



Situation Room Brief (Early August 2022)

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Libya: Clashes again in Tripoli

Clashes between rival armed groups broke out again on August 6, 2022, in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, forcing the evacuation of families from residential areas. Forces of commander Osama al-Yuwaili, a supporter of the parallel government of Fathi Bashaga, attacked a rival Government of National Unity (GNU) militia in Tripoli in the neighborhood of el Jebes with armored vehicles and artillery near the airport road, triggering another day of violence.¹

Tension in the capital has increased with the appointment by the Tobruk-based parliament, under Marshal Khalifa Haftar, of Bashaga as prime minister, alongside Abdulhamid Dbeibah of the Tripoli-based GUN.

Bashaga's attempts to enter Tripoli and assert control since May 2022 have led to sporadic clashes and military moves by pro-government groups.

In eleven years, since the death of Colonel Gaddhafi, the North African country has seen a dozen governments, two civil wars and has never managed to organize a presidential election.²

Algeria: Partnership with Russia

Relations between Russia and Algeria are based on significant military cooperation and have been further strengthened under the presidency of Vladimir Putin. On the other side, the rise to power in 2019 of president Tebboune has helped in renewing this strategic partnership³.

An operation called "Desert Shield", scheduled for November 2022, is further proof of the friendship between these two countries, as one hundred and sixty Russian and Algerian soldiers will participate in the exercise, which consists of searching for, finding and eradicating terrorist groups in the desert. According to researcher and academic Mansouria Mekhfi, Moscow and Algiers "share the same analysis on many international political issues": they have the same determination to fight against Islamic fundamentalism and have announced their joint opposition to the Arab Spring.⁴

Guinea: shootings

Reuters reported on the 29th of July 2022 that at least four people were shot dead and several wounded during a second day of anti-government protests in guinea's capital Conakry⁵. Police did not confirm that death. A senior police official who declined to be named said that 88 people were injured, included 12 policemen. One of the FNDG's leaders, Ibrahima Diallo, told journalists that 102 people had been arrested on Thursday and 23 of them sent to a military camp overnight⁶. It was the second major protest the junta in recent months. One person was killed in a protest over fuel price hikes in June, and Guinea charged a police officer with his murder. Coup leader and interim President Mamady Doumbouya has proposed a 36-month transition to elections, which regional leaders and opposition politicians have rejected⁷.

¹ <https://atalayar.com/fr/content/des-groupes-armes-rivaux-saffrontent-nouveau-tripoli>

² <https://www.voafrique.com/a/libye-des-groupes-arm%C3%A9s-s-affrontent-%C3%A0-tripoli/6689488.html>

³ <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20220809-entre-l-alg%C3%A9rie-et-la-russie-un-partenariat-plus-solide-que-jamais>

⁴ <https://fmes-france.org/russie-algerie-un-partenariat-flexible-et-pragmatique/>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/one-shot-dead-guinea-protest-opposition-group-says-2022-07-29/>

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/one-shot-dead-guinea-protest-opposition-group-says-2022-07-29/>

⁷ <https://www.euronews.com/2022/07/30/us-guinea-politics>

Sierra Leone: protests

under President Julia Maada's government. According to the protestors the cost of living has gone up more than 40 percent within a few months⁸. Reuters reported that at least 21 civilians were killed at different locations in the country. It further reported that 13 people were shot dead in Freetown, and another eight were killed in Kamakwie and Makeni towns, citing hospital sources. Vice President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh imposed a curfew Wednesday 10th of August 2022 to quell the protests⁹. Deadly unrest is uncommon for Sierra Leone, especially in the West African country's capital Freetown. Relative calm returned to the city on Thursday after a nationwide curfew was imposed. Police and troops patrolled the streets of the capital, and some shops in the city's central business district had reopened, AFP reported¹⁰.

Mali: UN accuses Malian and 'white' soldiers of being involved in the deaths of 33 civilians

The attack of March 5, 2022, not far from the Mauritanian border, caused a stir in Mali and Mauritania, where some civilians disappeared.¹¹ A report from UN experts, published on Friday the 5th of August 2022 blames the Malian army and "white soldiers" from the Russian paramilitary group Wagner for the death of 33 civilians, including 29 Mauritians and 4 Malians during the attack on March 5, 2022¹².

The bodies of these civilians were found a few kilometers from the village of Robinet El Ataye in the Ségou region, according to a diplomat in New York.

- **Attack in Tessit**

A report published on Monday August 9, 2022, by the Malian army indicates that on Sunday August 8, 2022, in a military camp near the town of Tessit, there was a battle between a group of jihadists and the Malian army, which caused the death of at least 21 people, including 17 soldiers, 22 wounded and 9 other soldiers are missing.¹³ The civilians of this region are caught in the crossfire of the actors of the conflict. As a result, the inhabitants of the area found themselves forced to flee to take refuge in the large neighboring town of Gao, about 150 km to the north.¹⁴ The jihadists seek control of this strategic and auriferous zone. Endangering not only Mali, but Burkina Faso and Niger, its closest neighbours.

- **Attack in the South**

Since the attack at the end of July on the Kati military camp, near Bamako and the heart of power of the Malian junta where its leader Assimi Goïta officially lives, the jihadists have increased their attacks in the south of the country. On Sunday August 7, 2022, in the Koutiala region in the north of the country, at least five police officers were killed by an explosive device. But if the jihadists recently demonstrated near the capital, it may also be because there are shortcomings in the system of the Defense and Security Forces (FDS).

For some analysts, the central power must review its strategy. Especially since in a recent authenticated press release, the jihadist groups claimed to be everywhere on the territory. Faced with this worrying situation, the government has taken decisions, such as banning motorbike traffic at certain times of the day in localities. This is not enough to reassure: the United States has already asked some of its nationals to leave Mali.¹⁵

⁸ <https://www.voanews.com/a/anti-government-protests-turn-deadly-in-sierra-leone/6697665.html>

⁹ <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/11/africa/eight-killed-sierra-leone-protest-intl/index.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/11/calm-returns-to-sierra-leone-as-protest-death-toll-rises>

¹¹ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20220805-mali-l...>

¹² <https://eurafrika.info/2022/08/08/mali-lonu-accuse...>

¹³ <https://sahel-intelligence.com/28505-mali-21-morts-dont-17-soldats-dans-lattaque-des-jihadistes.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/21-personnes-dont-17-soldats-tuees-une-attaque-zone-malienne-trois-frontieres>

¹⁵ <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20220809-au-mali-les-attaques-terroristes-de-plus-en-plus-fr%C3%A9quentes-dans-le-sud-du-pays>

Burkina Faso: double attack

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been plagued by terrorist attacks that have claimed many victims and more than 1.9 million internally displaced people. Today more than 40% of the country remains outside the government's control, according to official figures¹⁶.

The country is experiencing the largest wave of displacement of people due to terrorism, in the Sahel, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Burkina Faso (ICRC), which specifies that three out of four displaced people in the Sahel are from Burkina Faso.¹⁷ On the 9th of August 2022, the Burkinabe army general staff announced in a press release that there was a double attack with an explosive device, by jihadists on the Bourzanga-Djibo axis", in the Center-North region, according to the staff. "The report of the two incidents shows 15 fallen soldiers and one wounded" and caused "material damage". It happened "during an escort mission led by a military unit of the 14th combined arms regiment (RIA)". "One of the vehicles in the convoy, carrying fighters, indeed jumped on an explosive device near the locality of Namsiguia", in the province of Bam. "While the rescue and security operations were being organized, a second machine was obviously activated remotely, causing numerous victims," indicated the Burkinabe army staff.

According to the army, "reinforcements were immediately dispatched to the scene of the incident to ensure the evacuation of the victims" and "security operations are currently underway in the area". No group claimed responsibility for the attack. An investigation has been opened to determine the perpetrators.¹⁸

- **Attack in Sima**

Sima, in the commune of Seguenega - province of Yatenga (north) - was the target of a terrorist attack which took place on Monday August 9, 2022, where at least 10 civilians were killed, and several others wounded. "The attack was repelled at the gates of Seguenega by the elements who received reinforcement" from the Defense and Security Forces (FDS), according to this official who affirmed that "the attack had caused a massive flight of the inhabitants" of the locality. He said, however, that they had started to return "certainly after seeing the army's aerial response".¹⁹

"Following the attack on Sima, units were deployed as reinforcements and air support helped rout the attackers," confirmed another security source.

¹⁶ <https://www.voanews.com/a/twin-blasts-kill-15-burkina-faso-troops-army-says/6695441.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/burkina-faso-15-soldats-tu%C3%A9s-dans-une-double-explosion-dans-le-centre-nord-arm%C3%A9e/2657729>

¹⁸ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/10/burkina-faso-15-soldats-tues-lors-dune-double-attaque-a-lengin-explosif//>

¹⁹ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/09/burkina-faso-au-moins-10-civils-tues-lors-dune-attaque-terroriste//>

Chad: Signing of a peace agreement

An agreement, mentioned by the UN, was signed on August 8, 2022, between Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno and around forty rebel groups in Doha, Qatar. It aims to establish a dialogue for peace with a view to restoring power to civilians, the meeting of which is scheduled for August 20, 2022.²⁰

This peace agreement provides, among other things, for a general ceasefire, the establishment of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program, the adoption and application of an amnesty law as well as the reciprocal release prisoners of war. While some Chadians welcome this progress, others deplore the withdrawal of the most important rebel factions. However, the Front for alternation and harmony in Chad (FACT) announced that it would not participate in the national dialogue, as did the Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic.²¹

DRC: Attack on a prison

On the night of Tuesday, August 10, 2022, members of Congolese self-defense groups called *Les Mai-Mai* attacked the central prison of Kakwangura in the town of Butembo, in the eastern region of the country. According to prison sources who requested anonymity, of the 872 people held in this prison, only 49 remain.²²

An assailant was also killed, and ammunition recovered, said Captain Antony Mualushayi, army spokesman in Beni.²³

- **Attack in Ituri**

CODECO is at the heart of insecurity in Ituri, in the North-East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where violent conflicts with community connotations resumed in December 2017. For example, seven Zairian militia fighters were killed in an attack by CODECO militiamen on Sunday August 7, 2022, in the villages of Mbidjo, Akwe, Sukisa, Tchudja and Jinga, in the territory of Djugu (Ituri).²⁴

According to security sources, a dozen armed men identified with the attackers of CODECO from Damascus, Nguo and Dukri entered these villages on Sunday, while worshipers were returning from places of worship. They had started shooting indiscriminately, sowing panic among the population; then the CODECOs subsequently took more than twenty people hostage, local sources indicate.²⁵

Before withdrawing from these entities, they also looted animals from the base of the course, solar panels and set fire to several residential houses.

²⁰ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20220808-tchad-la-junte-signe-un-accord-avec-des-rebelles-et-lance-un-dialogue-national>

²¹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/tchad-le-gouvernement-de-transition-et-les-groupes-politico-militaires-signent-laccord-de-paix-de-doha/2656458>

²² <https://www.voafrique.com/a/est-de-rdc-deux-policiers-tu%C3%A9s-plus-de-800-%C3%A9vasions-dans-l-attaque-d-une-prison/6695590.html>

²³ <https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/est-de-rdc-deux-policiers-tues-plus-de-800-evasions-dans-l-attaque-d-une-prison-467412>

²⁴ <https://www.politico.cd/encontinu/2022/08/08/ituri-les-codeco-tuent-7-miliciens-zaire-captivent-plus-de-20-personnes-pillent-et-incendient-plusieurs-maisons-a-djugu.html/113324/>

²⁵ <https://www.radiookapi.net/2022/08/08/actualite/securite/ituri-la-codeco-tue-7-combattants-de-la-milice-zaire-djugu>

Somaliland: deadly elections disputes

In a short video released by the president's office on Friday 13th of August 2022 night, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud called on the Somaliland ruling party and opposition leaders to resolve their political differences through dialogue to avoid instability²⁶. At least five people lost their lives and 100 others, including several security officials, were injured in Thursday's protests and clashes between opposition supporters and security forces. Although the situation seems to have calmed down a bit since Thursday the 12th of August 2022, the opposition says the protests will continue²⁷.

Flash

Senegal: A peace agreement signed between Senegal and rebels from Casamance

The MFDC (Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance) has been waging a low-intensity conflict since 1982, causing several deaths. This conflict remained latent until the launch in January 2021 by the Senegalese army of a major offensive against the rebels.²⁸

On Thursday, August 4th, 2022, Senegalese President Macky Sall signed a peace agreement in Bissau with the rebel leader César Atoute Badiate of Casamance who pledged to lay down their arms and work for the return of peace in this region, theater of one of the oldest African rebellions in activity.²⁹

Mali: Yerewolo group calls for ousting of MINUSMA

An article published on August 5, 2022, on Africanews.com that reported that members of a Malian civil society group that supports the country's government on Friday called for the withdrawal of the UN mission in the country on September 22, 2022. During a meeting held at the Palais de la Culture in Bamako on August 5, 2022, members of the anti-French group "Yerewolo Standing on the ramparts " decided to take to the streets on September 22, to withdraw troops from the country's MINUSMA.³⁰

The Yerewolo movement has supported the transitional president, Colonel Assimi Goita, and has organized several demonstrations against France in the past.

- **An agreement to integrate 26,000 ex-rebels into the army**

The Malian government made some announcements on Friday August 6, 2022, as part of the relaunch of the Algiers peace agreement signed in 2015, the application of which on the ground is encountering difficulties.³¹

Following a meeting between the transitional government, ex-combatants and the Algerian party, an agreement was reached for the integration of 26,000 ex-combatants into the ranks of the Malian armed forces. According to the press release resulting from the session, this integration must be done "in two tranches of 13,000 (ex-combatants), the first of which is distributed according to the quota having been the subject of a consensus between the two parties", on the start date of the operation.

The second tranche will be spread "over a period of two years, in particular 2023-2024", specifies the note. Signed in 2015 by the Malian government and groups of ex-rebels from the predominantly Tuareg north of

²⁶ <https://www.voanews.com/a/somali-president-urges-stability-in-somaliland-amid-deadly-election-disputes/6700398.html>

²⁷ <https://granthshala.com/somali-president-urges-stability-in-somaliland-amid-deadly-election-disputes/>

²⁸ <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1367364/politique/senegal-casamance-ce-que-contient-laccord-de-paix-signe-avec-des-rebelles/>

²⁹ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/05/un-accord-de-paix-signe-entre-le-senegal-et-des-rebelles-de-casamance/>

³⁰ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/06/mali-le-groupe-yerewolo-demande-leviction-de-la-minusma/>

³¹ <https://fr.africanews.com/2022/08/06/mali-un-accord-pour-integrer-26-000-ex-rebelles-dans-larmee/>

the country, this so-called Algiers peace agreement provides for a process of cantonment of combatants from the signatory movements with a view to their integration into the public service, including within the armed forces, or their "disarmament, demobilization and reintegration" (DDR) into civilian life.³²

The Malian government is committed to taking the necessary steps to implement the political and institutional reforms needed to advance the implementation of the Algiers Agreement.

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