



# LENS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN AFRICA

## Summary of Maat's October 2021 Monthly Report on Terrorist Operations in Africa

### Preamble

Despite the African governments' growing interest of the counter-terrorism policies, these policies have not proven as effective as intended. East Africa continues to suffer from the terrorist attacks of terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Boko Haram. These two organizations have entered into a vicious cycle of conflict to establish control over northern Nigeria. The peoples of West Africa are plagued by the attacks of both parties. In addition, in its second decade, Somalia is fighting Al-Shabaab extremist movement. In the same context, Ethiopia is living in a state of internal war that has caused the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people, and claimed the lives of thousands.

In August 2021, Africa was subjected to 37 terrorist operations in 12 countries. Somalia came at the forefront with 7 terrorist operations alone. West Africa remains vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Furthermore, there are growing concerns about France's intention to withdraw its troops from the region under the intense activity of the terrorist organizations in West Africa.

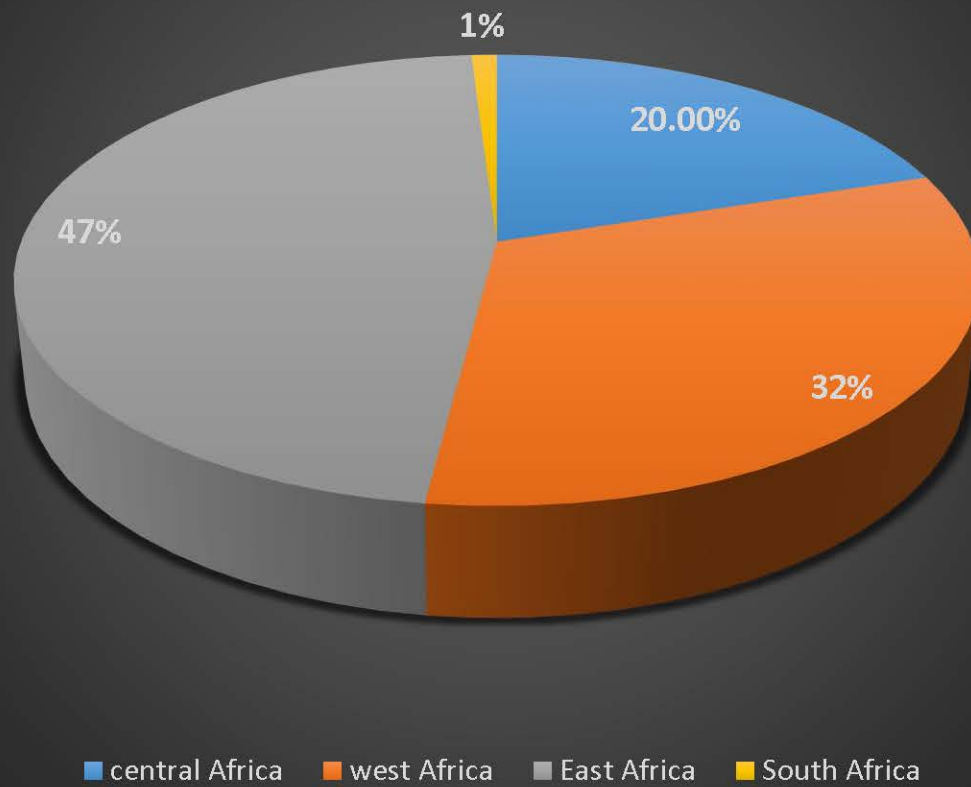
The report analytically follows these terrorist operations within the framework of Maat's interest in evaluating the extent to which Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aspiration 1 and 2 of Africa's Agenda 2063 have been achieved. Finally, Maat presents a set of recommendations to the states and stakeholders in this regard.

### Indications & Conclusions: What do the Numbers Say?

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

In October 2021, terrorist operations in Africa resulted in the death of more than 559 people. East Africa came in first place in terms of the death toll, with 261 deaths in this region alone, owing to the increased activity of Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia and the ongoing infighting in Ethiopia. West Africa came in second place, with 183 deaths caused by the consecutive attacks of ISIS and Boko Haram. As to Central Africa, 111 people were killed by the terrorist operations therein. In South Africa, 4 people were killed, while North Africa was the most peaceful region with no victims of terrorist operations.

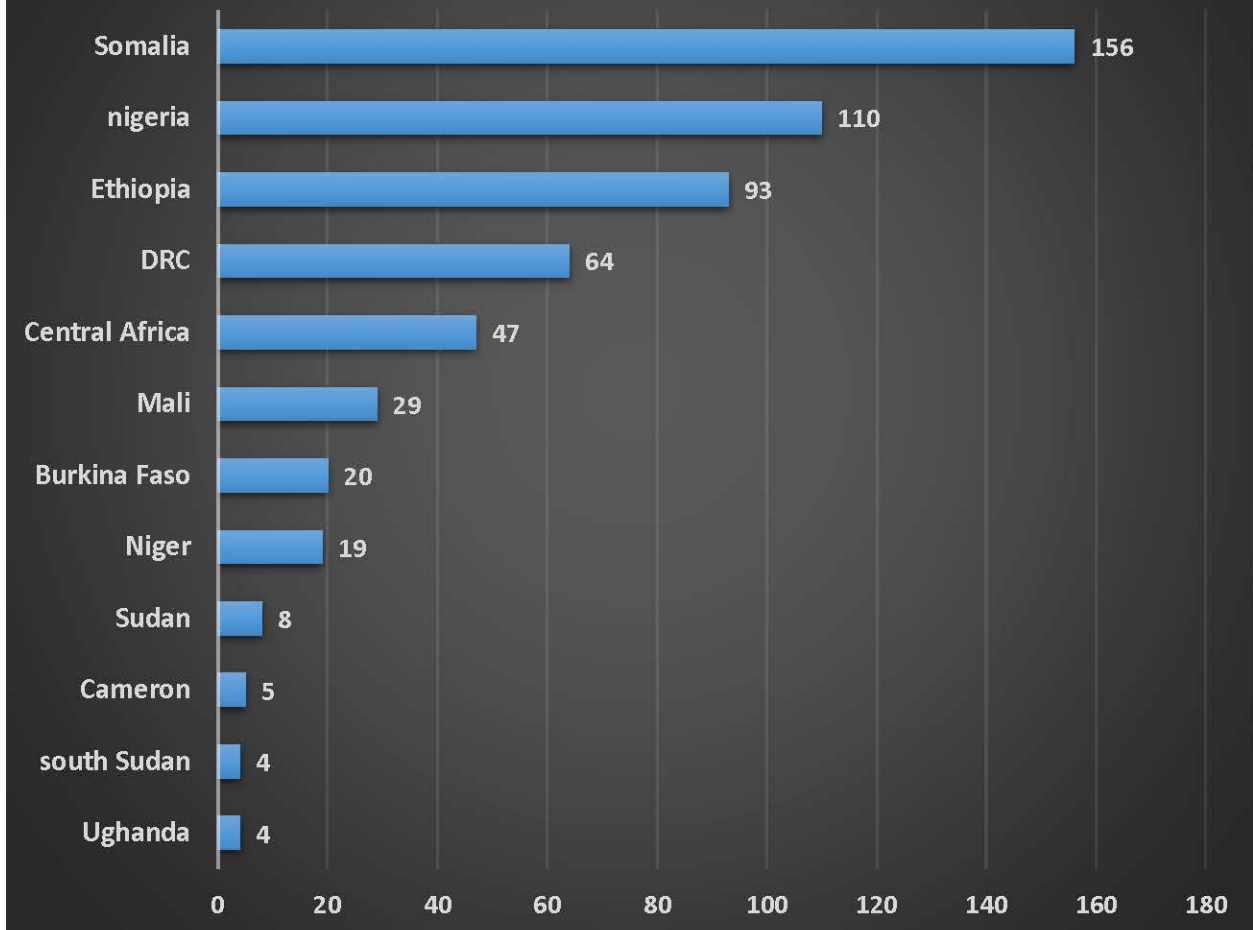
## Relative distribution of victims of terrorist operations in Africa



### **B. Numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by state**

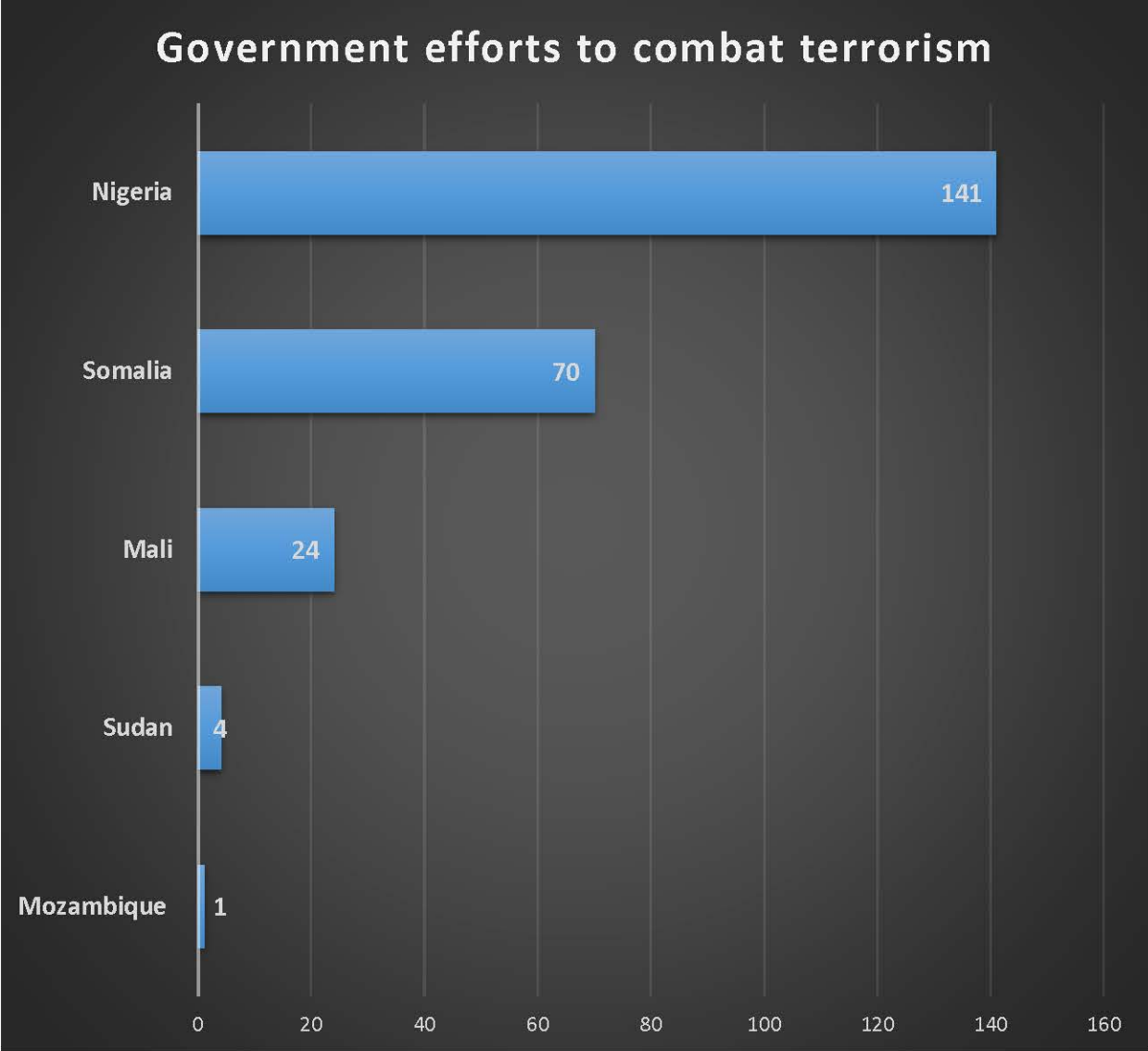
As a result of the increased activity of Al-Shabaab, Somalia came in first place among the countries with the highest number of victims in Africa, with more than 156 deaths. Nigeria came in second place due to the activities of Boko Haram, ISIS and some other armed groups that killed 110 people. Ethiopia came in third, with 93 deaths caused by the civil war in the country, while Congo came in fourth place with 64 dead. Central Africa came in fifth place with 47 deaths and Mali in sixth place with 29 deaths. In addition, 20 people were killed in Burkina, 19 in Niger, 8 in Sudan and 5 in Cameroon. South Sudan and Mozambique came in last place with 4 deaths each.

## Numerical Distribution of Victims according to African Countries



### C. African governments' counter-terrorism efforts

With regard to the efforts of African countries in eliminating terrorist organizations, Nigeria succeeded in eliminating 141 combatants of Boko Haram and other armed organizations, while Somalia succeeded in eliminating 70 Al-Shabaab combatants with the participation of African forces "AMISOM". In addition, 24 terrorists were eliminated in Mali, 4 in Sudan and 1 in Mozambique.



**Recommendations:**

**First:** The Ethiopian government must refrain from escalating the violence in the Tigray region and involving civilians in this conflict. The government must also engage in national dialogue that preserves the interests of peoples and takes into account the rights of minorities.

**Second:** The Somali government must strengthen its national legislations to address the modern methods of financing terrorist organizations are faced with “encrypted” digital currencies.

**Third:** The African Union and its mechanisms should work on developing specialized programs to rehabilitate children returning from the hotbeds of tension and conflict areas between member states.

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

**Fifth:** Countries suffering from cross-border terrorism must work to close the loose borders through which terrorists infiltrate, so as to curb this phenomenon.

**Sixth:** Countries suffering from sectarian conflicts should implement the principles of cultural dialogue and strategies of raising awareness among the people to resolve ethnic differences and limit the spread of terrorist and extremist ideas.