

Gabon coup attempt foiled

The government of Gabon says the situation is under control following an attempted military coup. Junior officers claimed they seized power in the oil-rich nation, where the president's family has ruled for 50 years



President Ali Bongo

Succeeded father **Omar Bongo** in 2009. Narrowly re-elected in 2016 in poll marred by violence and claims of fraud

Bongo, 59, suffered stroke in October and has been in Morocco since November for treatment

FACTBOX*

Area: **267,667 sq km**

Population: **2 million**

Life expectancy: **66 years**

GDP per capita: **\$7,220**

Gabon is fifth largest oil producer in Africa but one third of population lives in poverty



Jan 4: U.S. President *Donald Trump* deploys 80 soldiers to Gabon to protect U.S. citizens amid fears of violent protest following delay in announcing presidential election results in Dem. Rep. of Congo