

Lens of Terrorist Operations and Acts of violence in Africa



JANUARY 2023



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Introduction

Although there was a 57% decrease in the number of people joining extremist groups for religious reasons in Africa, the rates of those joining for economic reasons increased, reaching 92% of new recruits to extremist groups for better livelihoods. The continued activity of the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, and the renewal of ethnic conflict in Ethiopia, led to the continued high number of victims in Africa. In January 2023, Terrorism led to 859 victims, most of them civilians, in addition to hundreds of cases of kidnapping by Boko Haram in west Africa..

First: Monitoring methodology adopted in the report

A. Monitoring methodology

The report, "Lens of Terrorist Operations and Acts of violence in Africa", adopts a methodology of direct monitoring of terrorist operations reported in the Arab, Western and African media on the African continent, which mainly relies on open sources such as the Internet, as well as reliable and credible news websites.

However, for the sake of accuracy and reliability, scientific honesty obliges us to highlight the “error coefficient”, which is likely to happen especially since some sources, whether local or international, may provide different numbers of victims or update their data few days after the monitoring process.

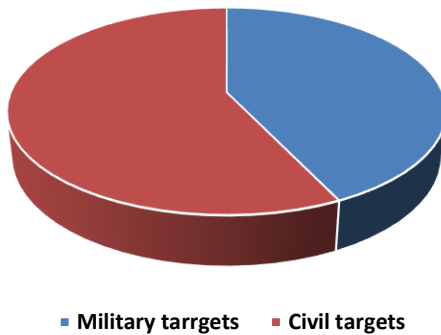
B. The concept of terrorism upon which the report is built:

No comprehensive, unified definition of terrorism at the international level has yet been agreed upon, but in this report, we will rely on the multiple definitions put by United Nations bodies, stipulated in the General Assembly Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Resolution 69/40), as well as Security Council Resolution 1566, and the items included in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which terrorism is defined as “Criminal acts, including acts committed against civilians, intended or calculated to cause death or serious bodily injury, or the taking of hostages with the intent to Creating a state of terror among the general public or in a group of persons or specific persons, or intimidating the population, or compelling a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.”

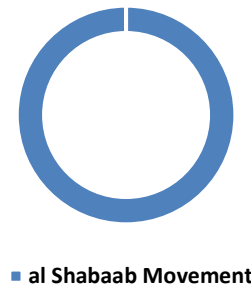
Second: The countries most affected by terrorism in Africa

Somalia	Rating: 1	Accidents: 14 Fatalities: 388
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Attacks according to targets



Attacks according to organization



During January 2023, Somalia witnessed a number of terrorist operations. On January 2, three people were injured in heavy fighting in Las Anod, north Somalia.¹ On January 2, 20 civilians were killed and about 30 others were injured in clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Somaliland.² On January 4, a suicide attack through two car bombings resulted in the deaths of 35 people, including a family of 9 members, and the Al-Shabaab movement affiliated with Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the incident.³ On January 5, two car bombs exploded in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing at least 100 people.⁴ On January 6, an attack by al-Shabaab on a military base was repulsed, but left seven soldiers dead. The attack took place in south Somalia that was recaptured by al Shabaab.⁵ On January 7, 20 were killed and dozens wounded in an ambush of a government base in the village of Hilul Gap outside Run Nergod in Somalia's Middle Shabelle region.⁶ On January 8, 35 people were killed, including civilians and soldiers, and 72 others were injured. Two suicide bombers from the Al-Shabaab group targeted two residential buildings in the town of Mahas, in the Somali region of Hiran.⁷ On January 14, at least 15 people were killed and more than 50 injured in three bombings in Hirshabelle state, central Somalia.⁸ On January 15, 8 people were killed in a roadside bomb explosion, which Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for in central Somalia.⁹ On January 17, the spokesman for the

¹ Somaliguadian, At least three wounded as gunfight erupts in northern Somalia's Lasanod town <https://bit.ly/3XmvTUj>

² Trtworld, Many dead as protesters clash with security forces in Somaliland

³ BBC news, Somalia car bombs: Family of nine killed in Hiraan attack, 4/1/2023, bit.ly/3WbkHsT

⁴ Thecitizen, Somalia Mogadishu bombings: Twin blasts kill 100 in capital <https://bit.ly/3RQGDc9>

⁵ Voanews, 7 Somali Troops Killed in Attack on Army Camp <https://bit.ly/3jN2PYj>

⁶ Hornobserver, At least 20 killed in an Al-Shabab attack in Somalia' Middle Shabelle region <https://bit.ly/3XozaSM>

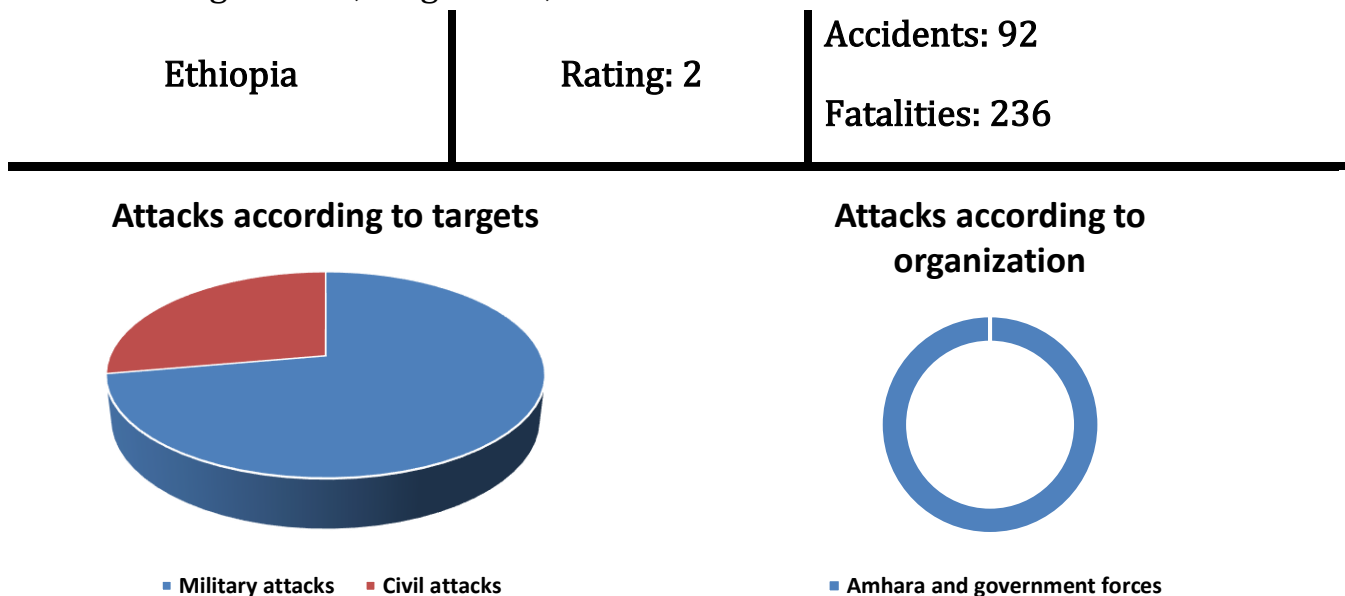
⁷ Iumsonline, Somalia: 35 killed, 72 wounded in Somalia twin suicide blasts <https://bit.ly/3jMSyv2>

⁸ Voanews, Al-Shabab Attacks Key Towns in Somalia, Killing at Least 15 People <https://bit.ly/3HLtP24>

⁹ Ahram Online, Eight dead in Somalia bombing claimed by Al-Shabaab: police <https://bit.ly/3YHkcbl>

extremist youth movement, Abu Musab, confirmed the killing of more than 150 Somali soldiers and officers.¹⁰

On January 21, a national army soldier was killed and several others were wounded when Al-Shabaab militants launched an attack on a military camp in central Somalia. The attack included the detonation of car bombs at a military base in the newly liberated town of Galkad in Galmudug Province.¹¹ On January 22, the Somali government said that extremists affiliated to al-Qaeda stormed a regional government office in the Somali capital on the day and killed 5 civilians.¹² On January 24, at least two high school students and a woman were injured when a mortar bomb targeted the Somali presidential palace, the capital, Mogadishu.¹³ Finally, on 29 January, Al-Shabaab militants carried out a grenade attack on a police station in Hawle Wadag District, Mogadishu, Somalia.¹⁴



In January, Ethiopia recorded 92 violent incidents and 236 murders. Events increased by 103% from December, while deaths increased by 7%. Oromia region had the highest number of reported fatalities due to political violence, with 50 reported fatalities, while the Amhara region had the highest number of deaths at 142.

¹⁰ Africanews, Somalia, extremists claim over 100 killed in intense battle <https://bit.ly/3XmgZgD>

¹¹ AA, Al-Shabaab kills senior commando in attack on army camp in central Somalia <https://bit.ly/40Mk1h0>

¹² Africanews, Somalia: At least five killed in al-shabab bomb attack in Mogadishu <https://bit.ly/3RQO2br>

¹³ AA, Mortar attack targeting Somalia's presidential palace wounds at least 5 <https://bit.ly/3YEW5dl>

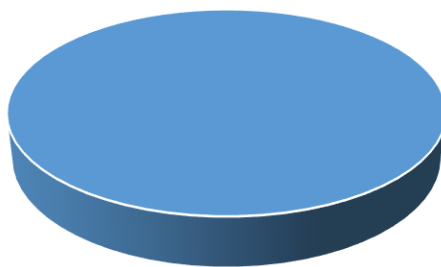
¹⁴ crisis24, Somalia: Suspected Al-Shabaab militants reportedly carry out grenade attack on police station in Hawle Wadag District, Mogadishu, Jan. 29 <https://bit.ly/3YAyBGQ>

This contrasts with the previous three months, where most events and fatalities were recorded in Oromia.

In January, battles were the most evident type of events, with 65 operations, and 25 acts of violence against civilians¹⁵.

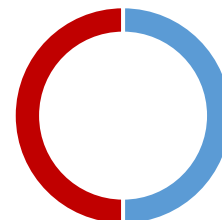
Burkina Faso	Rating: 3	Accidents: 8 Fatalities: 83
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Attacks according to targets



■ civilian targets

Attacks according to the organization



■ Al Qaeda ■ ISIS

On January 2-3, Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam WA al-Muslimin (JNIM) killed 7 civilians in Soro and Nyala province - Boucle du Mouhoun region (northwest)¹⁶, and on January 11, jihadists attacked the Ahmadiyya Islamic Community mosque in the village of Golgaunto Burkina's Sahel region with motorcycles, killing 9 civilians, including the imam of the mosque¹⁷. On January 12-13, dozens of women and children were kidnapped near Arbinda town (Soum province) by terrorists¹⁸. On January 15, about 50 women were kidnapped by an armed group as they ventured out to pick fruit outside the village of Liki, besieged by the armed group since 2019, some 15 kilometers (10 miles) southeast of the town of Arbinda¹⁹, on January 19, jihadists targeted a group of civilian auxiliary forces that supports the army in the capital, Ouagadougou, killing 30 civilians, including 16 civilian volunteers²⁰. On January 26,

¹⁵ EPO, EPO JANUARY 2023 MONTHLY: THE INFORMATION LANDSCAPE IN ETHIOPIA <https://bit.ly/3YHomQJ>

¹⁶ ¹⁶ Amid rampant jihadist violence countrywide, volunteer fighters reportedly committed abuses against civilians, and authorities ordered French military contingent stationed in Burkina Faso to leave., crisiswatch, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/adob64>

¹⁷ Nine Killed in Mosque Attack in Burkina Faso, TheDefensePost, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/3gg4hi>

¹⁸ Amid rampant jihadist violence countrywide, volunteer fighters reportedly committed abuses against civilians, and authorities ordered French military contingent stationed in Burkina Faso to leave, مرجع سبق ذكره

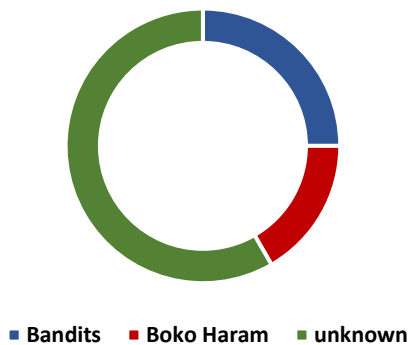
¹⁹ Burkina Faso: Islamist militants kidnap around 50 women, DW, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/hgv3kv>

²⁰ 4 Attacks Kill Dozens in Burkina Faso, Security Sources Say, Voanews, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/yltck5>

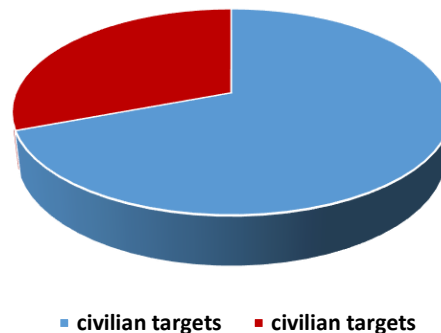
two armed groups attacked the town of Dassa a commune in west-central Burkina Faso around 140 kilometers, and the attack resulted in the killing of 12 civilians²¹. On January 29, they were 24 people who were aboard two minibusses traveling from Banfora were kidnapped in Linguekoro by armed men, on the morning of Jan. 30, 15 bodies killed by gunfire were found near Linguekoro, a village in the western province of Comoe. On January 30, another incident was witnessed, represented in a terrorist attack on the Falangoto region in the north of the country, near the border with Niger, which resulted in the killing of 10 police officers, 2 auxiliary forces, and one civilian²².

Nigeria	Rating: 4	Accidents: 12 Fatalities: 71
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Attacks according to the organization



Attacks according to targets



On 3 January, a security source revealed that 63 citizens had been abducted by an armed bandit group in central Nigeria in Pandugari district, but 13 members were rescued from that group armed with AK-47s²³.

On the same day, 4 security personnel were killed in a car bombing targeting the convoy of former Emu State Governor "Ikedi Ohakim" in the southeast who managed to escape, where he was in a car other than the one where the bombing took place²⁴.

On January 8, gunmen with automatic weapons attacked Tom Ikeme train station in Edo State, southern Nigeria, abducting 32 people,²⁵ while passengers were waiting

²¹ More than 10 people killed in two attacks in Burkina Faso, AFRICA, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/7tm9gp>

²² Jihadi violence intensifies in Burkina as militants kill nearly 30 in 2 days, aficannews, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/9fjwpi>

²³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/63-abducted-in-latest-bandit-attack-in-nigeria/2778790> 63 abducted in latest bandit attack in Nigeria, Anadolu agency.

²⁴ <https://www.africanews.com/2023/01/03/car-bomb-hits-convoy-in-nigerias-southeast-4-killed/> Car bomb hits convoy in Nigeria's southeast; 4 killed, Africa news.

²⁵ <https://bit.ly/3jFuGZ> مسلحون يختطفون 32 شخصا من محطة للقطارات في نيجيريا، وكالة الأنباء القطرية.

for a train bound for Warri, an oil hub in nearby Delta state, on January 9, 6 of the abductees were rescued by the security forces²⁶. On January 10, 12 members of the security forces were killed in an ambush by terrorists in Kaduna State (northwest Nigeria), where criminal and terrorist gangs are spread²⁷. On January 13, gunmen have killed 4 executives in a sector in Anambra State and set five buildings ablaze by throwing bombs and explosives before escaping from the scene²⁸.

On January 15, gunmen killed a priest by burning him alive, and kidnapped five people in two separate attacks in central and northwest Nigeria, police said²⁹. Armed men, known as "bandits", set fire to the house of a priest in the village of Kavin-Kourou in Niger state, and also burned him alive³⁰. On January 16, terrorists on Sunday abducted more than 25 Church worshippers in Katsina, and according to official statements, 9 of them managed to escape, and some were injured³¹. On January 17, Boko Haram terrorists launched an attack in Maklui village, Borno Community. Sources revealed that they possessed sophisticated weapons, they kill a farmer, abduct 8 others, and they bargained with the kidnapped people for huge sums of money³².

On January 19, at least 11 people, most of them Catholics, including women and children, were killed when alleged Fulani herdsmen attacked a village near a refugee camp in Nigeria's Makurdi Diocese, the capital of Benue State³³. On January 22, suspected herdsmen terrorists from Tafawa Balewa State, attacked Bauchi State, killing 4 people and injuring one³⁴.

On the same day, 40 shepherds were killed and several others injured in a bomb explosion in central Nigeria, which is witnessing violence between herdsmen and farmers, as well as a large number of livestock, according to the police³⁵. The shepherds and their flocks were in Rukubi, a village on the border between Nasarawa and Benue states, when the bomb exploded³⁶.

²⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64210007> Nigeria kidnappings: Security forces rescue six victims abducted waiting for train, BBC news

²⁷ <https://bit.ly/3XoWnnV> مقتل 12 شرطيا بهجوم إرهابي في نيجيريا، الإتحاد.

²⁸ <https://guardian.ng/news/gunmen-kill-four-vigilantes-raze-buildings-in-anambra-bomb-attack/> Gunmen kill four vigilantes, raze buildings in Anambra bomb attack, the guardian.

²⁹ <https://bit.ly/40RU2p2C> مسلحون يقتلون كاهناً بإحراقه حياً ويخطفون 5 أشخاص في نيجيريا، الشرق الأوسط.

³⁰ sahara reporters., Policeman Killed In Another Attack On Electoral Body, INEC Office In South-East Nigeria, <https://bit.ly/3IkwiC9>

³¹ <https://guardian.ng/news/terrorists-abduct-25-church-worshippers-in-katsina/> Terrorists abduct 25 Church worshippers in Katsina, the guardian

³² BREAKING: Boko Haram Terrorists Launch Attack On Borno Community, Kill Farmer, Abduct Eight Others, Sahara reporters. <https://bit.ly/3HXcSSz>

³³ <https://bit.ly/3jTn9ar> نيجيريا: كاهن يروي اللحظات المروعة لهجوم استهدف مسيحيين، أسي ميلا.

³⁴ Terrorists Invade Bauchi Community, Northeast Nigeria, Kill Four, Injure One Other, sahara reporters. <https://bit.ly/3YR4riB>

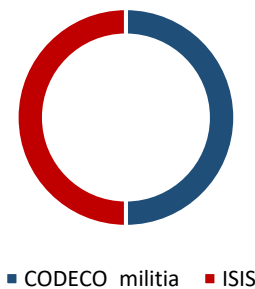
³⁵ <https://bit.ly/3HUvRwW> مقتل 27 راعيا بانفجار في نيجيريا، RT.

³⁶ AL Ahram English ,Toll from bombing in central Nigeria rises to 40: Government,. <https://bit.ly/3jNzU6x>

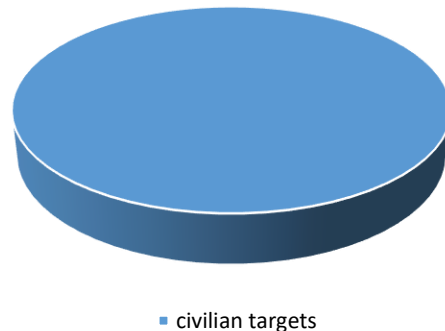
On 28 January, armed men killed at least 3 policemen and injured another on a highway between Enugu and Ebonyi states³⁷. On January 29, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) supporter was killed by Zamfara state Anti-Thuggery Committee, Bello Matawalle, while others were injured³⁸.

Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rating: 4	Accidents: 2 Fatalities: 41
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Attacks according to the organization



Attacks according to targets



On January 10, 24 civilians were killed by gunmen who launched an attack on a number of villages in Ituri district in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the attackers belonged to the CODECO militia³⁹. On January 15, a bomb exploded in a church, killing at least 17 people, and ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Congolese authorities said that the death toll was 14 and at least 63 were wounded⁴⁰.

Third: Monitoring terrorist operations in African countries

Mali

On January 3, 2023, a group linked to the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization claimed responsibility for two suicide attacks that killed 5 people near Mali's capital, Bamako⁴¹. JNIM is an al-Qaeda-affiliated, the main jihadist alliance in the Sahel region, claimed responsibility for the two simultaneous attacks that targeted a fire station, and an environmental and forest protection unit near the

³⁷ premium times, Gunmen attack Nigerian police checkpoint, kill three officers, <https://bit.ly/3E5qBpr>

³⁸ sahara reporters, One Killed As Anti-Thuggery Squad Loyal To Governor Matawalle Allegedly Attacks PDP Supporters In Zamfara, <https://bit.ly/3lmky9d>

³⁹ <https://bit.ly/3xhC9SI>الوسط، مقتل 24 مدنيا في هجوم مسلح في شرق الكونغو الديمقراطية

⁴⁰ Africanews, Death toll in Democratic Republic of Congo's church attack rises to 14 <https://bit.ly/3YLcwFy>

⁴¹ <https://bit.ly/3Yq3D4r>بالعربي. RT . مالي.. جماعة مرتبطة بـ"القاعدة" تتبنى هجوما انتحاريين قرب باماكو،

capital, Bamako. The two attacks targeted the towns of Markakongo and Kasila, located on the road between Bamako and Ségou, southeast Mali, while on January 12, 14 Malian soldiers were killed in two complex terrorist attacks in central Mali, that destroyed a vehicle of the Malian armed forces, 31 terrorists were killed and another wounded⁴², and on January 16, 2023, 5 soldiers were killed in Mali and 3 others were injured as a result of a terrorist attack during a military security operation on the road in northern Mali on Sunday morning, the Malian army said. Then, the Malian armed forces deployed strong forces that succeeded in killing 15 terrorists⁴³.

Niger

On January 15, terrorists burned Catholic priest Isaac Ache in the Baikoro local government district of Niger State. State police spokesman Wasio Abiodun confirmed that another priest was shot during the attack⁴⁴. On January 20, gunmen killed Salih Yaqubo, a council member representing the Alowa wing of the Sheroro local government district of Niger state⁴⁵. On January 23, one person was killed, and three others were kidnapped during an attack on Guada and Kota roads⁴⁶.

Libya

Violent clashes have renewed between armed militias affiliated with the forces of the President of the Libyan Interim Government, Abdul Hamid al-Dabaiba, near the airport of the capital, Tripoli, for several hours, in the Qasr Bin Ghashir area, south of Tripoli. The clashes began between the Radaa Service and the 111th Brigade due to a dispute over a contract to maintain Tripoli International Airport, which has been closed for years⁴⁷.

Sudan

On January 5, a Sudanese farmer was killed by Ethiopian gunmen in an attack on the border in the east of the country. They penetrated Sudanese territory to a depth of 10 kilometers in the Atreb border area in the Basanda locality of the Gedaref state⁴⁸.

⁴² Arabic news <https://bit.ly/3E1D79n> 14 جنديا بهجومين إرهابيين وسط مالي،

⁴³ <https://bit.ly/3YsBnhz> هجوم إرهابي يقتل 5 جنود شمال مالي، وكالة الأناضول.

⁴⁴ Premiumtimesng, Terrorists burn Catholic priest alive in Niger State <https://bit.ly/3IkASAB>

⁴⁵ Saharareporters, Terrorists Attack Niger State Community, Kill Ruling APC Councillor <https://bit.ly/3YFqJ6M>

⁴⁶ Thecable, Gunmen 'kill two, abduct 14' in attacks on Niger communities <https://bit.ly/3YruFsb>

⁴⁷ <https://bit.ly/3HXBLxD> العربية، اشتباكات عنيفة بين قوات الدبيبة.. والآخر: لا تعليق

⁴⁸ <https://bit.ly/3YnGShj> العربية، مقتل سوداني برصاص مسلحين إثيوبيين في هجوم على الحدود

South Sudan

On January 8, 3 young men were killed in an armed attack in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. As a result, three other young men from the same village were wounded, one of them at risk⁴⁹. On January 11, the United Nations announced the death of 3 aid workers in southern Sudan because gunmen attacked a village in the oil-rich Abyei Administrative Region on January 2, killing two aid workers and several civilians⁵⁰.

Cameroon

On January 2, a soldier was killed and another wounded in an ambush by Boko Haram terrorists in the far north of Cameroon⁵¹. The attack was in the town of Daussaf. On January 5, gunmen from the Biafra League killed two Cameroonian soldiers⁵². On January 23, a Cameroonian journalist was found dead five days after being kidnapped by unknown assailants⁵³.

Central Africa

On January 11, two members of the armed forces in Central Africa were killed, and two others were kidnapped during a clash with members of an armed group in the northwest of the country⁵⁴. On January 22, 4 people were killed, and another was injured, in an attack carried out by fighters from the Patriots Alliance for Change, in the western region of the Central African Republic⁵⁵.

Kenya

On January 11, 4 people were killed in Kenya when an explosive device exploded near the eastern border with Somalia. They were working for the Kenya Highway Agency and driving a convoy of three cars from Garissa town to Bora when one of the cars hit a roadside bomb and exploded, killing four of them.⁵⁶

Mozambique

On January 9, ISIS claimed responsibility for attacks on two Christian villages in northern Mozambique - killing two people and wounding four. ISIS in

⁴⁹ <https://bit.ly/3RSXRWs> أورينت، ضحايا لقمة العيش.. تفاصيل مقتل وإصابة 6 سوريين جنوب السودان على يد عسكري (صور)

⁵⁰ <https://bit.ly/3YFx6ql> الميادين، الأمم المتحدة تعلن مقتل 3 عمال إغاثة في جنوب السودان

⁵¹ Thedefensepost, Soldier Killed in Jihadist Ambush in Northern Cameroon <https://bit.ly/3xhNEcl>

⁵² Saharareporters, Militants Kill Two Cameroon Army Personnel, Hoist Biafra Nation's Flag In Bakassi <https://bit.ly/3RPEVrL>

⁵³ Theguardian, Prominent Cameroon journalist found dead after abduction <https://bit.ly/3iPDkVf>

⁵⁴ <https://bit.ly/3S0VReP> الاتحاد، قتلى وجرحى بهجمات مسلحة بهجوم في إفريقيا الوسطى

⁵⁵ <https://bit.ly/3YMjYQr> !!! الفكر، مقتل أربعة 4 أشخاص وحرق شاحنات في هجوم للمتمردين في إفريقيا الوسطى

⁵⁶ <https://bit.ly/3lsauF3> اليوم، مقتل عدة أشخاص في انفجار عبوة شرق كينيا

Mozambique posted pictures of burned houses on social media during the attack on Namadi, Cabo Delgado⁵⁷.

Fourth: States' efforts to combat terrorism in Africa

A. Egypt

On January 14, the Egyptian Prime Minister announced that the North Sinai governorate is a zone free of terrorism, and there is a continuation of the development process and the establishment of new residential cities in it after nearly ten years, after more than 3,500 people were killed, and 13,000 injured⁵⁸.

The investigative authorities in Egypt ordered the referral of 18 suspects for investigation in a case of financing terrorism, headed by Moataz Matar, Hamza Zawbaa, Muhammad Nasser, and Abdullah Al-Sharif. The referral order stated that each of them assumed leadership in the administrative structure of the Brotherhood, and terrorism was one of the means used by this group to achieve and implement its criminal purposes as indicated by the investigations⁵⁹.

B. Somalia

On January 17, the Somali government announced that more than 100 Al-Shabaab militants were killed in the bloodiest battle since the government launched a major military offensive against the extremists in August 2022. In a statement, the government confirmed that more than 100 Al-Shabaab extremists were killed after they attacked a base of the Somali National Army in the village of Galkad in the Galgudud district, which was recently recaptured from the militants' control⁶⁰.

The Somali National Army, with the support of local militias, has also recaptured the town of Masagawa in the central Galgudud region, which was controlled by the jihadist group Al Shabaab for the past 15 years. Masagawa's reinstatement follows those in the Ronirgud and Al-Baad districts and the strategic town of Aden Yabal in the Middle Shabelle region, which were wrested from Al-Shabaab in early December. Despite losing control of many areas in recent months, the group attacked military barracks, government offices, and hotels⁶¹.

⁵⁷ Acnuk, MOZAMBIQUE: ISIS takes responsibility for deadly New Year attacks <https://bit.ly/3lgfe0g>

⁵⁸ الوطن، مصر تعلن شمال سيناء منطقة خالية من الإرهاب <https://bit.ly/3YpDTFp>

⁵⁹ روسيا اليوم، مصر.. محاكمة الإعلاميين الهاربين إلى تركيا <https://bit.ly/40QrUIG>

⁶⁰ Africanews, Somalia, extremists claim over 100 killed in intense battle <https://bit.ly/3XmgZgD>

⁶¹ Agenzianova, Somalia: the army recaptures the city of Masagawa, which had been under the control of Al Shabaab for 15 years <https://bit.ly/3XpGbTB>

On January 9, the Somali Ministry of Information announced that at least 61 Al-Shabaab terrorists were killed and dozens wounded following an operation by the country's National Intelligence and Security Agency⁶².

The United States also announced would provide \$9 million in new military aid to aid the ongoing Somali campaign against al-Shabaab militants. It is the first direct military support since the return of US forces to Somalia, and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared war against the militants⁶³.

In January, Abu Al-Baraa Al-Amani, a leader in ISIS, was killed while the forces repelled an attack on a military base in the Bari region of Puntland state⁶⁴. American forces killed ISIS leader Bilal al-Sudani and 10 of his operatives in northern Somalia. He was killed after US Special Forces raided a remote mountain cave complex⁶⁵.

Finally, a military court in Somalia sentenced the wife of the head of a terrorist organization linked to ISIS to eight years in prison on charges of providing information and organizing financial transactions for the organization. She is Fartun Abd al-Rashid, the wife of Abd al-Qadir Mumin, the leader of ISIS⁶⁶.

C. Mali

On January 10, 2023⁶⁷, the General Command of the Malian Army announced the elimination of 7 terrorists, the killing of 3 army personnel, and five others wounded in clashes with armed groups in the country center. The Malian army statement said: "Elements of the Malian forces entered into several violent clashes, on Tuesday, January 10, with armed terrorist groups; This was after the detonation of explosive devices on the Tenico-Masina axis. The statement added: "The outcome of these clashes, on the part of the army forces, is three dead, five wounded, and three destroyed vehicles; On the enemy side, seven terrorists were eliminated. The army indicated that ground reinforcements and air surveillance equipment were sent to the area of the clashes.

⁶² AA, Fresh operation in Somalia kills at least 61 al-Shabaab terrorists <https://bit.ly/3iLj3kK>

⁶³ Voanews, US Announces \$9 Million in Military Support to Somalia <https://bit.ly/3E0rf7u>

⁶⁴ AA, Top commander of Daesh/ISIS terror group killed in Somalia's Puntland <https://bit.ly/3xfGeXy>

⁶⁵ BBC, Bilal al-Sudani: US forces kill Islamic State Somalia leader in cave complex <https://bbc.in/3RPZe8a>

⁶⁶ Newarab, Somalia: Wife of Islamic State leader jailed for 8 years <https://bit.ly/3RNYpwV>

⁶⁷ <https://bit.ly/3YohhF8> الجيش المالي يعلن القضاء على 7 إرهابيين، بوابة أخبار اليوم.

D. Niger

On January 24, the Nigerian army killed 11 terrorists and captured six militants linked to al-Qaeda and ISIS after the state launched offensive operations against terrorists in the region, with the support of 250 soldiers from France⁶⁸.

E. Chad

Multinational Joint Task Force forces killed dozens of Boko Haram terrorists in Chad. They captured more than 40 terrorists and destroyed many of their camps during the clearance operations on January 18-29, which led to the surrender of 87 terrorist elements of Boko Haram fighters.

Chad is making efforts, in cooperation with many countries in the region, to reduce the risks of renewed terrorist operations. Sudan and Chad agreed to exchange information and intelligence between the two countries' security services and to take consistent measures to contain irregular migration and weapons smuggling⁶⁹.

On January 23, the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Chad signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the defense within the framework of the continuous efforts of the two countries' governments to develop bilateral relations in a way that encourages international peace and stability. The memorandum included many defense fields between the two countries, most notably the development of cooperation in training and military exercises, support, military medical services, and awareness in combating terrorism⁷⁰.

F. Tunisia

On January 12, the Criminal Chamber specialized in examining terrorism cases at the Court of First Instance in Tunis issued a 25-year prison sentence against the leader of the terrorist organization that planned to assassinate former Interior Minister Hedi Majdoub and senior security cadres in the ministry⁷¹.

Tunisian Interior Minister Tawfiq Charafeddine discussed with the Spanish ambassador in Tunisia aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the common interest, especially combating terrorism, organized crime, illegal immigration, and civil protection⁷². On January 29, the Tunisian authorities

⁶⁸ Africanews, 11 terrorists killed, 6 arrested - Nigerien army <https://bit.ly/3JXLR49>

⁶⁹ <https://bit.ly/3JXMMBD> الوطن، السودان وتشاد يتعاونان لمكافحة الإرهاب وحماية النازحين

⁷⁰ <https://bit.ly/3xe8kCr> مصر اوي، السعودية وتشاد توقعان مذكرة تفاهم للتعاون في المجال الدفاعي

⁷¹ <https://bit.ly/3RW5bkk> "العين الإخبارية، خريف الإرهاب بتونس.. 25 عاما سجنا بحق زعيمة "حقيقات عقبة"

⁷² <https://bit.ly/3E18Kj4> اليوم السابع، وزير داخلية تونس وسفير إسبانيا يبحثان التعاون في مقاومة الإرهاب والهجرة غير الشرعية

arrested three people for belonging to terrorist organizations, and they were sentenced to 7 years in prison⁷³.

G. Algeria

Despite the continuing news of the elimination and arrest of others and the surrender of armed elements, the fear of chaos continues. Algeria announced the elimination of a Da'esh network that was planning to target political figures and strike oil facilities.⁷⁴ The Algerian authorities revealed that they thwarted an attempt to assassinate important personalities and carry out terrorist operations against economic targets and oil installations in the south of the country, and said that the security forces succeeded in eliminating a cell loyal to D'aesh, which included among its members a fighter returning from Syria called Maragni Hajj, who joined Ahrar al-Sham in 2012, and spent a training period in a camp there.

On January 17, as a precautionary measure, , the Algerian government launched a plan to protect its facilities in the oil and gas sector from possible terrorist attacks, which includes hiring 22,000 guards trained in combat actions, and spending \$400 million on prevention and security systems for oil and gas infrastructure, especially fuel pipelines.

This action was in a meeting in the presence of officials of the Ministry of Defense, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of a serious terrorist attack that targeted a gas facility in the southeast of the country, which resulted in the killing of foreign technicians and terrorists, after the intervention of the Algerian Special Forces to end the hostage-taking of workers in the facility and the adoption of Al-Qaeda.⁷⁵

H. Kenya

On January 20, the Kenyan authorities announced the neutralization of 18 members of the terrorist Al-Shabaab movement in an army operation on the border with Somalia in the Digabon area, where the movement's members are hiding, as well as the seizure of weapons, explosives and military equipment belonging to the movement.⁷⁶

⁷³ <https://bit.ly/3liVF7u> اليوم السابع، ضبط 3 أشخاص بتهمة الانتماء لتنظيمات إرهابية في تونس

⁷⁴ <https://bit.ly/3K17sIM> انبندنت العربية، تفكيك خلية لـ"داعش" يعيد فتح ملف الإرهاب في الجزائر

⁷⁵ <https://bit.ly/3lhXOjE> «الشرق الأوسط، الجزائر تخصص 400 مليون دولار لحماية منشآتها النفطية من «الإرهاب

⁷⁶ <https://bit.ly/3YoWibE> كينيا.. مقتل 18 من عناصر من حركة الشباب الصومالية الإرهابية، APA

I. Nigeria

Also on January 14⁷⁷, several Da'esh terrorists were eliminated by the forces of 25th Brigade Task Force, Hayden Kaye operation in Damboa, Borno State. The forces also recovered some weapons and equipment from the terrorists. On January 25⁷⁸, the Nigerian army announced the killing of 11 terrorists, and the arrest of 6 others the week before, in a volatile region witnessing rebellions linked to al-Qaeda and Da'esh terrorist organizations, with the support of 250 French soldiers.

During the first three weeks of January, the Nigerian Armed Forces succeeded in eliminating more than 50 terrorists in various operations in the northeast and northwest of the operational locations.⁷⁹

On January 25⁸⁰, 214 Boko Haram members surrendered to the Nigerian army in the northeast after a bloody confrontation with Boko Haram in Borno state, where they expelled many members of Boko Haram and killed them and arrested those who tried to escape from their camps

Fourth: Orientation of terrorism in Africa

A. Relative distribution of the victims of terrorist operations in the five regions:

The inability of states to provide basic services, security and job creation across much of Africa, from the Sahel in the west to Somalia in the east and Mozambique in the south, made the continent a global center of extremist violence.

While the spread of extremist groups creates escalating problems for Africa, with deaths from terrorism rising tenfold in the Sahel region since 2007, economic costs between 2007 and 2022 estimated at \$200 billion. During January, the East African region ranked first as a result of the continued activity of Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, in addition to the renewal of the ethnic conflict in Ethiopia, in which 635 victims were killed. The West African region ranked second as a result of the organizational activity of Boko Haram and Da'esh, as terrorism resulted in 181 dead, while the Central African region ranked third with 41 victims, where only two people

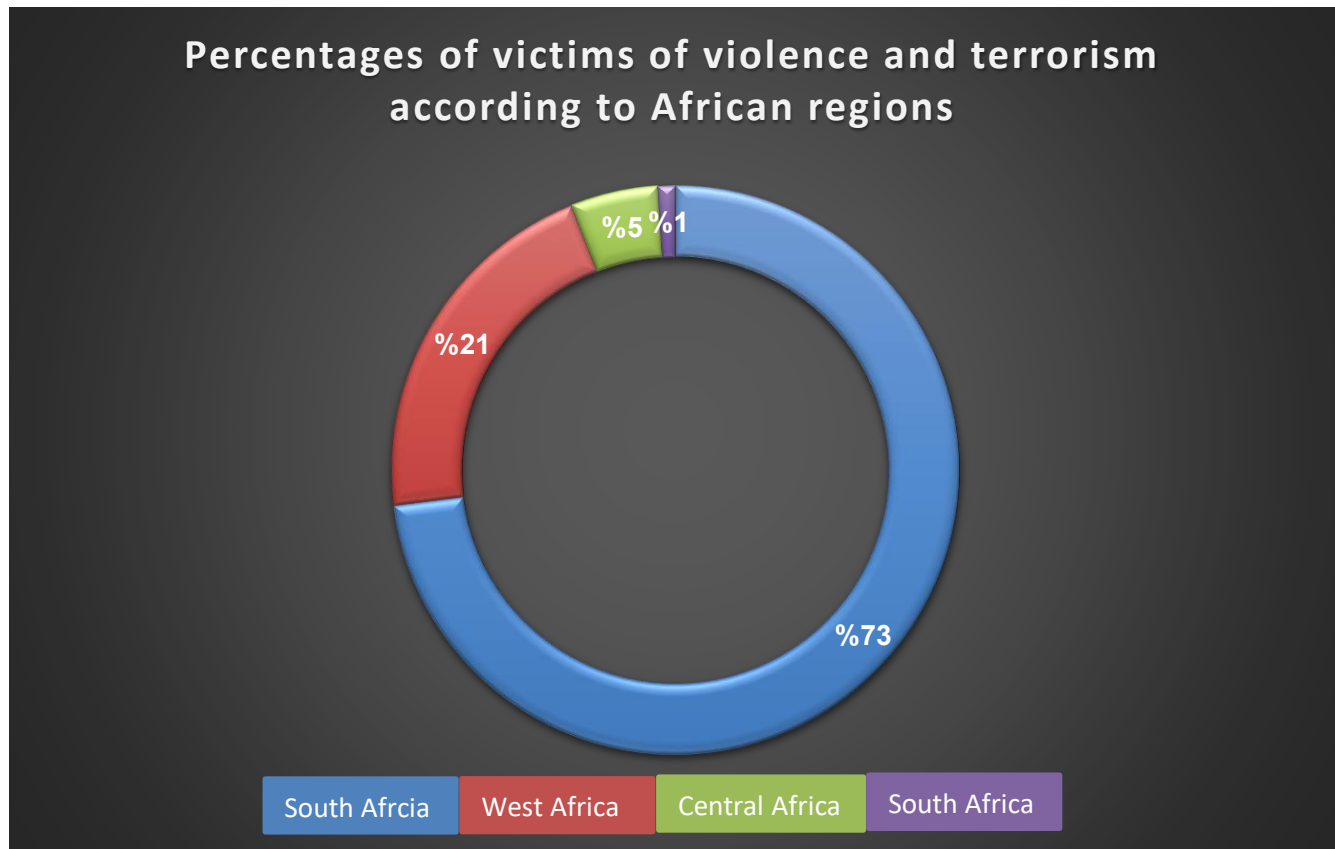
⁷⁷ <https://bit.ly/3Ypp2KP> هجوم فاشل لتنظيم داعش على ولاية بورنو في نيجيريا، أخبار

⁷⁸ <https://bit.ly/3JVtdtD24> الجيش النيجري يعلن مقتل 11 إرهابياً،

⁷⁹ <https://bit.ly/3xflDxl> أخبار الآن، القوات المسلحة في نيجيريا تقضي على أكثر من 50 إرهابياً في 3 أسابيع

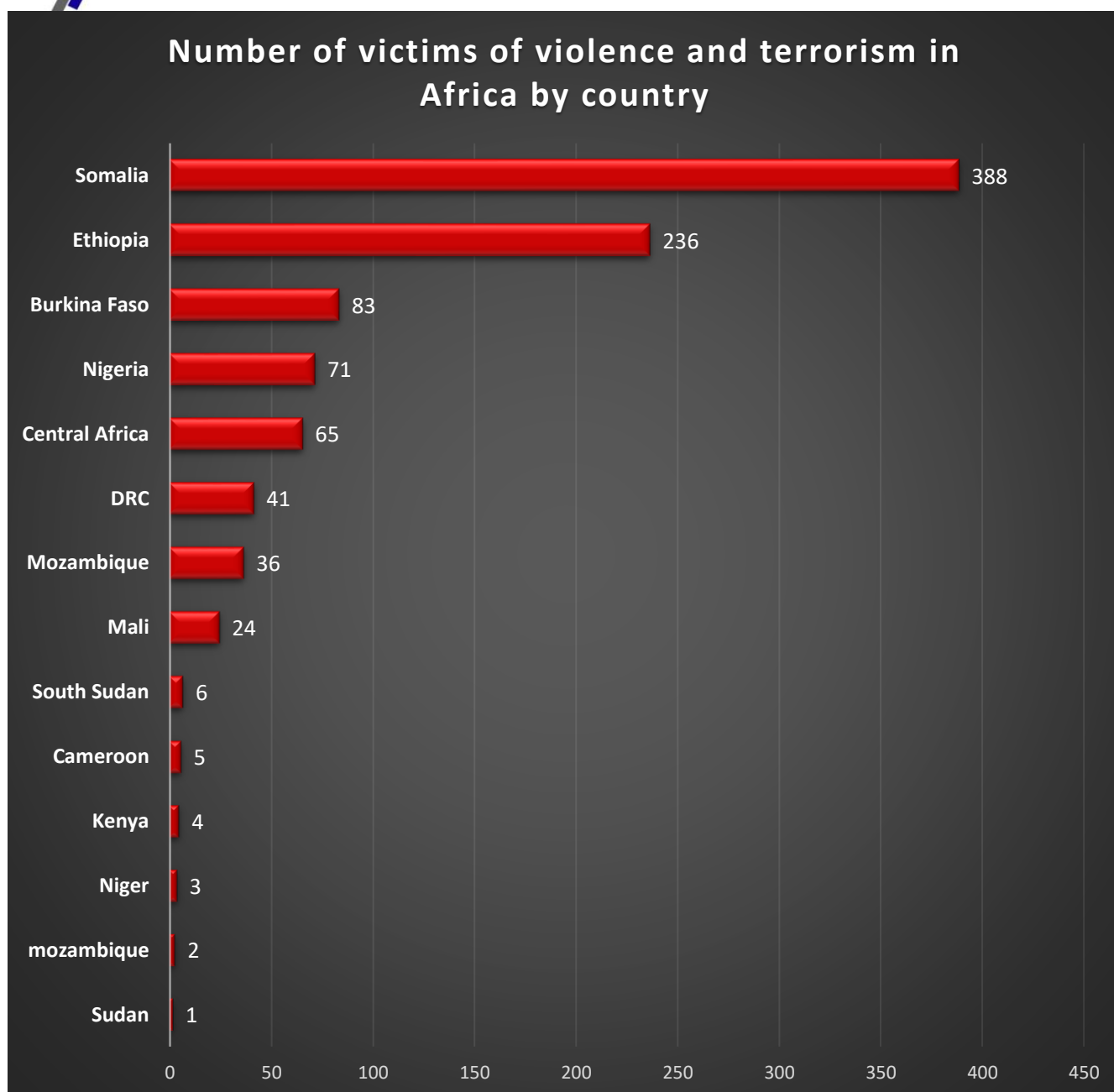
⁸⁰ . Sputnik news ,Haram Militants Surrender to Nigerian Army After Clash With Rival ISWAP, Reports Say. <https://bit.ly/3RVrmXA>

were killed in South Africa, while North Africa was the quietest, as there were no casualties as a result of terrorist operations.



A. Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country

Over years and months, terrorism afflicts Africa and hinders its development, as a result of the deterioration of the situation and the continuation of ethnic conflicts that are sometimes fueled by external wills. Despite the Somali efforts to curb the phenomenon of Al-Shabaab terrorism, the Somali state was able to retain the first place in terms of the number of victims for the third time in a row, with 388 victims; while the renewed conflicts in Ethiopia caused it to be in second place, with 236 dead, where Burkina Faso ranked third with 83 victims, while Nigeria ranked fourth with 71 victims, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo ranked fifth with 41 victims.



Fifth: The role of international mechanisms in combating the phenomenon of terrorism in Africa during January

On January 18, the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), during a training on mediation and interactive engagement with the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) in Jos, the capital of Plateau State, warned Nigeria of the consequences of electoral violence that may be witnessed during the general elections of February 25th, 2023, after the terrorist incidents that occurred in the offices of the National Electoral Commissions, stressing the inability of the

countries in the sub-region to welcome more refugees. Saadatou Shaabu, representative of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), urged the need to adhere to the rules so as not to make mistakes that bear consequences that will harm the entire region, not just Nigeria.⁸¹

On January 17, following the kidnapping of 50 women in Burkina Faso, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, "Antonio Guterres" stressed the need for joint action between West African countries and international partners to protect civilians and achieve stability and peace. He also called on the authorities to "spare no effort in bringing those responsible for this crime to justice," and called for "the immediate and unconditional release of the kidnapped women and girls and their safe return to their families."⁸²

On January 31, the UN experts called for an immediate and independent investigation into the gross human rights violations, possible war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed by the Wagner Group in Mali, and warned the country against direct participation in hostilities.⁸³

In his report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, "Antonio Guterres," warned that extremists in central Mali would exploit conflicts between groups as a factor to expand their influence and secure new recruits, and stressed that military operations are the main and decisive factor in restoring security.⁸⁴

Conclusion and recommendations

Despite international efforts to defeat Daesh, the group still poses a significant threat in many parts of the world, signaling the need for a context-specific approach to addressing social and economic inequality. In countries mired in terrorism, the threat of Daesh to international peace and security remains high. This threat increased in and around conflict zones where the group and its affiliates are active, and its expansion is of particular concern in central and southern Africa, as well as in the Sahel region. Also, the continuation of armed conflicts in a number of countries

⁸¹ No Nation Can Accommodate Nigerian Refugees – UN, ECOWAS Warn Against Violence In Forthcoming Elections, Sahara Reports, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/q1dhgt>

⁸² Burkina Faso: UN Calls for Immediate Release of 50 Women and Girls Abducted in Burkina Faso, All Africa, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/p5dvkj>

⁸³ Mali: UN experts call for independent investigation into possible international crimes committed by Government forces and "Wagner group", United Nations, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/4e2zxxg>

⁸⁴ UN: Al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorist groups driving insecurity in Mali, Alarabiya News, Jan 2023. <https://rb.gy/wnndvf>

increases bloodshed, which requires international and regional intervention. Therefore, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights makes the following recommendations:

First: Maat expresses concern about the increasing use of technology by Da'esh, including exploitation of social media platforms, unmanned aircraft systems, and information and communications technology.

Second: Maat urges the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to recognize the gendered nature of power relations within terrorist societies and groups, as most rehabilitation and reintegration interventions are designed for male offenders.

Third: Maat believes that the fight against terrorism cannot be through the blind use of force. Every terrorist threat has its root causes, and as such, each must be examined in context, take an age- and gender-sensitive approach to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in all its forms, and consider the benefits that new technology can offer to combat terrorism.

Fourth: The fight against terrorism can never be a pretext for violating human rights or international law. Violations committed under the pretext of combating terrorism and violent extremism will only lead to regression. Successful counterterrorism policies, like all policies, must uphold the rule of law and respect international law, including human rights law.

Fifth: Maat recommends that the Ethiopian government restore services in the Tigray region, including telecommunications and banks, as soon as possible and without preconditions.

Sixth: The federal government must recognize the legitimacy of the different nationalities in Ethiopia, regardless of the problematic electoral processes that confirmed the mandate of each. This requires the removal of the TPLF's terrorist designation, a political process in which parliament is involved. Tigrayans detained across the country in connection with the war must also be released, and prosecute perpetrators of war crimes. This should include violations by all sides, particularly against civilians, that is not war-related and constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.