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African Security This Week

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Sahel and West Africa / Sahel et Afrique de l'Ouest

Mali

‘Since France’s departure from Mali, terrorists have retreated,’ says Nouhoum Sarr.

With the departure of French operatoin Barkhane from Mali, the presence of Wagner’s mercenaries, and the organisation of elections, Nouhoum Sarr, a member of the Transitional Committee (Conseil National de Transition, CNT), is a fervent supporter of the Assimi Goïta-led junta. (The Africa Report, April 22, 2023)

[Lire l'article](#)

Terror attack kills 9 civilians, wounds more than 60 in central Mali

Region Gov. describes ‘terrifying’ attack to Anadolu.

Nine civilians were killed and 61 others wounded Saturday in a suicide attack and shooting in Savare in the Mopti region of central Mali, according to the regional governor.

“The Malian Armed Forces (FAMAs) thwarted a complex attack in the vicinity of the Severe airport with loud explosions and gunfire that disrupted the peace of the population starting at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2023,” the General Staff said in a statement. (Anadolu Agency, April 24, 2023)

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Mali : le groupe djihadiste GSIM revendique l'assassinat du chef de cabinet d'Assimi Goïta..

Le Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM, ou Jnim selon l'acronyme arabe) s'est dit responsable de l'embuscade meurtrière survenue près de la frontière mauritanienne, mardi 18 avril.

Il assure avoir tué le chef de cabinet du colonel Assimi Goïta, Oumar Traoré et deux militaires, et pris deux otages, [selon son communiqué relayé par SITE](#), un organisme spécialisé dans l'étude des groupes extrémistes. (TV5 Monde, 22 avril 2023)

Lire l'article

Cattle raiding by jihadis soars in Mali, fueling conflict

Mali's battle with Islamic extremist linked to al-Qaida, IS has stretched for more than a decade.

- \$10,000 worth of cattle was stolen by Islamic extremists in Mali, with jihadis linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group using the proceeds to buy weapons and vehicles.
- The stolen cattle have funded insurgency across the war-torn West African nation and the Sahel region.
- Net profits from stolen livestock from one district in the Mopti region — under jihadi influence — were approximately \$730,000 in one year. (Fox News, April 20, 2023)

Lire l'article

MINUSMA strongly condemns attacks in Sévaré

Bamako, April 22, 2023 - MINUSMA strongly condemns the April 22 attacks on the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) camp in Sévaré and the nearby car bombings that killed and injured civilians, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in the Serema site. Shots were also fired toward the MINUSMA camp.

"These attacks are unacceptable. This is all the more so because attacking civilians is contrary to humanitarian principles and constitutes a serious breach of international law that protects civilians in times of armed conflict," said MINUSMA Head of Mission El-Ghassim WANE.

The perpetrators of this attack must be identified quickly and brought to justice. To this end, MINUSMA declares its readiness to provide all necessary support to the Malian authorities to conduct the required investigations (MINUSMA, April 22, 2023)

Lire l'article

Niger

Résumé analytique des incidents armés des 1er trimestres 2021,2022 et 2023 au Niger.

Niamey, 20 Avril (ANP) - 179 personnes victimes des incidents armés au premier trimestre 2021 contre 182 victimes pour le premier trimestre 2023, bilan des Incidents et Victimes Civiles liés Au Terrorisme et au Banditisme armés des premiers Trimestres des années 2021, 2022 Et 2023 au Niger.

Pour ce qui est des Incidents armés, c'est 366 victimes au premier trimestre 2021 contre 88 au premier trimestre de l'année 2023. (Agence Nigérienne de Presse, 20 avril 2023)

[Lire l'article](#)

Extrémisme violent : soutenir les maraîchers de N'guigmi.

Extrémisme violent, deux mots dont leur sens fige le développement dans les zones d'insécurité.

Au Sahel, particulièrement dans le bassin du Lac Tchad, cela fait plus de dix ans que l'instabilité due à la violence des groupes extrémistes persiste. Au Cameroun, au Tchad, au Nigéria et au Niger, dans ces pays, l'insécurité causée par l'extrémisme violent met à mal la stabilité de la région.

Au Niger, plusieurs programmes sont mis en œuvre pour concourir à la [stabilisation des communautés](#) et lutter contre cette menace. Depuis 2014, le Programme de Cohésion Communautaire au Niger (PCCN) œuvre pour la promotion la paix, la sécurité et la démocratie. Afin d'y parvenir, le PCCN travaille avec les communautés locales, la société civile ainsi que le gouvernement nigérien. Le but, lutter contre les facteurs à l'origine de la montée des groupes extrémistes violents et œuvrer à apaiser les rivalités ethniques violentes. (Studio Kalangou, 19 avril 2023)

[Lire l'article](#)

Blinken Urges Niger to Resume Relations With Israel: Report.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Niger to establish diplomatic relations with the State of Israel during a recent visit to the African state, according to an Axios news report on Wednesday.

The top U.S. diplomat reportedly discussed the issue with President of Niger Mohamed Bazoum. According to the report, Niger is prepared to normalize relations with Israel but expects unspecified assurances from the Biden administration in return. (NEWSMAX.COM, April 20, 2023).

[Lire l'article](#)

Speech by Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock to the German Bundestag on the EU Military Partnership Mission in Niger (EUMPM Niger).

"I want my children to get to school safely. I want to be able to go to market safely." That is what

I and some colleagues from the Bundestag were told by women in the Niger when we were there last year. Shopping, going to school, working – everything that is a matter of course for us is a daily hazard for millions of people in the Sahel.

More than 40 percent of all of the people killed last year by terrorist violence worldwide died in the Sahel. In the last six years, the number of deaths caused by terrorism in the region has increased eightfold. And this violence is not just causing hardship and suffering today, it is also creating terrible risks for the future. The security situation in the Niger forced more than 800 schools to close last year, most of them in the Tillabéri region. When girls and boys lose their chance at an education, they also lose their hope for the future. An additional year of schooling reduces the likelihood of a young person in the region joining an extremist group by 13 percent, as a recent UNDP study shows. For girls, meanwhile, each lost year of schooling increases the danger of being married off a year earlier. (Federal Foreign Office, April 19, 2023)

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Islamic State group extends its predation In the Sahel.

At the cost of bloody fighting, massacres, and displacement of civilians, the Islamic State group in the Greater Sahara (EIGS) is now in a position of strength in northeastern Mali, which serves as a base for its expansionist aims in Niger and Burkina Faso, according to analysts.

Less than a year after the departure of the last French soldiers from Mali in August 2022, the jihadist organization has extended its control in the immense remote and arid area known as "the three borders", straddling these three Sahelian countries, in committing numerous abuses against civilians. (Africanews, April 21, 2023)

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Ailleurs en Afrique de l'Ouest / Elsewhere in West Africa

Au Sahel, l'émir Iyad Ag-Ghali toujours vivant, toujours influent, toujours traqué

Depuis 2020, l'émir du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM) doit faire face à la branche sahélienne de l'Etat islamique.

Ce sera peut-être son dernier combat, après tant de coups de feu tirés dans toutes les directions. Depuis quarante ans, Iyad Ag-Ghali s'est successivement battu pour la légion islamique de Mouammar Kadhafi au Liban et au Tchad, pour la cause touareg au sein des rébellions apparues dans le nord du Mali au tournant des années 1990, pour le compte d'Al-Qaida afin d'imposer une conception salafiste de la charia – la loi islamique – dans son pays et au-delà, contre les soldats des opérations militaires françaises « Serval », « Sabre » et « Barkhane ». (Le Monde, 18 avril 2023)

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Paul Kagame à la rescousse de Patrice Talon ? Ce que l'accord de défense entre le Bénin et le Rwanda va changer.

Les deux présidents ont annoncé avoir scellé un accord de défense qui ouvre la voie à un éventuel déploiement militaire rwandais sur le sol béninois pour faire face aux jihadistes.

Verra-t-on bientôt des troupes rwandaises sur le sol béninois ? Pour l'heure, les détails de [l'accord militaire qui lie désormais le Rwanda et le Bénin n'ont pas été dévoilés](#). Avec [Paul Kagame](#), [Patrice Talon sait désormais pouvoir compter sur un nouvel allié](#) puissant. Au risque de faire lever quelques sourcils en Afrique de l'Ouest. Si le Bénin a amorcé une profonde refonte des services de sécurité et de l'armée pour faire face à [la propagation du risque jihadiste dans le nord du pays](#), frontalier avec le Burkina Faso et le Niger, les tentatives de coopération sous-régionales semblent, pour le moment, peu probantes. (Jeune Afrique, 21 avril 2023).

Lire l'article

How Poor Intelligence Hampers War Against Terrorism In West Africa.

The West African Region has been bedeviled by protracted terrorist attacks across the sub-region despite the enormous efforts being made by the regional bloc the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to curb the menace.

From Nigeria to Burkina Faso, Niger to Cote d'Ivoire, Mali to Guinea, the Boko Haram, Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP) and other terror allies have wrecked unprecedented havoc on the hapless citizens of the region with massive losses in lives and property and it appears there is no end in sight to this scourge. (Leadership Media Group, April 17, 2023)

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East Africa and the Horn/Afrique de l'Est et Corne de l'Afrique

South Sudan

CEPO hails South Sudan government role in attempts for ceasefire in Sudan.

South Sudan's civil society watchdog, the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), has hailed the government in its attempts to secure a ceasefire for the conflicting Sudanese parties.

South Sudan's civil society watchdog, the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), has hailed the government in its attempts to secure a ceasefire for the conflicting Sudanese parties.

The Sudanese conflict which began on the 15th of April entered its second week yesterday with calls from the regional and the international community for end to violence to avoid what maybe one of the largest refugee crises in the region. (Sudans Post, April 23, 2023).

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SPLA-IO says Sudan conflict could paralyze South Sudan peace implementation.

In an interview with Sudan Post on Sunday evening, SPLA-IO spokesman Col. Lam Paul Gabriel said that the situation in Sudan will likely have a negative impact on the implementation of the security arrangement provided for in South Sudan's revitalized peace agreement.

South Sudan's main armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/SPLA-IO) led by First Vice President Riek Machar has expressed fears that the ongoing conflict in Sudan could paralyze the implementation of the revitalized peace deal.

Sudan last week plunged into a deadly conflict after the militia Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by deputy head of Transitional Sovereign Council Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Daglo attacked several army and government positions in the capital Khartoum and other towns in the states. (Sudans Post, April 23, 2023).

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10 Killed, 19 wounded in Tonj East cattle camp raid.

The authorities in Warrap and Lakes states have said 10 people were killed and 19 others wounded on Monday following an attack on a cattle camp in Tonj East County in Warrap State.

Seven people were reportedly killed and thirteen others wounded from the side of Warrap State while on the side of Lakes State, three people were killed and six wounded.

Warrap State Information Minister William Wol Mayom told Radio Tamazuj Wednesday that the raid in which 570 head of cattle were rustled is suspected to have been orchestrated by armed youth from the Pakam section in neighboring Lakes State. (RadioTamazuj, April 21, 2023).

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Increase of gender-based violence, UNMISS pledges its support to address the problem

Incidents of gender-based violence, with girls and women making up the vast majority of those being subjected to it, are increasing in Eastern Equatoria State.

At a recent consultative forum in Torit, organized by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), it was revealed that the special protection unit of the town's central police station has received about 470 reports of such aggressions in the last two months alone, which represents a significant increase.

"Unfortunately, many of the perpetrators are not being held accountable, and that is a big problem," said Dominica Idwa Vitale, Director General at the state's Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. (UNMISS, April 17, 2023)

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Parliament suspend ratification of Provisional Orders issued by Kiir.

The presentation of three provisional orders issued by President Slava Kiir for 2020 and 2021 has been put on hold by the Parliament.

The Assembly turned down the order after the minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Ruben Madol Arol, presented it late to parliament.

Madol had wanted to present the orders for the disarmament of the civil population, public health, cybercrime and computer misuse to the National Assembly yesterday. (The City Review, April 20, 2023)

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Elsewhere in East Africa and the Horn

Sudan's military rivals fight to the death over the spoils

Four years after Bashir was ousted, Sudan's transition to civilian democracy is in peril.

The explosion of violence in Sudan this week has derailed the country's troubled post-Omar al-Bashir transition from military rule to democratic civilian government, perhaps irretrievably. (ISS Africa, April 21, 2023)

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Sudan slides toward civil war and state collapse.

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Chaos, lawlessness and fear grip much of Sudan. It's been a week since tensions between the country's two most prominent generals [exploded into full-blown battles](#) that have sprawled across the country of some 46 million people, turning the teeming capital, Khartoum, into [a ghost town](#) and triggering a wave of refugees fleeing for safety. (Washington Post, April 23, 2023).

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Tigray's long road to recovery

'Life is more and more difficult. We lack everything.'

Only women and children are allowed through the doors of the Technical and Vocational

Education and Training College in Abiy Addi, a village in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region. But no one comes here to teach or learn: since war broke out in November 2020, the school, like others in the village, has housed hundreds of displaced people.

A ceasefire between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian federal government, signed in November last year, has done nothing to make it a place of learning again. (The New Humanitarian, April 20, 2023).

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Central Africa

DRC

La Russie prête à appuyer la RDC dans la lutte contre le terrorisme.

Très préoccupée par la situation sécuritaire en RDC, la Russie se dit prête à donner son aide pour combattre tous les groupes armés qui écument l'Est du pays, notamment les terroristes du M23. C'est ce qu'a fait savoir l'ambassadeur de la Russie en RDC, au sortir de son audience lui accordée par le vice-premier ministre, ministre de la Défense, Jean-Pierre Bemba, jeudi 20 avril à Kinshasa.

« La Russie est prête à donner tout son aide à la RDC dans la lutte contre les groupes armés. Nous sommes vraiment très intéressés de la cessation des activités de tous les groupes armés dans l'Est de la RDC, pour que la paix puisse être rétablie là-bas. Et surtout pour que la souveraineté de la RDC puisse être primordial dans cette partie du pays », a déclaré l'ambassadeur russe, Alexey Sentebov. (Radio Okapi, 21 avril 2023)

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RDC/Rwanda : la polémique de Paul Kagame sur les frontières congolaises.

Au cours de son voyage au Bénin ce week-end, Paul Kagamé a évoqué les frontières tracées à l'époque coloniale le Rwanda, la RDC et l'Ouganda. Des mots qui ont suscité une réaction indignée du gouvernement congolais. (TV5 Monde, 18 avril 2023)

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RD Congo : Le M23 poursuit le renforcement de ses positions, ce qui présage des attaques futures contre la population et l'armée, d'après le gouvernement.

Alors que le M23 se retire de certaines zones occupées, le gouvernement a annoncé ce vendredi 21 avril que la rébellion est en train de renforcer ses positions dans les territoires de Rutshuru, Nyiragongo et Masisi (Nord-Kivu).

Selon le rapport fait par le Vice-premier ministre de la défense, Jean Pierre Bemba au Conseil des ministres, des mouvements des troupes rebelles en provenance de Runyoni, Tshanzu, Sabinyo en direction de Ntamugenga, Kalengera sur la RN2. D'autres troupes sont concentrées sur l'axe Mabenga-Rwindi, en plein parc des Virunga. (Actualité CD, 22 avril 2023)

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DR Congo banks on past lessons in fresh disarmament crusade.

After two weeks of killings that left nearly 150 dead in Ituri province, according to figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have launched another disarmament programme, hoping to finally do it right.

The new programme launched on Tuesday will be overseen by Lt-Gen Johnny Luboya of the Armed Forces of the Congo (FARDC). (The East African, April 23, 2023)

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Ituri : sept miliciens de la CODECO tués dans un combat avec les FARDC à Bakonde.

Les FARDC ont neutralisé sept miliciens de la CODECO dans un combat survenu, vendredi 21 avril, à Bakonde, dans le secteur de Banyali Kilo, territoire de Djugu (Ituri).

Selon des sources sur place, un soldat de l'armée nationale est décédé au cours de ces accrochages.

Les mêmes sources rapportent que ces miliciens de la CODECO ont de nouveau surgi dans le secteur de Banyali Kilo sur la route Mungwalu, en tirant plusieurs coups de feu.

Effrayés, les habitants dont la plupart avaient suivi la veille des rumeurs à propos de l'incursion des miliciens dans cette zone, ont passé la nuit dans la brousse indiquent des sources locales.

Ces assaillants ont ensuite attaqué une position des militaires qui ont vivement riposté. (Radio Okapi, 23 avril 2023)

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Elsewhere in Central Africa

Insecurity grows in Cameroon as reintegration efforts stall

Problems with the reintegration of former Boko Haram members make preventing violent extremism and organised crime difficult.

Former Boko Haram fighters and members who return to communities in Cameroon pose a significant [security](#) threat to civilians. The lack of effective reintegration increases the chances of former combatants returning to violence, encouraged by the rise in lucrative organised crime, the

circulation of illicit weapons and inter-communal [conflicts](#). (ISS Africa, April 17, 2023)

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Chad picks a fight with Germany - what's behind it and what the consequences are.

Chad recently ordered the German ambassador to the country, [Dr Gordon Kricke](#), to leave within 48 hours, accusing him of disrespectful behaviour and disregard for diplomatic protocol. In retaliation, Berlin [expelled](#) the Chadian ambassador to Germany. Helga Dickow, a political scientist and expert on Chad, explains the link between the diplomatic tit-for-tat and the now delayed Chadian transition to constitutional rule. (The Conversation, April 23, 2023)

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Central Africa accuses rebels of killing nine Chinese miners.

Authorities in the Central African Republic alleged Wednesday that a leading rebel group was behind the murder of nine Chinese gold miners last month, despite denials by the insurgents.

The rebels blamed the Russian paramilitary group Wagner, hired to protect several lucrative gold and diamond mines operated by Russian firms in the country, for the attack.

Justice Minister Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene said the killers were "indisputably elements from the CPC", or Coalition of Patriots for Change, quoting a final report from an inquiry into the March 19 deaths. (Africanews, April 20, 2023, 2023)

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Southern Africa

Multiple murders: a mark of SA's gun and organised crime crisis

Incidents that claim more than one victim have soared, with KwaZulu-Natal as the epicentre of the phenomenon.

Early Sunday morning, 10 July 2022, gunmen entered Mdlalose tavern in Nonzamo informal settlement in Soweto, South Africa, and opened fire with automatic rifles, killing 16 patrons and injuring seven others. The massacre, which caused widespread shock and outrage, is an extreme example of 'multiple murder' – incidents of violence in which two or more people are killed. (ISS Africa, April 20, 2023)

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South Africa's unconditional support for Polisario frustrates Rabat.

South Africa's long-time political support for Algiers and the cause of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) has been a thorn in the side of Moroccan diplomats.

"Derogatory, unfounded and inappropriate accusations." Who better than Youssef Amrani, Morocco's ambassador to Pretoria, to lead the Moroccan counter-offensive after the incriminating remarks on the Sahara and Morocco made by a South African MP and deputy minister for international relations and cooperation? (The Africa Report, April 21, 2023)

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The Insurgency Targets 'Hearts and Minds'

Having taken heavy losses since the arrival of the Rwandans and SADC in Cabo Delgado, insurgents are experimenting with new tactics.

Following a surge of activity in January amid the Mozambique government's *Operation Vulcão IV* offensive, incidents of insurgent violence in the last month have reduced to a trickle. Just 11 political violence events were recorded for March, compared to 19 for February. However, insurgents have not disappeared. In fact, along the coast of Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia, they are more visible than ever, but now they are usually found asserting their peacefulness as they approach villages, looking to trade ZITAMAR NEWS, April 21, 2023)

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