



Terrorism in Africa-2020

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Terrorism & the nature of the state and society in the Sahel and West Africa { THE FUTURE OF AFRICA }



Introduction

The terrorist events that struck Africa during the last period. Has put the world in a dilemma, as terrorist groups have taken advantage of countries' preoccupation with fighting COVID-19. Recent terrorist accidents put African countries on the facade of international news as a geostrategic area of the terrorist organizations seeking to rebuild its influence there. It appears that these terrorist groups are able to translate the new strategy qualitatively override the conventional method in Sahel and West Africa.

In this report we monitored terrorist operations inside Africa 2020. In addition to providing a full analysis of the political and social situation in Africa.



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1-The most prominent terrorist Incidents in WestAfrica & Sahel - 2020

last February Most prominent terrorist operations that took place, in the five regions of the continent, which occurred in 11 African countries, more than 30 terrorist attacks, and caused the death of 303 people, while Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab were at the forefront of the groups That caused these numbers

The West African region is the hardest hit, where there have been 55.8% of terrorist attacks, Nigeria the most affected where the countries ranked suffered an estimated 28.4% of the victims , while the Democratic Republic of Congo has seen more than a number of attacks by 6 terrorist attacks.

Last March West Africa region, where the death rate in the region was about 91.23% of the month's deaths on the continent, with a total of 322 civilian deaths. Nigeria ranked first in terms of the countries worst affected, with 132 victims, after four terrorist attacks. While Somalia came at the forefront of the countries that were able to target terrorists with 149 terrorists .

Chad suffered its deadliest toll in its battle against terrorism on March 23, when a Boko Haram faction allied to al-Qaeda attacked an army base on the Boma Peninsula, in the Lake Chad region, killing 92 heavily armed soldiers.

Another Boko Haram faction allied to ISWAP (Islamic State for West Africa Province) ambushed a Nigerian military convoy in Gorgi, Yobe State, on March 24. At least 47 soldiers were killed.

A series of attacks close to Mocimboa da Praia over the past three weeks, up to 100 insurgents moved into the town after midnight Monday (23 Mar), apparently arriving both by sea and land.



They barricaded all of the roads into town and at 04.00 began their attack, occupying the port, police station (freeing prisoners) and the military barracks, and raising their black flag. They did major damage, burning cars and buildings, including two banks. They damaged the district government offices, the municipal council, the residences of the mayor and district administrator, the civil registry office and the local secondary school

APRIL In northern Cameroon, seven people were killed when two suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers attacked a village ,

2-Main Terrorist movements in Africa & its activities

Currently, five very dangerous armed terrorist groups penetrate the continent of Africa, and they have links to Al-Qaeda, which are: "Boko Haram" in Nigeria, "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb" north of the Sahara Desert, the Somali "Mujahideen Youth" movement, and the Salafi "Ansar Al-Din" movement Jihadism in Mali, and the "Tawhid and Jihad" movement in West Africa.



1- Boko Haram:

Boko Haram: organized in Maiduguri in 2002 ,the name of boko haram came from the local language (Hausa) meaning "Western education is forbidden" because it is the cause of the spread of corruption in the Muslim community, which means that the group originated against the spread of Western education, which damaged thousands of Muslims who are suffering unemployment and marginalization (as seen MDC supporters), and it includes intellectuals and academics. Hence the face of the government that allowed this, and with the continuation of the state's



reliance on the security track without other violence escalated on the other side so the group turned to the organization of an extremist and violent.



Ansar al-Din group :

after the fall of Colonel Gaddafi's regime in Libya Iyad Ghali returned the national leader who led insurgency on the Government of Mali and he signed peace deal between his movement and the government of the 1992 Convention and the government sent him as a consul in Jeddah) to the Azawad city, where Ogarga mountain range , and then he began to assemble the Tuareg fighters due to social stature and his clan.



Jihad and Tawhid in West Africa:

the movement emerged following the defection of commanders on al Qaeda, and has some of its members to establish a private Brigades fighters of the sons of the Arab tribes in the Azawad like secretly "supporters" of al-Qaeda, which includes Tuareg fighters. And announced its first release movement in October 2011 declared jihad in the largest sector of West Africa, and described it as "armed terrorist group the most terrifying in northern Mali."



Al-Qaeda in Maghreb: مَنْظَرُ الْقَائِدَةِ فِي مِلَادِ الْمَغْرِبِ الْأَنْدَلُسِيِّ

was organized as an extension to the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, which split from the GIA in 1997, refusing to target civilians, and focused work group initially on military sites, but with the US occupation of Iraq, turned to the kidnapping of foreigners, then their business has taken a regional dimension, especially after Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaida announcement of an alliance with the Salafist group for Preaching and combat in Algeria, to turn to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Arab Maghreb.



Alshabab jihadist Movement in Somalia:

The movement emerged, taking advantage of the atmosphere of instability in Somalia, has been attracting supporters and began to link al-Qaeda with the creation of a number of training camps in the Horn of Africa countries.

3-The political & social situation in Africa and its relationship to the growth of terrorism

-Recent terrorist accidents put West African countries on the facade of international news as a geostrategic area of the al-Qaeda terrorist organizations seeking to rebuild its influence there. It appears that these terrorist groups are able to translate the new strategy qualitatively override the conventional method in Sahel and West Africa.

- The reasons for this development is objectively linked to societal structure and the nature of the states in the Sahel and West Africa;

- Life on the West African coast under a fragile political system is not able to achieve national unity; it facilitates the emergence of separatist movements and armed nature of nations ..also religion is the reason for ethnic conflicts, and leads these countries into religious - ethnic wars .

-It has helped a variety of factors since the nineties of the twentieth century to bring about some change to the nature of the religious mystic Kadria



movement, or Tijania movement associated with the Moroccan and Mauritanian mysticism, and took a hard-line conservative tendencies is expanding dramatically .

- Turning up at the beginning of the third millennium to put the dramatic emergence of terrorist movements linked to the Algerian, Somali and Nigerian organizations too.

- In spite of this shift, the overall path of religiosity still devotes «popular Sufi Islam» in Niger, where the Muslim population is 60 % and adhere to the Sunni Maliki doctrine.

-The same applies to Burkina Faso, where Muslims Maliki doctrine Sufis by nature; where they plays a system «chiefdom» There prominent role in the made up of people of social pattern (the tribe) Mossi, a Muslim majority, in addition to the Fulani and Almandine, as well as from Alsanobo tribes. beside the presence of the Arab Maghreb Tamazight with assets, in the human map of where Muslims make up about 75 % of the total population.

- they share the same religion and nature, but also the challenges of the Muslim majority, which is considered «Francophone» and what it calls «secular elites» of France ..

- On the other hand, political regimes known to this area between Libya and Chad, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, widespread corruption and a lack of democracy and the rule of vulnerable severe institutions.

-Most of these countries do not have effective control over the geographical boundaries, and most of the national territory, which makes their «authority over the capital and its environs» only.



- Communities at Sahel and West African are suffering from the bad economy and social conditions are very difficult, which turned to produce new phenomena linked to terrorism and organized crime.

4- Financial Resources for Terrorist groups

- Terrorist groups, been able to create a complex entanglement with international crime organizations, especially those active in human trafficking, drugs and arms smuggling .

-Organizations, such as al-Qaeda and «AL Morabtoun» took advantage of this situation to strengthen its financial resources, to acquire weapons, been helped by alliances with some of the people (ethnic) and tribes scattered in desert areas such as the Tuareg in Mali, and those close to the sea in Somalia, or Grand lake in Chad.

- Al-Qaida, and AL Morabtoun have created a financial independence, allow them to do recruitment and payment of salaries, and appeal to the youth of the important tribes geographically and ethnically. According to the United Nations report of the «United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime» that organized crime carried out by terrorist groups operations make around 3000 to 4000 million dollars a year.

That big amount of money is spread between the incomes of the smuggling of goods, drugs, weapons and ransoms in exchange for freeing the hostages.

- It strengthens the terrorist organizations thorn in the Sahel and West Africa, the spread of the phenomenon of arms; until it became the weapon does not know turn the border is not subject to the control of the national state.



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- Since the middle of the first decade of the third millennium a new phenomenon has fueled the aspirations of terrorist trends, which is called «ant trade» (The Ant trade), under which lawfully being the purchase of arms in one state and then redistributed illegally relies smuggling in countries other.
 - This hazardous activities intertwined with the global drug trade, all the countries of West Africa and the Sahel , the arms trade come across the sea to Benin and Togo as a starting point, plus about 14% – 20 % of the cocaine reaching Europe via West Africa.
 - It is strange that the drug trade is not crossing the desert or the sea only, but the Airports Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey, Niger's capital, next to Algiers, are the points for this activity.
 - Terrorist organizations such as «Qaeda» and «Morabtoun» as an organized crime and international arms trade have benefited, as well as the collapse of the regional system and the fall of Muammar Gaddafi and his regime.

5- The African union role on fighting terrorism

The African Union announced its preparation to deploy 3 thousand soldiers temporarily in the Sahel region in West Africa, where regional forces have been fighting for eight years, bloody attacks by extremists. The decision was taken at an African Union summit earlier this month, as confirmed by the head of the AU Peace and Security Committee, "Ismail Shirgui", during a press conference. "As for the summit's decision to deploy a force of 3,000 military personnel in the Sahel states to help deter terrorist groups, I think



we will work with it together with the group of five Sahel states and the Economic Community of West African States," said Shergie.

The group of five Sahel countries includes a joint force of five thousand soldiers, originally deployed in the region.

6- The confused policies of US administration's towards Africa, & how it affects and weakens the military partnership with African countries .

The US administration is currently divided on how to fight terrorists, support allies, and exclude international competitors in West Africa. Washington's mixed messages also impose a state of engagement with allies in Europe, firmly committed to establishing security in Africa, as well as the military partnership on the continent.

The US Secretary of State had ended his major trip to Africa, including his urgent visit to Senegal, where he pledged to provide more security support, while warning of the growing influence of China on the continent.

The US Secretary of Defense was studying in Washington, DC, to reduce the American military presence significantly in Africa, with the closure of the drones base at a cost of \$ 110 million, as well as ending military support for French forces fighting extremists whose influence is escalating in both Mali , Niger and Burkina Faso.

The disruptive policies of the American administration come at a time when the waves of terrorism and religious violence dominated the Sahel region in Africa, which is the vast sub-Saharan region extending from Senegal to Sudan, with the constant threat of continuity and spread.



Analysts say "that reducing American aid will not only weaken French efforts to combat terrorism, but would pave the way for the Chinese and Russian incursions into the region, as they are ready to seize any foothold left by the United States in the African continent, according to the "New York Times". . It also includes seaports and new railways, as well as arms deals, mercenary recruitment and overall influence at all levels. China surpasses the United States in terms of the number of embassies accredited on the African continent, reaching 52 Chinese embassies compared to 49 American embassies there.

"The United States is losing competition in Africa to China and Russia, not to mention the (al Qaeda) and (ISIS) terrorist organization," said Catherine Zimmerman, political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. It is not losing at the military level, but at the level of politically soft power.

The African forces have expressed their particular concern about the low military presence and the declining American commitment to fight extremism and terrorism, these phrases that were circulated during the two-week anti-terrorism exercises supervised by the US Defense Department in both Mauritania and Senegal this month, which included 1500 soldiers from 30 African and Western countries.

IN Conclusion :

The West African region still needs more attention to increase the security capabilities to counter terrorism by international and regional organizations, stressing the need to legitimize any aid from countries outside the continent within an institutional framework, pointing to the need to define the tasks of the "Takuba" forces that France announced its formation at the end of this



Month with a number of its European and African allies, to fight terrorist groups alongside Mali and Niger armies.

We appreciate the efforts made by the countries that are exposed to terrorism, which increased this month in conjunction with the increase in terrorist operations in west africa & Sahel area , stressing that these endeavors should not be limited to security confrontation only, but should include other aspects ideological Economic and social.

MY FINAL WORD {HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, HOSPITALS MIGHT HELP A LOT IN SOLVING THE SITUATION IN WEST AFRICA}

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