

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

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Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security activity across West and East Africa remains elevated, with governments combining external security partnerships and military operations to contain persistent militant threats, while insurgent groups continue to demonstrate tactical reach through localized attacks and territorial claims. In Nigeria and Benin, international security coordination with the United States, France, and regional partners points to a continued emphasis on intelligence support, force training, and cross-border counterterrorism cooperation. In Mali and Burkina Faso, state forces reported offensive gains, but JNIM claims across multiple locations indicate sustained insurgent operational pressure against military and auxiliary positions. In Somalia, security developments are increasingly intertwined with internal political fragmentation, as the dispute between the federal government and South West State is now unfolding alongside counterterrorism concerns. In eastern DRC, continued clashes involving AFC/M23 and Wazalendo, together with persistent high levels of documented violence, indicate that conflict conditions remain active despite a lower monthly incident count. In Niger, the renewed institutional engagement with Algeria highlights parallel efforts to reinforce security, economic, and energy coordination at the interstate level.

NIGERIA

- According to U.S. and Nigerian officials speaking to Reuters, the U.S. military has deployed 200 troops and multiple MQ-9 drones in Nigeria to provide training and intelligence support to the Nigerian military in its fight against Islamist militants in the north.
- President Bola Tinubu stated, following a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, that Nigeria will receive military equipment and training support from France, and added that his administration is intensifying efforts to address the worsening security situation across the country.

MALI

- The Malian army announced that 10 terrorists were neutralized in an airstrike carried out northwest of Kidal.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- The Malian army announced that, as part of Operation Dougoukoloko, two terrorist bases were destroyed in the Medina–Kayes corridor, 40 militants were neutralized, 12 hostages were rescued, and a significant amount of equipment was seized.

- JNIM claimed that three soldiers were killed and motorcycles and ammunition were seized in an attack on a military position in Bondo.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed that two soldiers were killed and rifles and motorcycles were seized in an attack on a military position in Koulpelogo.

- JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP post in Kelbo.

- JNIM claimed that 20 soldiers were killed and motorcycles, rifles, and ammunition were seized during clashes in Bagade in which an army advance was repelled.

- JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP post in Kaya.

SOMALIA

- Puntland forces captured two Ethiopian militants in the Yalho area of Somalia.

- The South West State administration announced that it had suspended all cooperation with Mogadishu, stating that the federal government had interfered in its internal affairs and security structures.

- South West State Security Minister Hassan Abdulkadir said that the armed elements operating in the Buur Hakaba area of Somalia were not part of recognized state forces and were Al-Shabaab-linked militias.

- South West State President Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen accused Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of blocking regional elections since 2022.

- South West State President Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen accused the Somali federal government of carrying out an “open occupation” by deploying special forces, militias, and troops into his administration’s territory.

- Somalia’s Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation announced that the country has officially entered a phase of inclusive and transparent elections, stating that the polls will be direct, free, and fair.

- The South West State administration announced that it had established a local electoral committee for parliamentary and presidential elections while its dispute with the federal government continues.

BENIN

- Under the leadership of Beninese Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fructueux Gbaguidi, a trilateral meeting was held at Togbin barracks in Benin with Ivorian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lassina Doumbia and French Armed Forces Chief of Staff Air General Fabien Mandon.
- The chiefs of staff of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and France discussed strengthening trilateral operational cooperation against terrorism and cross-border threats facing the sub-region and the Gulf of Guinea during the meeting in Togbin.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Violent clashes were reported between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in the Walikale area of North Kivu province.
- Clashes were reported between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in the settlement of Kazinga in the Masisi area of North Kivu province.
- According to the Kivu Security Barometer, at least 207 security incidents were documented in February 2026, including 94 armed clashes, 29 kidnappings, and 84 civilian deaths. Although this monthly total was the lowest since October 2025, the report stated that it does not necessarily reflect an improvement in the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The report added that AFC/M23 and the Rwandan army were involved in the majority of armed clashes, participating in 48 of 92 clashes, with 28 documented incidents concentrated in the Masisi area of North Kivu. It also said that AFC/M23 claimed responsibility for new drone attacks targeting Kisangani airport, the main drone command center of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC). The report further noted that this did not prevent FARDC from intensifying its use of drones against AFC/M23, resulting in significant losses.

NIGER

- The Niger-Algeria Joint Cooperation Commission met in Niamey, the capital of Niger, to implement the commitments made during General Abdourahamane Tiani's visit to Algeria in February. It was reported that the meeting addressed economic, security, and energy cooperation, as well as the trans-Saharan gas pipeline.