

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

Date: 30 March 2026

Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

The reporting reflects a dual-track dynamic of political fragmentation and intensified military activity across key African theatres, most notably in Somalia. Federal forces are making tangible territorial gains in South West State, including advancing into Baidoa, reopening critical supply routes, and forcing the surrender of senior regional officials. However, these gains are occurring alongside a deepening constitutional and legitimacy crisis between Mogadishu and regional authorities, with competing claims over governance and leadership. Accusations directed at Türkiye and the African Union's call for restraint indicate increasing internationalization of the dispute, raising the risk that military progress could be undermined by political fragmentation and loss of internal cohesion.

In the Sahel, JNIM continues to demonstrate operational resilience and tactical reach in both Burkina Faso and Mali, maintaining the ability to conduct IED attacks, seize local defense positions, and target influential local figures. Despite ongoing airstrikes and counterterrorism operations by Malian forces, insurgent groups retain initiative at the tactical level, suggesting that current military pressure is insufficient to decisively degrade their capabilities. This reflects a broader pattern of protracted asymmetric conflict, where state forces can disrupt but not eliminate militant networks.

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation remains fluid and highly contested. Territorial exchanges between AFC/M23, FARDC, and Wazalendo militias indicate an unstable front line, with armed actors capable of withdrawing and re-entering key areas within short timeframes. The arrest of senior officers over alleged recruitment for M23 further highlights internal fractures within state structures, complicating command cohesion. President Tshisekedi's emphasis on potential U.S. support signals an effort to externalize security stabilization, but also underscores the limitations of current domestic capacity.

Across Nigeria and Niger, security forces are focusing on disrupting support networks and managing internal political mobilization. Arrests linked to Boko Haram logistics in Borno suggest a continued emphasis on degrading insurgent sustainment systems, while protests in Niger reflect growing sensitivity to external political pressure, particularly from European institutions. Overall, the regional picture is characterized by persistent insurgent adaptability,

contested state authority, and increasing overlap between internal political crises and security operations, limiting the prospects for rapid stabilization.

SOMALIA

- The African Union called on Somali parties to engage in dialogue and exercise restraint amid rising tensions in South West State; the African Union stated that the political crisis in Somalia poses risks to stability, security, and humanitarian conditions.
- Constitutional amendments approved by the Somali Federal Parliament were rejected by the South West State; South West State accused the Federal Government of overstepping its authority.
- The Somali Federal Government stated that the term of South West State President Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen had expired; in response, South West State held regional elections on 28 March and re-elected Laftagareen for a second term, while the Mogadishu administration described the move as an illegal self-election.
- The South West State administration in Somalia accused Türkiye of supporting military operations against its territory; state officials alleged that weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles, and trained units provided by Türkiye were used in the operations.
- In Mogadishu, the Somali Federal Government and Türkiye's OYAK company officially launched the joint fisheries company Somtürk; the parties stated that the initiative aims to strengthen the blue economy, develop marine resources, combat illegal fishing, and support coastal communities.
- The Somali Ministry of Defence announced that the army repelled an Al-Shabaab ambush around Daynuunaay in the Bay region; the army neutralized 21 militants and secured control of the settlement.
- Federal Government forces entered the outskirts of Baidoa city in South West State; thousands of civilians reportedly welcomed the federal troops following their advance.
- Senior officials from South West State reportedly surrendered to the Somali Federal Government hours after federal forces seized key areas in Baidoa; those who surrendered included Interior Minister Mohamed Ishaq Fanax and Religious Affairs Minister Noor Siidow.
- The Somali National Army's 203rd Gorgor Commando Battalion conducted intensive clearance operations in the Lower Shabelle region; security forces dismantled Al-Shabaab hideouts and secured areas including Ay-buteey, Jowhar Awdheegle, and Asenda Bube.

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- The Somali army reportedly reopened the key Mogadishu–Baidoa road after clearing Al-Shabaab elements from the route.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed that it targeted an army patrol with an IED on the outskirts of Titao.
- JNIM claimed that it took control of a VDP position in the Fada N’Gourma region.

MALI

- The Malian army announced that it targeted a terrorist group north of Niono with airstrikes.
- JNIM reportedly killed youth leader Amadou Baby in the town of Tonka in the Timbuktu region.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Democratic Republic of the Congo President Felix Tshisekedi told traditional chiefs in Kwilu that the United States would support the construction of an army and provide investment, infrastructure, and business development; Tshisekedi stated that this support would strengthen the country’s security and development.
- Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lt. Gen. Jules Banza, announced the arrest of two senior officers accused of recruiting for the AFC/M23 rebellion in the Greater Katanga region.
- Following the withdrawal of AFC/M23, Wazalendo forces reportedly recaptured the settlement of Mpety in the Walikale territory.
- In South Kivu, clashes between FARDC and Wazalendo resulted in the deaths of two Wazalendo fighters and the arrest of eight individuals.
- After a two-day withdrawal, AFC/M23 forces reportedly returned to several settlements in the Walikale area within the Ikobo island group in North Kivu.
- Several settlements in the Masisi territory of North Kivu reportedly fell under the control of AFC/M23 following intense clashes with FARDC and Wazalendo forces.

NIGERIA

- In Borno State, soldiers reportedly arrested 12 more individuals suspected of providing logistical support to terrorists; the total number of arrests over one week reached 53.
- Army troops in Borno State reportedly arrested two additional individuals suspected of supplying logistics to Boko Haram.

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- According to local sources, security forces in Gwoza district of Borno State foiled an attempted attack targeting farmers and herders, attributed to suspected ISWAP/JAS elements.

NIGER

- Large-scale demonstrations were held in Niamey and several cities across Niger and AES countries following a call by a coalition of civil society organizations; members of the CNSP and the government also participated.
- The demonstrations in Niger were reported to be in response to the European Parliament's resolution calling for the release of former President Mohamed Bazoum; protesters opposed what they described as interference by the European Parliament.