

# LENS OF **TERRORIST** **OPERATIONS** AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN AFRICA



**APRIL 2022**

## Preamble

The efforts of African countries to combat terrorism and armed operations have yielded no fruits so far, as rampant terrorism remains prevalent in Africa. West Africa is still in the crosshairs of the Islamic State (ISIS) and Boko Haram terrorist organizations, the two organizations that have been engaged in vicious conflict over control of northern Nigeria, whereas the peoples of West Africa are suffering under the brunt of the attacks of the two organizations. For the second decade in a row, Somalia continues to suffer at the hands of the Al-Shabab attacks, while the ongoing Ethiopian civil war has thrown the country into turmoil and left hundreds of thousands dead and injured. In North Africa, terrorist organizations refuse to leave the people of the region live peacefully, so they try from time to time to indicate that they are alive through provoking hostility.

It is a matter of concern that these terrorist groups spread their influence and activities on civilians, threatening their lives and daily activities. Given all this, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights issues its monthly report entitled "**Lens of Terrorist Operations and Acts of violence in Africa**" for April 2022, in which 726 people were killed and hundreds others were injured as a result of terrorist operations.

Through an analytical survey, the report tracks these terrorist operations, within the framework of Maat's interest in assessing the achievement of GSDG 16 as well as the third and fourth aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063 focused on achieving peace. Finally, Maat presents a set of recommendations in this regard to countries and stakeholders.

## First: 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 are often based on open sources such as the Internet, as well as reliable and credible news sites.

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 report different numbers of victims at times, or update their data after a few days of the monitoring process.

## **The concept of terrorism upon which the report is based**

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: Prominent terrorist operations in the five regions of Africa

### a. North Africa

#### 1- Egypt

Despite the significant decline in the number of terrorist operations in Egypt thanks to the efforts of the Egyptian government to confront terrorist organizations, and dry up their sources of support and financing, these organizations continue to threaten citizens and society. In April, as part of the efforts to eliminate terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula, 6 of the Sinai tribes were killed.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2- Libya

Terrorism emerged in south Libya again, as the terrorist organization ISIS claimed responsibility for detonating a car bomb near a National Army camp in Umm al Aranib on April 19, leading to the injury of three people. The attack claimed by ISIS is considered an extension of a number of previous attacks, the last of which took place last January.<sup>2</sup>

### b. East Africa

#### 1- Somalia

Terrorist attacks are still escalating, led by the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab. On April 8, two Somali soldiers were killed and 3 others were wounded in a mortar shelling by Al-Shabab group on a military base in Buurhakaba district in the Bay region, southwestern Somalia. A military truck with a ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft gun was destroyed, and the group's members raided a military checkpoint of the government forces in the suburb of Baidoa city in the same state. This is in addition to the "Al-Shabab" group bombardment of the military base of the government forces with mortars in Bahdo district in the Galguduud region of Galmudug state in central Somalia. This is the second time that this base has been shelled within a week.<sup>3</sup> On April 12, an explosion occurred, killing and wounding others in Kismayo, the de facto capital of Jubbaland in southern Somalia, targeting the home of an official in the regional state. The explosion caused the death of the targeted official's wife and son.<sup>4</sup>

On April 17, the Somali parliament was subjected to mortar shelling while the newly elected representatives met for the second time since they took office, in an attack claimed by

<sup>1</sup> حفريات، القوات المصرية تقضي على مسؤول كبير في داعش، 26 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/37q3bhj>

<sup>2</sup> البيان، ليبيا.. الإرهاب يظل برأسه من جديد، 19 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3FwxDCX>

<sup>3</sup> أخبار الآن، جماعة "الشباب" نشن 3 هجمات إرهابية في الصومال 9 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3P6SjFQ>

<sup>4</sup> الصومال الجديد، قتيلان وجريح في هجوم وقع في مدينة كسمابو 13 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LW12c2>

the terrorist Al-Shabaab movement. The attack resulted in the injury of several people, but no deputies were hurt.<sup>5</sup> On April 18, an armed attack in Mogadishu killed two Somali soldiers and wounded six others.<sup>6</sup> While on April 19, the terrorist group Al-Shabaab took control of the strategic city of Matban, Hiran Governorate, in central Somalia.<sup>7</sup> The terrorist group's takeover of "Matban" came after violent clashes erupted between government forces and Al-Shabab militants. On April 21, Al-Shabaab militants attacked the Lido Hotel on Lido beach, on the northern edge of the Somali capital, Mogadishu, resulting in deaths and injuries.<sup>8</sup> On April 22, al-Shabab claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that targeted a restaurant on the seaside in the capital, Mogadishu, which killed six people and wounded seven others.<sup>9</sup> On April 25, the terrorist Al-Shabaab movement launched a mortar attack on two military bases in the Lower Shabelle Governorate, southern Somalia, killing a child and injuring 12 other civilians.<sup>10</sup> On 29 April, 4 military personnel were injured including civilians in an explosion in the town of Janali, Lower Shabelle Governorate, southern Somalia.<sup>11</sup>

## 2- Sudan

Instability continues to threaten Sudan, leading to an increase in the activity of militants who take advantage of the existing security gaps. On April 12, 10 people, including a woman, were killed in a renewed militia attack on villages and areas in Sirba locality, West Darfur state, bringing the total number of deaths within three days to 22 people.<sup>12</sup> On April, 13 a university student was killed and his father was wounded, in a renewed armed attack on the Fakoum area of Sirba locality in West Darfur state.<sup>13</sup> On April 24, at least 160 people were killed in violence in the troubled Darfur region, western Sudan.<sup>14</sup>

## 3- Ethiopia

On April 27, 2022, at least 20 people were killed, in an attack on Muslims in Amhara, Ethiopia, where the city of Gondar in the Amhara region of northern Ethiopia witnessed sectarian violence that resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries.<sup>15</sup> The renewed conflict in Oromia has killed 200 people and injured dozens in the eastern Goji region of Oromia region, as part of the ongoing military operations.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> france24, Shabaab claims mortar attack as Somalia's new parliament meets, 18 April 2022 <https://bit.ly/3KS1man>  
<sup>6</sup> العين الإخبارية، مقتل جنديين في هجوم مسلح جنوب مقديشو، 19 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3MWwQOK>  
<sup>7</sup> أخبار الآن، جماعة الشباب الإرهابية تسيطر على مدينة في الصومال، 19 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LUWgf0>  
<sup>8</sup> الميادين، الصومال: قتلى وجرحى بهجوم لـ"حركة الشباب" على فندق في مقديشو، 22 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/37smFlq>  
<sup>9</sup> الشرق الأوسط، مقتل 6 أشخاص وجرح آخرين بتفجير إرهابي في الصومال <https://bit.ly/3915Lea>  
<sup>10</sup> المصري اليوم، حركة الشباب تهاجم قاعدتين عسكريتين في الصومال <https://bit.ly/39zvFFW>  
<sup>11</sup> العين الإخبارية، مقتل 4 جنود في تفجير إرهابي جنوب الصومال <https://bit.ly/37qA51b>  
<sup>12</sup> أخبار السودان، قتلى في هجوم جديد على قرى ومناطق محلية سرى بولاية غرب دارفور 13 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LWE70h>  
<sup>13</sup> دابانجا، مقتل طالب جامعي في هجوم مسلح .. ومناوي يتهم الأجهزة الأمنية بالتقصير في التصدي للعنف، 13 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LWcsMT>  
<sup>14</sup> العربية، السودان.. مقتل 160 شخصا في أعمال عنف في دارفور، 24 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3KMVC1K>  
<sup>15</sup> الشروق، إثيوبيا.. 20 قتيلًا في هجوم على مسلمين بإقليم أمهرة 27 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3yiHuLb>  
<sup>16</sup> العين الإخبارية، مقتل 200 عنصر من "أونق شيني" في عملية عسكرية جنوبية إثيوبيا 28 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LZ3BdE>



## c. West Africa

### 1- Nigeria

Boko Haram and ISIS are still very active in West Africa, especially in countries that suffer from a security vacuum that has led to the activity of armed organizations. In Nigeria, during April, a number of terrorist attacks occurred. On April 1, 12 people were killed and 28 others were injured. Following an armed attack in the Bassa region, and on April 10, more than 154 people were killed by armed men in attacks carried out in Plateau state in the center of the country.<sup>17</sup> On April 13, 24 people were killed by armed men in Benue State, central Nigeria.<sup>18</sup> On April 19, 3 people were killed and 19 injured in an explosion in a market in Taraba state in eastern Nigeria, and no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>19</sup>

### 2- Burkina Faso

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been witnessing a cycle of violence due to movements affiliated with al-Qaeda and ISIS, leading to thousands of deaths in the country, and forcing 1.8 million people to flee their homes. On April 8, at least 12 soldiers and four members of a faction loyal to the Burkinabe army were killed, in an attack targeting a Military group in northern Burkina Faso.<sup>20</sup> On April 24, 15 people, including nine soldiers, were killed and about thirty were wounded Sunday in two simultaneous terrorist attacks on two military units in northern Burkina Faso.<sup>21</sup>

### 3- Mali

On April 24, six Malian soldiers were killed and twenty wounded, in three simultaneous attacks by terrorist groups with explosives on three army camps in central Mali.<sup>22</sup> A Russian soldier was also killed on April 21 in an operation with Malian soldiers in an explosion in central Mali, the region witnessing the activity of jihadist groups. He is the first Russian to be confirmed dead as part of military operations in Mali.<sup>23</sup>

### 4- Niger

On April 13, Niger announced that 11 security personnel had been killed in two separate attacks. The first targeted a police station in Betelkol on the western border with Burkina Faso, killing

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<sup>17</sup> الخليج، ارتفاع حصيلة القتلى في هجوم ولاية «بلاتو» النيجيرية إلى 154، 13 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3kMJdAk>

<sup>18</sup> الميادين، نيجيريا: مسلحون يقتلون 24 شخصاً وسط البلاد 13 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3MZ1xSY>

<sup>19</sup> يورو نيوز، مقتل 3 وإصابة 19 في انفجار بسوق في نيجيريا 20 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3weKYL5>

<sup>20</sup> JBC، 16 قتيلاً في هجوم على قاعدة للجيش في بوركينافاسو 9 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3MZ43Zq>

<sup>21</sup> بوابة الأهرام، 15 قتيلاً في هجومين على وحدتين عسكريتين في شمال بوركينافاسو <https://bit.ly/38XWPWO>

<sup>22</sup> الشرق الأوسط، مقتل 6 جنود وإصابة 20 بثلاث هجمات للقاعدة في مالي 24 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3sjQhsm>

<sup>23</sup> أخبار الآن، مقتل عسكري روسي في انفجار قنبلة بوسط مالي، 21 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3vRV6LB>



seven security personnel. Four members of the National Guard were killed in an armed attack on a gold mining site.<sup>24</sup>

## d. Central Africa

### 1- The Democratic Republic of the Congo

On April 3, 21 people were killed in an attack by armed persons in a village, eastern the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>25</sup> On April 8, at least 8 people were killed and three others injured when an explosive device exploded in a café at a military base in Goma, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>26</sup> Also, 14 civilians were killed in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in an attack attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels on April 10<sup>27</sup>. On April 12, 30 civilians were killed in two villages in Ituri province, in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in attacks by armed persons of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebel movement.<sup>28</sup>

### 2- Central Africa

On April 16, a soldier from the National Army of the Central African Republic was killed, in the northeastern Ndele military district of Bamingui-Bangouran.<sup>29</sup>

## Third: Governments' efforts to confront terrorism

Now, let's discuss the efforts made by African countries to ward off terrorist organizations. Nigeria succeeded in eliminating 141 Boko Haram fighters and other armed organizations, Somalia succeeded in eliminating 70 fighters of Al-Shabaab movement with the participation of African forces "AMISOM", while Mali succeeded in the elimination of 24 terrorists, 4 terrorists from Sudan, and 1 from Mozambique.

## A - North Africa

### 1- Egypt

With regard to the state's efforts to counter terrorism, the Egyptian security forces have managed to kill one of the field commanders of Da'esh, in addition to two prominent takfirist elements while they were trying to escape by one of the central ambushes of the armed forces.<sup>30</sup> On April 26, the Cairo Criminal Court issued a ruling designating Muslim Brotherhood as a

<sup>24</sup> الوسيط، النيجر تعلن مقتل 11 عنصرا أمنيا في هجومين أحدهما قرب الحدود مع ليبيا <https://bit.ly/3MUR2Qs>

<sup>25</sup> اليوم، مقتل 21 مدنيا بينهم 10 نساء في هجوم بالكونغو الديمقراطية، <https://bit.ly/3kQCegg>

<sup>26</sup> الشرق الأوسط، 8 قتلى على الأقل بانفجار عبوة ناسفة في شرق الكونغو الديمقراطية 9 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3P29F6V>

<sup>27</sup> مونت كارلو، مقتل 14 مدنياً في إيتوري بجمهورية الكونغو الديمقراطية 10 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3KYhAPf>

<sup>28</sup> فرنسا 24، مقتل 30 مدنياً في الكونغو الديمقراطية في هجمات لمتطرفين <https://bit.ly/3MZKYpM>

<sup>29</sup> Humangle Media, Central African Republic Interpreter For Russian Mercenaries Shot Dead, 18 April 2022

<https://bit.ly/37nGLgu>

<sup>30</sup> المرجع السابق



terrorist group for 5 years.<sup>31</sup> Within the framework of the Egyptian state's regional efforts to eradicate the phenomenon of terrorism in Africa, on April 18, the Egyptian House of Representatives approved the resolution of the President of the Republic regarding the headquarters agreement for the "XY" Center for Combating Terrorism between Egypt and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, to enhance the capacity to comprehensively confront terrorism and support peace and security in Africa.<sup>32</sup>

## 2- Tunisia

As part of its efforts to cut off the sources of terrorism through pre-emptive attacks, on April 9, 2022, the Tunisian Ministry of Interior announced that it had arrested a foreign terrorist element belonging to the terrorist organization Da'esh.<sup>33</sup> The Tunisian security forces also arrested 10 terrorism suspects for planning attacks against security forces, a three-member Da'esh cell was also broken up.<sup>34</sup>

## 3- Libya

In terms of efforts to combat terrorism, on April 25, the Libyan army announced that its military units attacked groups affiliated with the terrorist organization "Da'esh" in the Ghadwa area, southeast of Libya; these clashes resulted in the injury of two terrorists.<sup>35</sup> The US State Department's program to assist Libya in confronting threats arising from the security vacuum that led to the creation of vulnerabilities that may help terrorists exploit them to carry out their actions through airports continued, a program that has been ongoing since 2018.<sup>36</sup>

## 4- Algeria

On April 18, the Algerian army announced the elimination of a terrorist, and the recovery of a "Kalashnikov" machine gun and a quantity of ammunition, in a military operation west of Algiers.<sup>37</sup>

## B- East Africa

### 1- Somalia

In terms of counter-terrorism efforts in Somalia, the UN Security Council has approved a new peacekeeping force in Somalia led by the African Union. The new mission, Atmis, will replace the current mission of nearly 20,000 military, police, and civilians that will be gradually

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<sup>31</sup> العربية، مصر.. حكم جديد بإدراج الإخوان بقوائم الإرهاب لـ5 سنوات 26 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LXuyhN>  
<sup>32</sup> سكاى نيوز، مصر.. البرلمان يقر اتفاق مكافحة الإرهاب بين مصر ودول الساحل، 18 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3vTaV4F>  
<sup>33</sup> CNN ، الداخلية التونسية تعلن القبض على إرهابي أجنبي ينتمي لداعش 9 أبريل 2022 <https://cnn.it/3KU5A1r>  
<sup>34</sup> AA, Tunisia arrests 10 terror suspects for planning attacks 30 April 2022 <https://bit.ly/3MWw9oa>  
<sup>35</sup> سكاى نيوز، الجيش الليبي يشتبك مع "داعش" جنوبا.. وقواعد المعركة تتغير 26 أبريل 2022 <https://bit.ly/3LSsZBF>  
<sup>36</sup> EEAS, EUBAM Fosters Cooperation between INTERPOL and the Libyan National Counter-Terrorism Team 10

April 2022 <https://bit.ly/37u3Cas>  
<sup>37</sup> الشروق، الجيش الجزائري: مقتل إرهابي واسترجاع رشاش كلاشينكوف غرب الجزائر العاصمة، <https://bit.ly/3Fr4Wr4>



reduced to zero by the end of the year 2024.<sup>38</sup> On April 13, a member of the Somali Al-Shabaab militia linked to Al-Qaida, named Mohamed Mahmoud Fanah, surrendered to the Somali armed forces.<sup>39</sup>

On April 2, at least seven terrorists of al-Shabaab movement were killed in central Somalia, while several others were wounded in a military operation. The army also arrested two wounded terrorists of al-Shabaab movement and seized four explosive devices, four rifles, and vehicles.<sup>40</sup> On April 11, the Somali National Army, with the support of the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), announced the killing of seven terrorists of al-Shabaab movement after an attack that was thwarted on Monday in the southern part of the country.<sup>41</sup> On April 21, Somali forces succeeded in killing 10 of Al-Shabaab militants in Galmudug state.<sup>42</sup>

## C- West Africa

### 1- Nigeria

On the counter-terrorism level, on April 17, a joint military force of Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon announced the killing of 100 militants, including ten leaders, during the first weeks of April.<sup>43</sup>

### 2- Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso forces, in cooperation with Niger forces, succeeded in killing 100 terrorists during a joint operation carried out by Burkina Faso and Niger in April, on the borders of the two countries that suffer from the violence of terrorist groups.<sup>44</sup>

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Africanews, UN Security Council approves new peacekeeping force in Somalia, 1 April 2022<sup>38</sup>

<https://bit.ly/3FmjsjT> اليوم السابع، استسلام عضو بميليشيا الشباب الإرهابية إلى الجيش الصومالي، 13 أبريل 2022<sup>39</sup>

AA, Somali military claims killing 7 al-Shabaab terrorists, 3 April 2022 <https://bit.ly/3KVuXjs><sup>40</sup>

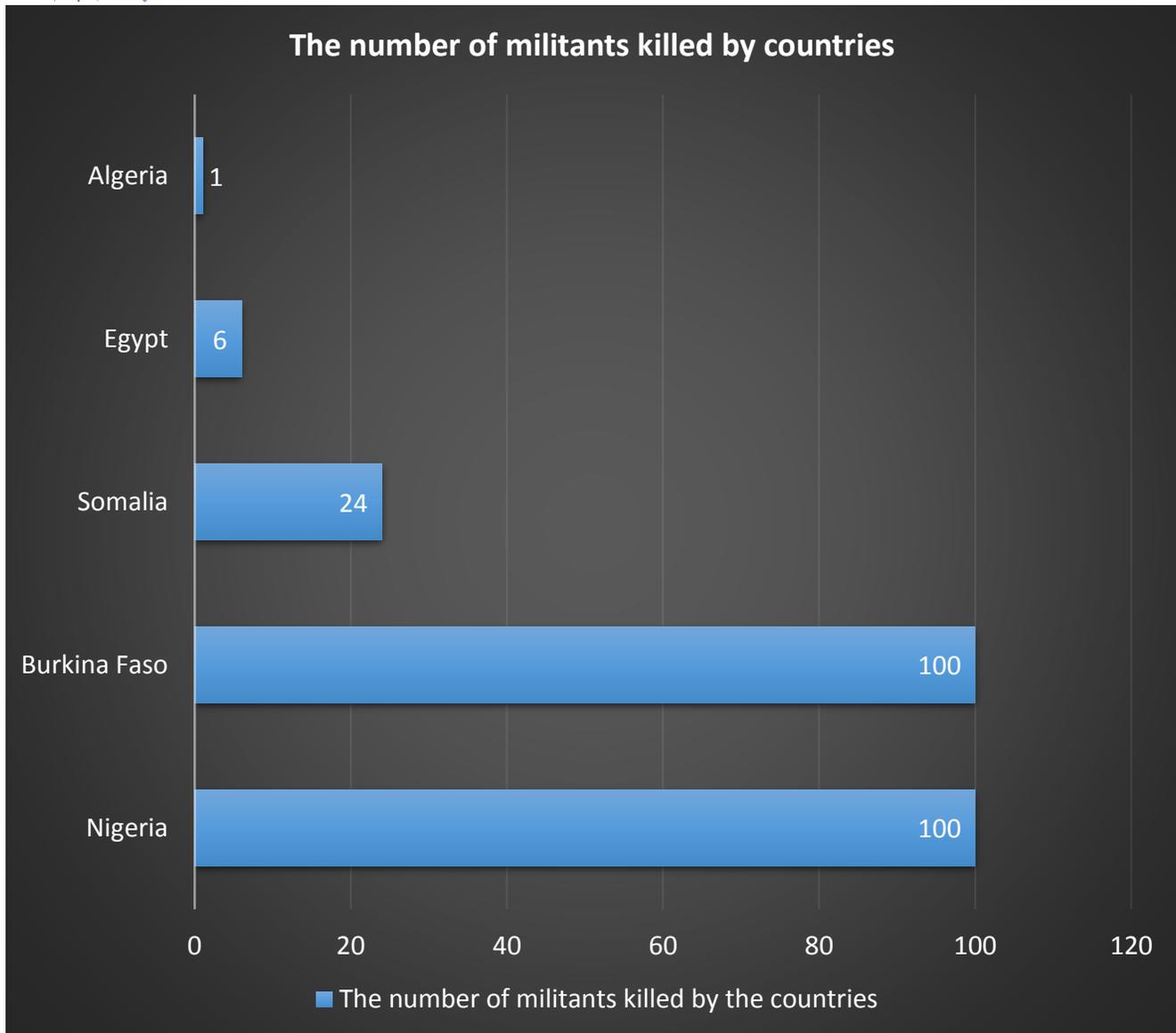
<https://bit.ly/3wchBKd> الصومال اليوم، الجيش الصومالي يعلن إحباط هجوم لحركة الشباب على قاعدة عسكرية وقتل 7 إرهابيين<sup>41</sup>

<https://bit.ly/3waZHr9> المشهد العربي، الجيش الصومالي يقتل 10 إرهابيين من الشباب بغلمدغ<sup>42</sup>

البيان، قوة عسكرية من نيجيريا والنيجر والكاميرون تصرح عن الأعتداء بالقتل علي 100 متشدد ببحيرة تشاد 17 أبريل 2022<sup>43</sup>

<https://bit.ly/3ypvUhc>

<https://bit.ly/3KXO2Bo> الإتحاد، مقتل 100 إرهابي في النيجر وبوركينا فاسو<sup>44</sup>

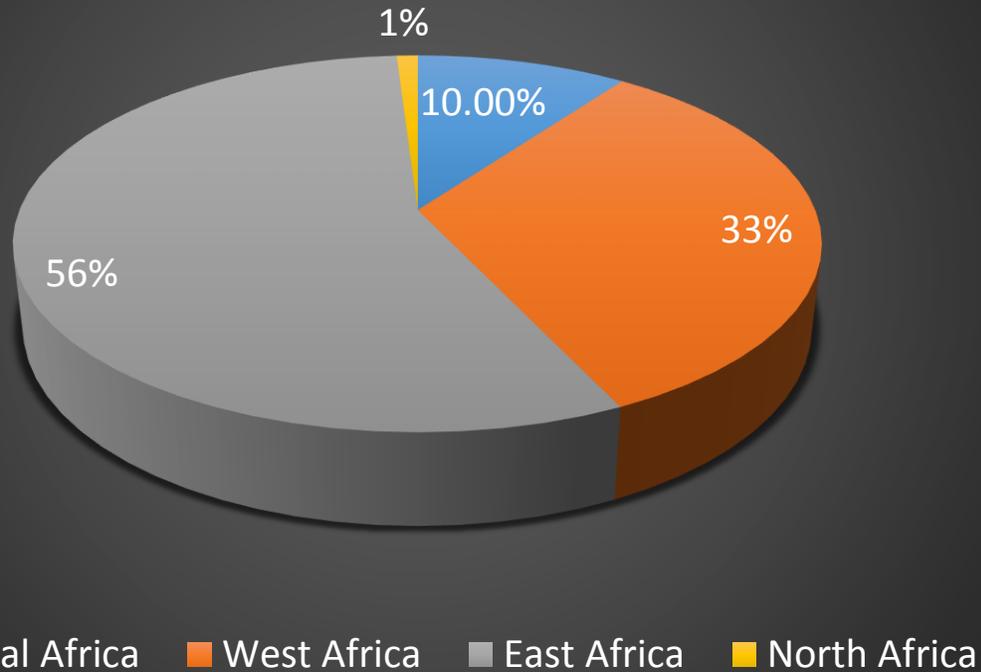


#### **Fourth: Indicators & Conclusions**

##### **1. Relative distribution of victims of terrorist operations in the regions of Africa**

In April 2022, terrorist operations in Africa led to the death of 726 people. East Africa topped the list due to the increased activity of Al-Shabaab in Somalia, and the continuation of the internal fighting in Ethiopia, in addition to the state of security turmoil in Sudan, as 408 people were killed in the East Africa alone. West Africa ranked second due to the successive attacks of Da'esh and Boko Haram, with 238 people killed. In Central Africa, 74 people were killed as a result of terrorist incidents. In North Africa, 6 people were killed as a result of terrorist operations.

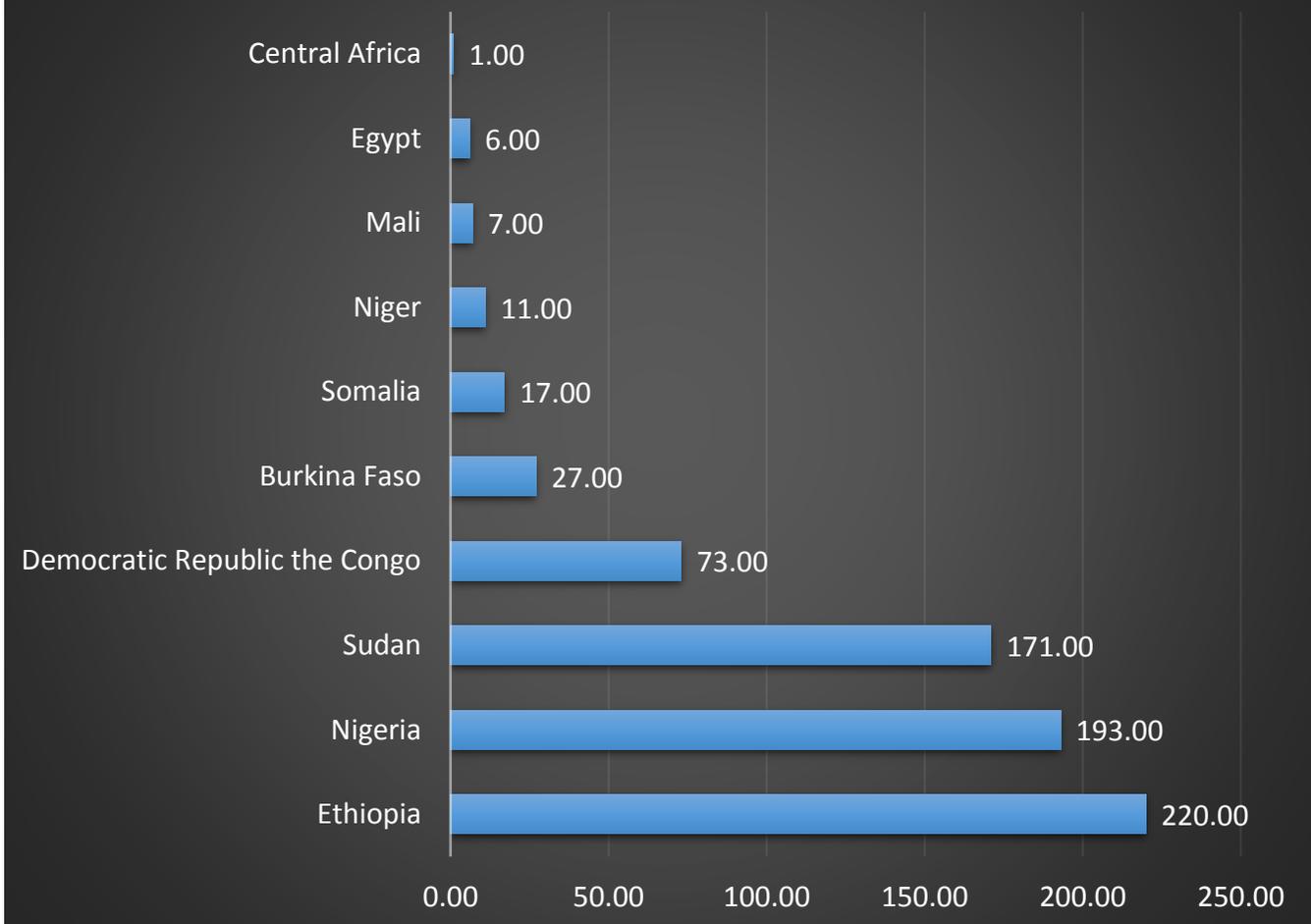
## relative distribution of victims of terrorist operations in the regions of Africa



### 2. Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country

Due to ongoing conflict in the Oromia, Ethiopia ranked first in terms of the number of victims in Africa, with more than 220 people killed, while Nigeria ranked second due to the activities of the terrorist organization Boko Haram, Da'esh, and some other armed groups that killed 193 people, while Sudan ranked third with 171 dead, due to the state of turmoil in the state, while Congo ranked fourth with 74 dead. Burkina Faso ranked fifth with 27 dead, Somalia ranked sixth with 17 dead, Niger ranked seventh with 11 dead, Mali ranked eighth with 7 dead, Egypt ranked ninth with 6 dead, and Central Africa ranked in the last place with 1 dead.

### numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country



### Numbers between March and April 2022

**April predicts an increase in the frequency of terrorist operations. In March, 710 people were killed**, while the number increased in April to 726. In addition, the number of victims increased significantly in countries such as Ethiopia, where the number of victims increased from 60 in March to 220, and Sudan, in which the number of victims increased from 22 in March to 171 in April. On the other hand, the number of victims decreased in some countries, such as Somalia, where the number of victims in March fell from 101 in April to 17 in March, in addition to the decrease in the total number in North Africa, which topped the number of victims for the past three months, as there the number of victims fell from 238 victims in April to 339 in March.

## Recommendations

**First:** The Ethiopian government must stop the escalation of violence in Oromia, and must engage in a national dialogue that preserves the interests of peoples and takes into account the rights of minorities.

**Second:** The withdrawal of French forces from Mali creates a major vacuum in West Africa, which could lead to an increase in the activity of terrorist organizations. Therefore, the African Union must work to fill this vacuum to limit the activity of these armed organizations.

**Third:** The African Union and its mechanisms should work on developing specialized programs to rehabilitate children returning from hotbeds of tension and conflict areas between member states to benefit from them, and prevent them from slipping into the quagmire of extremism.

**Fourth:** Countries concerned with issues of terrorism and organized crime must cooperate to prepare an African indicative mechanism on the best ways to confront the alliance of organized crime gangs and terrorist organizations, and prepare working papers on the risks of using drones in terrorist operations.

**Fifth:** Countries that suffer from cross-border terrorism must work to close the loose borders through which terrorists infiltrate to curb this phenomenon, and limit the suspicious economies from which these organizations finance their activities.

**Sixth:** Countries that suffer from sectarian conflicts, especially in East Africa, should activate principles of cultural dialogue and strategies to raise awareness among the people to resolve ethnic differences, limit the spread of terrorist and extremist ideas, and consolidate the concept of the nation-state.