Lens of **Terrorist operations** and Acts of violence in Africa

March 2022

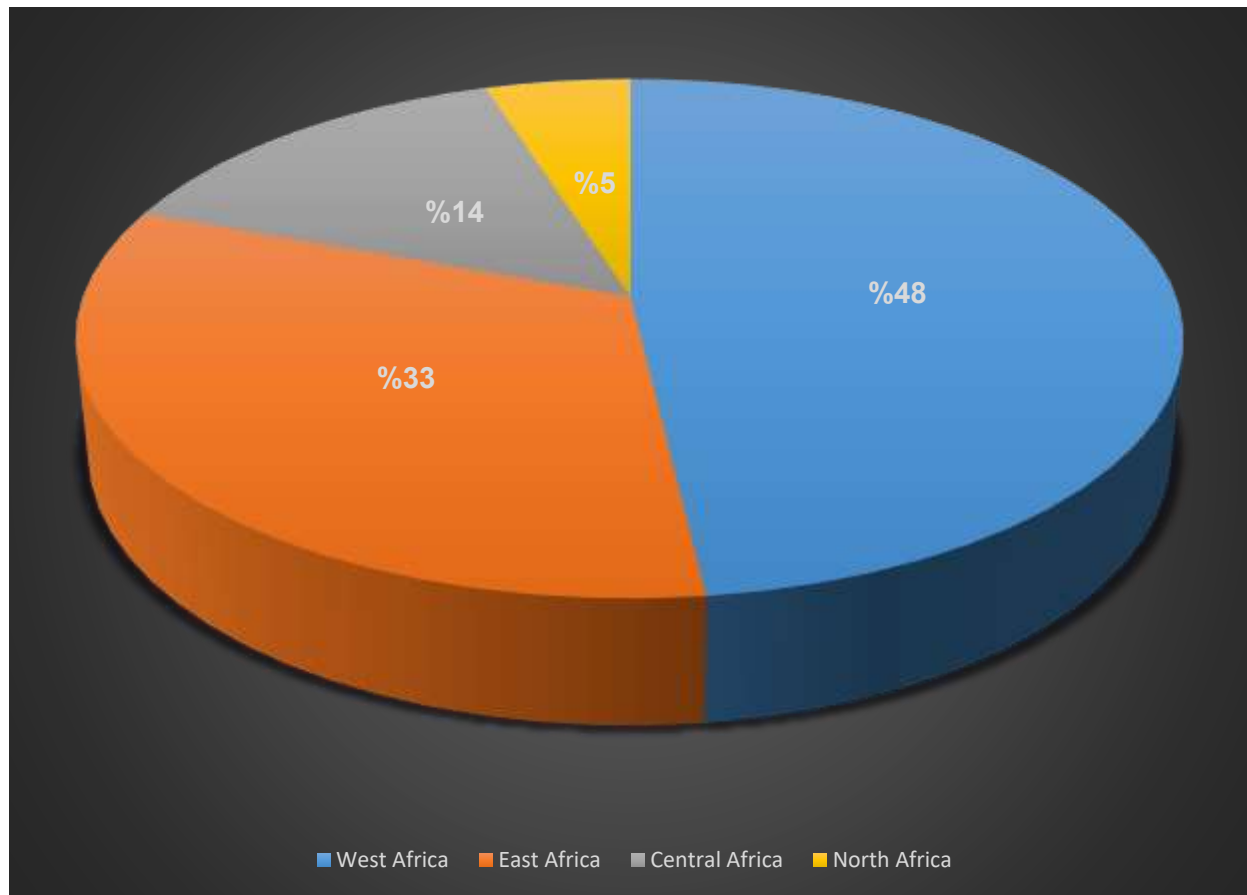**Maat's Monthly Report on Terrorist Operations in Africa**

March 2022

Africa has provided a safe haven for terrorist groups and organizations where they can organize their forces and establish their order. Over the past few months, this periodic report shed light on the most prominent terrorist and violent operations in Africa, their developments and statistics, which estimates amounted in March 2022 to about (710) deaths, not to mention the accompanying injuries and human rights violations and concluded with a set of recommendations.

Indicators and conclusions... what do the numbers say?

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

Terrorist operations and violence continue to claim the lives of many civilian in Africa. The total number of victims of violence and terrorism who were killed in African countries during terrorist attacks in March reached 710. West Africa ranked first with (339) deaths, followed by the East Africa with (234) deaths, then Central Africa with 102 deaths, and finally North Africa with (35) deaths. Accordingly, the percentage of the total number of victims in West Africa in March 2022 is (47.7%), compared to (32.9%) in East Africa, (14.3%) in Central Africa and (4.9%) in North Africa.

West Africa ■ East Africa ■ Central Africa ■ North Africa

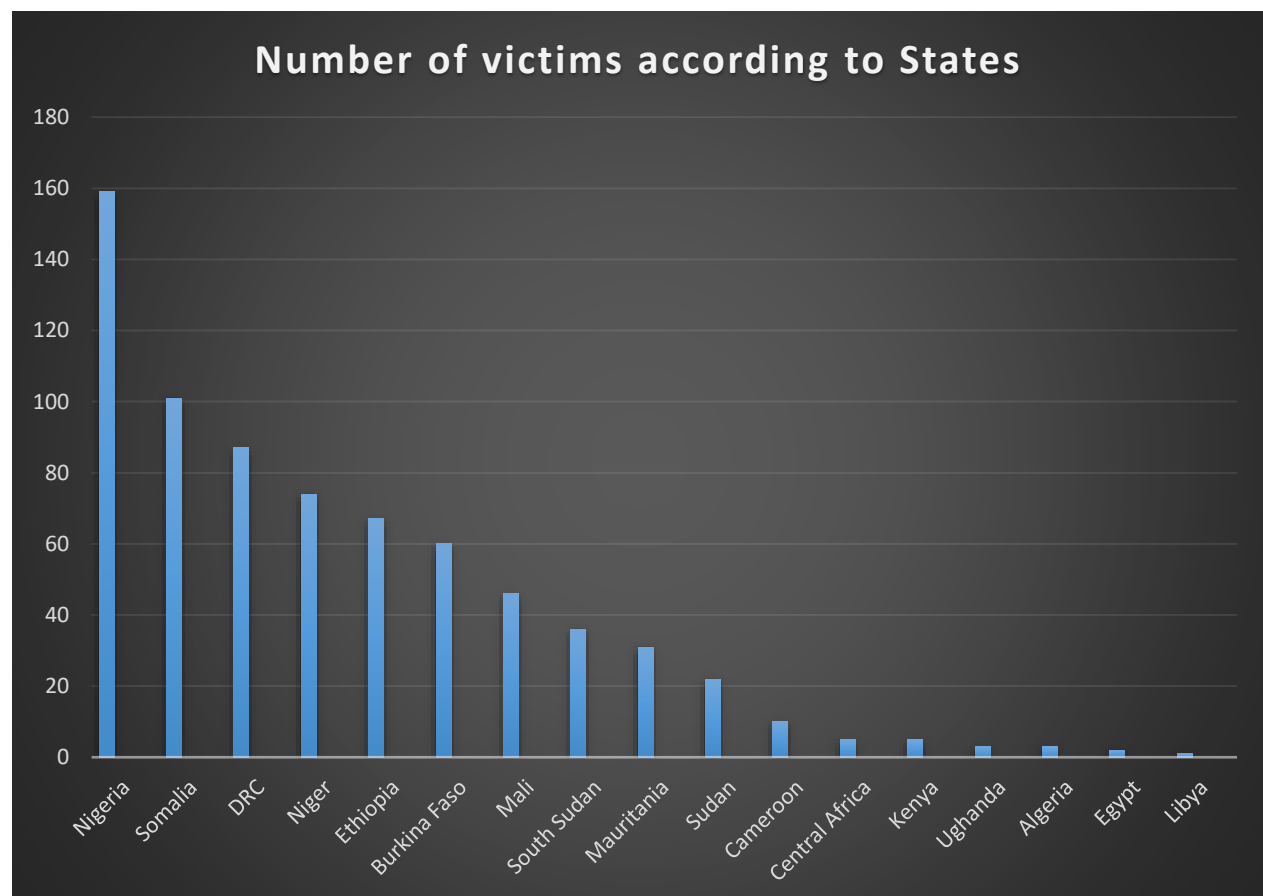## B. Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism According to country

This month, Nigeria came first as the largest country in terms of the number of victims of terrorist operations. The terrorist group of Boko Haram, in addition to ISIS, launched a number of terrorist attacks during the month, killing 159 people, which is a significant number. The number of victims fell by extremist groups in Nigeria last month was 91 dead, which means that the matter is getting more dangerous and that the brutality of these groups is getting worse in order to kill more innocent people.

After Nigeria, Somalia comes second with 101 victims. Extremist groups usually tend to shed more blood to express themselves and establish their entities. In one terrorist operation, 48 people died in Somalia as a result of the use of explosive devices, which demonstrates how confronting these terrorist groups is

no longer an option or a private internal affair, but a necessity and an imminent threat to the entire continent.

Another dangerous terrorism-related phenomenon that appeared this month is the behavior of the rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they have continued to fight against the regular forces for five days since March 15, killing 60 innocent civilians. Such successive attacks in this short period reveals that these terrorists have sufficient equipment to continue fighting, so who finances them?

Finally, this incident may come last but it is not the least at all, but rather is the most heinous. Three civilians in Ethiopia were burned alive at the hands of armed men. Eyewitnesses indicated that they were dressed in the cloths of government security forces, which directs our attention to another fact that the country itself is practicing terrorism through its institutions instead of working to defeat and confront the phenomenon of terrorism.

Number of victims according to States

The previous graph shows the ranking of African countries in March, the highest followed by the lowest, in terms of the number of victims of terrorist operations. Nigeria came first with (159), and Somalia with (101), then the Democratic Republic of the Congo with (87), Niger with (74), Ethiopia with (67), Burkina Faso with (60), Mali with (46), South Sudan with (36), Mauritania with (31), Sudan with (22), Cameroon with (10), Central Africa and Kenya with (5), Uganda and Algeria with (3), Egypt with (2) and finally Libya with (1).

c. The numbers between Feb. 2022 and March 2022: a glance at acts of violence and terrorism in Africa

Despite the tragic terrorist operations and horrible incidents that were carried out this month, as dozens die in one operation, the total number remains less than the total number of victims in February 2022. In February, the cases reached 747, while in March the cases amounted to 710. Although the rate of decline is not large, this glimmer of hope is an evidence that the efforts of states to eradicate the phenomenon of terrorism and violence, however small, may have the greatest impact on the eradication of this phenomenon from Africa.

Among the similarities between the final results of the two months is that West Africa still ranks first as the largest focus of the number of victims of terrorist operations in the continent, but the number of victims in March in West Africa is less than the previous month - February 389 and March 339.

Recommendations

The efforts of African governments, organizations and international parties in confronting the phenomena of terrorism in these hotbeds and areas crowded with armed groups seem below the required minimum, and sometimes, as in the Sahel region and West Africa and in Somalia in particular, reach the point of conflict that benefits terrorist groups in Africa and support their networks. Therefore, in this context, Maat for Peace and Development recommends the countries concerned with issues of terrorism and violence, which were previously mentioned in the report, of the following:

First: It is necessary to neutralize the international role with regard to the phenomenon of terrorism. External interventions in the continent do not reduce the phenomenon of terrorism, but rather escalate it, as these interventions focus on relying on the military tool according to the political determinants and then do not address the root causes of the phenomenon.

Second: Maat for Peace is deeply concerned about the rampant terrorism in West Africa, especially in Nigeria, which come first among the most dangerous countries. Maat recommends West African governments to reunite and intensify efforts in that region.

Third: Despite the relatively calm situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, people there are still suffering from the atrocities of civil war, especially in light of the Ethiopian government's disregard for the human rights repercussions of the devastating war, specifically the rights of the weak and marginalized groups, including migrants.

Fourth: Maat recommends the relevant international and regional bodies to appoint a special commissioner for security situations, violence and terrorism in Africa, and seeks to strengthen international humanitarian law, given the increasing waves of armed violence in the five African regions.

Fifth: Maat calls for intensifying cooperation in the exchange of accurate information on preventing and combating terrorism in a timely manner, especially strengthening cooperation between Somalia and Kenya, especially with the alarming escalation of Al-Shabab attacks over the past months.