



## **Atrocities Watch Africa Monitor**

**October 2022**

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 newsletter covers developments that took place between the months of August and September 2022 on:

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

### **Burkina Faso**

Burkina Faso underwent its second military coup this year. On 30 September 2022, members of the army led by Captain Ibrahim Traore announced they had ousted military leader Damiba, due to his inability to deal with the Islamist insurgency. They dissolved the government, suspended the constitution and transitional charter, and closed down all

international borders.<sup>1</sup> Two days later, Damiba offered his resignation in order to avoid further violence.<sup>2</sup>

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State Sahel (IS Sahel) were very active in the East and Center-North regions as well as the Sahel Region and levels of violence remained high, mostly due to clashes between Islamist militants and the government and their allied forces.<sup>3</sup> Military forces carried out operations targeting JNIM in the Kompienga province of the East region and mistakenly killed dozens of women and children in the Pognoa-Sankoado village.<sup>4</sup> Security forces also carried out operations in the Yagha and Gourma provinces of Sahel and East regions, killing dozens of militants. In September, the government forces conducted military operations in the Sahel region against IS Sahel, many were killed during the operations, including civilians.<sup>5</sup> Towards the end of September, they attacked a large supply convoy leaving most of the Sahel's regional city Dori without food and other essentials. Plus, an increase in attacks in Hauts-Bassins region, concluded with ACLED considering this a region of growing risk.<sup>6</sup>

Both IS Sahel and JNIM attacked civilians. JNIM looted properties and attacked civilians in the East region,<sup>7</sup> and also killed at least 40 civilians from the Fulani community, according to at least two human rights groups.<sup>8</sup> During the month of September violence increased in Boucle du Mouhoun, showing a move of JNIM to this region, ACLED now considers the region to be of extreme risk according to their Volatility and Risk Predictability Index.<sup>9</sup> Attacks on military convoys took place, at the start of September at least 35 civilians were killed after a convoy hit an improvised explosive device. Towards the end of the month, another convoy was attacked, 11 soldiers were killed, at least 50 civilians went missing.<sup>10</sup>

Hate speech and calls for ethnic cleansing targeting the Fulani minority spread through online communications platforms. Specialists say this may be related to the recruiting the

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<sup>1</sup> The Guardian, "Burkina Faso's military leader ousted in second coup this year," 30 September 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/30/burkina-fasos-military-leader-ousted-in-second-coup-this-year>

<sup>2</sup> Al Jazeera, "Burkina Faso coup: Ousted military leader Damiba 'resigns'," 2 October 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/2/ousted-leader-damiba-agrees-to-resign-after-burkina-faso-coup>

<sup>3</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July-5 August 2022, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>4</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July-5 August 2022, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>5</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>6</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>7</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>8</sup> Africa News, "Burkina: NGOs denounce "extrajudicial executions of more than 40 people" 15 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/15/burkina-ngos-denounce-extrajudicial-executions-of-more-than-40-people/>

<sup>9</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>10</sup> BBC, "Burkina Faso attack: 11 soldiers killed in ambush," 28 September 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-63059393>

Islamist Jihadists have done in the community, especially in the south west region. Whatsapp messages have been shared urging “native” Burkinabe to attack the Fulani. The government has condemned the messaging and compared them to those heard on the Radio Mille Collines in Rwanda in 1994.<sup>11</sup> Over 700 Muslim imams of the Federation of Islamic Associations of Burkina (FAIB) called for calm and asked all preachers to promote national reconciliation and the restoration of social cohesion.<sup>12</sup> The Fulani population accounts for almost 1.8 million people, 8.4% of the population.<sup>13</sup>

In August, prior to the most recent military coup, the country’s defence minister had announced a new strategy to regain control of lost territory that would involve reorganising fighting units, however, no details were provided.<sup>14</sup> Currently, the state does not have control over more than 40 percent of the territory.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Context:*

Attacks by militants linked to al Qaeda and the Islamic State have killed thousands in Burkina Faso since 2015. An estimated 1.8 million people have been displaced, concentrated in the north of the country. The coup in January 2022 was sparked in part by the government’s inability to fully address the violence.

#### *International response:*

Bankole Adeoye, the head of the AU's Peace and Security Council, visited Burkina and urged the international community to support the country in its transition to democratic rule.<sup>16</sup>

The international community condemned the most recent coup that took place last month. The UN Secretary General mentioned the need for peace and stability to combat terrorism, the AU and ECOWAS urged the new authorities to respect the proposed plan for elections in January 2024, the EU and the US called for calm and deplored the worsening humanitarian and security situation in the country.<sup>17</sup>

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be

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<sup>11</sup> The New Arab, “Burkina Faso: Jihadist attacks fuel fear of ethnic conflict, civil war,” 23 August 2022, <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/burkina-faso-jihadist-attacks-fuel-fear-ethnic-conflict>

<sup>12</sup> Africa News, “Burkina: 700 imams denounce “religious and ethnic intolerance,” 29 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/29/burkina-700-imams-denounce-religious-and-ethnic-intolerance/>

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia, Fula people, checked 6 September 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fula\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fula_people)

<sup>14</sup> Africa News, “Burkina junta says army to win back areas lost to insurgents,” 13 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/13/burkina-junta-says-army-to-win-back-areas-lost-to-insurgents/>

<sup>15</sup> Africa News, “Burkina junta says army to win back areas lost to insurgents,” 13 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/13/burkina-junta-says-army-to-win-back-areas-lost-to-insurgents/>

<sup>16</sup> Barrons, “African Union Urges Support For Burkina Faso's Transition,” 19 August 2022, <https://www.barrons.com/news/african-union-urges-support-for-burkina-faso-s-transition-01660945506>

<sup>17</sup> DW, “Burkina Faso: New coup leader blames violence on ‘counteroffensive’,” 1 October 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/burkina-faso-new-coup-leader-blames-violence-on-counteroffensive/a-63308278>

led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>18</sup>

## Burundi

Violence continues to be an issue of major concern with lifeless bodies of unidentified people being found in river banks or in the wild, victims are often buried without further investigation into the cause of their deaths nor investigations are initiated in order to find their perpetrators. S.O.S Torture Burundi reported various acts of grave human rights violations frequently targeting political opposition. On 7 August a Rwandan was killed by Imbonerakure youth while attempting to visit his family in Burundi. A woman accused of adultery was raped by three Imbonerakure, who were initially detained but released days later without punishment.<sup>19</sup> Weeks later, one was accused of raping an underage girl, he was later detained.<sup>20</sup> National Intelligence Service (SNR) police colonel Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya was accused of brutally killing an unidentified man on 15 August, however, the body was buried without prior investigation. A group of Imbonerakure have been accused of killing a man in Bubanza province after he refused to return to his home as he was ordered by the group. On the same night, three Imbonerakure killed a youth also in Bubanza province. On 13 August, two CNL (National Congress for Freedom) party activists were tortured by Imbonerakure in Gashoho commune of Muyinga province. Former security officers were also targeted, a retired colonel of the former Burundian Armed Forces (FAB) was gravely injured by unknown perpetrators,<sup>21</sup> and a retired soldier was killed by a neighbouring policeman for reasons not disclosed.<sup>22</sup> At the start of September, a Rwandan woman was detained by SNR accused of collaboration with armed groups and a CNL activist was also arbitrarily detained by the Kayogoro communal administrator and his home raided by Imbonerakure.<sup>23</sup> Police officers of the province of Bubanza detained and tortured an Imbonerakure SNR agent on the orders of the provincial secretary of this party Alexandre Ngoragoze for denouncing illegal operations the Police and Ngoragoze shared.<sup>24</sup> On 19 September, a man was tortured by the SNR leader Rutana province on orders of the governor over a legal dispute the victim had with governor Olivier Nibitanga.<sup>25</sup> Imbonerakure students attacked and tortured a fellow student of the Higher Institute of Commerce accused of recruiting for the CNL party at the end of September. The student has been reportedly tortured before.<sup>26</sup>

Burundian President Ndayishimiye, replaced his Prime Minister, alongside other high-level members of government, after warning of a coup plot against him. Security Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca was sworn in on 7 September.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> UN News, "High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN," 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>19</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 348, 13 August 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>20</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 350, 27 August 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>21</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 349, 20 August 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>22</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 351, 4 September 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>23</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 352, 10 September 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>24</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 353, 17 September 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>25</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 354, 24 September 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>26</sup> SOS Torture Burundi, Report 355, 2 October 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

<sup>27</sup> Anadolu Agency, "Burundi's president sacks prime minister after coup claims," 7 September 2022, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/burundi-s-president-sacks-prime-minister-after-coup-claims/2679385>

The secretary general of Burundi's National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), gave a speech commemorating Lt. Gen. Nshimirima, former head of the intelligence service and a close ally of Nkurunziza. Révérien Ndikuriyo openly attacked human rights groups working in the country today.<sup>28</sup>

#### *Context:*

A crisis was kicked off in Burundi in 2016 when former president Nkurunziza declared that he would run for a third term, decried by opponents as contrary to the constitution and the Arusha Peace Accords that put an end to the country's civil war. The protests, violent repression and political turmoil that followed forced hundreds of thousands from their homes.

President Évariste Ndayishimiye came to power in June 2020 following Nkurunziza's death. He has sought to present a reformist image to the world but concrete change has been slow to materialise. Some restrictions on media and civil society eased, four journalists and two human rights advocates, detained on baseless charges were released.<sup>29</sup>

Although the situation in Burundi has stabilised significantly since the President Ndayishimiye took power, the human rights situation remains a consistent concern. Although Ndayishimiye has taken a number of positive steps, including freeing some journalists and civil society activists, serious violations persist. In the context of continuing ethnic overtones of the political contestations and the country's history of mass ethnic violence, these human rights violations are a concerning indication of the possibility of future mass atrocities. The country is currently ranked 21st in the world in terms of risk of mass violence.<sup>30</sup>

The AU Peace and Security Council ended the mandate of its Human Rights Observers and Military Experts Mission in Burundi in May 2021.<sup>31</sup> In October 2021, the UN Human Rights Council terminated the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and replaced it with a special rapporteur.<sup>32</sup>

#### *International response:*

Over 50 civil society organisations called for the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to Burundi, that will be discussed in the UN Human Rights Council's 51st session and requested the Council ensure the "continued monitoring, reporting, and public debates on Burundi's human rights situation."<sup>33</sup>

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi, Mr. Fortuné Gaétan Zongo, released his first report to the Human Rights Council and said the situation in the

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<sup>28</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Burundi Leader Lashes Out at Rights Groups," 5 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/05/burundi-leader-lashes-out-rights-groups>

<sup>29</sup> Human Rights Watch, World Report 2022: Burundi, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/burundi>

<sup>30</sup> Early Warning Project, Burundi, <https://earlywarningproject.ushmm.org/map>

<sup>31</sup> AU, Communique of the 993rd meeting of the African union Peace and Security Council on the African Union Human Rights Observers and Military Experts Mission in Burundi, 27 April 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/communique-993rd-meeting-african-union-peace-and-security-council-african-union-human>

<sup>32</sup> OHCHR, Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-i-burundi/co-i-burundi>

<sup>33</sup> Amnesty International, Burundi: Extend the Special Rapporteur's mandate, 18 August 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr16/5968/2022/en/>



country had not changed in a substantial and sustainable way. He stressed the importance of accountability and expressed concern over the “selective impunity.”<sup>34</sup>

## Cameroon

Throughout August and September separatist militias continued to clash with government security forces. Government forces invaded the separatist camp in the Bakassi Peninsula mid-August.<sup>35</sup> They clashed in Ndop<sup>36</sup> and Ambazonians attacked security forces in Bafut, Dzekwa, and Eyumojock.<sup>37</sup>

Despite the clashes, Cameroon’s Prime Minister publicly said troops had brought back peace to the English speaking regions and that life was “steadily returning to normal” however, Njume Peter Ambang a lawmaker from Cameroon's restive Southwest region claimed that not much had changed and that villages remain empty.<sup>38</sup> Education officials said an increase in the security in Cameroon’s anglophone regions have allowed more than 200 schools to reopen. However, critiques noted the same thing had happened last year but schools shut down again following rebel attacks. The Ambazonian Defence Forces stated no government school would be allowed to open in the region.<sup>39</sup> Just days after returning to school for the first time in years, thousands of children were chased out of class and some students and teachers were kidnapped by separatists. Teachers associations indicated public schools were being heavily targeted. The government sent troops to restore security.<sup>40</sup>

Separatists have also been accused of violations including the killings and kidnapping of civilians.<sup>41</sup> In September they attacked the francophone town of Bongourain where IDPs were staying, they torched down homes and kidnapped children.<sup>42</sup> For the first time splinter groups in the Anglophone region have acknowledged fighting. A coalition of civil society organisations said that the separatist fight is losing its purpose, bringing suffering to civilians, and that it has turned into a money making business.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> OHCHR, Burundi must engage in credible and inclusive democratisation process, says UN expert, 16 September 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/burundi-must-engage-credible-and-inclusive-democratisation-process-says-un>

<sup>35</sup> The Guardian, “Cameroonian forces invade Biafra separatist camp in Bakassi,” 16 August 2022, <https://guardian.ng/news/cameroonian-forces-invade-biafra-separatist-camp-in-bakassi/>

<sup>36</sup> MMI, “Anglophone Crisis: Multiple soldiers die in clashes with Separatists in Ndop,” 12 August 2022, <https://mimimefoinfos.com/anglophone-crisis-multiple-soldiers-die-in-clashes-with-separatists-in-ndop/>

<sup>37</sup> Cameroon News Agency, “Ambazonia combatants use rocket, IEDs in Sunday attacks against government forces,” <https://cameroonnewsagency.com/ambazonia-combatants-use-rocket-ieds-in-sunday-attacks-against-government-forces/>

<sup>38</sup> VOA, “Cameroon PM Says Peace Returning To Separatist Regions; Residents Not So Sure,” 5 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-pm-says-peace-returning-to-separatist-regions-residents-not-so-sure-/6688399.html>

<sup>39</sup> VOA, “Cameroon Says Schools Shut Down by Separatists Have Reopened,” 29 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-says-schools-shut-down-by-separatists-have-reopened-/6720862.html>

<sup>40</sup> VOA, “Cameroon Officials Say Rebels Attacking Schools,” 15 September 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-officials-say-rebels-attacking-schools-/6749097.html>

<sup>41</sup> Human Rights Watch, “Cameroon: Army Killings, Disappearances, in North-West Region,” 11 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/11/cameroon-army-killings-disappearances-north-west-region>

<sup>42</sup> VOA, “Cameroon Separatists Infiltrate Town, Abduct Youths,” 7 September 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-separatists-infiltrate-town-abduct-youths/6734751.html>

<sup>43</sup> VOA, “Cameroon’s Separatists Say Splinter Groups Kill, Abduct Fighters,” 26 September 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-s-separatists-say-splinter-groups-kill-abduct-fighters-/6764157.html>

Chris Anu, spokesperson for Cameroon's Republic of Ambazonia, was elected president of the separatist movement on September 10, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

Cameroonian security forces committed grave human rights abuses. Soldiers summarily killed at least 10 people and were responsible for grave human rights abuses including arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances between April 24 and June 12 during counter-insurgency operations in Anglophone regions according to a recent investigation by Human Rights Watch.<sup>45</sup> This includes the arrest of the Anglophone peace activist Abdul Karim Ali who is being accused of “apology of terrorism” for possessing a video showing alleged human rights abuses committed by a Cameroonian soldier against civilians.<sup>46</sup> Between 13 August and 9 September, soldiers raided several communities in the North West in search of separatist fighters and several civilians were killed.<sup>47</sup>

Jihadists stepped up attacks on civilians and security personnel in the Far North region. ISWAP was the deadliest actor, resulting in many fatalities.<sup>48</sup> During the first fortnight of August they attacked Kismatari village, the Morgo locality<sup>49</sup> as well as the Kolofata subdivision.<sup>50</sup> Despite this, markets and schools aim to reopen along the Cameroonian-Nigerian shared border in villages where, according to government authorities, Boko Haram has been defeated.<sup>51</sup> The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) claim operations in the Lake Chad Basin area have been quite successful and that over 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP's) have been able to return to their homes so far.<sup>52</sup>

Scores of children have died in the past weeks in the region's border with Chad and Nigeria due to famine according to Cameroonian authorities. Those struggling appear to be people displaced last December when clashes between cattle ranchers and fishers left at least 40 people dead and forced more than 100,000 to flee. Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health said over 100,000 children in northern Cameroon are currently suffering from acute malnutrition.<sup>53</sup> To make matters worse, floods have affected the region, swiping away entire villages. The impacts of the floods are expected to be felt up to March 2023.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> All Africa, "Cameroon: Separatist Movement Gets New Leader," 15 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209150083.html>

<sup>45</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Army Killings, Disappearances, in North-West Region," 11 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/11/cameroon-army-killings-disappearances-north-west-region>

<sup>46</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Activist in Cameroon Detained Again," 16 August 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/16/activist-cameroon-detained-again>

<sup>47</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>48</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>49</sup> All Africa, "Cameroon: Boko Haram Launches Raids," 10 August 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208100551.html>

<sup>50</sup> Xinhuanet, "Soldier among five killed in Boko Haram raids in Cameroon," 10 August 2022, <https://english.news.cn/20220810/ec46d1026958463b9b42f873ccb655d7/c.html>

<sup>51</sup> All Africa, "Cameroon, Nigeria Reopening Border Markets and Schools With Boko Haram Threat Diminished," 25 August 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208260008.html>

<sup>52</sup> Daily Trust, "100,000 IDPs From Lake Chad Return Home – MNJTF," 11 August 2022, <https://dailytrust.com/100000-idps-from-lake-chad-return-home-mnjtf>

<sup>53</sup> VOA, "Cameroon Says Border Conflict Exacerbating Hunger and Malnutrition," 23 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-says-border-conflict-exacerbating-hunger-and-malnutrition-/6712953.html>

<sup>54</sup> VOA, "Cameroon Says Thousands of Homes Destroyed by Floods," 12 September 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroon-says-thousands-of-homes-destroyed-by-floods-/6743709.html>

As part of activities for the United Nations International Day of Peace, hundreds of women protested in Yaounde for being underrepresented in the country's peace efforts. Despite them comprising over 50% of the population, in the 2019 national dialogue women only comprised 15% of those present. They launched the Women's Negotiations for Peace in Cameroon, a new peace initiative.<sup>55</sup>

#### *Context:*

In 2016, a series of peaceful protests by lawyers and teachers who, to protect the Anglophone educational and legal systems, requested the creation of a two-state federation were rapidly suppressed by the government. In response, armed separatist groups were formed to fight for an independent nation called Ambazonia, proclaimed an independent republic in October 2017. Authorities in Yaoundé responded, killing, and arresting those who they believed to sympathise with the secessionists. This drove the formation of Anglophone militias. By the end of 2017, the crisis had degenerated into armed conflict.

The Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009 in Nigeria and spread across the Lake Chad basin countries, including Cameroon's Far North region. The fight against the insurgent group has been ongoing since 2014, during which time human rights groups have documented widespread human rights violations and by Cameroonian security forces deployed in the area.<sup>56</sup>

#### *International response:*

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>57</sup>

### **Central African Republic**

Rebels continued to attack civilians and they continued to clash with government forces. The Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) and their affiliated 3R movement killed at least six civilians and attacked the sub-prefecture of Baboua in early August.<sup>58</sup> The national army (FACA) alongside what locals identified as Russian mercenaries carried out an operation on the POUSSIÈRE mining site and clashed with Anti-Balaka militiamen.<sup>59</sup> MINUSCA regained control of the town of Sam-Ouandja in the Haute-Kotto prefecture after the CPC withdrew after several months of occupation.<sup>60</sup> CPC attacks against civilians have been increasing in the

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<sup>55</sup> VOA, "Cameroonian Women Say They Are Underrepresented in Peace Talks," 20 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209210057.html>

<sup>56</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Boko Haram Attacks Escalate in Far North," 5 April 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-boko-haram-attacks-escalate-far-north>

<sup>57</sup> UN News, "High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN," 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>58</sup> Radio Ndeke Luka, "Centrafrique : au moins 6 civils tués par des hommes armés dans la région de l'Ouest," 6 August 2022, <https://www.radiondekeluka.org/actualites/securite/39031-centrafrique-au-moins-6-civils-tues-par-des-hommes-armes-dans-la-region-de-l-ouest.html>

<sup>59</sup> Corbeaunews Centrafrique, "Centrafrique : un jeune homme froidement abattu par des hommes armés dans la localité de BOLO, une opération des FACA est en cours, un Anti-Balaka tué, un soldat FACA gravement blessé," 7 August 2022, <https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.org/centrafrique-un-jeune-homme-froidement-abattu-par-des-hommes-armes-dans-la-localite-de-bolo-une-operation-des-faca-est-en-cours-un-anti-balaka-tue-un-soldat-faca-gravement-blesse/>

<sup>60</sup> Radio Ndeke Luka, "Centrafrique : ouf de soulagement à Sam-Ouandja après le retrait des rebelles de la CPC sous pression de la Minusca," 23 August 2022,



prefecture of Ouham, locals have been demanding the increase of government forces for protection.<sup>61</sup>

Comments of the presence of the Russian Wagner Group in the country continued, the group has been accused of committing grave human rights abuses and looting precious metals, mainly gold. Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova denied the allegations and said "Russia's involvement in CAR is part of a broader international effort to strengthen the country's law enforcement agencies to maintain security, law and order."<sup>62</sup> Some locals in the town of Bouar have accused the group of kidnapping children and forcing them to work in gold mines.<sup>63</sup> The group has also been accused of attacking villages and looting private property.<sup>64</sup> They has been present in the country since 2018 and since 2020 it has been one of the dominant agents of political violence training and coordinating FACA's activities. Between December 2020 and July 2022 nearly 40% of violent recorded events involve the Wagner Group, according to ACLED.<sup>65</sup> In 2021, the UN working group on the use of mercenaries expressed concern about the group committing systemic and grave human rights and international humanitarian law violations.<sup>66</sup>

President Faustin Archange Touadéra continued to push forward the constitutional amendment and created a committee to draft the new document.<sup>67</sup> The following day, opposition leaders and civil society gathered to protest the attempted revision.<sup>68</sup> At the end of September, the country's top court annulled presidential decrees that set up the committee declaring them unconstitutional.<sup>69</sup>

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<https://www.radiodekeluka.org/actualites/secureite/39124-centrafrique-ouf-de-soulagement-a-sam-ouandja-apres-le-retrait-des-rebelles-de-la-cpc-sous-pression-de-la-minusca.html>

<sup>61</sup> Radio Ndeke Luka, "Centrafrique : l'insécurité reprend de plus belle à Batangafo et dans sa périphérie," 1 September 2022, <https://www.radiodekeluka.org/actualites/secureite/39170-centrafrique-l-insecureite-reprend-de-plus-belle-a-batangafo-et-dans-sa-peripherie.html>

<sup>62</sup> Polygraph.info, "Russia's False Defense of Wagner Mercenaries in Africa," 25 August 2022, <https://www.polygraph.info/a/fact-check-russia-wagner-africa-car/32004503.html>

<sup>63</sup> Daily Beast, "Why Putin's Private Army Is Snatching Kids From Their Moms," 15 August 2022, <https://www.thedailybeast.com/why-wagner-group-is-snatching-children-from-their-mothers-in-the-central-african-republic>

<sup>64</sup> Corbeaunews Centrafrique, "AKROUSOULBACK, home village of Abdoulaye Hissen, completely looted by Wagner's mercenaries," 24 August 2022, <https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.org/akroussoulback-village-dorigine-dabdoulaye-hissen-completement-pille-par-les-mercenaires-de-wagner/>

<sup>65</sup> ACLED, Wagner Group Operations in Africa, 30 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/30/wagner-group-operations-in-africa-civilian-targeting-trends-in-the-central-african-republic-and-mali/#s4>

<sup>66</sup> OHCHR, CAR: Russian Wagner Group harassing and intimidating civilians – UN experts, 27 October 2021, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/11/car-russian-wagner-group-harassing-and-intimidating-civilians-un-experts>

<sup>67</sup> Africa News, "CAR: President Faustin Archange Touadéra set up committee to draft new constitution," 26 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/26/central-africa-republic-committee-set-up-to-draft-new-constitution/>

<sup>68</sup> Africa News, "CAR's opposition and civil society denounce constitutional revision," 28 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/28/cars-opposition-and-civil-society-denounce-constitutional-revision/>

<sup>69</sup> Nation, "Central Africa's top court scraps panel to rewrite the Constitution," 24 September 2022, <https://nation.africa/africa/news/central-africa-s-top-court-scraps-panel-to-rewrite-the-constitution-3960096>

According to experts, the lifting of presidential terms could lead to popular uprising or a coup d'état, as well as the strengthening of the positions of rebel groups as many including opposition parties could decide to support them.<sup>70</sup>

A recent analysis conducted by ACLED sheds light on the Wagner Group's operations in the country, they report that civilian targeting accounts for 52% of the group's involvement in political violence in the CAR, which exceeds the rate of civilian targeting perpetrated by allied state forces, as well as insurgent groups operating in the country. In some cases since May 2021, the group has operated independently from the FACA, these operations recorded higher levels of violence than those conducted alongside the CAR military.<sup>71</sup>

#### *Context:*

The CAR has a long history of violence and rebellion. After coming to power in a coup, Bozizé's 2003-2013 rule was characterized by corruption and violent repression of rebellions in the majority Muslim communities in the north. A predominantly Muslim rebel alliance, Séléka, ousted Bozizé in 2013. Christian and animist self-defense groups that formed the "anti-Balaka" movement to resist the Séléka and many began targeting Muslim communities.<sup>72</sup>

After several failed attempts to end the civil war, the Khartoum Agreement was signed in 2019, including 14 armed groups. The agreement had limited success, and fighting started up again in December 2020 when Faustin-Archange Touadéra won a second term as president and the main rebel factions formed an alliance opposed to the election called the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), which was coordinated by former President Bozizé.<sup>73</sup>

Currently 30% of Central Africans are displaced while half the population is food insecure.<sup>74</sup> UNOCHA estimates 3.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance by the end of 2022, 63% of the total population.<sup>75</sup>

#### *International response:*

Mr. Yao Agetse, the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic paid an official visit to the CAR and called for a ceasefire and for armed groups to engage in the peace and reconciliation process. He indicated the national army (FACA) and the internal security forces (FSI) as well as the Union for Peace in the Central

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<sup>70</sup> On Policy, "Lifting of Presidential Term Limits and Risk of Instability in the Central African Republic," 10 August 2022, <https://onpolicy.org/lifting-of-presidential-term-limits-and-risk-of-instability-in-the-central-african-republic/>

<sup>71</sup> ACLED, "Wagner Group Operations in Africa," 30 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/30/wagner-group-operations-in-africa-civilian-targeting-trends-in-the-central-african-republic-and-mali/>

<sup>72</sup> United States Institute for Peace, "As Security Returns, Central Africans Await the State," 29 March 2022, <https://www.usip.org/blog/2022/03/security-returns-central-africans-await-state>

<sup>73</sup> Al Jazeera, "CAR ex-President François Bozizé takes charge of rebel alliance," 21 March 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/21/central-africa-ex-president-bozize-takes-charge-of-rebel-alliance>

<sup>74</sup> UNOHCHR, "High Commissioner Expresses Concern over Increasing Incidents Involving Serious Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Central African Republic, and Mission Finds Evidence of Human Rights Violations and Abuses Committed in Libya since 2016," 30 March 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/human-rights-council-high-commissioner-expresses-concern-over-increasing>

<sup>75</sup> UNOCHA, "Situation Report Central African Republic," 7 April 2022, <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/#cf-5JBAIwceyXkeLoEvJqi08v>

African Republic (UPC) and the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance en Centrafrique (FPRC) have been responsible for grave human rights violations. The UPC and FPRC have been accused of including sexual violence targeting girls between the ages of 11-17.<sup>76</sup>

UN expert alongside Mr. Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association advised that the drafting of a new constitution not jeopardise ongoing efforts towards peace and reconciliation and insisted all parties and people participate in the process.<sup>77</sup>

Suspected Seleka leader, Mahamat Said Abdel Kani, pleaded not guilty to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the opening of his trial at the International Criminal Court.<sup>78</sup>

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

The growing discontent with the lack of security in eastern Congo was aggravated by a prison break that took place in Butembo where Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels enabled the escape of over 800 prisoners. The attack resulted in 11 people killed. By 12 August over 250 inmates had been re-captured.<sup>79</sup> On 22 August Kivu Security Tracker reported the group killed 10 in Kisuhi village in Beni territory. The group is also accused of having killed at least 40 civilians throughout a series of attacks during the end of August.<sup>80</sup> ACLED reported over 100 fatalities due to ADF related violence between 13 August and 9 September.<sup>81</sup>

After a lull in July, clashes between the March 23 Movement (M23) and the military (FARDC) resumed with M23 regaining control of some villages in North Kivu. Since the resurgence of M23 there has been at least 40,000 refugees registered at the Nyakabande camp in neighbouring Uganda.<sup>82</sup> However, towards the end of September, M23 carried out operations in Masisi territory, marking the first time they launched an offensive in this territory since the group re-emerged in late 2021.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> OHCHR, Central African Republic: UN expert calls for end to impunity, urges armed groups to lay down arms, 5 August 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/central-african-republic-un-expert-calls-end-impunity-urges-armed-groups-lay>

<sup>77</sup> OHCHR, Central African Republic: The drafting of a new Constitution must not undermine peace and reconciliation say UN experts, 29 August 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/central-african-republic-drafting-new-constitution-must-not-undermine-peace>

<sup>78</sup> Reuters, "Central African Republic Seleka militia leader pleads not guilty at ICC," 26 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/central-african-republic-seleka-militia-leader-pleads-not-guilty-icc-2022-09-26/>

<sup>79</sup> Africa News, "Over 250 escaped DR Congo inmates recaptured," 12 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/12/over-250-escaped-dr-congo-inmates-recaptured/>

<sup>80</sup> Reuters, "Militants kill at least 40 villagers in east Congo attacks," 30 August 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/militants-kill-least-40-villagers-east-congo-attacks-2022-08-30/?rpc=401&>

<sup>81</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>82</sup> Monitor, "Congolese refugees exceed 40,000 in 4 months," 11 August 2022, <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/congolese-refugees-exceed-40-000-in-4-months-3910352>

<sup>83</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September 2022, 6 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

The Cooperative for Development of the Congo (CODECO) increased its attacks during the second week of August when they clashed with the FARDC in Ituri. Scores of people were killed.<sup>84</sup> Kivu Security Tracker reported 7 people killed in Djugu.<sup>85</sup> Between 13 August and 9 September CODECO clashed on multiple occasions with FARDC in Djugu, dozens were killed.<sup>86</sup> The week of 10 to 16 September saw a sharp decrease in violent events, in Ituri, violence was the lowest since December 2019.<sup>87</sup> However, at the end of September at least 15 people were killed in Djugu, Ituri, and over 300 homes were burned down, CODECO was signalled responsible.<sup>88</sup>

The Mission's Child Protection Section announced it had facilitated the withdrawal of 235 children from armed groups in Ituri province.<sup>89</sup>

Demonstrations continued in the east, requesting the UN to cease operations. At the start of August, peacekeepers opened fire at a Ugandan border post, killing two civilians.<sup>90</sup> Since the protests began at the end of July at least 36 people have died, including four peacekeepers.<sup>91</sup>

A recent investigation shed light on sexual exploitation perpetrated by UN peacekeepers, it concluded that about 1/3 of all allegations are reported in the DRC and that in most cases victims were underage women living in extreme poverty.<sup>92</sup>

Burundian Imbonerakure clashed with Red Tabara near the border with Burundi. Imbonerakure also attacked civilians.<sup>93</sup> A coalition from the Banyamulenge community, majority Congolese Tutsi, attacked miners in South Kivu, the rival Biloze Bishambuke militia intervened, seven were killed during the clashes.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>85</sup> Kivu Security Tracker, <https://kivusecurity.org/>

<sup>86</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>87</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>88</sup> Reuters, "Fifteen killed, hundreds of houses burned in eastern Congo attack," 9 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/fifteen-killed-hundreds-houses-burned-eastern-congo-attack-2022-09-09/>

<sup>89</sup> MONUSCO, ITURI: 235 CHILDREN PULLED OUT OF ARMED GROUPS SINCE EARLY 2022 WITH SUPPORT FROM MONUSCO, 21 September 2022, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/ituri-235-children-pulled-out-armed-groups-early-2022-support-monusco>

<sup>90</sup> VOA, "Two Dead After UN Troops Open Fire at DRC Uganda Border Post," 1 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/two-dead-after-un-troops-open-fire-at-drc-uganda-border-post/6681977.html>

<sup>91</sup> The New Humanitarian, "Why we're protesting against UN peacekeepers in DR Congo," 18 August 2022, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2022/08/18/DRC-MONUSCO-protests-peacekeeping>

<sup>92</sup> Down to Earth, "Sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers in DRC: Fatherless children speak for first time about the pain of being abandoned," 10 August 2022, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/africa/sexual-exploitation-by-un-peacekeepers-in-drc-fatherless-children-speak-for-first-time-about-the-pain-of-being-abandoned-84254>

<sup>93</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July-5 August 2022, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>94</sup> Africa News, "Community clashes over gold in eastern DRC leave seven dead," 19 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/19/community-clashes-over-gold-in-eastern-drc-leave-seven-dead/>

Fighting broke out between the Yaka and Teke communities in Mai-Ndombe province, Western Congo. The conflict was due to an issue surrounding taxes and land and at least 18 people were killed and 175 houses were destroyed by the end of August.<sup>95</sup> In September, the security situation in Kwamouth had improved but attacks continued to flare up. Moreover, the clashes and violence moved eastwards, towards the town of Bandundu.<sup>96</sup>

There was an Ebola outbreak in North Kivu, just four months after the last outbreak that erupted on 23 April was declared to be over. The WHO declared resurgences are occurring with greater frequency.<sup>97</sup>

A top adviser to president Felix Tshisekedi, Vidiye Tshimanga, resigned after he was caught on tape, allegedly negotiating a corrupt deal. Tshimanga denied the claims and said his remarks were taken out of context.<sup>98</sup>

### *Context:*

Eastern Congo has been plagued by violence for more than two decades. More than 120 militias and armed groups are active in the region. A state of siege was declared in May 2021 and is still in place in northeastern DRC in response to the violence.

Since April 2017, ADF has reportedly been responsible for the deaths of at least 2,400 people and the abduction of 900, according to Kivu Security Tracker.<sup>99</sup> Bombings in neighbouring Uganda during October and November 2021 paved the way for a joint Congolese-Ugandan military operation against ADF. Many continue to believe Uganda has ulterior motives for intervention.<sup>100</sup>

CODECO is a coalition of militia founded in the 1970s, In recent years the group started engaging in armed attacks again with the stated objective of defending the Lendu population against the Hema. The Kivu Security Tracker reports that they are responsible for at least 529 violent deaths, over 200 abductions and at least 78 clashes since March 2021.<sup>101</sup>

The M23 or March 23 Movement are a faction of National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP), many of whom were integrated into the Congolese army. They are associated

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<sup>95</sup> Albawaba News, "Clashes: 18 Killed in DR Congo Fighting," 28 August 2022, <https://www.albawaba.com/news/clashes-18-killed-dr-congo-fighting-1489055>

<sup>96</sup> MSF, "Thousands affected by inter-communal violence in Mai-Ndombe province," 27 September 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/thousands-affected-inter-communal-violence-mai-ndombe-province>

<sup>97</sup> Health Policy Watch, "WHO Warns of New Ebola Threat in DRC," 23 August 2022, <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-warns-of-new-ebola-threat-in-drc/>

<sup>98</sup> Reuters, "Top Congo presidential adviser resigns after allegedly requesting bribe on tape," 17 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/top-congo-presidential-adviser-resigns-after-allegedly-requesting-bribe-tape-2022-09-16/>

<sup>99</sup> Kivu Security Tracker, graph, (updated on 27 July 2022) <https://kivusecurity.org/graph#>

<sup>100</sup> France 24, "Ugandan mission in DR Congo opens old wounds, sparks new anxieties," 2 December 2021, <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20211202-ugandan-mission-in-dr-congo-opens-old-wounds-sparks-new-anxieties>

<sup>101</sup> Kivu Security Tracker.



with the Tutsi ethnicity and are understood to have close ties to the Tutsi in neighbouring Rwanda.<sup>102</sup>

#### *International response:*

A confidential report by the UN group of experts on the DRC provided “solid evidence” Rwandan soldiers are working alongside M23 forces and that they have participated in attacks against the DRC military in North Kivu. Rwandan authorities dismissed the allegations.<sup>103</sup>

Continued protests in eastern Congo led Mathias Gillman, MONUSCO spokesperson, to be declared *persona non grata*, as the government thought his presence was unlikely to contribute to de-escalate the anti-UN growing sentiment.<sup>104</sup> MONUSCO condemned the attacks on their base in Goma that took place during the last days of July,<sup>105</sup> as well as the violent acts that took place in Butembo throughout August.<sup>106</sup> Due to increased violence and continued protesting, MONUSCO temporarily withdrew from Butembo.<sup>107</sup>

The UN Security Council was briefed on the situation in the Congo, Special Representative Bintou Keita said the confidence in MONUSCO had deteriorated since the resurgence of M23, she informed of the recent increase in violence and demonstrations against MONUSCO and reaffirmed the peacekeeping operation’s commitment to address the persistent insecurity created by armed groups in the country.<sup>108</sup>

The East African Community (EAC) began deploying troops to the DRC, the first to send out troops was Burundi.<sup>109</sup>

Uganda paid the first instalment in Congo war reparations, in accordance with the International Court of Justice ruling from February 2022.<sup>110</sup>

## **Ethiopia**

On 24 August, fighting resumed in Ethiopia’s northern region between the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front and the federal government, after a five month ceasefire, both sides accused

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<sup>102</sup> Al Jazeera, “Q&A: Who are DR Congo’s M23 rebels?” 5 November 2013, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/11/5/qa-who-are-dr-congos-m23-rebels>

<sup>103</sup> Le Monde, “Confidential UN report provides 'solid evidence' of Rwanda's involvement in the East DRC,” 5 August 2022, [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/08/05/confidential-un-report-provides-solid-evidence-of-rwanda-s-involvement-in-the-east-drc\\_5992599\\_4.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/08/05/confidential-un-report-provides-solid-evidence-of-rwanda-s-involvement-in-the-east-drc_5992599_4.html)

<sup>104</sup> DW, “DR Congo wants to kick out UN spokesman after protests,” 3 August 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/dr-congo-wants-to-kick-out-un-spokesman-after-protests/a-62699302>

<sup>105</sup> MONUSCO, Monusco condemns the attacks on its premises in Goma and calls for restraint, 11 August 2022, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/monusco-condemns-attacks-its-premises-goma-and-calls-restraint>

<sup>106</sup> MONUSCO, PR Growing insecurity in Butembo: MONUSCO expresses solidarity with Congolese authorities, 14 August 2022, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/pr-growing-insecurity-butembo-monusco-expresses-solidarity-congolese-authorities>

<sup>107</sup> VOA, “UN Temporarily Leaves Butembo,” 18 August 2022, <https://www.voaafrica.com/a/un-temporarily-leaves-butembo/6706979.html>

<sup>108</sup> UN News, “DR Congo: Humanitarian situation worsens; UN mission continues to battle armed militias,” 30 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1129107>

<sup>109</sup> VOA, “East African Regional Bloc Begins Deployment of Troops to DRC,” 18 August 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/east-african-regional-bloc-begins-deployment-of-troops-to-drc/6706964.html>

<sup>110</sup> Reuters, “Uganda says paid first instalment in Congo war reparations,” 12 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/uganda-says-paid-first-instalment-congo-war-reparations-2022-09-12/>

each other of ending the truce.<sup>111</sup> Two weeks after the resumption of hostilities, Tigray issued a call for peace and expressed their willingness to participate in an AU-led peace process provided it includes “mutually acceptable mediators and international observers.”<sup>112</sup>

The resumption of hostilities came after months of failed attempts to initiate a negotiation. The government was insisting on negotiations led by the AU envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, meanwhile the TPLF opposed this due to Obasanjo’s proximity to Addis and the fact that the Tigrayan party does not see him as a reliable mediator and insists on Kenya taking the lead.<sup>113</sup> The fighting in the region soon grew in proportion and by the end of the month three airstrikes had hit Mekelle, the capital of Tigray. The Tigrayan local news indicated the bombs hit residential areas and a kindergarden killing civilians, meanwhile the federal government said this news was false and they only targeted military sites.<sup>114</sup>

The federal government did not respond to the Tigrayans call for peace, and drone attacks continued to hit the region, killing civilians.<sup>115</sup> Meanwhile, Eritrea has been mobilising military reservists and soldiers were moved to the border with Ethiopia.<sup>116</sup> According to Tigrayan officials, on 20 September Eritrea launched a full-scale offensive on all fronts, deploying its entire army, as well as reservists.<sup>117</sup> The neighbouring government is accused of bombing Tigrayan towns and killing civilians.<sup>118</sup> Media reporting on the conflict in northern Ethiopia remains difficult, the ENDF warned reporters against reporting the movements of its forces just days before fighting resumed.<sup>119</sup>

Since the resumption of hostilities at the end of August, no aid has reached Tigray.<sup>120</sup>

In Oromia attacks against civilians continued. Attacks targeting suspected OLA supporters were recorded throughout August and September. During the first week of August, there were 11 recorded events targeting civilians and over 24 killed, most acts were perpetrated by ENDF

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<sup>111</sup> The East African, “Fighting resumes in northern Ethiopia after five-month lull,” 25 August 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/fighting-resumes-ethiopia-3925640>

<sup>112</sup> Twitter, @TigrayEAO, 11 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/TigrayEAO/status/1568988898532925440>

<sup>113</sup> The East Africa, “Conditions slow Ethiopia government peace talks with TPLF,” 20 August 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/ethiopia-peace-talks-3920658>

<sup>114</sup> The East African, “New air strike hits Tigray capital Makele as Ethiopia truce broken,” 31 August 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/air-strike-hits-tigray-capital-makele-as-ethiopia-truce-broken-3932346>

<sup>115</sup> Africa NEws, “Ethiopia: Air strike hits Tigray region - hospital official,” 13 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/13/ethiopia-air-strike-hits-tigray-region-hospital-official//>

<sup>116</sup> BBC, “Eritrea's mass mobilisation amid Ethiopia civil war,” 16 september 2022, [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62927781?at\\_custom2=twitter&at\\_custom3=BBC+Africa&at\\_campaign=64&at\\_custom4=58B65520-35CA-11ED-BAA8-A0FA2052A482&at\\_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at\\_medium=custom7](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62927781?at_custom2=twitter&at_custom3=BBC+Africa&at_campaign=64&at_custom4=58B65520-35CA-11ED-BAA8-A0FA2052A482&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at_medium=custom7)

<sup>117</sup> DW, “Eritrea launches 'full-scale offensive,' say Tigrayan forces in Ethiopia,” 20 September 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/eritrea-launches-full-scale-offensive-say-tigrayan-forces-in-ethiopia/a-63181302>

<sup>118</sup> Twitter, Tigrai Television, 28 September 2022, [https://twitter.com/tigrai\\_tv/status/1575210881150898177?s=46&t=BHWaubLy4SIGU3UKIRjdFQ](https://twitter.com/tigrai_tv/status/1575210881150898177?s=46&t=BHWaubLy4SIGU3UKIRjdFQ)

<sup>119</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 17-23 September 2022, 28 September 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/09/28/epo-weekly-17-23-september-2022/>

<sup>120</sup> Devex, “WFP regional director says 'virtually no aid access in Tigray',” 30 September 2022, <https://www.devex.com/news/wfp-regional-director-says-virtually-no-aid-access-in-tigray-104069>

and Oromia Regional Special Forces.<sup>121</sup> During the second week of August, six attacks were recorded.<sup>122</sup>

At the end of August, 60 people from the Oromo community were massacred in Western Oromia, and over 20,000 were displaced. Some locals blamed Fano militants for the attacks.<sup>123</sup> Fano and Amhara ethnic militias also attacked civilians.<sup>124</sup>

Clashes between government forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA or OLF-Shene) continued throughout August and September,<sup>125</sup> and OLA continued to attack civilians. At the end of September, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission reported over 100 civilians had been killed due to attacks by “the OLF-Shane, ethnic Amhara militias and individuals.” OLA also clashed with Amhara regional special forces, Amhara regional state police, and ethnic Amhara militias.<sup>126</sup>

In Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples region (SNNPR), government forces raided homes and were accused of having killed eight people. Local forces claimed they were members of an unidentified armed group and that they managed to arrest some. Derashe has been the site of recurring political unrest since April 2022.<sup>127</sup> OLA is also accused of having carried out attacks in SNNPR region.<sup>128</sup>

In South West Ethiopia Peoples region university non-Oromo students of the University of Bonga organized and attacked Oromo students.<sup>129</sup>

Murle ethnic militiamen from South Sudan entered Gambela and attacked the Ukugu refugee camp. Two people were reportedly killed and two children abducted.<sup>130</sup>

#### *Context:*

On 4 November 2020, following months of political tensions, the federal government of Ethiopia launched a military offensive in the Tigray region against forces loyal to the governing TPLF. The conflict has drawn in troops from nearby Eritrea and Ethiopia’s Amhara region and there have been frequent claims of rapes, massacre, enslavement, and other abuses. Following the expansion of the conflict to Amhara and other Ethiopian regions, there was an alarming rise in hate speech particularly against Tigrayans. On 18 October 2021, in response

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<sup>121</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 30 July-5 August 2022,” 10 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/10/epo-weekly-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>122</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 6-12 August 2022,” 17 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/17/epo-weekly-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>123</sup> All Africa, “Ethiopia: News - Rights Commission Says Militants From Local, Neighboring Amhara Region Responsible for Recent Massacre of More Than 60 in Oromia,” 6 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209070015.html>

<sup>124</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 6-12 August 2022,” 17 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/17/epo-weekly-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>125</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 6-12 August 2022,” 17 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/17/epo-weekly-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>126</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 17-23 September 2022, 28 September 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/09/28/epo-weekly-17-23-september-2022/>

<sup>127</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 30 July-5 August 2022,” 10 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/10/epo-weekly-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>128</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 17-23 September 2022, 28 September 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/09/28/epo-weekly-17-23-september-2022/>

<sup>129</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 30 July-5 August 2022,” 10 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/10/epo-weekly-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>130</sup> Ethiopia Peace Observatory, “EPO weekly: 6-12 August 2022,” 17 August 2022, <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/08/17/epo-weekly-6-12-august-2022/>

to the TDF advances, the ENDF launched an airstrike campaign on Tigray's capital, Mekelle. Airstrikes continued to hit the Tigray region into 2022. In March 2022, the federal government declared a humanitarian truce to ease aid into the Tigray region.

In Oromia there is an ongoing conflict between the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF),<sup>131</sup> who wants to establish an independent state of Oromia, and the federal government. The conflict has been going on since 1973, in 2018 they reached a peace agreement,<sup>132</sup> yet a faction of the group who opposed formed the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) also known as OLF-Shane continues to fight.<sup>133</sup>

#### *International response:*

Tigrayan forces were accused by UN spokesperson for the UN Secretary General, Stéphane Dujarric of stealing fuel from the World Food Programme (WFP) that were intended to be used to distribute humanitarian supplies in Tigray.<sup>134</sup> Days later she welcomed Tigrayan authorities readiness for a cessation of hostilities and open to an AU-led mediation.<sup>135</sup> However the statement did not comment on the fact that Tigray clearly stated the need for a mutually acceptable mediator, which they have openly opposed Obasanjo take that role.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke about the lack of attention that the Ethiopian conflict is receiving from the international community and attributed it to racism. He called the situation in Tigray a man-made catastrophe and the worst disaster on earth. The federal government accused him of partisanship.<sup>136</sup>

72 national and regional civil societies working on the ground called for the immediate resumption of basic services in Tigray and insisted the international community back this request.<sup>137</sup> A group of Eritrean civil society organisations called on the UN Security Council to take action on the war in Tigray, especially concerning the involvement of Eritrean troops.<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Oromo Liberation Front, <http://oromoliberationfront.org/english/>

<sup>132</sup> France 24, "Ethiopian government signs peace deal with Oromo rebels," 7 August 2018, <https://www.france24.com/en/20180807-ethiopia-government-abiy-ahmed-signs-peace-deal-omoro-rebels>

<sup>133</sup> Tesfa News, "OLF Military and Political Wings Split," 6 April 2019, <https://www.tesfanews.net/olf-military-wing-political-leaders-splits/>

<sup>134</sup> The East African, "Food aid agency accuses TPLF fighters of looting 12 trucks of fuel," 26 August 2022, <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/food-aid-agency-accuses-tplf-of-looting-fuel-3926900>

<sup>135</sup> UN Secretary General, Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - on Ethiopia, 11 September 2022, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-09-11/statement-attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the-secretary-general-ethiopia>

<sup>136</sup> All Africa, "Ethiopia: World Health Chief Blames Lack of Attention to Tigray Crisis on Racism," 23 August 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208230555.html>

<sup>137</sup> Addis Standard, "News: 72 national and regional Civil Societies operating in Tigray request lifting of blockade on basic services," 20 August 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-72-national-and-regional-civil-societies-operating-in-tigray-request-lifting-of-blockade-on-basic-services/>

<sup>138</sup> Martin Plaut, "Eritreans appeal to UN Security Council for urgent action on Tigray and Eritrea," 8 September 2022, <https://martinplaut.com/2022/09/08/eritreans-appeal-to-un-security-council-for-urgent-action-on-tigray-and-eritrea/>

The AU extended the mandate of Olusegun Obasanjo as an envoy for the Horn of Africa.<sup>139</sup> The US envoy to the Horn of Africa, Mike Hammer, met with Obasanjo and expressed the need to support the AU-led mediation.<sup>140</sup>

Hammer announced the US is tracking Eritrean troop movements along the Ethiopian border.<sup>141</sup> US Department of State spokesperson Ned Price called for the withdrawal of Eritrean forces from Tigray.<sup>142</sup>

The Kenyan government appointed Uhuru Kenyatta peace envoy to Ethiopia.<sup>143</sup>

At the end of September, the UN Security Council discussed Ethiopia for the first time since the resumption of fighting, however this was an informal meeting behind closed doors. In their report on 19 September, the International Commission on Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) recommended that the Council place Ethiopia on its agenda.<sup>144</sup>

## Libya

The political standoff continued. Clashes broke out between forces loyal to Dbeibah and Bashaga, at the end of August, at least 32 people were killed and 159 were wounded. This was Bashaga's second attempt to take over Tripoli by force and oust the GNU. It was the worst fighting seen in the last two years and concerns of a return to war arised.<sup>145</sup> Fighting took place just days later on the outskirts of Tripoli at the start of September.<sup>146</sup> This came days after Bashaga called on the Tripoli based Prime Minister to peacefully hand over power to avoid war, which Dbeibah rejected.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Twitter, @AUC\_MoussaFaki, 10 September 2022, [https://twitter.com/auc\\_moussafaki/status/1568603447049478148?s=21&t=LOQ6cK8OUQJpr9xiQm8Hug](https://twitter.com/auc_moussafaki/status/1568603447049478148?s=21&t=LOQ6cK8OUQJpr9xiQm8Hug)

<sup>140</sup> Twitter, @US\_AU, 10 September 2022, [https://twitter.com/us\\_au/status/1568483530660876293?s=21&t=KUtGWOIxHTbXmBTMcVL9kw](https://twitter.com/us_au/status/1568483530660876293?s=21&t=KUtGWOIxHTbXmBTMcVL9kw)

<sup>141</sup> Addis Standard, "News: US "tracking Eritrean troop movements across the border" with Ethiopia: special envoy," 20 September 2022, <https://addisstandard.com/news-us-tracking-eritrean-troop-movements-across-the-border-with-ethiopia-special-envoy/>

<sup>142</sup> News 24, "US calls for Eritrea to withdraw soldiers in Tigray, Ethiopia," 28 September 2022, <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/us-calls-for-eritrea-to-withdraw-soldiers-in-tigray-ethiopia-20220928>

<sup>143</sup> Twitter, @Yonigussie, 13 September 2022, <https://twitter.com/Yonigussie/status/1569678245498322950?t=n6MyUQn8ivc5-hzhqf4hyg&s=08>

<sup>144</sup> Security Council Report, What's in Blue: Ethiopia: Informal Interactive Dialogue, 28 September 2022, [https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/09/ethiopia-informal-interactive-dialogue.php?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=28%20September%20Campaign%201&utm\\_content=28%20September%20Campaign%201+CID\\_1d5906248380e555317f7cb55fa2674b&utm\\_source=Email%20Newsletter&utm\\_term=Ethiopia%20Informal%20Interactive%20Dialogue](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/09/ethiopia-informal-interactive-dialogue.php?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=28%20September%20Campaign%201&utm_content=28%20September%20Campaign%201+CID_1d5906248380e555317f7cb55fa2674b&utm_source=Email%20Newsletter&utm_term=Ethiopia%20Informal%20Interactive%20Dialogue)

<sup>145</sup> Al Jazeera, "32 killed in Libya's Tripoli as fears grow of a wider war," 28 August 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/28/23-killed-in-tripoli-clashes-fears-grow-of-wider-libya-war#:~:text=Clashes%20between%20militias%20backed%20by,back%20into%20full%20blown%20war.>

<sup>146</sup> FX Empire, "Clashes rock outskirts of Libyan capital," 3 September 2022, <https://www.fxempire.com/news/article/clashes-rock-outskirts-of-libyan-capital-1115827>

<sup>147</sup> Middle East Monitor, "Libya's Bashagha demands PM Dbeibah to hand over power peacefully," 25 August 2022, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220825-libyas-bashagha-demands-pm-dbeibah-to-hand-over-power-peacefully/>



Weeks after the attempt to take over Tripoli, Bashaga announced his government will exercise its duties from the cities of Sirte and Benghazi, to avoid future confrontations, but he will continue to make efforts to “liberate the western region.”<sup>148</sup>

Tensions resurfaced when the presidency of the 158th session of the Arab League Council was entrusted on a ministerial level to the government of Dbeibah. This led to a strong rejection from Bashaga,<sup>149</sup> as well as from the House of Representatives who requested the block’s support.<sup>150</sup> 54 members of the HoR called on the League to make more efforts to ensure elections in the country.<sup>151</sup>

Two mass graves were found and exhumed behind a hospital in the city of Sirte, at least 15 bodies were found.<sup>152</sup>

#### *Context:*

In March 2021, the transitional Government of National Unity (GNU) began preparing the nation for presidential elections in December 2021, these did not take place and have been postponed with no clear date in sight.

In early March 2022, parliament appointed a new premier, Fathi Bashaga, to replace Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Parliament argues that it has the authority to name Bashaga because Dbeibah’s mandate officially ended December 24, 2021. However, Dbeibah says that he will only hand over power to a government emanating from a newly elected parliament.<sup>153</sup> Dbeibah had proposed elections in June,<sup>154</sup> but is now suggesting the end of 2022.<sup>155</sup>

#### *International response:*

Senegalese diplomat Abdoulaye Bathily was appointed the new UN envoy and head of the UN support mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The Government of National Unity (GNU) initially objected to the appointment and requested someone with more expertise given the country’s

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<sup>148</sup> The Libya Observer, “Bashagha says his government will operate from Sirte and Benghazi,” 21 September 2022, <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/bashagha-says-his-government-will-operate-sirte-and-benghazi>

<sup>149</sup> Ansamed, “Bashagha against Dbeibah for Libya's Arab League chair,” 6 September 2022, [https://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2022/09/06/bashagha-against-dbeibah-for-libyas-arab-league-chair\\_e3978f17-3583-4649-b526-4e639bd483fd.html](https://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/politics/2022/09/06/bashagha-against-dbeibah-for-libyas-arab-league-chair_e3978f17-3583-4649-b526-4e639bd483fd.html)

<sup>150</sup> The Libya Observer, “HoR Speaker urges support for Bashagha's government to work outside Tripoli until it's liberated,” 8 September 2022, <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/hor-speaker-urges-support-bashaghas-government-work-outside-tripoli-until-its-liberated>

<sup>151</sup> The Libya Observer, “54 members of Libya's HoR call for holding elections to end legitimacy conflict,” 11 September 2022, <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/54-members-libyas-hor-call-holding-elections-end-legitimacy-conflict>

<sup>152</sup> Anadolu Agency, “Libya exhumes 15 bodies from 2 mass graves in Sirte,” 31 August 2022, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/libya-exhumes-15-bodies-from-2-mass-graves-in-sirte/2673816>

<sup>153</sup> The Arab Weekly, “Dbeibah said to reject Turkish mediation bid in Libya,” 8 March 2022, <https://ahvalnews.com/turkey-libya/dbeibah-said-reject-turkish-mediation-bid-libya>

<sup>154</sup> Daily Sabah, “PM Dbeibah pushes summer election in Libya amid bid to oust him,” 22 February 2022, <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/pm-dbeibah-pushes-summer-election-in-libya-amid-bid-to-oust-him>

<sup>155</sup> Daily Sabah, “Libya's PM Dbeibah proposes holding polls at end of 2022,” 26 May 2022, <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/libyas-pm-dbeibah-proposes-holding-polls-at-end-of-2022>

fragile situation.<sup>156</sup> The Arab League showed interest in cooperating with the newly appointed UN envoy in securing elections in the country.<sup>157</sup>

After the clashes that took place in Tripoli, Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, urged parties to ensure peace at all costs and to pave the way for elections.<sup>158</sup> The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, called for the cessation of hostilities and to ensure the safety of civilians.<sup>159</sup>

The UN Security Council was briefed, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs expressed concern that the ongoing stalemate and continued delays in implementing the electoral process pose a growing threat to security and that no progress had been made in that regard.<sup>160</sup> The Council condemned the clashes in Tripoli, called on parties to refrain from violence and reiterated there can be no military solution to the ongoing conflict.<sup>161</sup>

The office of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor joined the Joint Team aimed at supporting investigations into crimes against migrants and refugees in Libya.<sup>162</sup>

## Mali

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) continued to carry out offensives and target villages and civilians.<sup>163</sup> The group also clashed with the Islamic State (IS) Sahel militants in Menaka,<sup>164</sup> and the Malian armed forces (FAMA) and the Wagner Group in Mopti.<sup>165</sup>

IS Sahel carried out attacks on ethnic Tuareg and Dawsahak civilians between 6 and 12 August. The group also clashed with FAMA, the UN peacekeeping operation (MINUSMA) and the Wagner group in the Gao and Menaka regions.<sup>166</sup>

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<sup>156</sup> Libyan Express, "Libya's PC welcome appointment of Bathily as new UN envoy," 5 September 2022, <https://www.libyanexpress.com/libyas-pc-welcome-appointment-of-bathily-as-as-new-un-envoy/>

<sup>157</sup> The Libya Observer, "Arab League looks forward to working with UN to resolve political crisis in Libya," 4 September 2022, <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/news/arab-league-looks-forward-working-un-resolve-political-crisis-libya>

<sup>158</sup> Associated Press, "UN chief: Libya's rivals must keep peace and hold elections," 14 September 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-africa-elections-libya-b0da9dbd1ce31ef4a71e6886e84500c3>

<sup>159</sup> African Union, Statement by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the latest clashes in Tripoli, Libya, 28 August 2022, <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20220828/statement-chairperson-auc-latest-clashes-tripoli>

<sup>160</sup> UNSMIL, Di Carlo: "I urge everyone to support the Secretary-General's efforts to help Libyans forge a path to peace," 30 August 2022, <https://unsmil.unmissions.org/dicarlo-i-urge-everyone-support-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-efforts-help-libyans-forge-path-peace>

<sup>161</sup> UNSC, SC/15015, Security Council Press Statement on Libya, 1 September 2022, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15015.doc.htm>

<sup>162</sup> International Criminal Court, Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan QC: Office of the Prosecutor joins national authorities in Joint Team on crimes against migrants in Libya, 7 September 2022, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-qc-office-prosecutor-joins-national-authorities-joint-0>

<sup>163</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>164</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>165</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>166</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

Security forces carried out military operations in the Segou, Mopti and Gao Regions targeting Islamists. Operations during the first week of August led to a 140% increase in violence in Segou, relative to the month of July.<sup>167</sup> Between mid-August to 9 September there was an 112% increase in weekly violent events in Gao over the past month relative to the weekly average for the preceding year.<sup>168</sup>

A recent analysis conducted by ACLED sheds light on the Wagner Group's operations in the country. They reported that violence against civilians accounts for 71% of all acts of political violence in Mali, this exceeds the rate of civilian targeting perpetrated by allied state forces, as well as insurgent groups operating in the country. The presence of the Wagner Group has led to an increase in civilian targeting by state forces.<sup>169</sup> In August the first recorded confrontation between Dan Na Ambassagou and the Wagner Group took place in the Mopti region where one Wagner Group fighter was killed.<sup>170</sup> During September the group conducted operations against JNIM and in retaliation for an attack that killed two of their fighters they reportedly summarily executed over a dozen Tuareg Bellah civilians in the Douentza circle.<sup>171</sup>

Protests took place in the capital requesting the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping operation MINUSMA, protesters chanted anti-UN slogans and some waved Russian flags.<sup>172</sup> The 46 Ivory Coast MINUSMA soldiers remain detained, charged with "undermining state security." Following Togo's mediation, the government released three women who had been detained with the troops.<sup>173</sup> However, the ruling junta indicated that for the soldiers' to be released the extradition of Malians living in Ivory Coast was necessary, the Ivory Coast considered this "unacceptable blackmail."<sup>174</sup> The soldiers had arrived in July and were detained at the airport, days later the MINUSMA spokesperson was expelled from the country. The UN had initially suspended rotations for the troops but they have since resumed.<sup>175</sup>

Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga was appointed interim Prime Minister when Choguel Maiga was ordered to step down for medical reasons.<sup>176</sup>

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<sup>167</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>168</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>169</sup> ACLED, "Wagner Group Operations in Africa," 30 August 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/08/30/wagner-group-operations-in-africa-civilian-targeting-trends-in-the-central-african-republic-and-mali/>

<sup>170</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>171</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September

2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>172</sup> Africa News, "Mali: Hundreds march against UN peacekeepers," 23 September 2022,

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/23/mali-hundreds-march-against-un-peacekeepers/>

<sup>173</sup> Al Jazeera, "Mali releases three Ivorian soldiers; 46 still detained," 46 September 2022,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/4/mali-releases-three-ivorian-soldiers-46-still-detained>

<sup>174</sup> Africa News, "Ivory Coast asks for ECOWAS summit over diplomatic row with Mali," 15 September

2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/14/ivory-coast-lashes-mali-blackmail-over-detained-troops/>

<sup>175</sup> Reuters, "U.N. troop rotations in Mali to resume on Monday," 14 August 2022,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/un-troop-rotations-mali-resume-monday-2022-08-13/>

<sup>176</sup> Reuters, "Mali appoints government spokesman Abdoulaye Maiga as interim prime minister," 22

August 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/mali-appoints-govt-spokesman-abdoulaye-maiga-interim-pm-2022-08-22/>

France withdrew the last of its troops in August.<sup>177</sup>

### *Context*

In March 2012, a military coup overthrew the democratically elected government led by Amadou Toumani Toure, triggered by the government's poor handling of the Tuareg rebellion.<sup>178</sup> After the coup, Tuareg separatists and Islamist groups took control of the northern part of the country. Although they were dislodged, the region is still plagued by intercommunal and extremist violence and Islamist armed groups are taking control of villages and imposing sharia law.<sup>179</sup>

Mali has suffered two military takeovers in the last two years, the last one took place on 24 May 2021, when members of the armed forces, led by Assimi Goïta, arrested the transitional president Bah Ndaw and prime minister Moctar Ouane in what was called a "coup within a coup".<sup>180</sup> The move came after the announcement of a cabinet reshuffle, where leaders of the coup were removed.

### *International response:*

The Malian government addressed the UN Security Council in a letter and indicated France had violated Malian airspace and had provided Islamist jihadists with weapons in order to destabilise the country. France denied all accusations.<sup>181</sup>

The Ivory Coast accused Mali of blackmail and requested the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to intervene.<sup>182</sup> Mali however, initially rejected the proposal for mediation,<sup>183</sup> but a meeting was held between an ECOWAS mission and Col. Goïta, head of the Malian transitional government.<sup>184</sup>

The transitional government dissociated themselves from ECOWAS when the regional block resolved to impose sanctions against Guinea in September. In an official communication, the government expressed solidarity with Guinea, said it was outraged by the measures taken, and indicated it would not respect nor apply the sanctions imposed.<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> DW, "Mali tells UN that France armed Islamist militants," 18 August 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/mali-tells-un-that-france-armed-islamist-militants/a-62853737>

<sup>178</sup> All Africa, "Mali's Crisis Hits 10-Year Mark," 30 March 2022, [https://allafrica.com/stories/202203310452.html?utm\\_campaign=daily-headlines&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_content=aans-view-link](https://allafrica.com/stories/202203310452.html?utm_campaign=daily-headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=aans-view-link)

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> The Conversation, "Inside Mali's coup within a coup," 26 May 2021, <https://theconversation.com/inside-malis-coup-within-a-coup-161621>

<sup>181</sup> DW, "Mali tells UN that France armed Islamist militants," 18 August 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/mali-tells-un-that-france-armed-islamist-militants/a-62853737>

<sup>182</sup> Africa News, "Ivory Coast asks for ECOWAS summit over diplomatic row with Mali," 15 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/14/ivory-coast-lashes-mali-blackmail-over-detained-troops/>

<sup>183</sup> Africa News, "Mali rejects call for ECOWAS mediation in dispute with I.Coast," 16 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/16/mali-rejects-call-for-ecowas-mediation-in-dispute-with-icoast/>

<sup>184</sup> Africa News, "ECOWAS mediation in Mali over fate of detained Ivorian soldiers," 30 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/30/ecowas-mediation-in-mali-over-fate-of-detained-ivorian-soldiers/>

<sup>185</sup> Reuters, "Mali says it will not respect regional sanctions on Guinea," 29 September 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/mali-says-it-will-not-respect-regional-sanctions-guinea-2022-09-28/>

Mali's Prime Minister spoke at the 77th UN General Assembly where openly criticised France indicating he had been "stabbed in the back by the military withdrawal. He also lashed out against The UN Secretary Secretary General, Antonio Guterres,<sup>186</sup> who days prior had requested the release of the Ivorian soldiers indicating it was "obvious" they are not mercenaries.<sup>187</sup>

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>188</sup>

## **Mozambique**

Violent events were higher in Muidumbe and Nangade districts, in the northern part of Cabo Delgado, yet attacks were the deadliest in Ancuabe district, where insurgents targeted civilians and clashed with forces. ACLED believed this to be because the northern region of the province is less populated, when compared to the southern districts, and offers the insurgents a place for hiding.<sup>189</sup> Quinto Congresso in Macomia has seen a lot of insurgent activity in recent months.<sup>190</sup>

Insurgents crossed into Nampula for the first time since June 2022, they attacked several villages, including a Catholic mission, they destroyed health centres. Insurgents are believed to have been actively recruiting as far south as Mogincual district, over 180 km south of Cabo Delgado.<sup>191</sup>

Mozambican security forces and troops from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were attacked by insurgents in the Macomia, Muidumbe, and Nangade districts where many were killed despite security forces sending reinforcements. The clashes took place mid-September and extended throughout various days, there were casualties on both sides.<sup>192</sup>

### *Context:*

In October 2017, attacks by a group known locally as "Al-Shabaab," linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, but not to the Somali Al-Shabaab, began in Cabo Delgado. The group has perpetrated indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including beheadings, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual slavery, abductions, recruitment of child soldiers and

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<sup>186</sup> Associated Press, "Mali prime minister lashes out at France, UN, regional bloc," 24 September 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-general-assembly-africa-france-c333d77da69f812a85d83ddb83b7e633>

<sup>187</sup> VOA Africa, "UN Urges Mali to Free Detained Ivorian Troops," 26 September 2022, <https://www.voaafrica.com/a/un-mali-free-detained-ivorian-troops/6763594.html>

<sup>188</sup> UN News, "High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN," 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>189</sup> Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Monthly: August 2022, 22 September 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/monthly-reports/cabo-ligado-monthly-august-2022>

<sup>190</sup> Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 19-25 September 2022, 27 September 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-19-25-september-2022>

<sup>191</sup> Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 15 August-11 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-15august-11september-2022>

<sup>192</sup> Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 12-18 September 2022, 20 September 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-12-18-september-2022>



destroying civilian infrastructure. Reportedly more than 3,100 people have been killed<sup>193</sup> and UNHCR lists over 891,216 persons of concern in the country,<sup>194</sup> including 735,000 in Cabo Delgado.<sup>195</sup>

#### *International response:*

Political risk analyst firm Cordillera Applications Group suggested during a conference held by the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) on the situation in Cabo Delgado. They suggest that insurgent groups retain sophisticated strategic capabilities and are able to create simultaneous attacks across vast portions of land forcing security forces to divert away from the main assault. They currently believe “a pure military solution to this conflict is currently not likely, at least until this capability goes away.”<sup>196</sup>

Mozambique and Tanzania reached an agreement aimed at combating jihadists along their shared border.<sup>197</sup> The EU announced new military aid support to the country.<sup>198</sup>

The UN Security Council renewed sanctions against individuals and entities obstructing implementation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation until August 2023.<sup>199</sup>

## **Niger**

Armed groups targeted civilians in the regions bordering Nigeria.<sup>200</sup> Towards the end of September, violent events increased in the Tahoua, Tillaberi, and Agadez regions due to attacks conducted by unidentified armed groups.<sup>201</sup>

Government security forces carried out operations near the Nigerian and the Chadian borders. The defense ministry reported having killed seven suspected terrorists and detained over 30 accomplices of the group.<sup>202</sup>

Protests took place in the capital, Niamey, to request the departure of French troops in the country. Some protesters were seen waving Russian flags. Since France pulled-out its troops from Mali, many have been redeployed to Niger, with close to a thousand soldiers based in Niamey.<sup>203</sup>

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<sup>193</sup> Ramos Miguel, Andre Baptista, “Officials Say Insurgency in Northern Mozambique is Spreading,” Voice of America, 17 December 2021, <https://www.voanews.com/a/officials-say-insurgency-in-northern-mozambique-is-spreading/6359526.html>

<sup>194</sup> UNHCR data portal, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/moz>

<sup>195</sup> UNHCR, “Northern Mozambique Situation,” January 2022.

<sup>196</sup> Cabo Ligado, Cabo Ligado Weekly: 19-25 September 2022, 27 September 2022, <https://www.caboligado.com/reports/cabo-ligado-weekly-19-25-september-2022>

<sup>197</sup> Africa News, “Mozambique, Tanzania reach deal to fight terrorism,” 22 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/22/mozambique-tanzania-reach-deal-to-fight-terrorism/>

<sup>198</sup> Africa News, “EU boosts military aid to Mozambique after jihadist attacks,” 9 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/09/eu-boosts-military-aid-to-mozambique-after-jihadist-attacks/>

<sup>199</sup> UNSC, SC/15010, Security Council Renews Mali Sanctions, Panel of Experts Monitoring Implementation, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2649 (2022), <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15010.doc.htm>

<sup>200</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>201</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>202</sup> The New Arab, “Niger army kills seven suspected 'terrorists': ministry,” 16 September 2022, <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/niger-army-kills-seven-suspected-terrorists-ministry>

<sup>203</sup> Anadolu Agency, “Protesters in Niger call for departure of French troops,” 19 September 2022, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/protesters-in-niger-call-for-departure-of-french-troops/2688363>

Heavy rains and flooding continued, so far they have killed 159 people and affected more than 225,000. Concerns rise over how this could affect the food crisis, over 20% of the population or 4.4 million people are food insecure.<sup>204</sup>

Over 1,4000 migrants were expelled from Algeria, most trying to reach Europe. Doctors without Borders (MSF) reported an increase in migrants expelled from Algeria in the past few years, in 2020 over 23,000, in 2021 over 27,000 and 14,196 from January-May 2022.<sup>205</sup>

#### *Context:*

Armed Islamist groups are present in the country, attacks on the population are ongoing. Nigerien security forces have ongoing military operations against Islamist insurgents, however have been implicated in serious human rights abuses against civilians.<sup>206</sup> Self-defence groups have emerged in northern Tillabéri and eastern Tahoua, the areas most affected by the insurgency.<sup>207</sup>

#### *International response:*

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission met in response to the situation of thousands of migrants expelled from Algeria and Libya and left stranded in Niger.<sup>208</sup>

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>209</sup>

## **Nigeria**

In Borno and Kaduna states, ISWAP and Boko Haram militants clashed with Nigerian armed forces and their allies, and targeted civilians.<sup>210</sup> ISWAP attacked military forces, and they responded carrying out military operations including airstrikes against the militant group in

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<sup>204</sup> Africa News, “Nearly 160 dead and 225, 000 affected in Niger’s rains,” 19 Septemebr 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/19/nearly-160-dead-and-225-000-affected-in-nigers-rains/>

<sup>205</sup> The New Arab, “Algeria expels 800 migrants back to Niger,” 9 September 2022, <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/algeria-expels-800-migrants-back-niger> and Africa News “New batch of over 600 migrants expelled from Algeria arrive in Niger,” 21 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/21/new-batch-of-over-600-migrants-expelled-from-algeria-arrive-in-niger/>

<sup>206</sup> Human Rights Watch, Niger country page, <https://www.hrw.org/africa/niger>

<sup>207</sup> Amnesty International, Niger country page, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/niger/report-niger/>

<sup>208</sup> ECOWAS, ECOWAS and its partners rally to find a long-lasting solution to the plight of stranded migrants in Niger, 29 September 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/ecowas-and-its-partners-rally-find-long-lasting-solution-plight-stranded-migrants-niger>

<sup>209</sup> UN News, “High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN,” 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>210</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/> and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

Marte and Kukawa, resulting in over 30 fatalities. ISWAP and Boko Haram fought over control of Dikwa and Bama Local Government Areas.<sup>211</sup>

Militants in Niger state conducted attacks against civilians and clashed against self defence groups in Abaji, only 100 km outside of Abuja.<sup>212</sup> Over a dozen civilians were killed during a militia attack on the Mohuro community.<sup>213</sup>

Military forces carried out operations in Yobe state,<sup>214</sup> as well as in Kaduna,<sup>215</sup> and Borno<sup>216</sup> killing several Islamist militants. Anti-Islamist operations between 13 August and 9 September security forces were the deadliest actors in Kaduna and Borno states, resulting in over a hundred fatalities and pushing militias into Sokoto state, triggering clashes in the region.<sup>217</sup>

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) separatist accused the government forces of killing over 40 civilians and destroying private property during a raid in Abia state.<sup>218</sup>

Eighteen candidates were cleared for February's 2023 presidential race, the main contenders are All Progressive Congress' (APC) Ahmed Tinubu, Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) Atiku Abubakar, Labour Party's (LP) Peter Obi. Campaigns started at the end of September.<sup>219</sup>

Nigeria has been battling heavy rain and floods, over 300 people have died so far this year and more than 100,000 people have been displaced. Moreover, the floods have led to the destruction of infrastructure and farmland, raising concern over disruption of food supplies.<sup>220</sup>

Nigeria and Cameroon plan to reopen markets and schools along their shared border, after declaring the area free of Boko Haram militants. According to government authorities, there has been an increase in the number of Boko Haram militants surrendering at disarmament centres since May of 2021 when Abubakar Shekau was declared killed.<sup>221</sup>

*Context:*

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<sup>211</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>212</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>213</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>214</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

<sup>215</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>216</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>217</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>218</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>219</sup> Anadolu Agency, "18 candidates vying for presidency in Nigeria start election campaign," 28 September 2022, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/18-candidates-vying-for-presidency-in-nigeria-start-election-campaign/2696983>

<sup>220</sup> Africa News, "Nigeria struck by worst floods in a decade," 21 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/21/nigeria-struck-by-worst-floods-in-a-decade/>

<sup>221</sup> VOA, "Cameroon, Nigeria Reopening Border Markets and Schools With Boko Haram Threat Diminished," 25 August 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208260008.html>

Nigeria faces multiple security challenges, including ongoing violence related to the Islamic State in the north, increasing intercommunal violence in the North-Central Zone, and separatist movements in the Niger Delta and South-East Zone.

Armed groups known locally as bandits carry out widespread killings, kidnappings, and looting across several states in the northwest region. Responding to the violent attacks, the government launched renewed campaigns in the north-west to curb armed banditry in September 2021.<sup>222</sup> In January 2022, under the Terrorism Prevention Act, the government of Nigeria designated bandit groups as “terrorists.”<sup>223</sup>

Boko Haram has been active in the country since the early 2000’s. Based in north-eastern Nigeria, it has expanded to neighbouring countries such as Chad, Niger, and northern Cameroon. In 2016, the group split, resulting in the emergence of a hostile faction known as the Islamic State’s West Africa Province (ISWAP).

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) members say the region has been economically and politically marginalised since the end of the civil war in 1970. In recent years, the group has begun to amass foot soldiers culminating in the launch of its paramilitary arm, the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in December 2020.<sup>224</sup>

#### *International response:*

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) called for northwest Nigeria to be included in the UN’s humanitarian response plan, enabling a broader and more sustained response.<sup>225</sup>

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>226</sup>

## **Somalia**

Al Shabaab continued to clash against government forces. During the first week of August, the government took back control of Wanla Weyn district in Lower Shabelle region.<sup>227</sup> The joint United States and Ethiopian military operations alongside Somali forces conducted operations against Islamist militants in Gedo, Bakool, and Hiraa.<sup>228</sup> During the second week of August,

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<sup>222</sup> The Defense Post, “Nigeria’s Military Crackdown Puts Squeeze on Bandit Gangs,” 21 September 2021, <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2021/09/21/nigeria-military-crackdown-bandits/>

<sup>223</sup> The Guardian, “FG declares bandits as terrorists,” 5 January 2022, <https://guardian.ng/news/fg-declares-bandits-as-terrorists/>

<sup>224</sup> Al Jazeera, “Nigeria: Separatist leader to appear in court for treason trial,” 9 November 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/9/nigeria-ipob-leader-nnamdi-kanu-appear-court>

<sup>225</sup> MSF, Nigeria: Catastrophic Malnutrition Crisis in Northwest Nigeria Must Be Recognized, 28 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209280214.html>

<sup>226</sup> UN News, “High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN,” 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>227</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/> and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>228</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/> and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

Al-Shabaab continued to target civilians. The group fired mortar shells toward the presidential palace and they targeted government officials in Hiraan.<sup>229</sup> Between 19 and 21 August, al-Shabaab fighters took control of a Hyatt hotel in the capital, kidnapping over 100 people and killing more than 20.<sup>230</sup> The country's recently elected president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud vowed to launch an "all-out war" against the group,<sup>231</sup> and its prime minister promised accountability.<sup>232</sup>

Between 13 August and 9 September military forces claimed to have killed over 100 militants and took back villages in Belet Welet, Marka, and Qoryooley districts in Lower Shabelle.<sup>233</sup> Despite the government's territorial gains, attacks by Al Shabaab in Hiraan, Lower Juba, and Lower Shabelle continued, during the third week of September they killed many contributing to a 41% increase in weekly violent events in Somalia in the past month relative to the weekly average for the preceding year. This increase marked the highest number of weekly organised political violence events ever recorded by ACLED.<sup>234</sup> During the last week of September, over 200 people were killed due to violent events in the country,<sup>235</sup> one of the most violent events took place in Banadir where a suicide bomber detonated explosives targeting civilians being recruited to join security forces.<sup>236</sup>

Hunger and malnutrition continue to cause great suffering among the population. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country has increased from 4.1 million at the beginning of 2022 to 7.1 million.<sup>237</sup> More than 1.5 million children under the age of five are at risk of acute malnutrition, during the first half of 2022, 730 children have died in nutrition centres across Somalia.<sup>238</sup>

#### *Context:*

After suffering through a near constant state of crisis since the fall of former dictator Siad Barre in 1991 and widespread violence under Al-Shabaab militants, the country managed to put in place a Federal Government through limited, indirect elections in 2012. In 2016, legislation passed allowing political parties for the first time since 1969. There was a peaceful transition of power in 2017 to the former president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, better known as Farmaajo, who was again elected indirectly. At the same time, the country made progress in

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<sup>229</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>230</sup> BBC, "Somalia hotel siege: More than 20 die in al-Shabab attack," 21 August 2022,

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62621205>

<sup>231</sup> Africa News, "Somalia's president vows 'all-out war' against Shebab Islamists," 24 August 2022,

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/24/somalias-president-vows-all-out-war-against-shebab-islamists/>

<sup>232</sup> VOA, "Somalia: Somali PM Vows Accountability After Deadly Hotel Attack," 22 August 2022,

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202208230053.html>

<sup>233</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>, and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>234</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>235</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>236</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 24-30 September, 6 October 2022,

<https://acleddata.com/2022/10/06/regional-overview-africa24-30-september-2022/>

<sup>237</sup> DW, "Somalia's 'pending nightmare:' Millions at risk of famine," 14 September 2022,

<https://www.dw.com/en/somalias-pending-nightmare-millions-at-risk-of-famine/a-63107794>

<sup>238</sup> Africa News, "UN: Around 730 children dead in Somalia nutrition centres," 6 September 2022,

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/06/un-around-730-children-dead-in-somalia-nutrition-centres/>



reforming the security forces, judiciary and other key state institutions. This progress was undermined by contestation over the recently concluded elections.

#### *International response:*

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia, James Swan, briefed the UN Security Council on the situation in Somalia. He informed that since the elections the climate in the country is more conducive to address key national issues such as insecurity and the ongoing humanitarian crisis. He highlighted the lack of women's participation in government, which needs to be addressed.<sup>239</sup>

The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, warned the UN Security Council of the risk of famine in the country.<sup>240</sup>

### **South Sudan**

South Sudan's unity government announced the extension of the transitional period for two more years, in a new "roadmap" that aims to "address the challenges that are hampering the implementation of the peace agreement."<sup>241</sup>

In Eastern Equatoria, suspected cattle raiders attacked civilians.<sup>242</sup> Two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) clashed in Jonglei and Upper Nile states, scores were killed and hundreds displaced.<sup>243</sup>

Government soldiers executed four commanders of the People's Movement/Army (SSPM/A) rebel group accused of planning the attack that killed the commissioner of Mayom County in July.<sup>244</sup>

A report uncovered widespread sexual abuse by aid workers in a UN-run camp. According to the report, the abuse has been known by officials since 2015 when the first allegations surfaced, however, the reports have since increased.<sup>245</sup>

A report by the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented gross abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in Unity state between February and May 2022. At least 173 civilians died as a product of these abuses. The violations occurred during clashes

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<sup>239</sup> UN News, "Somalia: UN envoy calls for collaboration to achieve new administration's goals," 7 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126181>

<sup>240</sup> UN News, "'Tsunami of hunger' could trigger multiple famines, Security Council warned," 15 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126771>

<sup>241</sup> Africa News, "South Sudan extends transitional gov't by two years," 4 August 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/04/south-sudan-extends-transitional-govt-by-two-years/>

<sup>242</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>243</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/> and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 10-16 September, 22 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/22/regional-overview-africa-10-16-september-2022/>

<sup>244</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 6-12 August 2022, 18 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/18/regional-overview-africa-6-12-august-2022/>

<sup>245</sup> The New Humanitarian, "South Sudan: Exclusive - Alleged Sex Abuse By Aid Workers Unchecked for Years in UN-Run South Sudan Camp," 22 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209230005.html>

between joint Government Forces and their affiliates, and elements of Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) <sup>246</sup>

#### *Context:*

South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan in 2011. Two years later, a political crisis erupted and turned into a civil war that took on an ethnic tone. The conflict quickly spread throughout the country, civilians were targeted on the basis of their ethnicity and/or perceived political affiliation, almost 400,000 people lost their lives during that time. All parties to the conflict committed rape and sexual violence, destroyed property and looted villages, and recruited children into their ranks. A mediation conducted by Uganda and Sudan in 2018 led the two main belligerents, Kiir and Machar to reach a peace deal to end the war.

Violence has fuelled famine and food insecurity in the country and caused large-scale displacement of civilians inside and outside its borders. In February 2020, two years after signing the peace agreement President Salva Kiir Mayardit and former Vice President Riek Machar made new agreements regarding the implementation of the 2018 Revitalised Agreement, yet they have been slow to execute many of its provisions.

#### *International response:*

The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan warned of extreme violence escalating all over the country and said that those who have questioned the government or exposed atrocities have received death threats, been detained or tortured.<sup>247</sup> The Commission called for further engagement from the international community on the situation to prevent the violence from escalating.<sup>248</sup>

The UN Security Council was briefed by the Head of the UN mission, they were informed of the extension of the transitional period. UN Special Representative Nicholas Haysom reiterated the importance of the implementation of the peace process and said that the next few months were key for the parties to demonstrate their commitment in seeing through the new roadmap.<sup>249</sup>

Following the report of allegations of sexual abuse in a UN-run camp, UN Secretary General, António Guterres called for an urgent report on what actions officials are taking to ensure accountability.<sup>250</sup>

## **Sudan**

During the first week of August, several people were killed by armed groups in West Darfur near the Sudan-Chadian border.<sup>251</sup> Ethnic clashes took place in Blue Nile state when displaced

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<sup>246</sup> UN News, "South Sudan: Human rights violations in Unity state committed with 'impunity'," 6 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126091>

<sup>247</sup> UN News, "South Sudan violence proliferating, warn independent rights experts," 26 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127981>

<sup>248</sup> UN HRC, UN experts warn that South Sudan's peace process needs urgent attention to prevent violence escalating, 25 September 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/un-experts-warn-south-sudans-peace-process-needs-urgent-attention-prevent-violence-escalating>

<sup>249</sup> UN News, "South Sudan - Extended Roadmap for Lasting Peace Deal, a 'Way Point, Not an End Point'," 16 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209190024.html>

<sup>250</sup> The New Humanitarian, "South Sudan: UN Chief Calls for 'Urgent Report' After South Sudan Sex Abuse Allegations," 22 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209240077.html>

<sup>251</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 30 July - 5 August, 11 August 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/08/11/regional-overview-africa-30-july-5-august-2022/>

Hausa attempted to return to buildings they had been displaced from in July.<sup>252</sup> In North Darfur, an unidentified militia killed over 10 civilians in Kutum locality.<sup>253</sup>

Tensions between Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council, and Hemedti, Commander of Rapid Support Forces (RSF), have been growing. Currently it is estimated that RSF have been growing in numbers and are currently on par with the national army.<sup>254</sup>

The Sudanese Bar Association (SBA) published a draft transitional constitution framework document. The document was first presented to a number of pro-democratic political forces, and after some amendments a final version was adopted. The document consists of 12 chapters containing 76 articles and it stipulates the tasks and structures required for the transitional period.<sup>255</sup>

Protests against the military junta continued to take place, thousands marched down the streets of Khartoum. In the past year at least 116 people have been killed in the crackdown on the protests.<sup>256</sup>

Traders, merchants and other workers also went on strike in different cities throughout Sudan due to tax increases.<sup>257</sup>

Twelve million people, a quarter of the country's population, are facing acute hunger mostly driven by conflict, drought and an unstable economic and political contexts.<sup>258</sup> In the past months at least 134 people have died due to flooding across the country, certain parts of the country have been cut off and aid no longer is able to reach.<sup>259</sup>

#### *Context:*

Sudan has been the site of numerous atrocities. The north-south civil war raged from 1955-2001 with a brief respite following the signing of the Addis Ababa agreement in 1972. An estimated four million were displaced.<sup>239</sup> The war was characterised by brutal attacks on civilians and ethnically charged rhetoric. A Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2001, eventually leading to the secession of South Sudan in 2011.

Shortly after the signing of the CPA, violence broke out in Darfur, with rebels taking up arms in response to the marginalisation of the region. Once again, ethnically charged rhetoric was deployed and groups associated with the rebels were subjected to massive human rights

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<sup>252</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>253</sup> ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 13 August-9 September 2022, 14 September 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/09/14/regional-overview-africa-13-aug-9-sep-2022/>

<sup>254</sup> Sudan tribune, "Sudan's hidden power struggle between Burhan, Hemedti over civil service," 28 September 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article264684/>

<sup>255</sup> Dabanga, "Sudan Bar Association to consult pro-democracy forces on draft constitution," 8 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-bar-association-to-consult-pro-democracy-forces-on-draft-constitution>

<sup>256</sup> Al Jazeera, "Photos: Thousands continue anti-military coup protests in Sudan," 14 September 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2022/9/14/photos-thousands-continue-anti-military-coup-protests-in-sudan>

<sup>257</sup> Dabanga, "Sudan: Tax Increases and Salary Issues Spark More Strikes," 27 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209280080.html>

<sup>258</sup> The New Humanitarian, "Sudan Hunger - 'Children Are Facing the Threat of Death'," 9 September 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202209100236.html>

<sup>259</sup> Africa News, "Sudan floods kill 134 people, destroy 16 900 homes," 15 September 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/15/sudan-floods-kill-134-people-destroy-16-900-homes/>

violations. Whole villages were razed, and women were systematically raped. A series of peace agreements signed in 2006, 2011 and 2020 have failed to end the violence.

*International response:*

The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor, Karim Khan, briefed the UN Security Council on the situation in Sudan and urged the Council to further engage and do what is in its power to ensure justice and accountability for the people of Darfur. Further he called for the Security Council to hold a session on Sudan.<sup>260</sup>

The heads of the AU Commission, ECOWAS, the G5 and the UN Secretary General launched the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel, which will be led by former President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou. The Panel will assess the situation in the Sahel and make recommendations to address the security, governance and development challenges in the region.<sup>261</sup>

AU-IGAD-UNITAMS Trilateral Mechanism welcomed the transitional constitution produced by the SBA, as well as the Embassies of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The draft is considered key for restoring democracy in Sudan as it is considered to have popular support and focus on inclusivity.<sup>262</sup>

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<sup>260</sup> DW, "Sudan: After Darfur Visit, ICC Prosecutor Urges UN to Seek Justice," 24 August 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202208240291.html>

<sup>261</sup> UN News, "High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN," 25 September 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>

<sup>262</sup> Dabanga, "International stakeholders welcome Sudan Bar's draft transitional constitution," 12 September 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/western-embassies-welcome-sudan-bar-s-draft-transitional-constitution>