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# MaghrebiWeek

A snap shot PDF magazine of the news from North Africa and the MENA region

**Revealed:  
Lammy's  
Sahara deal  
with Morocco**





# UK cashes in on Western Sahara with “bare minimum” support

**Alastair Tibbs**

With the UK’s backing of Morocco in Western Sahara prompting dramatic headlines in Rabat, it appeared the deal was a milestone for the North African country’s claim to the disputed territory.

However, an expert on North African politics said Britain has done the “bare minimum” – paying cheap lip service in exchange for handsome returns.

The UK government announced on 1st June its support for Morocco’s autonomy plan, echoing the declaration of other international backers when it called the proposal “the most credible, viable and pragmatic basis for a lasting resolution of the dispute”.

While Rabat attempted to portray the UK’s shift as a revolutionary moment, unlike Spain or France’s support, there was no recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara and the territory’s status remains “undetermined” in British government documents.

Riccardo Fabiani, project director for North Africa at the NGO, the

International Crisis Group, said: “It’s really a way for the British government to say we’ve taken a step but we’re going to be very cautious and very pragmatic about it.

We want to keep our cards close to our chests, and we want to make sure that we are not selling all our goods without getting anything in return.”

“At the end of the day, this revolution is, paradoxically, the bare minimum compared to what others have done.”

Since the Spanish left in 1975, Western Sahara has been embroiled in an armed dispute, pitching the irredentist government in Rabat against the pro-independence paramilitary force, the Polisario Front.

Including conditions such as a commitment from Rabat to support the principle of self-determination and to restart negotiations with the Polisario Front makes the UK “one of the least supportive countries that has expressed support for the autonomy plan” according to Fabiani.

Nonetheless, Morocco’s foreign minister Nasser Bourita said it contributed “greatly to advancing this momentum”, with the staunchly pro-Rabat outlet, Moroccan World News calling it a “landmark diplomatic meeting”.

The UK joins the US, Israel, France, Spain and other European countries in supporting Morocco’s autonomy plan for the region but unlike France and Spain, it has been more effective in extracting positive concessions in return.

\$33bn in procurement opportunities have been unlocked, including involvement in the \$1.2bn Casablanca airport project and the country’s national health-care reforms, worth over \$2bn.

Fabiani said: “Morocco didn’t really have as much leverage on the UK as it does on France and Spain and eventually it had to resort to incentives. These incentives were more of a business type than anything else.”

“This is also a little bit of criticism that was made in the past in relation to what Spain did, partic-



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ularly what France did. They took some very bold steps forward, and now they don't really have much leverage left in their relationship with Morocco."

Migration was a key issue which Rabat has used on its European neighbours in the past.

After Madrid allowed the leader of the Polisario Front to receive treatment for Covid-19 in Spain in 2021, Morocco retaliated by flooding Ceuta, a Spanish enclave on the Moroccan coast, with around 10,000 migrants.

Terrorist attacks in which Moroccan nationals or immigrants took part in the 2000s and 2010s made both Spain and France nervous of mounting migrant pressure.

French president Emmanuel Macron declared his government's backing of Rabat's sovereignty over Western Sahara in a surprise foreign policy u-turn last year. "I would say most external powers

look at Western Sahara with an eye for international law," said Fabiani.

"You cannot really go too far unless you're ready to completely undermine your international position and everything else you stand for, which is not something that would be unheard of.

That's what the French and to an extent other countries did, but I think the British are trying to do this a little bit more effectively."

During the announcement of the new deal, the UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy was quick to point out the vast potential of the Moroccan economy.

The trade between the two countries is already valued at \$4bn annually but looks to be growing rapidly.

One great promise in the future of their relationship is the proposed Xlinks project which

would connect the UK to Morocco's green energy industry.

If built, the 2500 mile connector cable would be the world's longest undersea power cable, and could supply up to 8% of the UK's electricity.

Fabiani says this is a real opportunity and that there are already "significant" business interests behind it.

The green hydrogen mega-projects Morocco approved in March will also be on the UK's radar.

Rabat plans to invest \$32.5bn in green hydrogen projects to produce ammonia, steel, and industrial fuel at a time when European countries frantically search for renewable energy sources.

"If you're really banking on that, and you're really trying to develop this kind of business ties with Morocco right now, as a European or Western country,

you really cannot afford continuing to take a very neutral stance on the Western Sahara conflict," said Fabiani.

"You really need to show your Moroccan interlocutors that at the very least, you're evolving, you're moving closer to the Moroccan position."

These energy projects could provide the long-term driving force needed to sustain UK-Moroccan relations and bring the two countries closer together.

Again business seems to rule the settlement of the bitter Western Sahara dispute, with questions of international law sidelined in favour of self-interested realpolitik.

In this respect, the UK seems to have excelled in its role with this latest deal showing Morocco's desperation to secure international approval for its geopolitical machinations in the Western Sahara.

## Moroccan King pushes fellow African leaders for more proactive reforms

### Zi Qi Sin

At the 2025 Ibrahim Governance Weekend in Marrakesh, King Mohammed VI urged African leaders to take ownership of the continent's future through financial autonomy, self-reliance, and structural reform.

IGW 2025 was held in the Moroccan capital from 1 to 3 June 2025, as reported by Moroccan government friendly Atalayar.

He has used this platform to repeatedly call on his fellow African leaders to take leadership initiative and actively shape the continent together based on shared principles and common interests.

As the flagship event of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the organisation aims to initiate original dialogue and events for leading and grassroots African voices to come together to discuss Africa's role in the world.

The Moroccan monarch delivered a momentous speech, drawing emphasis to the need for greater practical initiatives toward self-determination so

as to break out of its status quo of dependency and financial vulnerability. He also pushed for greater urgency for other nations to take charge of their own economic futures, declaring that "development cannot be decreed; it is built through ambitious policies, investment in human capital and rigorous economic governance."

Rejecting Africa's longstanding dependence on official development assistance, the King declared that the continent "can no longer depend on foreign aid and charity." He described such aid as "slow, conditional, and sometimes toxic," arguing it often leads to crippling debt rather than enabling sustainable growth and real opportunities for wealth creation.

His remarks marked a clarion call for structural reform and a reorientation toward self-financing, regional collaboration, and economic transformation.

His Majesty's royal message acts as the outlining of a new doctrine of financial autonomy and self-financing vis-à-vis innovations in macroeconomic reform, activating the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as

well as encouraging the shift from resource extraction to local added value in African exports.

These proposals reflect Morocco's own developmental trajectory under his reign.

Ever since King Mohammed VI ascended to the throne in 1999, his rule has seen aggressive moves to modernise, industrialise, as well as attract FDI. Morocco has set in motion a series of major tax breaks, a streamlining of bureaucratic processes and the increased injection of capital to promote FDI.

Key economic reforms in Morocco have included the 2005 Plan Emergence Industrielle, which aimed to modernise the economy by prioritising high-value sectors such as automotive, aeronautics, and electronics.

In 2008, the Green Morocco Plan was launched to rapidly modernise agriculture and boost agro-industrial productivity. On the administrative efficiency side, the 2011 introduction of a Common Enterprise Identifier simplified bureaucratic processes and improved the business climate.

Furthermore, his Majesty called for a rethinking of the global financial system, urging for its reform to adopt a "multilateral approach" and inclusive of African voices, which have too often been sidelined in shaping the global monetary and financial system.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed echoed similar themes in her address to the council, stressing the vital importance of people-centred development rooted in institutional accountability across the world.

She reaffirmed the UN's partnership with the African Union, highlighting ongoing efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), operationalize the Pact for the Future, and mobilize global financing through the SDG Stimulus initiative. Development finance emerged as a central theme of IGW 2025. Plenary sessions within the Forum revolved around resource mobilisation, ways to maximise domestic revenue as well as new tactics to expedite greater levels of private capital flows in the country.





## "Zionism is the problem": A Jewish voice against Zionism

**Eddie Monkman**

For decades, Zionism has been presented in much of the Western world as an inextricable component of Jewish identity. It has been used by Israel and supported by western powers as a reason for necessitating the expansion of the state and for protecting the Jewish faith.

But for some Jewish voices, this narrative is not only misleading, but deeply harmful both to Palestinians and to Jews themselves. "We support a single state solution for everyone between the river and the sea," says Dave Cannon, the chairman of the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN). "We see this as the only long-term, sustainable solution."

IJAN represents a growing current of Jewish opposition to Zionism across the world who oppose Israel's expansionist project not in spite of Jewish history, but because of it.

As Israel continues its military campaign in Gaza, which the United Nations has found to be consistent with the actions of genocide, voices like Dave's argue that the historical trauma used to justify Israel's actions has become

weaponised, silencing criticism and conflating Jewish identity with the policies of a state.

"As a Jew I was brought up feeling very proud of the nation of Israel as a fantastic achievement," Dave reflects. "But I wasn't told about the Nakba. I wasn't told that Israel was founded on violent, racist terrorism."

Hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed, thousands of Palestinian men, women and children were slaughtered. 750,000 Palestinians were forced out as refugees... It was that that made me realise that Zionism is the problem."

For Dave and other members of IJAN, Zionism is not a benign nationalist project but an ideology that promotes ethnic supremacy and apartheid.

"It promotes ethnic cleansing," he says, "and it uses violence indiscriminately and relentlessly, as we can see in Gaza. Gaza is showing what the true nature of Israel and Zionism is."

The emotional weight of the Holocaust continues to shape discourse around Israel, particularly in Europe, where guilt and historical responsibility have

often translated into uncritical support. But Dave warns against allowing the trauma of history to obscure the crimes of the present. "There is trauma there... but we have to look more strategically than that," he says. "The trauma is used relentlessly by Israel. If you criticise Israel then you are accused of being antisemitic."

This conflation between Zionism and Judaism, he argues, has not only made criticism of Israel politically risky but it has also allowed a state to appropriate a religious and cultural identity. "Israel has not just stolen Palestinian land, it has stolen the Jewish identity," he says. "There is a complete conflation between Zionism and Judaism."

This conflation makes it incredibly difficult to challenge dominant narratives. "It is very difficult in an environment where people are very scared to criticise Israel both in the media and in the education system," Dave says. "Cultural institutions, the BBC, the Church of England and the Labour Party are all very pro-Israel."

But at the grassroots level, criticism of Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank has been growing long before western

nations raised their voices. Since October 7th, when Hamas' attack on Israel triggered a new and even more extreme wave of violence in Gaza. Dave has seen a dramatic shift in public consciousness. "The demonstrations have been massive," he says. "There is a groundswell... This is a global phenomenon."

Dave argues that historic support for Zionism has existed as it has served Western interests. "If you go back to the establishment of Zionism itself, it was an ideology that was rejected by most Jews... It was only after the horrors of the Holocaust that people became more sympathetic."

But even then the West had an antisemitic motive. They didn't want a lot of Jews coming to the US or Britain so they decided to home them in Palestine. Palestine was sacrificed because of European racism."

For anti-Zionist Jews, reclaiming their history means confronting uncomfortable truths and offering alternatives to dominant narratives. "We do our best," Dave says, "We have regular webinars, we attend demonstrations and we issue statements."

But the fight is uphill. "We're banging our heads against a really big brick wall of the Israeli lobby. The arguments are there but they don't have the cut through because of the inherent bias."

Still, he remains hopeful. "I may be naive but I honestly think that Israel is not going to get away with what's happening."

Ultimately, Dave believes that real solidarity means dismantling the ideological foundations of Zionism and decoupling Jewish identity from the Israeli state. "Most Jews wanted to feel safe where they'd put down roots," he says. "Zionism was never the only path." And as more people begin to see the violence of the present not as a deviation, but as a continuation of the past.

Voices like IJAN's are asking the world and Jews themselves to rethink the legacy of Zionism and to question what justice in Palestine should truly look like.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## UN urges investigation following discovery of bodies in Libya

The UN has called for an investigation over potential extrajudicial killings after many bodies were found in mass graves in Tripoli, Libya, Middle East Eye reported on June 5th.

The bodies were discovered in sites overseen by the Stabilisation Support Apparatus (SSA), one of the capital's most prominent militia groups.

Ten severely burnt bodies were found in the SSA HQ, located in Abu Salim, according to the UN human rights office (OCHR). A further 67 bodies which had decayed, were discovered in refrigerators in Abu Salim and Al Khadra hospitals. UN's high commissioner, Volker Turk, urged Libyan authorities to guarantee global entry into the sites of the bodies.

## Morocco leads Africa's baryte consumption, production and exports

Morocco has accounted for 67% of Africa's total baryte consumption meaning it leads the way across the entire continent, according to Moroccan government-friendly HESPRESS on June 4th.

Around 420,000 tonnes of baryte has been consumed by Morocco over the previous year exceeding the amount of Algeria who are Morocco's closest challenger.

Between 2013 and 2024 Morocco's baryte consumption has expanded at an average annual growth rate of 8.4%.

## UK backs Morocco's Western Sahara plan, Algeria protests

Algeria has condemned the United Kingdom's support for Morocco's autonomy plan in Western Sahara, expressing its disappointment in a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

According to government-friendly AL24 on the 4th of June, the ministry argued that the plan lacks credibility and has never been seriously considered by UN envoys.

While noting that the UK did not fully endorse Moroccan sovereignty, Algeria urged the UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to hold

Morocco accountable to international law and the principle of self-determination. The statement criticises the autonomy initiative as a diplomatic tactic to delay genuine conflict resolution.



## Algeria announces plans for National Center for autistic children

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has ordered the creation of a national center and regional annexes for the care of children with autism.

The statement was issued at a Council of Ministers meeting on June 1 as part of discussions on the national autism plan, according to Algerian-friendly outlet AL24 News.

The president has reportedly emphasized the importance of providing high-quality education and support, while also ensuring that children are not psychologically impacted by separation from their parents during care, though details on how this will be carried out are not yet clear.

## Morocco amongst worst offenders for violating workers rights

Morocco is amongst the 43 worst offenders for regularly violating workers rights according to the 2025 Global Rights Index by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), as reported by Moroccan government-friendly outlet HESPRESS on June 3rd.

The report examined the implementation of the controversial strike law passed by the government in December 2024.

Despite public outcry and criticism of the strike law, Morocco's Constitutional Court upheld the law leading to greater anger.

Azeddine El Midaoui, Morocco's Minister of Higher Education, spoke out on June 2nd in Parliament about his shame towards the recent scandal over the selling

of fake university diplomas, according to Moroccan government-friendly outlet HESPRESS.

Mr. El Midaoui pronounced the incident "regrettable" but said Moroccan universities' prestige should be upheld and not ignored. He reiterated that the responsibility for this mistake is shared between individual departments and the ministry itself.

He continued that the scandal is reflective of wider issues within the Moroccan education system, such as weak academic supervision, oversubscription and outdated institutional structures.

## Egypt plans new desert city to reroute Nile water

Egypt has announced plans to build a new desert city west of Cairo, diverting 7% of its annual Nile River quota to support the project, according to Saudi News Agency Asharq Al-Awsat on June 2nd

The initiative, revealed on June 1st, aims to increase land value and state assets amid water shortages and economic strain. Around 10 million cubic metres of Nile water will be redirected daily to the 6.8 million square metre Jirjan City, also supplying the New Delta agricultural scheme.

The development will feature up-scale housing, commercial areas and a yacht marina. Three private firms signed on, alongside the state's Mostakbal Misr agency.



## Morocco's lemon trade makes a comeback

After four years of decline due to droughts, logistical hurdles, and competition from Turkey, Morocco's lemon export industry is picking up in 2025, reports Yabiladi on May 28.

From October 2024 to March 2025, shipments hit 6,100 tons worth \$2.7 million, matching

nearly all of last year's total. Favorable weather and a 33% drop in Turkey's output opened market opportunities, particularly in Mauritania, the UK, and Russia. The fruit remains vital to Moroccan economic diversity aims.

## Mother of jailed activist hospitalised during hunger strike

Laila Soueif, the mother of jailed Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abdel Fattah, has been hospitalised in London after her blood sugar dropped to a dangerously low level, The New Arab reported on May 30th.

The 69-year-old academic has been on hunger strike since September 29, 2024—the date her son was due for release after serving a five-year sentence.

After briefly reducing her protest to a partial strike, she resumed a full hunger strike last week. This marks her second hospitalisation since February. Alaa Abdel Fattah was imprisoned in 2019 for allegedly spreading false information after posting about police violence on Facebook in Egypt.



## Mozambique build energy alliance with Algeria

Mozambique is exploring cooperation opportunities with Algeria in the energy and electrical industries, said Mozambican Ambassador Antonio Augusto Eduardo Namputeche on June 1. The visit signals a potential expansion of bilateral cooperation in industrial energy sectors.

The statement was made 1 during a visit to the GSP Electric complex in Algeria's Mostaganem province, reports Algerian-friendly news outlet AL24 News. Djilani Bachir Kobibi, president of Algeria's Electrical Industrial Cluster (CIEL), has voiced his readiness to support the project. Mozambique's has faced infrastructure challenges.





**Hamas leader claims group did not reject U.S. ceasefire proposal**

## Hamas chief says group did not reject US ceasefire

A Hamas chief on June 5th denied the claim that his group rejected the ceasefire proposal made by the US, as the Gaza war continues, Middle East Eye reported.

Khalil al-Hayya said the militant group had only urged that Steve Witkoff, the US special envoy for the Middle East, to implement

some alterations and “improvements” so that a lasting ceasefire in Gaza is guaranteed.

Hayya also said that Hamas is prepared to participate in further negotiations for the ceasefire.

Meanwhile, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stressed that Gaza is now worse than “hell,” the BBC reported on June 4th.

## France investigates Gaza war crimes



France has opened two investigations into alleged complicity and incitement of genocide after French-Israelis were accused of obstructing humanitarian aid destined

for Gaza, Al-Monitor via AFP reported on June 6th.

The anti-terror prosecutor’s office (PNAT) confirmed the probes will examine potential complicity in crimes against humanity between January and May last year. The investigations follow legal complaints.

The first complaint was by the Jewish French Union for Peace (UFJP) and a French-Palestinian over French people from the staunch pro-Israel organisations “Israel is Forever” and “Tzav-9”.

The second complaint, Lawyers for Justice in the Middle East (CAPJO), alleged that “Israel is Forever” members have obstructed aid convoys.

## Israel strikes Beirut ahead of Eid, says Hezbollah

Israel launched multiple air strikes on Hezbollah-linked targets in Beirut’s southern suburbs late on June 6th just hours before the start of Eid Al-Adha, according to the BBC.



The attack followed an evacuation warning to residents of the Hadath, Haret Hreik, and Borj el-Barajneh neighborhoods in Dahieh, forcing thousands to flee causing heavy Wtraffic and widespread panic.

Lebanon’s Prime Minister Nawaf Salam condemned the attack as a “systematic and deliberate” assault on the country’s security, economy, and religious life, while President Joseph Aoun called it a “flagrant violation of an international accord.”

## France softens stance on immediate recognition of Palestinian state

France on June 6 softened its stance on recognising a Palestinian state, as the French foreign minister said that while his nation wants this move to progress, it needs to be more than a symbolic gesture, Al Monitor via AFP reported.



Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said: “France could have taken a symbolic decision.” He added that “this is not the choice [France] made because it carries a responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.”

Barrot also said France would not recognise a Palestinian state on its own accord. The foreign minister appears to suggest that France is waiting to see if Gulf nations are also eyeing the recognition of the state.

## Hamas claims group did not reject US ceasefire

### Angelina Castrucci

The Hamas chief Khalil al-Hayya, clarified in a recorded address that the group did not reject the latest ceasefire offer from the US but instead submitted suggestions for “changes and improvements,” Middle East Eye reported on June.

Reaffirming the position, al-Hayya suggested Hamas remains prepared to engage in renewed, serious negotiations aimed at achieving a lasting ceasefire. This contradicts earlier reports that Hamas were unwilling to negotiate, according to The National on May 30.

He explained that the revisions aimed to prevent Israel from returning to violence, invasions, or forced displacement, and to

secure consistent and respectful aid delivery to civilians in Gaza.

Al-Hayya rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the central barrier to any agreement, claiming Netanyahu deliberately prolongs the war for ideological and personal reasons.

“We’ve agreed to most of the proposals since fighting resumed in March, including one that involved releasing five captives and progressing to the second stage of the January agreement, but Israel refused,” al-Hayya said. He added that Hamas later submitted a comprehensive offer to exchange all captives for a final end to hostilities, which Israel also dismissed.

As a goodwill gesture, Hamas released Israeli-American soldier

Edan Alexander, the BBC reported on May 12th. Al-Hayya said Witkoff’s latest plan called for freeing ten captives and returning 18 bodies over seven days, but failed to guarantee that fighting would not resume afterwards. “Netanyahu himself declared his intention to resume the war after recovering the captives” he said.

Al-Hayya also condemned Israel’s insistence on controlling aid through military channels, which international organisations have rejected as illegal. He accused Israel of continuing attacks with external support, pointing to the recent US veto of a UN resolution that called for lifting the blockade and ensuring emergency aid reached Gaza.

their country's security at risk. Netanyahu defended the move. He said: "What's wrong with this? It only saves the lives of Israeli soldiers."

## ICC face sanctions from US due to arrest warrants on Israel



The US has enforced sanctions on International Criminal Court (ICC) judges, alleging that they are involved in groundless and illegitimate actions towards the country and Israel, Middle East Eye via Reuters reported on June 6th.

On June 5th, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the sanctions. He said the judges the sanctions are aimed at are Solomy Balungi Bossa, Luz del Carmen Ibanez Carranza, Reine Adelaide Sophie Alapini-Gansou and Beti Hohler.

Arrest warrants against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and ex-defence minister Yoav Gallant were given the green light by two of the judges.



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Activist Greta Thunberg together with the crew of the "Madleen", the aid ship sailing to Gaza, June 1, 2025

## UK Gaza inquiry bill passes, Corbyn urges government action



Parliament has passed a bill calling for an independent inquiry into the UK's role in Israel's war on Gaza, Middle East Eye reported on June 5th.

The Gaza (Independent Public Inquiry) Bill, introduced by former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, passed with no division on June 4th.

It proposes a Chilcot-style investigation into any UK military, economic or political cooperation with Israel since October 2023—including arms sales, the use of RAF bases, and intelligence sharing.

"The government must decide: will it support an inquiry that has backing from MPs across the political spectrum, or will it block our efforts to expose the truth?" Corbyn said.

## Israel arming Gaza against Hamas, Netanyahu says

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel is providing arms to Gaza clans

which are against Hamas, the BBC reported on June 6th.

Netanyahu's remarks followed reports from Israeli media which cited defence sources, reportedly claiming that the Israeli prime minister had permitted the



transfer of weapons to one southern Gaza group.

A number of Israeli politicians have said Netanyahu is putting

## Greta Thunberg aboard the Gaza Freedom Flotilla

### Malaika Remedios

While the world watches aid efforts collapse in Gaza, a group of activists, including Greta Thunberg and the Game of Thrones actor Liam Cunningham have risked their lives to hand-deliver supplies to Palestine as Israel continues to set aid ships ablaze.

From aboard the Gaza-bound flotilla "Madleen", Greta Thunberg told Middle East Eye that while governments had failed Palestinians, it fell "on us to step up and be the adults in the room". Thunberg, Cunningham, and 10 other activists set sail from Sicily on June 1, carrying urgent supplies for besieged and starving Palestinians.

For nearly 3 months, humanitarian aid to Gaza had been com-

pletely choked off by Israel which controls all border crossings and exit points.

After mounting international pressure, Israel announced a new U.S.-backed humanitarian plan: the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). But where once stood over 400 distribution centers, the GHF planned 4 centralized hubs to feed over 2 million starving people.

Amid dangerous overcrowding and desperation, food is never a guarantee.

The limited rations some receive of flour, rice, and pasta are essentially useless after Israel cut electricity to the region. Crucially missing from aid baskets are water bottles and baby formula.

The flotilla aims to address these blatant oversights, carrying baby formula, diapers, women's sanitary products, water desalination kits, medical supplies, crutches, and children's prosthetics.

"We cannot sit by and allow this to happen. We are watching a genocide," said Thunberg aboard the Flotilla.

In May, another vessel organized by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), the Conscience, was struck down by two drones and unable to complete its mission. "There is, of course, a big risk of being stopped on the way there," the 22-year-old admits. "But we are trying to get to Gaza and planning for that."





Jihadists in Nigeria recruiting fighters on TikTok

## UK: Sudan faces world's worst humanitarian crisis

According to The Arab Weekly, a London based website which is sympathetic to the aspirations of the UAE, Sudan is facing what Britain's top diplomat has called the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, as reported on June 3rd.

Speaking at an event in Morocco hosted by the foundation of British-Sudanese businessman Mo Ibrahim, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy underscored the gravity of the crisis. "The crisis in Sudan ... is the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world currently and it is a matter of

deep, deep concern," Lammy said. Since April 2023, a brutal war has raged between Sudan's regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, as their leaders compete for control.



The conflict has killed tens of thousands, displaced 13 million people – nearly a quarter of Sudan's population – and led to widespread destruction of infrastructure and the onset of famine in some regions.

## 4 million people believed to have fled Sudan since outbreak of war

4 million people have believed to have fled Sudan since the outbreak of civil war in April 2023 plunged the country into chaos, according to France 24 on June 4th.

Fighting between the government backed Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the rebel group Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has created the worst humanitarian disaster in the world according to the United Nations.

An estimated 150,000 people have been killed although that the figure is likely higher.

## Rebel group threaten to attack city in Sudan

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) rebel group have threatened to attack the army-held city of Al Obeid in Sudan as reported by The National on June 3rd.



The RSF commander, General Mohamed Dagalo, warned of the attack and ruled out holding negotiations with the country's armed forces.

Dagalo warned that: "The time for bargaining has ended. There will be no negotiations with those who kill their people with air power and refuse to admit to their crimes."

## Chad amongst countries responding to Trump's immigration ban

Chad's President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno has announced a reciprocal visa ban on U.S. citizens after the Trump administration barred citizens from 19 countries, including Chad, citing identity verification flaws.

The ban, effective June 9th, also targets several African and Asian nations.



Déby emphasized national dignity over material wealth. Other countries like the Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone responded more diplomatically, expressing willingness to negotiate or address U.S. concerns.

A government spokesperson from the Republic of Congo, Thierry Moungalla, stated that they believed the country was targeted because of a "misunderstanding" over an armed attack in the U.S. with the perpetrators "mistaken" to be from the Republic of Congo.

## Jihadists in Nigeria recruiting fighters on TikTok

### Romain Ducla

Jihadist groups in Nigeria are spreading by using social media to find new recruits and broadcast their campaigns, says RFI on May 25.

Jihadist groups such as Book haram are increasingly posting videos on TikTok with rifles, grenades and stacks of cash.

In April, at least 100 people were killed by attacks of these groups, as the governor of Borno warns the State is losing control of some territories to rebel groups.

The accounts on the Chinese platform, where men – sometimes very young – display weapons and wads of cash,

also broadcast live contents in which they preach anti-Western ideology.

These videos are reminiscent of deceased leader Abubakar Shekau's own in the start of the insurgency, 15 years ago, AFP says.

Nigerians have reported that such TikTok content has also been used by criminal conducting raids on villages and kidnapping for ransom.

As Texas-based Bridgeway Foundation security analyst Bulimia Bukarti points out, social media which were first used by bandits to publicise their wrongdoing are now tools for Jihadists in their war effort.

"Now, Boko Haram members are hosting live TikTok shows – spreading propaganda, justifying their violence and threatening anyone who dares speak against them."

Bukarti was even threatened by a Boko Haram member for speaking out against the group on social media.

AFP identified 19 accounts in which men dressed as clerics call for violence against the government, in collaboration with accounts that boasted weapons hauls from military operations.

The accounts interact with followers when going live, answering question and sometimes raising money from followers.





**Martin Jay**

Yet while there is little (if any) evidence to support the EU claims of Russian interference last year, when it looked like a populist leader would storm home, there is evidence to support a charge that the EU has more than simply meddled in Romania's elections.

The recent allegations come from Pavel Durov, Telegram boss, who was arrested and held by the French authorities since last August. At the time it was reported that he had been detained by French police as France wanted to investigate child pornography and international terrorists.

In fact, events have revealed that this was entirely untrue and the real reason was that the EU and France were both planning how to derail the populist candidate in the presidential elections in the same year.

Durov told Reuters that Nicolas Lerner, who leads the DGSE foreign spy agency in France, approached him and asked him to help with the dirty work.

"This spring at the Salon des Batailles in the Hôtel de Crillon, Nicolas Lerner, head of French intelligence, asked me to ban conservative voices in Romania ahead of elections. I refused," Durov wrote on X late on May 18th when the results came in.

"We didn't block protesters in Russia, Belarus, or Iran. We won't start doing it in Europe."

***"We have arrived at a new era of rock bottom governance both on a national level and on an EU one and dirty tricks like election interference has now become a norm for the EU and its big guns."***

## EU interference with Romanian elections claimed by Durov

**Whilst pointing the finger and claiming that Russia interfered with the first, initial round of Romania's presidential elections in December of last year, the EU appears to have done the very same thing to get its own candidate to win.**

The centrist mayor of Bucharest, Nicusor Dan, won Romania's presidential election in what even Reuters have reported as a "shock victory" over George Simion, a hard-right, nationalist rival who had pledged to adopt a path inspired by U.S. President Donald Trump's politics.

This desperate move by Macron is very telling as it shows a new low both for Paris and Brussels, with the latter particularly worried that its relevance is diminishing and with 3 EU member states acting as rebels on big decisions – Romania, Hungary and Slovakia – that there was a very real danger of the EU as we know it heading for the rocks. Something had to be done, something even quite underhand and illegal. It is unclear what the French spy chief actually did in Romania – as he arrived two days before the ballot – but on a technical level it is likely that the Romanians were swayed by fake news backed up by an artificial allusion on social media that Dan was way ahead in the polling – which would have swayed many to vote for him rather than Simion, the populist candidate.

What is interesting is that Macron took the lead on this when he is not at all the EU bloc's chief diplomat. When the going gets tough,

it seems the tough gets going and this can be the only explanation of the EU's incumbent top diplo Kaja Kallas being a spectator to this plot which EU chiefs are barely denying. We have arrived at a new era of rock bottom governance both on a national level and on an EU one and dirty tricks like election interference has now become a norm for the EU and its big guns. They will literally stop at nothing to secure their own power and keep the lights on in Brussels and the Romanian elections are proof of this although the populist movement in Europe will only be strengthened by this craven move as now European voters can see the EU for what it is: a failed project.

*The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Maghrebi.org. Martin Jay is an award winning journalist based in Morocco, working for a number of international titles while also the editor in chief of both Maghrebi.org and Levantis.me. He can be followed on twitter at @MartinRJay. This article was originally published by Strategic Culture Foundation.*

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Founder and CEO of Telegram Pavel Durov at the Mobile World Congress, 2016



Tafi Mhaka

On May 25, Julius Malema, the firebrand leader of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), closed his campaign rally at the Mminara Sports Ground in Kwakwatsi, Free State, as he often does: by singing his favourite anti-apartheid struggle anthem, "Dubul' ibhunu". Sung in Xhosa, the song translates to "Kill the Boer" or "Kill the farmer" and has long sparked controversy in South Africa and abroad. In recent weeks, the controversy has flared up once again.

Just four days earlier, on May 21, during a tense meeting at the White House with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, United States President Donald Trump played a video of Malema and his supporters chanting the song. He claimed it was proof of a "white genocide" in South Africa and demanded Ramaphosa explain "that man's" conduct.

Yet Malema has been singing this song publicly since 2010. There is no white genocide occurring in South Africa. In fact, in August 2022, the country's Equality Court ruled that the song does not constitute hate speech. By performing it again in Kwakwatsi, Malema was clearly seizing an opportunity to capitalise on Trump's

## Malema "Kill the Boer" chant is a cry for change

Millions of Black South Africans, like many across the continent, are crying out for meaningful socioeconomic change

misleading allegations and the global media attention they brought.

The disproportionate attention granted to Malema by Trump and his ally Elon Musk obscures a deeper, more urgent reality: millions of Black South Africans, like many across the continent, are crying out for meaningful socioeconomic change and long-overdue justice for the enduring legacies of colonialism and apartheid.

They are calling for a modern revolution.

Nothing illustrates this more than the EFF's platform. Its policies centre on economic transformation, including land expropriation without compensation and the nationalisation of mines. The party embraces Black nationalism and pan-Africanism, supports Russia in its standoff with NATO, and positions itself in opposition to perceived Western dominance.

While the EFF's agenda is bold and Afrocentric, it is hardly new. Decades before the EFF's founding on July 26, 2013, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), a radical anti-apartheid movement, championed many of the same ideals.

Founded on April 6, 1959, by a group that split from the African National Congress (ANC), the PAC was led by Robert Sobukwe, an intellectual, pan-Africanist, and activist. At the party's launch, Sobukwe famously said, "The Africanists take the view that there is

only one race to which we all belong, and that is the human race."

The PAC advocated for the return of land to Indigenous Africans, asserting that it had been unjustly seized by white settlers. This view – that land dispossession lies at the heart of South Africa's historical injustice – has only recently begun to be addressed by the ANC through the Expropriation Act 13 of 2024, signed into law by Ramaphosa on February 23.

South African history is rich with visions for African renewal. Sobukwe's philosophy laid the groundwork for what is often mischaracterised today as "radical economic transformation". Steve Biko's Black Consciousness Movement in the 1970s instilled pride and self-determination. In the late 1990s, President Thabo Mbeki championed the African Renaissance – a cultural, scientific, and economic revival aimed at decolonising African minds and institutions.

Malema is not a theoretical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki.

Much like elsewhere on the continent, South Africans are revisiting the question of land. It signals a broader resurgence of postcolonial ideology.

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The leader of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters, Julius Malema





In 1969, Muammar Gaddafi provided a powerful example. He nationalised Libya's Western-owned oil companies to uplift the impoverished. Over a decade, Gaddafi provided free education, healthcare, and subsidised housing, giving Libyans Africa's highest per capita income.

***“Instead of attempting to shame Ramaphosa on the world stage, Trump would do better to support equitable and lawful reforms. Obsessing over Malema is futile – he is merely the voice of a generation grappling with economic pain and historical betrayal.”***

In 2000, Zimbabwe launched its land reform programme to reclaim land taken during colonial rule. In more recent examples, Burkina Faso nationalised the Boungou and Wahgnion gold mines in August 2024 and

plans to take over more. Mali reclaimed the Yatela mine in October. In December 2024, Niger seized control of the Somair uranium mine, previously run by French nuclear giant Orano.

Across Western and Southern Africa, it is clear: the legacy of colonialism still demands redress. South Africa remains the world's most unequal country. Its Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality, consistently ranks among the highest. Decades after apartheid's fall, systemic racial inequality persists, sustained by disparities in education, employment, and economic access.

Trump's astonishing decision on February 7 to sanction South Africa – partly over the Expropriation Act – reveals the West's historical amnesia and indifference. Many Black South Africans are desperate to move beyond the past, but are continually thwarted by a refusal to correct entrenched inequality.

Ironically, Trump's intervention may serve to galvanise African governments. His public posturing may appeal to his domestic base, but his tone-deafness will only deepen anti-US sentiment among South Africans.

Anti-Western feeling is already rising across the continent, fuelled by historical grievances, neocolonial policies, and the emergence

of new global powers like Russia and China. This disillusionment is visible in the rejection of Western-backed institutions and a growing appetite for alternative partnerships.

Instead of attempting to shame Ramaphosa on the world stage, Trump would do better to support equitable and lawful reforms. Obsessing over Malema is futile – he is merely the voice of a generation grappling with economic pain and historical betrayal.

“Dubul’ ibhunu” resonates among parts of South Africa's Black population not because they are bloodthirsty, but because the promises of liberation remain unfulfilled.

Trump would do well to understand this: the revolution in Africa is not over.

*The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Maghrebi.org. Tafi Mhaka is a social and political commentator and has a BA Honours degree from the University of Cape Town. You can follow him on X: @tafimhaka.*

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