

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

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Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin remain characterized by persistent insurgent activity and localized tactical engagements. In Nigeria, Boko Haram-linked operations and propaganda outputs indicate sustained operational capability and continued pressure on both security forces and civilian populations.

In Niger and Burkina Faso, JNIM maintains an active tempo of asymmetric attacks, particularly through ambushes and IED strikes, targeting military mobility and forward positions while claiming material gains. This reflects continued insurgent freedom of movement across border regions.

Mali shows a dual-track trajectory: while Bamako deepens political alignment on external issues such as Western Sahara, it is simultaneously reinforcing military capacity through new equipment acquisitions, suggesting preparation for sustained or escalated operations.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, clashes between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo, alongside shifting territorial control, highlight ongoing fragmentation and fluid frontlines, while parallel diplomatic engagement signals limited but active conflict management efforts.

NIGERIA

- The army confirmed that the attack on the 29th Task Force Brigade in Benisheikh, Borno State, was repelled. The statement noted that troops led by Brigadier General Oseni Braimah pushed back the attack, that several soldiers lost their lives, and that no specific information was provided regarding Braimah's condition.
- A group suspected of being Boko Haram members carried out a nighttime attack on Nuku village in the Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State; at least five forest rangers were killed in the attack, and security vehicles were destroyed.
- Boko Haram released a new video featuring civilians abducted from Woro in the Kaima Local Government Area of Kwara State. In the video, women speaking English, Yoruba, Hausa, Nupe, and other languages described the hardships of their captivity and made an appeal to the government.

NIGER

- JNIM claimed that three soldiers were killed in an ambush they carried out between Say and Kourkasse, and that they seized rifles and ammunition.
- JNIM claimed to have targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Bossia and Toura, stating that the attack resulted in casualties.

MALI

- Foreign Affairs Minister Abdoulaye Diop announced that Mali supports Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara. Diop stated that Mali is the latest African country to endorse the plan, which aims to end the 50-year conflict with the Algerian-backed Polisario Front.
- It was reported that Morocco's autonomy proposal for Western Sahara envisions the establishment of local legislative, executive, and judicial bodies in the region, which would be elected by the residents, while Rabat would retain authority over defense, foreign relations, and religious matters.
- A large convoy of armored vehicles, military equipment, and Chinese-made air defense systems arrived in the capital, Bamako.
- JNIM claimed to have targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Loulouni and Sikasso.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed to have seized rifles and equipment in an attack on a military post between Pissila and Pibaore.
- JNIM claimed that five soldiers were killed and that rifles and ammunition were seized in an attack on a military post in the Mouan region.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Local sources reported clashes between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in the Rutshuru territory of North Kivu province.
- Local sources reported that the town of Tushunguti, the center of the Ziralo grouping in South Kivu province, was recaptured by government forces following a counterattack by the FARDC supported by Wazalendo, after a brief period of control by AFC/M23.
- Local sources reported that clashes broke out between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in the Masisi territory of North Kivu province.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- AFC/M23 claimed that a Democratic Republic of the Congo military Sukhoi-25 fighter jet carried out airstrikes in and around Minembwe.
- AFC/M23 confirmed its participation in the resumption of negotiations following the relocation of the Doha Process to Switzerland due to the conflict in the Gulf.
- Local sources claimed that Wazalendo forces recaptured several strategic settlements in the Kalehe territory.