantled a terror cell [recruiting young people](#) to fight for al-Qaeda affiliated groups in northern Mali. The young recruits are inculcated with the radical ideology and then smuggled to Mali via Morocco's closed border with Algeria to fight with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) or its offshoot MUJAO. Both groups are known to have large numbers of foreign fighters from North Africa and other Islamic countries.

Moroccan King Mohammad VI ordered the establishment of a [field hospital](#) in Gaza in coordination with Palestinian authorities on 18 November, reports *AFP*. The hospital is treating Palestinians injured in Israeli air strikes. The staff comprises of the armed forces as well as Moroccan civilian doctors and paramedics. The Moroccan humanitarian aid effort to Gaza, which started with the King's hospital establishment order, continued with the deployment of medical teams and the delivery of five plane loads of [medical and food material](#). The aid was received on 22 November; more Moroccan humanitarian aid is planned for Gaza in the near future.

Children as young as eight years of age in Morocco are recruited as [child labourers](#), forced to work extended hours for extremely low wages, often face verbal or physical abuse, and sometimes are not fed sufficiently by employers, reports *AFP*. The information, based on a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report entitled "Lonely Servitude: Child Domestic Labor in Morocco", suggests that domestic child workers, most of whom are girls, work up to twelve hours a day, seven days a week, and receive compensation as low as USD eleven a month. The HRW report says there has been significant progress towards the elimination of the problem, citing that child labourers under the age of 15 have dropped from 517,000 in 1999 to 123,000 in 2011. However, laws prohibiting child labour are not adequately enforced; employers are rarely prosecuted for ill-treatment of children and almost never fined for employing them.

Spanish and Moroccan Coast Guard boats rescued [27 migrants](#) on 03 December, who had attempted to cross the Strait of Gibraltar in four inflatable boats, reports *AP*. According to officials, the migrants jumped into the sea expecting to be picked up by the closer Spanish vessels which would take them to Europe rather than back to North Africa. Twenty-one migrants were taken to the port of Cadiz in Southern Spain, while six others were taken back to Tangier, Morocco.

Tunisia

Lawyers of the 200 Salafist detainees, who have been on a [hunger strike](#) for nearly two months, said the lives of their clients are in "grave danger", reports *Middle East Online*. Hunger strikers argue that they are the "victims of an unjustified crackdown on Salafists". Three of the hunger strikers were taken to hospital on 17-18 November as their conditions worsened. Activists are urging for their release, but the Ministry of Justice said the decision to release these prisoners resides with the judges.

The Regional Workers Union in Tunisia [suspended their strike](#) in Siliana on 02 December, reports *AP*. The labour union called for the strike that lasted almost a week, in response to the economic problems in the region as well as the imprisonment of fourteen activists without trial. Over 300 people were injured during the strike when the protesters clashed with the police. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) condemned police for the use of excessive force. Union official Ahmed Chafei said that the "provisional suspension" of the strike is to "test the seriousness of the promises made by the government" and added that "[t]he governor will never again set foot in Siliana, he has truly left and if he returns we will restart the strike".

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Northeast Africa

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Egypt

After playing a pivotal role in negotiating a [ceasefire](#) between Israel and Hamas, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi gained the praise of Western governments, including the US, according to *BBC*. However, gratitude turned to concern after Morsi gave himself sweeping powers in a presidential decree, in what opposition leaders in Egypt called a “[coup against legitimacy](#)”. Supporters of the President claim the steps taken were needed to protect the constitution and are temporary. Morsi has ensured that all constitutional declarations, laws and decrees enacted since he came to office earlier this year, cannot be overturned, appealed or cancelled by any political or governmental body. The decree also extended the drafting of the new constitution by two additional months and forbade the dissolving of the Constituent Assembly or the upper house of parliament (Shura Council). Furthermore, according to presidential spokesman Yasser Ali, the President can “issue any decision or measure to protect the revolution”. Following the announcement, [thousands of protestors](#) filled Cairo’s Tahrir Square on 23 November, calling for the president to step down and accusing him of executing a coup, according to *Reuters*.

The Constituent Assembly, boycotted by most Christian and liberal members, rushed the finalisation of the [draft constitution](#), which retained the principles of Islamic law as the main source of legislation, approving it on 01 December. The constitution must now be put to a nationwide referendum, which has been announced by the President for [15 December](#). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, issued a statement which said “We are very concerned about the [possible huge ramifications](#) of this declaration on human rights and the rule of law in Egypt”, informs *Ahram Online*. As [protests in Cairo](#) and the rest of the country continued, Morsi made a public address, stating that the conditions of his decree will “end as soon as the people vote on a constitution”. However, Liberals and Christians in the country claim their voices are not being heard. Egypt’s judges also continue to oppose Morsi’s actions, and the Supreme Constitutional judges declared an [open-ended strike](#) on 02 December, reports the *Globe and Mail*. Judges from the highest appeals court and lower court had previously announced their strike following the issuance of Morsi’s decree, which they view as an assault on the judiciary.

In economic news, the European Union (EU) announced on 14 November that it will provide a [financial support package](#) to Egypt of USD 6.3 billion, which will come from the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, reports *Ahram Online*. In addition, Egypt finally secured a [USD 4.8 billion loan](#) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reports the *Financial Times*. The loan is widely viewed as a life-saving measure for Egypt’s ailing economy, and which the government hopes will help encourage foreign investment. The deal was made after the government announced [economic reforms](#) that will address the large national deficit. The agreement will now be presented to the IMF executive board for final approval on 19 December.

South Sudan

The spokesman for South Sudan’s military, Colonel Philip Aguer, said that Sudan had dropped more than [27 bombs](#) in a disputed region in South Sudan’s Northern Bar el Ghazal state, reports the *Associated Press (AP)*. The attacks, which lasted for three days from 20 November, have killed at least seven people and wounded several others. Officials report that more than [900 people](#) have been displaced by the violence, according to *Sudan Tribune*. The South Sudanese cabinet passed a resolution on 23 November [condemning](#) the “continuous unprovoked attacks” and the military has been placed on high alert. Sudanese military spokesman, Colonel Sawarmy Khalid Saad, said that government forces did not hit areas in South Sudan, but were battling rebels in the neighbouring Samaha region of Sudan’s East Darfur state. Samaha is one of five [border areas](#) disputed by Khartoum and Juba, reports *AFP*. Sudan has accused South Sudan of supporting rebels in Sudan, something South Sudan denies.

A spokesman for the Sudanese foreign ministry told *Reuters* that “Sudan has not notified South Sudan that it is not ready to receive southern oil exports through its territory”, despite reports in several local newspapers that Sudan had decided to delay the resumption of [oil exports](#) from South Sudan. Industry sources in South Sudan said oil firms were ready to begin pumping oil and that they “are just waiting for the politicians”. Both sides reached an agreement over oil transit fees in September, following South Sudan’s January closure of all oil exports from wells located within its borders; however, the process has stalled because of Khartoum’s insistence that South Sudan [disarm rebels](#) operating in its northern territory, reports *AFP*.

A report released by *Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)* highlights the impact of [violence](#) on civilians living in South Sudan’s Jonglei state. Healthcare has been threatened as medical facilities are targeted and destroyed. A [water harvest](#) project is being developed in Jonglei state in order to help mitigate a lack of water resources which is often blamed for conflicts in the state, reports the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The project hopes to keep youth, who often spend about a half-year moving to other areas with cattle in search of water, in their localities. Youth have almost always been involved in conflicts, some of which

have resulted in the death of innocent rural people, extensive destruction of homes and livelihood assets and displacement of large numbers of people.

Sudan

The former head of the intelligence and [security agency](#), Salah Gosh, and twelve others were arrested on suspicion of aiming to sabotage national security by “inciting chaos”, “targeting” some leaders and spreading rumours about President Omar al Bashir’s health, reports *al Jazeera*. Gosh was once one of the most [powerful figures](#) in Bashir’s inner circle, and several of the others arrested were also senior figures within the army and security, according to *Reuters*. Magdi El Gizouli, a fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, says there are signs of frustration inside the military, with some eager to gain access to power. Prominent journalist Faisal Mohammad Saleh told *Reuters* that there is a power struggle inside the regime and that the detentions were likely a pre-emptive measure against what could have been perceived as the early stages of a military coup. Analysts also believe that the arrests could have been triggered by worries that once-loyal Islamists would stage protests after failing to see reforms made at Sudan’s Islamic Movement (IM) 8th General Conference in Khartoum held on 14 November. A member of the National Congress Party (NCP) has described the detention of the thirteen men as “a badly-acted charade” aiming to purge the army and the wider Islamist establishment of [certain dissidents](#), reports *Sudan Tribune*. The Sudanese state minister, Amin Hassan Omar, said that some of those arrested last week for planning a coup, [confessed](#) to their plan, according to *Sudan Tribune*. Omar has denied that the coup plot was an indication of a power struggle within the ruling NCP. The International Crisis Group (ICG) has warned that NCP members are “[deeply unhappy](#) with the leadership, its policies and massive corruption” and that feuding “factions within the ruling party and the Islamic movement are jockeying to present an acceptable alternative to the NCP government”.

The rebel Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) [shelled](#) the South Kordofan capital of Kadugli on 13 November which resulted in the death of at least seven people, reports *Radio Dabanga*. The SRF stated that the attack was “self-defence”. Residents of Kadugli said that some of the civilians who fled the deadly shelling by insurgents over the last month have begun to [return](#), reports *AFP*. Since early October, the town has been periodically attacked by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebel group and the umbrella SRF. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reported that the attacks, which targeted military facilities, killed 18 and wounded 32 people. Local residents report that the town was returning to normal after additional government troops arrived mid-November. The Sudanese government stated that it will cooperate with the international community to deliver [humanitarian aid](#) to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states despite having refused to renew a humanitarian deal signed with tripartite initiative members, reports *Sudan Tribune*.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Sudan’s Federal Health Ministry and its health partners, began a twelve-day emergency response vaccination campaign for [Yellow Fever](#) in Darfur. Some 2.2 million people are being targeted in twelve prioritised localities. As of 21 November, there were 537 reported cases, including 127 deaths (case fatality rate of 23.6%).

In economic development news, Sudan has 762 million barrels of [oil reserves](#) as of 2012, reported the Sudanese oil minister. Sudan’s [currency fell](#) to a historic low on the black market due to concerns over delays in implementing oil and security deals with South Sudan, reports *AFP*. In an effort to offset the loss of most oil reserves, Sudan expects to produce around 50 tonnes of [gold](#) this year, earning USD 2.5 billion, reports *Reuters*. An output of 50 tonnes could make Sudan Africa’s third largest gold miner behind Ghana and South Africa, and the top 15th producer globally. Gold production in 2013 is expected to be similar to the projected fifty tonnes.

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Horn of Africa

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Ethiopia

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn shuffled his cabinet on 29 November, appointing two [new deputy premiers](#), so that the current government now has full representation of the four main ethnic-based political parties in the country, informs *Bloomberg*. Prime Minister Desalegn is a member of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The second and third deputies are Muktar Kedir, a leading member of the Oromo People's Democratic Organization, Minister of Information Technology Debretsion Gebremichael, who is also deputy chairman of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, the leader of the Amhara National Democratic Movement, was appointed in September.

Prime Minister Desalegn announced on 29 November that [Ethiopian troops](#) will stay in Somalia until they can be replaced by African Union troops, reports *Shabelle News*. Desalegn made the announcement after meeting with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who stated that al Shabaab is "literally defeated".

Prime Minister Desalegn met with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on 21 November in Nairobi to discuss [security challenges](#) facing the Horn of Africa, reports *Sudan Tribune*. The two leaders agreed to support regional peace and security efforts, especially addressing terrorism, piracy and other types of organised crime, including drug and human trafficking.

Human Rights Watch (HRW), in cooperation with several international human rights organisations, has published a letter urging the Ethiopian prime minister to improve the country's respect for [fundamental human rights](#), including the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, reports *Sudan Tribune*. Rights groups have criticised Ethiopia's candidature for membership on the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The organisations also voiced concern regarding the Charities and Societies Proclamation, also known as the "CSO law", which severely restricts the operation and funding of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country. In October, the Charities and Societies Agency (CSoA) ordered ten NGOs to cease operations, and warned over 400 organisations that it said were operating against rules and regulations of the CSO law.

Defence lawyers for 29 Muslims that have been [accused of terrorism](#) and attempts to create an Islamic state claim the charges are unconstitutional, reports the *Washington Post*. The accused include several prominent clerics, journalists and activists. The case will go before the court on 30 November to decide on its jurisdiction and constitutionality; however, one of the defence lawyers stated they expect the case to be thrown out.

Kenya

Riots broke out in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on 19 November following a [grenade attack](#) which left seven people dead, reports *BBC*. Police responded to protestors with tear gas to end the riots which targeted ethnic Somalis in the Eastleigh neighbourhood, whom the protestors blamed for the grenade attack. The neighbourhood business committee also reported that businesses owned by ethnic Somalis in the area had been looted. Following the blast, police reportedly conducted house-to-house raids, arresting hundreds of Somalis.

Following the [shooting deaths](#) of soldiers in the eastern town of Garissa on 19 November, Kenya Defence Forces soldiers reportedly went on a rampage on 19 November, indiscriminately attacking local citizens, reports *BBC*. The three soldiers were killed after they stopped to change a flat tire. Security forces believe the unknown gunmen escaped as crowds gathered around the scene following the shooting. The police forces reportedly beat and detained a number of Garissa residents. According to the *BBC*, at least [eight people](#) were shot by soldiers and fifty wounded. The Kenyan Minister of Defence Mohammed Yusuf Haji stated that he did not authorise the army action in Garissa, and announced on 20 November that the [government will investigate](#) the rampage by the Kenya Defence Forces, reports *Sabahi*.

A petition challenging the eligibility of two candidates for the [Kenyan presidency](#) has been withdrawn, allowing the two men, William Ruto and Uhuru Kenyatta, to run in the country's presidential election in March 2013, reports *Deutsche Welle*. Both Ruto and Kenyatta are facing charges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for crimes against humanity for their alleged role in post-election violence in 2007-2008. The two have subsequently confirmed they have formed [an alliance](#), with Kenyatta as the potential presidential candidate and Ruto his running mate, informs *BBC*. Kenyatta stated "We have agreed we are uniting on behalf of the people of Kenya. Our alliance is not for fighting anyone. We are uniting for the sake of the people of Kenya", while Ruto said the two were "not concerned about the ICC case".

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki launched a thirty day national [voter registration](#) campaign on 19 November, reports *VOA*. Elections are scheduled for 04 March 2013, and the campaign plans to register more than eighteen million voters during the thirty day period. A Biometric Voter Register system using fingerprints and facial recognition will identify registered voters to prevent fraud. The East African Community (EAC) has announced plans to send [election observers](#) to Kenya, reports *Daily Nation*. The EAC will deploy 25 short-term and 30 long-term observers to monitor the run-up to the March general election. The team will begin to deploy in early December until late February 2013. However, the EAC remains concerned about [possible violence](#) and continued insecurity in the months preceding the election. In a report titled “*Pre-election Assessment Mission of the East African Community*”, the EAC raised concerns about the Mombasa Republican Council, and conflicts in Tana River, Kisumu and Baragoi, which the EAC asserts need to be managed to ensure free and fair elections.



Source: [BBC](#)

Kenya was elected to the [UN Human Rights Council](#) (UNHRC) on 12 November, reports *Daily Nation*. Kenya, along with Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Sierra Leone obtained seats on the sought-after UN council, which includes a three-year term beginning in January 2013. The Kenyan ambassador to the UN stated that the nomination sent a signal to the international community that the country was “committed to the human rights movement”.

Somalia

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Somalia Augustine Mahiga congratulated Somalia following the confirmation of the Somali parliament’s [new ten-member cabinet](#), called the Council of Ministers, reports the *UN News Centre*. The SRSG called the approval an “important milestone in the history of Somalia”, and specifically noted the inclusion of two female ministers, including for the first time, a woman in the position of Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Somali government forces continue to fight [al Shabaab](#) militants in southern Somalia as heavy fighting reportedly broke out close to the city of Baidoa, the third largest city in the south, on 16 November, according to *Shabelle Media Network*. On 24 November, [al Shabaab](#) attacked the Somali town of Bulohawo, situated along the border with Kenya, reports *AFP*. The militants took control of the town, and were blamed for the deaths of five people killed in two roadside bombs. The battle for the town killed twelve others.

Tribal fighting in central Somalia on 02 December killed at least [38 people](#), reports *Shabelle News*. Local residents report a gun battle broke out between two clans over water well. While local clan elders called for a halt to the violence, reports indicated that the respective tribes were calling in reinforcements and the battle was on-going.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has stated that many people living in the Lower Juba and Gedo regions of southern Somalia still face [food insecurity](#). ICRC completed the distribution of food and seed to over 170,000 in the two regions and warned that the population remains vulnerable because of a poor rainy season and continued conflict. Mohamed Sheikh-Ali, ICRC’s economic security programmes coordinator in Somalia explained “Our emergency food distributions aim to tide people over until the next harvest in January, whereas the seed distribution will hopefully improve the community’s ability to feed itself long-term”.

The International Press Institute (IPI) released a new report on 25 November which places the East African region as the world’s [second deadliest region](#) for journalists after the Middle East, reports *Sudan Tribune*. Somalia has had the second highest number of deaths of journalists with sixteen. No one has been charged in any of the deaths, which IPI believes is “perpetuating a culture of impunity that encourages new attacks”.

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sive cooperation agreement was signed by the two countries. That agreement was reached during the September 2012 Addis Ababa summit. South Sudan [agreed](#) to pay Sudan a transit fee of USD 9.48 per barrel which is lower than Khartoum's initial demands of up to USD 36.00 per barrel. South Sudan also agreed to [transfer](#) more than USD 3 billion to Sudan as a one-time payment for Sudan losing access to 75% of its oil. The international community praised the deal as a path to ease South Sudan's and Sudan's economic hardships. The South Sudanese [Minister](#) of Petroleum and Mining, Stephen Dhieu Dau, reported a week after the signing that his country had begun preparations to resume oil production and on 14 November, President Kiir [announced](#) that oil production would restart by the end of the month as long as security arrangements between the countries were finalised. South Sudan continues to accuse Sudan of supporting rebel groups in Sudanese territory – an accusation South Sudan says is being used by Sudan to [delay](#) oil exports. The delay in production has already caused a sharp [drop](#) in the value of the Sudanese pound to a record low. The two parties must now agree on how to demilitarise their shared border so that oil production can begin and their economies can begin to generate much needed revenue.

Border Dispute

The two countries agreed to [maintain](#) the UN-mandated force of 4,200 Ethiopian peacekeepers in the disputed border region until 31 May 2013. Sudan and South Sudan also agreed to [establish](#) a safe demilitarised border zone (SDBZ) along their 1,800 km unmarked border. Under the deal, both countries would [withdraw](#) their armed forces from a disputed fourteen mile area. The creation of a demilitarised buffer zone, although receiving acclaim from the international community, has caused discord among Sudanese and South Sudanese citizens living within the border region. Prominent activists and citizens from Northern Bahr el Ghazal state (NBEG) in South Sudan [decried](#) the agreement saying that it relinquishes their land to Sudan. The governor of NBEG state and the South Sudan Law Society also rejected the Addis Ababa agreement claiming it [compromises](#) the territorial rights and national sovereignty of some areas along the shared border. South Sudan's Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Michael Makuei Lueth, called upon the [media](#) to begin an awareness campaign to explain the agreement and clarify that the buffer zone was not a border demarcation but a temporary solution until a final one is determined.

Abyei is another contentious region along the border. The Addis Ababa agreement stated that a transitional and joint administration would be appointed for the region until the final status of Abyei is determined through a referendum, which would allow residents to decide if Abyei will be part of Sudan or South Sudan. The two countries have yet to [determine](#) the criteria for those eligible to vote in the disputed region. The Dinka Ngok tribe permanently resides in Abyei. For part of the year, the region is also home to the Misseriya nomads who migrate from Sudan into Abyei in order to graze cattle. The Dinka Ngok, with the [support](#) of South Sudan, claims ownership of the land and often clash with the Misseriya tribe. Both countries agree on the [participation](#) of the Dinka Ngok in the referendum, but disagree on the participation of the Misseriya nomads. Khartoum wants the Misseriya to be eligible to vote as they will likely side with Sudan, while the Dinka Ngok will vote to join South Sudan. The [referendum](#) is expected to be held by October 2013.

On the issue of the freedom of [nationals](#), Sudan and South Sudan agreed to allow the nationals of each country to enjoy the following freedoms in the other country: freedom of residence, movement, property and work. This protocol is known as the four freedoms agreement. The agreement does not address the issue of [citizenship](#) but it does provide protection for those who currently live, study or have property across the border. This protocol also protects those who were deported to South Sudan after its secession. When South Sudan seceded in July 2011, Sudan [revoked](#) citizenship of all those whom it considered South Sudanese and gave them until 08 April 2012 to sort out their identification documents. The four freedoms will provide them an opportunity to live and work in either country without fear of deportation.

As an indication of future cooperation, less than a week after the agreement was signed, President al-Bashir issued directives to resume exportation of [sorghum](#) to South Sudan as a “gesture of goodwill and as a confirmation of Sudan's seriousness in abiding” by the agreement which provides for the establishment of two joint committees to regulate and promote trade relations. Al-Bashir also ordered the border with South Sudan to be reopened on 06 October and stressed that the normalisation of bilateral relations is a priority. President Kiir also expressed a [commitment](#) to finding peaceful solutions on post-secession issues with Sudan.



Source: [The Economist](#)

