



Atrocities Watch Africa Monitor

August 2023

Atrocities Watch Africa (AWA) is a non-partisan, civil society organisation that provides continental leadership in matters pertaining to the prevention of mass atrocities within Africa, our strategies and approaches are grounded in the realisation that atrocities can be prevented through various interventions, including, but not limited to, early warning mechanisms, diplomatic efforts, use of social media and new technologies, litigation, and advocacy campaigns.

This newsletter builds on our team's continuous monitoring of the region that allows us to identify deteriorating situations where atrocities may be committed as well as track ongoing situations of ongoing atrocities to detect increasing tendencies or opportunities for improvement.

This month newsletter covers:

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Libya
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan

Burkina Faso

Overall levels of violence in Burkina Faso remained high throughout June and July. Violent events targeting civilians increased over 50% in July when compared to the previous month. there was also an increase in fatalities when compared to the monthly average of the past year.¹ Both al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State Sahel Province (IS Sahel) continued to attack civilians.² During the first weekend of July, jihadists carried out attacks in the northern and northwestern part of the country, at

¹ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

² ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

least 34 people were killed in both attacks. 22 people were killed in the town of Bourasso.³ In Barsalogho over a dozen people were killed.⁴ Violence in the Center-North and East regions spilled into Togo. Gunmen clashed with security forces and attacked civilians in the Savanes region.⁵ In Beriyale, attacks on civilians led 1,800 people to flee to Ghana.⁶

Military forces, and Volunteer for Defense of Homeland (VDP) conducted counter offensive attacks against the armed groups in July.⁷ A burkinabe military chief of staff announced that the joint operation between Burkina Faso and Niger in the Sahel region resulted in over fifty militant fatalities.⁸ The military reported 15 militants had been killed on 26 July.⁹

Blaise Compaore, former president of the country, ousted by a popular demand in 2014, returned to Burkina Faso for the first time for a meeting with Damiba. Some gathered to meet him and celebrate his return from exile.¹⁰ On the other hand, lawyers representing former assassinated leader Thomas Sankara demanded the execution of an arrest warrant against him.¹¹ Compaore apologised to Sankara's family.¹² Kabore, who was ousted by Damiba in January was also invited, however protesters surrounded his house and requested he not do so.¹³

Protests rejecting the presence of French military in the country took place led by a newly formed coalition, the M30 Mouvement. A rally was announced for 12 August to request "an end to French politics in all its forms and the departure of the French ambassador."¹⁴

³ The National, "Militants kill 22 people in Burkina Faso, officials say," 5 July 2022, <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/africa/2022/07/04/militants-kill-22-people-in-burkina-faso-officials-say/>

⁴ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

⁵ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

⁶ Graphic Online, "Over 1,800 flee terrorist attacks in Burkina to Ghana," 26 July 2022, <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/over-1-800-flee-terrorist-attacks-in-burkina-to-ghana.html>

⁷ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

⁸ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

⁹ Africa News, "2 Burkinabe soldiers killed and 15 suspected jihadists neutralized in attack on military detachment," 26 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/26/2-burkinabe-soldiers-killed-and-15-suspected-jihadists-neutralized-in-attack-on-military-d/>

¹⁰ Africa News, "Hundreds of Burkinabes turn out to welcome ex-leader Blaise Compaore," 7 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/07/former-burkina-faso-president-blaise-compaore-returns-to-ouagadougou/>

¹¹ Africa News, "Burkina Faso: pressure mounts on authorities to arrest Blaise Compaore," 8 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/08/burkina-faso-pressure-mounts-on-authorities-to-arrest-blaise-compaore/>

¹² Daily Mail, "Burkina ex-leader Compaore apologises to family of slain Sankara," 26 July 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-11050031/Burkina-ex-leader-Compaore-apologises-family-slain-Sankara.html>

¹³ Daily Mail, "Burkina Faso junta faced with protests over exiled ex leader," 8 July 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-10996217/Burkina-Faso-junta-faced-protests-exiled-ex-leader.html>

¹⁴ Africa News, "A new anti-France movement rises in Burkina Faso," 31 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/31/a-new-anti-france-movement-rises-in-burkina-faso/>

International response:

The UN Security Council received a briefing on the Secretary-General's latest report on West Africa and the Sahel covering from December 2021 to June 2022. Special Representative and head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) Mahamat Saleh Annadif briefed the council and expressed concern over the security situation in Burkina Faso as well as in Mali¹⁵ The Council expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations and the need to strengthen regional security cooperation to address heightened threats from terrorism spreading in the Sahel region. They also highlighted the need to restore constitutional order in Burkina Faso as well as Mali and Guinea and welcomed the recent agreements with ECOWAS on a transitional time frame.¹⁶

After reaching an agreement on a transitional period to democratic rule, ECOWAS Chairman praised the progress made regarding the situation of security in the country.¹⁷

UNICEF is increasing its efforts as malnutrition rates increase. In 2020 UNICEF treated about 250 children, in the first quarter of 2022 that number has risen to 600.¹⁸

U.S. intelligence officials alert on the involvement of the Russian Wagner Group in Burkina Faso, "In the immediate to midterm, it is most likely going to be Burkina Faso that would reach out to Wagner and potentially request support."¹⁹

Burundi

Levels of violence in Burundi remained stable, there was a slight decrease in violence targeting civilians as well as battles when compared to June. The overall levels of violence remain below those reported the previous year.²⁰ SOS Torture Burundi reported three people killed by unidentified individuals between 2 and 9 July.²¹ Between 10 and 16 July, three more people were killed including a National Congress for Freedom (CNL) party activist died after being refused medical treatment in the Ngozi prison, he had been detained in April after clashes with members of the National Council Forces for the Defence of Democracy-for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD).²² Five people were killed in the

¹⁵ Security Council Report, Whats in Blue: West Africa and the Sahel: Briefing and Consultations, 7 July 2022, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/07/west-africa-and-the-sahel-briefing-and-consultations-5.php>

¹⁶ UN Media, "Peace consolidation in West Africa - Security Council, 9086th meeting," 7 July 2022, <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qo8lkq2s>

¹⁷ Africa News, "ECOWAS chairman praises "progress" in Burkina Faso," 25 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/25/ecowas-chairman-praises-progress-in-burkina-faso/>

¹⁸ UNICEF, "As Malnutrition Rates Soar In Burkina Faso, UNICEF Steps Up Assistance," 20 July 2022, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/unicefusa/2022/07/20/as-malnutrition-rates-soar-in-burkina-faso-unicef-steps-up-assistance/?sh=709ee1c11e31>

¹⁹ Foreign Policy, "Burkina Faso Could Be Next for Russia's Wagner Group, U.S. Intel Fears," 27 July 2022, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/07/27/burkina-faso-russia-wagner-group/>

²⁰ Acled Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

²¹ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report no 343, 10 July 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²² SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report no 344, 17 July 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

week of 17 to 23 July, one of the victims was beaten to death by a policeman after being arrested the same day.²³ During the last week of the month, CNL activists were tortured by CNDD-FDD party members, and others were arrested. Three people were killed, one of them by a National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Cibitoke, locals indicate that torture practices are heard inside the office of the SNR official in Cibitoke.²⁴

1 July 2022, marked the 60th independence anniversary of Burundi, however the country has been ranked as the poorest country in the world in terms of GDP per capita.²⁵ A police operation has been set in place to eradicate beggars from the streets of Bujumbura, in only two days over 300 people, including children, had been arrested.²⁶

The Burundi Human Rights Initiative claimed that since the end of 2021, Burundi has sent hundreds of troops and Imbonerakure into neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo to combat RED-Tabara. Burundian authorities have denied this on multiple occasions.²⁷

Cameroon

Overall levels of violence, although high, saw a slight decrease in acts of violence against civilians as well as battles when compared to the previous two months. However, there has been a 50% increase in fatalities during the month of July when compared to the previous 12 months.²⁸

Cameroonian Defence Minister, Joseph Beti Assomo Assomo acknowledged for the first time, grave human rights abuses by the military against civilians.²⁹ An investigation was launched into the killings of nine people, including four women and an 18-month-old child, by the army last June.³⁰

Lawmakers from Cameroon's Anglophone regions called for extra military protection for officials, government workers, and their families from separatists. In June, at least 20 government workers were killed. Capo Daniel of the Ambazonia Defense Forces confirmed

²³ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report no 345, 23 July 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²⁴ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report no 346, 30 July 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²⁵ The Conversation, "Burundi at 60 is the poorest country on the planet: a look at what went wrong," 1 August 2022, <https://theconversation.com/burundi-at-60-is-the-poorest-country-on-the-planet-a-look-at-what-went-wrong-186844#:~:text=Burundi%2C%20which%20marked%2060%20years,history%20punctuated%20by%20political%20upheavals.>

²⁶ Africa News, "Burundi vows to 'eradicate' begging as police sweep streets in raids," 8 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/08/burundi-vows-to-eradicate-begging-as-police-sweep-streets-in-raids/>

²⁷ BHRI, "An operation of deceit, Burundi's secret mission in Congo," July 2022, https://burundihri.org/index_english.php

²⁸ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

²⁹ VOA, "Cameroon's Defense Minister Promises to Punish Government Troops Violating Human Rights," 20 July 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202207210046.html>

³⁰ News 24, "Cameroon opens inquiry after the army kills 9 civilians, including 18-month-old baby," 11 July 2022, <https://www.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/cameroon-opens-inquiry-after-the-army-kills-9-civilians-including-18-month-old-baby-20220711>

government workers are being targeted in order to make English-speaking regions ungovernable by the central government in Yaounde.³¹ Amnesty International exposed how activists are also being targeted for exposing human rights violations committed by separatists.³² They denied the claims.³³

Ambazonian separatist leader, Oliver Lekeaka, also known as Field Marshall was killed on 20 July, by Cameroon's elite military the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR). Some residents in Kumba, southwest Cameroon, expressed relief and hope the security situation will improve.³⁴

In July, the French president visited Cameroon. This visit generated mixed feelings among the population, some welcomed the visit and hoped for further support from France, especially regarding the security situation.³⁵ A coalition of political parties requested Macron to "settle the liabilities, all the crimes that France has committed in Cameroon. We have to put them back on the table." The French president later announced all archives on colonial rule would be opened and investigations will be carried out.³⁶

Authorities called for emergency aid for over two million people facing hunger in the borders with Chad and Nigeria.³⁷ The World Food Programme received a contribution from the Japanese government to provide food and nutrition assistance to over 74,600 people.³⁸

International response:

After a three month long suspension, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) closed their project bases in Kumba and Mamfe, in the South-West region.³⁹

³¹ VOA, "Cameroon's Lawmakers Ask for Military Protection in English-Speaking Western Regions," 7 July 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-s-lawmakers-ask-for-military-protection-in-english-speaking-western-regions/6648836.html>

³² Amnesty International, "Cameroon: End threats against activists who exposed violations and abuses in Anglophone regions," 7 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/cameroon-end-threats-against-activists-who-exposed-violations-and-abuses-in-anglophone-regions/>

³³ Africa Times, "Separatist ADF denies human rights violations in Cameroon conflict," 13 July 2022, <https://africatimes.com/2022/07/13/separatist-adf-responds-to-human-rights-violations-in-camerouns-long-conflict/>

³⁴ Africa News, "Separatist leader killed in Southwest Cameroon," 21 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/16/separatist-leader-killed-in-southwest-cameroon/>

³⁵ Africa News, "Cameroon parties call on France to recognize colonial "crimes" 26 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/26/cameroon-parties-call-on-france-to-recognize-colonial-crimes/>

³⁶ Africa News, " Cameroonians hold varied opinions after French president's visit," 27 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/27/cameroonians-hold-varied-opinions-after-french-presidents-visit/>

³⁷ VOA, "Cameroon: 2.4 Million Civilians Need Emergency Food Support," 11 July 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-2-4-million-civilians-need-emergency-food-support-/6653957.html>

³⁸ WFP, "Japan Partners with WFP to Strengthen Food Security in Cameroon," 7 July 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/news/japan-partners-wfp-strengthen-food-security-cameroon>

³⁹ MSF, "MSF closes project bases in Kumba and Mamfe in South-West Cameroon," 18 July 2022, <https://www.msf.org/msf-closes-project-bases-kumba-and-mamfe-south-west-cameroon>

Central African Republic

Overall levels of violence in the Central African Republic showed a sharp decrease when compared to previous months, with the lowest levels reported in the last 12 months. Reported violent incidents and fatalities during June were 80% below the average of the past 12 months.⁴⁰

The Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) continued to attack civilians and clashed with security forces. At the start of July, FACA recaptured the town of Dimbi near Kembe sub prefecture of Basse-Kotto after the rebels had attacked the town on 3 July and clashes had occurred against rebel mercenaries and MINUSCA.⁴¹ The rebels captured the town of Kembe in Basse-Kotto at the end of the month.⁴²

The UN Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) published a report on how a militia composed of former “Anti-Balaka” fighters carried out an attack targeting the Muslim population of the village of Boyo in December 2021 which may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The report indicates “foreign private military contractors, operating under the direction or with the consent and acquiescence of the Government, use proxies to perpetrate attacks on the civilian population.” The targeted community was perceived as being supportive of the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC), engaged in fighting the Government.⁴³ A second report is on the use of sexual violence in a widespread and systematic manner. It details conflict-related acts of SGBV committed on at least 245 women from December 2020 to March 2022 by members of the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) and the UPC, both affiliated with the CPC.⁴⁴

Twenty political parties and civil society organisations created a “Republican Bloc” to challenge the draft reform of the 2016 Constitution which would allow current president Touadera to run for a third term in office.⁴⁵

Fuel shortages, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, are worsening an already critical humanitarian situation in the country by driving up food prices and forcing humanitarian

⁴⁰ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

⁴¹ HumAngle, “Central African Republic Soldiers Recapture Dimbi Town From CPC Rebels, Arrest 5,” 4 July 2022, <https://humanglemedia.com/central-african-republic-soldiers-recapture-dimbi-town-from-cpc-rebels-arrest-5/>

⁴² HumAngle, “CPC Rebels Capture Keme Town In Central African Republic,” 16 July 2022, <https://humanglemedia.com/cpc-rebels-capture-keme-town-in-central-african-republic/>

⁴³ MINUSCA, Central African Republic: UN reports detail serious violations, some possibly amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, 25 July 2022. <https://minusca.unmissions.org/en/central-african-republic-un-reports-detail-serious-violations-some-possibly-amounting-war-crimes-and>

⁴⁴ MINUSCA, Central African Republic: UN reports detail serious violations, some possibly amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, 25 July 2022. <https://minusca.unmissions.org/en/central-african-republic-un-reports-detail-serious-violations-some-possibly-amounting-war-crimes-and>

⁴⁵ Archyde, “creation of a Republican Bloc against a third term of President Touadéra,” 24 July 2022, <https://www.archyde.com/creation-of-a-republican-bloc-against-a-third-term-of-president-touadera-2/>

agencies to reduce their operations.⁴⁶ At least 13 people died and people from 1,300 households were forced to leave their homes due to floods throughout the country.⁴⁷

International response:

The Human Rights Council held an interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, the Expert noted significant advancement on the situation of human rights since March 2022, however the general panorama remains worrying. Speakers expressed concern at the persistent human rights violations, including SGBV committed by armed groups and called for the government to open an independent investigation into the allegations of violations of international humanitarian law.⁴⁸

The UN Security Council relaxed the arms embargo against the Central African Republic as well as individual sanctions until 31 July 2023. The Council also renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts and requested they present a midterm report, no later than 31 January 2023.⁴⁹

The International Criminal Court unsealed an arrest warrant for Mahamat Nouradine Adam, for finding reasonable grounds to believe that, “from at least March 2013 until at least January 2014, a widespread and systematic attack was conducted by members of the Seleka, including fighters subordinate to Adam, against the civilian population and those perceived to be collectively responsible for, complicit with or supportive of the former Bozizé government and, later, of the Anti-Balaka”⁵⁰

The WFP said 2.2 million out of 5.5 million people in the CAR are acutely food insecure, this is likely to worsen in the next few months. United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martin Griffiths, allocated \$15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to food insecurity in the country.⁵¹

⁴⁶ Norwegian Refugee Council, Central African Republic: Alarming fuel shortage exacerbates worst levels of humanitarian needs since 2015, 14 July 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-alarming-fuel-shortage-exacerbates-worst-levels-humanitarian-needs-2015#:~:text=A%20growing%20lack%20of%20fuel,urgent%20need%20of%20humanitarian%20aid>.

⁴⁷ Daily Mail, “C.Africa floods kill 13, leave over 1,000 homeless,” 25 July 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-11047299/C-Africa-floods-kill-13-leave-1-000-homeless.html>

⁴⁸ OHCHR, Human Rights Council Holds Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Central African Republic and Begins Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, 6 July 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/human-rights-council-holds-interactive-dialogue-independent-expert-situation>

⁴⁹ UN Media, The situation in the Central African Republic - security Council, 9105th meeting, 29 July 2022, <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1b1pjf5ba>

⁵⁰ ICC, Public Redacted Version of ‘Warrant of Arrest for Mahamat Nouradine Adam’, 7 January 2019, ICC-01/14-41-US-Exp, 28 July 2022, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/court-record/icc-01/14-41-red2>

⁵¹ OCHA, “15 million US dollars to alleviate food insecurity in the crisis-ridden Central African Republic,” 19 July 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/15-million-us-dollars-alleviate-food-insecurity-crisis-ridden-central-african-republic>

The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) convened to consider the situation in the CAR and more precisely the operations of the AU Military Observers Mission to CAR (MOUACA).⁵²

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Overall levels of violence throughout the country remained high. July showed a slight increase in violence targeting civilians and a slight decrease in clashes. Reported violent events and fatalities recorded in July are below the monthly average of the previous year.⁵³

Tensions with their neighbouring country Rwanda continued. On 5 July, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said that if the diplomatic standoff is not resolved amicably, he would be "prepared for the worst."⁵⁴ Despite this, days later both countries agreed to a "de-escalation process" to curb the fighting and violence along their shared border. A six goal roadmap was set, one of them includes to "Defeat FDLR and its splinter groups which are at the origin of tensions between Rwanda and DRC and play a major role in the insecurity of the DRC in order to ensure that the threat to security ceases completely."⁵⁵

Several human rights organisations of survivors of the 1994 Genocide signed a statement expressing concern over hate speech targeting Kinyarwanda speakers that is mainly being fuelled via social media. "Congolese were called to round up Tutsi and to appear at Tutsi houses with machetes to expel and kill them. While evidence has not yet emerged that these attacks took place, this is clearly incitement to genocide which must be stopped before another genocide targeting the Tutsi population is committed."⁵⁶

Clashes between the military forces (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) continued in June and July. The FARDC also clashed with ADF in Ituri and North Kivu provinces, where many were killed but the military managed to gain control of some territory in Beni.⁵⁷

The M23 has summarily killed at least 29 civilians for allegedly aiding the Congolese army between mid-June and 25 July, according to Human Rights Watch.⁵⁸

⁵² Amani Africa, Briefing on the situation in Central African Republic and Operation of MOUACA, 24 July 2022, <https://amaniafrica-et.org/briefing-on-the-situation-in-central-african-republic-and-operation-of-mouaca/>

⁵³ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

⁵⁴ News 24, "Kagame says he is 'prepared for the worst' if there's no solution to DRC standoff," 5 July 2022, <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/kagame-says-he-is-prepared-for-the-worst-if-theres-no-solution-to-drc-standoff-20220705>

⁵⁵ All Africa, "East Africa: Congo, Rwanda Agree to 'De-Escalate' Tensions," 7 July 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202207070026.html>

⁵⁶ The New Times, "Scholars, Genocide survivors alarmed by increasing hate speech in DR Congo," 28 July 2022, <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/scholars-genocide-survivors-alarmed-increasing-hate-speech-dr-congo>

⁵⁷ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

⁵⁸ Human Rights Watch, "DR Congo: Resurgent M23 Rebels Target Civilians," 25 July 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/25/dr-congo-resurgent-m23-rebels-target-civilians>

In North Kivu, Mayi Mayi Yira attacks targeting civilians were recorded during the first week of July; they are suspected of working on behalf of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). ADF conducted attacks in Ituri.⁵⁹ Between 7 and 8 July, ADF killed at least 13 people, including some hospitalised patients, who were burnt alive and dozens, including 30 children, were abducted.⁶⁰ At least five people were killed on 9 July in Busiyo, Ituri.⁶¹ On 12 July, at least seven were killed in Beni.⁶² The group carried out attacks in Ituri during the second week of the month, this alongside disputes within Cooperative for the Development of Congo – The Good Temple of God (CODECO-BT) in Djugu led to a 269% increase in violence in Ituri over the second week of July relative to the past month.⁶³

The Burundi Human Rights Initiative claimed that since the end of 2021, Burundi has sent hundreds of troops and Imbonerakure into neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo to combat RED-Tabara. Burundian authorities have denied this on multiple occasions.⁶⁴

In Goma and Butembo locals protested the UN peacekeeping force's inability to control the security situation in the country and stormed the UN headquarters.⁶⁵ The protests turned violent, at least 15 people died, including five MONUSCO peacekeepers.⁶⁶ Peacekeepers opened fire at protesters for "unexplained reasons" and killed at least two residents,⁶⁷ an investigation into the killings has been launched.⁶⁸ Debates on whether the force should continue its work in the country arised, some Congolese say that it would be premature for the mission to depart and that it would undermine the security of displaced persons.⁶⁹

⁵⁹ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

⁶⁰ BBC, "DRC: 13 civilians killed, health centre burnt down by ADF rebels in east," 8 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/08/drc-13-civilians-killed-health-centre-burnt-down-by-adf-rebels-in-east/>

⁶¹ Nation, "Rebels kill five, including children, in latest DR Congo attack," 11 July 2022, <https://nation.africa/africa/news/rebels-kill-five-including-children-in-latest-dr-congo-attack-3875816>

⁶² Reuters, "Suspected Islamists kill seven in east Congo city of Beni," 13 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/suspected-islamists-kill-seven-east-congo-city-beni-2022-07-13/>

⁶³ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

⁶⁴ BHRI, "An operation of deceit, Burundi's secret mission in Congo," July 2022, https://burundihri.org/index_english.php

⁶⁵ The South African, "Pack your bags': Protesters storm UN base in DR Congo," 25 July 2022, <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/africa/un-base-congo-protesters-monusco/>

⁶⁶ Africa News, "UN honors five peacekeepers killed in eastern DRC," 1 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/01/un-honors-five-peacekeepers-killed-in-eastern-drc/>

⁶⁷ Nation, "UN force admits deadly shooting at DR Congo border post," 1 August 2022, <https://nation.africa/africa/news/un-force-admits-deadly-shooting-at-dr-congo-border-post-3898648>

⁶⁸ Anadolu Agency, "DR Congo opens probe after UN mission admits its troops killed 2 civilians," 1 August 2022, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/dr-congo-opens-probe-after-un-mission-admits-its-troops-killed-2-civilians/2650175>

⁶⁹ Les Volcans, "Ituri: Demandez le départ de MONUSCO, c'est sacrifier les déplacés dans plus de 60 sites sécurisés par ses contingents," 29 July 2022, <https://lesvolcansnews.net/2022/07/28/ituri-demandez-le-depart-de-la-monusco-cest-sacrifier-les-deplacés-dans-plus-de-60-sites-securises-par-ses-contingents-luc-malembe/>

Improvements in security in the western part of the country have re-opened the possibility for Congolese to return to their country, after a two year hiatus voluntary repatriation from Angola resumes.⁷⁰

Congo deposited its instrument of ratification and officially became the seventh full-fledged member state of East African Community (EAC).⁷¹

International response:

UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed outrage after UN peacekeepers opened fire and killed two residents in eastern Congo and called for accountability.⁷² Moreover, he said the attacks against MONUSCO may constitute a war crime and called on Congolese authorities to investigate it.⁷³

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, expressed concern over the great number of attacks on IDP's in eastern Congo. The agency reported at least 800 deaths from firearm attacks and machete raids on local communities in Itur between February and June, 2022, at least 715 of these were people sheltering in displacement camps.⁷⁴

MONUSCO'S Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) implemented a community house and radio project in Shabunda, South Kivu, to raise awareness on gender violence.⁷⁵

The EAC appointed Kenyan President Kenyatta as facilitator of peace talks. The block decided to mainstream the Nairobi process into the EAC by invoking the provisions of article 4 of the EAC protocol on peace and security.⁷⁶

Ethiopia

Overall levels of violence in Ethiopia remained high throughout July. There was an almost 40% decrease in battles when compared to the month of June but over 20% reported acts of violence targeting civilians. Although there has been a drop in the number of recorded

⁷⁰ UN News, "Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Angola to DR Congo resumes," 19 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1122782>

⁷¹ The East African, "DR Congo becomes full-fledged member state of East African Community," 12 July 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/dr-congo-becomes-full-fledged-member-east-african-community-3876838>

⁷² UN News, "DR Congo: Guterres 'outraged' over peacekeepers' aggression, calls for accountability," 31 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1123692>

⁷³ UN, "Secretary-General condemns attack on peacekeepers in DRC," 27 July 2022, <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/secretary-general-condemns-attack-peacekeepers-drc>

⁷⁴ UN News, "UNHCR alarmed by growing death toll among displaced in eastern DR Congo," 22 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1123052>

⁷⁵ MONUSCO; Shabunda: UN finances community radio and women's center to raise awareness against gender-based violence, 19 July 2022, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/shabunda-un-finances-community-radio-and-womens-center-raise-awareness-against-gender-based-violence>

⁷⁶ The New Times, "EAC leaders appoint President Kenyatta to facilitate peace talks in DR Congo," 22 July 2022, <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/eac-leaders-appoint-president-kenyatta-facilitate-peace-talks-dr-congo>

violent events when compared to the monthly average of the last 12 months, fatalities have increased over 80%.⁷⁷

Armed clashes and attacks against civilians in Oromia region continued throughout July. On 4 July, at least 150 people were killed in Kellem Wollega in an attack targeting ethnic Amharas.⁷⁸ Both the EHRC and Prime Minister Abiy blamed the Oromo Liberation Army (OLF-Shene) for the killings.⁷⁹ This was the second event of this magnitude targeting Amharas in under a month. This attack led representatives from the National Movement of the Amhara (NaMA) to request that western Oromia be placed under the administration of the federal government.⁸⁰ Amnesty International requested the government launch an independent investigation into the summary killing of over 400 Amhara in Tole Kebele, Oromia, on 18 July.⁸¹

The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) continued to clash with OLF-Shene. At the start of July, ENDF killed an unknown number of Oromia state police officers in Kellem Wollega zone for “refusing to cooperate with government forces on military operations against the OLF-Shane.”⁸² ENDF clashed with OLF-Shene, between 9 and 15 July, government forces allegedly killed 129 and captured 17 members of the group.⁸³ There have also been recorded attacks of government forces against civilians, mostly believed to be supporters of OLF-Shene. During the last fortnight of July they killed over three dozen civilians throughout various zones in Oromia region.⁸⁴

OLF-Shene was also involved in attacks in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region (SNNPR), the group looted cattle and attacked civilians. The group also attacked civilians, looted over 1,500 cattle and destroyed civilian properties in Amhara region.⁸⁵

⁷⁷ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

⁷⁸ Addis Standard, “News analysis: More than 150 reported killed in “new massacre” in west Oromia; PM Abiy vows to “pursue”, “eliminate” Oromo armed group,” 5 July 2022,

⁷⁹ Reuters, “Ethiopia, rebel group trade blame over mass killing in west,” 5 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/villagers-killed-massacre-western-ethiopia-rights-group-says-2022-07-05/>

⁸⁰ Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 2-8 July 2022, 13 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/13/epo-weekly-2-8-july-2022/>

⁸¹ Amnesty International, “Ethiopia: Authorities must investigate massacre of ethnic Amhara in Tole,” 21 July 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/ethiopia-authorities-must-investigate-massacre-of-ethnic-amhara-in-tole/>

⁸² Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 2-8 July 2022, 13 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/13/epo-weekly-2-8-july-2022/>

⁸³ Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 9-15 July 2022, 20 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/20/epo-weekly-9-15-july-2022/>

⁸⁴ Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 16-22 July 2022, 27 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/27/epo-weekly-16-22-july-2022/> and Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 23-29 July 2022, 3 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/03/epo-weekly-23-29-july-2022/>

⁸⁵ Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 2-8 July 2022, 13 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/13/epo-weekly-2-8-july-2022/> and Ethiopia Peace Observatory, EPO Weekly: 9-15 July 2022, 20 July 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/20/epo-weekly-9-15-july-2022/>

Violence against Tigrayans in Western Tigray is ongoing. A recent report our young Tigrayan men were tortured and raped after trying to escape from a mass detention camp in Humera where they were being denied food.⁸⁶

Humanitarian aid has been entering the Tigray region, however lack of fuel to sustain relief operations continues to hinder the distribution of supplies beyond Mekelle, plus, restrictions on the amounts of cash partners are allowed to mobilise to Tigray continues to impact the scale-up of the response.⁸⁷ It is currently the primary planting season in the region, although the federal authorities have approved the importation of fertilisers for humanitarian agencies, more cash is needed for payment and support for the import, transport, and clearance into Tigray for further distribution. This situation, accompanied by the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa risks worsening the already existent food insecurity.⁸⁸

There were mentions of peace talks between the TPLF and the federal government. The government expressed interest in the negotiations being facilitated by the AU envoy, Obasanjo.⁸⁹ On the other hand, the opposing party doubts Obasanjo's neutrality and insists any talks be held under the auspices of Kenyan former president, Kenyatta.⁹⁰ Moreover, Tigrayan party informed it created a delegation for the negotiations, but that these won't begin until the restoration of basic services and as long as Western Tigray zone isn't returned to Tigray's administration.⁹¹

Meanwhile in Tigray, ethnic Tigray opposition parties operating in the region accused the TPLF of monopolising the negotiation and requested take part in the negotiation.⁹² On 10 July, the Federal Security forces in Addis rearrested Kibrom Berhe, head of foreign affairs relations of the National Congress of Great Tigray (Baytona Party). Berhe has been very critical of the ongoing civil war. This was not the first time he was arrested.⁹³

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Sudan's military leader, al-Burhan, met in Nairobi, Kenya, to settle the ongoing border dispute. According to Abiy, both parties "made a

⁸⁶ Globe and Mail, "New evidence emerges of atrocities in Tigray as UN investigators battle for access," 3 August 2022, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-ethiopia-tigray-sexual-violence-investigation/>

⁸⁷ OCHA, Ethiopia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot (January - June 2022), 9 August 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-access-snapshot-january-june-2022>

⁸⁸ OCHA, Ethiopia - Humanitarian Update Situation Report, 27 Jun 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-humanitarian-update-situation-report-27-jun-2022>

⁸⁹ Reuters, "African Union should lead Tigray peace talks, Ethiopia's ruling party says," 28 June 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/african-union-should-lead-tigray-peace-talks-ethiopias-ruling-party-says-2022-06-27/>

⁹⁰ Sudan Tribune, "Tigray rebels say ready to name team for peace talks with Ethiopian gov't," 17 July 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article261568/>

⁹¹ Tigray TV, English News July 26, 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9q0_-T3T3M&t=43s

⁹² Borkena, "Tigray opposition parties demand representation in negotiation with the Ethiopian gov't," 19 July 2022, <https://borkena.com/2022/07/19/tigray-opposition-parties-representation-negotiation-the-ethiopian-govt/>

⁹³ Addis Standard, "Federal security forces rearrest Tigray opposition party senior leader," 12 July 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/new-federal-security-forces-rearrest-tigray-opposition-party-senior-leader/>

commitment for dialogue (and) peaceful resolution to outstanding issues."⁹⁴ The Ethiopian-Sudanese border reopened on 18 July.⁹⁵

Al-Shabab militants crossed into eastern Ethiopia from Somalia around 20 July. Horn of Africa analyst Matt Bryden suggested the offensive is the start of a major, strategic initiative to establish an active combatant presence in the country.⁹⁶ Regional forces reported having killed at least 85, on 27 July,⁹⁷ however it is unclear if they will have the capacity to respond to this threat.

International response:

The International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia briefed the UN Human Rights Council on 30 June. The Commission expressed it has not been given sufficient resources to fill the number of staff positions to properly carry out their mandate, especially pertaining the collection and preservation of evidence to support accountability efforts. Due to this, as well as time constraints, they have adopted an approach to investigate only certain emblematic incidents.⁹⁸ They conducted their first visit to the country. During their visit they reiterated their request for access to sites of atrocities, to which the government has not yet given its permission.⁹⁹

The UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed an agreement with the federal government to implement a World Bank financed recovery project in Tigray regional state, "providing rapid response services to communities in Tigray consulting the community; reconstruct basic service providing infrastructures affected by the conflict in consultation with the communities; and support community-level social institutions."¹⁰⁰

Libya

Overall levels of violence throughout Libya have decreased when compared to the month of June, however ACLED recorded a 75% increase when compared to the monthly average of the last 12 months.¹⁰¹

Protests broke out throughout the country at the start of July, however the reasons behind these protests varied depending on the region. In Tripoli many protested the unemployment

⁹⁴ DW, "Ethiopia says Sudan agrees to border dispute 'dialogue'," 5 July 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/ethiopia-says-sudan-agrees-to-border-dispute-dialogue/a-62370990>

⁹⁵ Sudan Tribune, "Sudan reopens border crossing with Ethiopia," 17 July 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article261620/>

⁹⁶ VOA, "Why Did Al-Shabab Attack Inside Ethiopia?" 26 July 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/why-did-al-shabab-attack-inside-ethiopia/6674783.html>

⁹⁷ Reuters, "Ethiopia forces kill 85 al Shabaab fighters near Somalia, state TV and commander say," 27 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ethiopia-forces-kill-85-al-shabaab-fighters-near-somalia-state-tv-commander-2022-07-26/>

⁹⁸ OHCHR, Oral Update of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia to the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 July 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/oral-update-international-commission-human-rights-experts-ethiopia-un-human>

⁹⁹ UN News, "UN delegation returns from human rights fact-finding mission in Ethiopia," 2 August 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1123822>

¹⁰⁰ Addis Standard, "UN project services office to implement WB financed recovery project in war-torn Tigray," 12 July 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-un-project-services-office-to-implement-wb-financed-recovery-project-in-tigray/>

¹⁰¹ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

levels in the country and Dbeibah government's inability to contain the situation.¹⁰² Meanwhile in Tobruk they protested the political deadlock and the increased presence of armed militias. Some protesters stormed the parliament in Tobruk and set part of it on fire demanding the dissolution of parliament and new elections.¹⁰³

In July, at least 16 people were killed as clashes erupted between the Al-Radaa force and the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade in Tripoli -both groups involved are loyal to Dbeibah's Government of National Unity. These were the first reported casualties since the 2020 ceasefire.¹⁰⁴ Days later, violence erupted in Misurata, about 200 kilometres away from the capital, in this case the fighting took place between the Joint Operations Force linked to Dbeibah, and a local group that has not declared an official political affiliation.¹⁰⁵

Dbeibah's issued a decision replacing the current head of Libya's National Oil Corp (NOC), Sanalla with Farhat Bengdara, however Sanalla rejected the decision calling it invalid and that his Dbeibah's government had expired.¹⁰⁶ The new oil chief lifted the force majeure and production levels returned to 1.2 million barrels a day.¹⁰⁷

International response:

The Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Martha Ama A. Pobee briefed the UN Security Council on the situation in Libya and indicated the overall situation remains "highly volatile" and that the UN's priority is a return to an electoral process.¹⁰⁸ The UN Security Council called for an end to violence and requested parties find a solution to the political stalemate.¹⁰⁹ The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 31 October 2022, to this the Ghana representative highlighted that short mandates undermine the Council's credibility and erode confidence among States in the region. The Council called on institutions and authorities to "implement confidence-building measures to create an environment conducive for successful presidential and parliamentary elections," and

¹⁰² Al Jazeera, "What is behind the protests rocking Libya?," 6 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/6/what-is-behind-the-protests-rocking-libya>

¹⁰³ Al Jazeera, "Libya protesters storm parliament building in Tobruk," 1 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/1/libya-protesters-storm-parliament-building-in-tobruk>

¹⁰⁴ Arab News, "Libya militia clashes kill at least 16: health ministry," 23 July 2022, <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2127921/middle-east>

¹⁰⁵ Reuters, "Clashes erupt on outskirts of Libya's Misrata," 23 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/clashes-erupt-outskirts-libyas-misrata-2022-07-23/>

¹⁰⁶ Reuters, "Libya's oil chief rejects sacking, says govt mandate expired," 13 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/libyas-noc-chief-ignores-government-order-firing-him-2022-07-13/>

¹⁰⁷ Malay Mail, "Libya oil production returns to pre-blockade levels, says official," 1 August 2022, <https://www.malaymail.com/news/money/2022/08/01/libya-oil-production-returns-to-pre-blockade-levels-says-official/20349>

¹⁰⁸ UNSMIL, "United Nations priority in Libya remains to facilitate a return to the electoral process" Says ASG Pobee, 25 July 2022, <https://unsmil.unmissions.org/united-nations%E2%80%99-priority-libya-remains-facilitate-return-electoral-process-says-asg-pobee>

¹⁰⁹ The Libya Observer, "UNSC members renew call for political solution in Libya," 26 July 2022 <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/unsc-members-renew-call-political-solution-libya>

requested parties abstain from all actions that could undermine the political process or the 23 October 2020 ceasefire.¹¹⁰

The Human Rights Council held an interactive dialogue with the Independent Fact-finding Mission on Libya. Speakers remarked that “the fight against impunity was vital for transitional justice to be effective. The shrinking of civil society was an issue that could restrict grassroots actions, and could affect the lifting of any repression of freedoms of expression and association. All prisoners arbitrarily detained should be freed immediately.”¹¹¹

The Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on Libya, Stephanie Williams left her post at the end of July. The UN Security Council voted to extend the mandate of UNSMIL for three months after Russia objected to a longer extension until a new UNSMIL head is chosen.¹¹²

UNICEF expressed concern and warned that around four million people may lose access to safe drinking water.¹¹³

A US court entered a default judgement against Gen. Khalifa Haftar after failing to show up for depositions in a lawsuit in which he is accused of war crimes by several Libyan plaintiffs.¹¹⁴

The AU Commission expressed concern regarding the rising levels of insecurity in Tripoli and called for warring parties to refrain from violence.¹¹⁵

Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari said the ongoing political instability in Libya causes insecurity in Nigeria and is fueling terrorism in the Sahel and threatening democracy in west and central Africa.¹¹⁶

Mali

Violence remained high in Mali, however July saw a decrease in acts of violence targeting civilians as well as in armed clashes when compared to June.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁰ UNSC, SC/14989 Adopting Resolution 2647 (2022), Security Council Extends Libya Support Mission’s Mandate for Three Months, as Speakers Voice Concerns about Short Renewals, 28 July 2022, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc14989.doc.htm>

¹¹¹ OHCHR, Human Rights Council Holds Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Central African Republic and Begins Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, 6 July 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/human-rights-council-holds-interactive-dialogue-independent-expert-situation>

¹¹² The Libya Update, “UN says Williams will leave her post tomorrow, July 31,” 30 July 2022, <https://libyaupdate.com/un-says-williams-will-leave-her-post-tomorrow-july-31/>

¹¹³ Libya Observer, “UN report: Four million people in Libya at risk of water poverty,” 30 July 2022, <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/un-report-four-million-people-libya-risk-water-poverty>

¹¹⁴ Daily Sabah, “US judge rules against Libya’s Haftar in war crimes suits,” 31 July 2022, <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/us-judge-rules-against-libyas-haftar-in-war-crimes-suits>

¹¹⁵ African Union, Statement: AU Commission Chairperson Calls Libyan Warring Parties to Silence Their Guns for the Sake of Peace, 23 July 2022, <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20220723/chairperson-auc-calls-libyan-warring-parties-silence-their-guns>

¹¹⁶ Sahara Reporters, “President Buhari Blames Libya For Insecurity In Nigeria,” 2 August 2022, <https://saharareporters.com/articles/president-buhari-blames-libya-insecurity-nigeria>

¹¹⁷ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

JNIM and IS Sahel militants attacked civilians and clashed with military forces.¹¹⁸ In June, JNIM was highly active in Mopti region where it attacked several Dogon villages.¹¹⁹ During the third week of July, the group targeted army bases in the central and southern regions of Mopti, Segou, and Koulikoro. Violence in Koulikoro has been increasing, ACLED now considers it a place of 'growing risk' according to their Volatility and Risk Predictability Index.¹²⁰ Mid-July, an checkpoint about an hour outside Bamako was attacked, six people were killed. Al-Qaeda linked JNIM is suspected responsible.¹²¹ Days later a military base in the outskirts of Bamako was attacked, JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.¹²² At least 15 soldiers and three civilians were killed in coordinated attacks in Kalumba, Sokolo and Mopti. Coordinated attacks so close to the capital are rare, the last one occurred in 2012. A professor at the University of Bamako and researcher on security in the country, Fodie Tandjigora indicated the situation in the country "has entered a new phase in which Islamist militants are able to better organize and carry out simultaneous, planned attacks."¹²³

49 soldiers from Ivory Coast were arrested on 10 July. According to Mali's military government they arrived without permission, gave differing versions of their mandate and some had passports that indicated non-military professions, thus considering them mercenaries. Both the Ivory Coast government and the UN confirmed they belonged to a UN peacekeeping mission.¹²⁴ This led to the government announcing a suspension of all UN peacekeeping forces rotations "for reasons related to the national security,"¹²⁵ and the expulsion of the UN peacekeeping mission MINUSMA.¹²⁶

International response:

The UN Security Council received a briefing on the Secretary-General's latest report on West Africa and the Sahel covering from December 2021 to June 2022. Special Representative and head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) Mahamat Saleh Annadif briefed the council and expressed concern over the security situation in Mali.¹²⁷ The

¹¹⁸ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

¹¹⁹ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

¹²⁰ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

¹²¹ Al Jazeera, "Explosions, gunfire at a military base near Mali's capital," 22 July 2022,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/22/explosions-gunfire-at-a-military-base-near-malis-capital>

¹²² Reuters, "Al-Qaeda affiliate claims deadly Mali attack," 23 July 2022,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/23/al-qaeda-affiliate-group-claims-deadly-mali-attack>

¹²³ VOA, "18 Killed During Latest Mali Insurgent Attacks," 28 July 2022,

<https://www.voanews.com/a/mali-insurgent-attacks/6677639.html>

¹²⁴ Reuters, "Ivory Coast asks Mali to immediately release 49 arrested soldiers," 13 July 2022,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ivory-coast-asks-mali-immediately-release-49-arrested-soldiers-2022-07-12/>

¹²⁵ AL Jazeera, "Mali suspends all new rotations of UN peacekeeping forces," 14 July 2022,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/14/mali-suspends-all-new-un-peacekeeping-rotations>

¹²⁶ MINUSMA, "La MINUSMA regrette l'expulsion de son porte parole par le gouvernement Malien,"

20 July 2022, <https://minusma.unmissions.org/la-minusma-regrette-l%E2%80%99expulsion-de-son-porte-parole-par-le-gouvernement-malien>

¹²⁷ Security Council Report, Whats in Blue: West Africa and the Sahel: Briefing and Consultations, 7 July 2022, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/07/west-africa-and-the-sahel-briefing-and-consultations-5.php>

Council expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations and the need to strengthen regional security cooperation to address heightened threats from terrorism spreading in the Sahel region. They also highlighted the need to restore constitutional order and welcomed the recent agreements with ECOWAS on a transitional time frame.¹²⁸

Citing an increase in attacks against peacekeepers, Egypt informed MINUSMA it will temporarily suspend activities in the country starting mid-August. The country has 1,072 troops and 144 police in Mali.¹²⁹

Mozambique

Violence from Islamist insurgents continued throughout July, although it remained high, there was a sharp decrease in reported acts of violence against civilians when compared to the previous two months, but a slight increase in battles. Overall levels of violence in July remained below the monthly average of the previous year.¹³⁰ Attacks targeted geographically disparate communities across Cabo Delgado. In Mocímboa da Praia, security forces opened fire on two civilians, killing one, for violating curfew restrictions between 27 June and the first days of July. Security forces treat anyone violating the curfew as a potential attacker.¹³¹ The pace of attacks slowed down during the first weeks of July. After weeks of avoiding direct confrontation, Insurgents targeted security forces allowing them to restock on weapons. On 9 July, Insurgents clashed with the police Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR) at Pundanhar in Palma district, an area that had been previously cleared of insurgents, forcing the security forces to flee.¹³² They clashed with security forces in Quinto Congresso, on 13 July, seizing ammunition. The government reportedly captured a base in the dense Catupa forest of Macomia, allegedly capturing an insurgent leader who was supposedly replaced with Farido Selemane Arune.¹³³

Insurgents continued to target civilians. After a period of violence in Ancuabe in June, people began to return to their homes. However, the region was again attacked on 9 July.¹³⁴ Days later they killed two civilians in Montepuez, leading the village to be evacuated.¹³⁵ Five

¹²⁸ UN Media, "Peace consolidation in West Africa - Security Council, 9086th meeting," 7 July 2022, <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qo8lkq2s>

¹²⁹ Reuters, "Egypt to suspend activities of its contingent in Mali U.N. mission," July , <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/egypt-suspend-activities-its-contingent-mali-un-mission-2022-07-15/>

¹³⁰ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹³¹ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 27 June - 3 July, 5 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-27-june-3-july-2022>

¹³² Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 4-10 July 2022, 12 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-4-10-july-2022>

¹³³ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 25 - 31 July, 2 August 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-25-31-july-2022>

¹³⁴ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 4-10 July 2022, 12 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-4-10-july-2022>

¹³⁵ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 11 - 17 July, 19 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-11-17-july-2022>

people returning to their homes to retrieve some belongings were killed on 19 July, the attack was claimed by IS.¹³⁶

On 8 July, two villages in Meluco were attacked as well as the neighbouring village of Nsemuco, on 10 July.¹³⁷ Around mid-July Northern Macomia was attacked twice, property was damaged but no civilian casualties were reported. Attacks were also reported off the coast of Mocímboa da Praia.¹³⁸ The village of Mitope was attacked, this is a strategic location as it is located just 10 km from the crucial junction of Awasse, which controls traffic between Mocímboa da Praia and Mueda, an area that had been considered safe months ago. Security forces are still struggling to permanently dislodge insurgents from the district, despite numerous clearing operations.¹³⁹ Attacks were also reported in the Mtwara region of southern Tanzania suggesting insurgents are able to move across both borders. Mosques in border villages in Tanzania have in the past been used as recruiting points. On 26 July a group of 95 youths, mostly Tanzanian, were arrested on their way to Cabo Delgado.¹⁴⁰

Niger

Niger saw over a 100% increase in acts of violence targeting civilians in July when compared to June. Such levels of violence have been steadily increasing since February 2022.¹⁴¹

During the first week of July, military forces carried out operations against the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and presumed Boko Haram militants' attacks in Diffa, resulting in scores killed.¹⁴² In the Tillaberi region, JNIM carried out attacks targeting state officials.¹⁴³ violent events increased exponentially in the region when IS Sahel clashed with militiamen from Banibangou during the third week of July.¹⁴⁴

Floods and landslides have left 15 dead so far and more than 23,000 people were affected.¹⁴⁵

¹³⁶ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 18 - 24 July, 26 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-18-24-july-2022>

¹³⁷ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 4-10 July 2022, 12 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-4-10-july-2022>

¹³⁸ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 11 - 17 July, 19 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-11-17-july-2022>

¹³⁹ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 18 - 24 July, 26 July 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-18-24-july-2022>

¹⁴⁰ Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 25 - 31 July, 2 August 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-25-31-july-2022>

¹⁴¹ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹⁴² ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

¹⁴³ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

¹⁴⁴ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

¹⁴⁵ News 24, "15 dead, 23 000 affected by rainy-season floods in Niger," 21 July 2022, <https://www.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/15-dead-23-000-affected-by-rainy-season-floods-in-niger-20220721>

Algeria, Nigeria, Niger agreed to build a 4,000-kilometre Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline to sell gas to Europe that is trying to move away from relying on Russian energy.¹⁴⁶

International response:

The Un Security Council received a briefing on the Secretary-General's latest report on West Africa and the Sahel covering from December 2021 to June 2022. The Council expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations and the need to strengthen regional security cooperation to address heightened threats from terrorism spreading in the Sahel region.¹⁴⁷

The EU and Niger launched a new partnership to "disrupt the business model of people smugglers and criminal networks" in migration. However human rights groups have accused it of securitising borders and outsourcing migration control.¹⁴⁸

Nigeria

Overall levels of violence in Nigeria remained high. ACLED recorded a slight increase in reported events targeting civilians and a decrease in battles in July when compared to the previous two months. July saw a 20% decrease in fatalities when compared to the monthly average of the previous year.¹⁴⁹

At least 879 inmates escaped the Kuje prison on 6 July, this was the first attack on the Abuja prison in recent years. ISWAP has claimed responsibility for the attack, 64 group members were being detained in the prison. According to analysts, recent trends show extremists expanding their reach beyond the northeast region to other parts of the country, including the north central region where the capital city is located.¹⁵⁰ ISWAP continued to target civilians. During the third week of July, dozens were killed when the group attacked civilians and clashed with security forces in Borno.¹⁵¹

Security forces continued counter offensive operations against militants. During the first week of July, military forces in Safana carried out airstrikes, allegedly killing scores of militants, this contributed to the 344% increase in violence flagged by ACLED.¹⁵² They also carried out operations in Borno and Zamfara states.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁶ DW, "Algeria, Nigeria, Niger sign MOU on gas pipeline to Europe," 28 July 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/algeria-nigeria-niger-sign-mou-on-gas-pipeline-to-europe/a-62633283>

¹⁴⁷ UN Media, "Peace consolidation in West Africa - Security Council, 9086th meeting," 7 July 2022, <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qo8lkq2s>

¹⁴⁸ The New Arab, "EU slammed after launching new migrant deal with Niger," 18 July 2022, <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/eu-slammed-after-launching-new-migrant-deal-niger>

¹⁴⁹ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹⁵⁰ Associated Press, "Nigeria jailbreak raises more questions over insecurity," 12 July 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/africa-prisons-nigeria-west-abuja-e37bfac65ccd376d923021301bad0495>

¹⁵¹ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

¹⁵² ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

¹⁵³ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

Gunmen attacked a police station in the Kankara district, Katsina, and attacked several villages in the district killing at least 17 people.¹⁵⁴

Political violence increased in the third week of July. The presidential candidates for the 2023 elections were announced and in Osun gubernatorial elections took place on 16 July. A People's Democratic (PDP) opposition party supporter was killed during the election.¹⁵⁵

International response:

ECOWAS declared Nigeria's seven month long twitter ban that took place in 2021 unlawful, the block deemed it "illegal and incompatible" with the right to freedom of expression and access to information recognised in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.¹⁵⁶

The Un Security Council received a briefing on the Secretary-General's latest report on West Africa and the Sahel covering from December 2021 to June 2022. Annadif expressed concern as armed banditry in the north-west and north-central states killed at least 1,600 people between January and May 2022.¹⁵⁷ The Council expressed concern over the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations and the need to strengthen regional security cooperation to address heightened threats from terrorism spreading in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁸

Somalia

Overall levels of violence in Somalia remained high. July showed a 40% increase in fatalities when compared to the monthly average of the previous year. Most violent events took place in the form of battles, although there has been a steady decrease in the last three months, ALCED recorded 129 that took place throughout the month.¹⁵⁹

In July, al-Shabaab carried out attacks targeting the military (SNA) and African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in Hiraan and Lower Shabelle. Meanwhile, security forces carried out operations in Middle Shabelle, killing many militants.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁴ Africanews, "Gunmen attack villages, kill 17 including 5 police officers in northwest Nigeria," 22 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/22/gunmen-attack-villages-kill-17-including-5-police-officers-in-northwest-nigeria/>

¹⁵⁵ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

¹⁵⁶ Africa News, "ECOWAS Court declares Nigeria's Twitter ban unlawful," 14 July 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/14/ecowas-court-declares-nigerias-twitter-ban-unlawful/>

¹⁵⁷ Security Council Report, Whats in Blue: West Africa and the Sahel: Briefing and Consultations, 6 July 2022, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/07/west-africa-and-the-sahel-briefing-and-consultations-5.php>

¹⁵⁸ UN Media, "Peace consolidation in West Africa - Security Council, 9086th meeting," 7 July 2022, <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qo8lkq2s>

¹⁵⁹ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹⁶⁰ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 2-8 July 2022, 14 July 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/07/14/regional-overview-africa-2-8-july-2022/>

Attacks targeting four political figures, including the deputy speaker of the Jubaland local parliament were conducted during the third week of July. All survived the attacks.¹⁶¹

Heavy attacks were recorded in towns near the Ethiopian border on 20 July. Al-Shabaab militants clashed with members of the Amharic Liyu police and allegedly captured the towns of Yeed and Aato.¹⁶²

The country renewed its interest in joining the East African Community (EAC). This had already been requested between 2012 and 2017, but the bloc refused, citing sporadic conflict and weak institutions in the country.¹⁶³

South Sudan

July saw an increase in violent events targeting civilians as well as in battles when compared to June. However, there has been over 25% increase in fatalities in July when compared to the monthly average of the past 11 months.¹⁶⁴

Leaders of South Sudan Kiir and Machar agreed to extend the transitional period, due to the need to complete critical benchmarks to conduct elections, the duration of the extension has not yet been confirmed but local media is signalling between 24 to 32 months.¹⁶⁵

Murle militia clashed with an Anuak militia in Jonglei state, and attacked the Anyuak king.¹⁶⁶

International response:

The US ended its support for the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism citing a “lack of political will necessary to implement critical reforms.”¹⁶⁷

Sudan

¹⁶¹ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 16-22 July 2022, 28 July 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/07/28/regional-overview-africa-16-22-july-2022/>

¹⁶² VOA, “Somalia: Al-Shabaab Attacks Towns Close to Ethiopian Border,” 20 July 2022,

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202207210050.html>

¹⁶³ The East African, “Somalia renews push to join East African Community,” 21 July 2022,

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/somalia-renews-push-to-join-east-african-community-3887168>

¹⁶⁴ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹⁶⁵ Sudan Tribune, “S. Sudan’s Kiir, Machar agree to extend transitional period: aide,” 26 July 2022,

<https://sudantribune.com/article261912/>

¹⁶⁶ ACLED, Regional overview: Africa 9-15 July 2022, 21 July 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/07/21/regional-overview-africa-9-15-july-2022/>

¹⁶⁷ US Embassy in South Sudan, “The United States Stands With the People of South Sudan and Calls for Urgent Progress From South Sudan’s Leaders,” 16 July 2022, <https://ss.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-stands-with-the-people-of-south-sudan-and-calls-for-urgent-progress-from-south-sudans-leaders/>

Overall levels of violence in Sudan remain steady but high. There has been a constant increase in reported violent events targeting civilians since the month of April, reported by ACLED. However July saw a sharp decrease in battles when compared to June.¹⁶⁸

Sudan's military ruler, al Burhan, said on 5 July that the army would make way for a civilian government, thus stepping down from the UN facilitated national talks. The main opposition, Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), called it a "tactical retreat" and asked for "continued public pressure" on the streets.¹⁶⁹

Al Burhan appointed five retired police and army officers as ambassadors in several neighbouring countries including South Sudan, Chad and CAR.¹⁷⁰ The Sudanese opposition FFC, criticised the move and said it "reflects the contradictions in the repeated statements of the coup leader since his speech, on July 4, where he announced the military would be stepping back from government."¹⁷¹

For the first time in over a decade a woman was sentenced to death by stoning for adultery, although she appealed against the decision, this was the first time since 2013 that such judgement was passed. This brought fears that the small gains for women obtained under the country's transitional government are regressing under the military government.¹⁷²

Clashes in Blue Nile between the Hausa and Funj tribes started on 13 July, by 18 July at least 64 people had died and medical supplies were running low. A curfew was imposed in two big towns and security forces were deployed to the region to try to contain the violence.¹⁷³ The FCC issued a statement holding the military government responsible for the crimes that occurred during the clashes indicating that "there are historical roots for these violent events, but that they could be ignited these days because of the absence of a national project of the coup authority, which lacks any popular political support."¹⁷⁴ On 19 July, people from the Hausa tribe protested the killings throughout major cities in the country,

¹⁶⁸ ACLED Data, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

¹⁶⁹ Al Jazeera, "Sudan activists reject army offer as 'ruse', urge more protests," 5 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/5/sudan-civilians-reject-army-offer-as-ruse-urge-more-protests>

¹⁷⁰ Sudan Tribune, "Burhan appoints former generals as ambassadors to Sudan's neighbouring countries," 10 July 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article261366/>

¹⁷¹ Dabanga Sudan, "Sudan opposition criticises appointment of ambassadors by military," 15 July 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-opposition-criticises-appointing-of-ambassadors-by-military>

¹⁷² The Guardian, "Sudan woman faces death by stoning for adultery in first case for a decade," 13 July 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jul/13/sudan-woman-faces-death-by-stoning-for-adultery-in-first-case-for-a-decade>

¹⁷³ Reuters, "Tensions spread in Sudan as tribal clashes rage on," 18 July 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/tensions-spread-sudan-tribal-clashes-rage-2022-07-18/>

¹⁷⁴ Dabanga Sudan, "Sudan opposition blame junta and SPLM-N Agar, for Blue Nile hostilities," 20 July 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-opposition-blame-junta-and-splm-n-agar-for-blue-nile-hostilities>

in Khartoum they were dispersed by the use of gas.¹⁷⁵ 105 people had been killed by 22 July, 2022.¹⁷⁶

Seasonal floods killed at least a dozen people in Western Darfur.¹⁷⁷

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Sudan's military leader, al-Burhan, met in Nairobi, Kenya, to settle the ongoing border dispute. According to Abiy, both parties "made a commitment for dialogue (and) peaceful resolution to outstanding issues."¹⁷⁸ The Ethiopian-Sudanese border reopened on 18 July.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁵ The National, "Sudan's Hausa tribe protests in Khartoum and other cities over killings," 19 July 2022, <https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2022/07/19/sudans-hausa-tribe-demonstrates-in-khartoum-to-demand-justice-over-ethnic-killings/>

¹⁷⁶ Al Jazeera, "Clashes in Sudan's Blue Nile leave thousands stranded without aid," 22 July 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/22/clashes-in-sudans-blue-nile-leave-thousands-stranded-with-no-aid>

¹⁷⁷ Associated Press, "UN says flooding kills 12 people in Sudan's Darfur region," 17 June 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/floods-middle-east-africa-sudan-united-nations-c6e91c2076ec5e8026d0962946dc6d4e>

¹⁷⁸ DW, "Ethiopia says Sudan agrees to border dispute 'dialogue'," 5 July 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/ethiopia-says-sudan-agrees-to-border-dispute-dialogue/a-62370990>

¹⁷⁹ Sudan Tribune, "Sudan reopens border crossing with Ethiopia," 17 July 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article261620/>