



Situation Room Brief (End of November 2022)

Content

Central Africa

DRC: Fighting resumes between the M23 and other armed groups in Kishishe
Sao Tome and Principe: four dead after failed coup attempt

East Africa

Somalia: Hotel siege in Mogadishu ends
Sudan: Anti-putsch protester killed

Flash

Chad: 400 people on trial for deadly anti-government protests
DRC: Release of hostages
Ghana: Strengthening cooperation between West African countries
Mali: Departure of British soldiers

DRC: Fighting resumes between the M23 and other armed groups in Kishishe

Clashes were reported this Tuesday, November 29, 2022, between M23 rebels, fighters from the FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Nyatura armed groups in the village of Kishishe, located in the Bambo grouping in the Rusthuru territory of North Kivu. Local sources report that gunfire was heard between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. local time in this part of North Kivu, and that the M23 rebels were attempting to regain control of Kishishe, which they lost in last week's clashes.¹

Various sources in the area say the M23 rebels have been facing attacks from local and foreign armed groups, namely the FDLR, on several fronts for the past ten days. The local fighters confronting the M23 are the Mai Mai APCLS and Nyatura CMC, who are deployed between Kitshanga and Chumba, Bishusha group, to prevent the M23 from making their assault on Kitshanga. Other Nyatura and Mayi-Mayi factions are carrying out repeated attacks against the M23 between Katale and Biruma, on national road number 2 in Rutshuru territory, and between Nkwenda and Kisharu, in the Binza group. Some human rights activists fear that this conflict could crystallize into tribal violence. For example, on the Bwiza-Kitshanga-Burungu axis, members of some communities are fleeing their homes after being targeted by Mai Mai militiamen.²

Sao Tome and Principe: four dead after failed coup attempt

The chief of staff of the army of Sao Tome and Principe, Olinto Paquete announced Sunday, November 27, 2022 the death of four people who had been arrested after a failed coup attempt.³

Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada announced on Friday that he had foiled a coup attempt in this small Portuguese-speaking archipelago, considered a model of parliamentary democracy in Africa. A commando of four men had been captured on Friday after six hours of exchanges of fire at the headquarters of the army, he had explained. "Four citizens" with "12 soldiers of the army", tried to occupy military installations, said the chief of staff. An investigation will be conducted by the judiciary to determine the circumstances of the deaths of those suspected of being responsible for the failed overthrow.⁴

¹ <https://lesvolcansnews.net/2022/11/29/rutshuru-reprise-des-combats-ce-mardi-29-novembre-entre-le-m23-et-dautres-groupes-armes-a-kishishe/>

² <https://www.radiookapi.net/2022/11/29/actualite/securite/rutshuru-reprise-des-combats-entre-le-m23-et-dautres-groupes-armes>

³ https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/11/27/sao-tome-et-principe- quatre-morts-apres-une-tentative-de-coup-d-etat-dejoue_6151902_3212.html

⁴ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/11/28/sao-tome-et-principe-4-morts-dans-la-tentative-de-coup-detat/>

Somalia: Hotel siege in Mogadishu ends

The siege of the hotel, attacked Sunday night (27th November 2022) by Shebab jihadists in the Somali capital Mogadishu, is "over". At least eight civilians were killed in the attack by radical Islamists Shebab against the Villa Rose, a popular hotel in central Mogadishu, Somalia, before the authorities regained control. The attack had been conducted for almost twenty-one hours by six people; "five were shot and one blew himself up," announced Monday, November 28, the police spokesman. Despite the death of the 8 civilians who were in the hotel and the security forces managed to rescue about 60, and none were injured," said the spokesman, Sadik Dudishe.⁵

The Shabab, an al-Qaeda affiliated jihadist militia that has been trying to overthrow Somalia's central government for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack. The Villa Rose Hotel is a popular venue for Somali MPs, located in the central secure area of Mogadishu, not far from the office of the country's president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud. The African Union force in Somalia (ATMIS) condemned the attack.⁶

Sudan: Anti-putsch protester killed

No way out of the crisis seems to be in sight, despite international mediation efforts to bring civilians and soldiers to the negotiating table. A demonstrator was killed on Thursday, November 24, 2022 in the suburbs of Khartoum "by a bullet fired by the security forces," according to doctors, following the mobilization of hundreds of people against the coup d'état of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhane. The death in Omdourman, a suburb northwest of Khartoum, brings to 120 the toll of a year of repression established by a pro-democracy doctors' union. The protester, who was not identified, died of his injuries after being "hit in the abdomen by a bullet fired by the security forces," the same source said. On the same Thursday, the security forces also fired tear gas and sound grenades against the demonstrators, an AFP journalist noted.⁷

Chad: 400 people on trial for deadly anti-government protests

The trial of more than 400 people who participated in last month's anti-government protests is scheduled to begin Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at a desert prison in Chad. Meanwhile, military authorities are insisting that a Chadian oversee an international investigation into the civilian deaths. In a televised address, transitional President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno said a "meticulously prepared insurgency" had taken place with the "support of foreign powers," which he did not name, the African Union, and the United Nations.⁸

On October 20, 2022, demonstrations took place in N'Djamena and elsewhere in the country to protest the extension of the transition period for two more years and to demand the transfer of power to civilians. Hundreds of people responded to the call of several opposition parties and civil society organizations. Local NGOs and rights groups said nearly 200 civilians were killed by security forces firing live ammunition. The World Organization Against Torture accused Chadian authorities of summary executions and torture. For the past two weeks, Western ambassadors in Chad have been pressing the transitional government to allow a "truly independent" international commission of inquiry into the events surrounding the protests.⁹

⁵ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20221128-somalie-des-islamistes-shebab-attaquent-un-h%C3%B4tel-du-centre-de-mogadiscio>

⁶ https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/11/27/somalie-les-chabab-attaquent-un-hotel-de-mogadiscio_6151901_3212.html

⁷ <https://www.voafrique.com/a/un-manifestant-anti-putsch-tu%C3%A9-au-soudan/6849125.html>

⁸ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202211290017.html>

⁹ <https://headtopics.com/za/chad-to-try-400-people-over-deadly-anti-government-protests-ahead-of-international-inquiry-32250383>

DRC: Release of hostages

Forty-four civilians were freed between November 25 and 28, 2022, from the hands of ADF rebels in the Mwalika valley, in the Bashu chiefdom in Beni territory (North Kivu). The women and men were kidnapped during the attack on the health center in the locality of Maboya on the night of October 19-20. The chief of the Maboya Tinge locality, Kambale Ngeleza, praised the bravery of the FARDC in the operations carried out in the Mwalika valley, which is considered to be the rebels' stronghold. Kambale Ngeleza also invited his constituents "to be vigilant and to report all suspicious movements in order to allow the authorities to take action in time."¹⁰

Ghana: Strengthening cooperation between West African countries

West African coastal states held discussions Thursday, Nov. 18, 2022, on strengthening cooperation against jihadist violence spilling out of the Sahel, after other countries announced they would withdraw their peacekeepers from Mali. Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, neighboring countries on the Gulf of Guinea, face increased risks from Islamic State and al-Qaeda militants fighting north of their borders in the Sahel. As part of the so-called Accra Initiative, representatives of coastal states, the European Union and other organizations met in the Ghanaian capital to discuss security and intelligence cooperation.¹¹

Ghana's Minister of National Security, Albert Kan-Dapaah, said the collaboration was necessary because the threat of extremism is "more widespread than previously thought and transcends borders."¹²

Mali: Departure of British soldiers

Britain will withdraw its 300 troops from a U.N. peacekeeping force in Mali, following similar withdrawals this year by other Western nations, a government minister said Monday, Nov. 14, 2022. The early withdrawal comes after France and its military allies began withdrawing thousands of troops from Mali this year as the country's military junta began working with private contractors owned by Russia's Wagner Group. Western withdrawals from Mali this year have raised fears among diplomats that it could increase violence, destabilize neighbors and embolden jihadists. British Armed Forces Minister James Heappey told parliament that recent coups in Mali have undermined international efforts to help bring peace to the country, which has seen increasing violence in recent years from groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State. "This government cannot deploy our country's military to provide security when the host government is unwilling to work with us to provide lasting stability and security," Heappey said. The Malian government's partnership with Wagner, which has also been linked to human rights abuses, is counterproductive to security in the region, he added.¹³

¹⁰ <https://www.radiokapi.net/2022/11/29/actualite/securite/beni-44-civils-liberes-des-mains-des-rebelles-adf-en-4-jours-mwalika>

¹¹ <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20221118-seven-west-african-states-look-to-strengthen-their-anti-jihadist-cooperation>

¹² <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221118-west-african-states-to-increase-cooperation-as-jihadists-move-beyond-sahel>

¹³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-withdraw-troops-mali-peacekeeping-force-2022-11-14/>

Webography

- <https://allafrica.com/stories/202211290017.html>
- <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/11/28/sao-tome-et-principe-4-morts-dans-la-tentative-de-coup-detat/>
- <https://headtopics.com/za/chad-to-try-400-people-over-deadly-anti-government-protests-ahead-of-international-inquiry-32250383>
- <https://lesvolcansnews.net/2022/11/29/rutshuru-reprise-des-combats-ce-mardi-29-novembre-entre-le-m23-et-dautres-groupes-armes-a-kishishe/>
- <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20221118-seven-west-african-states-look-to-strengthen-their-anti-jihadist-cooperation>
- <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20221128-somalie-des-islamistes-shebab-attaquent-un-h%C3%B4tel-du-centre-de-mogadiscio>
- https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/11/27/sao-tome-et-principe-quatre-morts-apres-une-tentative-de-coup-d-etat-dejoue_6151902_3212.html
- https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/11/27/somalie-les-chabab-attaquent-un-hotel-de-mogadiscio_6151901_3212.html
- <https://www.radiookapi.net/2022/11/29/actualite/securite/beni-44-civils-liberes-des-mains-des-rebelles-adf-en-4-jours-mwalika>
- <https://www.radiookapi.net/2022/11/29/actualite/securite/rutshuru-reprise-des-combats-entre-le-m23-et-dautres-groupes-armes>
- <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-withdraw-troops-mali-peacekeeping-force-2022-11-14/>
- <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20221118-west-african-states-to-increase-cooperation-as-jihadists-move-beyond-sahel>
- <https://www.voafrique.com/a/un-manifestant-anti-putsch-tu%C3%A9-au-soudan/6849125.html>