

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

Security dynamics across the Sahel and Central Africa remain volatile, with high-casualty attacks such as ISCAP's mass killing of civilians in Ituri underscoring persistent insurgent operational capacity and civilian vulnerability. In eastern DRC, overlapping conflict lines between AFC/M23, Wazalendo, and government forces continue to fragment security control, while mutual accusations involving the FDLR highlight deepening mistrust and a risk of further escalation.

In the Sahel, JNIM maintains offensive momentum in Burkina Faso through coordinated attacks on military and auxiliary positions, indicating sustained pressure on state forces. Concurrently, Mali's ongoing military and logistical build-up suggests preparation for continued or expanded operations.

Burkina Faso's leadership messaging reinforces a strategy of self-reliance and total mobilization, rejecting external assistance while signaling intensified military campaigns. In Nigeria, security forces demonstrate tactical effectiveness through interdictions and arrests, though persistent ISWAP/Boko Haram activity indicates an enduring threat environment.

Somalia's approval of a civilian protection policy and leadership reshuffle in Southwest State point to efforts to strengthen governance and operational legitimacy, but underlying security and political fragilities remain.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- ISCAP carried out an attack on the village of Bafwakoa in the Ituri region; according to local media, more than 70 civilians were killed and approximately 60% of the village was burned.
- Local media claimed that AFC/M23 withdrew from the town of Katondi along the Lubero-Centre axis in North Kivu and regained control of the villages of Kalonge and Lubango.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- Local civil society accused some Wazalendo groups in the Mwenga area of South Kivu of being involved in extortion and assassinations and deviating from their original mission.
- AFC/M23 accused the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of continuing to cooperate with the FDLR despite announcing operations against the group.
- Heavy clashes occurred between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in southern Lubero, North Kivu; it was reported that AFC/M23 suspended its withdrawal from several villages.
- MONUSCO reiterated its support for FARDC's efforts to restore security.

BURKINA FASO

- Burkina Faso President Captain Ibrahim Traoré delivered a speech on April 1, 2026, in Burkina Faso, calling for order, discipline, and patriotism; he described the revolution as a necessary requirement for the country's development and defined its revolutionary profile around love of the homeland, continuous pursuit of scientific and historical knowledge, and resistance against imperialist pressure. "An ignorant person cannot be a revolutionary," he stated.
- Ibrahim Traoré reiterated his commitment to national sovereignty on the economic front, calling for the prioritization of local products and domestic production; he praised the fighting forces and emphasized that the country has the capacity to ensure its own defense.
- Ibrahim Traoré stated that since the beginning of the war, they have refused external military assistance and chosen to conduct the fight with their own means; he noted that security forces are making progress on the ground and reclaiming areas that were once militant strongholds.
- Ibrahim Traoré stated that elements refusing to leave the country would be neutralized by the armed forces and announced that strict measures have been taken against those opposing the revolution.
- JNIM claimed to have taken control of a military point in Goumel.
- JNIM claimed that 8 soldiers were killed and motorcycles, weapons, and ammunition were seized in an attack on a military point in Fada Ngourma.
- JNIM claimed that 7 VDP members were killed and motorcycles and ammunition were seized in an attack on a military point in Dedougou.

MALI

- Local sources reported that a new military shipment has arrived in Mali.
- A convoy consisting of hundreds of fuel tanker trucks arrived in the capital Bamako; the army stated that the convoy was deployed for logistical support.

NIGER

- The Sultan of Agadez, Oumarou Ibrahim Oumarou, was received at the Embassy of Türkiye in Niamey; the parties discussed the development of historical and diplomatic relations between Niger and Türkiye.

NIGERIA

- The army repelled an attack by ISWAP/Boko Haram members on a forward operating base in Yunusari, Yobe State.
- The army arrested two individuals suspected of links to ISWAP/Boko Haram in Pulka, Borno State.
- The army arrested three suspected terrorists in Adamawa State, preventing a planned attack on the Mubi barracks.
- The army apprehended four suspected terrorists during a patrol in Kaduna State and seized weapons and equipment.

SOMALIA

- The Council of Ministers approved a policy document on the protection of civilians in security operations in Somalia on April 2, 2026; the policy is based on national legislation and international humanitarian law.
- Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre appointed Second Deputy Prime Minister Jibril Abdirashid as the interim leader of Southwest State.
- Jibril Abdirashid arrived in Baidoa to oversee the transition process in Southwest State.