



Situation Room Brief (Early October 2022)

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Mali: Explosion of an explosive device

At least 11 civilians were killed and 53 injured on Thursday, October 13, 2022, in central Mali when the bus carrying them was struck by an explosive device, according to a hospital source. The explosion occurred in the early afternoon on the road between Bandiagara and Goundaka, in the Mopti area, according to a security source. The new toll was confirmed by the Bandiagara town hall.¹

The United Nations mission in Mali condemned the attack, which targeted peaceful populations. Central Mali is one of the hotbeds of violence and jihadist activity that spread from the north in 2012 and into neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger.²

Nigeria Armed attack in the north

Several women and children drowned while trying to escape an armed attack in Nigeria's troubled north. The victims died when their boats capsized while fleeing an hours-long attack by unidentified gunmen on the evening of Wednesday, October 5, 2022, in the community of Birnin Waje in Zamfara State. The situation is dire as most of the people have fled their homes and the number of dead bodies recovered so far is 13". Those who lost their lives in the water are currently unknown, but many of those who fled their homes have not returned to the area, which residents say remained unstable for more than 24 hours after the violence. Authorities often blame the attacks on a group of young Fulani pastoralists caught up in the conflict between communities and herders in Nigeria over limited access to water and land.³

DRC: ADF rebel attack

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, fourteen civilians were killed, with machetes, two people were wounded, and two children are missing in a new attack attributed to ADF rebels in Ituri, a highly volatile region in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to local officials. They reportedly broke into the village of Kyamata in Irumu territory (Ituri) around 7:30 p.m. The president of the Nyali Tchabi community, Faustin Mboma Babanilau, deplored the lack of military presence in the area, where numerous armed groups are active.⁴

More than 200 households fled the attack in neighboring entities around Boga, where there is a presence of FARDC and Ugandan forces. According to local sources, these rebels also kidnapped a dozen people whose fate is not yet known.⁵

¹https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/10/14/au-moins-onze-passagers-d-un-car-civil-tues-par-un-engin-explosif-au-mali_6145727_3212.html

² <https://actuacameroun.com/2022/10/14/un-engin-explosif-pulverise-un-bus-rempli-de-passagers-dans-le-centre-du-mali/>

³ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/07/nigeria-femmes-et-enfants-se-noient-en-fuyant-une-attaque/>

⁴ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/03/rdc-14-civils-tues-dans-une-attaque-attribuee-aux-rebelles-adf/>

⁵ <https://www.radiookapi.net/2022/10/03/actualite/societe/irumu-14-personnes-tuees-dans-une-attaque-des-adf-kyamata>

- [Shots fired in northeastern Congo](#)

UN peacekeepers exchanged fire with militiamen in the Ituri province of northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a UN spokesman said Thursday, September 30, 2022. No casualties were reported in the exchange of fire on Wednesday. Stephane Dujarric, chief spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said the U.N. Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) sent a peacekeeping patrol after receiving reports of gunfire in the village of Pangapanga, in the central Djugu territory of Ituri.⁶

Upon reaching the village, the peacekeepers and Congolese troops exchanged fire with militiamen from the CODECO armed group, forcing them to withdraw," and "A second patrol was then sent to the area."⁷

[Kenya: Attack](#)

The Kenya Police are currently searching for three teachers reported missing after fighters from the Somali rebel group al-Shebab attacked their school on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 in Mandera County, in the northeast of the country, near the border with Somalia.⁸

George Seda, the regional police chief, said heavily armed assailants came to the school to kidnap the three Christian teachers who were teaching at Libehiya Primary School at around 2:00 a.m., but after the Shebab attack, they fled without being heard from. According to him, the attackers were repelled by police reservists.⁹

[Somalia: Double suicide attacks of the Shebab](#)

The Shebab Islamists carried out two attacks with an explosive vehicle on Sunday, October 2, 2022 against a government building in Beledweyne, 300 km north of the capital Mogadishu. At least nine people were killed, including local officials (the Minister of Health of Hirshabelle State and a district commissioner in charge of finance ...). There were also 10 others injured in these suicide attacks claimed by this terrorist group in central Somalia.¹⁰

While the Somali government announced Monday, October 3, the death of one of the most senior leaders of the Shebab movement, whose head had a price tag of three million dollars, in an air strike in southern Somalia. The drone strike launched Oct. 1 by the Somali army and "international security partners" killed Abdullahi Yare near the coastal town of Haramka. A co-founder of the al-Qaeda-linked group, Yare was considered the candidate to take over the leadership of the movement from its ailing leader Ahmed Diriye, the information ministry said.¹¹

⁶ <https://sahel-intelligence.com/29095-rdc-echange-de-tirs-entre-des-casques-bleus-et-des-miliciens-dans-le-nord-est-du-pays.html>

⁷ http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2022-09/30/content_78445547.htm

⁸ <https://sahel-intelligence.com/29206-kenya-trois-enseignants-portes-disparus-apres-une-attaque-de-leur-ecole-par-les-elements-du-groupe-shebab.html>

⁹ http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2022-10/12/content_78462717.htm

¹⁰ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/somalie-au-moins-9-morts-dans-deux-attaques-suicides-des-jihadistes-shebab-20221003>

¹¹ <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/deux-attentats-suicides-9-morts-10-blesses-centre-somalie>

Sudan: Inter-ethnic clashes

Violence between members of the Hausa tribe and members of the al-hamaj tribe in the village of wad al-Mahi in the southern Blue Nile State of Sudan claimed the lives of at least four people, according to a tribal leader and a medical source on Thursday, October 13, 2022. While the clashes are still ongoing. The demand for the creation of a civil authority by this ethnic group was the starting point for this cycle of violence. Other demonstrations called for "unity" and an "end to tribalism" in this northeast African nation.¹²

Burkina Faso: Coup d'état

In the end, it was a smooth transition of power in Burkina Faso. Fleeing to Lomé, Togo, Lieutenant-Colonel Damiba agreed to resign on Sunday, October 2, 2022, leaving his seat to the young 34-year-old Captain Ibrahim Traoré, who until then had been in charge of the Kaya artillery regiment in the north of the country.¹³

However, Paul-Henri Damiba has set as conditions "the guarantee of the security and non-prosecution" of the soldiers working with him, "the guarantee of his security and his rights, as well as those of his collaborators" and "the respect of the commitments made" with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for a return to civilian rule by July 1, 2024. For his part, the new head of state in Burkina Faso, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, called earlier Sunday for an end to "violence and vandalism" against French interests and also promised "meetings in less than a month" to "designate a transitional president," saying he had no preference for a civilian or military president.¹⁴

¹²<https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/14/soudan-4-morts-dans-des-affrontements-interethniques/>

¹³ <https://www.bbc.com/afrique/63109681>

¹⁴ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20221003-coup-d-%C3%A9tat-au-burkina-faso-les-raisons-de-la-chute-du-colonel-damiba>

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