Lens of Terrorist Operations & Acts of Violence in Africa

MARCH 2023
Preamble

The African continent is still tormented by the phenomenon of terrorism that is escalating and casting a shadow over its population, so the Continent has become, at present time, a hotbed of global violence and extremism and a fertile soil where the roots of terrorist organizations are planted. Africa provides for enabling factors that spread violent conflicts, extremist ideas and extremist beliefs. During March, we monitored the bloodshed of more than 705 victims of terrorism, which is a decrease in the number of victims by 182 victims from the previous month. However, this percentage is still very high compared to the peaceful, secure, and stable world we aspire to achieve. Therefore, Maat issued its monthly report, "Lens of Terrorist Operations and Violent Acts in Africa" to monitor the transformations that the phenomenon is taking place in the African continent during March, and to follow the international and regional efforts made to curtail it, and what detracts from the importance of these efforts, in an attempt to increase these anti-terrorism efforts.

**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.”
On March 2, Boko Haram militants stormed Lengama in the northwestern part of the local council, kidnapped villagers, and transported them to the Gudumbali border area with the Republic of Niger.  

On March 3, gunmen kidnapped 3 family members of the traditional ruler of Sarkin Kudu, in Ibi local government council.  

On March 5, gunmen attacked the Maru Division Police headquarters in the Maru LGA, killing two officers.  

On the same day, gunmen attacked and killed the head of Maigari town in Rimin Gado Local Council of Kano State, Dahiru Abba, and led the local council in Kano state, Dahir Aba.  

On March 6, at least 50 people were killed during attacks by Fulani herders on six communities in the Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State that lasted for four days.  

On March 7, gunmen stormed communities centered in the local government areas of Rafi and Chichi in Niger State, killing at least 6 civilians and kidnapping nearly 50 others.  

On the same day, gunmen destroyed the house of the HDP candidate in the House of Representatives in Imo State.  

On March 8, Boko Haram militants launched an attack outside Gogo village, 18 km from Dikwa town in Borno State, close to the Sambisa Forest, killing 37 fishermen.  

On March 10, militants attacked Gro Homes along  

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5 50 feared killed as suspected herdsmen invade Benue communities, Punch, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/s3kbh  
7 Gunmen raze country home of Imo Assembly candidate, Ozoemena, Ripples Nigeria, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/73c5pu  
Kochibe in Kubwa District Federal Capital Territory, which led to the kidnapping of 9 civilians. Boko Haram militants also carried out an attack near the village of Dikwa, in northeastern Nigeria near the border with neighboring Chad, killing at least 29 people. On March 11, armed Fulani herders attacked Zangoon Kataf Local Government Area in Kaduna State, killing 17 people. On the same day, gunmen killed a member of the Jinnah Council in Ebonyi state. Militants also launched an attack on a property in Chicakor near Kobua district of Bwari District Council in the country's capital, and an unknown number of residents were kidnapped. On March 12, gunmen attacked the Delta State House of Representatives Speaker and People's Democratic Party candidate along the Warri/Sapele highway, but he survived. On 13 March, armed men launched an attack on communities in the local government areas of Baikoro and Munya in Niger State, killing a village chief and a medical practitioner and kidnapping more than 60 people. On March 14, militants launched an attack on a community in Langson district in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens. Unidentified gunmen also abducted the Consensus Party candidate in the House of Representatives in Rivers State around the Rumwegbo community in the Obio-Akbor Local Government Area of the state.

On March 15, bandits ambushed security personnel in Igo village, in the local government area of Monia, Niger state, killing a Nigerian army major and 7 other security personnel. On March 16, 3 people, including a sitting councilor, were killed on the platform of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) by gunmen in Ile Teton area of Idi Arrere, in Ibadan, capital of Oyo state. On 17 March, armed men attacked the village of Mujifa in Kankara Locality in Katsina State, northern Nigeria, killing 22 villagers and injuring dozens, including women and children. Three Nigerian soldiers were killed and 11 others were wounded, including seven civilians, when a bomb exploded on a highway in northeastern Nigeria, near the border with Chad.
Cameroon. Also, 9 security personnel were killed in an ambush by bandits at the site of gas pipelines in the Monia local government area, Niger state. On March 18, at least 17 people were killed in various electoral violence in Delta, Lagos, Rivers, Cross River, Niger, Akwa Ibom, Osun and Benue states. At least 51 vigilantes patrolling on election day in Zamfara state were killed by terrorists. Unidentified gunmen also killed the General Manager of the Campaign of the Progressive Congress Party in the Ahuada West locality in Rivers State. On March 19, terrorists affiliated with ISIS attacked the city of Mafa, about 40 km from Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, with the aim of disrupting the counting of election votes. There is no information on the number of victims. Election officials on duty were also attacked while on their way to a collection center in the state capital, Lokoja, after the parliamentary elections in Kogi, injuring some and taking away at least 19 others in the city of Kogi. On March 20, the deputy head of the village Okordia Akumuni in the local government area of Bayelsa state was killed by herdsmen. On March 21, a 19-year-old girl was abducted from her home in Imuru Community, Osi Local Government Area, Ondo State.

On March 22, it was confirmed that two police officers were shot dead, while three others were wounded by bullets from the Nigerian army in a deadly clash in Jalingo, the capital of Taraba state in the northeast. On 23 March, at least 5 people were killed in renewed attacks by suspected herders on some communities in Otukpo and Agato Local Government Areas, Benue State. The son of a former police officer and another person were abducted by shepherds on their way from Ugbukoli village to Ekyadulur in northeastern Ovia district of Edo state. On March 26, gunmen attacked a checkpoint along Kenyatta Road, near the main gate of the University of Nigeria in Enugu State, southeastern Nigeria, killing two police officers. On the same day, gunmen killed 6 people in Odioko community in West Ahuda Local

34 Gunmen attack police checkpoint, kill two officers, Premium Times, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/e09g
Government Area, Rivers State. Armed men also kidnapped a farmer on his way from his farm in Omo-Ekiti, Oi local government. On March 27, unidentified gunmen killed 4 Nigerian Security and Civil Defense forces in Imo State, by orchestrating an ambush at Ekisu market of Omolulu community in Ngol-Okpala Local Government Area. On March 29, 3 farmers were killed and several injured when suspected herdsmen invaded the Subi community in Awan Local Government Area, Edo State. It was also announced that 5 of the more than 60 kidnapped victims of Adono in Kafen Koro district of Baikoro and Beni in local government areas of Munia, Niger State, were executed by their captors for failing to meet the deadline for payment of N100 million ransom demanded by the kidnappers. On March 30, herdsmen attacked a secondary school in Oriri Local Government Area, Oyo State, southwestern Nigeria, injuring several teachers and students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRC</th>
<th>Rating: 2</th>
<th>Incidents: 8</th>
<th>Deaths: 134</th>
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On March 8, militants of the Islamic State-affiliated Allied Democratic Forces killed more than 40 people in two attacks on the nearby villages of Mukundi and Musa in Beni District, North Kivu Province, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. On March 12, ISIS militants attacked the village of Kirendera in North Kivu Province, eastern Congo, killing 19 people. On

March 18, Koudikyo militants launched an attack on five villages in Mahagi in Ituri and North Kivu province in eastern Congo, killing more than 22 civilians. On 19 March, ISIS launched an attack on the village of Ngoli located in Lubero District in North Kivu Province, which left 9 people dead. During March 21-22, gunmen in military uniform attacked St. Octavian's Grand School in the northeastern part of Butembo. On March 24, 14 Tiki community members, including two traditional chiefs, were killed in Kembasi village, Bagata district, Kwilo district, by Kwamoth district militia. On March 25, at least 5 people were killed and 4 injured in an attack by bandits on the outskirts of Goma, eastern Congo. On March 29, unidentified gunmen killed more than 25 political activists in the city of Lubumbashi in southeastern Congo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somalia</th>
<th>Rating: 3rd</th>
<th>Incidents: 11</th>
<th>Deaths: 90</th>
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On March 1, unidentified gunmen attacked the port city of Bossaso in Puntland, killing a Badhan Local Council deputy. On March 2, Al-Shabaab launched a mortar attack on the police headquarters in a highly protected area in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing at least two people and wounding six others. On March 4, Al-Shabaab fighters opened fire on the Dar Salam Villa cafe, north of the capital, Mogadishu, killing 5 people and injuring 3 others.

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March 7, Al-Shabaab militants attacked a military base in the town of Jani Abdullah, 60 km outside the coastal city of Kismayo, killing at least 7 soldiers and wounding 15 others.52 On March 11, Al-Shabaab militants attacked the Hyatt Hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, killing 13 civilians.53 On the same day, Al-Shabaab gunmen attacked a police station in the village of Sokaholiha in the Heliwa district in northern Mogadishu, and the number of victims is still unknown.54 Gunmen also killed a prominent traditional sheikh in Galkayo after he left the Ramadani mosque.55 On March 14, an al-Shabaab suicide bomber detonated a guest house in Bardera town in Gedo region, southwestern Somalia, where government officials were staying, killing at least 9 people56 and wounding 11, including a governor and several military commanders.57 On 21 March, Al-Shabaab launched an attack on a military base in Ron Nargod district of Middle Shabelle governorate, where they engaged in a gun battle with the Somali National Army, killing 51 soldiers and wounding 10 others.58 Also, a group armed with pistols killed one of the most famous clan elders in Mogadishu in front of his house in the Terbunka neighborhood in Hadan district in the capital, Mogadishu.59 On March 29, gunmen from the Al-Shabaab movement crossed the Shabelle River and attacked the military base in the Bartiri area, south of the city of Baldwin, Hiran Governorate, and the number of casualties is still unknown.60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>Rating: 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidents: 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths: 85</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

On March 2, armed men attacked the village of Orima, about 10 kilometers from Ouahegoya, the capital of the Northern Region, killing 14 civilians and several injuries. On March 4, gunmen affiliated with al-Qaeda attacked a military unit in the village of Zaba, Nyala governorate, in the Boucle du Mouhoun region (northwest), killing at least 11 soldiers and an assistant. On March 9, unidentified gunmen killed 11 soldiers and wounded 4 others during an operation to reclaim territory in the eastern provinces of Tapua, Bolgo and Kolbelogu, and in several other regions in the east and north of the country. On March 16, 18 people, including two volunteer militiamen, were killed in two separate attacks in the village of Tuabin in the eastern Bolgo state and the northern province of Lorum. Between March 19 and 20, eastern Burkina Faso witnessed a series of attacks that claimed the lives of 11 people, including army volunteers. On March 22, 4 soldiers and 10 volunteers from the army were killed in Zarkom, near the city of Kaya in northern Burkina Faso, during a terrorist attack that coincided with the visit of the military commander to the country in the same region of the center and north. On March 29, more than 100 terrorists attacked the village of Kosuka in Yatenga Prefecture, killing 6 people, including four volunteers to defend the homeland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sudan</th>
<th>Rating: 5</th>
<th>Incidents: 12</th>
<th>Deaths: 22</th>
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</table>

Attacks according to Organization

Attacks according to targets

Anonymous: 8%
Masalit tribesmen: 92%

Military: 50%
Cicilian: 50%

63 At least 11 people killed in northwest Burkina Faso ambush, China.org.cn, Mar 2023. [https://rb.gy/nv0ef3](https://rb.gy/nv0ef3)
67 At least 14 members of Burkina Faso security forces killed in terror attack, France24, Mar 2023. [https://rb.gy/0d4m](https://rb.gy/0d4m)
On March 3, a member of the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) stationed in Raga County, Western Bahr El Ghazal State, was killed during an attack by Sudanese gunmen on its soldiers who were patrolling in Seri Malaga, west of Raga town. On the same day, gunmen attacked the village of Saraf Omra in North Darfur, killing 3 people and wounding dozens. On the 6th of March, a policeman was killed and another injured in an attack by armed shepherds belonging to one of the border pastoral tribes. On March 12, the grandson of a prominent leader was killed in an attack by gunmen on a vehicle on the Khartoum-Qatina road. On the same day, two people were killed and four others were injured in an attack by gunmen in the Abta administrative unit in Central Darfur state, western Sudan. On March 14, a policeman was killed and two others were injured on El Fasher Road in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, after gunmen attacked their car in the Nabq area. On the same day, another person was killed in another separate attack on a passenger car on the road between Jebel and Foro Baranga, West Darfur. On March 17, gunmen ambushed the CEO of Kabum Locality and his driver on the Umlabasa-Kabum road, killing both. An officer was killed and 2 others were wounded in an attack by gunmen on a Central Reserve Police vehicle on the Kabkabiya El Fasher road in western Sudan. On March 20, two policemen were wounded in an attack by unidentified gunmen on a focal point in the Junf area of Mersheng locality, north of Nyala, in South Darfur state. During 23-24 March, violence broke out between African Masalit tribesmen and Arab shepherds in West Darfur, which resulted in the deaths of at least 5 persons. On March 28, 4 police officers were killed and 4 others were injured in a clash with an armed gang that was looting cars on the road linking Central and West Darfur.

Third: Monitoring Terrorist Operations in Africa

1- North Africa Region

a. Libya

On March 9, the Tobruk Security Directorate was subjected to an armed attack on the headquarters of the Directorate by a tribal group to free an imprisoned outlaw, and the number

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70. 2023
75. 2023
76. https://rb.gy/3h2d
77. 2023
78. https://rb.gy/1oa3
of victims is unknown. On March 11, 2 members of the Al-Rahba Al-Dura battalion were killed by members of the Al-Aswad Tajoura Brigade, during clashes between the two battalions, east of Tripoli. On March 20, unknown gunmen killed a young man in the city of Zawiya, west of Tripoli. On March 29, the head of the Internal Security Agency, Tripoli, was kidnapped in front of his house in the Al-Andalus neighborhood, by unknown gunmen.

b. Morocco

On March 2, the charred and mutilated body of a policeman was discovered in a rural area of the Casablanca region.

c. Algeria

On the 9th of March, the urban security headquarters was subjected to an attempt to break into by a group of armed persons backed by attack dogs, which resulted in bodily harm to police personnel and material damage to private and public property.

2- East Africa Region
d. Kenya

On March 15, two people were killed in separate attacks in Baringo, Kager village, and Turkana, Lrugon village, by armed bandits. On March 16, two people were murdered in the provinces of El Gio-Marrakesh and West Pokot by bandits. On March 17, a 12-year-old boy was massacred by armed raiders in West Pokot.

e. South Sudan

On 10 March, an SPLA officer was killed in Al Ma'arid in a revenge attack by Al Shabab militants in Bentiu camp for internally displaced persons. On March 11, Mandari militants attacked the car of the deputy governor of the dissolved Eastern Lakes State near the Mobil checkpoint, injuring him. On 16 March, at least 10 people in Western Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan, including three children, were killed after they mistook unexploded ordnance for scrap metal and two other children were injured. On 17 March, a humanitarian convoy transporting food and humanitarian aid was attacked in Auror County, Jonglei State, killing two people and

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81 [Link](https://rb.gy/4slvkc)
82 [Link](https://rb.gy/7nulia)
83 [The Libya Update](https://twitter.com/LibyaUpdate), Mar 2023.
84 [Libya. قتيلان في اشتباكات بين فصائلين مسلحين بمدينة تاجوراء (فيديو), مارس 2023.](https://rb.gy/5e6b8)
87 [Two more killed in fresh bandit attacks in the Kenyan North, livestock stolen, Nation Africa, Mar 2023.](https://rb.gy/cxcbnw)
89 [نقل ضابط بحركة "مشار" في هجوم تفجير就不能以탄 noodle, راديو تمازج, مارس 2023.](https://rb.gy/4jmn1)
91 [Discarded explosives in South Sudan kill 10, including kids, Toronto Star, Mar 2023.](https://rb.gy/us7k)
injuring another. On March 25, unidentified gunmen shot 3 children in their home in the Negarish district of Lorioc district.

f. Ethiopia
On March 16, unknown gunmen killed 8 people and injured 4 others in the city of Mithara, in eastern Ethiopia. On March 27, two people were killed and 4 others were wounded in an attack on an Orthodox church in the city of Shashimene in the Oromia region, about 250 kilometers south of the capital.

3- West Africa Region

g. Côte d’Ivoire
On March 11th, gunmen killed Mauritanians near a shop they work in, in the city of Kesbou, in Ivory Coast.

h. Mali
On March 2, JNIM carried out an attack between Nara and Marja in Koulikoro state, killing two soldiers of the Malian army. On March 4, two ICRC workers were kidnapped on the road between Gao and Kidal. In March, unidentified persons opened fire on a German army patrol in the city of Gao, in northern Mali, without causing any injuries. On March 14, 4 members of the Platform movements, along with dozens of civilians, were killed by ISIS fighters during a bloody battle in the Bedouin camps in the Ildiwas area, 50 km from the city of Gao.

i. Mauritania
On March 5, two members of the National Guard were killed and others injured when four terrorists managed to escape from the central prison in Nouakchott.

4- Central Africa Region

j. Cameroon
On March 1, a priest of a separate Christian community was kidnapped and murdered in the town of Opala, Leké region, in central Cameroon, by unknown persons. On March 3, armed robbers in a taxi stormed a local branch of Pavut Credit Union located in Small Mancun,
Bamenda, stealing huge sums of money and injuring one person. On March 5, separatists in his northwest region blocked roads and attacked military vehicles to disrupt the Senate elections, resulting in an unknown number of casualties. On March 10, Boko Haram terrorists attacked the border village of Zamja in the far north of Cameroon, killing a woman. On March 19, at least 6 people were killed and others were injured, in attacks launched by the Boko Haram terrorist group in two separate attacks on the town of Jebrili and the town of Watatofu in the Mayo-Tsanaga province in the far north of Cameroon.

k. Central Africa

On March 9, militants of the Russian Wagner Group attacked a brewery of the French beverage giant Castel in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic. On March 15, 5 civilians were killed and 7 others injured in an attack on an FARDC position by rebel Communist Party fighters in Wawa village, located about 52 kilometers from the town of Grimari in Ouaka Prefecture. On March 19, unidentified gunmen attacked the Chemolo gold mine near Bambari, killing 9 Chinese miners and injuring two others.

5. South Africa Region

I. Mozambique

On March 14, an unknown armed group killed 3 villagers in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, and kidnapped 10 women and children.

m. South Africa

On March 6, a man was shot dead and a woman injured in Durban, when gunmen opened fire on the car they were traveling in. On 13 March, heavily armed gunmen attacked police officers who were transporting prisoners in Limpopo, resulting in the escape of 6 prisoners awaiting trial. On March 18, an accountant who was investigating high-profile corruption cases, along with his son, was shot dead by gunmen. On March 21, five people, including a nine-year-old boy, were shot dead in two separate shootings in Durban.

103 Bamenda: Gunmen rob three financial institutions in broad daylight, Mimi Mefo Info, Mar 2023, https://rb.gy/ulgo0y
108 جمهورية إفريقيا الوسطى: مقتل خمسة مدنيين في هجوم شنه متمردي تحالف الوطنيين من أجل التغيير في قرية واوا، مارس 2023.
110 Mozambique: Three beheaded, 10 abducted in attack on Cabo Delgado village, LUSA, Mar 2023, https://rb.gy/5h8xpi
114 people, including a child, shot dead in two separate incidents in Durban, eyewitness news, Mar 2023, https://rb.gy/w9zn6
Fourth: African Countries’ Efforts to Curb the Phenomenon of Terrorism

With the continued chronic spread of the epidemic of terrorism on the continent and the multiplicity of motives behind terrorist recruitment operations, whether economic or social, due to the challenges that some countries suffer from, such as poverty, political weakness and economic collapse, in addition to the expansion of its spread methods, African countries have made some necessary efforts.

a. Nigeria

On March 3, the forces conducted combat patrols in pockets of terrorists in Avnuri and Malam Fatori general area of Apadam Local Government Area of Borno State, but did not make contact with the terrorists. On the same day, troops raided gang camps around General Tokoroa in Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna State, Zago Village in Mariga Local Government Area, Niger State, and Jingemi in Gosau Local Government Area, Zamfara State, neutralizing 5 bandits and rescuing 16 kidnap victims. On March 4, the forces responded to an attack on Anguan Lelo in Royom Local Government Area, Plateau State, and the criminals fled.115 On the same day, forces conducting a stop and search operation along the main supply route Monguno - Kikino - Cross Kawa - Baga arrested 2 suspects who were transporting some quantities of packaging and other logistics for terrorists.116 During March 7-10, at least 443 repentant Boko Haram terrorists and their families surrendered to the Nigerian Army in Borno State.117 On March 8, the forces rescued the Cross River Women’s Commissioner, who had been held hostage since she was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on February 1, by implicitly ambushing the kidnappers around the creek.118 On the same day, the Sector 3 Nigerian forces deployed in Damasak intercepted 70 family members of the terrorists, including 43 women and 30 children.119 During the period from March 13 to 19, the Nigerian Army of the Multi-National Hybrid Force neutralized about 20 terrorists, captured 83 suspected Boko Haram terrorists and handed them over to the Nigerian authorities, and destroyed three hostile bases and logistic warehouses.120 On the 19th, at least 60 terrorists were killed while responding to the attack on the town of Mafa in northeastern Nigeria.121 On 25 March, forces succeeded in clearing Boko Haram hideouts in Bula Ajida, Bula Yaga, Bula Lambaye, Kolori, Bula Omar and New Chirchur in Bama

119 Troops arrest 900 suspected terrorists’ collaborators, مرجع سبق ذكره، مرجع سبق ذكره
121 Election day attack: Soldiers kill 60 terrorists in Borno, Punch, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/sv1z
Local Government Area, and destroyed a large camp of the group between Bula Ajida and Bula Yaga.\textsuperscript{122}

On March 27, the forces of Operation Haden Kaye of the Nigerian army raided the ISWAP (Islamic State in West Africa) base in Dikwa, Borno State, and eliminated 41 jihadists, including a prominent leader.\textsuperscript{123} On March 29, the forces repulsed an attack by terrorists on a military base in Borno, inflicting heavy losses on the fighters.\textsuperscript{124} During March 30-31, Nigerian Army forces operating in the Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State killed 5 bandits.\textsuperscript{125}

\textbf{b. Somalia}

On March 6, the Somali Special Forces killed 14 Al-Shabaab militants, including a leader, during an operation in the southern state of Jubbaland.\textsuperscript{126} On March 8, a military court in Puntland executed 13 militants who were members of Al-Shabaab and the Islamic State.\textsuperscript{127} On March 12, the Somali army killed 7 members of the Al-Shabaab movement, including a field leader, and wounded 5 others in the village of Mido, 26 km from the city of Afmadou, in the Lower Juba region.\textsuperscript{128} On March 16, a consultative conference was launched between Somali leaders in the city of Baidoa, led by two-day discussions on the structure of national security and combating terrorism. The Somali Minister of Defense and the US Ambassador to Mogadishu signed an agreement to enhance the capabilities of the country's armed forces, especially the Deneb commandos.\textsuperscript{129} On March 20, 43 members of Al-Shabaab were killed during bloody battles between terrorist groups in the Julis Mountains, northeastern Somalia.\textsuperscript{130} On the same day, the Somali army repelled a terrorist attack by Al-Shabaab targeting an army camp in the village of Dar Naim in the Middle Shabelle region,\textsuperscript{131} killing 30 Al-Shabaab members.\textsuperscript{132} On March 23, an operation carried out by Deneb forces with the support of the Jubaliland security forces in Lower Juba governorate resulted in the killing of 23 members of the youth militia.\textsuperscript{133} On March 29, the Somali National Army repelled two separate terrorist attacks on military bases in the central and southern regions of Somalia.\textsuperscript{134} On the same day, US soldiers joined the Somali army in

\textsuperscript{125} Nigerian troops kill five bandits, recover weapons, Daily Post, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/snc0
\textsuperscript{126} Somali army shoots down 14 members of extremist group, plenglish, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/gqh2
\textsuperscript{127} Somali Military Court Executes 13 Militants, 5 Soldiers, VOA, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/m2al
\textsuperscript{128} الجيش الصومالي يعلن مقتل 7 أرهابيين وإصابة 5 جنوب البلاد، سبوتلاك عربي، مارس 2023. https://rb.gy/m00w
\textsuperscript{129} الأمن القومي والإرهاب.. مؤتمر لقادة الصومال واتفاق عسكري مع واشنطن، العين الإخبارية، مارس 2023. https://rb.gy/wt8z
\textsuperscript{130} 43 Al-Shabaab Members Killed in Somalia, Asharq Al-awsat, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/6i8e
\textsuperscript{131} Somali forces repulse Al-Shabaab attack on army camp, somalitoday.net, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/3y0f
\textsuperscript{132} الجيش الصومالي يعلن مقتل ما يزيد عن 30 مسلحا من "الشباب" الإرهابي، سبوتلاك عربي، مارس 2023. https://rb.gy/jimt
\textsuperscript{133} الجبهة الوطنى يقتل 23 من مقاتلي حركة الشباب في ولاية جوبالاند، somaliatoday.net, مارس 2023. https://rb.gy/9a52
\textsuperscript{134} Somalia army foils raids on two military bases, XINHUITANET, Mar 2023. https://rb.gy/hrzo
preparation for the second phase of the war against Al-Shabaab, and elements of the US Special Forces arrived in Mahas, about 300 km from the capital. On March 30, a commander in the terrorist Kharijite militia surrendered to the Somali army forces in the village of "Maya Farah" in Lower Shabelle Governorate. The UAE has also provided financing for the training of Somali forces in order to equip the army and prepare it to take over security tasks from the African peacekeeping forces, whose mandate expires in December 2024.

c. Burkina Faso
On March 9, the Army General Staff announced that 112 terrorists had been neutralized in recent days during several operations against jihadists in the north and east of the country.

d. Niger
On March 24, Niger's Ministry of Defense announced that forces from the army's Operation El Mahaw anti-terrorist operation had launched an anti-militant operation that included an incursion into Mali and neutralized at least 79 terrorists during it.

e. Libya
On March 6, the security authorities in eastern Libya began an investigation with the terrorist leader, who was arrested while trying to sneak back to his hometown in Ajdabiya.

f. Mozambique
Mozambican Defense Minister Christofao Tshome has asked foreign military personnel stationed in the country to share their knowledge with Mozambican security forces to help end violent extremism.

g. DRC
Congo has received troops from Kenya and Burundi as part of the East African Community regional force that supports the DRC, and Angola is sending a contingent to the DRC to try to force the militias to comply with a ceasefire and avoid escalation in the region. On March 1, the spokesman for the "North Kivu-Sukola 2" operations sector, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, announced that the army forces had regained control of the strategic city of Rubaya (east of the country). On March 26, the DRC army announced that it had been able to liberate 11 hostages kidnapped by the Allied Democratic Forces militia, following joint

140 ليبيا.. التحقيق مع قيادي إرهابي بشأن عودته إلى الشرق، مسكار نيوز عربية، مارس 2023. https://rb.gy/5ey4
operations by the DRC and Ugandan army forces in the Beni region since the beginning of March.\textsuperscript{144}

h. Egypt
On March 3, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Brussels discussed with the Chief of Staff of the European Union Military Committee the strategic partnership between Egypt and the European Union, especially in the areas of security and defense, in addition to exchanging assessments on common challenges and threats. The ambassador also reviewed the Egyptian efforts in the areas of combating terrorism and the interest in building capacities and transferring expertise in the fields of cybersecurity, demining, combating improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and combating terrorism, especially in light of the co-presidency of Egypt and the European Union of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, which began in March.\textsuperscript{145}

i. Tunisia
On March 14, a Tunisian court convicted to death two citizens of the North African country in a 2020 suicide attack that killed a policeman near the US embassy.\textsuperscript{146}

j. Algeria
On March 1, the Criminal Court of First Instance in Casablanca, east of Algiers, sentenced a prominent terrorist to 8 years in prison after convicting him of the felony of joining a terrorist group.\textsuperscript{147} On March 5, the US State Department Spokesperson's Office announced that the US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control would meet with senior officials in Algeria to discuss security, combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons in the Sahel and Libya.\textsuperscript{148} In the period from 08 to 14 March, units and detachments of the People's National Army carried out several operations that yielded qualitative results, such as the fact that a prominent terrorist, active within terrorist groups in the Sahel region since 2012, surrendered to the military authorities in Bordj Badji Mokhtar in the 6th Military Region. Joint detachments of the People's National Army (04) also stopped elements supporting terrorist groups.\textsuperscript{149} On March 28, the Algerian president proposed a review of the UN peacekeeping forces' plan of action to include counter-terrorism operations, especially in the countries of the African continent.\textsuperscript{150}

\begin{itemize}
\item[144] جيش الكونغو الديمقراطية يحرر 11 رهينة من أيدى الميليشيات بإقليم كيفو الشمالي، اليوم السابع، مارس 2023، مارس 2023
\item[145] مصر تبحث مع الاتحاد الأوروبي الشراكة الإستراتيجية والتعاون في مكافحة الإرهاب والهجرة غير الشرعية، وكالة أنباء الشرق الأوسط، مارس 2023
\item[146] الإعدام لشخصين ضالعين في هجوم جهادي في تونس، فرانس 24، مارس 2023
\item[147] مصلحة العدلية العليا للجيش الوطني الشعبي في الفترة من 08 إلى 14 مارس 2023، وزارة الدفاع الوطني، مارس 2023
\item[148] تبون يقترح مراجعة خطة عمل "قوات حفظ السلام" لتشمل مهام أخرى، msn، مارس 2023
\end{itemize}
Annaba region, which led to the destruction of public property of the state, violent assaults on public forces, and incitement to violence and gathering gunman. The decision came with prison sentences ranging from 6 months to 20 years for 82 members of the gang and financial fines.  

**k. Mauritania**

On March 11, the Mauritanian government confirmed the killing of three out of four "jihadists" who escaped from prison on March 5, and the arrest of the fourth during an operation in the Adrar desert region in the north of the country to arrest them.  

**l. Morocco**

On March 15, three gunmen belonging to the terrorist organization ISIS were arrested and arrested, accused of killing a policeman, after "security operations" in Casablanca and in the Sidi Harazem area near Fez (north).  

**m. Côte d’Ivoire**

Côte d'Ivoire delivered a shipment of military equipment, valued at 2.3 billion CFA francs, to the authorities of Burkina Faso; in order to address insecurity and combat terrorism.  

**n. Uganda**

On March 29, a 1,000-strong unit left for the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of the East African Community regional force that includes Burundi and Kenya, which aims to contain the M23 rebels who began attacks on Congolese army positions in June last year and occupied several areas. On March 31, army forces entered Private Bunagana, a town in North Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is still under the control of terrorists.  

**o. South Africa**

On March 13, police in Limpopo launched a massive manhunt after a group of heavily armed gunmen freed six prisoners awaiting trial.

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**Fifth: the Phenomenon of Terrorism Trends in Africa**

**a. relative distribution of victims of terrorist operations in the five African regions:**

Hotbeds of terrorism are spread in Africa’s five regions, despite varying differences between each region, as is the case in the regions of North and South Africa compared to East, West and...
Central Africa that have always been in the first ranks in terms of the number of victims and acts of violence. However, the presence of some regions in the last ranks did not make them free from the permeation of terrorism which penetrated their borders, despite the anti-terrorism African efforts.

**West Africa ranked first** for the next month in a row since February 2023, with 391 killings, in light of the growing activity of armed gangs, Boko Haram, and the terrorist organization ISIS in Nigeria. **Central Africa** came second with 156 killings, after it ranked third last month, and this escalation was represented in the increase in the operations of armed militias in the Congo in addition to the activity of the Allied Democratic Forces and ISIS, while the activity of separatists grew in the northwest in Cameroon with the activity of Boko Haram. **East Africa** came in third place with 121 killings, and this represents a noticeable decline in terrorist operations after it witnessed 314 killings and ranked second last month, but this did not negate the growing presence of the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia, which carried out 8 operations during the current month. As usual, North and South Africa occupied the last ranks, with 26 killings for the first and 11 killings for the latter.
b. Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country:

Over the past years, the African continent has turned into one of the strongholds of terrorist organizations, which permeated most, if not all, of its countries. However, some countries, especially North African countries, have been witnessing a relative lull in the number of terrorist attacks for years, while terrorism is active in other countries, causing them to witness hundreds of operations in one month. Accordingly, Nigeria ranked first in terms of the number of victims, with 296 killings, with an increase in amounts not witnessed since the beginning of the year, as it ranked third in February and fourth in January. In the second place came the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 134 deaths, and this is also a noticeable increase from last month when only 41 deaths were recorded. While Somalia fell to third place, with 90 deaths, 102 deaths lower than last month when it ranked second. Burkina Faso ranked fourth with 85 dead, after it ranked first last month. Sudan came in last place with 22 deaths, a slight decline from last month, when it recorded 42 deaths.
Number of victims of violence and terrorism in Africa by country

- Nigeria: 296
- DRC: 134
- Somalia: 90
- Burkina Faso: 85
- Sudan: 22
- South Sudan: 16
- Central Africa: 14
- Ethiopia: 10
- Cameroon: 8
- South Africa: 8
- Mali: 6
- Kenya: 5
- Libya: 3
- Mozambique: 3
- Mauritania: 2
- Côte d'Ivoire: 2
- Morocco: 1
Sixth: The Role of International Mechanisms in Combating Terrorism in Africa during March:

Terrorism in Africa has aggravated turning into an issue that can’t be overlooked or turned a blind eye to. Rather, its consequences have been witnessed and felt by all countries worldwide, obligating the international community to take strenuous steps to achieve the goal of eliminating it. In March, we monitored these efforts at the military, security and international levels.

On the military level, the annual Flintlock military exercises kicked off on March 1, with a week of academic training before moving to command posts and tactical exercises on March 7, which this year is marked for the first time by having a site dedicated to naval operations. It will last for two weeks and will train about 1,300 military personnel from 29 countries in Ghana and Ivory Coast, amid the escalation of jihadist violence linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

During March 1-2 the Focus Group meeting of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Africa was held in Niamey, Niger. With the participation of 38 members of the Coalition, which highlighted various counter-ISIS initiatives on the continent, facilitated regional discussion on addressing the ISIL threat and identified gaps in counter-terrorism capabilities in West Africa, the Sahel, East Africa, Central and Southern Africa.

On the security level, a roundtable discussion was held on March 19 on the topic "Indivisible Security: Capabilities and Contributions of Parliaments", with the participation of members of parliaments of the African continent with their Russian colleagues, which focused on the importance of protecting sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and combating Poverty, counterterrorism and military biological threats.

At the international level, on March 28, the United Nations Security Council held a high-level debate on combating terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, headed by Mozambique.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his particular concern about the situation in Africa that has made poverty, hunger, lack of basic services, unemployment and unconstitutional changes in government a fertile ground for the expansion of terrorist groups and the flow of fighters, money and weapons. In addition to the Internet factor, which has

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161 Members of the parliaments of the African continent discussed with Russian colleagues joint efforts to ensure global security, The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Mar 2023. [https://rb.gy/m3e1o](https://rb.gy/m3e1o)
become a global platform for spreading violent ideologies further. He highlighted regional counter-terrorism initiatives - from joint efforts in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin and Mozambique to the recent Extraordinary African Union Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government, and the assistance of the United Nations to African member states, including prevention, trials and rehabilitation, and also stressed that the fight against terrorism will never pay off if human rights continue to be denied and undermined.\(^{162}\)

**Conclusion & Recommendations**

Despite the decline in the number of victims of violence and terrorism in the continent compared to the past two months and since the beginning of the year, and although the difference is not large, this did not prevent the continued exacerbation of the threat of terrorism on the continent, as 48 percent of deaths in the continent are related to terrorism globally, with the Sahel region turning into a new hotbed of terrorist attacks.\(^{163}\) Based on the above, the recommendations of Maat are as follows:

**First:** Maat expresses its deep concern about the lack of military cooperation between African countries, given its continuous dependence on Western powers in the fight against terrorism, and stresses the need for there to be joint African military cooperation in which efforts are intensified to eliminate hotbeds of terrorist organizations, including enhancing transparency between the security services in information about the strongholds of these organizations, instead of fighting each African country individually, and even urging African countries to discuss a joint military plan, targeting the youth movement organizations in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria, during the coming period, because they represent nearly half African terrorism.

**Second:** Within the framework of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, Maat recommends to the United Nations to provide funding and full support that makes African anti-terrorism initiatives effective and innovative, in order to be in line with the new approach of dangers pursued by terrorist organizations.

**Third:** In terms of developing preventive policies in the field of combating terrorism and not just the immediate military treatment, Maat urges the governments of African countries to carefully plan to support the pillars of stability on all political, economic and social levels, which in turn will automatically contribute to mitigating violence in the region and preventing the


\(^{163}\) Speakers Warn Security Council Terrorism Spreading across Africa at Alarming Rate, Call for Greater Support, Enhanced International, Regional Cooperation. المرجع السابق

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spread of extremist tendencies, given that political persecution, violation of rights, and suffering from poverty and hunger are key factors in creating the phenomenon.

Fourth: The situation in the continent no longer allows for the disappearance of any resources or competencies that can contribute, even in a small percentage, to solving the problem. Therefore, Maat urges the international community to take into account the inclusion of female competencies in its plans to combat terrorism in the continent, given the huge number of women who have become engaged in such organizations in an effort to make them more resistant to such attractions.

Fifth: Maat calls for the importance of balancing all intellectual efforts with all military efforts within the framework of regional attempts to combat terrorism. Maat has noticed that the African efforts are focused only on the military effort, despite the great importance that the process of exchanging visions and ideas carries by focusing on the roots of the problem and presenting constructive proposals, especially with the transformations taking place in the phenomenon of terrorism today. Therefore, Maat proposes that a periodic meeting be organized on a monthly basis, related to combating terrorism, to be held at the regional level and to discuss obstacles, challenges, and ways to address it.