



Situation Room Brief (End of July 2022)

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LIBYA: FIGHTING RIPS THROUGH THE CAPITAL

On the 22nd of July 2022, Reuters reported that fighters affiliated to the Presidency Council and including the RADA force exchanged fire in a central district where several government and international agencies, along with diplomatic missions, are based, and clashes spread to the areas of Ain Zara and Asbaa¹. Tripoli Ambulance and Emergency Services spokesperson

Osama Ali said 13 people were confirmed dead and 27 injured. A spokesperson for the Interior Ministry said three of the dead were civilians². There was no sign that Friday's clashes were linked to the wider political problems, but both prime ministers have support from among the armed factions that control territory in the capital and other western Libyan cities³.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/reports-dead-libya-clashes-strike-capital-2022-07-22/>

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/reports-dead-libya-clashes-strike-capital-2022-07-22/>

³ <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/at-least-three-dead-as-fighting-rips-through-libyan-capital>

MALI

EXPULSION OF UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION SPOKESMAN

The website dw.com reported on the 20th of July 2022 that Malian authorities ordered Olivier Salgado, the spokesman of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, MINUSMA, to leave the country within 72 hours⁴. In a statement, Malian the government cited "tendentious and unacceptable" posts he made on Twitter regarding the case of the 49 Ivorian soldiers arrested in Mali on Sunday, July 10. The Foreign ministry statement slammed Salgado's posts as remarks: "declaring without any proof that the Malian authorities had been previously informed" of the 49 soldiers' arrival⁵.

⁴ <https://www.dw.com/en/mali-expels-un-peacekeeping-mission-spokesman/a-62543278>

⁵ <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/20/mali-expels-minusma-spokesperson-over-tweets-on-ivorian-soldiers-detained-in-the-country/#:~:text=Mali's%20military%20authorities%20dismissed%20Wednesday,to%20leave%20the%20Sahelian%20nation.>

ATTACKS ON MILITARY BASES

On Wednesday 27th of July 2022, militants assaulted a military camp in Sonkolo, a rural commune in the south-central Segou region, more than 300 kilometres (186 miles) north of the capital Bamako. As a result, six soldiers died and 25 were wounded⁶. In the southwestern town of Kalumba, nine soldiers and three civilians were killed during an early morning attack on a different camp.

According to a statement by the army, another military base in the central town of Mopti also was attacked during the night, but the assailants were pushed back without casualties. All the attacks were eventually repelled, and soldiers killed 48 of the militants in Sonkolo⁷.

Later, on Friday the 29th of July 2022, Mali's main military base just outside Bamako was hit with a complex assault involving car bombs on Friday, the closest the insurgents have come to the capital in years⁸.

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/militants-kill-15-soldiers-3-civilians-two-mali-attacks-2022-07-27/>

⁷ <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-07-27/militants-kill-15-soldiers-3-civilians-in-two-mali-attacks>

⁸ <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-07-27/militants-kill-15-soldiers-3-civilians-in-two-mali-attacks>

DRC: ANTI-UN PROTESTS

Protests erupted on Monday 25th of July 2022 as crowds took to the streets of North Kivu province's main city Goma against the country's UN mission – United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) – which they accuse of failing to stop armed groups' decades-old fighting⁹.

On Tuesday, demonstrations spread further to the towns of Beni and Butembo. In a post on Twitter, government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said "at least five people (were) dead, about 50 wounded" in the unrest. The security

forces had fired "warning shots" at protesters to stop attacks on UN personnel, he said¹⁰. Seven civilians were killed in Butembo, local police chief Colonel Paul Ngoma said.¹¹ The United Nations said one peacekeeper from Morocco and two international policemen from India serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force were slain and a policeman from Egypt was injured at the U.N. base in Butembo in North Kivu province when "violent attackers snatched weapons from Congolese police" and fired on U.N. personnel. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the Butembo attack and violence targeting multiple U.N. bases across North Kivu since Monday, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said¹².

⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/un-peacekeepers-troops-shoot-two-protesters-dead-in-goma-drc>

¹⁰ <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220726-5-killed-as-anti-un-protesters-spread-in-east-dr-congo>

¹¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/un-peacekeepers-troops-shoot-two-protesters-dead-in-goma-drc>

¹² <https://apnews.com/article/africa-united-nations-personnel-peacekeeping-forces-32731f7617617faffa66de9697604534>

SUDAN: CLASHES BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS

On Monday the 18th of July 2022, Witnesses said thousands of protesters of the Hausa tribe set up barricades and attacked government buildings in several cities. While members of the Hausa tribe say the violence erupted after the Birta rejected a Hausa request to create a “civil authority to supervise access to land”, Birta tribesmen said the tribe was responding to a “violation” of its lands by the Hausa¹³.

Local sources say the fighting is partly motivated by conflicts over land ownership but also blame the military government that took power by force last October for creating a security vacuum favouring tribal violence.¹⁴ According to the state’s security committee and other officials, at least 79 people have been killed and 150 others have been wounded since the violence broke out a week before¹⁵.

US SAYS IT KILLS TWO AL-SHABAAB

The United States has been carrying out air strikes in Somalia to try to defeat al Shabaab, an al Qaeda franchise seeking to implement its interpretation of Islamic law and overthrow the country's Western-backed central government.

According to a statement published on Monday the 18th of July 2022 by US Africa Command (AFRICOM), the US military killed two fighters from the Al-Shabaab

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/19/what-s-behind-tribal-violence-in-sudans-blue-nile-state-explainer>

¹⁴ <https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/19/sudan-clashes-between-ethnic-groups-continue-in-the-blue-nile/>

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/19/what-s-behind-tribal-violence-in-sudans-blue-nile-state-explainer>

militant group in a strike that took place¹⁶. near Libikus, in the Lower Juba region¹⁷. US Africa Command said it conducted the strike in coordination with the government of Somalia on Sunday after the al-Shabaab terrorist organization "attacked partner forces in a remote location near Libikus, Somalia," according to a statement. "Violent extremist organizations like al-

Shabaab present long-term threats to Somali, regional and US interests¹⁸.

However, rights activists have accused the United States of shrouding its Somalia operations in secrecy, potentially undermining accountability for incidents involving civilian deaths¹⁹.

Flash:

Somaliland: suspension of BBC

Authorities in Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia, on Tuesday 19th of July 2022 suspended the operations of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), accusing the broadcaster of "undermining the credibility of the Somaliland state."²⁰ Information minister Saleban Yusuf Ali Kore told a press conference in the northwestern region's capital Hargeisa that "the BBC failed to recognise Somaliland as a democratic country that has stood on its feet for 30 years." "Starting from today, I have commanded all functions related to BBC in Somaliland to be suspended," he said. There was no immediate comment from BBC in response to the ban²¹.

Violence in South-Sudan

Marauding militias have been blamed for the wave of violence and killings currently happening in South-Sudan, threatening the 2018 truce between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar. At least 209 people were killed, and 33 others wounded across the country in June alone, according to a violence tracker by the Juba-based civic group known by its initials as CEPO²². However, some analysts say government troops and police — often outnumbered by civilian attackers in areas awash with small weapons — cannot be relied on to protect civilians. They also charge that the attackers have powerful political backers in Juba. It also is hindering humanitarian efforts among communities in urgent need of food, medicine, and other supplies²³.

¹⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/us-says-it-kills-two-al-shabaab-militants-somalia-airstrike-2022-07-19/>

¹⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/us-says-it-kills-two-al-shabaab-militants-somalia-airstrike-2022-07-19/>

¹⁸ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-07-18/us-strike-kills-two-al-shabaab-militants-after-attack-in-somalia>

¹⁹ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2125016/world>

²⁰ <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east->

[africa/somaliland-suspends-bbc-for-undermining-the-state-3886080](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/world/somaliland-suspends-bbc-for-undermining-the-state-3886080)

²¹ <https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/world/somaliland-suspends-bbc-for-undermining-the-s-138941>

²² <https://apnews.com/article/pope-francis-africa-sudan-violence-race-and-ethnicity-da3703b03b97e053f912dcbfda9b1718>

²³ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-18/explosion-of-violence-in-south-sudan-threatens-peace-pact/101248764>

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