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**African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme**

AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

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ABOUT AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

As part of its mandate to help build Counter Terrorism capacity of African Union Member States, and keep African Counter Terrorism Practitioners abreast with current trends of terrorism in Africa, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) has developed tools that allow it to collect, analyze and disseminate terrorism related incidents in Africa. The information gathering, processing and data analysis allow the ACSRT to provide Member States and P/CVE Practitioners with relevant information on trends and development of terrorism in Africa. The ACSRT disseminates its analysis of data collected on terrorism incidents through various productions. The Africa Terrorism Bulletin, a fortnightly compilation and data analysis is to form the basis for an African Terrorism Trend Analysis to be published by the Centre quarterly.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AMM	Africa Media Monitor
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AU	African Union
CAR	Central African Republic
CT	Counter-Terrorism
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EUC-JRC	European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre
FAMa	Forces Armées Maliennes (Armed Forces of Mali)
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces
GATIA	Groupe Autodéfense Touareg Imghad et Alliés (Imghad Touareg Auto-Defence Group and Allies)
GSIM	Group for the Support of Islam and Moslems
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State
ISWAP	Islamic State in West Africa Province
JNIM	Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (Group for Support of Islam and Muslims)
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MLF	Macina Liberation Front
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Forces
MINUSCA	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en République Centrafricaine (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic)
MINUSMA	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali)
MSA	Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad (Movement for the Salvation of the Azawad)
NISA	National Intelligence Service Agency (Somalia)
OAU	Organization of African Unity
REC	Regional Economic Community
RM	Regional Mechanism
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
UPC	Union for Peace in Central Africa
US	United States (of America)

SUMMARY

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

- The period under review (1st -15th February 2019) recorded a total of 73 terrorist attacks and a total of 826 terrorism-related deaths.
- Out of the 826 terrorism-related deaths, 503 resulted directly from terrorist attacks, whereas 323 were deaths recorded during counter terrorism operation by security forces.
- 46% (381) were civilians whereas 44% (364) were members of terrorist groups. Security/Military Forces represent 10% (81) of the deaths.
- In 52 out of the 73 attacks, the terrorists used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). 18 attacks involved the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and 3 kidnappings.
- Al-Shabaab used IEDs more in their attacks than SALW whereas Boko Haram used SALW more in their attacks. All attacks by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) involving the use of SALW.
- 34 of the attacks targeted civilians, 24 targeted security forces, 9 targeted Government Institutions/Officials, and 6 targeted International Organizations (MINUSMA in Mali, AMISOM in Somalia and Red Cross in Burkina Faso).
- Majority of Al-Shabaab attacks targeted Security forces. JNIM attacks targeted mainly Security forces and International organizations. Boko Haram (Shekau faction) targeted civilians most in their attacks.
- Al-Shabaab killed 48 (26 military; 22 civilians), Boko Haram killed 29 (22 civilians, 7 military), JNIM killed 11(all civilians). ISWAP killed 13 (10 civilians, 3 military) and ADF killed 7 (5 military; 2 civilians).

- Al-Shabaab lost 88 members whereas terrorist Groups in the Sinai Region lost 15 members during CT operations. Boko Haram and ADF lost 13 and 4 of their members to CT operations respectively. 244 others killed by counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency belong to unidentified/unaffiliated groups.
- Five countries most affected by terrorism during the period are Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Somalia (**In decreasing order**).
- Countries of the Sahel region recorded 48 out of 73 incidents of terrorist attacks, and a total deaths of 499 out of the 826 representing 60% of the terrorism related deaths for the period. Out of the 499 casualties, 261 civilians, 196 terrorists, and 42 security/ military personnel died in the Sahel region.
- More civilians (69%) and military forces (52%) died in the Sahel than the rest of Africa. 54% of terrorists were killed in the Sahel as against 46% in the rest of Africa.

RECENT HIGH PROFILE INCIDENT

- **On 15th February 2019 in Kaduna state, Nigeria.** Gunmen attacked two communities in the Maro Gida and Iri axis of northwestern Kaduna state, killing 130 civilians.
- **On 14th February 2019 in Nohao, Burkina Faso.** Armed Militants attacked a custom post, 24km to Ghana border and 34km to Togo border killing 4 officers and one Spanish Priest.
- **On 13th February 2019 in Borno state, Nigeria.** Assailants from ISWAP ambushed the convoy of the Governor of Borno state, Kashim Shettima. 10 people were feared dead.

Faced with the growing and sophisticated attacks, Security forces have remained responsive to the situation in the first half of February 2019 CT operations resulted in the neutralization of 319 members of terrorist groups. This includes 146 terrorists killed in Burkina Faso on 4th February 2019 and 50 terrorists killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo in an operation that started January 2019. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes have taken shape in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Mali, and expected to contribute significantly to peace and stability.

TERRORISM IN AFRICA: ISSUE OF DEFINITION

- Notwithstanding the lack of a universal definition of terrorism, Article 1 paragraph 3, (a) and (b) and Article 3 of the African Union in its 1999 [CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM](#), defines what constitutes a ***Terrorist Act***.
- The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and therefore this Africa Terrorism Bulletin defers to this definition.

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin is to provide a fortnight assessment of terrorism and violent extremism situation and trends on the continent. This is aimed at providing African Union Member States up to date information on terrorism incidents and its related activities. The data for the analysis of this Bulletin, is limited to information stored in the ACSRT Database, collected in conformity with the definition of terrorist acts as defined by the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

The ACSRT maintains a robust database that stores information on terrorism, more specifically, on terrorist groups and individuals, terrorist activities and related scourges, and avail this information to the African Union Commission and the African Union Member States.

The information for the Database is collected by the ACSRT Situation Room Team using the Africa Media Monitor (AMM) developed in collaboration with the European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for advanced web mining and information extraction.

By dint of the AMM, the Situation Room Team scans and accesses over 1400 websites 7/24 and retrieves real time information on terrorist incidents in the four official AU languages (English, French, Arabic and Portuguese). The Centre also stores terrorism related information received from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) based on existing cooperation, in addition to information received through the AU Continental Early Warning Situation-Room as well as reports from AU Field Missions.

To ensure validity and reliability of the data stored in the database, the Centre verifies all terrorism incidents retrieved by means of the AMM, RECs and RMs from the ACSRT Focal Points of the Member States. The Focal Points are the official representatives appointed by each of the 55 Member States to collaborate and share information on terrorism and related activities with the ACSRT.

As a mandated body of the African Union, the information provided by the Member States on terrorism regarding the number of attacks, deaths and injuries recorded and as verified by the Focal Points are considered the right number and official data for the ACSRT Database irrespective of any conflicting number from other sources.

THREAT UPDATE

Terrorism has become one of the most security challenges for many countries in the world. Due to the threat terrorism poses to international peace and security, it has attracted a lot of attention globally. Although collaborative efforts are delivering some effective preventative and counter-measure responses, terrorist and violent extremist organizations continue to hold considerable initiative. This is manifest in their capacity to continue to launch attacks and cause debilitating harm and destruction to security personnel, innocent civilians and property.

Jihadi militancy appears to be present in most of the terrorism cases that are occurring on the continent. Currently, Africa hosts some of the world's most notorious militant jihadi groups. Despite the successes chalked by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB), Boko Haram, continues to cause devastating atrocities across the LCB. The Group for the Support of Islam and Moslems (GSIM) or Jama'a Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), a fusion of four Jihadi groups comprising Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar-Dine, Al Murabitoun and the Macina Liberation Front (MLF) as well as other similar oriented groups also continue to dominate territory and communities in the Sahel region. These groups have taken advantage of the long existing rivalries between local ethnic groups to foster a situation of violence and instability.

The countries of the Sahel Region particularly Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria have seen notable terror attacks in the later part of 2018 and early 2019. The security situation is rapidly evolving and gradually worsening in many parts of the Sahel region. This is happening at the time, when Boko Haram has been significantly weakened. The later part of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 shows escalating attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria, NJIM in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso as well as Ansarul Islam in the latter. These attacks against security personnel, civilians and international organizations continue to pose a serious threat to the countries in the Sahel and elsewhere.

In the East/Horn of Africa, Al Shabaab continues to occupy some territory in Somalia. It has also infiltrated Kenya and carries out attacks in that country. In Ethiopia, two mosques were attacked and burned by unknown armed men in Este, Amhara region on 3 February. Authorities said the attacks were attempts by some elements to create inter-faith conflict.

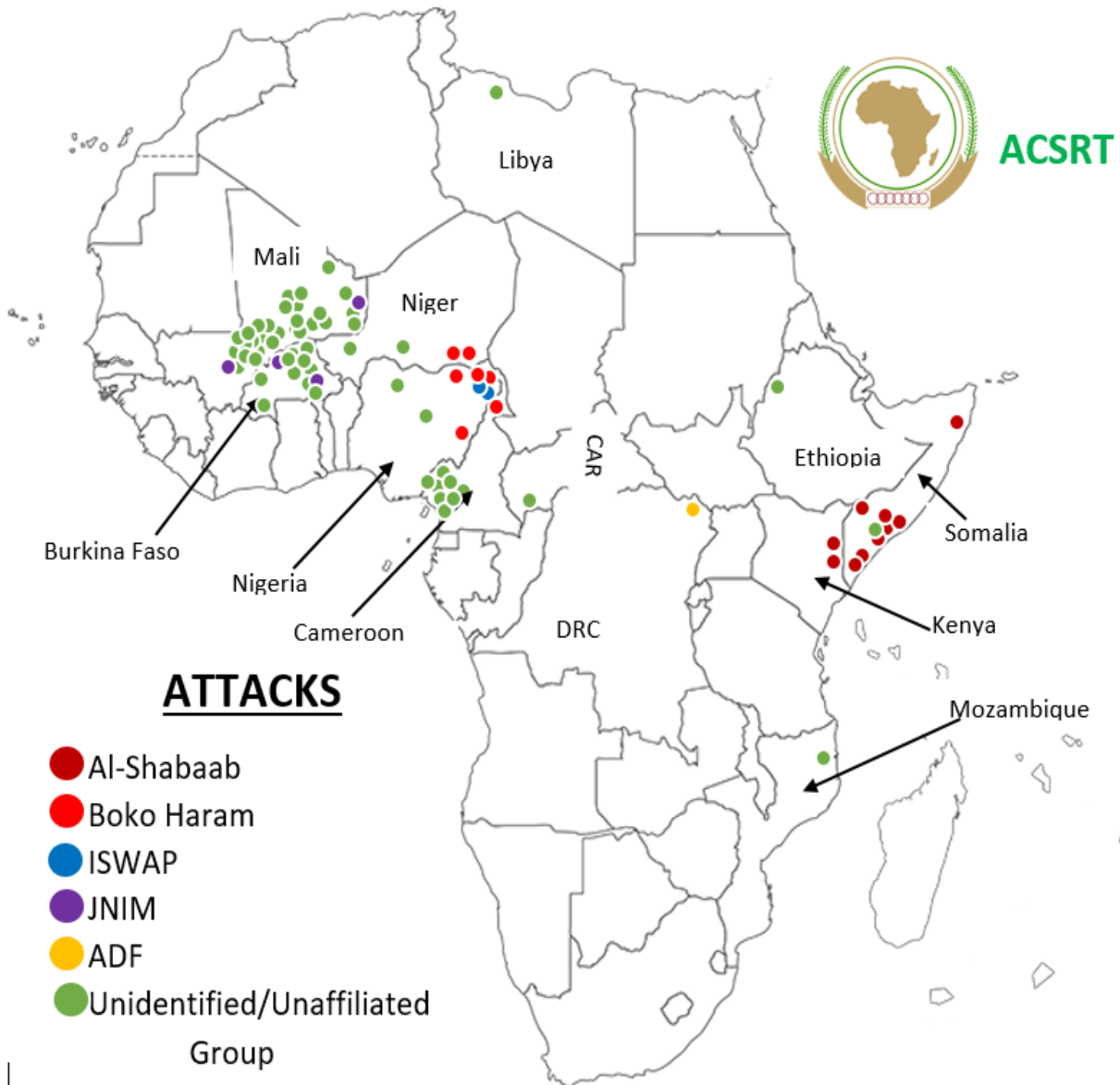
In Southern Africa, Mozambique recorded its first terrorists attack in 2019. On 7 February, in Macomia, Cabo Delgado, armed men attacked the village killing seven people and kidnapping three young girls. In North Africa, the situation in Libya remains unstable as the fight between Islamic State (IS) affiliated groups and local armed militias continue to hamper efforts at creating stability. Despite successful CT operations in the Sinai region of Egypt, militants are persistent in attacks against security forces.

Central Africa has in recent times experienced a rise in instances of violent extremism. The first half of February 2019 has witnessed escalated attacks and killing of civilians and security forces in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon by suspected separatists. The activities of armed rebel groups have increased in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with serious atrocities in the North Kivu province where Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) continue to carry out attacks. In spite of the deployment of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central Africa (MINUSCA), the preponderance of activities of numerous rival armed groups in the CAR has led to security challenges in the country. The Al Shabaab elements of the Union for Peace in Central Africa (UPC) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have all caused atrocities in 2019. However, Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation signed by 14 armed groups that control 80% of the territory and fight for the control of the vast resources of the country is expected to stabilize the situation if fully implemented.

GENERAL TREND: TERRORISM ATTACKS/COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE

Figure 1: Map of Terrorism Incidents from 1 to 15 February 2019

AFRICA TERRORISM INCIDENTS MAP: FROM 01-15 FEB. 2019



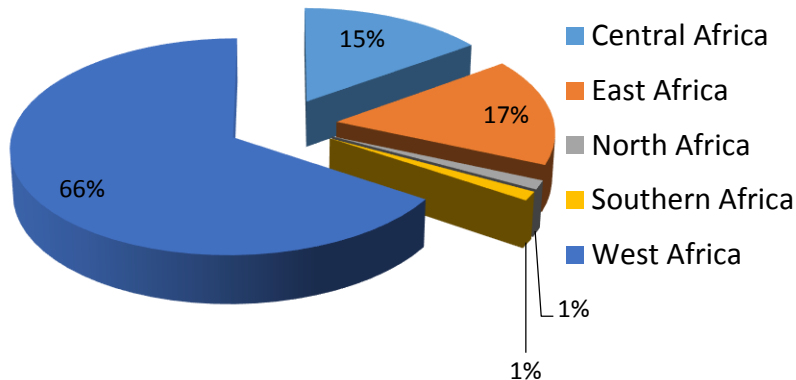
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

1. Total Terrorist Attacks: 73

A total of 73 terrorism incidents were recorded from 1st February to 15th February 2019. Abduction of 14 civilians in Libya and 6 civilians in Burkina Faso included.

2. Terrorists attacks by Region

Figure 2: Terrorists attacks by Region



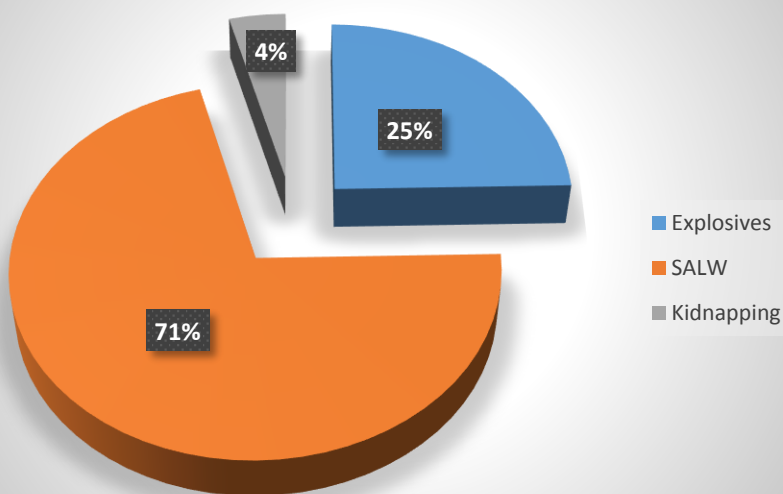
By Regions:

- Central Africa: **11**
 - East Africa: **12**
 - North Africa: **1**
 - Southern Africa: **1**
 - West Africa: **48**
- West Africa recorded the highest number of terrorist attacks. A total of 48 attacks representing 66% was recorded within the period.
 - East Africa recorded 12 attacks and Central Africa recorded 11 attacks representing 17% and 15% of total attacks respectively. One attack each was recorded in Southern and Northern Africa.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

3. Means of Attack

Figure 3: Means of Attacks



Means of Attacks:

- IEDs: **18**
- SALW: **52**
- Kidnapping: **3**

SALW recorded the highest means (71%) by which terrorist groups attack their targets. In 18, out of 73 attacks, terrorists used IEDs.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

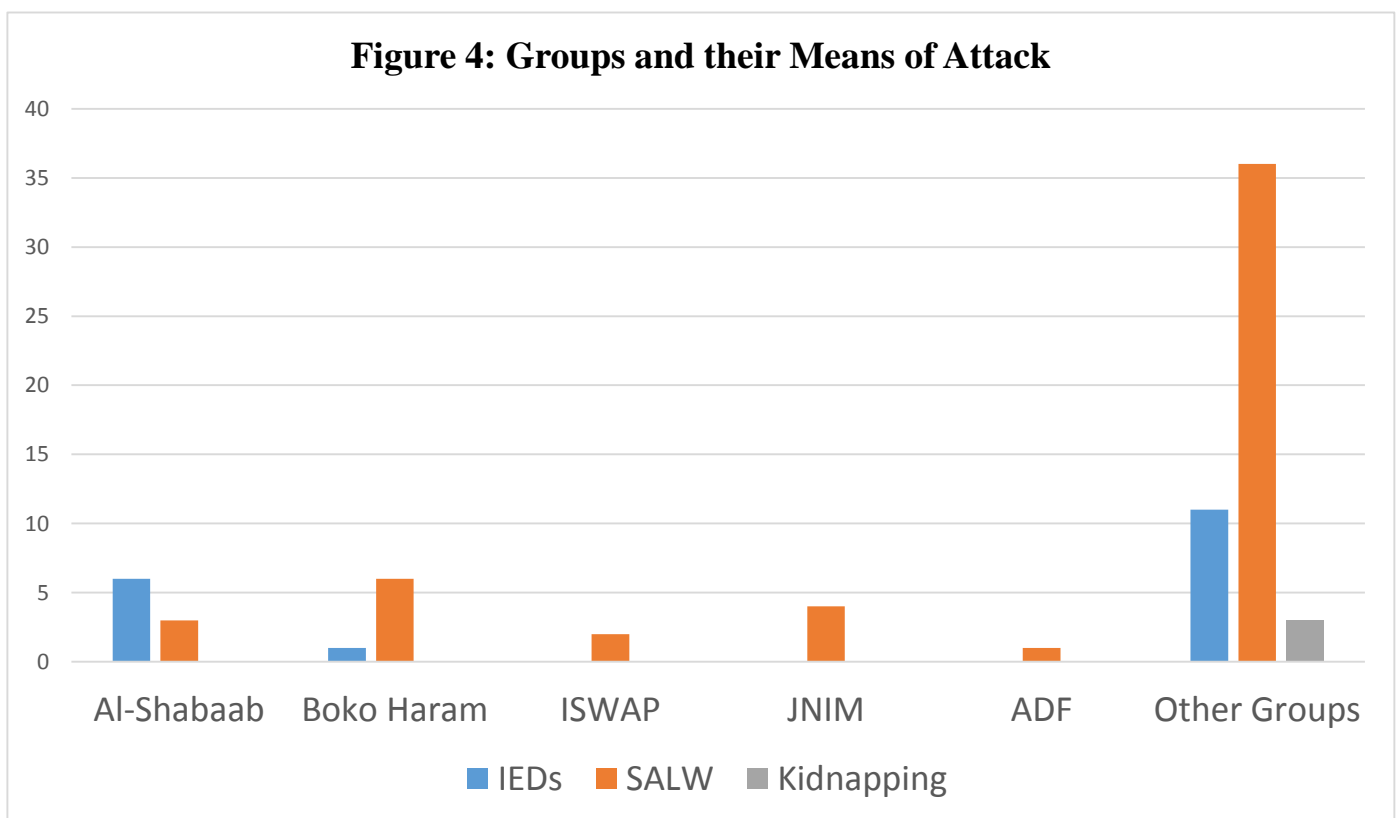
4. Terrorist Groups and their Means of Attack

- **Al Shabaab :**
 - IEDs : 6
 - SALW: 3
- **Boko Haram:**
 - IEDs : 1
 - SALW: 6
- **ISWAP:**
 - SALW: 2
- **JNIM :**
 - SALW: 4
- **ADF :**
 - SALW: 1
- **Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups :**
 - IEDs : 11
 - SALW: 36
 - Kidnapping: 3

IEDs continue to be the highest means by which Al-Shabaab attacks. In 6, out of the 9 attacks by the group, IEDs were used.

- In 6, out of 7 attacks carried out by Boko Haram SALW were used as a means of attack.
- Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM) employed Small Arms and Light Weapons in all their attacks.
- In all attacks perpetrated by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Small Arms and Light Weapons were used.
- Majority of attacks carried out by unidentified/unaffiliated groups used SALW. All three (3) Kidnappings were carried out by unidentified/unaffiliated groups.

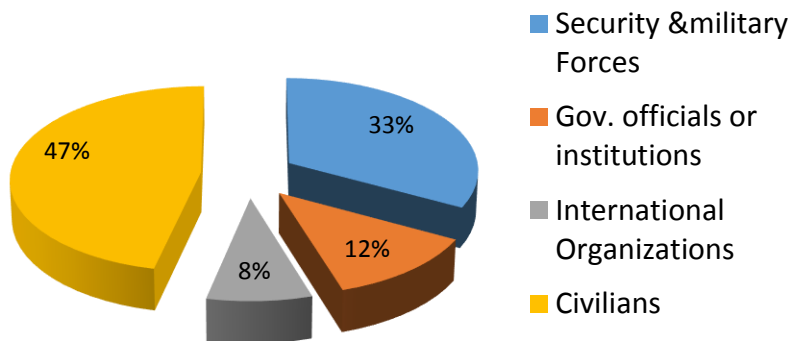
Figure 4: Groups and their Means of Attack



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

5. Primary Targets

Figure 5: Primary Targets



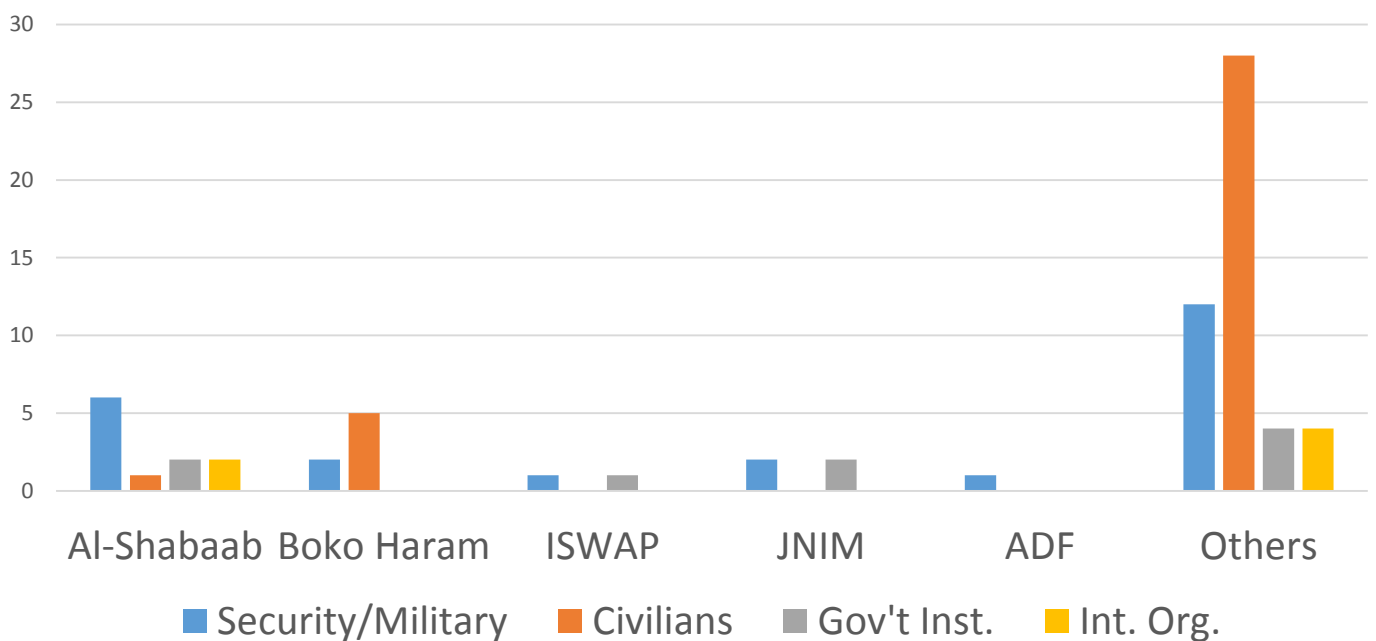
Primary Targets

- Security/Military Forces: **24**
 - Gov. Officials or Institutions: **9**
 - International Organizations : **6**
 - Civilians: **34**
- 34 of the attacks representing 47 % targeted civilians. Similarly, 24 of the attacks representing 33% targeted Security/Military Forces.
 - 12% of the attacks targeted government officials/ institutions whereas 8% targeted International Organizations (MINUSMA in Mali, AMISOM troops in Somalia and Red Cross in Burkina Faso).

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

6. Terrorist Groups and their Primary Targets

Figure 6: Groups and the Primary Targets

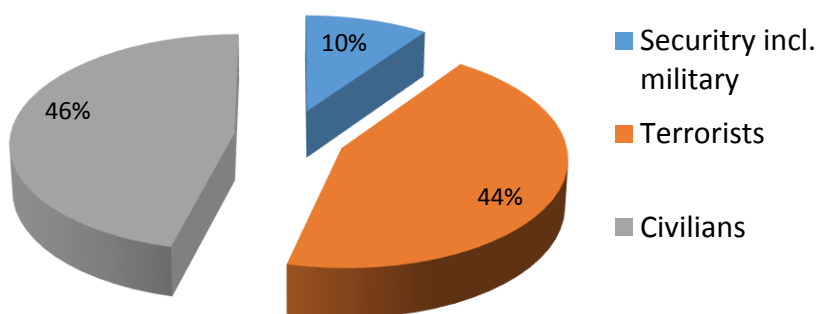


Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Al-Shabaab: 11	Most of the attacks by Al-Shabaab targeted Security/Military. 6 out of the 11 attacks by the group targeted Security/Military. International organization (troops from (AMISOM) and Government Officials/ institutions were targeted 2 times each by the group. Only one by the group attack targeted civilians.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security: 6 ➤ International Organization: 2 ➤ Civilians: 2 	
Boko Haram: 7	5 of Boko Haram's attacks targeted civilians whereas 2 of their attacks targeted Security/Military.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security : 2 ➤ Civilians: 5 	
JNIM : 4	JNIM carried out 2 attacks each against Military/Security forces and Government Officials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security : 2 ➤ Gov. Officials & institutions: 2 	
ISWAP: 2	Similarly, ISWAP also carried out 1 attack each against Military/Security Forces and Government Officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security : 1 ➤ Gov. Officials & institutions: 1 	
ADF: 1	ADF carried out 1 attack targeting Security/Military forces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security : 1 	
Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups : 48	In attacks where no group claimed responsibility, civilians were mostly targeted. 28 out of 48 attacks by unidentified/unaffiliated groups targeted civilians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military/Security : 12 ➤ International Org. (Military): 4 ➤ Gov. Officials & institutions: 4 ➤ Civilians: 28 	

7. Total Terrorism-related Deaths

Figure 7: Total Terrorism Related Deaths



Total Terrorism-related Deaths: 826

- Security/Military: **81**
- Terrorists: **364**
- Civilians: **381**

- A total of 826 terrorism related deaths were recorded within the period under review.
- Out of the number, 46% were civilians whereas 44% were members of terrorist groups. 10% of the deaths were Security/Military Forces.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Total Deaths Related to Terrorist Attacks: 503

- Security/Military: **77**
- Terrorists: **45**
- Civilians: **381**

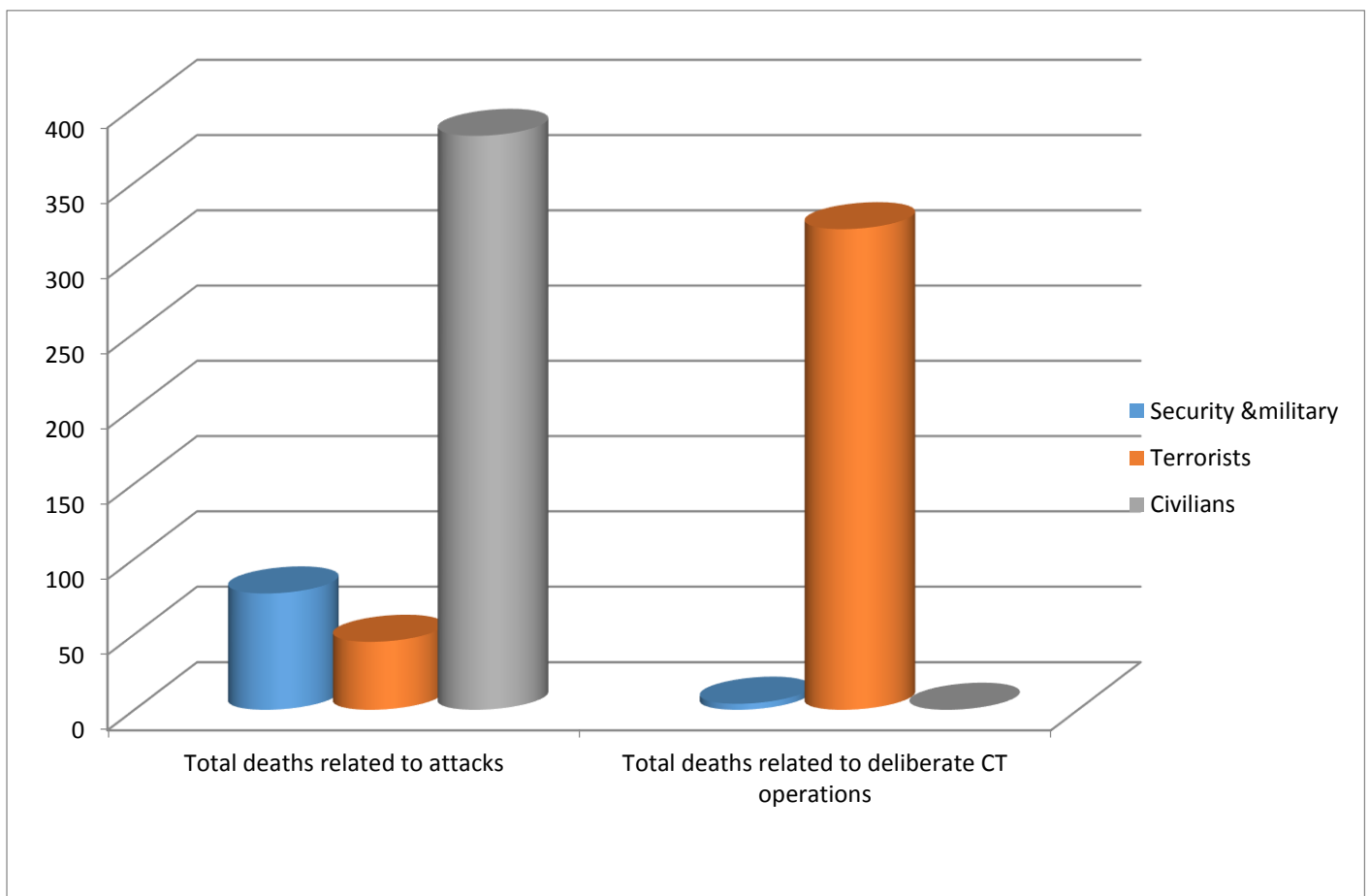
Total Deaths Related to CT Operations: 323

- Security/Military: **4**
- Terrorists: **319**
- Civilians: **0**

- 503 out of the 826 terrorism-related deaths resulted from terrorist attacks.
- Civilians suffered the most casualties of 381 out of 503 deaths

- CT Operations resulted in 323 deaths, out of which 319 were members of terrorist groups and (provide the number) being security personnel.

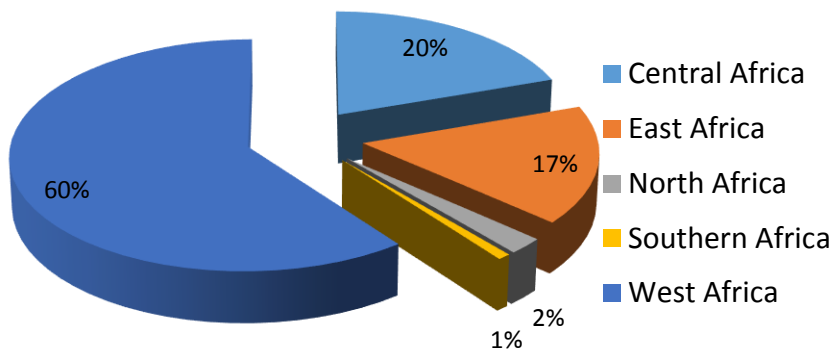
Figure 8: Deaths Related to Terrorist Attacks and Deliberate CT Operations



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

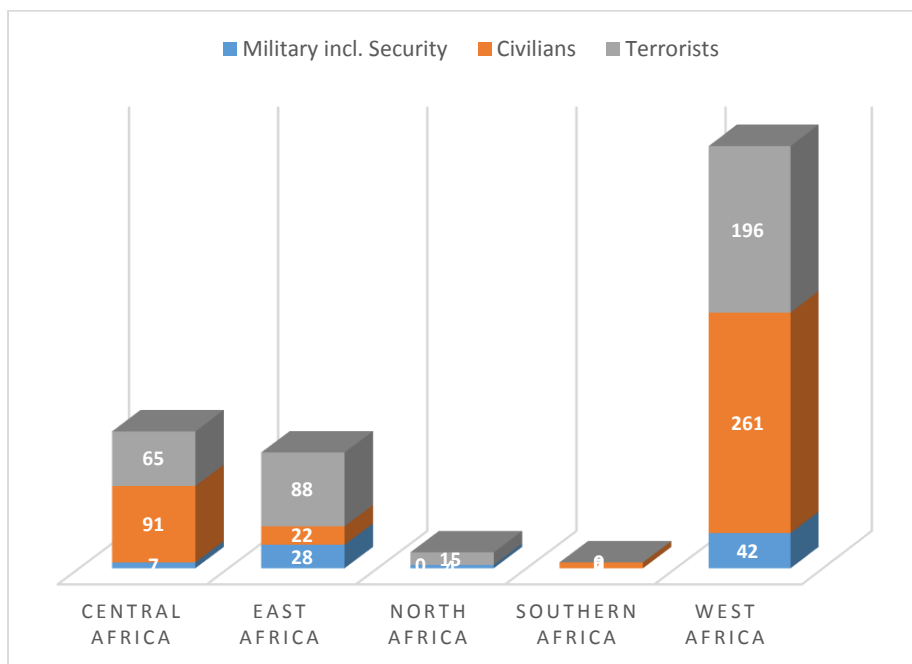
8. Terrorism-related Deaths by Region

Figure 9: Deaths by Regions



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 10: Regional Deaths by Category

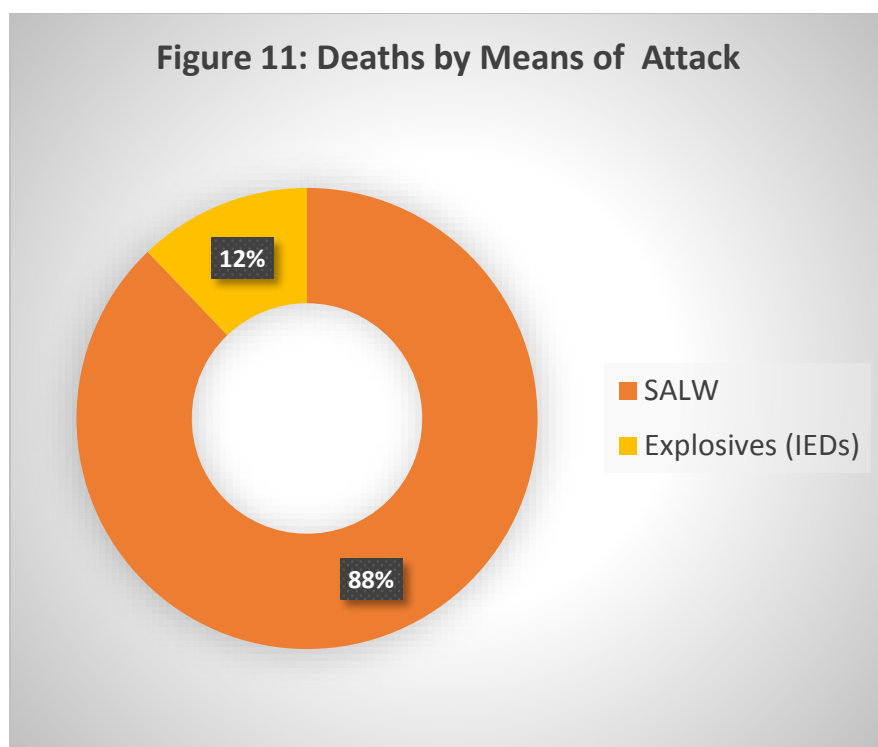


Source: ACSRT Database

Deaths by Regions:

- Central Africa: **163**
 - Military/sec.:7
 - Civilians:91
 - Terrorists: 65
 - East Africa: **138**
 - military/sec.:28
 - Civilians:22
 - terrorists: 88
 - North Africa: **19**
 - military/sec.:4
 - Civilians: 0
 - terrorists: 15
 - Southern Africa: **7 (all civilians)**
 - West Africa: **499**
 - military/sec.:42
 - Civilians:261
 - terrorists: 196
- West Africa recorded the highest number of terrorism-related deaths. 60% of deaths recorded within the period happened in the region.
 - 20%, 17% and 2% of all terrorism-related deaths within the period occurred in Central, East and North Africa respectively.
 - Southern Africa recorded one terrorism incident resulting in 7 deaths.

9. Deaths by Means of Attack



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Deaths by Means of Attack

- IEDs: 56
SALW: 405
- SALW accounted for 88% of terrorists attack related deaths, whereas IEDs accounted for 12% of deaths related to terrorists attack.

10. Attacks/Victims by Terrorist Groups

Attacks by Terrorist Groups

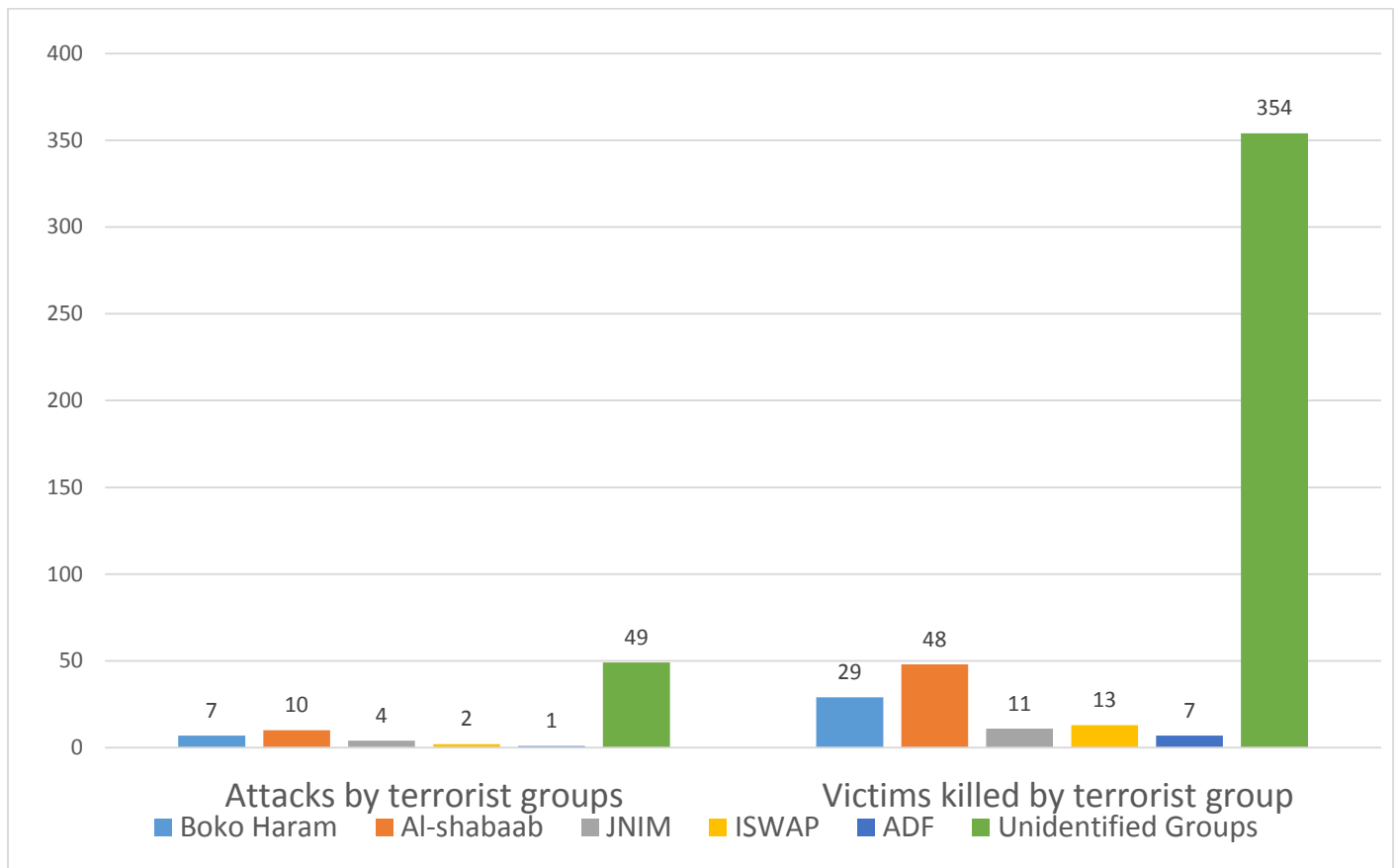
- Al-shabaab: 10
- Boko Haram: 7
- JNIM: 4
- ISWAP: 2
- ADF: 1
- Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups: 49

Victims Killed by Terrorist Groups: 398

- Al-shabaab: 48 (26 Military; 22 Civilians)
- Boko Haram: 29 (7 Military; 22 Civilians)
- JNIM: 11 (all civilians)
- ADF :7 (5 Military; 2 Civilians)
- ISWAP: 13 (3 Military; 10 Civilians)
- Others: 354 (29 Military; 325 Civilians)

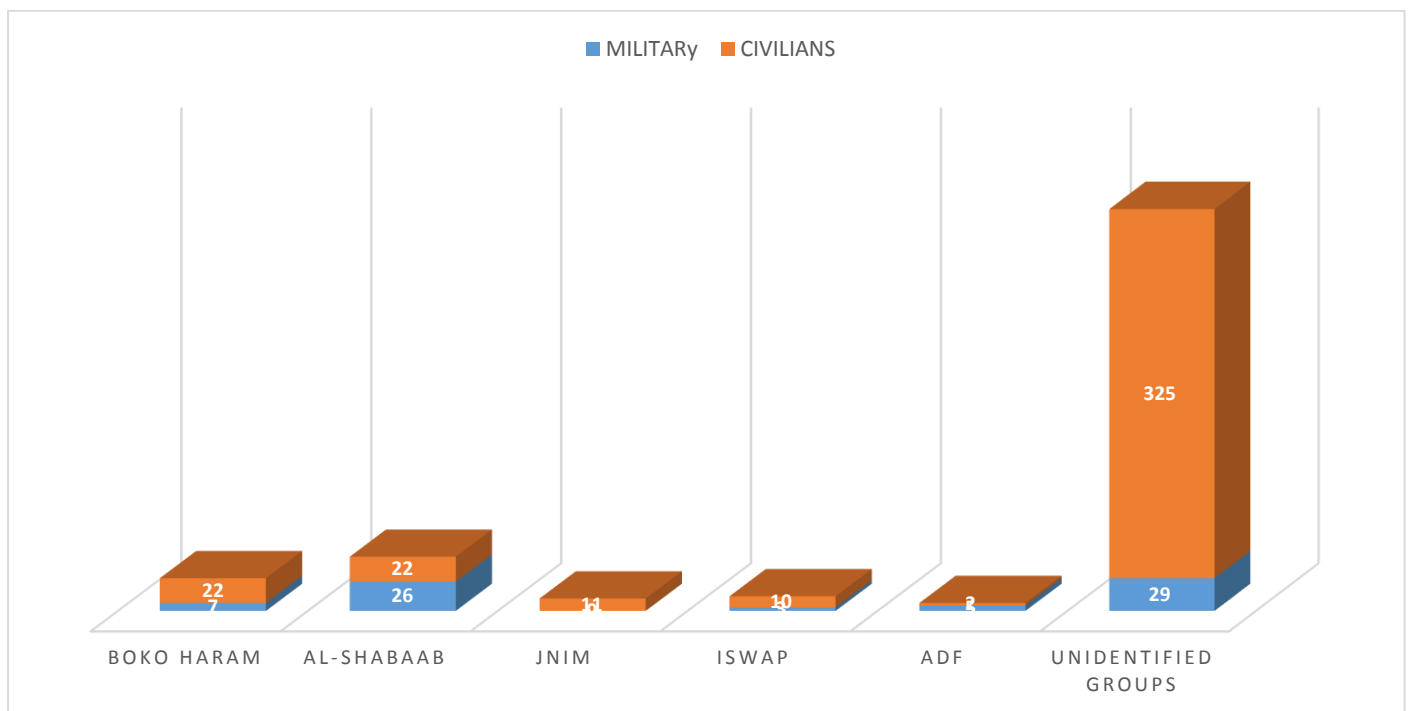
- Al-Shabaab carried out the highest number of attacks, killing a total of 48 persons. This comprised 26 Military/Security forces and 22 Civilians.
- Boko Haram conducted 7 attacks killing 22 Civilians and 7 Military/Security forces.
- JNIM carried out 4 attacks killing 11 Civilians.
- ISWAP carried out 2 attacks killing 10 Civilians and 3 members of Security/Military forces.
- ADF carried out 1 attack killing 5 soldiers and 2 civilians.
- A total of 49 attacks were carried out by unidentified/unaffiliated groups. This resulted in 354 deaths comprising 325 Civilians and 29 Military/Security forces.

Figure 12: Attacks/Victims by Terrorist groups



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 13: Category of Victims Killed by Terrorist Groups



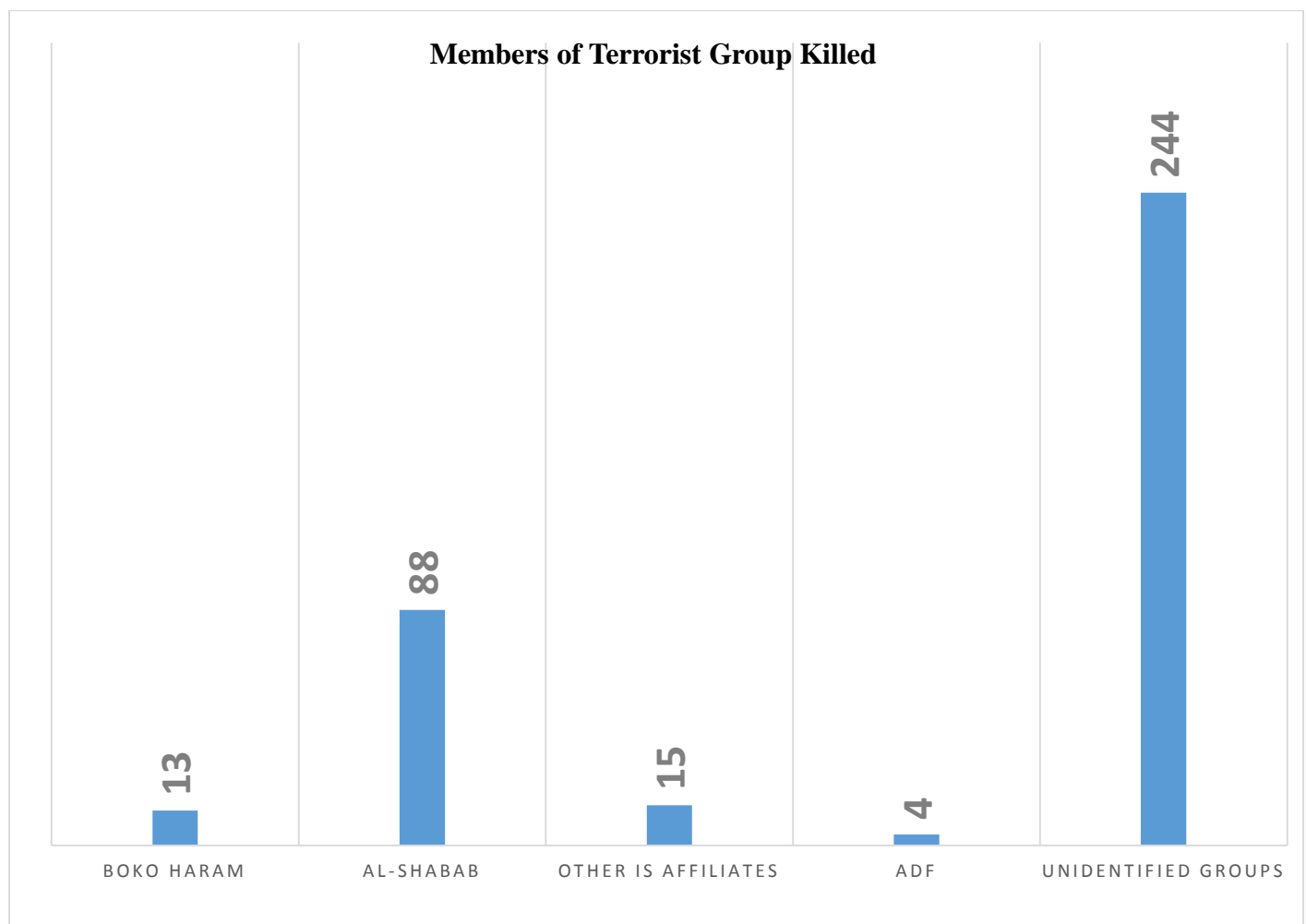
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

11. Members of Terrorist Groups Killed

Members of Terrorists Groups Killed: 364

- Boko Haram: 13
 - Al-shabaab: 88
 - ADF: 4
 - Other IS affiliates: 15
 - Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups :244
-
- Among the members of terrorist groups killed in counter- terrorism operations and combat missions, Al-shabaab suffered the highest number of casualties. The terrorist group lost 88 of its members.
 - Militant groups in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt lost 15 members.
 - 13 fighters of Boko Haram were killed in whereas ADF lost 4 members.
 - 244 other terrorists killed were members of unidentified/unaffiliated groups. These include 146 terrorists killed in Burkina Faso and 50 terrorists killed in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Figure 14: Members of Terrorist Groups Killed



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

12. Five Most Affected Countries

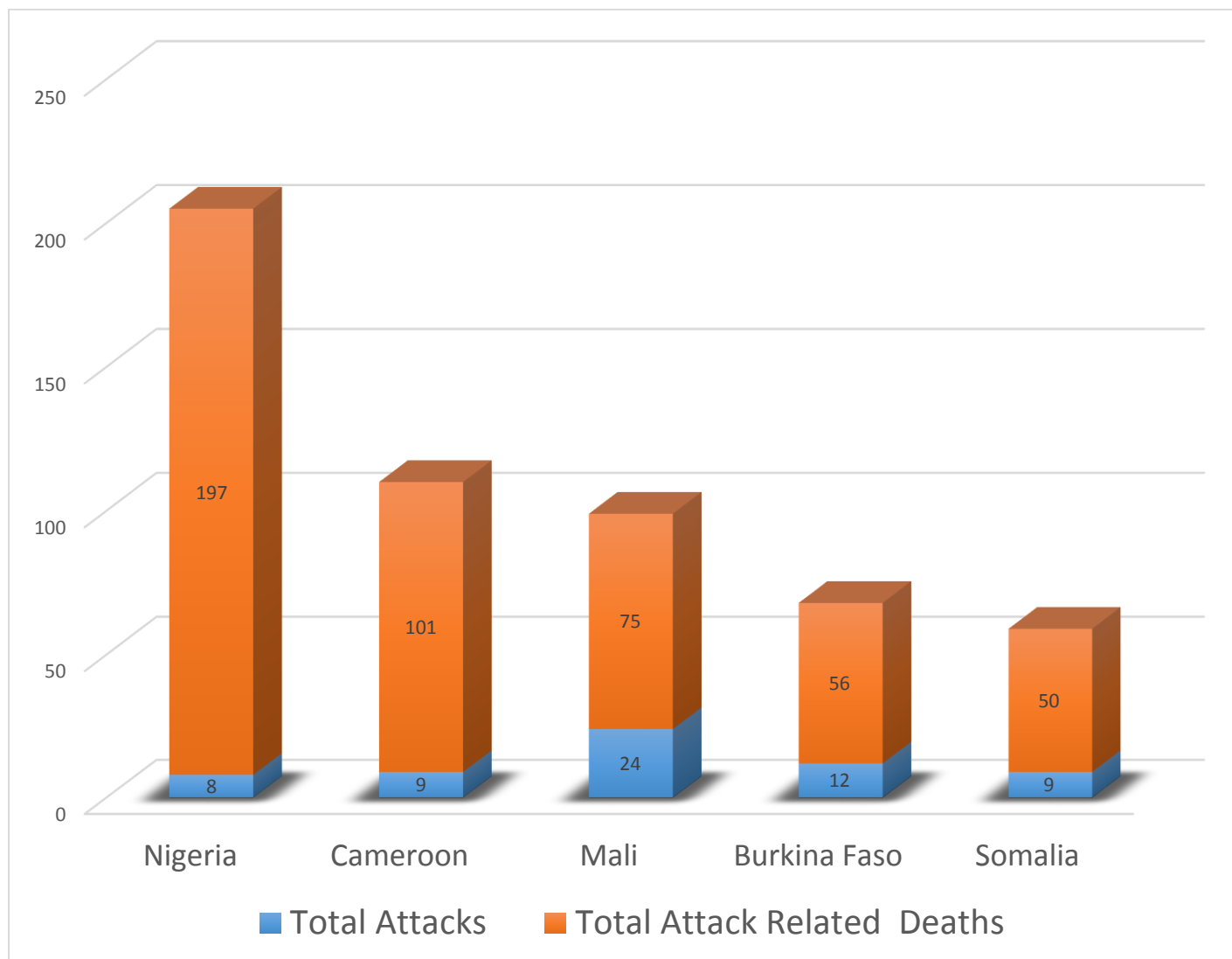
Table 1: Five (5) Countries Most Affected

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths Related to Attacks	Total injured
Nigeria	8	197	7
Cameroon	9	101	19
Mali	24	75	71
Burkina Faso	12	56	12
Somalia	9	50	9

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

- Mali recorded the highest number of attacks (24), whereas Nigeria recorded the highest number of deaths (197). Cameroon recorded 9 attacks resulting in 101 attack related deaths.
- Burkina Faso recorded 56 deaths from 12 attacks whereas Somalia recorded 9 deaths resulting in 50 deaths.

Figure 15: Five Most Affected Countries



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

13. Most Fatal Terrorism Incidents

Table 2: List of Most Fatal Terrorism Incidents

No	Country	City	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	Nigeria	Kaduna	15/02/19	*NGCR	130	Gunmen attacked two communities in the Maro Gida and Iri axis of northwestern Kaduna State.
2	Nigeria	Zamfara	04/02/19	*NGCR	26	Gunmen attacked six villages; Wonaka, Ajja, Mada, Ruwan Baure, Doka, Takoka, and Tudun Maijatau.
3	Somalia	Gedo	02/02/19	Al-shabaab	16	Armed Militants attacked AMISOM base through suicide bombing.
4	Cameroon	Bole-Bakundu	07/02/19	Separatists	15	Assailants attacked the town of Bole-Bakundu in Anglophone Region.
5	Burkina Faso	Kain	03/02/19	*NGCR	14	Assailants attacked the village of Yatenka killing civilians.

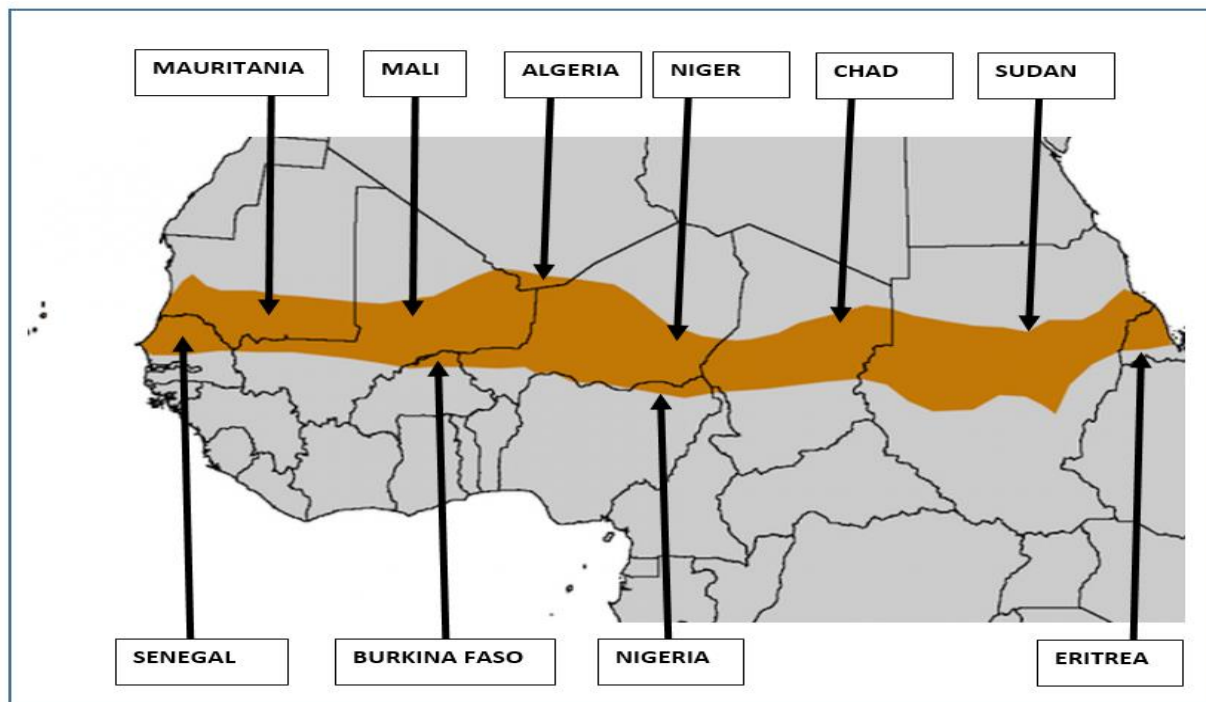
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

*No Group Claimed Responsibility

IN FOCUS

THE SAHEL REGION

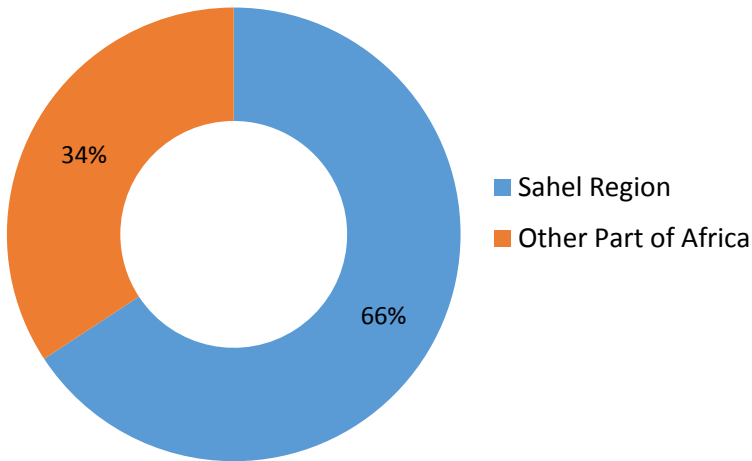
Figure 16: Map Showing Countries of the Sahel Region



Source: Adapted from World Atlas, 2017

14. Total Attacks in the Sahel Region

Figure 17: Attacks in the Sahel



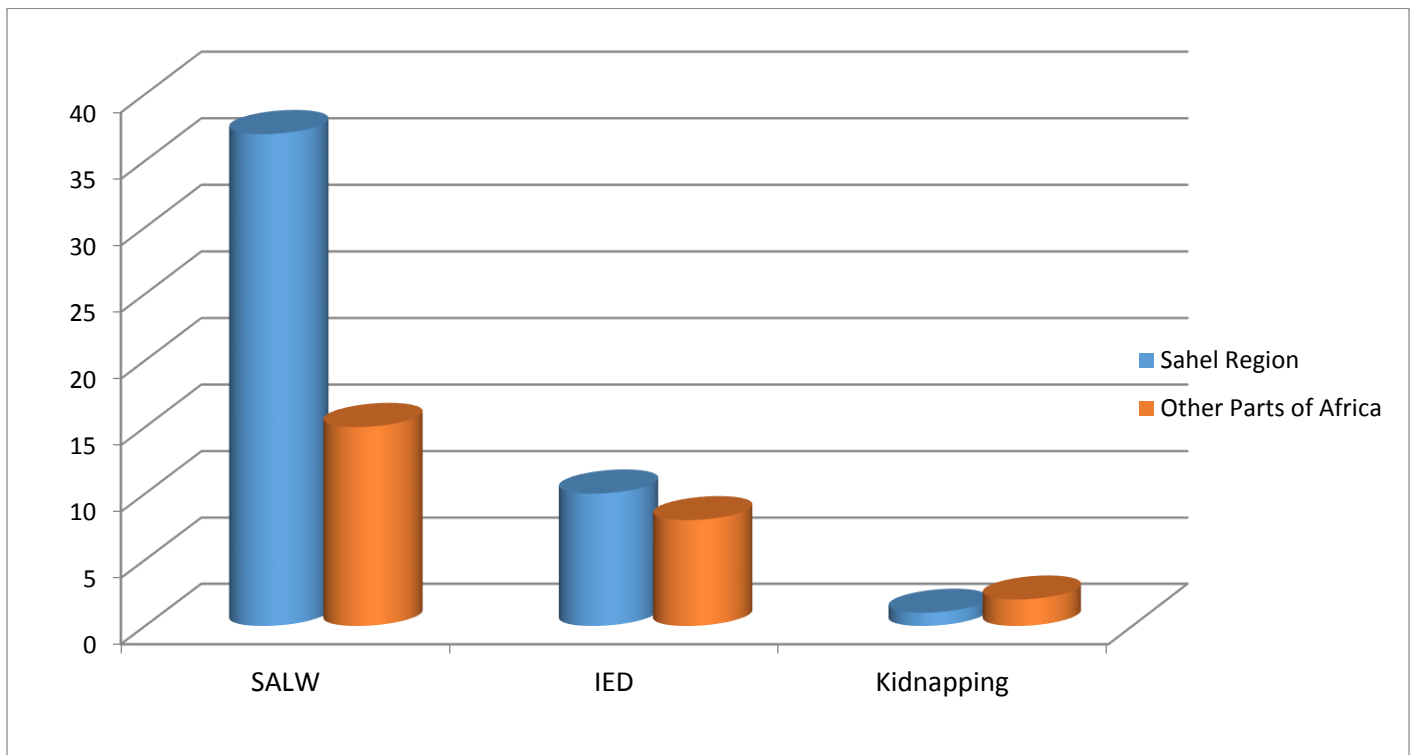
Total Attacks in Africa: 73

- Sahel region: **48**
- Other Parts of Africa: **25**
- Within the period under review, the Sahel region recorded a total number of 48 attacks representing 66% of all the attacks in Africa.
- Countries in the Sahel region that recorded attacks are Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. 24 attacks occurred in Mali, 12 in Burkina Faso, 8 in Nigeria, and 4 in Niger.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

15. Means of Attack in the Sahel

Figure 18: Means of Attack in the Sahel



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Means of Attack in the Sahel

➤ SALW: 52

- Sahel: 37
- Other Parts of Africa: 15

➤ IED: 18

- Sahel: 10
- Other Parts of Africa: 8

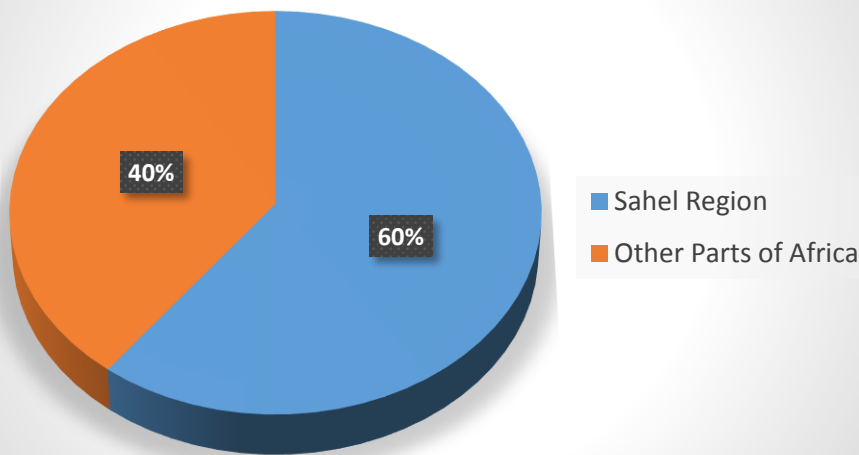
➤ Kidnapping: 3

- Sahel: 1
- Other Parts of Africa: 2

- Out of a total of 52 attacks using SALW, the Sahel recorded 37.
- This means that, SALW remain the highest means by which terrorist groups attack their target.
- The use of IEDs were also high in the Sahel region. 10 attacks in the Sahel used IEDs as against 8 in the rest of Africa.
- One (1) out of the three (3) incidents of kidnapping that took place happened in the Sahel.

16. Total Deaths Recorded in the Sahel

Figure 19: Deaths in the Sahel Region

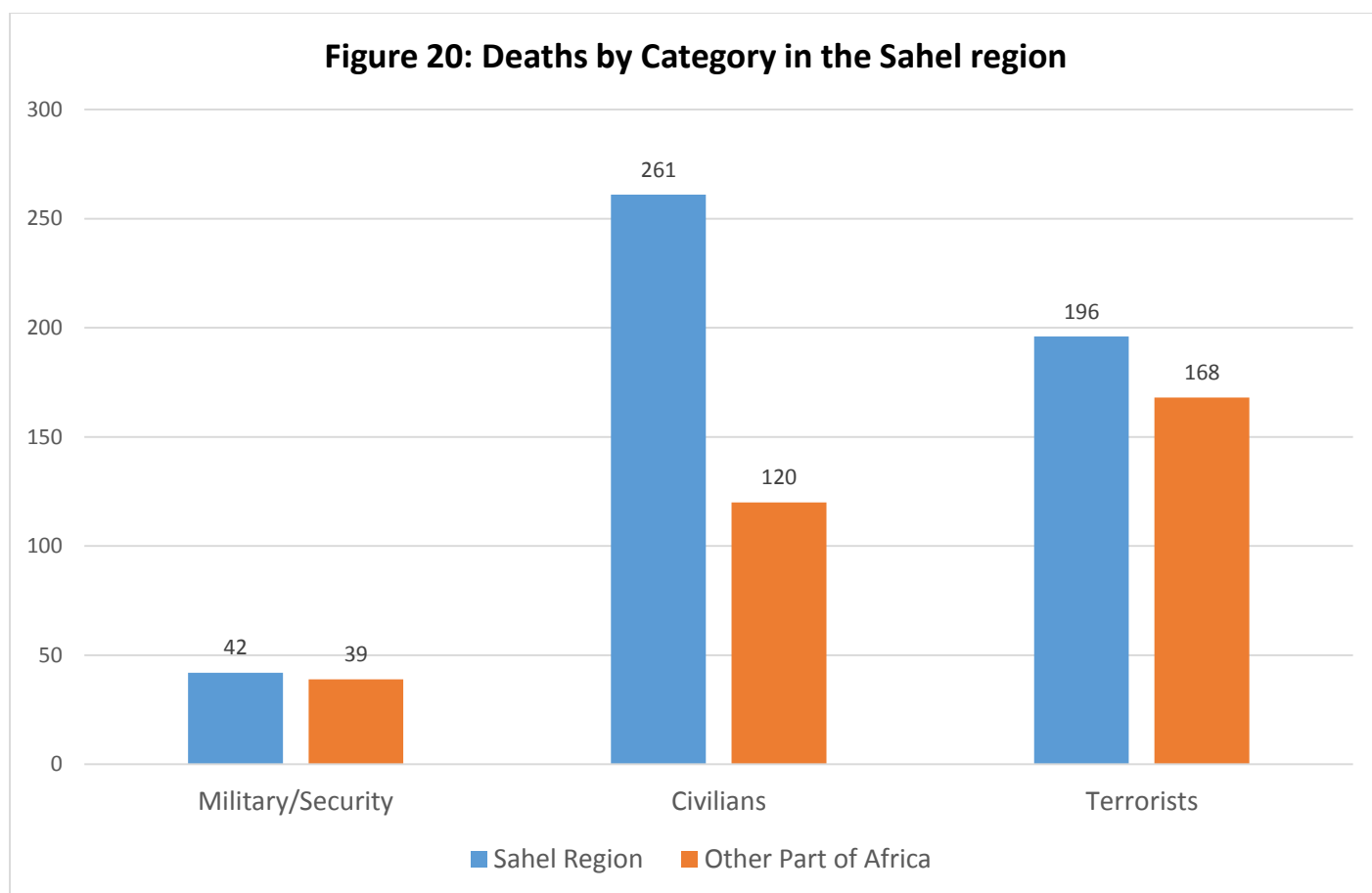


Total Deaths in Africa: 826

- Sahel Region: 499
- Other Parts of Africa: 327
- 60% of the terrorism-related deaths recorded within the period under review occurred in the Sahel region whereas 40% occurred in the rest of Africa.
- The countries in the Sahel where these deaths occurred were Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

17. Deaths by Category in the Sahel Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Deaths by Category in the Sahel Region

➤ Security: **81**

- Sahel: 42
- Other Parts of Africa: 39

➤ Civilians: **381**

- Sahel: 261
- Other Parts of Africa: 120

➤ Terrorists: **364**

- Sahel: 196
- Other Parts of Africa: 168

- 261 Civilians representing 69% of all civilian deaths occurred in the Sahel Region as against 120 (31%) in the rest of Africa
- Majority of the Security/Military forces who died during the period were from the Sahel. 42 Military/Security personnel were killed in the Sahel whereas 39 were killed in the rest of Africa.
- 196 members of terrorist groups were eliminated in the Sahel region as against 168 in the rest of Africa

18. Synthesis of Terrorism Incidents in Africa
Table 3: Synthesis of Terrorism Incidents in Africa

No	Country/ Regions: Central Africa East Africa North Africa Southern Africa West Africa	Type and total of attacks				Rebels/terrorists Clashes	Total Dead			Total Wounded			Hostages	Arrested Terrorists	Primary Targets			
		Explosives (IED)	Small Arms and light weapons (SALW)	Mixed (IED and SALW)	Kidnapping		Security/Military	Terrorists	Civilians	Security/Military	Terrorists	Civilians			Security/Military	Government officials or institutions	International Organizations	Civilians
1	Cameroun	-	9	-	-	-	2	12	89	18	-	1	-	-	3	3	-	3
2	CAR	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
	DRC	-	1	-	-	-	5	54	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
3	Ethiopia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	Kenya	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
5	Somalia	6	3	-	-	-	28	88	22	-	-	9	-	-	5	1	2	1
6	Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
7	Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Libya	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	14	1	-	-	-	-
9	Maroc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
10	Mozambique	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
11	Burkina Faso	2	9	-	1	-	11	167	17	10	-	2	6	-	6	3	1	2
12	Mali	6	18	-	-	-	18	13	56	2	-	69	-	-	4	-	3	17
13	Niger	1	3	-	-	-	10	3	7	4	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	2
14	Nigeria	1	7	-	-	-	3	13	181	3	-	4	-	-	2	1	-	5
Sub-Total		18	42	0	3	0	81	364	381	37	0	85	26	13	24	9	6	34
General Total		73				0	826			122			26	13	73			

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

NB: The color codes show countries in regions where incidents were recorded
DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

CAR: Central African Republic
Nd: Not determined

19. Synthesis Terrorist Groups Activities in Africa

Table 4: Synthesis of Terrorist Groups Activities in Africa

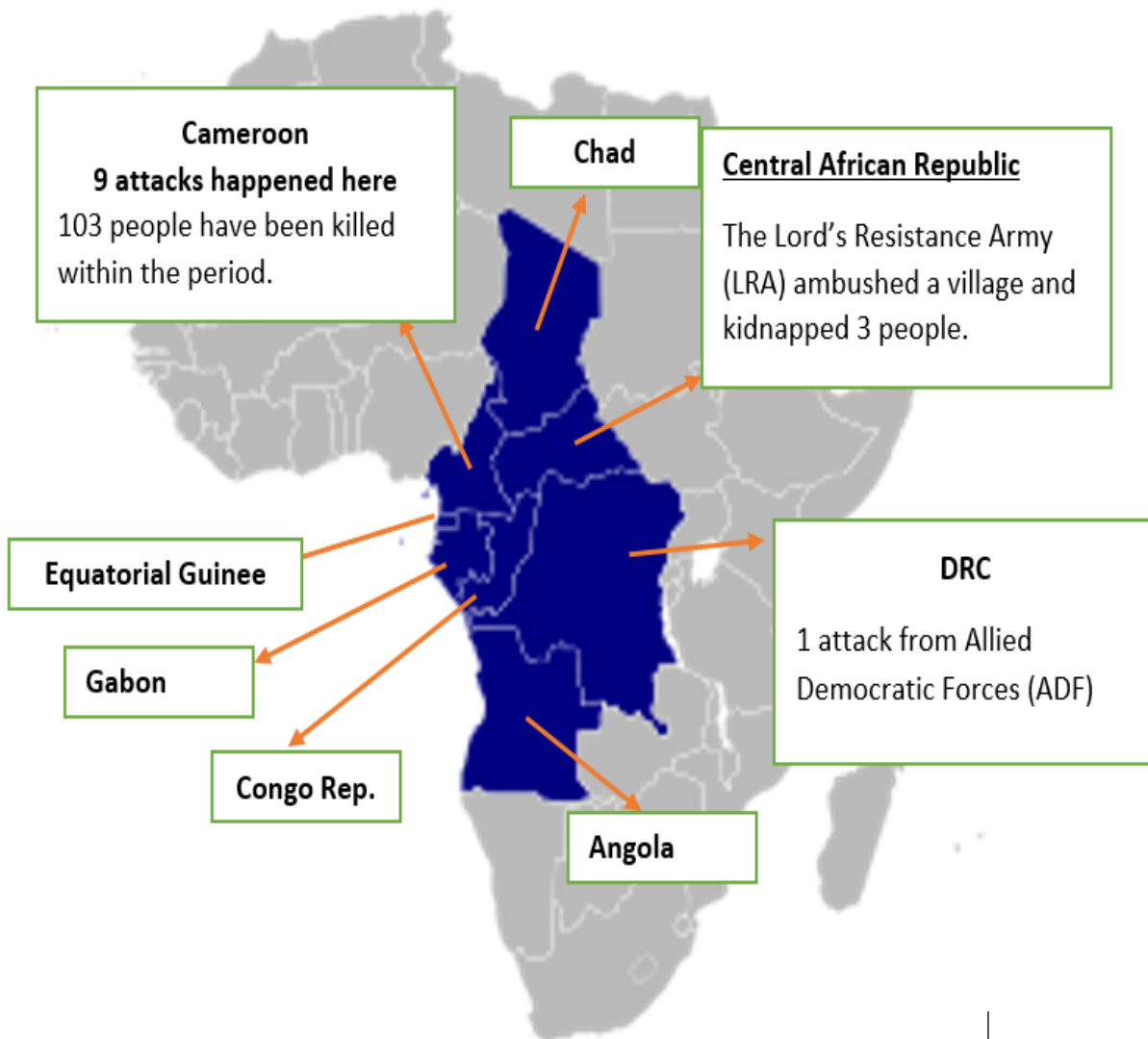
		al-Shabaab	Boko Haram	ISWAP	JNIM	ADF	Sinai Militants	Others	Sub-Total	TOTAL	
Attacks	Military & Security	5	2	1	2	1	-	13	24	73	
	International Org.	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	6		
	Gov. Off. & Institutions	2	-	1	2	-	-	4	9		
	Civilians	1	5	-	-	-	-	28	34		
Victims	Deaths	Military & Security	27	7	3	11	5	-	28	81	462
		Civilians	22	22	10	-	2	-	325	381	
	Injured	Military & Security	-	3	-	-	-	-	34	37	122
		Civilians	9	-	-	1	-	-	75	85	
Means of attack	IEDs	6	1	-	-	-	-	11	18	73	
	SALW	3	6	2	4	1	-	36	52		
	Mix (IEDs & SALW)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
	Kidnapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
Lost (Killed)		88	13	-	-	4	15	244	364	364	
Arrested		-	8	-	-	-	3	2	13	13	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

INCIDENTS RECORDED BY REGIONS

CENTRAL AFRICA

Figure 21: Map Showing the Central Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

CAMEROON

On 4 February 2019 in Mokunda. Armed men attacked and killed a navy officer at his home.

On 5 February 2019 in Makanga. Cameroon's army killed a separatist commander popularly known as Colonel Virus.

On 6 February 2019 in Babadjou. Armed men attacked the Zavion Bilingual High School in Bambutos Department and set it on fire.

On 6 February 2019 in Bunduma. Armed men attack and beheaded a military man near an Old GCE board in Buea. Four vehicles were set ablaze.

On 7 February 2019 in Kolofata. Boko Haram attacked the town. One civilian was killed in the attack.

On 7 February 2019 in Ndawara. Armed separatists attacked a military truck. Soldiers repulsed the attack killing 10 of the separatists. Six soldiers were wounded in the attack.

On 7 February 2019 in Bole-Bakundu. Armed men attack the town. 15 people were killed. Separatists in the Anglophone region claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 9 February 2019 in Buea and Bamenda. Armed separatists attack killed 69 people. The deaths occurred as a result of fighting which started Tuesday, February 5 in the towns of Limbe, Buea, Mutengene, Kumba, Mamfe, Tombel, Bamenda, Kumbo, Ndop, Nkambe, Bafut and Kom.

On 11 February 2019 in Kumba. Armed men attacked a hospital. Four people were killed and the hospital burnt down. Authorities accused separatist groups for the attack.

12 February 2019 Kumba. Armed men attacked the convoy of the Governor of Southwest. 12 soldiers and one journalist were injured

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

On 13 February 2019 in Ligoua Obo. LRA ambushed the village and took 3 people hostage.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

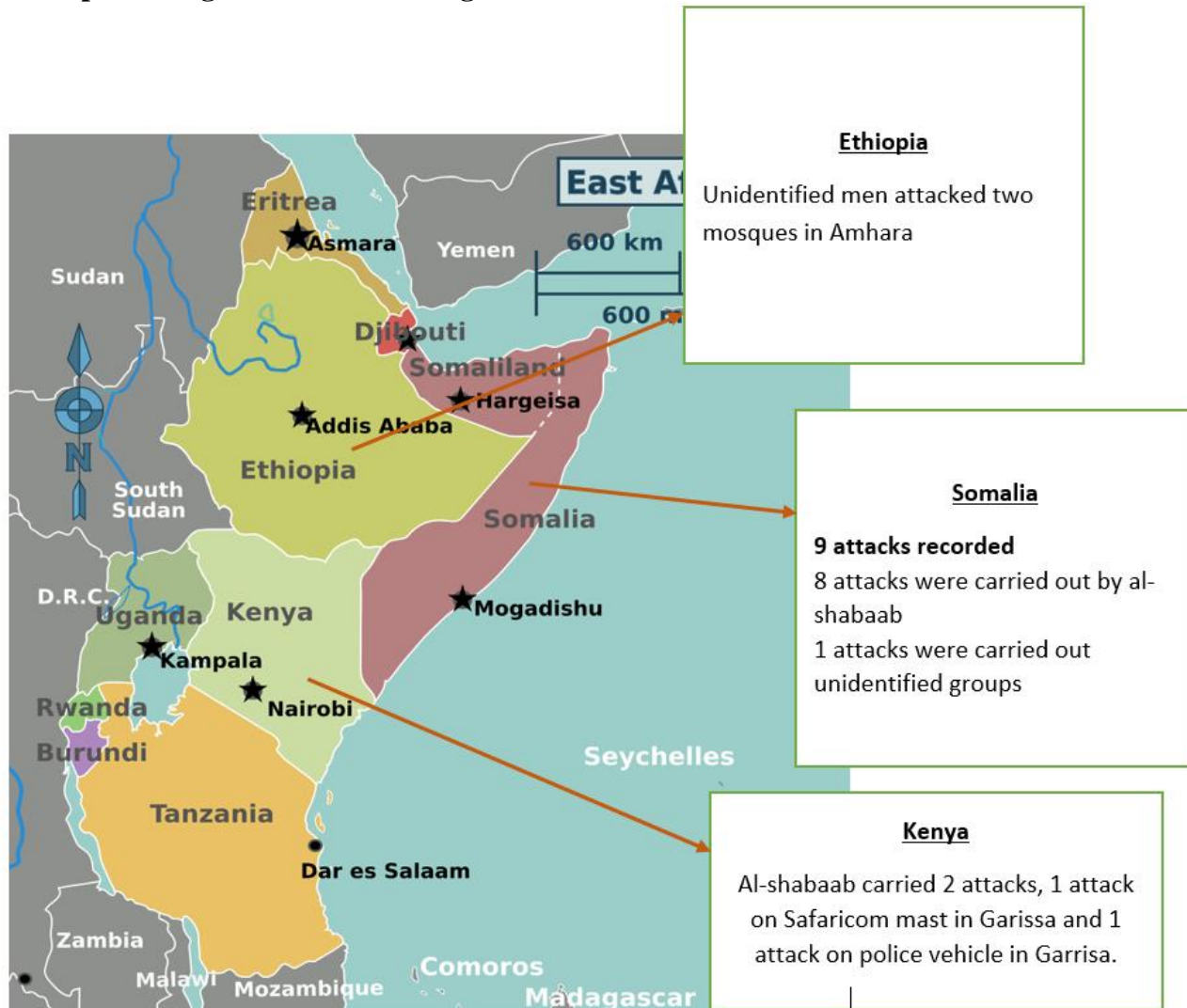
On 5 February 2019 in Masisi, North Kivu. Armed Forces of DRC announced the killing of 50 members of armed groups as part of operations that started in January 2019 to counter armed groups.

On 8 February 2019 in Rwangoma, Beni. ADF men attacked a military post. Five soldiers and two civilians were killed.

On 8 February 2019 in Bukavu. A military court sentenced 25 Mai-Mai militiamen. This verdict was pronounced after a trial that began on 1 December 2018.

12 February 2019 in Beni. Armed Forces of the DRC carried out operation against militants of the ADF. Four ADF rebels were killed. Four hostages were also released and weapons recovered.

Figure 22: Map Showing the East Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

ETHIOPIA

On 1 February 2019 in Eldoret. Magistrate’s Court sentenced a man found in possession of videos and images of Al-Shabaab-related propaganda with a 15-year jail term. Ramadhan Adam Athman was found guilty of being a member of the Somalia-based terrorist group.

On 3 February 2019 in Este, Amhara. Two mosques were attacked by unknown armed men. The mosques were burned down. Authorities suspect a campaign to create inter-faith conflict.

KENYA

On 3 February 2019 in Amuume, Garissa. Assailant attacked a police vehicle. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the explosion. No known number of casualties.

On 12 February 2019 Galma-Gala, Garissa. Al-Shabaab attacked Safaricom Telecom building. The group destroyed most of the telecom company with bomb explosives.

SOMALIA

On 1 February 2019 in Gandarshe, Shabelle. The US Military carried out an airstrike against Al-shabaab. 13 members of the group were killed.

On 2 February 2019 in Bardera, Gedo. Al-Shabaab militants attacked African Union Military base. 16 Ethiopian soldiers were killed in the suicide bombing.

On 4 February 2019 in Bosaso, Putland. Al-Shabaab attacked a port. 10 people were killed including the port manager, a citizen of Malta.

On 4 February 2019 in Mogadishu. Al-shabaab attacked a shopping mall using vehicle borne Improvised Explosive Device. 12 people were killed and 9 others injured.

On 5 February 2019 in Dhanaane, Mogadishu. Al-shabaab carried out an IED explosion against a military post. Two senior Somali military officials were killed.

On 5 February 2019 in Farsoley, Shabelle. Somali National Intelligence Service Agency (NISA) carried out anti-terror operation. 40 Al-Shabaab fighters were killed.

On 7 February 2019 in Bariire, Shabelle. Four Al-Shabaab fighters were killed in an airstrike.

On 8 February 2019 in Gandarshe, Shebelle. The US Army carried out an airstrike against Al-shabaab killings 11 militants.

On 10 February 2019 in Kobon, Kismayo. The United States military carried out a counter-terrorism operation killing eight (8) Al-Shabaab extremists.

On 11 February 2019 in Janaalle. The US military carried out drone strikes against Al-shabaab base. 12 militants were killed.

On 11 February 2019 in Bosaso, Puntland. Security forces carried out joint military operation against Islamic State bases. Several militants' bases were destroyed.

On 12 February 2019 Saypiano, Mogadishu. Al-shabaab attacked a Somali police officer with explosive device fitted into a car. The victim, Abdi Dheire died after the explosion.

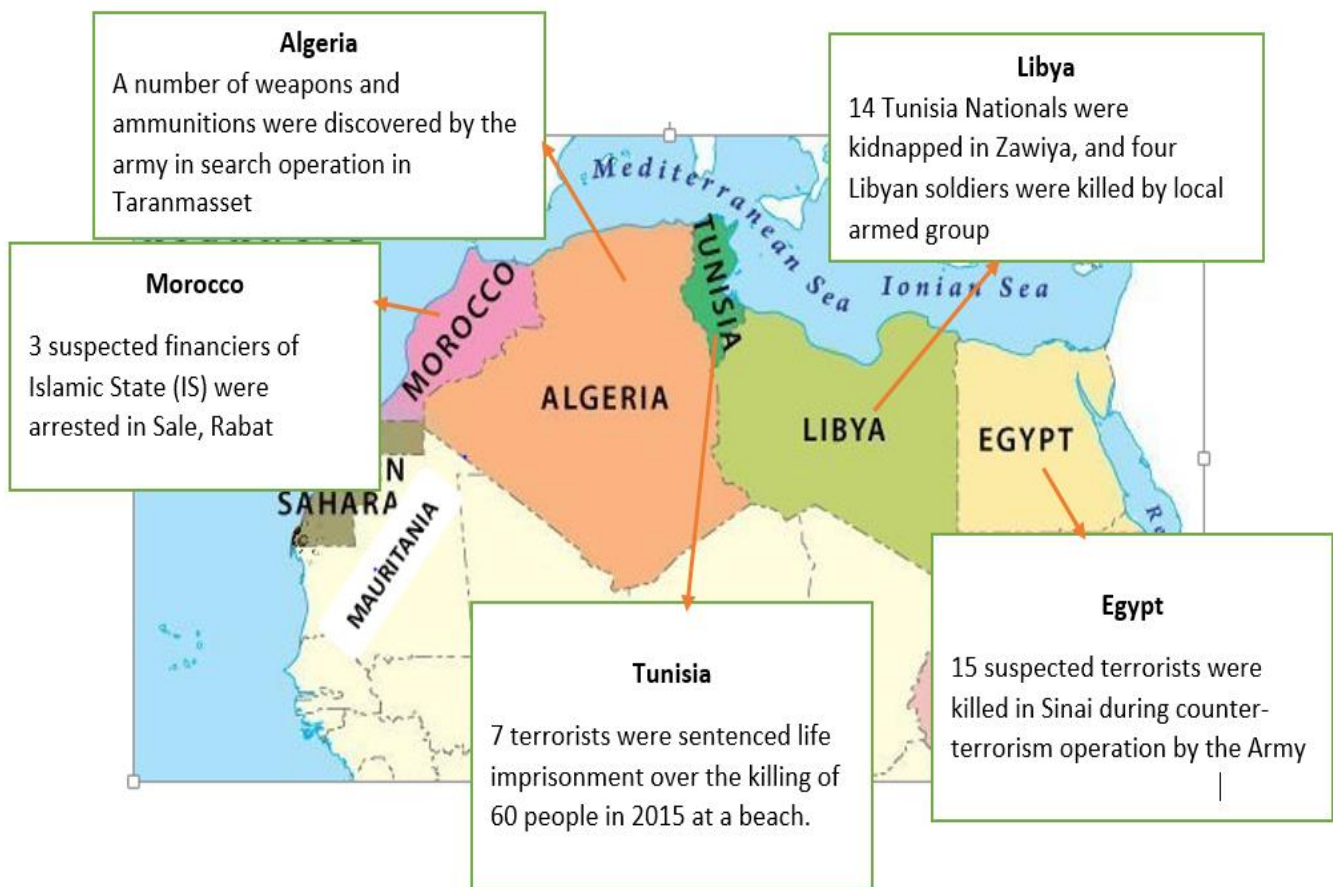
On 12 February 2019 in Jazeera, Shabelle. Al-Shabaab attacked Somali military convoy with heavy gun fires. No casualty was reported.

On 13 February 2019 in Mogadishu. Al-shabaab attacked an African Union armored personnel carrier using IED. No casualties were recorded.

On 15 February 2019 in Baledogle, Shebelle. Al-Shabaab attacked a military base. The militants killed 8 soldiers.

NORTH AFRICA

Figure 23: Map showing the North Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

ALGERIA

On 2 February 2019 in Tamanrasset. A terrorist by name El-Tibari Ali, aka "Khaled" surrendered to the military authorities.

On 3 February 2019 in Tamanrasset. National People's Army discovered a cache of weapons and ammunition near the southern border strip. Reportedly 1 Dictariov type heavy machine gun; 4 Kalashnikov type submachine guns; 3 Simonov type semi-automatic rifles; 3 Repeating rifles; 71 mortar shell, 82 mm caliber; 2 Anti-tank rocket launcher bases; 242 Rockets of different calibres; 8 ammunition loaders of different calibres; 3162 bullets of different calibres were found in the cache.

On 4 February 2019 in Ain Defla. The National People's Army discovered and destroyed a shelter for terrorist groups.

On 11 February 2019 in Tamanrasset. National People's Army conducted a search operation near the southern border strip. The Army discovered a cache of weapons and ammunition containing: 1 Heavy machine gun, 14.5 mm caliber; 01 Heavy machine gun, 12.7 mm caliber; 1 automatic Rifle; 20 82 mm mortar shell; 338 14.5 caliber balls; 170 Bullets of 12.7 mm caliber; 03 12.7mm ammunition chains.

On 13 February 2019 in Tamanrasset. The Algerian Army intercepted 32 gold miners and two smugglers and seized 5 trucks, 2 all-terrain vehicles, 91 generators, 46 jackhammers, 14,000 liters of fuel, 11,164 tonnes of mixture of stones and raw gold as well as other objects during separate operations in Bordj Badji Mokhtar and Djanet.

EGYPT

On 2 February 2019 in Sinai Peninsula. Egyptian Security Forces carried out anti-terror airstrike operation against suspected jihadists. Eight militants were killed in the operation.

On 4 February 2019 El Arish, Sinai. Egyptian security forces killed seven militants. The armed terrorists were plotting to carry out attacks on vital institutions.

On 15 February 2019 in El-Istiqama, Giza. Egyptian police foiled a bomb attack in a busy area in southern Cairo. Explosives experts defused the homemade bomb, which was targeting a security checkpoint.

LIBYA

On 1 February 2019 in Sirte. Four Libyan soldiers were killed when forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar attacked a local armed group as they sought to expand to the south.

On 8 February 2019 in Tripoli. Libyan security arrested a senior terrorist leader of the pro-Qaeda Shura Council of Mujahideen of Darna. Abdulgader Abdussalam Azzuz.

On 13 February 2019 in Ubari. Libyan forces carried out an operation against an Al-Qaeda site. The number of casualties were not reported.

On 15 February 2019 in Zawiya, Tripoli. Fourteen Tunisian workers were kidnapped as they travelled to work at an oil refinery in western Libya. They were abducted by members of a Libyan tribe demanding the release of a relative who is imprisoned in Tunisia on drug charges.

MOROCCO

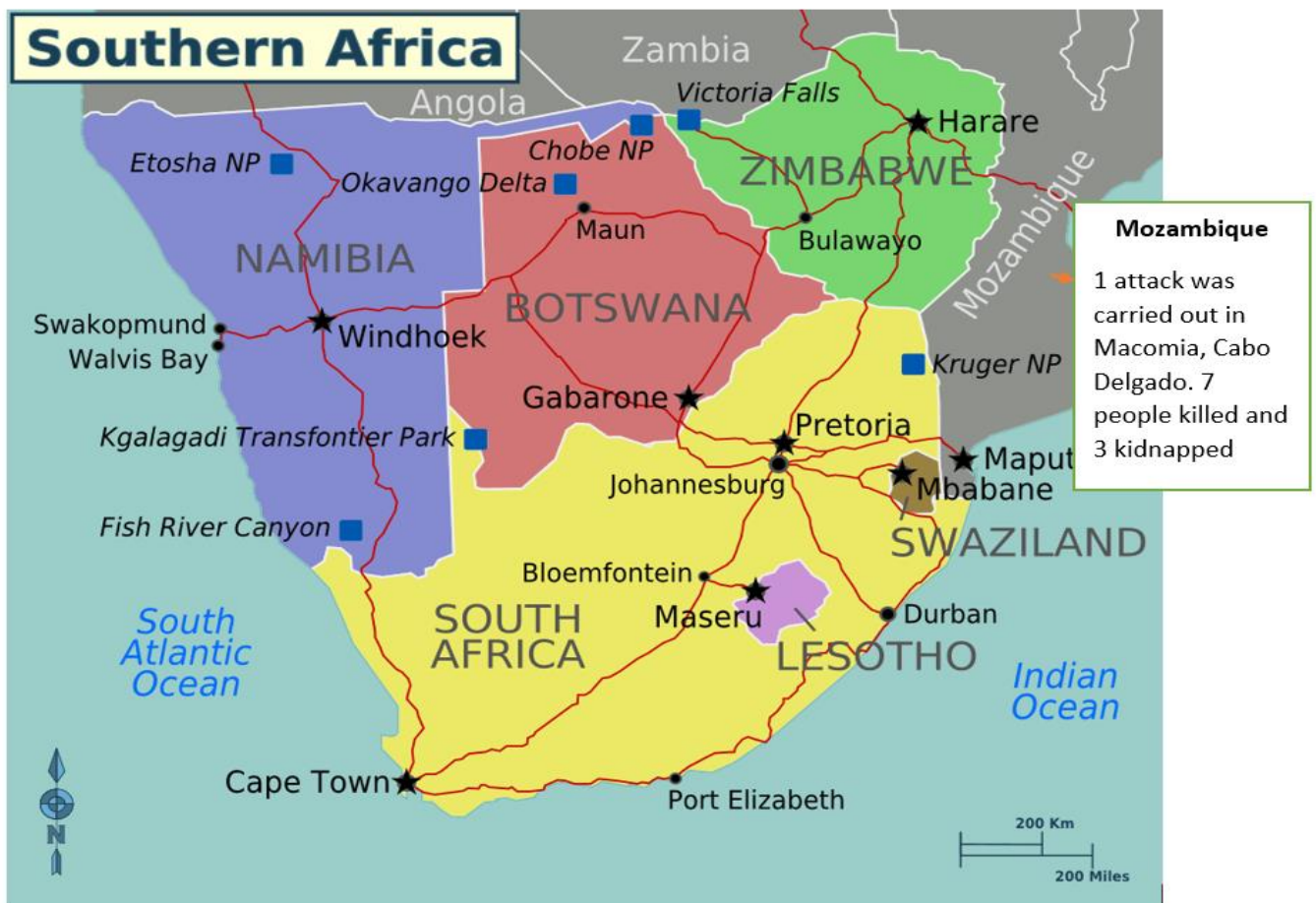
12 February 2019 in Sale, Rabat. Moroccan police arrested three French men closely connected to the Islamic State in Syria and suspected of raising funds to finance terror operations.

TUNISIA

On 9 February 2019 in Tunis. Tunisian court sentenced seven terrorists to life in prison over attacks at a museum in Tunis and a beach resort in Sousse in 2015 that killed 60 people.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Figure 24: Map showing the Western Africa Region

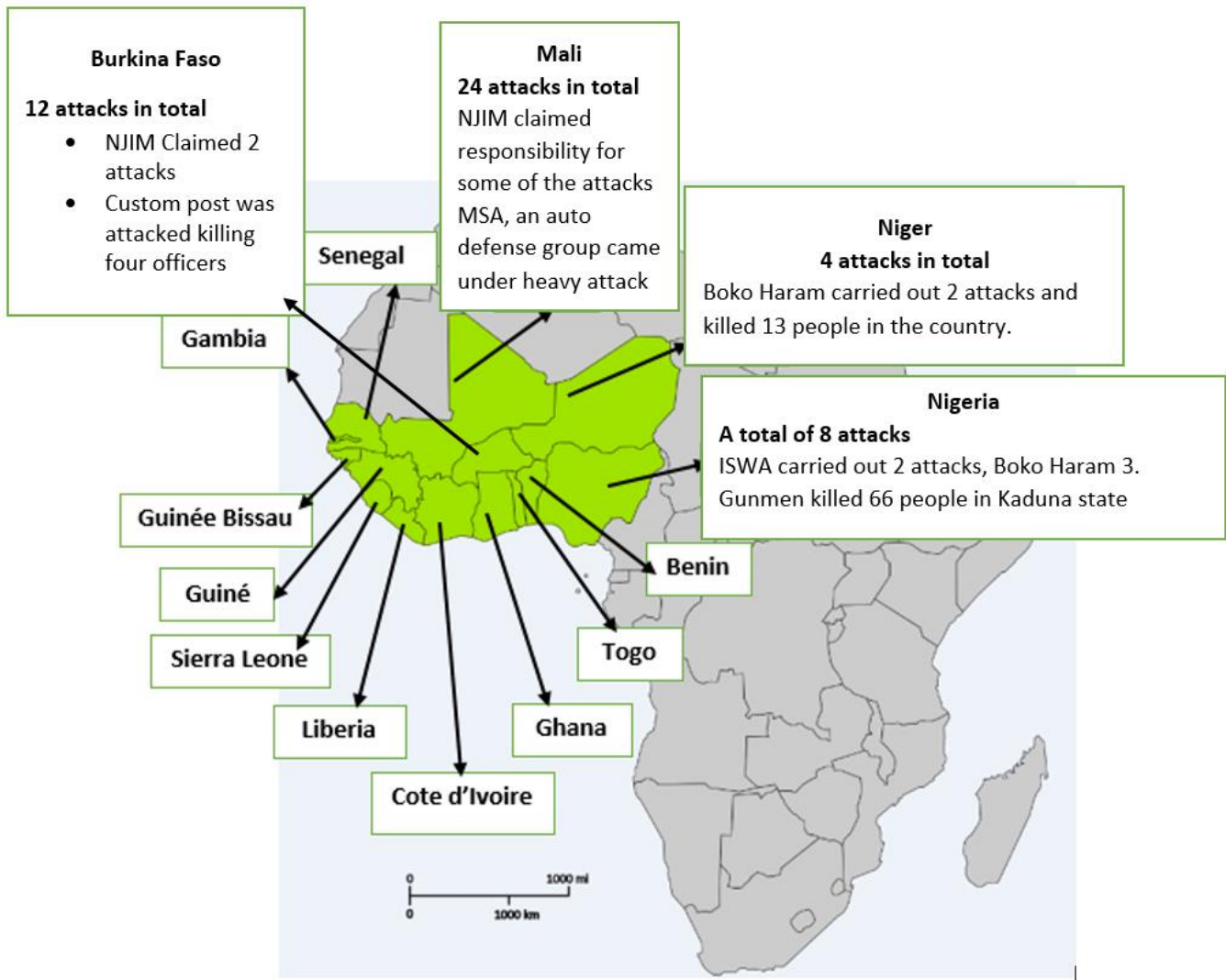


Source: Adapted from World Map, n.d

MOZAMBIQUE

On 7 February 2019 in Macomia, Cabo Delgado. Armed men attack the village. The attackers entered houses in the village and started beheading people. Seven people were beheaded and three young girls kidnapped.

Figure 25: Map showing the Southern Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

BURKINA FASO

On 2 February 2019 in Kaya, Sanmatenga. Unidentified armed elements seized a Burkina Faso Red Cross vehicle. All six people onboard were abducted.

On 3 February 2019 in Kain, Yatenga. Armed men attacked the village. Fourteen civilians were killed.

On 3 February 2019 in Banfora, Comoe. Unidentified armed men attacked a police checkpoint. No casualties were reported.

On 3 February 2019 in Mansila, Yagha. JNIM militants attacked the mayor's office. No reported casualties.

On 3 February 2019 in Torokoto, Kossi. Unidentified armed man attacked a young Burkinabe Fulani with rifles and machetes. The victim was seriously injured.

On 4 February 2019 in Loroum. Burkinabe Armed Forces carried out counter terrorism operation against terrorist groups. 146 terrorists were killed in the operation.

On 5 February 2019 in Oursi, Oudalan. Armed men attacked a military post. Five Gendarmes were killed and three wounded. 21 of the suspected terrorists were also killed by the security forces.

On 7 February 2019 in Kongoussi, Bam. Armed men attacked a military base in an attempt to free a suspect. Two civilians were shot dead in the process.

On 8 February 2019 in Oursi, Oudalan. An army vehicle was struck by an IED between Tin Edja and Tayaret. One soldier was severely injured.

On 10 February 2019 in in Natiaboani, Gourma. Suspected terrorists seized medical supplies from a warehouse and burned the ranger station.

11 February 2019 Kongoussi, Bam. Authorities of the provincial high school closed down the school following threats from suspected terrorist group. There was a message ordering the headmaster to close the school.

On 13 February 2019 in Ouagarou, Gourma. Armed militants from JNIM opened fire against an ambulance. One civilian suffered gunshot wounds.

On 14 February 2019 in Nohao, Boulgou. Armed men attacked a custom post. Four customs officers were killed, one Spanish priest was also killed. The militants burned the customs station and three vehicles.

On 14 February 2019 in Djibo, Soum. A bomb hidden on a corpse dressed in military uniform killed two soldiers. The body, which turned out to be a trap, exploded when it was handled. Six soldiers were also injured.

MALI

On 1 February 2019 in Bankass, Mopti. Three villages, Yara, Dissa and Boilla were attacked by armed men. 5 people were killed and 21 injured.

On 1 February 2019 in Ansongo, Gao. Armed extremists on motorcycles attacked Groupe autodéfense touareg Imghad et alliés- Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad (GATIA-MSA). 14 people were killed.

On 1 February 2019 in Daoussak, Gao. Unidentified armed individuals riding motorcycles attacked a camp. Nine people were killed and several houses set ablaze.

On 2 February 2019 in Ansongo Gao. Armed terrorists on motorcycles attacked GATIA-MSA coalition elements. 12 persons were killed in the clash.

On 2 February 2019 in Sorory, Gao. Unidentified armed individuals on motorbikes stormed the village. Two people were shot dead.

On 3 February 2019 in Idourfane, Gao. Unidentified armed men on motorcycles attacked a Fulani camp. Two Fulani were killed.

On 03 February in Bourra, Gao. Unidentified men stormed the villages of Bourra, Tassiga and Gourma. The assailants forced villagers to pay taxes and robbed many cattle from breeders who refused to give money.

On 3 February 2019 in Tenenkou, Mopti. Two people travelling on a cart reportedly hit an IED/mine. The two were killed on the spot.

On 4 February 2019 in Ménaka. Assailants attacked MINUSMA camp. One rocket landed inside the UN facility, while two others landed outside the camp. No injuries or material damages were recorded.

On 5 February 2019 in Dagana, Douentza. A vehicle carrying civilians was attacked with an IED. The explosion killed 3 people and wounded 7 others. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 05 February 2019 in Yorbou, Mopti. A mini bus carrying traders was attacked with an IED. Three persons were killed and 17 others injured

On 5 February 2019 in Sokoura. A 40 year old man was attacked by armed elements. The man was killed in the attack.

On 6 February 2019 in Tenenkou, Mopti. Suspected terrorist broke into the house of a man. The man was killed by the armed men.

On 9 February 2019 in Tenenkou, Mopti. Suspected terrorists attacked the hamlet of Champagne serving as a camp for Dozo hunters. One of the armed men was killed by the Dozo hunters.

On 9 February 2019 in Tenenkou, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements attacked the hamlet of Mamadaga. 21 people were injured.

On 10 February 2019 in Dogo, Mopti. FAMA patrol vehicle was attacked by suspected terrorists. Two FAMA soldiers were killed and one injured.

On 12 February in 2019 in Dansa, Mopti. Unidentified assailant shot at a MINUSMA convoy. One peacekeeper sustained a minor gunshot injury.

On 12 February 2019 in Dialloubé, Mopti. JNIM attacked a security vehicle on mission. Four Gendarmes were killed.

On 12 February 2019 in Douentza, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements attacked a Dozo shepherd. The assailants killed the man and stole his herd.

On 12 February 2019 in Tessalit, Kidal. Unidentified armed men attacked MINUSMA camp with indirect fire (IDF). One exploded rocket was found.

On 12 February 2019 in Belga. Armed men attacked military vehicle with a IEDs. Three Malian soldiers were killed.

On 12 February 2019 in Belga, Bankass. Assailants attacked soldiers on patrol. Two soldiers were killed.

On 13 February 2019 in Inahare, Ménaka. JNIM attacked a military post. 7 Malian soldiers were killed.

On 14 February 2019 in Dialloubé, Mopti. A Joint French and Malian Army carried out anti-terror operations against terrorist groups. 12 terrorist were killed.

On 15 February 2019 in in Talataye, Gao. A vehicle from the Azawad Salvation Movement (MSA) jumped on an IED. One MSA fighter was killed and three wounded.

NIGER

On 1 February 2019 in Bagué Djaradi, Diffa. Boko Haram attacked the community. Six people were killed.

On 1 February 2019 in Ayorou, Tillabery. Nigerien Army vehicle hit an IED. Four soldiers were injured.

On 3 February 2019 in Bali, Taraba. Security forces killed three suspected kidnappers terrorizing communities.

On 13 February 2019 in Bagaji, Dogondoutchi. Armed men attacked the community. Four people comprising of three gendarmes and a civilian were killed.

On 15 February 2019 in Chétima Wangou, Diffa. Boko Haram attacked a military post. Seven Nigerien soldiers were killed. 8 terrorists were arrested.

NIGERIA

On 4 February 2019 in Mada, Zamfara. Gunmen attacked six villages; Wonaka, Ajja, Mada, Ruwan Baure, Doka, Takoka, and Tudun Maijatau. 26 people were killed in the attack.

On 4 February 2019 in Kanama, Yobe. Troops of 159 Battalion thwarted Boko Haram's attempted incursion into the town. Two soldiers were injured

On 5 February 2019 in Shuwa, Borno. Boko Haram carried out attack on the village. Six people were killed. The group looted businesses and ransacked several houses.

On 9 February 2019 in Ngwom, Borno. ISWAP attacked a military base. Three soldiers were killed.

12 February 2019 in Madagali, Adamawa. Soldiers of the Nigeria Armed Forces repelled a coordinated Boko Haram attack. Boko Haram fighters launched a coordinated attack on Madagali town, Magar and Gulak. 11 members of the sect were killed. One civilian was killed and one soldier wounded.

13 February 2019 in Borno. ISWAP attacked the convoy of Borno State governor, Kashim Shettima. At least 10 people were feared dead with other missing.

On 15 February 2019 Maiduguri, Borno. Armed men from Boko Haram attacked the community. Two suicide bombers blew themselves up killing eight people in the attack

On 15 February 2019 in Kajuru, Kaduna. Gunmen killed 130 people and injured four people during attacks on two communities in in the Maro Gida and Iri axis of northwestern Kaduna State.

TERRORISM RELATED NEWS

On 2 February 2019 in Belga, Mali. 538 out of 1000 deserters from the Malian army, who joined the ranks of the Tuareg rebels in 2012 agreed to rejoin the army. In mid-January, three Ministries - Social Cohesion, Defense, and Security invited former military and security personnel to register with the military authorities closest to their place of residence. Personnel who were members of the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) but who had deserted return to the army. According to Zahabi Ould Sidy Mohamed, chairman of the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), their return is good for the implementation peace and reconciliation process.

On 6 February 2019 in Bangui, Central African Republic. The government and Central African Republic armed groups signed the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. Beyond the fundamental question of justice, the agreement provides for the complete dissolution of armed groups throughout the national territory. The 14 armed groups that control 80% of the territory and fighting among themselves for the control of the vast resources of the country agreed to participate fully in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process and to desist from any attempt to gain or maintain power by the use of forces. The government on its part committed to promptly adopt a new law on decentralization.

On 10 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. African Leaders at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union pledged their commitment to end terrorism and violent extremism on the continent. H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya and other world leaders vowed never allow terrorism to destabilize any country in Africa. Newly elected AU chairman, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said terrorism should be eradicated and its sponsors identified and shamed. The President of Egypt described the scourge of terrorism as a cancer that continues to affect African nations and destroy important structures.

On 14 February 2019 in Cameroon. A total of 187 Cameroonians who were members of Nigeria's Boko Haram jihadist group returned home and surrendered to the authorities. The former jihadists from the district of Mayo-Sava, in Cameroon's North province, returned from Nigeria on foot. After surrendering to the authorities in the towns of Kolofata and Meme, they were enrolled in a programme to reintegrate them into society. They were taken on Wednesday 14th February 2019 to a base of the MJTF.

On 15 February 2019 in Mogadishu, Somalia. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has trained 198 Somali police officers to help step up security for the Hir Shabelle State. The police officers are the first batch of 800 new police recruits being absorbed in the state's police force, to maintain law and order in Somalia's newest state. The three-month comprehensive training focused on different aspects of policing, including crime prevention and public order management. The police recruits were also taught international humanitarian law and international human rights law, which are critical in their day-to-day duties. The AU Mission has developed conditions-based transition plan, to transfer the national security responsibility from the AU troops to the Somali security forces guided by the rule of law and respect for human rights. The move comes after the UN Security Council authorized a gradual troop reduction amid transition of security responsibility to Somali National Security Forces.

CONCLUSION

The findings from the bulletin for the period under review (1st-15th February, 2019) reveal consistent increase in the number of terrorist attacks across Africa. Violent extremism in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon escalated resulting in the death of several civilians and security forces. The results further show that, Islamist militants are increasing their activities in West Africa despite the deployment of the G-5 Sahel regional force to combat terrorism and other transnational crimes in the Sahel region.

A pattern of attacks along borders of countries were observed in this edition of the bulletin. In East Africa, attacks by Al-Shabaab in Garissa, Kenya were along the Kenya border with Somalia. Al-shabaab again carried out a number of attacks along Somalia border with Ethiopia. In Central Africa, ADF carried out an attack in Democratic Republic of Congo along its border with Uganda. All Boko Haram attacks in Cameroon and Niger were along the countries' borders with Nigeria. The northern region of Burkina Faso, bordering Mali and Niger, has over the last 12 months been especially hard hit, leaving the government struggling to maintain peace and stability. There have been attacks in recent times in Burkina Faso on the border with Benin, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Terrorism threat is gaining ground in Burkina Faso. On 14 February 2019 in Nohao, Boulgou Province, armed men attacked a customs post killing four custom officers and one Spanish Priest who was within the vicinity. Nohao is 34km northwest from Cinkanse and 6km northwest of Bittou. Bittou is however 18km north of the border with Ghana and 1km south to the Togo border.

Terrorism threats in West Africa is no longer just the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin but spreading to coastal areas of the sub-region. The spread of terrorism in West Africa is facilitated by the porous borders in the region that have made it easy for the movement of persons and weapons. In West Africa, the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons and goods has the tendency to also facilitate the movement and spread of terrorists in the region while in the Lake Chad Basin, the porosity of borders have made it easy for Boko Haram to spread from Nigeria to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While Nigeria's borders with Benin and Chad are fairly short - 773km and 87km long respectively, its borders with Niger and Cameroon span 1,497km and 1,690km respectively. The porous nature of these borders heightens the potential spread of terrorist activities into the neighboring countries. Niger and Cameroon have borders with the northern Nigerian states, where Boko Haram is active. The border with Niger, for example, stretches along Sokoto, Katsina, Jigawa and Yobe states. This proximity to northern Nigeria is therefore a particular threat to Niger's already fragile security, given the relative ease with which terrorist elements can cross into the country.

In many parts of Africa, the areas most affected by terrorism are those along the borders. Thus, signifying how terrorist exploit the security vacuum along the border regions to carry out their activities. Countries in Africa need to understand the transnational nature of the terrorist threat and be willing to share actionable intelligence information to deter potential attacks and arrest of criminal elements. Local Border Communities and Civil Society Organization could contribute a great deal to intelligence gathering, culminating in the defeat of terrorists and their activities.

FORECAST FOR NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin will cover terrorism incidents from 16th -28th February, 2019.

PROFILE OF ACSRT

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was established as a structure of the African Union in 2004. The decision to establish the Centre was taken in 2002 as part of the AU Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat of Terrorism. Its primary role is to assist AU member States build their Counter-Terrorism capacities. Its mandate includes the conduct of research, analysis and studies on the terrorism situation and terrorist groups in Africa, maintaining a terrorism database, centralizing information on terrorism and sharing this with AU Member States. The Centre conducts assessment missions to various AU Member States in order to ascertain their Counter-Terrorism capability and compliance with International Legal instruments and then provide advice on what needs to be done. In its capacity building effort, the Centre conducts seminars, workshops and training sessions in various aspects of Counter-terrorism for Member States and facilitates the drafting of their Counter-Terrorism legislation, strategies and Plans of Action in accordance with human rights requirements.



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