

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

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Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across the Sahel and Central Africa remain volatile, marked by sustained militant operational capacity and localized tactical gains. JNIM and IS Sahel affiliates continue to conduct coordinated attacks against military and auxiliary forces in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, indicating persistent insurgent mobility and targeting of lightly defended positions.

In Nigeria, security forces are maintaining operational pressure on ISWAP through intelligence exploitation, arrests, and rescue operations, suggesting incremental gains in counterinsurgency effectiveness despite ongoing threat presence.

In Somalia, government forces are expanding territorial control in Lower Shabelle, reflecting continued momentum in offensive operations against Al-Shabaab-linked elements.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, parallel diplomatic and military tracks are evident: while Kinshasa and Kigali have agreed on de-escalatory steps under the Washington framework, AFC/M23 is simultaneously reinforcing frontline positions, underscoring a fragile and reversible stabilization process.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda met in Washington, DC under the Washington Peace and Prosperity Agreements and agreed on concrete steps to further implement the Washington Peace Agreement.
- In a joint statement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda agreed on coordinated measures including mutual support for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the planned withdrawal or lifting of defensive measures by Rwandan forces from certain areas in DRC territory, time-bound and intensified efforts by the DRC to neutralize the FDLR, and the protection of all civilians.

MINTEL WORLD

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- The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda reaffirmed their commitments under the Washington Agreements to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in the region.
- The DRC army announced that 20 members of the M23 and Twirwaneho groups surrendered in Fizi territory, South Kivu.
- AFC/M23 continued to reinforce its positions in the Walikale area of North Kivu; according to various sources, additional reinforcements and ammunition were deployed to the town of Bukumbirwa, located on the boundary between the Ikobo and Kisimba groups.

MALI

- JNIM claimed to have repelled the advance of the Africa Corps between Molodo and Faba.

BURKINA FASO

- According to local sources, the BIR unit neutralized dozens of militants in Tougan; equipment and motorcycles were seized during the operation.
- JNIM claimed that three VDP members were killed and rifles and ammunition were seized in an attack on a VDP position in the Koulpelogo region.
- JNIM claimed that equipment and rifles were seized in an attack on a military point on the outskirts of Bogande.
- JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP position in the Ouahigouya region.

NIGER

- ISSP (IS Sahel) claimed that four soldiers were killed and a military vehicle was burned in an ambush near Dioundiou in the Dosso region.

NIGERIA

- The Nigerian Army announced that ISWAP documents were seized in Mallam Fotori, Borno State; the documents reportedly include lists of militants, their roles, and records of distributed rifles and motorcycles.
- The Nigerian Army announced that 15 kidnapping victims were rescued in Borno State.
- Operation Hadin Kai troops detained two suspected informants linked to ISWAP in Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State.

SOMALIA

MINTEL WORLD

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- The Somali Ministry of Defense announced that the areas of Mubaarak and Daarusalaam in the Lower Shabelle region were liberated as part of Operation Rolling Thunder, which is under the broader Operation Badar.