

Report on "lens of terrorist operations in Africa"

january 2022



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

Summary of Maat's January 2022 Monthly Report on Terrorist Operations in Africa

Preamble

Terrorism is an alarming national phenomenon and eradicating it needs serious efforts at the national and regional levels and requires close cooperation between all society groups. How long will terrorist groups continue to claim the lives of innocent civilians, and until when will terrorists continue to be financially supported and ideologically fed with myths and misconceptions that link religion to murder and persecution of others?

In January 2022, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights monitored the killing of over 785, in addition to the injury and kidnapping of others. Maat issues this report to show in detail the most prominent terrorist attacks that have been carried out throughout the month and to present a set of recommendations in order to enhance the right to life and personal security in the African Continent.

Indicators & Conclusions

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

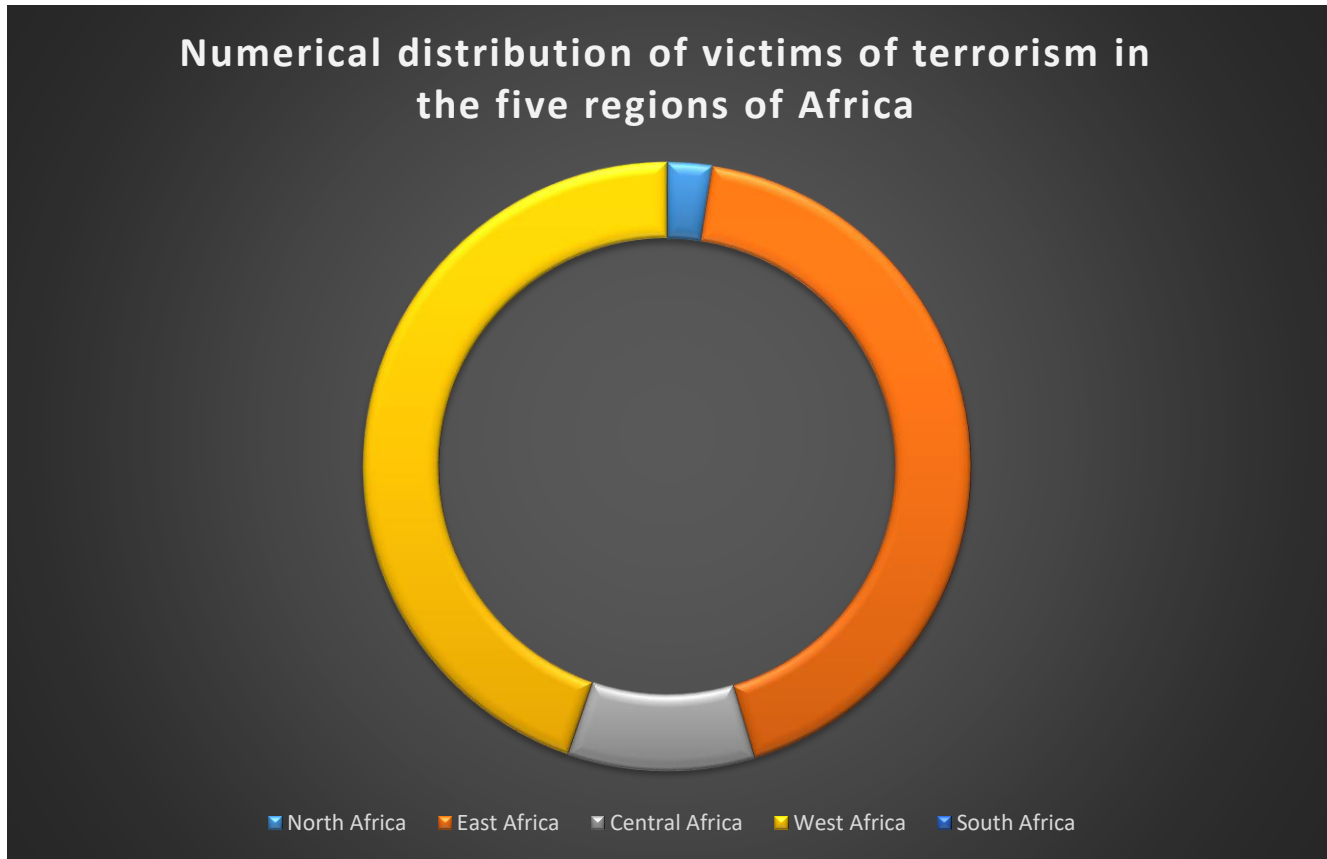
The number of deaths during January 2022 exceeded 785 people, topped by **West Africa** with 351 victims, which is mainly attributed to the 19 terrorist attacks that took place in Nigeria, especially during the first week of January, as well as the high death toll in Burkina Faso due to the deteriorating security situation in the country in wake of the recent events related to the military coup.

East Africa comes in second place with a slight difference in the number of victims, which amounted to 337 deaths, mainly due to the increase in terrorist operations carried out by Al-Shabaab, which varied between indiscriminate bombings, suicide operations or even armed attacks on



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defenseless civilians. The victims were among Somali security forces and civilians. Violence and riots in Sudan continued to fell down dozens of victims, whether from the protesters rejecting the military rule or the Sudanese security forces.



B. The numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country

Nigeria ranked first in Africa in terms of the number of deaths in January 2022, with more than 302 deaths, followed by Ethiopia, which came in second place, mainly due to the air raids launched by the Ethiopian government on the Tigray region, north Ethiopia. The death toll has reached more than 116. Somalia ranked third in terms of the number of deaths as a result of terrorist operations launched by the terrorist Al-Shabab movement stationed in East Africa. Notably, Somalia tops the African countries in terms of terrorist attacks.

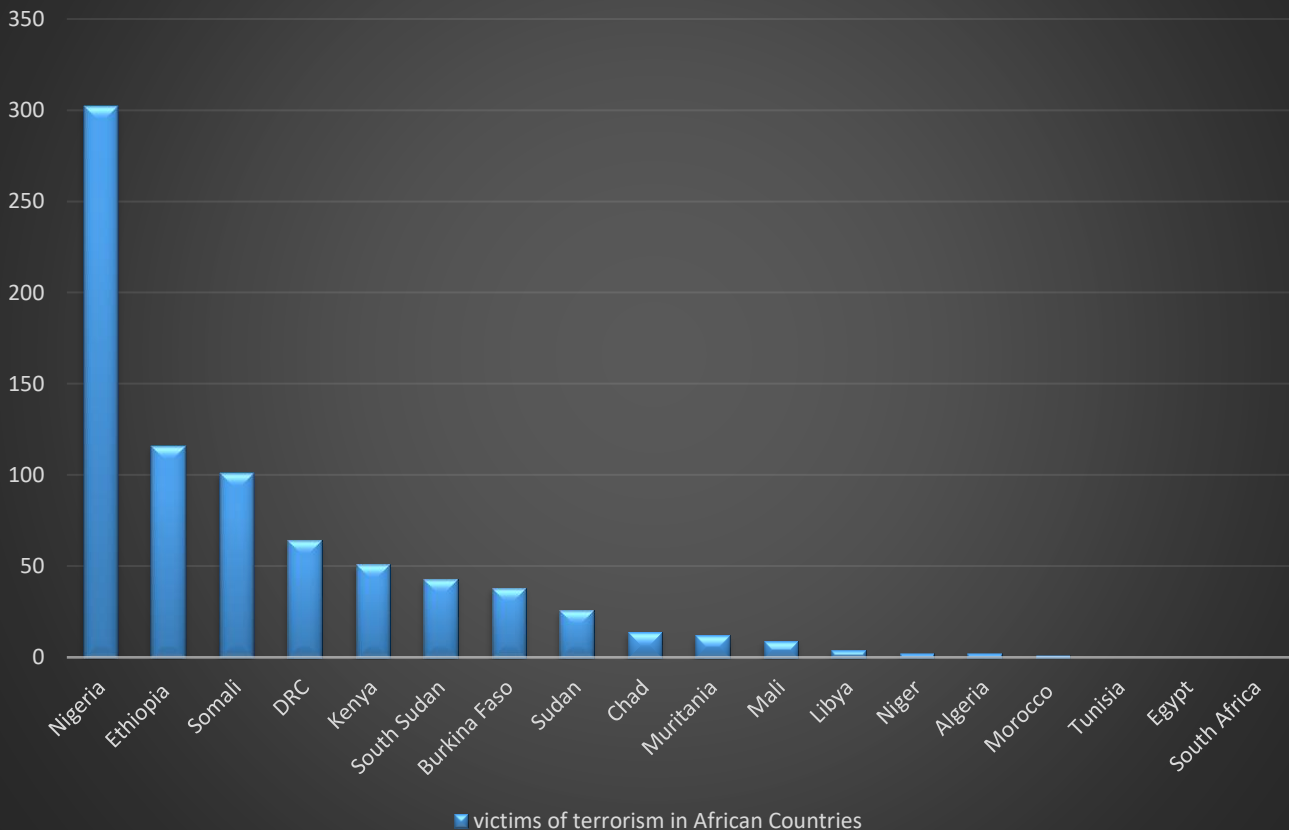


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In fourth place, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) topped the list due to the terrorist operations in the east of the country, where dozens of armed groups are stationed. Military conflicts caused the fall down of 64 casualties. Kenya ranked fifth after the attacks that were also launched by Al-Shabab, which caused the death of 51 people during the first month of 2022.

South Sudan comes sixth, with 43 deaths, as a result of tribal conflicts. Burkina Faso ranked seventh, with 38 deaths, and Sudan ranked eighth, with 26 deaths, due to the ongoing protests against the military rule in the country. Chad ranked ninth, with more than 14 deaths. While Mauritania came in tenth place, with 12 deaths this month.

Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism in African Countries



■ victims of terrorism in African Countries



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C. The Figures between December 2021 and January 2022: Acts of violence and terrorism in Africa

Reports indicate the continuation of acts of violence and terrorism in Africa, despite being less than the numbers recorded last December. Africa recorded 883 deaths in December, but this figure decreased to 785 deaths in January. In December, East Africa topped the African countries in terms of number of deaths, but in January, it was West Africa that topped this list, with Nigeria alone recording 302 deaths this month. East Africa ranked first in terms of the number of terrorist attacks and acts of violence, with 45 attacks during January.

Conclusion & Recommendations

African countries have been facing many security-related challenges since the early 2000s. This year was opened by several issues that complicated the relations between African countries, such as border and water disputes, widespread terrorism, spread of pandemics such as Ebola and Covid-19, spread of terrorist groups, international competition for control over Africa's natural resources. Thus, achieving development seems an unattainable goal. Therefore, Maat presents, in this report, a set of recommendations to African countries to help them overcome the phenomenon of terrorism and fight it back.

- **First:** In light of the ongoing increase in the number of victims of terrorist operations in Nigeria, Maat stresses for the second consecutive month the need to develop national mechanisms aimed at setting plans and proposals to combat terrorism in the country.
- **Second:** Terrorist attacks and acts of violence continue to exacerbate the number of deaths in east Africa. Therefore, Maat recommends African governments to unite in order to establish a



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regional committee aimed at combating terrorism in the region. This committee shall include joint military forces from eastern countries aimed at confronting Al-Shabab attacks.

- **Third:** In light of the resurgence of the number of victims of the conflict in northern Ethiopia in the Tigray region due to air strikes launched by the Ethiopian government, Maat calls on the UN and African mechanisms and all bodies concerned with conflict resolution to find an immediate solution to the massive violations of the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Tigray region.
- **Fourth:** Maat appreciates the efforts of North African countries in eliminating terrorism, as the number of victims of terrorism has not decreased significantly, and it calls on the governments of those countries to share their experiences and strategies with regard to combating terrorism with other African countries.