



# Report

Lens of Terrorist Operations and Acts of Violence in Africa

**The Second Quarter of 2024**



Prepared by  
Nesreen Hossban

Reviewed by  
Passant Essameldin

Designed by: kerolos Ezzat



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## Introduction

African continent has witnessed a concerning increase in terrorism and violent extremism in recent years. Various armed and terrorist movements have penetrated the region, leading to a surge in attacks by extremist groups. These attacks have become more numerous and diverse, with the threat of terrorism spreading across the globe. Despite global efforts to protect human rights, terrorist groups continue to violate these rights daily, committing atrocities that remain largely unchecked.

As part of its mission to track the paths of terrorism and work towards peace in Africa, **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights** has released its second quarterly report for 2024, titled "**Lens of Terrorist Operations & Acts of Violence in Africa during Q2 of 2024**". The report documents a significant escalation in terrorist operations across the African continent, with 152 operations recorded during the period. These attacks claimed the lives of 1,936 people and resulted in 3,178 injuries and kidnappings. While some operations targeted military personnel in specific countries, the majority of the casualties were innocent civilians.

The report highlights the efforts made by African countries to eliminate armed groups during second quarter of 2024. However, such military efforts are not enough, there is a need for further innovative means for achieving intended objective.

## Monitoring Methodology

"**Lens of Terrorist Operations & Acts of Violence in Africa**" report adopts a methodology of direct monitoring of terrorist operations reported in Arab, Western, and African media. The team relies on open sources, such as the internet and reputable news sites, to track events in African countries. It is important to note the potential "error factor" that can arise due to differences between local and international sources in reporting the number of victims and the subsequent updating of data after an incident. The report acknowledges this factor to ensure accuracy.

### Definition of Terrorism adopted herein

There is no universally accepted academic or international definition. However, the report identifies two key components of terrorism: a moral component, which is the pursuit of a political goal through the application of pressure on political parties, either internally or externally, and a material component, which is the use of violence to spread fear among the population. Terrorism does not target victims for their individual identity, but rather for their ethnic, religious, or functional identity. The report's definition of terrorism is derived from various interpretations, including those in UN Security Council Resolution 69/40, Resolution 1566, and the UN Strategy to Combat Terrorism. Therefore, we define Terrorism as "any act committed for a religious or political purpose, to force parties to take/not take certain decisions, by intimidating people, and threatening their social and economic security, whether at local or international level."

## Axis I: Index of Terrorist Operations and Acts of Violence in African Countries during Q2 of 2024

During the second quarter of 2024, 17 African countries were exposed to acts of violence and terrorism, with a total of 152 terrorist operations. These violent acts resulted in 5,114 victims, including 1,936 dead and 3,178 wounded and kidnapped, according to official figures, though the actual numbers are believed to be much higher. ***Below is the ranking of countries on the terrorist operations index in African continent during monitoring period.***

### 1. Nigeria

Nigeria had the highest number of terrorist attacks in Africa, continuing the trend from the first quarter. The number of terrorist and violent attacks in Nigeria increased from the previous quarter, reaching 52 attacks, an increase of 13 attacks (34.2% of the total). As a result, 401 people were killed, and 499 others were injured and kidnapped, totaling 900 victims.

The attacks targeted a mix of civilians (40 attacks) and military objectives (12 attacks). While most attacks were by unknown perpetrators, some were attributed to Boko Haram militants, the Islamic State (ISIS), and separatist IPOB movement, each conducted one operation and two others by Boko Haram.

Despite Nigerian army's efforts, including rescuing hundreds of kidnapped people from the Boko Haram stronghold of Sambisa Forest, the group maintained its ability to carry out organized attacks and ambushes, including the use of female suicide bombers.

### 2. Sudan

The civil war in Sudan resulted in 694 deaths and 2,236 injuries and kidnappings, totaling 2,930 victims. This was due to 27 violent terrorist operations (17.7% of the total), most of which were attributed to attacks by the Rapid Support Forces, with 10 other operations by unknown persons.

There was a 14-operation increase compared to the first quarter, likely due to the Rapid Support Forces' intensified operations against civilians. Only two operations resulted in clashes between the warring parties, while the rest were attacks on villages. Terrorist groups are exploiting the security chaos to expand and launch random attacks, particularly in eastern and northern Darfur after the Rapid Support Forces took control of more than 90% of the region. There are reports of the Islamic State (ISIS) joining the war in Sudan, though the group has not claimed responsibility for any of the 9 terrorist operations attributed to unknown persons.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Democratic Republic of Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo ranked third in the index of terrorist operations in Africa during the second quarter of this year, up from second place in the previous quarter. The country witnessed an increase in the number of terrorist operations, with 20 recorded

<sup>1</sup> حرب السودان... بعد قطع الرؤوس انتزاع الأحشاء، الشرق الأوسط، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/4b97znmr>

incidents, accounting for 13.1% of the total operations. These attacks left 370 victims, comprising 308 dead and 62 injured. The targets were predominantly civilian, with 16 attacks on civilians and 4 on military targets. Eleven of the operations were attributed to the Allied Democratic Forces, 4 to the M23 movement, and 3 to the CODECO militia.

Maat attributes the increased number of victims compared to the previous quarter (a difference of 170) to the perpetrators' strategy of sowing chaos and concentrated attacks on villages using firearms and machetes to target the population. The most prominent of these attacks resulted in the death of more than 80 people in the villages of the Beni region.

#### **4. Somalia**

Somalia ranked fourth in the terrorism index during the second quarter, as it had in the first quarter. However, it recorded 10 terrorist operations, which is 6.5% of the total, compared to 8 in the previous quarter. These attacks left 269 victims, with 103 dead and 166 injured. The targets were equally divided between civilian and military, with 5 attacks each. Five of the operations were attributed to the Al-Shabaab militia, and the rest are suspected to be their work as well. Somalia is gradually witnessing a decline in terrorism rates, thanks to the military operations of the Somali forces targeting Al-Shabaab strongholds, which have already suffered significant losses in lives and equipment.

#### **5. South Sudan**

South Sudan ranked fifth, recording 98 dead and 101 injured in 7 terrorist operations, representing 4.6% of the total. This is an increase of 3 terrorist operations compared to the previous quarter, as well as an increase in the number of victims.

Al-Shabaab claimed one attack in South Sudan, targeting the village of Agwara in Fushalla County, Pibor, in eastern South Sudan. Some of the other attacks were attributed to ethnic groups, such as the Murle ethnic group, who targeted villages in Jonglei State, and clashes between the Lek and Duk clans in the Protection of Civilians camp in Juba. Sectarian violence remains the most prevalent scourge in South Sudan, contributing to the country's instability.

#### **6. Niger**

Niger witnessed seven terrorist attacks, which is 4.6% of the total, an increase from five attacks in the previous quarter. These attacks killed 60 people and injured 9 others, with unknown assailants as the perpetrators. The military was the main target, with 5 of the attacks targeting military personnel, the most prominent of which was an attack that killed 20 soldiers near the town of Tasia in western Niger. Additionally, militants are attempting to impose control over the city of Kanchari in Burkina Faso by isolating it through the destruction of a bridge in the Mossi-Baga region of Niger, about 9 kilometers from the border with Burkina Faso.<sup>2</sup> These numbers could rise if an organized withdrawal of US forces is not coordinated to prevent the

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<sup>2</sup> إرهابيون يفجرون جسراً في النيجر، الشرق الأوسط، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/495226e6>

spread of a security vacuum after the decision of the military council to cancel the military cooperation agreement since 2012.<sup>3</sup>

## 7. Libya

Libya witnessed 7 terrorist operations that resulted in 8 deaths and 37 injuries during the reporting period. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous quarter, which saw only two such incidents. The operations were attributed to various armed groups, including the "Kabwat" group affiliated with the "Sal'a Battalion," which clashed with elements of the "Al-Madadha," and the 101st Battalion under the command of Ahmed Al-Shamikh, which launched an attack on the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department, killing 3 people. Foreign interventions have been a decisive factor in fueling these conflicts and tensions, as external actors seek to protect their own interests and maintain the status quo.

## 8. Cameroon

Cameroon recorded 25 deaths and 22 injuries after the country witnessed 7 violent operations, despite the absence of any terrorist operations during the previous quarter. Three operations targeted soldiers, while four other operations focused on targeting civilians. Among them were two operations carried out by the Boko Haram group, which targeted military headquarters and Cameroonian forces in the far north.

In addition to the desire to control Nigeria's border areas, Maat attributed the escalation of attacks targeting soldiers to the Cameroonian forces' efforts to liberate more than 300 people kidnapped by the group and neutralize dozens of militants based in Nigeria, which the group likely sees as an attempt to restore its reputation and show its strength.

## 9. Kenya

Kenya ranked ninth in the index of terrorist and violent operations in Africa for this quarter, with a total of 3 terrorist operations, representing 1.9% of the total operations, which was also the case in the previous quarter. However, the country witnessed an increase in the number of casualties, as the operations left behind 29 victims, distributed between 14 dead, 15 wounded and kidnapped. Civilians were the target group of these attacks, two of which were committed by Al-Shabaab, while the latter was attributed to the Nuer and Anyuak tribes.

Maat attributes the decrease in terrorist operations in Kenya, or even their continuation at the same low pace, to the government's cleansing strategy in remote areas that Al-Shabaab uses as a safe haven, such as the Boni Forest, which has contributed to the decrease in the frequency of attacks in the coastal Lamu region and its suburbs.

## 10. Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso witnessed two terrorist operations by Al-Qaeda between April and June 2023, which is 1.3% of the total operations, and the operations left 173 dead. Although this represents

<sup>3</sup> ماذا يعني انسحاب القوات الأميركية من النيجر؟، الحرية، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/mcd986vu>

a relative decrease in the number of operations compared to five terrorist operations during the previous quarter, Al-Qaeda, through its affiliated Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, is working to confront the government's efforts by empowering its tools around focused attacks targeting soldiers and army camps in an effort to show strength that enables it to exert pressure and push for greater expansion and spread in the region.

### **11. Mali**

Mali is witnessing a decline in terrorist operations, with only two recorded in the second quarter of the year, down from 13 in the previous quarter. These attacks left 30 people dead and 21 wounded. The targets were evenly split between civilian and military, with one attack targeting local militias allied with the Malian government in Kadji, and the other targeting a village in the Mopti region. While the number of attacks has decreased, the threat of terrorism remains a concern for Malian state security. The Sahel region continues to be a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

### **12. South Africa**

South Africa recorded two terrorist attacks in the second quarter, a decrease of two from the previous quarter. These attacks targeted civilians, killing 8 people and wounding 6 others. The first attack took place on a farm in the Vicksburg area, while the second occurred in the Western Cape province.

### **13. Chad**

Chad saw a decrease of one attack from the previous quarter, recording two terrorist incidents that resulted in the deaths of two civilians. These attacks involved violent armed assaults, such as the one on the Bellevue School voting center, as well as extremist attacks related to xenophobia and hatred of refugees, like the targeting of a Sudanese refugee home in the Congo Sudanese refugee camp.

### **14. Central African Republic**

The Central African Republic witnessed one terrorist attack, carried out by the 3R rebel group. They attacked mining workshops in Jaja, killing 10 people and injuring others. In response, the authorities revoked the license of a Chinese mining company in Mangala, in the south of the country, due to concerns about its cooperation with armed militias.<sup>4</sup>

### **15. Tunisia**

After being free of any terrorist operations since the beginning of the year, Tunisia recorded a single attack this quarter. Unknown gunmen targeted a military patrol in the Ramada sector, resulting in the death of one soldier. This operation was likely carried out by elements involved in smuggling activities, and was not attributed to any terrorist organization.

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<sup>4</sup> إفريقيا الوسطى تتهم شركة تعدمين صينية بالتواطؤ مع الجماعات المتطرفة، adf-magazine، يوليو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3u85uxf5>

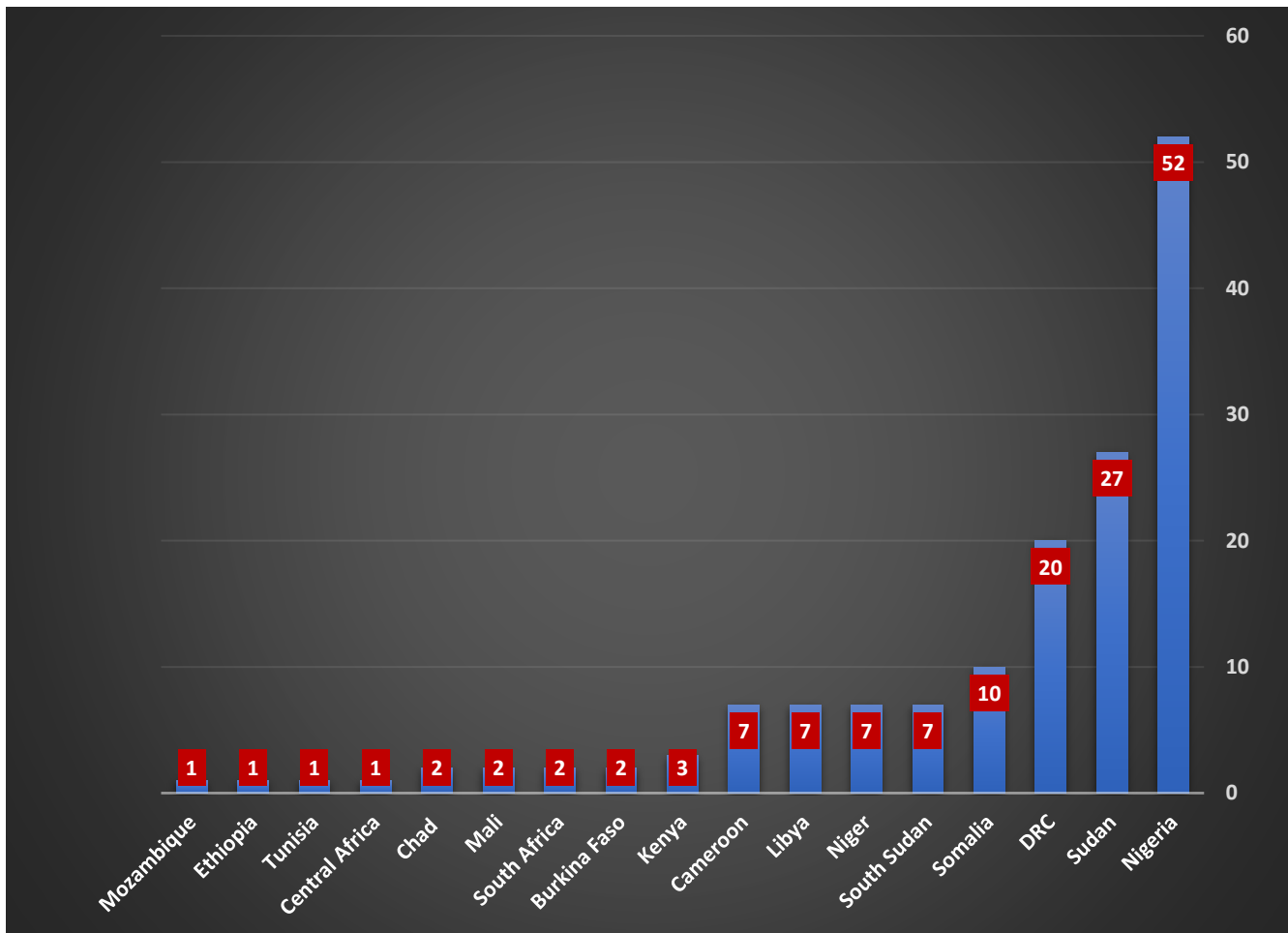
## 16. Ethiopia

Ethiopia experienced one terrorist attack that resulted in the death of a civilian and four injuries. This operation was related to the hatred of refugees and foreigners rampant in Ethiopia, as unknown gunmen attacked a group of refugees on the Komer road in the Amhara region. This is part of a concerning trend of increasing attacks and killings targeting refugees in the country.

## 17. Mozambique

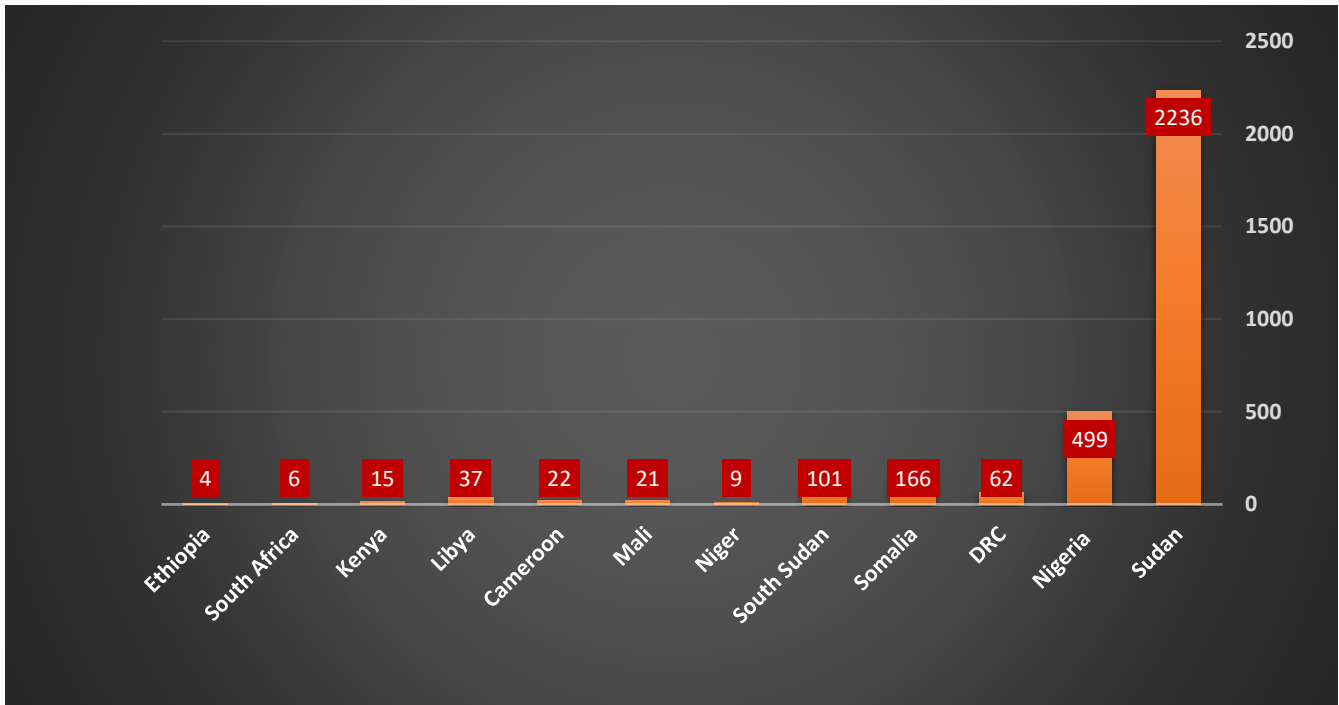
Mozambique witnessed a single terrorist operation during this quarter, down from two in the previous quarter. The attack was carried out by the terrorist organization ISIS in the gas-rich Cabo Delgado region. The prominent appearance of ISIS in the region is attributed to their taking advantage of the absence of Rwandan forces and attempting to benefit from the region's wealth.

**Fig. No. 1: Number of terrorist operations in African countries during Q2 2024**

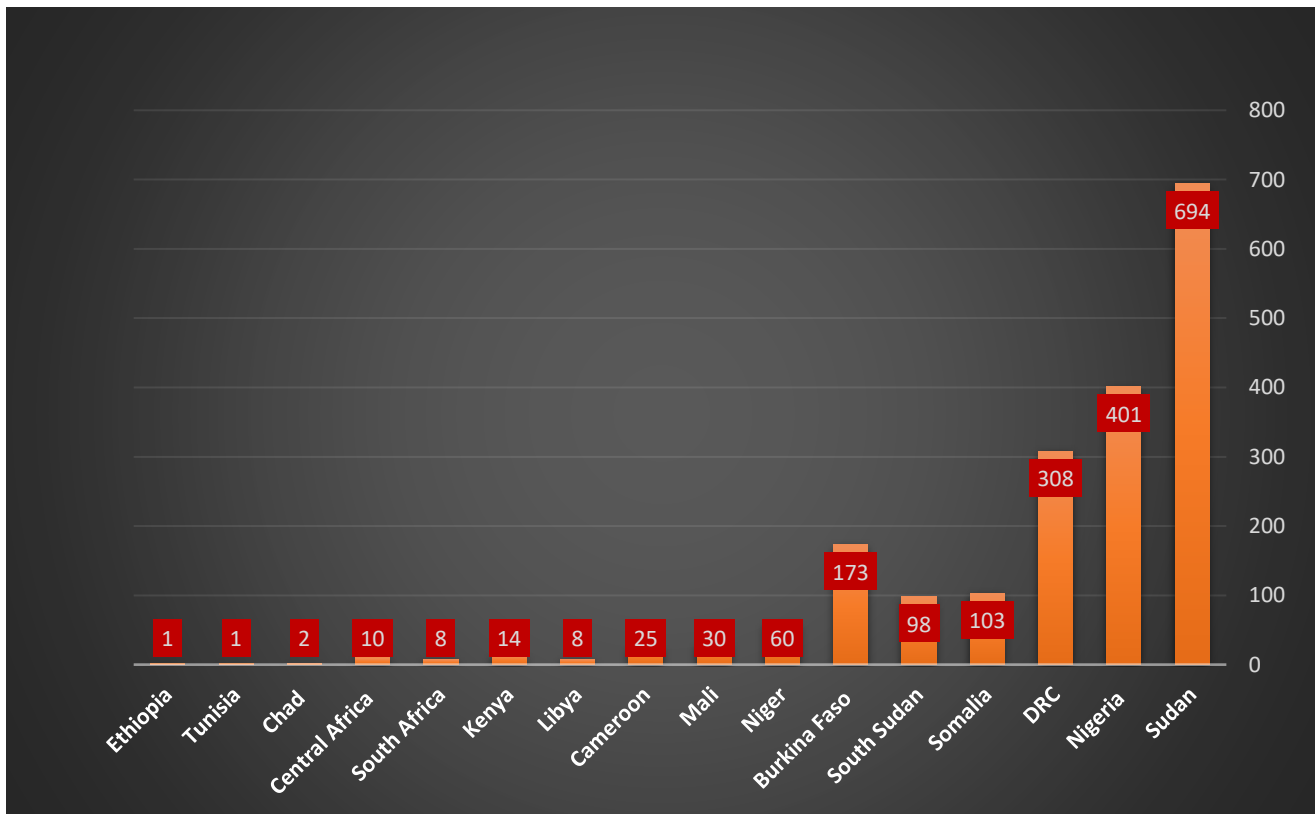




**Fig. 2: Numbers of injured in each country**



**Fig. 3: Numbers of Deaths in each country**



## Axis II: Analysis of Terrorist Operations and Acts of Violence according to Armed and Extremist Groups

Boko Haram continues to be a major threat, targeting both civilians and military personnel in its campaign of violence. Despite a slight decrease in the number of attacks compared to earlier in the year, the group remains highly active and capable. Maat attributes this to Boko Haram's focus on consolidating control through deadly strikes, rather than publicizing its operations. Boko Haram has demonstrated its organizational strength by employing innovative tactics, such as the use of female suicide bombers. In one day in Borno State, northeastern Nigeria, the group carried out three bombings involving female suicide attackers. Additionally, Boko Haram has exploited porous borders to launch cross-border attacks, striking two military sites in Darak and Toro in the Far North region of Cameroon near Lake Chad.

Despite these concerning developments, ISIS has suffered setbacks in some regions. In Somalia, the United States conducted an airstrike in a remote area 81 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of Bosaso, Somalia, and killed three militants, including ISIS's new global leader, though this information was not officially announced by the group.<sup>5</sup> This may explain the decline in ISIS's activity in Nigeria and Mozambique, with only two operations recorded during the period. However, ISIS did achieve a victory in Somalia by taking control of the strategic Puntland region, which had been contested with the Al-Shabaab movement for years. Additionally, one of ISIS's prominent leaders in West Africa was killed during a large-scale operation in the Menaka region.<sup>6</sup>

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), supported by ISIS, have increased their operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, carrying out 11 terrorist attacks - a significant rise from the previous quarter's 4 attacks. Maat attributes this to the ADF's ability to divide into smaller factions to avoid direct targeting by the military, as well as a shift toward using bladed weapons instead of explosives to circumvent bomb disposal teams. In the DRC, the Kodekwa militia and the M23 movement have also been increasing their activity. The Kodekwa militia has targeted villages in the Ituri region, while the M23 movement has intensified shelling of army positions, including a mortar attack on South African National Defense Forces in Sake that resulted in two fatalities.

Despite the Somali government's campaign to eliminate Al-Shabaab's strongholds and target its leadership, the group remained resilient, carrying out five attacks in Somalia, two in Kenya, and one in South Sudan. Al-Shabaab has adapted by exploiting clan conflicts to neutralize military forces and shifting its focus towards eliminating these conflicts rather than directly targeting the government. The conflict between clans in the Galgadud region of Somalia has resulted in the death of more than 55 people and the injury of 155 others. However, the Al-Shabaab movement is facing a challenge from the Islamic State (ISIS), which has seized control

<sup>5</sup> لا يستطيع تأكيد مصرعه.. الجيش الأميركي يستهدف الزعيم العالمي لتنظيم داعش، العربية، يونيو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/223adwj7>

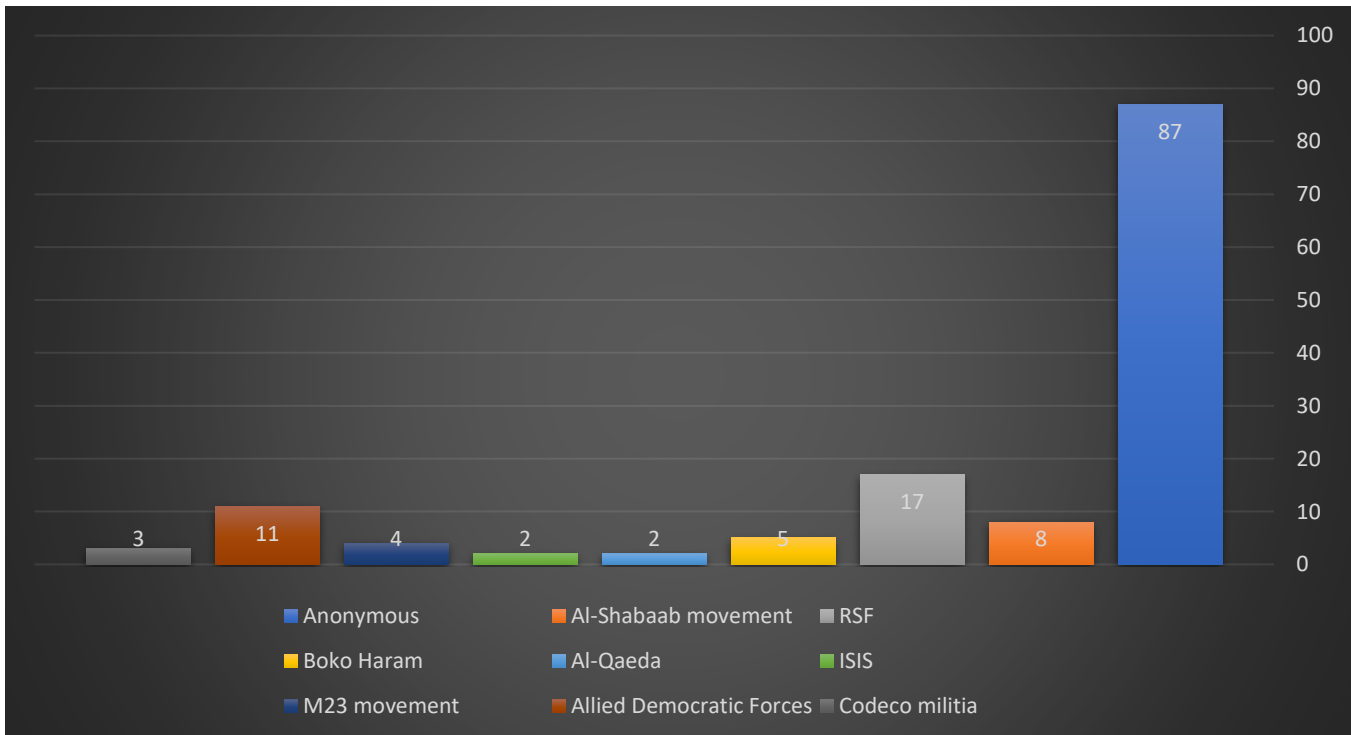
<sup>6</sup> مالي تعلن مقتل قيادي بارز بتنظيم تابع لـ«داعش» في غرب أفريقيا، الشرق الأوسط، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/4kvfr4ff>

of the strategic Al-Masqad mountain range in the Bari region of Puntland, Somalia, after a period of competition between the two organizations.<sup>7</sup>

In Sudan, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue to bombard villages and deliberately target civilians, committing 17 attacks. The most prominent of these was the bombing of the village of Wad al-Nura in Al-Jazeera State "in two waves" with heavy artillery, killing more than 150 people and wounding hundreds. The RSF also seized control of the 17th Infantry Division of the Sudanese army in the city of Singa in Sennar State, which will give it a relative advantage in tightening the army's deployment area in Port Sudan on Red Sea.<sup>8</sup>

Although Al-Qaeda's activity is witnessing a noticeable decline, with only two operations recorded in Burkina Faso, the effectiveness of its strategy in planning and executing attacks is still focused. The two operations in Burkina Faso resulted in the killing of more than 223 people, most of whom were soldiers. The attacks were mainly targeting military personnel, due to the policy of showing off force that Al-Qaeda is following these days, which also appeared in a video clip published of fighters from its affiliated Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims in Burkina Faso with their weapons in a sort of show of force and readiness for confrontation.<sup>9</sup> It is noticeable that there has been an increase in violence and terrorism by some armed groups and tribes, such as the Murle ethnic group in South Sudan, the Salamat tribe in Sudan, the Kapuat group and the Madadha elements in Libya, and the Nuer and Anyuak tribes in Kenya.

**Fig. 4: Terrorist operations according to extremist organizations**



<sup>7</sup> الصومال يواجه خطراً جسيماً مع توسع داعش في بونتلاند، adf-magazin، يونيو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/bdzxkmp>  
<sup>8</sup> السودان: قوات الدعم السريع تعلن سيطرتها على مدينة سنجة بولاية سنار الرئيسية، فرانس24، يونيو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yshbsrnn>  
<sup>9</sup> معسكر تدريب لجماعة نصرة الإسلام الإرهابية في بوركينافاسو يظهر طموحها الدامي، adf-magazine، يونيو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/m54xt4h9>



## Axis III: Efforts of African Countries to Combat Terrorism and Armed Activities on their Territories

### 1. Somalia

In June, the African Union agreed to establish a new military force to combat terrorism in Somalia, to replace its current force scheduled to leave the country by the end of this year.<sup>10</sup> On May 20, Somali forces and local forces from the South West State carried out military operations against the terrorist Al-Shabaab movement in areas affiliated with the Lower Shabelle region in South West State, which inflicted heavy losses on the movement's fighters.<sup>11</sup> On May 12, the Somali Prime Minister discussed with the US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa strengthening relations between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in counterterrorism issues, and regional stability.<sup>12</sup> On April 26, the Somali army eliminated more than 70 Al-Shabaab elements and injured 30 others as a result of military operations in the Taber Mogi area of Galmudug State.<sup>13</sup>

### 2. Nigeria

On April 18, Nigerian forces were able to launch precise strikes that hit terrorist hideouts in the village of Koliram in Borno State, northeastern Nigeria, which shares a border with Chad, killing 30 terrorists.<sup>14</sup> On April 23, the Abuja Counter-Terrorism Summit was held in the Nigerian capital with the participation of several African leaders, organized by the Nigerian government in cooperation with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.<sup>15</sup> The summit discussed regional cooperation in the field of combating terrorism. On May 21, the Nigerian army rescued 209 children, 135 women, and 6 men during a military operation that lasted several days in the Sambisa Forest, which extends along the border with Cameroon and Niger. They were handed over to the authorities in the city of Borno. During the operation, some extremists were killed, and their temporary homes were destroyed.<sup>16</sup>

### 3. Morocco

On April 22, the French Interior Minister confirmed his country's determination to strengthen its security cooperation with Morocco in the fight against terrorism and securing the Paris Olympics, during a visit to Rabat in the context of restoring warmth to relations between the two countries. It was agreed to strengthen channels for exchanging expertise and information in order to better anticipate the various risks, especially those related to the criminal activities of terrorist groups.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>10</sup> الاتحاد الأفريقي: قوة جديدة لمكافحة الإرهاب في الصومال، الاتحاد، يونيو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/449zk28e>

<sup>11</sup> الصومال تنفذ عمليات عسكرية ضد حركة «الشباب»، الاتحاد، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/usschts3>

<sup>12</sup> الصومال وأمريكا يبحثان تعزيز التعاون في قضايا مكافحة الإرهاب، اليوم السابع، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/y7udx6t8>

<sup>13</sup> الصومال يعلن تصفية 70 من عناصر «حركة الشباب» الشرق الأوسط، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yzdj8z3b>

<sup>14</sup> مصرع 30 إرهابياً بغارات جوية للجيش في نيجيريا، الشرق الأوسط، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3s5cdebd>

<sup>15</sup> قمة أبوجا لمكافحة الإرهاب.. البحث عن حلول أفريقية خارج الصندوق، العين، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/58az82t6>

<sup>16</sup> نيجيريا.. إنقاذ 350 رهينة من قبضة "إيكو حرام"، Arabic RT، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/2s44xsnh>

<sup>17</sup> تعاون فرنسي مغربي في مكافحة الإرهاب وتأمين أولمبياد باريس، DW، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3dp9py88>

#### 4. Mali

On April 17, Malian authorities announced the creation of a "rapid intervention" force placed under the authority of the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces. The new unit is responsible for planning, coordinating, and leading operations aimed at "creating decisive operational effects," combating terrorist and criminal organizations, participating in the release of hostages, protecting senior military and civilian figures, as well as sensitive installations and supporting special forces when needed.<sup>18</sup>

#### 5. Niger

In May, the Nigerien National Army announced the start of military exercises to combat terrorism, with the participation of the armies of the Sahel Alliance (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso), in addition to the armies of Chad and Togo. The military exercises aim to "strengthen the operational capabilities and resilience of the armed forces of the Sahel Alliance in the face of potential threats," by implementing "tactical exercises and initiatives to strengthen relations with the local population." The exercises include military training at a Nigerien Special Forces center in the city of Tillia in the Tahoua region, near the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, an area where armed groups loyal to Al-Qaeda and ISIS are active.<sup>19</sup>

#### 6. Libya

On April 22, a delegation from the interim Government of National Unity discussed with the Nigerian Minister of Defense enhancing cooperation and information exchange in the field of combating terrorism and mutual benefit from the experience of the two countries in combating the activity of terrorist groups and organizations, on the sidelines of the African High-Level Counter-Terrorism Meeting on Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Confront the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa held in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.<sup>20</sup> In mid-April, a delegation from the company "Amentum" held intensive meetings with influential leaders in the west of the country about implementing the "Counter-Terrorism Assistance" program of the US Diplomatic Security Service, under which the United States provides "equipment and training" to "law enforcement agencies" in partner countries.<sup>21</sup>

#### 7. Democratic Republic of Congo

During the month of April, the armed forces succeeded in killing leaders of the Allied Democratic Forces in a joint operation carried out by the Ugandan People's Defense Forces and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> مالي.. إنشاء قوات «تدخل سريع» لمكافحة الإرهاب، صحراء ميديا، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/mpp4bryr>  
<sup>19</sup> خمسة دول إفريقية تجري مناورات عسكرية في النيجر لمكافحة الإرهاب، أخبار شمال إفريقيا، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/5n86t547>  
<sup>20</sup> وفد من حكومة الدبيبة يبحث التعاون في مكافحة الإرهاب مع نيجيريا، بوابة الوسط، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/458tw7h>  
<sup>21</sup> ليبيا.. صراعات القوى العظمى تهدد استقرار البلاد، سكاى نيوز عربية، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/4e4u4tfa>  
<sup>22</sup> مقتل قياديين إرهابيين في عمليات عسكرية مشتركة شرقي الكونغو الديمقراطية، adf-magazine، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/2s8zvheu>

## 8. Burkina Faso

On May 24, the transitional president confirmed that his country is preparing to enter the second phase of the war against terrorist groups that control large areas of the African country threatened by the danger of terrorism, as he decided to form a civil defense militia of volunteer civilians, the number of whom reached nearly 70,000 civilians in April, who undergo rapid training in the use of weapons, before being sent to the front lines to repel terrorist attacks.<sup>23</sup>

## 9. Cameroon

On May 15, the Cameroonian army managed to free more than 300 people who were kidnapped by Boko Haram some time ago on the border with Nigeria and Chad. Dozens of militants from the group based in Nigeria were also neutralized in a border operation called "Alpha".<sup>24</sup>

## 10. Kenya

On April 23, the Kenyan Minister of Defense received a delegation from the commander of the Somali National Army at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense in Kenya. They discussed full cooperation in the fight against the Al-Shabaab movement.<sup>25</sup> On April 29, the Kenyan government cleared the Boni Forest of Al-Shabaab militants who had been hiding there. This led to a decline in terrorist attacks in the coastal region and helped secure peace in the coastal Lamu region and its environs. Security operations in Lamu have included maintaining security, educating the public about the terrorism threat, and civil-military cooperation.<sup>26</sup>

## 11. South Africa

In May, a new postgraduate course was announced in South Africa to equip security personnel with necessary counter-terrorism expertise to address threats facing the continent. The Institute of Security Studies in Pretoria and the University of North-West, South Africa's second-largest university, developed a one-year diploma course in geopolitics with a focus on counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> رئيس بوركينافاسو: حربنا ضد الإرهاب لا رحمة فيها، الشرق الأوسط، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/h89njz7f>

<sup>24</sup> الكاميرون: القوات المسلحة تحرّر 300 شخص اختطفتهم جماعة "بوكو حرام"، IUVN Press، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/4ehh3ct3>

<sup>25</sup> الصومال وكينيا يبحثان التعاون الكامل في القتال ضد حركة الشباب، الصومال الجديد، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/bdzc742n>

<sup>26</sup> الحكومة الكينية تعلن تطهير غابة "بوندي" من مقاتلي حركة الشباب، ستراتيجيا نيوز، أبريل 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yw6sjznd>

<sup>27</sup> دورة تدريبية بعد التخرج بجنوب إفريقيا تهدف إلى سد الثغرات في مكافحة الإرهاب، adf-magazine، مايو 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3nc7xpc7>



## Recommendations

After the significant increase in terrorism rates in Africa, there is an urgent need to promote peace and security through the following recommendations:

1. Regional efforts must be employed to implement the outcomes of Abuja Summit, especially those related to establishing a regional counter-terrorism center, and UN Security Council Resolution No. 2719 on African-led peace missions.
2. Achieve regional and global diplomatic partnerships to prevent terrorism financing and the circulation and proliferation of weapons in Africa.
3. Develop innovative means using advanced technology to track and pursue terrorist organizations, in addition to military solutions.
4. Prevent interference of Western countries in the internal affairs of African nations, especially in the context of military support and foreign forces monopolizing parts of African lands.
5. African countries must confront the social pressures, such as poverty and unemployment, that push individuals to engage in terrorist acts and join these groups.