



Atrocities Watch Africa Monitor

November 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 month of October 2022 on:

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Ethiopia
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan

Burkina Faso

On 30 September Colonel Damiba was ousted in a military coup led by Ibrahim Traore, just nine months after he had power in January 2022. Damiba was removed on the grounds that the government was failing to properly address the jihadist insurgency in the country, and days after the coup took place, Traore was sworn in as head of state and said he will deal with affairs until a new transitional president is appointed by a "national conference."¹

¹ RFI, "Burkina Faso holds security forum two weeks after military coup," 15 October 2022, <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221015-burkina-faso-holds-security-forum-two-weeks-after-military-coup>

Just two weeks after the military coup a security forum took place with the participation of political parties, social and religious groups and representatives of the security forces.² Burkina Faso started a new recruitment campaign of 3,000 soldiers to combat jihadists.³

The coup was celebrated in large parts of the country, and protests took place across where French presence was attacked by demonstrators who accused France of protecting ousted Damiba,⁴ on other occasions Russian and Burkinabe flags were flown to show support.⁵

Throughout October, overall levels of violence in Burkina Faso remained below the monthly average of the past year, however there were the most amount of protests and riots recorded in the year. Violence targeting civilians showed an increase from September, however there has been a decreasing tendency since July.⁶ During October, Islamist militants took control of Bouroum town in the Center-Nord region contributing to the 100% increase in violent events compared to the weekly average of the previous month, per ACLED.⁷ Al Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) reinstated their presence in the Center-Sud and Center-Ouest regions.⁸ The Sahel region concentrated the most militant attacks during between 8 and 14 October, the region saw a 112% increase in violent events compared to the weekly average of the preceding month.⁹ JNIM destroyed education, health and government facilities in nine out of the thirteen administrative regions,¹⁰ and attacked a military base in Djibo town in Soum province where they released scores of prisoners and obtained weapons and ammunition. The government responded with counter offensives.¹¹ The Islamic State Sahel Province (IS Sahel) was active in the second half of the month in the Centre-Nord region. Security forces carried out military operations in response to the attacks, an airstrike resulted in at least 27 fatalities.¹²

International response:

² RFI, "Burkina Faso holds security forum two weeks after military coup," 15 October 2022, <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221015-burkina-faso-holds-security-forum-two-weeks-after-military-coup>

³ Globe Echo, "Burkina Faso Launches Exceptional Recruitment Of 3,000 Soldiers To Fight Jihadists," 20 October 2022, <https://globeecho.com/news/africa/burkina-faso-launches-exceptional-recruitment-of-3000-soldiers-to-fight-jihadists/>

⁴ Africa News, "Burkina Faso: French Institute vandalized during anti-coup demonstrations," 13 October 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/10/13/burkina-faso-french-institute-vandalized-during-anti-coup-demonstrations/>

⁵ France 24, "Pro-Russia demonstrators rally in Burkina after coup," 4 October 2022, <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221004-pro-russia-demonstrators-rally-in-burkina-after-coup>

⁶ ACLED, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

⁷ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁸ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

¹⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

¹¹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

¹² ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

A West African political bloc, ECOWAS, fact-finding mission visited the country and met with Traore who confirmed that he would respect the schedule for the transition and the holding of elections before 1 July 2024.¹³ Upon their arrival the regional block was met with protesters requesting they retreat.¹⁴

The EU,¹⁵ the AU,¹⁶ and the US government¹⁷ condemned the coup and requested authorities to restrain from further human rights abuse, and called on them to respect the agreed upon timetable for a return to civilian rule.

The UN human rights office (OHCHR) called for investigations into the human rights abuses that occurred during October's coup.¹⁸

Burundi

Overall levels of violence in Burundi remained stable, there was a slight increase in battles when compared to the previous month and a small decrease in violence targeting civilians.¹⁹ Arbitrary detentions and killings continue occurring on a regular basis throughout the country. On 5 October, a man was arrested by the National Intelligence Service (SNR) on the grounds of a hospital in Kayanza in northern Burundi, the arrest appears to be linked to a settlement of accounts between him and his employer.²⁰ A former policeman was found dead on 8 October, it is suspected he was murdered by police agents in this locality. According to SOS torture Burundi, the phenomenon of bodies being murdered and then abandoned in the wild, circumstances in which the victim was found, in order to distort further investigations, have become recurrent since the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) took power.²¹ On 24 October, a student of Bubanza Technical School was beaten by three Imbonerakure youth that attend the same school. A further investigation showed that the perpetrators occupied positions of power within the school, despite showing off and publicly displaying their military effects which shows the complacency of the headmaster and other school officials. A National Congress for Freedom (CNL) party activist was arbitrarily detained for a month in Muramvya central prison by the command of a former member of parliament of the CNDD-

¹³ European Parliament, Motion for a resolution on the situation in Burkina Faso following the coup d'état, 14 October 2022, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2022-0467_EN.html

¹⁴ VOA, "ECOWAS Delegation Arrives in Burkina Faso in Wake of Coup," 5 October 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/ecowas-delegation-arrives-in-burkina-faso-in-wake-of-coup/6776535.html>

¹⁵ European Parliament, European Parliament resolution of 20 October 2022 on the situation in Burkina Faso following the coup d'état (2022/2865(RSP)), 20 October 2022, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0375_EN.html

¹⁶ Al Jazeera, "Burkina Faso: AU chief slams 'unconstitutional' change of gov't," 1 October 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/1/african-union-chief-condems-unconstitutional-burkina-faso-coup>

¹⁷ United States Department of State, Burkina Faso: The Situation in Burkina Faso, 1 October 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202210100101.html>

¹⁸ UN News, "Burkina Faso - UN Rights Office Calls for Probe Into Coup-Related Deaths and Injuries," 7 October 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202210100031.html>

¹⁹ ACLED, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

²⁰ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report N° 356, 8 October 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²¹ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report N° 357, 15 October 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

FDD party.²² Two other CNL activists were detained by the orders of Antoine Ndayiragije, administrator of Kayogoro commune. SOS Torture Burundi reports that Ndayiragije is often involved in human rights violations against members of the CNL party.²³

Cameroon

Overall levels of violence in Cameroon have been decreasing since August and the amount of fatalities throughout the country in October is 40% below the average of the past year.²⁴

On the third anniversary of talks designed to end the fighting in the Separatist conflict, thousands of Cameroonians took to the streets asking for peace.²⁵ The protests continued throughout October, thousands protested separatist attacks and abductions targeting civilians.²⁶

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Political violence in South Kivu was the highest since July. Militias clashed with MONUSCO and elsewhere rioters clashed with the Congolese Army (FARDC),²⁷ the following week, Mayi Mayi militia factions attacked civilians and clashed with military forces.²⁸

Following a few weeks of no activity, M23 clashed with security forces and abducted civilians.²⁹ Towards the end of October, the insurgents gained control of three villages in Rutshuru territory. The increase in activity by M23 coincides with claims of Rwandan forces crossing into Congo, allegedly to provide reinforcements, this led for Congolese authorities to request the Rwandan Ambassador to leave the country,³⁰ and anti-Rwanda protests to break out in Goma.³¹

²² SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report N° 358, 22 October 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²³ SOS Torture Burundi, Weekly Report N° 359, 29 October 2022, <https://sostortureburundi.org/en/weekly-reports/>

²⁴ ACLED, Dashboard, <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard>

²⁵ All Africa, "On the third anniversary of talks designed to end the fighting in the Separatist conflict, thousands of Cameroonians take to the streets asking for peace," 3 October 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202210040070.html>

²⁶ VOA, "Cameroonians Protest Separatist Brutality, Seek Release of Abducted Clergy," 17 October 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/cameroonians-protest-separatist-brutality-seek-release-of-abducted-clergy/6793274.html>

²⁷ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

²⁸ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

²⁹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

³⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

³¹ Reuters, "Anti-Rwanda protests break out in east Congo as Kinshasa recalls envoy," 31 October 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/anti-rwanda-protests-break-out-east-congo-kinshasa-recalls-envoy-2022-10-31/>

In Beni, North Kivu, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked villages in Irumu territory and clashed with FARDC,³² mid-October the group killed several civilians and destroyed two health centres.³³

The Cooperative for Development of Congo (CODECO) killed seven gold miners who had been abducted in September after they had failed to pay ransom.³⁴

Intercommunal clashes were recorded in Mai-Ndombe and Kwilu provinces, Teke and Yaka ethnic militias clashed and at least 30 civilians were reportedly killed.³⁵

A report released by the UN Joint Human Rights Office in DRC (UNJHRO) and the UN Stabilisation Mission in DRC (MONUSCO). The report found that 93% of reported cases of torture occurred in conflict affected areas, members of armed groups and members of defense and security forces were the two most prominent groups conducting these abuses. The report emphasised that the lack of accountability creates an enabling environment for such actions to continue.³⁶

An investigation by Human Rights Watch uncovered that between May and August 2022, army units provided direct support to abusive armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).³⁷

Ethiopia

The African Union was supposed to hold peace talks on Ethiopia in South Africa. The federal government accepted the invitation and stated it was “consistent with the Ethiopian government’s prior positions.” The Tigrayan authorities confirmed their presence but requested further information, including if cessation of hostilities would be discussed.³⁸ The talks were to be facilitated by AU envoy Obasanjo accompanied by former Kenyan President, Kenyatta and former South African President, Mlambo-Ngcuka.³⁹ However, they were postponed last minute due to logistical difficulties, and have not been rescheduled. Earlier that week, Kenyatta, informed he would not be assisting due to conflicts in his schedule and requested the AU inform him of structure and modalities of the talks ahead of

³² ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

³³ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

³⁴ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

³⁵ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

³⁶ OHCHR, Report - Torture and impunity widespread in DRC's conflict areas, 5 October 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/torture-and-impunity-widespread-drcs-conflict-areas-un-report>

³⁷ Human Rights Watch, “DR Congo: Army Units Aided Abusive Armed Groups,” 18 October 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/18/dr-congo-army-units-aided-abusive-armed-groups>

³⁸ Twitter, @reda_getachew, 5 October 2022, https://twitter.com/reda_getachew/status/1577717685021982720

³⁹ Washington Post, “Ethiopia, Tigray head invited to peace talks in South Africa,” 5 October 2022, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/ethiopia-tigray-leader-invited-to-peace-talks-in-s-africa/2022/10/05/bdd68070-447e-11ed-be17-89cbe6b8c0a5_story.html

time.⁴⁰

The peace talks were scheduled for 24 October in South Africa. The Ethiopian federal government announced its participation.⁴¹

Throughout the weekend of mid-October Ethiopian and Eritrean forces launched a joint offensive in Shire, a city of 100,000 inhabitants in northwest Tigray, it was reported civilians and humanitarian aid workers died.⁴² ENDF took control of the territory on Monday 18 October.⁴³ On 17 October the federal government indicated it wanted to seize control of airports and other federal facilities in order to ensure aid is delivered.⁴⁴

International response:

The Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki, called for a ceasefire and Tigrayan authorities expressed willingness to abide and requested the international community to act to ensure a cessation of hostilities. The US Secretary of state called on Ethiopian and Eritrean forces to cease their joint offensive on Shire.⁴⁵ The UN Secretary General called for a cessation of hostilities and indicated the UN would support any AU effort for peace.⁴⁶

Once again the World Health Organization director, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called on the international community to give this crisis the attention it deserves and that genocide must be prevented.⁴⁷

Alice Wairimu Nderitu, U.N. special adviser on the prevention of genocide, warned about the need to address hate speech and incitement to violence as calls for the “killing of every single youth from Tigray” continue.⁴⁸

The UN Security Council held a private meeting on the situation in Ethiopia under the “Peace and Security in Africa.” The meeting was requested by the A3 members.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ Sudan Tribune, “Can AU deliver peace to the Ethiopia-Tigray conflict?,” 10 October 2022, <https://sudantribune.com/article265145/>

⁴¹ Twitter, @RedwanHussien, 20 October 2022, <https://twitter.com/RedwanHussien/status/1582994616646651905>

⁴² Nation, “Ethiopia war: Tigray says ready for ceasefire as fighting rages,” 17 October 2022, <https://nation.africa/africa/news/ethiopia-war-tigray-says-ready-for-ceasefire-as-fighting-rages-3987726>

⁴³ Washington Post, “Ethiopian soldiers take strategic city in Tigray amid civilian exodus,” 17 October 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/17/ethiopia-tigray-eritrea-war-shire/>

⁴⁴ DW, “Ethiopia vows to seize airports in Tigray as conflict rages,” 17 October 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/ethiopia-vows-to-seize-airports-in-tigray-as-conflict-rages/a-63463900>

⁴⁵ Twitter, @SecBlinken, 14 October 2022, <https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1581065210953359360>

⁴⁶ Twitter, @antonioguterres, 17 October 2022, <https://twitter.com/antonioguterres/status/1582197020768337920>

⁴⁷ Twitter, @DrTedros, 19 October 2022, <https://twitter.com/DrTedros/status/1582812051491078144>

⁴⁸ Associated Press, “UN genocide official: Hate speech is fueling Ethiopia’s war,” 19 October 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/technology-africa-uganda-ethiopia-government-and-politics-e7c4173e458dda8056c476305124f44e>

⁴⁹ Security Council Report, Ethiopia: Private Meeting, 20 October 2022, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/10/ethiopia-private-meeting.php>

<https://addisstandard.com/news-un-human-rights-experts-on-ethiopia-brief-unsc-a3-group-on-alarming-abuses-against-civilians/>

Mali

Throughout October, the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) and the Wagner Group carried out military operations against Islamist militants. Islamist militants carried out offensives. Clashes were recorded in the Segou, Kayes, Mopti, and Gao regions.⁵⁰ Militants advanced further into eastern Mali and occupied territories near the border with Niger.⁵¹ JNIM clashed with IS Sahel in the Menaka region between 8 and 14 October and JNIM also attacked a detention center in San circle.⁵² IS Sahel carried out attacks in the Gao region where it stole cattle and kidnapped workers.⁵³ A bus hit an improvised explosive device (IED), likely left by JNIM, 11 were killed and over 50 wounded.⁵⁴ The group used IEDs in attacks targeting civilians in Segou and Mopti,⁵⁵ as well as targeting MINUSMA and killing at least four peacekeepers.⁵⁶ MINUSMA reported that 72 people have been killed by IED's since 31 August 2022.⁵⁷ In response, FAMA claimed to have killed and arrested dozens of militants.⁵⁸

Mali's FAMA was accused of killing at least nine civilians and arresting others during on the ground operations conducted alongside the Wagner Group.⁵⁹

Mali's junta leader Colonel Assimi Goita received a draft of a new constitution. Although the draft has not been made public, media sources indicate it will shift the balance of executive power from the parliament towards the president.⁶⁰ The military government announced the

⁵⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>, and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁵¹ Reuters, "Islamist militants in Mali kill hundreds, displace thousands in eastern advance," 14 October 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/islamist-militants-mali-kill-hundreds-displace-thousands-eastern-advance-2022-10-14/>

⁵² ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁵³ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

⁵⁴ Al Jazeera, "Mali bus blast leaves over 10 dead, dozens wounded," 14 October 2022 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/14/mali-bus-blast-kills-at-least-11-people-hospital-source>

⁵⁵ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁵⁶ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

⁵⁷ Al Jazeera, "Mali bus blast leaves over 10 dead, dozens wounded," 14 October 2022 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/14/mali-bus-blast-kills-at-least-11-people-hospital-source>

⁵⁸ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

⁵⁹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁶⁰ RFI, "Mali's draft constitution marks major shift towards presidential regime," 13 October 2022, <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221013-mali-s-draft-constitution-marks-major-shift-towards-presidential-regime>

creation of the drafting commission in June, after extending their rule until 2024. The new constitution is expected to be put to a referendum in March 2023.⁶¹

Uganda and Mali signed a military cooperation agreement in which the Ugandan army will train Mali soldiers to fight jihadist insurgents.⁶²

Nigeria

The 2023 general election campaigns began and election related violence was reported. At the start of the month, clashes were recorded in Imo, Oyo, Gombe, Jigawa, Lagos and Enugu states;⁶³ as well as Kaduna, Zamfara, and Ebonyi states mid October. Abia and Ogun states also recorded clashes during the last week of October.⁶⁴ The clashes took place between internal party divisions as well as competing parties.⁶⁵ The government of Zamfara state imposed a ban on political campaigns due to the increase in election related violence.⁶⁶ During the last week of October, the convoy of the People's Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate for Lagos state was attacked, various party members and journalists were injured.⁶⁷

During the first week of October, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) militants attacked civilians in Borno State and when invading a village in Zamfara state.⁶⁸ The military responded by carrying out strong military operations,⁶⁹ mainly targeting a militia meeting in Kaduna state and clashed with militants in Borno state.⁷⁰ Boko Haram and ISWAP clashed towards during the last week of the month meanwhile security forces conducted operations against ISWAP in separate areas of Borno state, scores of militants were killed.⁷¹

⁶¹ Africa News, "Mali: Junta leader Assimi Goita receives draft constitution," 12 Octobre 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/10/12/mali-junta-leader-assimi-goita-receives-draft-constitution/>

⁶² The Africa Report, "War on terror: Uganda to train Mali soldiers in fighting jihadists," 18 October 2022, <https://www.theafricareport.com/250762/war-on-terror-uganda-to-train-mali-soldiers-in-fighting-jihadists/>

⁶³ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁶⁴ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁶⁵ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

⁶⁶ Punch, "Zamfara govt suspends political activities over insecurity," 14 October 2022, <https://punchng.com/zamfara-govt-suspends-political-activities-over-insecurity/>

⁶⁷ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁶⁸ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁶⁹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>

⁷⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁷¹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

At the start of October, the remaining 23 hostages were released six months after the Abuja-Kaduna train attack that took place in March 2022 where 168 people were kidnapped and eight were killed.⁷²

In River state two rival cult militias clashed over territory control in Port Harcourt, the violence in the state had been increasing throughout the last four weeks and reached its peak between 8 to 14 October.⁷³

Separatist group IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu, accused of terrorism and instigating violence in the southeast was acquitted by a local court.⁷⁴

Flooding in the country killed at least 500 people and displaced 1.4 million.⁷⁵

Somalia

Somalia's government claimed to have killed Abdullahi Nadir, one of al-Shabaab co-founders, in an operation alongside the US government at the start of October. However, attacks by the group continued on a large scale.⁷⁶ Al Shabaab targeted attacks against government forces in Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Hiraan, and Banadir.⁷⁷ On 3 October they attacked government headquarters in Hiraan, killing 20 and wounding at least 36.⁷⁸ On the other hand, government forces regained control of several Al Shabaab strongholds in Hiraan,⁷⁹ to this the group responded with further attacks in the region causing over 100 fatalities.⁸⁰ Despite the groups continued attacks targeting government forces, Somali forces assisted by international forces and allied militias, increased its offensives against Al-Shabaab regaining control in some parts of Middle Shabelle region.⁸¹

⁷² Premium Times, "UPDATED: Six months after train attack, terrorists release remaining 23 hostages – Official," 5 October 2022, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/558038-six-months-after-train-attack-terrorists-release-remaining-23-hostages-official.html>

⁷³ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁷⁴ Africa News, "Nigeria drops terror charges against separatist leader Kanu," 14 October 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/10/14/nigeria-drops-terror-charges-against-separatist-leader-kanu/>

⁷⁵ Nation, "Nigeria floods kill 500, displace 1.4 million people," 13 October 2022, <https://nation.africa/africa/news/nigeria-floods-kill-500-displace-1-4-million-people--3983310>

⁷⁶ Africa News, "Extremist attack in Somalia kills at least 20," 4 October 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/10/04/extremist-attack-in-somalia-kills-at-least-20/>

⁷⁷ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁷⁸ Africa News, "Extremist attack in Somalia kills at least 20," 4 October 2022, <https://www.africanews.com/2022/10/04/extremist-attack-in-somalia-kills-at-least-20/>

⁷⁹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>

⁸⁰ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁸¹ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>, and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

Al Shabaab militants targeted Ethiopian Liyu police forces near the border resulting in over a hundred reported fatalities from both sides.⁸²

South Sudan

Intercommunal clashes were recorded. In Upper Nile state, Nuer militia attacked ethnic Shilluk civilians, killing around 40 people and displacing thousands. In the disputed area of Warrap, clashes between Twic and Ngok Dinka clan militias left 25 dead.⁸³

With flooding affecting 9 out of 10 states in the country, almost a million people have been affected by flooding and over 70% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).⁸⁴

The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan highlighted during a meeting with the AU and IGAD that progress on the 2018 peace agreement had been extremely slow and called on the AU to take the next steps to establish the Hybrid Court and support the Truth Commission and the other processes.⁸⁵

Sudan

25 October marked the one year anniversary of the coup. Throughout the month protests escalated in the country, six Marches of Millions took place this month,⁸⁶ security forces violently repressed and at least two were killed during the last week of October.⁸⁷ One year after the military coup: about 120 protesters have been killed and close to 7,000 people injured over the past 12 months.⁸⁸

Aid groups warned that a third of Sudanese school-age children are unable to attend school and the country is facing a “generational catastrophe.” Over 600 schools were destroyed in August and September due to attacks by militias or flooding, according to the ministry of

⁸² ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 1-7 October 2022, 13 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/13/regional-overview-africa-1-7-october-2022/>, and ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁸³ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 8-14 October 2022, 20 October, 2022 <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/20/regional-overview-africa-8-14-october-2022/>

⁸⁴ RFI, “Nearly a million affected by South Sudan flooding, warns UN,” 12 Octobre 2022, <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221012-nearly-a-million-affected-by-south-sudan-flooding-warns-un>

⁸⁵ UN News, “Rights experts calls for urgent action to implement South Sudan peace deal,” 19 October 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129702>

⁸⁶ Dabanga, “Protest escalation in October as Sudan coup marks first anniversary,” 4 October 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/protest-escalation-in-october-as-sudan-coup-marks-first-anniversary>

⁸⁷ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁸⁸ DW, “Still hoping for democracy in Sudan,” 23 October 2022, <https://www.dw.com/en/the-street-still-carries-hope-for-democracy-in-sudan/a-63521672?maca=en-Twitter-sharing>

education. Central Darfur with 60% and West Darfur with 58% of children outside of school, are the worst affected states.⁸⁹

Resistance Committees and Coordination Committees activated the Revolutionary Charter for the Establishment of the People's Authority, which hopes to be a unified political vision for the resistance committees. The unified Charter provides for the abolition of the 2019 Constitutional Document, the inclusion of the Juba Peace Agreement protocols, and the establishment of a transitional constitution.⁹⁰

Sudan was re-elected by the UN General Assembly to serve on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2023-2025,⁹¹ this despite civil society organisations, lawyers and human rights advocates requesting they do otherwise.⁹²

Tribal clashes in Wad el-Mahi, in Sudan's Blue Nile, killed at least 220 people, fighting between the Hausa and the Berta tribes first erupted in July 2022. The government declared a state of emergency as a result of the clashes.⁹³ Angry protesters on Sunday took to the streets in Blue Nile's capital, to denounce the tribal violence and the government's response.⁹⁴ Towards the end of the month, the conflict spilled over to Ed Damazine, displacing thousands.⁹⁵

Clashes between a Misseriya ethnic militia and a Nuba ethnic militia took place in mid-October in West Kordofan. Many people were killed and at least 36,000 displaced. This led to the involvement of Sudanese military forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which clashed with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). ACLED reported there was over a 100% increase in violent events across Sudan the week of 15 to 21 October, when compared to the weekly average of the previous month.⁹⁶

⁸⁹ The Guardian, "Sudan faces 'generational catastrophe' as millions of children miss school," 5 October 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/oct/05/sudan-faces-generational-catastrophe-as-millions-of-children-miss-school>

⁹⁰ Dabanga, "Sudan Resistance Committees: 'New charter now active'," 6 October 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-resistance-committees-new-charter-now-active>

⁹¹ Dabanga, "'Disappointment' after Sudan re-elected to UN Human Rights Council," 13 October 2022, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/disappointment-after-sudan-re-elected-to-un-human-rights-council>

⁹² Atrocities Watch Africa, Letter to UN member states on the re-election of Sudan to the UN Human Rights Council, 6 October 2022, <http://atrocitieswatch.org/letter-un-member-states-re-election-sudan-un-human-rights-council/>

⁹³ RFI, "<https://punchng.com/zamfara-govt-suspends-political-activities-over-insecurity/>," 22 October 2022, <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221022-sudan-s-blue-nile-region-declares-state-of-emergency-amid-ethnic-clashes>

⁹⁴ Associated Press, "Sudan official: Deaths from southern tribal clashes at 220," 23 October 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/health-south-sudan-africa-ethiopia-b186090192d01b020982682ebc926a30>

⁹⁵ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 22-28 October 2022, 3 November 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/11/03/regional-overview-africa-22-28-october-2022/>

⁹⁶ ACLED, Regional Overview: Africa 15-21 October 2022, 27 October 2022, <https://acleddata.com/2022/10/27/regional-overview-africa-15-21-october/>