

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Burkina Faso-Niger-Mali

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Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security conditions across the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin remain highly volatile, with sustained militant activity and expanding operational overlap between jihadist groups. ISWAP attacks in Niger and Nigeria, combined with the first recorded JNIM–ISSP clash on Nigerian territory, indicate both persistent threat capacity and emerging inter-group competition in new areas.

In Mali, continued army airstrikes alongside FLA's repeated drone and asymmetric attacks against Army–Africa Corps positions highlight an escalation in insurgent capabilities, particularly the growing use of UAVs against fixed military targets.

Nigeria faces intensifying internal instability, with large-scale bandit attacks, mass killings, kidnappings, and displacement reflecting weakened territorial control, while simultaneous Boko Haram/ISWAP engagements sustain pressure on security forces across multiple fronts.

In Burkina Faso, the government's rejection of international human rights allegations underscores increasing friction with external actors, while ongoing JNIM advances against VDP positions point to continued degradation of local defense structures.

Somalia shows relative political-military coordination, but uncertainty around regional governance and electoral frameworks signals underlying fragility.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, continued clashes, territorial shifts, and limited defections indicate a fluid conflict environment with no immediate stabilization, as both sides maintain maneuver-based operations.

NIGER

- Minister of National Defence Yaşar Güler and Niger's Minister of Defence, General Salifou Mody, chaired a delegation-level meeting following a bilateral discussion on defense cooperation in Niger and signed a protocol on the provision of in-country training support

between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Government of the Republic of Niger.

- ISWAP claimed to have killed a Nigerien army spy near the town of Chetimari in the Diffa region one day earlier.

MALI

- The Malian army announced that it had neutralized a group of terrorists in an airstrike approximately 7 km from the town of Sofara.
- FLA claimed to have targeted an Army–Africa Corps armored vehicle in Tiwraghen, approximately 35 km south of Kidal in the Kidal region; FLA also claimed to have carried out two kamikaze drone attacks on Army–Africa Corps positions in Aguelhok, stating that footage released shows both strikes were successful, and noting that a military base was also hit in a previous attack on March 24.

NIGERIA

- According to local sources, bandits seized control of Bagna village and surrounding villages in Shiroro LGA of Niger State; five civilians were killed, many were abducted, and residents were forced into mass displacement.
- According to police and residents, armed assailants attacked villages in Niger State, killing at least 20 people, including security personnel, and abducting an unknown number of individuals.
- Clashes were reported between security forces and a group suspected to be Boko Haram/ISWAP in the Monguno area of Borno State.
- JNIM claimed it clashed with ISSP in Kebbi State, killing one individual, capturing another, and seizing naira and ammunition; the incident marks the first recorded clash between JNIM and ISSP on Nigerian territory.
- ISWAP claimed responsibility for an attack in Borno State that killed 10 civilians; the group also claimed to have executed two Nigerian government spies after capturing them in the village of Alijila Mari.

BURKINA FASO

- The government of Burkina Faso condemned a Human Rights Watch report published on April 2 covering the 2023–2025 period; the report accused Burkina Faso's army, allied militias, and an al-Qaeda-linked armed group of killing more than 1,800 civilians since 2023, forcibly displacing tens of thousands, committing serious abuses, failing to hold perpetrators

accountable, and restricting information to conceal civilian suffering, while the government dismissed the findings as “assumptions and serious unfounded allegations.”

- JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP position in the village of Bindo in the Ouahigouya region.

SOMALIA

- President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud met on Tuesday afternoon in Baidoa with political figures and security officials involved in the military campaign that led to the departure of former regional leader Laftagareen; he thanked them for their efforts and pledged a smooth and peaceful transition despite uncertainty over the future and structure of the region’s presidential election model.
- State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ali Omar met on Tuesday with Raisedon Zenenga, acting head of the United Nations Transition Mission in Somalia, to discuss the mission’s transition and the country’s current situation; both sides reaffirmed their commitment to closer cooperation, sustained engagement, and enhanced information-sharing to align international support with national priorities and promote peace and stability.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Clashes were reported in the Walikale territory of North Kivu between AFC/M23 and FARDC forces supported by Wazalendo militias; FARDC was reported to have repelled the attack, killing seven AFC/M23 fighters.
- The town of Tushunguti in Kalehe territory, South Kivu—capital of the Ziralo group—was reported to have come under AFC/M23 control following intense clashes with Wazalendo forces.
- The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced that they had redeployed to several villages in the Lubero area following the withdrawal of AFC/M23 forces.
- Six AFC/M23 fighters were reported to have surrendered to FARDC in the Minembwe area of the Fizi highlands.