

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

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Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

The reporting points to a continued concentration of instability across the central Sahel and the eastern DRC, with militant groups sustaining operational tempo despite parallel diplomatic and military pressure. In Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, JNIM and IS Sahel remain capable of launching lethal attacks, contesting state presence, and forcing reactive military responses, while the fighting near Inkadewane suggests that northern Mali remains an active and fluid battlespace involving both insurgents and external security partners.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the contrast between diplomatic efforts and battlefield realities remains pronounced. AFC/M23 withdrawals from parts of Walikale and Lubero, alongside Wazalendo advances, may indicate localized tactical repositioning rather than durable de-escalation, while international pressure on Rwanda continues to grow at the political level.

In Somalia, NISA's operation against senior Al-Shabaab figures indicates continued intelligence-led counterterrorism capacity and effective partner-enabled targeting. In Nigeria, however, persistent communal violence and continued air operations against ISWAP suspects in Sambisa underline the fact that the security environment remains fragmented, with both insurgent and bandit threats still active across multiple theaters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and acting head of MONUSCO, Vivian van de Perre, said she was concerned about the gap between ongoing diplomatic initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — including the Washington and Doha processes and the African Union's facilitation efforts — and the reality on the ground, and called on the parties to honor their commitments.

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- White House Senior Adviser for Africa Massad Boulos, during a UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, called on Kigali to immediately withdraw its troops from the country's east.
- AFC/M23 was reported to have withdrawn from several areas in Walikale territory in North Kivu province, particularly Minjenje and Mpety in the Kisimba island group and Kanune in the Ikobo island group.
- AFC/M23 was also reported to be continuing its withdrawal from several villages in Lubero, North Kivu province.
- Wazalendo was reported to have taken control of several villages in Walikale territory in North Kivu province following clashes with AFC/M23.

MALI

- The Malian army announced that more than 50 terrorists were neutralized in an airstrike carried out 38 kilometers northwest of the city of Ménaka.
- Violent clashes lasting several hours were reported near Inkadewane, around 60 kilometers north of Ménaka city in northern Mali's Ménaka region, between IS Sahel and the Russian-backed Africa Corps alongside the Malian army.

NIGER

- IS Sahel claimed responsibility for an attack on a police post in the city of Tillabéri in Niger, saying that seven people were killed.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed that 14 soldiers were killed in an attack on a military position in Léré, and that one military vehicle, as well as rifles and ammunition, were seized.

NIGERIA

- Clashes were reported between villagers and armed bandits in Yar Tasha village, located in Anka Local Government Area of Zamfara State, Nigeria.
- The Nigerian army was reported to have carried out precision airstrikes against suspected ISWAP targets in the Sambisa Forest area of Borno State, Nigeria.

SOMALIA

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- Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) announced that, with the support of international partners, it conducted operations in the Jilib district of the Middle Juba region and the Ugunji area of the Lower Shabelle region, killing key figures including Abdixamiid Cali Cabdullaahi Macalin, who was responsible for Al-Shabaab's links with international terrorist networks and the procurement of weapons and explosives, as well as Suleyman Cumar Fidow, the leader in charge of suicide operatives.