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**STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY**

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## SOMALIA

The political crisis between the Federal Government of Somalia and the South West State escalated as the state administration rejected constitutional amendments approved by the Federal Parliament, accusing Mogadishu of overstepping its authority. In response, the African Union called on the parties to exercise restraint and engage in dialogue, warning that the current situation jeopardizes stability and humanitarian conditions. While the Federal Government declared that the term of South West State President Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen had expired, the state administration held regional elections on March 28, re-electing Laftagareen for a second term—a move Mogadishu deemed illegal. During this period, the state administration accused Turkey of supporting military operations against its territory by providing weapons, drones, and trained troops. Following two weeks of clashes, Federal Government forces and allied militias captured Baidoa, the de facto capital of the South West State, on March 30. Greeted by civilians upon entering the city, the Federal Government announced Laftagareen's dismissal and initiated a transition process. After securing guarantees for safe passage from Mogadishu, Laftagareen fled to Kenya and stepped down. Although the state administration appointed Ahmed Mohamed Hussein as interim leader, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre designated Second Deputy Prime Minister Jibril Abdirashid for the role, who subsequently arrived in Baidoa to manage the transition. The Federal Government authorized most current officials to temporarily remain in office until a new state government is formed. Following the takeover of Baidoa by federal forces and South West State Liberation forces, high-ranking state officials, including Interior Minister Mohamed Ishaq Fanax and Minister of Religious Affairs Mokhtar Robow—who returned to the region after eight years—traveled to the city. Meanwhile, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud hosted representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations at Villa Somalia to discuss security, democratization, and humanitarian efforts, before traveling to Baidoa to meet with Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi. Lower House Speaker Sheikh Adan Madobe and the Presidential Advisor for Constitutional Affairs also held talks in Baidoa with local leaders to ensure the continuity of public services and aid delivery. Concurrently, South West State presidential candidate Mohamed Fergeeti called for greater regional autonomy free from foreign interference. In other diplomatic engagements, Turkey's Ambassador to Mogadishu, Alper Aktaş, met with the Director General of the Immigration and Citizenship

Agency, Mustafa Dhuhulow, to discuss the December 2025 framework agreement, visa-on-arrival procedures for diplomatic passports, and the Immigration Academy.

Aligning with economic cooperation and maritime security objectives, the Federal Government and Turkey's OYAK corporation launched the establishment of a joint fishing company, Somtürk, in Mogadishu to bolster the blue economy, develop marine resources, and combat illegal fishing.

In high-level security diplomacy, the Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), Mahad Mohamed Salad, traveled to the United States to discuss expanding operations against Al-Shabaab with the CIA, FBI, and special operations officials. Similarly, Army Commander Brigadier General Sahal Abdullahi Omar met with AFRICOM's General Brown for strategic discussions. Furthermore, Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Abdifatah Abdulkadir Farah held working meetings in Ankara with officials from the Turkish Ministry of National Defense, ASELSAN, HAVELSAN, and MKE. Shaping operational frameworks, the Council of Ministers approved a policy document on April 2, 2026, based on national legislation and international humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilians during security operations. On the ground, Lower House Speaker Madobe evaluated new operations with senior officers in Baidoa, accompanied by the deployment of Chief of Defense Forces Ibrahim Mohamed Mohamud and Police Chief Asad Osman Abdullahi to the region. Bay region commander Sadiq Dodishe declared the deployment in Baidoa a victory, as NISA dispatched elite special forces to the city ahead of the President's visit.

In the conflict zones, army units repelled an Al-Shabaab ambush near Daynuunaay in the Bay region, neutralizing 21 militants and securing control of the settlement. The Somali National Army's 203rd Gorgor Commando Battalion cleared militant hideouts in Ay-buteey, Jowhar Awdheegle, and Asenda Bube in the Lower Shabelle region, successfully reopening the Mogadishu-Baidoa road to traffic. In international joint operations coordinated by NISA, forces destroyed explosive production facilities and eliminated 7 militants in Kuunyo Barrow (Lower Shabelle), alongside a two-phase operation in Labagaras (Middle Shabelle) that neutralized 21 militants. Two additional operations in Lower Shabelle resulted in the deaths of 9 militants and the destruction of six large explosive engines. In further joint efforts, AUSSOM troops and army forces captured Al-Shabaab commander Salaad Cusmaan Macalin alive while he was conducting reconnaissance for a planned attack in the Mubaraka area. Concluding the week's military activities, AFRICOM conducted an airstrike against Al-Shabaab northwest of Kismayo, and army forces carried out a separate operation in Abaar Cano-weyn in the Hiraan region.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Democratic Republic of the Congo President Felix Tshisekedi met with traditional chiefs in Kwilu, stating that the support provided by the United States in the areas of army building, investment, infrastructure, and business development would strengthen the country's security.

Simultaneously, Minister of Foreign Affairs Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner held talks with French Ambassador Rémi Maréchaux to evaluate bilateral cooperation and international security issues.

Within the scope of security policies, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) launched a comprehensive disarmament operation against FDLR militias on the country's territory, operating under the framework of the agreement reached with Rwanda through United States mediation. FARDC Deputy Chief of Staff Ychaligonza Jacques emphasized that FDLR elements must lay down their arms and return to Rwanda, either voluntarily or by force; following this decision, Lubero civil society demanded that authorities clearly identify the FDLR's positions. During this process, while AFC/M23 accused the government of continuing its cooperation with the FDLR, the MONUSCO administration reiterated its support for the FARDC's efforts to establish security.

In line with internal oversight mechanisms within the army, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jules Banza announced the arrest of two senior officers accused of recruiting soldiers on behalf of AFC/M23 in the Greater Katanga region. On the other hand, South Kivu civil society criticized certain Wazalendo groups in the Mwenga territory for deviating from their primary mission and engaging in acts of extortion and assassination.

In operational movements on the ground, army forces rescued 100 civilians who had been abducted by ISCAP along the Ituri-Haut-Uélé border line. However, ISCAP elements massacred more than 70 civilians and destroyed 60 percent of the village during an attack on Bafwakoa in the Ituri region.

On other fronts in the region, the Masisi territory of North Kivu largely fell under the control of AFC/M23 following fierce clashes with FARDC and Wazalendo forces. AFC/M23 forces, which had been implementing a withdrawal schedule, returned to certain settlements in the Ikobo groupement of Walikale after a two-day departure. Meanwhile, they withdrew from the town of Katondi to reconsolidate control over the villages of Kalonge and Lubango. Villages located in the Kisimba groupement in Walikale were left to the control of FARDC and Wazalendo forces following AFC/M23's withdrawal without a fight.

Following the outbreak of intense clashes between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo in the rural areas of southern Lubero and Masisi, AFC/M23 announced that it had suspended its withdrawal process from certain villages. Similar clashes were recorded around Ufamandu, while Wazalendo forces recaptured the settlement of Mpety in Walikale.

Regarding internal security dynamics, 2 Wazalendo members lost their lives and 8 individuals were arrested during clashes between Wazalendo groups and the FARDC in South Kivu. Finally, army troops repelled M23-RDF attack attempts in the Kalehe region of South Kivu, successfully regaining control over four villages.

**NIGERIA**

Army troops detained 12 individuals in Borno State on suspicion of providing logistical support to terrorists. It was reported that the total number of arrests within a week reached 53 as part of ongoing security operations in the region.

It was reported that two individuals providing logistics to Boko Haram in Borno, an ISWAP member in Maiduguri, two ISWAP/Boko Haram suspects in Pulka, and a suspected organization member named Abubakar Ali (Saina)—who was conducting reconnaissance at the Kilo Papa checkpoint—were captured and handed over to the relevant authorities. Simultaneously, reports indicated the capture of three logistics suppliers in Benisheikh in partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), a kidnapping suspect in Azir, three terrorists preparing to attack the Mubi barracks in Adamawa State, and four suspects found with illegal ammunition in Kaduna State. Additionally, various illicit materials were seized during search operations at the Wulgo Junction and the Gamboru Bus Terminal.

Security forces reportedly thwarted an attempted ISWAP/JAS attack targeting farmers and herders in the Gwoza local government area. In the northeastern region, a mass kidnapping attempt involving 17 vehicles by Boko Haram/ISWAP was neutralized, resulting in the rescue of more than 150 civilians. However, five soldiers were reported injured following the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) during the operation.

It was also reported that a bandit attack in the village of Maiwa in Sokoto State was repelled, resulting in the rescue of one civilian, while 9 civilians were abducted and 2 people were injured during a raid by armed groups on the Chacho community in the Wurno local government area.

In the Yunusari area of Yobe State, another region where direct military initiative was exercised, army troops repelled an attack by ISWAP/Boko Haram on a forward operating base. Continuing the operational momentum on the ground, it was reported that two terrorists were neutralized in an ambush laid on the Aulari-Kawuri axis in Borno State, and eight terrorists were neutralized in a CJTF-supported operation in the Bama local government area.

**NIGER**

In response to the European Parliament's resolution calling for the release of former President Mohamed Bazoum, large-scale demonstrations initiated by civil society organizations were held in Niamey and various AES countries. Members of the CNSP and the government also participated in these anti-interventionist protests.

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

The Governor of Tahoua stated that at least 33 civilians lost their lives, 5 people were injured, and approximately 500 head of cattle were looted during attacks carried out on March 26 against the villages of Tsougougi, Zata, and Dolé in the Konni Department. Additionally, it

was reported that a fuel station and a telecommunications tower were set on fire during an armed attack targeting the town of Afala, located approximately 25 kilometers from the center of Tahoua.

**MALI**

The Malian Armed Forces Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIRPA) reported that allegations of terrorists being released in exchange for fuel are unfounded and manipulative. They stated that ongoing operations have facilitated the rescue of hostages, the neutralization of terrorists, the destruction of enemy equipment, and the establishment of motorized rapid intervention brigades. While it was noted that new military shipments have arrived in the country, a convoy consisting of hundreds of fuel tankers also reached Bamako to provide logistical support.

The army announced that it destroyed a terrorist group north of Niono, a terrorist training camp north of Markala (leaving more than 50 militants dead), and a convoy carrying IEDs southeast of Kidal via drone strikes.

The JNIM organization claimed to have killed youth leader Amadou Baby in the town of Tonka in the Timbuktu region, and claimed to have targeted army and Africa Corps vehicles with IEDs between Sikasso and Donsela, as well as in Gargando.

The FLA organization reported that it carried out a mortar and kamikaze drone attack on the military barracks in Anefis, stating that 7 soldiers and Africa Corps personnel were killed, and 9 others were wounded.

**BURKINA FASO**

In a speech delivered on April 1, 2026, Burkina Faso's President, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, called for order, discipline, and patriotism, describing the revolution as a necessity for the country's development. He identified resistance to imperialist pressure and the pursuit of scientific knowledge as fundamental parameters. Reaffirming his commitment to the principle of national sovereignty, Traoré urged the prioritization of local products and domestic production. He announced that they have rejected foreign military assistance since the beginning of the war, adding that elements refusing to leave the country will be neutralized by the armed forces and that strict measures have been taken against dissidents.

The army reported that numerous terrorists were killed, and motorcycles alongside ammunition were seized, during an operation against JNIM in Bomborokuy on March 30.

The JNIM claimed to have attacked an army patrol with an IED on the outskirts of Titao, and claimed to have seized control of military outposts in Fada N’Gourma, Boussouma, Ouahigouya, Goumel, and Rambo. The group claimed that numerous VDP members were killed in the attack in Rambo, citing local source reports. Furthermore, JNIM claimed to have captured two VDP positions in Dedougou and one in Kongaye, claimed to have ambushed a VDP patrol in Banfora, and claimed to have repelled an ISSP advance in Seno. JNIM also

claimed to have killed 14 soldiers in Ouahigouya, 8 and 6 soldiers in respective attacks in Fada N'Gourma, and 7 VDP members in Dedougou.

ISSP (Islamıc State Sahel Province) claimed that 12 militants were killed and 3 militants were captured during an attack against JNIM in the Kodiolaye area of Dori.