



Situation Room Brief (Early September 2022)

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Morocco recalls Tunisian ambassador over Western Sahara

Morocco has recalled its ambassador to Tunis for consultations and cancelled his participation in a pan-African conference on investment, after the Tunisian president welcomed the leader of the Polisario Front, which wants independence for Western Sahara.¹

Morocco, which considers Western Sahara as its territory, said Friday, September 26, 2022 that the decision of Tunisia to invite Brahim Ghali to an African summit on development was "hostile and detrimental to the fraternal relations that the two countries have always maintained" and the reception reserved for Ghali "a serious and unprecedented act that deeply hurt the feelings of the Moroccan people."²

Morocco believes that Tunisia has "unilaterally" invited Brahim Ghali to the summit "against the advice of Japan and in violation of the preparation process."³

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/27/morocco-recalls-tunisia-ambassador-over-western-sahara>

² <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/morocco-recalls-tunisia-ambassador-western-sahara-polisario-front>

³ <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220827-tunis-recalls-ambassador-to-morocco-over-western-sahara-dispute>

Burkina Faso: Explosion of an artisanal bomb

Insecurity in Burkina Faso has worsened over the past seven years, resulting in the deaths of more than 2,000 people and the displacement of more than 1.9 million others in the West African nation. At least 35 civilians were killed and 37 injured on Monday, September 5, 2022, when an improvised explosive device detonated as a supply convoy passed through northern Burkina Faso. This was another deadly attack in a country regularly plagued by jihadist violence.⁴

The incident occurred as the military convoy was supplying towns in the restive north on a road linking Bourzanga to Djibo, according to a statement by the governor of the Sahel region, Rodolphe Sogro. There were several dozen vehicles, including trucks and public transport buses. The victims were mainly merchants who were leaving to buy supplies in Ouagadougou and students who were returning to the capital for the next school year.⁵

The elements of the escort quickly secured the perimeter and took measures to assist the victims. The wounded were treated and difficult cases were evacuated to appropriate facilities.⁶

- **Jihadist Attack**

In Burkina Faso, the current government has promised to make the fight against jihadists their priority since January 2022, but the country, like several neighboring countries, continues to face violence from armed movements affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. Some soldiers were killed Tuesday, September 14, 2022, in northern Burkina Faso in an attack by suspected jihadists on a military patrol.⁷

A unit composed of elements of the 11th Commando Infantry Regiment was ambushed 11 kilometers from Oursi (Oudalan Province, Sahel region). In the face of heavy enemy fire (...) eight soldiers unfortunately lost their lives in the fighting and a dozen others were wounded and 41 terrorists were killed in the army's response. This new attack, the fourth in less than ten days in northern Burkina Faso, adds to the death toll from September, which was particularly deadly.⁸

Mali: Mine Explosion

A MINUSMA report as of August 31, 2022, showed 245 IED and mine attacks in 2021 and 134 in 2022. Mines and IEDs killed 103 people in 2021 and 72 in 2022, with a quarter of the victims being civilians. With some 13,000 troops, MINUSMA, established in 2013, is the deadliest U.N. peacekeeping mission in the world. More than 175 of its members have died in hostile acts.⁹

Three peacekeepers were injured Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, in northern Mali when their vehicle struck a mine between Ber and Timbuktu. MINUSMA, like the Malian army, is regularly targeted by jihadists who fight any foreign presence as well as government offices. Mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are one of the jihadists' weapons of choice. They explode on contact with a wheel or are remotely detonated.¹⁰

⁴ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/09/06/burkina-faso-une-nouvelle-attaque-fait-au-moins-35-morts/>

⁵ <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/rest-of-africa/35-civilians-killed-in-ied-blast-in-burkina-faso-3938410>

⁶ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20220905-burkina-faso-au-moins-35-civils-tu%C3%A9s-dans-une-attaque-contre-un-convoy>

⁷ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/09/15/burkina-faso-au-moins-8-soldats-tues-lors-dune-attaque-terroriste/>

⁸ <https://acpcongo.com/index.php/2022/09/15/burkina-faso-au-moins-8-soldats-tues-lors-dune-attaque-terroriste/>

⁹ <https://sahel-intelligence.com/28879-mali-trois-casques-bleus-blesses-dans-lexplosion-dune-mine.html>

¹⁰ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/09/12/mali-au-moins-3-casques-bleus-blesses-dans-lexplosion-dune-mine//>

UN accuses Malian soldiers of involvement in death of 50 civilians

The U.N. peacekeeping mission said in a report released Wednesday, August 31, 2022 that at least 50 civilians were killed and hundreds arrested in an April 2022 operation by Malian troops and "foreign" fighters. The incident occurred on April 19 when Malian troops "accompanied by foreign military personnel" conducted a sweep in Hombori after one of their convoys was attacked by a roadside bomb.¹¹ MINUSMA counted 317 civilian deaths between April 1 and June 30, 42 percent fewer than the 543 recorded in the first quarter of 2022.

In some cases, the Malian military acknowledged that its forces were involved in executions and other abuses. But few soldiers were criminally prosecuted. The United Nations has repeatedly accused Malian soldiers of summarily executing civilians and suspected militants during their decade-long fight against groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.¹²

Nigeria: Attack

IPOB, which is seeking the rebirth of a separate state for the Igbo ethnic group, has repeatedly denied any responsibility for the violence.¹³

In Nigeria, five people were killed on Sunday, September 12, 2022, when a convoy carrying an opposition senator from the Young Progressives Party was attacked in southeastern Nigeria, specifically in Anambra state. According to the police, two policemen escorting him, two of his civilian aides and a passer-by were killed in the attack. Two other members of the police escort were injured and taken to hospital. But the senator escaped unharmed, police said, adding that an investigation is underway to find the assailants and determine their motive.¹⁴

Cameroon: Attack in Kumba and Bamenda III

In Cameroon, several attacks took place this Tuesday, September 6, 2022, in the English-speaking part of the country in Kumba and Bamenda III. In some parts of the North-West and South-West, children were able to return to school as in the rest of the country, in others, parents are too afraid to let their children go out. In the Southwest region. In Muyuka, on the road between Kumba and Buea, gunmen shot at a minibus carrying 14 civilians.¹⁵

According to the government, the attack left six people dead, including the driver and passengers, and eight injured. All were transported to the Buea regional hospital. Another incident occurred in Bamenda III, the capital of the Northwest region. Two residents were shot and wounded early Tuesday afternoon.¹⁶

¹¹ <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220831-un-says-50-civilians-killed-in-april-sweep-by-mali-troops-foreign-fighters>

¹² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/31/un-says-50-civilians-killed-in-april-by-malis-army>

¹³ <https://www.voaafrique.com/a/nigeria-attaque-contre-le-convoi-d-un-s%C3%A9nateur-5-morts-police/6744038.html>

¹⁴ <https://actucameroun.com/2022/09/12/lattaque-contre-le-convoi-dun-senateur-fait-5-morts-au-nigeria/>

¹⁵ <https://www.afrique-actualites.com/article/135914/cameroun-des-violences-ensanglantent-la-rentree-scolaire-dans-le-nord-ouest-et-le-sud-ouest/>

¹⁶ <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20220907-cameroun-des-violences-ensanglantent-la-rentre%C3%A9e-scolaire-dans-le-nord-ouest-et-le-sud-ouest>

- [Church fire in Mamfe](#)

The church of St. Mary in Nchang, a town near Mamfe in the Manyu division, Southwest Region, was the target of an attack by unidentified gunmen this weekend. According to similar news sources on various social networks, these men invaded the site on Saturday, September 17, 2022, set fire to the church, and then kidnapped five Catholic priests, one nun, and two villagers. According to a blog post on the social network Facebook, the people who were kidnapped are brothers Elias Okorie, Barnabas Ashu, Cornelius Jingwa, Job Francis Nwobegu, Emmanuel Asaba; Sister Jacinta C. Udeagha; assistant catechist Nkem Patrick Osang and Blanche Bright and Mrs. Kelechukwu.¹⁷

According to the bishops, a wave of persecution against the church hierarchy is now the new game of "Struggle" and all kinds of threatening messages are being sent against missionaries who have sacrificed their lives to work for the people.

- [DRC: Anti-UN peacekeepers crowd disperses](#)

A demonstration opposing the presence of UN forces prompted peacekeepers to fire warning shots to clear a path, but a stray bullet caused the death of one man on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, in Beni-city, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).¹⁸

The incident comes amid a national climate of hostility toward the United Nations, which has been accused of ineffectiveness in fighting the hundreds of armed groups that have been terrorizing the region for nearly 30 years. The police invited the population of Beni to be patient and vigilant in order to denounce "the infiltration of enemies."¹⁹

- [Attack in Eastern DRC](#)

The ADF frequently carries out deadly raids on villages in eastern Congo, despite joint operations by the Congolese and Ugandan armies to eradicate them. At least 14 civilians were killed and more than a dozen others were abducted Tuesday, August 30, 2022, in attacks by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels on localities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.²⁰

The fourteen bodies of the victims were also found. The army later intervened and restored order.²¹

- [Attack near the border with Uganda](#)

The provinces of North Kivu and Ituri have been under siege since May 2021. The ADF attacked the commune of Bulungo on the night of Wednesday, September 7, 2022. After clashes with the army, these jihadists fled. Unfortunately, they executed five civilian hostages. On the ADF side, the loyalist army neutralized two terrorists and recovered an AK47 type weapon of war.²²

¹⁷<https://www.cameroonmagazine.com/societe/cameroun-crise-anglophone-des-hommes-armes-incendient-une-eglise-a-mamfe-sud-ouest-et-enlevent-cinq-pretres/>

¹⁸ <https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/republique-democratique-du-congo/republique-democratique-du-congo-un-mort-dans-la-dispersion-d-une-foule-hostile-aux-casques-bleus-28da12d0-08a3-4168-84d6-275660f8e7a7#:~:text=Un%20homme%20a%20%C3%A9t%C3%A9%20tu%C3%A9,des%20sources%20polici%C3%A8re%20et%20onusienne.>

¹⁹ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/09/07/rdc-1-mort-lors-de-la-dispersion-dune-foule-hostile-aux-casques-bleus/>

²⁰ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/31/at-least-14-dead-in-rebel-attacks-in-eastern-dr-congo>

²¹ <https://humanglemedia.com/adf-rebels-continue-attack-on-democratic-republic-of-congo-civilians-kill-14/>

²² <https://www.africaradio.com/rdc-cinq-civils-tues-dans-une-attaque-pres-de-la-frontiere-ougandaise>

This massacre took place two kilometers from a Ugandan military position, near the border between the DRC and Uganda, where the armies of both countries are conducting joint operations against the ADF. For the time being, the army is in control of the entire commune of Bulungo and is asking the population to remain calm.²³

- [Militia attack in northeast](#)

The CODECO militia, an armed group structured around a religious sect, claims to defend the interests of the Lendu, one of the communities in the gold-rich province of Ituri, against the rival Hema community and against the security forces, and is considered one of the deadliest groups in eastern Congo. In addition to civilians and soldiers, CODECO militiamen also attack displaced persons and humanitarian workers.²⁴

During an attack in the locality of Mbidjo, capital of the province of Ituri, in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), at least 20 people were killed on Friday, September 10, 2022, by militiamen from the group Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO). According to security and civil society sources in Ituri, the heavily armed assailants stormed a village in the locality of Mbidjo. Of the 20 bodies recovered, seven were women and several children. During the attack, the assailants clashed for several hours with elements of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC).²⁵

[Ethiopia: Double air strike](#)

An Ethiopian air strike hit the capital of Tigray on Friday, August 26, 2022, killing four people, including two children, according to rebel spokesmen and humanitarian sources, while the government promised to "take action" against military targets in the war-torn region. Reports of an air strike on Mekele came days after ground fighting between government forces and rebels resumed after a five-month lull, ending a truce and dashing hopes for peace talks.²⁶

The fighting has been concentrated around the southeastern border of Tigray, with rebels pushing into the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar, causing residents to flee. But Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government accused the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on the same Wednesday of launching "an invasion towards Wag, Wolqait and our border areas with Sudan (Amhara region)," west of the site of the most recent clashes.²⁷

[Angola: Election protest](#)

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which has been in power since independence from Portugal in 1975, won 51.17 percent of the vote, according to the results of the National Electoral Commission (CNE) published on Monday, August 29, 2022, against 43.95 percent for the main opposition party, Unita.²⁸

The opposition intends to challenge the results of the last elections in Angola. The main party announced on Thursday, September 1, that it has filed an appeal against the results of the legislative elections, which gave victory to the ruling party and a second term to the outgoing president, Joao Lourenco. UNITA reiterated that it will not recognize the results announced by the National Electoral Commission until the complaints already in its possession from the National Electoral Commission are resolved. The procedure for challenging

²³ <https://www.voafrique.com/a/rdc-cinq-civils-tu%C3%A9s-dans-une-attaque-pr%C3%A8s-de-la-fronti%C3%A8re-ougandaise/6736193.html>

²⁴ <https://sahel-intelligence.com/28877-rdc-20-morts-dans-une-attaque-de-miliciens-dans-le-nord-est.html>

²⁵ <http://french.xinhuanet.com/20220910/85a5b80b10f94114bda5831c4e049b72/c.html>

²⁶ <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220826-air-strike-hits-capital-of-ethiopia-s-tigray-region-as-fighting-resumes>

²⁷ <https://nation.africa/africa/news/fighting-spreads-in-ethiopia-as-tigray-hit-by-new-air-strike-3933316>

²⁸ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/30/elections-en-angola-lopposition-va-saisir-le-tribunal-constitutionnel/>

election results requires that legal recourse be first filed with the electoral commission before the constitutional court rules.²⁹

Madagascar: Shooting in Antananarivo

In a report published by Reuters, Madagascar police killed 19 people and wounded 21 when they opened fire on Monday, August 29, 2022, on a crowd attempting to storm a police station in revenge for alleged criminals. The shooting took place in the town of Ikongo, about 330 km (205 miles) southeast of the capital Antananarivo, and security forces sent reinforcements to restore order to the area. The unrest began when a mob tried to enter the police station to seize four people suspected of kidnapping an albino child and killing his mother.³⁰

The police statement said the situation in Ikongo is now calm and the families of those killed in the shooting have been offered financial compensation by the security forces.³¹

Mozambique: Jihadist attack in the northern part of the country

The growth and concentration of criminal organizations, Islamic radicalization, and jihadist terrorism since October 2017 represent the greatest threats to the population, especially in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Victims of local terrorist groups, mainly al-Sunna wa Jama'a, known locally as al-Shabaab, are now in the thousands.³²

An Italian Comboni nun, Sister Maria De Coppi, was killed by gunmen attacking the mission of Chipene, in the north of Mozambique, more precisely in the port city of the north-eastern province of Cabo Delgado, during the night of 6-7 September 2022. She had been a missionary there for 59 years. The attackers destroyed and burned the church, the sisters' quarters, the hospital and the mission's cars and managed to escape and hide in the forest with a group of young girls.³³

²⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/angolas-main-opposition-party-challenges-election-results-letter-2022-08-30/>

³⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/madagascar-police-shooting-leaves-19-dead-police-say-2022-08-30/>

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³² <https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/eglise/news/2022-09/religieuse-tuee-attaque-terroriste-mozambique-chipene-nampula.html>

³³ <https://www.voaafrique.com/a/mozambique-une-religieuse-italienne-tu%C3%A9e-dans-une-attaque-attribu%C3%A9e-aux-jihadistes/6734819.html>

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