STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

Recent developments indicate a sustained high-intensity security environment across West and East Africa, marked by simultaneous counterterrorism operations, militant offensives, and ongoing political engagement efforts.

In Nigeria, large-scale prosecutions of Islamist militants signal continued judicial follow-through against Boko Haram and ISWAP networks; however, the reported high civilian casualties from air operations and the killing of a second senior officer in recent days highlight persistent operational challenges, including targeting risks and insurgent capability to strike high-value military personnel.

In Somalia, strengthened diplomatic alignment with China and ongoing joint operations with AUSSOM reflect a dual-track approach combining external partnerships and military pressure; reported battlefield gains against Al-Shabaab suggest tactical progress, though the need for sustained operations indicates the group's continued resilience.

In Burkina Faso and Niger, JNIM and ISSP activity underscores expanding militant momentum in the Sahel, with repeated successful attacks on military and auxiliary (VDP) positions, seizures of equipment, and targeted killings, pointing to gaps in territorial control and force protection.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the continuation of negotiations between the government and AFC/M23 alongside coercive measures on the ground, such as blockades and curfews, reflects a disconnect between diplomatic processes and operational realities, with the risk of further civilian pressure and localized escalation remaining high.

NIGERIA

• The Attorney General of Nigeria announced that approximately 400 Islamist militants were convicted following mass trials held this week in Abuja; the trials are part of a series of cases involving Boko Haram and ISWAP suspects that began in 2017 with over 2,000 defendants.

• The Nigerian Air Force reportedly killed between 50 and 200 civilians in an airstrike conducted while tracking terrorists along the Jili axis in Borno State.

• The Nigerian Army released footage of airstrikes conducted in Jilli, Gubio LGA of Borno State; it stated that the operation was verified by multiple intelligence sources and that dozens of terrorists were neutralized.

• Colonel I.A. Mohammed was reportedly killed along with six soldiers in an ISWAP IED attack while en route to reinforce troops under attack in Monguno, Borno State; this marks the second high-ranking officer reportedly killed by ISWAP in recent days.

• The Nigerian Army announced that its troops seized medical supplies, thwarted terrorist attacks, and rescued hostages in Nguru, Yobe State.

SOMALIA

• Somalia and China reaffirmed their strategic partnership following high-level talks in Mogadishu between Foreign Minister Abdisalam Dhaay and China's Special Envoy Hu Changchun, focusing on cooperation in security, trade, and the blue economy.

• AUSSOM announced that, in a joint operation with the Somali National Army in Sector 1 of Lower Shabelle, coordinated ground and air support resulted in the neutralization of a large number of Al-Shabaab militants and the seizure of weapons and equipment in Buulo Abdala and Madulo.

• The Commander of the Somali National Army, Brigadier General Ibrahim Mohamed Mahmoud, stated that national forces have made significant progress against Al-Shabaab over the past year and continue efforts to enhance security and stability across the country.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP position in Dedougou.

• JNIM claimed that four VDP members were killed in an attack on a VDP position in Bindo, and that motorcycles, rifles, and ammunition were seized.

• JNIM claimed that eight soldiers were killed, one was taken hostage, and motorcycles, RPGs, and ammunition were seized in an attack on a military post in Bissiga.

• JNIM claimed to have carried out the assassination of a VDP member on the outskirts of Solle.

NIGER

• ISSP claimed that three soldiers were killed in an ambush in Dosso.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• New negotiations between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AFC/M23 began in Switzerland, marking the ninth round of talks between the two sides.

• AFC/M23 reportedly conducted a large-scale blockade operation in the town of Minova, Kalehe territory, South Kivu, imposing a curfew and carrying out systematic house-to-house searches.