



## Situation Room Brief (End of October 2022)

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### Tunisia: Clashes between police and protesters

Clashes broke out Friday, October 14, 2022, between the police and protesters in a neighborhood of Tunis, after the death of a young man, Malek Slimi, 24, fifty days after his admission to intensive care. He suffered neck injuries when he fell into a ditch after being chased by police last August, according to media reports. A group of youths threw stones at the police after the victim's funeral at midday in the popular Al Omrane upper neighborhood on the outskirts of Tunis. Even though no casualties were recorded.<sup>1</sup>

In the evening, new clashes took place in the nearby Ettadhmen neighborhood, where police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of protesters. The protesters overturned garbage containers and set others on fire, according to an AFP correspondent on the scene. The family of the young man called for an investigation into the circumstances of his death. The Tunisian police are regularly criticized for their excessive use of force.<sup>2</sup>

### Benin: Attack in the north

A terrorist attack was repelled on Tuesday evening, October 12, 2022 by the army in the northwest of the country. This region is threatened by terrorist groups but also criminal, said this Thursday, October 13 the staff of the Beninese army in a statement.<sup>3</sup>

During the night, terrorists tried to infiltrate the Beninese Armed Forces in Matéri, in the department of Atacora, said a military statement, which went on to explain that while they were preparing to launch a "complex attack", the attackers "were surprised" by Beninese soldiers and "detonated a homemade mine". At least eight (08) terrorists were eliminated and important warfare, communication and acquisition equipment was recovered. The search continues in order to better address the threat in the region.<sup>4</sup>

### Burkina Faso: Jihadist attack

Another deadly assault by a jihadist squad against the armed forces in Burkina Faso. At least three soldiers and eight civilian auxiliaries of the army were killed on Saturday 15 October, 2022 in an attack by suspected jihadists in the north of the country, security sources told AFP.<sup>5</sup>

According to this source, "the clash took place in the locality of Silmangué, in the province of Namentenga. "The provisional toll is around ten victims (dead), two injured and two missing," it added. The attack comes two weeks after a September 30, 2022 military coup by Captain Ibrahim Traoré against Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, and the day after Captain Traoré was named president of the transition by a national assembly.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lespanafricaines.com/lng/fr/2022/10/15/tunisie-heurts-entre-police-et-manifestants-apres-la-mort-dun-jeune/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/15/tunisie-heurts-entre-police-et-manifestants-apres-la-mort-dun-jeune/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://burkina24.com/2022/10/14/benin-huit-terroristes-tues-pres-dun-camp-de-larmee-a-materi-au-nord-du-pays/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/14/benin-huit-terroristes-tues-pres-dun-camp-de-larmee-a-materi/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20221016-au-burkina-faso-une-attaque-jihadiste-fait-11-morts-dont-trois-soldats>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lematin.ch/story/au-moins-11-morts-dont-trois-soldats-lors-dune-attaque-djihadiste-274612835875>

- [Terrorist Attack in Djibo](#)

Gunmen attacked a military camp in Djibo, Soum province, this Monday morning, October 24, 2022, leaving at least ten soldiers dead and about fifty wounded. In the retaliation, Burkinabe soldiers neutralized at least 18 terrorists, according to the military headquarters. It was the base of the 14th Joint Regiment that was targeted by armed terrorist groups. "It was a complex attack. There was heavy gunfire on the camp," said a security source. The attackers also launched an assault on the drinking water treatment plant in the town of Djibo but were repelled repulsed by the soldiers responsible for securing the site. "They wanted to quench the thirst of the already starving population," according to local sources.<sup>7</sup>

The statement said that "the elements of the regiment valiantly returned fire directly and indirectly from the enemy who came in large numbers. It states that "air reinforcements have been deployed in the area to ensure the rescue and response operations".<sup>8</sup>

- [Recruitment](#)

Burkina Faso has launched an exceptional recruitment campaign for 3,000 soldiers to strengthen the ranks of its army in the fight against jihadists who have been bloodying the country for seven years. The campaign comes nearly two weeks after Captain Ibrahim Traoré took power on September 30, 2022 with the stated aim of strengthening the fight against jihadists. This recruitment, which runs from October 25, 2022 to December 5, concerns only "young boys" born between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1998. This is the second time this year that the Burkinabe army, which has about 30,000 men, has organized such a recruitment.<sup>9</sup>

### [Mali: Explosion](#)

Three peacekeepers from the U.N. mission in Mali were killed and three others seriously wounded on October 17, 2022, by an improvised explosive device explosion in northern Mali. The UN Mission in Mali (UNMIS) first reported on Twitter that two of them were killed. A spokeswoman for the mission later confirmed that a third had succumbed to his injuries. The soldiers died "when their vehicle jumped on an improvised explosive device during a mine clearance patrol in Tessalit, in the Kidal region," the Minusma said.<sup>10</sup>

"Improvised explosive devices are one of the most serious threats facing our colleagues," recalled on Twitter the head of Minusma, El Ghassim Wane, who praised "their courage and (their) sense of duty."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://fr.topnews.media/paris/au-moins-dix-soldats-tues-lors-dune-nouvelle-attaque-terroriste-a-djibo/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://fr.sputniknews.africa/20221024/dix-soldats-tues-et-une-cinquantaine-blesses-lors-dune-attaque-au-burkina-faso-1056611885.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/20/burkina-faso-recrutement-de-3-000-soldats-pour-combattre-les-jihadistes/>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.voaafrrique.com/a/mali-deux-casques-bleus-tu%C3%A9s-par-un-engin-explosif-improvis%C3%A9-\(onu\)/6792979.html](https://www.voaafrrique.com/a/mali-deux-casques-bleus-tu%C3%A9s-par-un-engin-explosif-improvis%C3%A9-(onu)/6792979.html)

<sup>11</sup> <https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/mali-deux-casques-bleus-tues-par-un-engin-explosif-improvis%C3%A9-475212>

- [Malian soldier killed by explosive device](#)

A member of the Malian armed forces was killed and three others wounded Tuesday, October 25, 2022 by an explosive device in the south of the country, according to the gendarmerie and police.<sup>12</sup>

These are the latest victims of these devices, which have killed nearly 20 soldiers and civilians in less than two weeks and dozens since the beginning of the year. These members of the anti-terrorist forces were hit when their vehicle jumped on a device between Mahou, near the border with Burkina Faso, and Koutiala, a gendarmerie official and another police official said on condition of anonymity.<sup>13</sup>

#### [Niger: Jihadist attack](#)

The attacks, targeting food trucks, come after several months of calm in the vast Tillabéri region, close to Mali.<sup>14</sup>

At least eleven Nigerien civilians were killed on Saturday 22 October, 2022 in terrorist attacks near the town of Banibangou in western Niger, close to the border with Mali, a security source said the day after the tragedy. The eleven civilians were killed in attacks on three trucks and a motorcycle by suspected jihadists in the so-called "three borders" area (between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso), where terrorist groups often carry out deadly attacks targeting armed forces and civilians, the source said on condition of anonymity.<sup>15</sup>

#### [DRC: Clashes between army and M23 rebels](#)

At least four civilians were killed and forty others wounded on Sunday, October 23, 2022 in fighting between Congolese soldiers and M23 rebels, resulting in the takeover of Ntamugenga, a strategic locality near the main road leading to the city of Goma, capital of North Kivu province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Bénédicte Lecoq, emergency coordinator for Medicine Without Borders (MSF) in Rutshuru, said, "Until late afternoon, bombs were falling on Ntamugenga. Because of the bombing. There were already 14 wounded at the health center, 6 of whom needed to be evacuated. The toll certainly increased during the day", that she is very worried for the population that has remained on site, that there are about 400 people at the religious convent and more at the health center "and pleads for the opening of a "humanitarian corridor" to evacuate the trapped civilians and wounded. The M23 is accused by the Congolese authorities of being supported by the Rwandan army, which is rejected by Kigali, which in turn accuses the Congolese army of supporting Rwandan Hutu rebels based in the DRC.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.voaafrique.com/a/un-membre-des-forces-maliennes-tu%C3%A9-par-un-engin-explosif-dans-le-sud/6804985.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.africaradio.com/un-membre-des-forces-maliennes-tue-par-un-engin-explosif-dans-le-sud>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/10/24/au-niger-au-moins-onze-civils-tues-par-des-djihadistes-presumes-pres-de-la-frontiere-avec-le-mali\\_6147076\\_3212.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2022/10/24/au-niger-au-moins-onze-civils-tues-par-des-djihadistes-presumes-pres-de-la-frontiere-avec-le-mali_6147076_3212.html)

<sup>15</sup> <http://french.xinhuanet.com/20221024/16e418c80d6c4a609cfd14b491d8428c/c.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://sahel-intelligence.com/29288-rdc-4-morts-dans-les-affrontements-entre-larmee-et-rebelles-du-m23.html>

### Chad: Violence between police and protesters

Violent clashes occurred in N'Djamena and several other cities in Chad on Thursday, October 20, 2022 between the police and demonstrators opposed to the extension of the transition period. The head of government declared a curfew until "total restoration of order," while the human toll was very high. Chadian Prime Minister Saleh Kebzabo also announced the suspension of all activities of important opposition groups. Mr. Saleh Kebzabo reported "about 50 deaths," mainly in Ndjamen, Moundou and Koumra, and mentioned "nearly 300 injured. The government "will maintain order throughout the country and will no longer tolerate any drift from anywhere," he promised, denouncing an attempt at an armed uprising to seize power. Those responsible, insurgents, he said, would be brought to justice.<sup>17</sup>

The European Union "strongly" condemned the crackdown, denouncing "the excessive use of force. "The repression of demonstrations and the excessive use of force constitute serious violations of the freedoms of expression and demonstration, which undermine the ongoing transition process."<sup>18</sup>

### Ethiopia: Demonstration in support of the army

Thousands of Ethiopians took to the streets in several cities across the country on Saturday, October 22, 2022, to protest what they called foreign interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs.<sup>19</sup>

Many people unfurled banners urging the United States to stop supporting the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF). The government more or less openly blames Western countries, led by the United States, for interfering in its internal affairs. In this perspective, the deputy mayor of Addis Ababa, Jantir Abay, declared before the demonstrators: "For the country and the people to be civilized, we had asked you to support development projects, do not be a sponsor of war, this is the voice of all Ethiopia." The protest comes amid hopes for talks between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF to end the war raging in the region.<sup>20</sup>

### Kenya: Pakistani journalist shot dead

A prominent Pakistani television host was shot dead in Kenya, his wife announced Monday, October 24, 2022. Arshad Sharif had fled his country a few months ago to escape arrest for sedition. The man was a vocal critic of Pakistan's all-powerful military and a supporter of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was ousted in April by a vote of no confidence.<sup>21</sup>

The senior Pakistani journalist was living in hiding in Kenya and was shot dead by police after the car he was in sped up instead of stopping at a roadblock near Nairobi, police said. But Kenyan police regretted the incident, saying it was a case of "mistaken identity" while searching for a similar car involved in a child abduction case.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <sup>17</sup> <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20221020-tchad-de-violents-heurts-lors-d-une-manifestation-contre-le-maintien-au-pouvoir-de-mahamat-d%C3%A9by>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/manifestations-au-tchad-une-cinquantaine-de-morts-et-plus-de-300-blesses-selon-le-premier-ministre-20221020>

<sup>19</sup> <sup>19</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/des-milliers-d%C3%A9thiopiens-manifestent-contre-ling%C3%A9rence-%C3%A9trang%C3%A8re-/2718481>

<sup>20</sup> <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/10/22/ethiopie-manifestation-de-soutien-a-larmee/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://swiss.dayfr.com/tv/304958.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://lesactualites.news/nouvelles/arshad-sharif-journaliste-pakistanaise-tue-par-la-police-au-kenya-a-un-barrage/>

### Somali: Terrorist attack

Nine people were killed and 47 injured on Sunday, October 30, 2022 in an attack by radical Islamists Shebab in a hotel in Kismayo, a large city in southern Somalia, announced the Minister of Security of Jubaland State.<sup>23</sup>

This large port city is the latest to be hit by the resurgence of violent actions of the Shebab in recent months, which has notably bloodied the capital Mogadishu and the center of the country. The attack, which began at around 12:45 local time (09:45 GMT), ended at around 19:00 after three attackers inside the hotel were shot dead by security forces in Jubaland State. The attack was carried out by four men: one who carried out a suicide attack, followed by the intrusion of three armed men into the hotel. Security forces ended the siege in a timely manner.<sup>24</sup>

### Sudan: Intercommunity Clashes

At least 150 people including women and children were killed Wednesday and Thursday, October 20, 2022 in renewed clashes between communities in Blue Nile, southern Sudan. Clashes were still going on Thursday evening in the town of Wad el-Mahi, 60 kilometers from Damazin, the capital of Blue Nile State. A Médecins Sans Frontières employee on the ground described a chaotic situation and overflowing hospitals. Many people were injured by bullets and stab wounds. But above all, survivors charred by the flames. After the men were shot with heavy weapons, entire blocks of houses were reduced to ashes. These houses were mainly home to women and children who had taken refuge there.<sup>25</sup>

The U.N. mission in Sudan expressed "grave concern about the escalation of violence" between tribes in Blue Nile as well as in West Kordofan State, calling on the authorities to address "the root causes of the problem" and to guarantee "the right of the people to security."<sup>26</sup>

### Ethiopia: Peace talks against war in Tigray

Northern Ethiopia has been in the grip of war for nearly two years, causing a humanitarian catastrophe in Africa's second most populous country. The Ethiopian government said Thursday that peace talks on the nearly two-year war in Tigray would begin in South Africa next week. The Ethiopian government said Thursday that peace talks on the nearly two-year war in Tigray would begin in South Africa next week. "The AUC (African Union Commission) has informed us that the peace talks will be held in South Africa on October 24, 2022. We have reconfirmed our commitment to participate," Redwan Hussein, national security adviser to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, posted on Twitter.<sup>27</sup>

The government and TPLF leaders had agreed to attend talks this month, which were to be brokered by AU envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, former South African Vice President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. But the meeting in South Africa never took place, with logistical problems being blamed. Meanwhile, the fighting has intensified. This week, the government promised to seize airports and other federal sites controlled by the rebels as part of "defensive measures."<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.rti.info/depeches/2022/10/24/somalie-9-morts-47-blesses-dans-lattaque-islamiste-sur-un-hotel-dans-le-sud-du-pays>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.courrier-picard.fr/id354176/article/2022-10-23/somalie-9-morts-et-47-blesses-dans-une-attaque-islamiste-sur-un-hotel>

<sup>25</sup> <sup>25</sup> <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20221020-soudan-150-morts-en-deux-jours-dans-des-affrontements-intercommunautaires-dans-le-nil-bleu>

<sup>26</sup> <https://burkina24.com/2022/10/21/soudan-150-morts-en-24-heures-dans-des-affrontements-intercommunautaires-dans-le-nil-bleu/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/tigray-peace-talks-in-south-africa-on-24-october-says-ethiopia-government-20221020>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20221020-tigray-peace-talks-in-south-africa-on-october-24-ethiopia-govt>

### Nigeria: The toll of heavy flooding

Heavy flooding in Nigeria, which has covered farms and roads and slowed food and fuel shipments, has now displaced more than a million people from their homes, with the death toll already exceeding 600. The country's authorities are struggling to clear the roads, while soaring prices are already making life more expensive for Nigerians. In the coastal state of Kogi, at the Dantata Bridge, an important link between northern and southern Nigeria, tons of food and fuel lie miles away from their destination as the effects of Nigeria's worst flooding in a decade are felt. But weeks of severe flooding in Kogi State have washed away farmland and affected access roads, including the Dantata Bridge.<sup>29</sup>

Authorities say more than 2 million people in 33 of Nigeria's 36 states have been affected. They attribute the flooding to torrential rains that began in July and the release of water from Cameroon's Lagdo Dam. But experts say Nigeria's poor urban planning has made the situation worse. In some cases, floodwaters have covered roofs, leaving communities completely submerged. This week, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari directed emergency response officials to step up their response and said up to 12 tons of grain was being shipped to the worst-hit areas to limit the impact of the floods. But camp officials are reportedly unsure when the aid will arrive and say they are running out of space to accommodate the new arrivals.<sup>30</sup>

### Tunisia: Demonstration for the departure of the President

Thousands of Tunisians demonstrated in the capital Tunis, denouncing President Kais Saied's moves to consolidate his political power and demanding accountability for the country's long economic crisis. Supporters of the Ennahdha party and the Free Constitutional Party held parallel rallies in adjacent neighborhoods of the capital, Tunis, on Saturday, October 15, 2022, accusing Saied of economic mismanagement and an anti-democratic coup. Ali Laarayedh, a former Tunisian prime minister and senior Ennahdha official, told AFP that the protest was an expression of "anger at the state of affairs under Kais Saied." "We are asking him to leave."<sup>31</sup>

About 1,500 people joined the Ennahdha-led protest, while nearly 1,000 people participated in the Free Constitutional Party's demonstration, the Interior Ministry told AFP. In public statements, Saied said he was working to "correct" the economic problems he inherited from Tunisia's post-Ben Ali regime. Cash-strapped Tunisia is in talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout loan of about \$2 billion.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup><https://northafricapost.com/61823-severe-floods-in-nigeria-kill-more-than-600-slow-shipments-of-aid.html>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/nigerian-floods-kill-over-600-slows-shipments-of-essentials-/6795838.html>

<sup>31</sup><https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/we-are-telling-him-to-leave-tunisian-protesters-demand-president-kais-saieds-removal-20221016>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/15/tunisian-protesters-denounce-coup-demand-presidents-remova>

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