



Terrorist Operations in Africa

African Affairs and SDGs Unit

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Preamble

Despite the increasing interest of African governments in counter-terrorism policies, they have not yielded the desired results. The pace of terrorism is still high in Africa. West Africa is still targeted by the terrorist attacks of ISIS and Boko Haram. These two organizations have entered into a vicious cycle of conflict over north Nigeria. Somalia, in its second decade, is also fighting the extremist Al-Shabab movement. In the same context, Ethiopia is still suffering from internal war, where hundreds of thousands are suffering due to war atrocities and thousands are dead or injured.

It is a matter of concern that the activities of these terrorist groups affect civilians, and threaten their lives and daily activities. Given all this, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights issues its September 2021 Monthly Report on **Terrorist Operations in Africa** to review the most prominent operation that have been carried out throughout the month, leading to the deaths of 1006 people, the injury of hundreds, and the kidnappings of dozens in Nigeria.

Throughout August, Africa was subjected to about 61 terrorist attacks, and Somalia came at the forefront of the countries most vulnerable thereto, with 17 terrorist attacks alone. West Africa is still vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and what makes the situation more worrying is France's intention to withdraw its forces by the end of this year, in light of the intense activity of terrorist organizations in the West.

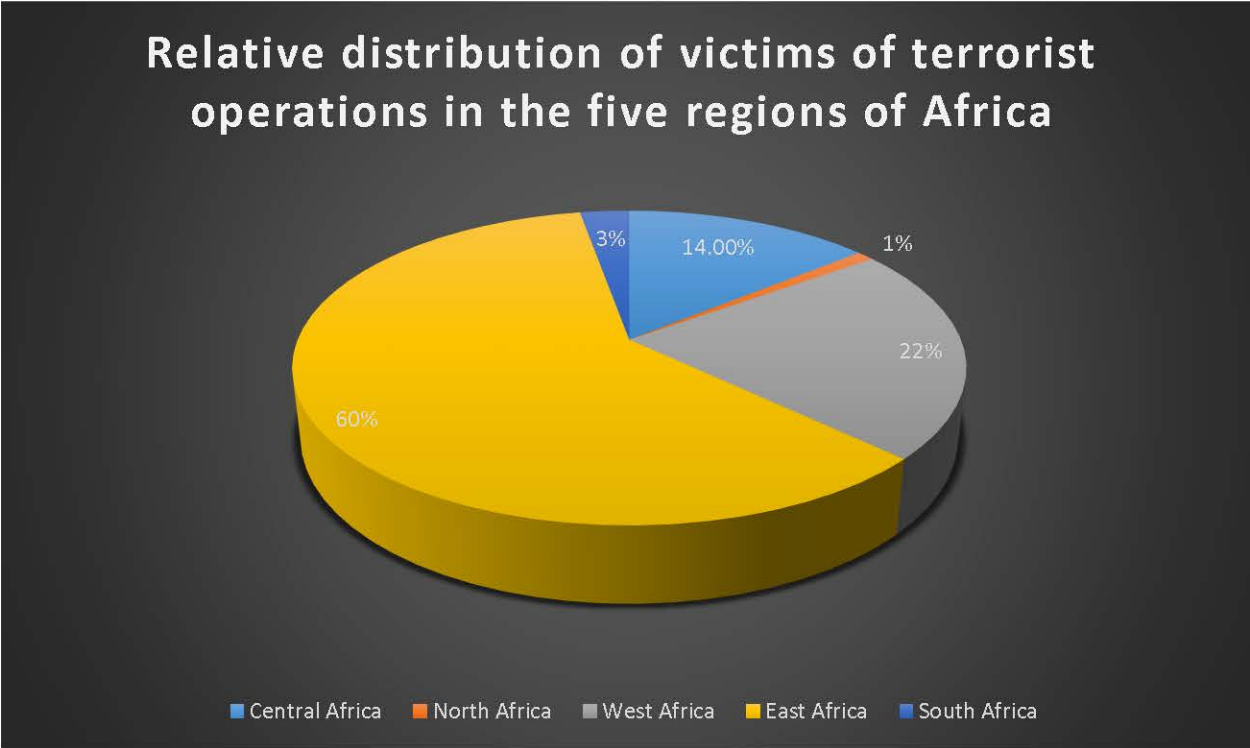
The report uses analytical survey to track down these operation, within the framework of the Association's interest in evaluating the

extent to which Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals has been achieved as well as the third and fourth aspirations of Africa’s Agenda 2063, which focus on achieving peace. Finally, Maat presents a set of recommendations to countries and stakeholders in this regard.

Third: Indicators & Conclusions

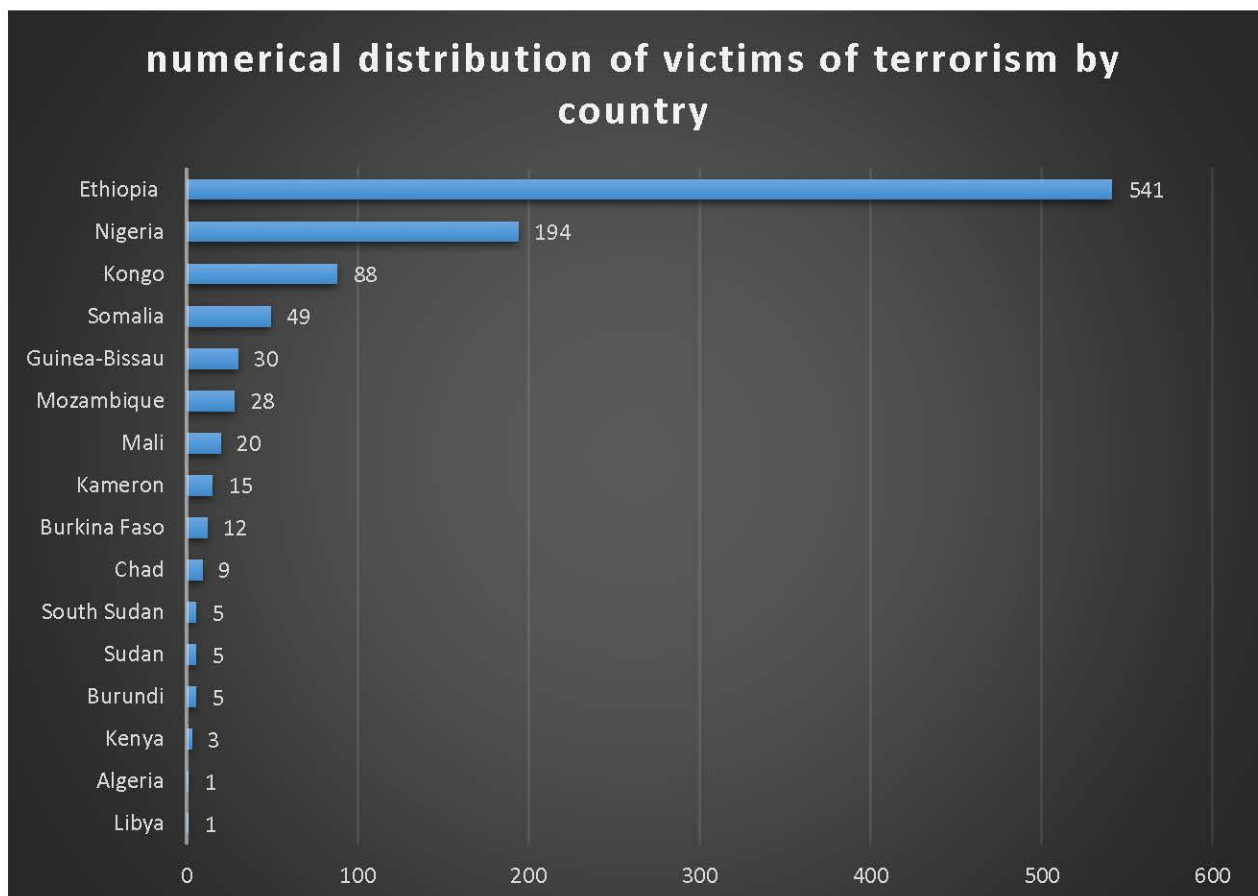
A- Relative distribution of victims of terrorist operations in the five regions of Africa

In September of 2021, terrorist operations in Africa have caused more than 1006 deaths. East Africa ranked first in terms of the number of victims due to the internal fighting in Ethiopia. West Africa came second due to the successive attacks of ISIS and Boko Haram, as 226 people were killed in West Africa, and 142 people were killed in Central Africa. In South Africa, 28 people were killed as a result of terrorist operations. North Africa was the least affected, with only one dead conscript in the Libyan army, and another civilian in Algeria.



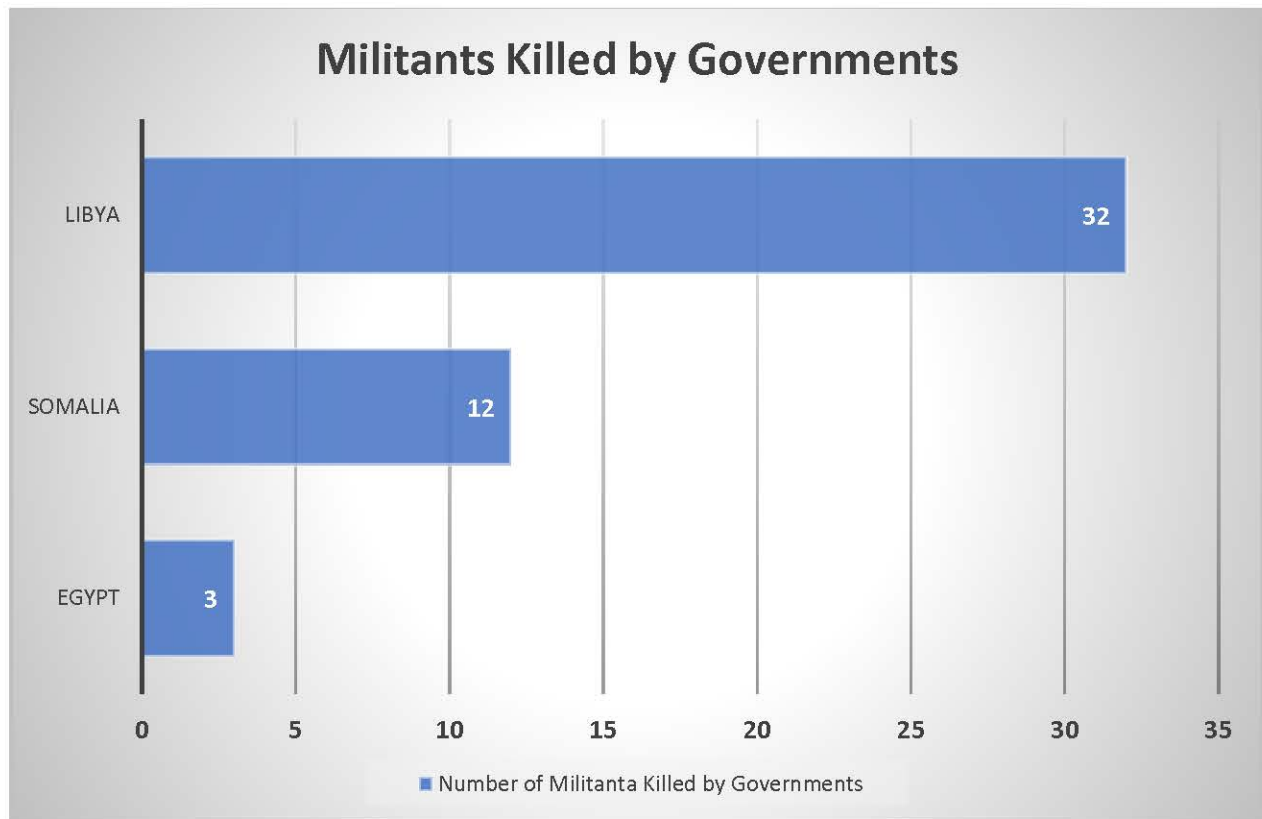
B- The numerical distribution of victims of terrorism by country

In view of the ethnic conflicts that Ethiopia is witnessing in the current period, Ethiopia ranked first among the countries with the highest number of victims in Africa, with more than 541 people killed, while Nigeria came in second place due to the activities of the terrorist organizations of Boko Haram, ISIS and some other armed groups that caused the deaths of 194. Congo ranked third with 88 deaths, followed by Somalia, with 49 and Guinea, with 30 deaths. Mozambique came in sixth place with 28 deaths, followed by Mali with 20 deaths, and Cameroon with 15 deaths. The situation was less agitated in Burkina Faso, where 12 persons were killed, as well as south Sudan and Burundi with five deaths in each. In addition, 3 people were killed in Kenya, and one in Algeria and Libya.



C- Efforts of governments to confront terrorism

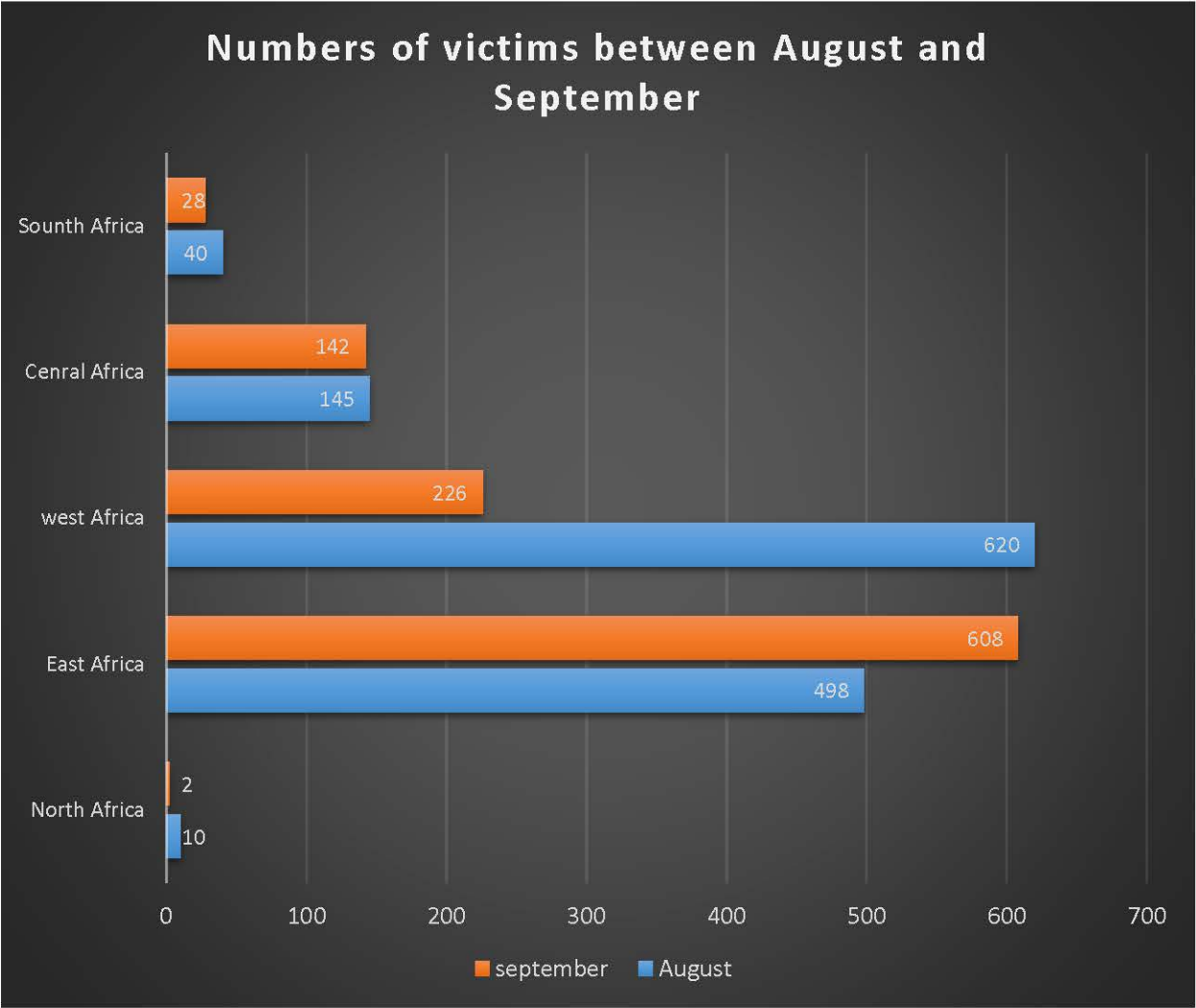
As for the efforts of African countries in eliminating terrorist organizations, the Libyan armed forces eliminated 32 militants in south Africa, while Somalia succeeded in eliminating 12 Al-Shabaab fighters with the participation of the African forces “AMISOM.” Egypt also issued a death sentence for three of the ISIS terrorist organization.



D- Numbers between August and September

Terrorist operations in Africa left more than 1,300 dead during August 2021, and the West African region came first in terms of the number of victims after witnessing a massive wave of successive terrorist operations that led to the death of about 620 people, and due to the ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia, East Africa ranked second among the regions most affected by terrorist incidents. It witnessed a series of

conflicts that left more than 498 dead and injured. As for Central Africa, 145 people were killed in terrorist incidents, and in South Africa, 40 people were killed as a result of ethnic tensions. North Africa was the less affected, with only 10 members of the Egyptian armed forces were martyred and wounded.



Recommendations

1 - Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights warns the international community of the need to learn from the mistakes of the past decades, stop giving priority to political interests, and work to

eliminate terrorism from its roots, in order to save the future of coming generations.

2- It is necessary to formulate a broader strategy to confront terrorism in West Africa, and not focus on counter-terrorism policies based on the military and security tool alone.

3- It is necessary to take the clan nature into account when fighting terrorism, and to work on settling disputes between clans, as the defeat of the Al-Shabab movement depends on its isolation from clan forces within Somali society.

4- All international parties providing material and logistical support and legal and political cover for terrorist organizations and mercenaries in Libya must lift their support to expose them to the world.

5- Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights feels the deterioration of the security situation in West Africa has diminished, in light of France's intention to withdraw its forces by the end of this year, with the activity of terrorist organizations in the West increasing intensively.

6- Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights warns of the worsening situation in West Africa, as a result of using Wagner's forces to fill the vacuum that the French withdrawal will create, and warns that Wagner is part of the problem and not the solution.