



# **African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism**

**African Union Commission**

## **ACSRT Terrorism Daily News Briefs**

**Wednesday, 21 February 2018 - Edition N°1421**

### **EAST AFRICA**

#### **Uganda**

##### **How Terrorists Use Local Businesses to Raise Money**

Kampala Terrorists are using a string of local businesses across the East African countries from which they reap millions of dollars they use to finance their terror missions in the region, according to findings in the Financial Intelligence Authority report.

*allafrica 9:02:00 AM CET*

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201802210119.html>

### **CENTRAL AFRICA**

#### **Cameroon**

##### **Une semaine après son enlèvement, Ou est passé le sous préfet de Batibo ?**

Un enlèvement spectaculaire. Depuis lors, on est sans nouvelle de lui. Sa famille est dans le désarroi alors que le grand public piaffe d'impatience. La situation est d'autant plus grave que par l'enlèvement spectaculaire du chef de terre , l'Etat du Cameroun est touché dans ses fondements.

*allafrica-fr 20 Feb 2018*

<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201802200630.html>

#### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

##### **Nouveaux affrontements interethniques dans l'Est, un mort**

Une personne a trouvé la mort et plus de 100 maisons incendiées lors de nouveaux heurts entre deux communautés rivales, à Mutanda dans l'Est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC). Recrudescence de la violence en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) où une personne a été tuée et plus de 100....

*afrik 2:39:00 AM CET*

[http://www.afrik.com/rdc-nouveaux-affrontements-interethniques-dans-l-est-un-mort?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+afrikfr+%28Afrik+VF%29](http://www.afrik.com/rdc-nouveaux-affrontements-interethniques-dans-l-est-un-mort?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+afrikfr+%28Afrik+VF%29)

## **Congo's Kabila replaces interior minister amid declining security**

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila appointed the head of his political party as interior minister on Tuesday to oversee security in the face of rising militia violence and unrest over delayed elections. Henri Mova Sakanyi, secretary-general of Kabila's People's...

reuters 20 Feb 2018

[https://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-security/congos-kabila-replaces-interior-minister-amid-declining-security-idUSKCNIG42QV?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-security/congos-kabila-replaces-interior-minister-amid-declining-security-idUSKCNIG42QV?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29)

## **U.N. warns of extraordinary humanitarian disaster in southeast Congo**

An upsurge of violence in southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo is set to cause a "humanitarian disaster of extraordinary proportions", the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said on Tuesday. Congo's Tanganyika province has seen a sharp escalation of violence since late last year, with....

reuters 20 Feb 2018

[https://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-violence/u-n-warns-of-extraordinary-humanitarian-disaster-in-southeast-congo-idUSKCNIG41PC?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-violence/u-n-warns-of-extraordinary-humanitarian-disaster-in-southeast-congo-idUSKCNIG41PC?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29)

## **WEST AFRICA**

### **Burkina Faso**

#### **State Department Designation of Ansarul Islam**

The Department of State has designated Ansarul Islam as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Section 1(b) of Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. E.O. 13224 imposes strict sanctions on foreign persons determined to....

globalsecurity 4:13:00 AM CET

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/security/library/news/2018/02/sec-180220-state01.htm>

#### **US sanctions Burkina Faso-based group over terrorism threat**

WASHINGTON: The United States has imposed sanctions on Burkina Faso-based Ansarul Islam, calling the militant group a terrorism threat after a string of attacks near the African country's northern border with Mali, the U.S. State Department said in a statement on Tuesday.

channelnewsasia 20 Feb 2018

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/us-sanctions-burkina-faso-based-group-over-terrorism-threat-9975836>

### **Nigeria**

#### **We lost nine of our men in Benue, Nasarawa**

The Nigeria Police Force has disclosed that it has lost nine of its men since the beginning of its operation to end the herdsmen/farmers' clashes in Benue and Nasarawa states. Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Joshak Habila, disclosed this to newsmen yesterday at the Benue State Police Command headquarters.

dailypost 9:24:00 AM CET

<http://dailypost.ng/2018/02/21/lost-nine-men-benue-nasarawa-police/>

#### **Boko Haram: Army playing politics with Nigeria's security**

Senator representing Bauchi Central, Isah Misau, on Tuesday accused the Nigerian Army of playing politics with security issues in the country. Misau spoke while

contributing to the debate sponsored by Tijjani Kaura, Senator representing Zamfara North on the recent killings in Zurmi area of the state.

*dailypost 9:24:00 AM CET*

<http://dailypost.ng/2018/02/21/boko-haram-army-playing-politics-nigerias-security-apc-senator/>

## **94 School Girls Are Missing After Boko Haram Attacked All Girls School In Nigeria's Northeast**

Parents and school authorities have revealed that at least 94 school girls from Government Girls Science and Technical Secondary School at Dapchi town in Bursari local government area of Yobe state are missing after an all-girls school was attacked by Islamist militant group, Boko Haram.

*saharareporters 8:38:00 AM CET*

<http://saharareporters.com/2018/02/20/94-school-girls-are-missing-after-boko-haram-attacked-all-girls-school-nigerias-northeast>

## **Suicide attacker blows self up in Nigerian university**

A suicide attacker blew up himself in a university in Nigeria's Borno state. Representational Picture. A suicide attacker blew up himself in a university in Nigeria's Borno state. However, no casualty was reported, police said on Tuesday. According to Borno Police spokesman Joseph Kwaji, the lone....

*mid-day 7:41:00 AM CET*

<https://www.mid-day.com/articles/suicide-attacker-blows-self-up-in-nigerian-university/19095199>

## **Suicide attack kills eighteen people in Nigeria's Borno**

EIGHTEEN people were killed and 22 others were wounded when three suicide bombers detonated their explosives targeting a fish market in the city of Maiduguri in Nigeria's Borno state on 16 February, Reuters reported. Although no immediate claim of responsibility was made, Wilayat Gharb Afriqiyya -....

*janes 12:19:00 AM CET*

[http://www.janes.com/article/78043/suicide-attack-kills-eighteen-people-in-nigeria-s-borno?from\\_rss=1](http://www.janes.com/article/78043/suicide-attack-kills-eighteen-people-in-nigeria-s-borno?from_rss=1)

## **Locals call Boko Haram 'slave raiders.' Here's what that means, and why it matters.**

Although widely understood as the Islamist terrorists that they are, Boko Haram insurgents in the borderlands between Cameroon and Nigeria are also slave raiders — at least that's what many local residents call them. And there's good reason to use that term.

*WashingtonPost 20 Feb 2018*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/02/21/locals-call-boko-haram-slave-raiders-heres-what-that-means-and-why-it-matters/>

## **Sentence to Terrorists after Mass Trials in Nigeria**

The trial against more than 200 members of the armed group Boko Haram concluded today in this capital, with sentences from three to 60 years of imprisonment. The sentences against the 250 accused put an end to long proceedings that involved....

*plenglish 20 Feb 2018*

<http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=24821&SEO=sentence-to-terrorists-after-mass-trials-in-nigeria>

## **Sahel**

### **Les kalachnikovs n'ont jamais défait les idéologues**

Pour le directeur du Timbuktu Institute, si les solutions militaires sont un mal nécessaire pour endiguer la menace grandissante du terrorisme islamiste, il faut avant tout prévenir

la radicalisation par l'éducation et par la justice sociale. Un éminent leader religieux du Sahel me confiait qu'il...

*jeuneafrique 10:08:00 AM CET*

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/529380/politique/terrorisme-les-kalachnikovs-nont-jamais-defait-les-ideologues/>

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

### **South Africa**

#### **SA links in US-Hezbollah illegal exporting case**

South Africa has emerged as a central location in a case involving a controversial Johannesburg-based businessman, arrested last week, who has been accused by the United States (US) of illegally exporting items to Hezbollah, which it classifies as a terrorist organisation.

*mg 20 Feb 2018*

<https://mg.co.za/article/2018-02-20-sa-linked-to-us-hezbollah-illegal-exporting-case/>

## **NORTH AFRICA**

### **Egypt**

#### **Egypt puts former presidential candidate on terrorism list**

An Egyptian court has put former Islamist presidential candidate Abdel Moneim Abol Fotouh on a terrorism list on Tuesday, state news agency MENA reported, following his arrest for alleged contacts with the banned Muslim Brotherhood. Abol Fotouh was arrested last week a day after returning from....

*myjoyonline 7:23:00 AM CET*

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/world/2018/February-21st/egypt-puts-former-presidential-candidate-on-terrorism-list.php>

#### **Egypt court puts government critic on terror list**

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. An Egyptian court puts a leading government critic on terror list over alleged links to exiled members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Abdel Moneim Abul Fotouh is accused of joining an illegally formed group and spreading....

*EastAfrican 9:33:00 AM CET*

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/Egypt-court-puts-government-critic-on-terror-list-/2558-4313768-5ilsvaz/index.html>

### **Libya**

#### **Eye on Jihadis in Libya Weekly Update**

On 18 February, Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui is reported to have stated in an address at the Munich Security Conference in Germany that IS will attempt to return to Libya following its defeat in Iraq and Syria. In his speech, Jhinaoui called for the need for cooperative international....

*jihadology 12:30:00 AM CET*

<http://jihadology.net/2018/02/20/eye-on-jihadis-in-libya-weekly-update-20-february-2018/>

### **Morocco**

#### **Démantèlement d'une cellule partisane de "Daech"...**

Le Bureau central d'investigations judiciaires (BCIJ) a démantelé mercredi une cellule terroriste composée de 6 membres alliés à "Daech" qui s'activent à Tanger, a annoncé le ministère de l'Intérieur. Les investigations ont révélé que les éléments de cette cellule, menée par un ex-détenu dans une....

*menara 10:55:00 AM CET*

<http://www.menara.ma/fr/actualite/C3%A9s/maroc/2018/02/21/2384718-d%C3%A9mant%C3%A8lement-dune-cellule-partisane-de-daech-active-%C3%A0-tanger.html>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Et si l'intelligence artificielle tombait dans de mauvaises mains?**

Des experts internationaux sonnent l'alarme sur les risques d'une utilisation malveillante de l'intelligence artificielle par «des États voyous, des criminels, des terroristes», dans un rapport publié mercredi. Selon eux, dans les dix prochaines années, l'efficacité croissante de l'intelligence....

*lavenir 11:06:00 AM CET*

[http://www.lavenir.net/cnt/dmf20180221\\_01128376](http://www.lavenir.net/cnt/dmf20180221_01128376)

### **The Islamic State challenge – from the front line to a shadow international terror organisation**

The Caliphate's implosion has left the Islamic State without the luxury of a "state" from where they could project a sense of uncontested power. How the Islamic State adjusts to challenges without a Caliphate will determine its immediate future as an international terror organisation.

*dailymaverick 12:08:00 AM CET*

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2018-02-21-op-ed-the-islamic-state-challenge-from-the-front-line-to-a-shadow-international-terror-organisation/>

### **ISIS calls on fanatics to 'burn America' and attack London**

ISIS calls on fanatics to 'burn America', attack London and target Russian political and religious leaders in propaganda showing a militant in front of Big Ben and Putin in crosshairs. Poster warning of attacks in London shows militant in front of image of Big Ben; Propaganda released by pro-ISIS....

*dailymail 10:01:00 AM CET*

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5416507/ISIS-calls-fanatics-burn-America-attack-London.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5416507/ISIS-calls-fanatics-burn-America-attack-London.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

#### **Afghanistan Hotel Explosion Kills 3 Tribal Elders, 2 Others Injured**

The blast occurred Tuesday on the second floor of a hotel in Jalalabad, the capital city of the country's violence-ridden Nangarhar Province, where the tribal elders had checked in, said a spokesman for the provincial governor, Attaullah Khogyani. It was not clear if the blast was caused by a bomb,....

*albawaba-en 10:01:00 AM CET*

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/afghanistan-hotel-explosion-kills-3-tribal-elders-2-others-injured-1092030>

#### **None hurt as terrorists attack police check-post in Peshawar**

Some unidentified terrorists on Wednesday attacked a police check post with two hand grenades in Peshawar. The security personnel retaliated the attack after which all the terrorists fled the scene. However, no loss of human life has been reported while a search operation has also been launched to nab the culprits.

*pakobserver 11:11:00 AM CET*

<https://pakobserver.net/none-hurt-terrorists-attack-police-check-post-peshawar/>

## **Iraq**

Iraq must stabilise the northern region of Sinjar to help the Yazidi minority brutalised at the hands of the Islamic State group return home, the International Crisis Group said Tuesday. A by the conflict analysts said Baghdad must set up a local administration and mediate between....

*ekurd 11:06:00 AM CET*

<http://ekurd.net/iraqi-yazidis-return-sinjar-2018-02-21>

## **Lebanon**

### **Lebanon Strengthens Relations with Iraq Against Terrorism**

Following a joint news conference Tuesday evening with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad, the president's official Twitter account quoted Aoun as saying that "prospects are promising between Lebanon and Iraq to develop plans of cooperation and agreements that serve the interests of the....

*albawaba-en 10:57:00 AM CET*

<https://www.albawaba.com/news/lebanon-strengthens-relations-iraq-against-terrorism-1092072>

## **Malaysia**

### **11 terrorist suspects arrested in Malaysia**

Malaysian police said Wednesday that 11 Malaysians and Filipinos with suspected link to terrorist organizations, including the Abu Sayyaf militant group in southern Philippines, were arrested. The 11 suspects were arrested in police operations from Jan. 24 to Feb. 6, national police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said.

*xinhuanet\_en 10:01:00 AM CET*

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/21/c\\_136988990.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/21/c_136988990.htm)

### **Malaysia holds Filipinos seeking to set up extremist cell**

Ten suspected Islamic militants who were trying to establish a Malaysian cell of a Philippine kidnap-for-ransom group have been arrested in Borneo island, police said Wednesday. The alleged extremists, mostly Filipinos, are also accused of trying to help fighters linked....

*digitaljournal 10:33:00 AM CET*

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/malaysia-holds-filipinos-seeking-to-set-up-extremist-cell/article/515457>

## **Pakistan**

### **Pakistan looks to avoid being added to terror financing list**

Pakistan says it has been given three months to prove it is doing enough to stay off an international watch list for countries that fail to curb the financing of terror groups. Pakistan has been scrambling to stay off the list compiled by the Financial Action Task Force, which is currently meeting in Paris.

*therepublic 11:12:00 AM CET*

<http://www.therepublic.com/2018/02/21/as-pakistan-terror-financing/>

### **250 civilians killed in Syria 'bombardment'**

According to the SOHR, the death toll also included 58 children and 42 women. Over 1,200 people were injured in the constant shelling and airstrikes, which rights activists and residents described as being under "constant bombardment" A picture taken on February 20, 2018 shows a convoy of pro-Syrian....

*mid-day 9:11:00 AM CET*

<https://www.mid-day.com/articles/250-civilians-killed-in-syria-bombardment/19096193>

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Sri Lanka bus explosion injures 19, including 12 soldiers**

Sri Lanka's military says an explosion in a passenger bus has injured 19 people, including 12 military personnel. Brig. Sumith Atapattu said the explosion occurred Wednesday near Diyatalawa, a former garrison town about 190 kilometers (120 miles) from the capital, Colombo.

*therepublic 11:12:00 AM CET*

<http://www.therepublic.com/2018/02/21/as-sri-lanka-bus-explosion/>

## **Syria**

### **Syrian ambassador slams Turkey's operation in Afrin as 'blatant violation of sovereignty'**

Turkey's operation in northern Syria's Afrin is the blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty, Syrian Ambassador to Russia Riyad Haddad told reporters on Wednesday. "Speaking on Turkey's aggression in Afrin, this is the blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty," the ambassador said.

*itartass\_en 10:34:00 AM CET*

<http://tass.com/world/991036>

### **Syrian army come to aid of Afrin's Kurdish militias against Turkish offensive**

The Syrian army has intervened in Afrin, in the north of the country, in support of the Kurdish Ypg militias (People's Protection Unit), the goal of an impressive offensive recently launched by the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

*asianews-en 11:16:00 AM CET*

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Syrian-army-come-to-aid-of-Afrin-Kurdish-militias-against-Turkish-offensive-43159.html>

### **A Afrin, les Kurdes reçoivent le soutien de milices prorégime**

Le signal d'un accord entre les forces kurdes et le régime syrien était attendu depuis près de quarante-huit heures. C'est finalement dans l'après-midi de mardi 20 février que les milices loyales à Damas ont annoncé leur déploiement dans l'enclave d'Afrin, en soutien aux combattants kurdes des....

*LeMonde 11:11:00 AM CET*

[http://www.lemonde.fr/syrie/article/2018/02/21/a-afrin-les-kurdes-recoivent-le-soutien-de-milices-proregime\\_5260209\\_1618247.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/syrie/article/2018/02/21/a-afrin-les-kurdes-recoivent-le-soutien-de-milices-proregime_5260209_1618247.html)

### **'It's a massacre': Scores trapped in Syrian enclave amid 'hysterical' bombing** **The Guardian**

Almost 200 civilians have been killed in dozens of airstrikes and shelling by forces loyal to Syria's Bashar al-Assad in eastern Ghouta over two days of "hysterical violence", which has led to warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe that could eclipse past atrocities in the seven-year war.

*msn-uk 10:24:00 AM CET*

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/its-not-a-war-its-a-massacre-scores-killed-in-syrian-enclave/ar-BBJmRc>

### **Quatrième jour de raids meurtriers sur un fief rebelle près de Damas**

L'armée de l'air syrienne a repris mercredi ses raids intensifs sur la Ghouta orientale, un fief rebelle près de Damas, faisant cinq nouveaux morts parmi les civils et plus de 200 blessés, a indiqué une ONG. Les raids ont ciblé plusieurs localités de cette enclave où sont assiégés depuis 2013 quelque 400.

*LePoint 11:10:00 AM CET*

[http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/quatrieme-jour-de-raids-meurtriers-sur-un-fief-rebelle-pres-de-damas-21-02-2018-2196619\\_24.php#xtor=RSS-221](http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/quatrieme-jour-de-raids-meurtriers-sur-un-fief-rebelle-pres-de-damas-21-02-2018-2196619_24.php#xtor=RSS-221)

## Turkey

### **Turkey reveals number of terrorists killed since launch of Operation Olive Branch**

Since the beginning of the Operation Olive Branch, 1,780 terrorists have been killed in Syria's Afrin district, the Turkish General Staff said in a message Feb. 21. In particular, 65 members of Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), People's....

*trendnews-az 9:08:00 AM CET*

<https://en.trend.az/world/turkey/2863685.html>

## Europe

### UK

### **Will Artificial Intelligence Help Neutralise ISIS Propaganda Online? -**

The British government has unveiled an artificial intelligence system designed to remove terrorist material from video-sharing websites, part of attempts to clamp down on extremist propaganda online. Questions remain, however, as to whether machine learning is sophisticated enough to....

*middle-east-online\_en 10:08:00 AM CET*

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=87360>

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