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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

16th– 31st May 2019

Edition No: 010

ABOUT AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

In line with its mandate to assist African Union (AU) Member States, build their Counter-Terrorism capacities and to prevent Violent Extremism, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) has developed tools that enable it to collect, analyze, process and disseminate information on terrorism-related incidents occurring in Africa. One of the products of this effort is the Bi-weekly Africa Terrorism Bulletin (ATB) that is published by the Centre.

The ATB seeks to keep AU Member State Policymakers, Researchers, Practitioners and other stakeholders in the fields of Counter-Terrorism(CT) and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE), updated fortnightly, on the trends of terrorism on the Continent.

Notwithstanding the lack of a universally accepted common definition of **Terrorism**, the AU, in its [1999 OAU CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM](#), *Article 1 paragraph 3, (a) and (b), and Article 3*, defines what constitutes a **Terrorist Act**. The ACSRT and therefore the ATB defer to this definition.

THE BULLETIN IS PRODUCED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command Forces
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AMM	Africa Media Monitor
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AU	African Union
BH	Boko Haram
CAERT	Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme
CAR	Central African Republic
CT	Counter-Terrorism
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EUC-JRC	European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre
FAMa	Forces Armées Maliennes
FDPC	Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State
ISCAP	Islamic State Central African Province
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
ISS	Islamic State in Somalia
ISWAP	Islamic State in West Africa Province
JNIM	Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center
KUBN	Uqba Nafi Batallion
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Forces
MINUSMA	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali (
MSA	Mouvement pour le salut de l'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
SNA	Somalia National Army
US	United States (of America)
VBIEDs	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

SUMMARY

- **General Situation.** The reporting period, 16th to 31st May 2019 recorded a decrease in the number of attacks by terrorist and violent extremist groups in all regions of Africa compared to 1st to 15th May. The number of deaths resulting from terrorist attacks also decreased.
- **Areas Most Affected.** The five countries most affected by terrorism during the period are Nigeria, DRC, Somalia, Chad and Mali (**In decreasing order of deaths recorded**).
- **Terrorist Attacks.** A total of 88 terrorist attacks were recorded across Africa during the period.
- **Target of Terrorist Attacks.** While 37 of 88 terrorist attacks were launched against Security forces, 35 were targeted at civilians. Nine targeted International Organizations (AMISOM and MINUSMA) and seven Government Institutions/Officials. The attacks by al-Shabaab, JNIM, ADF/ISCAP and IS affiliates in Libya were mainly against security forces whilst Boko Haram (SF), ISWAP and ISGS mainly targeted civilians.
- **Weapons used.** The terrorist groups used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in 57 out of the 88 attacks. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were used in 21 of the attacks. Three attacks involved a combination of IEDs and SALW; and seven others were cases of kidnapping.
- **Terrorism Deaths/Casualties.** A total number of 248 terrorism deaths resulting from the 88 terrorist attacks were recorded during the period. The actual casualty figures for the period are 124 civilians, 67 terrorist and 57 Military/Security personnel.
- **Casualties Inflicted by Terrorist groups.** Al-Shabaab killed 25 persons (14 civilians, 11 security); Boko Haram (SF) killed 47 persons (35 civilians, 12 Security); ISWAP killed 20 (15 civilians, 5 Security); JNIM killed 5 (1 civilian, 4 Security); IS affiliates in Libya killed 2 personnel, and Unidentified groups killed 82 persons (59 civilians, 23 Security).
- **Casualties sustained by Terrorist Groups.** ADF/ISCAP suffered the highest casualties. DRC security forces killed 26 ADF/ISCAP fighters during the period. Al-Shabaab lost 24 fighters, Boko Haram (SF) lost 23 fighters, and Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) lost two fighters and IS affiliate groups in Libya lost two fighters. 3 militants from unidentified/unaffiliated groups were also killed.
- **Kidnapping.** Seven cases of kidnapping were recorded across Africa. In all, 32 persons were taken hostage, including 11 in Niger, eight in Mali, five in Cameroon, four in Libya and four in Burkina Faso. One hostage was killed, one released and 30 remain in captivity.
- **Focus on Epicentres.** Out of the total of 88 terrorist attacks, Sahel region accounted for 34, Lake Chad Basin recorded 32, and Horn of Africa recorded 15. The Lake Chad Basin recorded a total death of 109 from terrorist attacks, Horn of Africa recorded 45 and the Sahel region recorded 41 deaths within the period under review.
- **High Profile Incidents.** On **26 May in Damboa, Borno, Nigeria.** ISWAP militants ambushed a convoy transporting civilians to displacement camps, killing 15 civilians and 5 soldiers. On **28 May, Macomia, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.** Assailants ambushed a truck with an IED killing 16 persons.
- **Counter-Terrorism Response.** Security forces remained responsive to the situation during the period. Deliberate CT operations resulted in the neutralization of 13 militants from various terrorist groups.
- **Conclusion/Recommendation.** The total number of terrorist attacks and the resultant number of deaths due to terrorist acts reduced considerably during the period. The terrorist threat however remains potent. While security forces and the civilian population did suffer the brunt of terrorist attacks in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions, government officials and installations were the primary targets of terrorist attacks in the East and Horn of Africa. In mobilizing partnership, political will and resources to address the situation of terrorism in Africa, consideration would need first to be given to the **crystallization of consensus** on what exactly the challenge derives from, a clear concept of operation on how to address the challenge and what it takes to do so.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Objective: 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.

Database: The ACSRT maintains a robust database that stores information on terrorism, more specifically, on terrorist groups, their leaders and members, and activities and avails this information to the African Union Commission and the African Union Member States. 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. With the AMM, the Situation Room Team scans and accesses over 1400 websites 24/7 and retrieves real time information on terrorist incidents. The Centre also stores terrorism-related information received from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) based on existing cooperation. The AU Continental Early Warning Situation-Room and reports from AU Field Missions and other field missions are also sources of information for the bulletin.

Validation: To ensure credibility and reliability, the Centre validates all accessed terrorism incidents from the ACSRT Focal Points of the Member States. The Focal Points are the institutions in AU Members designated to collaborate and share terrorism and Counter-Terrorism related information with the ACSRT. In accordance with its mandate, the information validated by the ACSRT on the number of attacks, deaths and injuries recorded are considered as the official data for the ACSRT Database irrespective of other conflicting figures.

THREAT UPDATE

General. The number of terrorist attacks decreased during the period under review compared to the preceding period of 01-15 May 2019. The current period recorded **88** attacks as compared to **112** during the preceding period. The Sahel belt of West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali), Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Niger–Diffa region) and the East/Horn of Africa continue to be the epicentres of terrorist activities on the Continent. The threat continues to evolve around local terrorist groups and insurgencies with a Militant Salafi-Jihadism motives

Sahel Belt of West Africa. A series of attacks were launched by terrorist groups against schools and Christian places of worship in the north of **Burkina Faso**. These attacks have led to the closure of a number of secular schools and continue to undermine the confidence of local communities in the government to protect them. The continued attacks on churches have created considerable mistrust between Christians and their Muslim neighbours in the affected local communities. On 26 May in the town of Toulfé, unidentified assailants attacked a Catholic church during mass, killed four congregants and injured two others. Although there are a number of terrorist groups operating in northern Burkina Faso, none has claimed responsibility for these attacks. Two schools in the villages of Sakoani and Kassoum were attacked during the period. The trend has been to ask secular schools to close down and be replaced by Quranic schools. **Mali** recorded a decline in the number of IED attacks; there were four IED attacks as compared to 11 during the previous period.

Lake Chad Basin. Boko Haram (SF) and ISWAP continue to dominate the terrorism landscape in the region with persistent attacks on both security and civilian targets. Kidnapping also continued to be a major feature of their operations. On 19 May in Akilu village of Kaduna State in **Nigeria**, gunmen attacked a church during service and abducted 15 congregants. No group has claimed responsibility although Boko Haram (SF) is suspected to be responsible. Although ISWAP has normally focused on targeting security forces in its attacks,

on 26 May, in the village of Damboa in Borno State, the group ambushed a convoy that was transporting civilians to displacement camps resulting in the death of 20 people including five soldiers. Boko Haram continued to carry out cross-border raids against military posts in **Chad**. On 24 May in the village of Ngounboua near Lake Chad, the group attacked an army position killing one soldier. The army counter-attack resulted in the death of 23 fighters. The Diffa region of **Niger** recorded an attack by Boko Haram. On 29 May, in the village of Toumou, Boko Haram (SF) militants attacked two families and kidnapped 11 persons comprising eight women and three men. One man was killed.

North Africa and the Maghreb. The region recorded two attacks during the period - one each in **Egypt** and **Libya**. Terrorist cells however remain vibrant in the region. Algerian security forces continued their counter-terrorism operations against terrorist cells. The Algerian army units discovered and destroyed two bunkers which served as storage for substances used in the manufacture of explosives.

Central Africa. The ADF/ISCAP continued to be active in the North Kivu province of the **DRC**. The group stepped up its attacks against the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC). On 30 May, in a village near the city of Beni, militants of the group attacked an FARDC post. A counter-attack by the army resulted in the killing of 26 of the attackers.

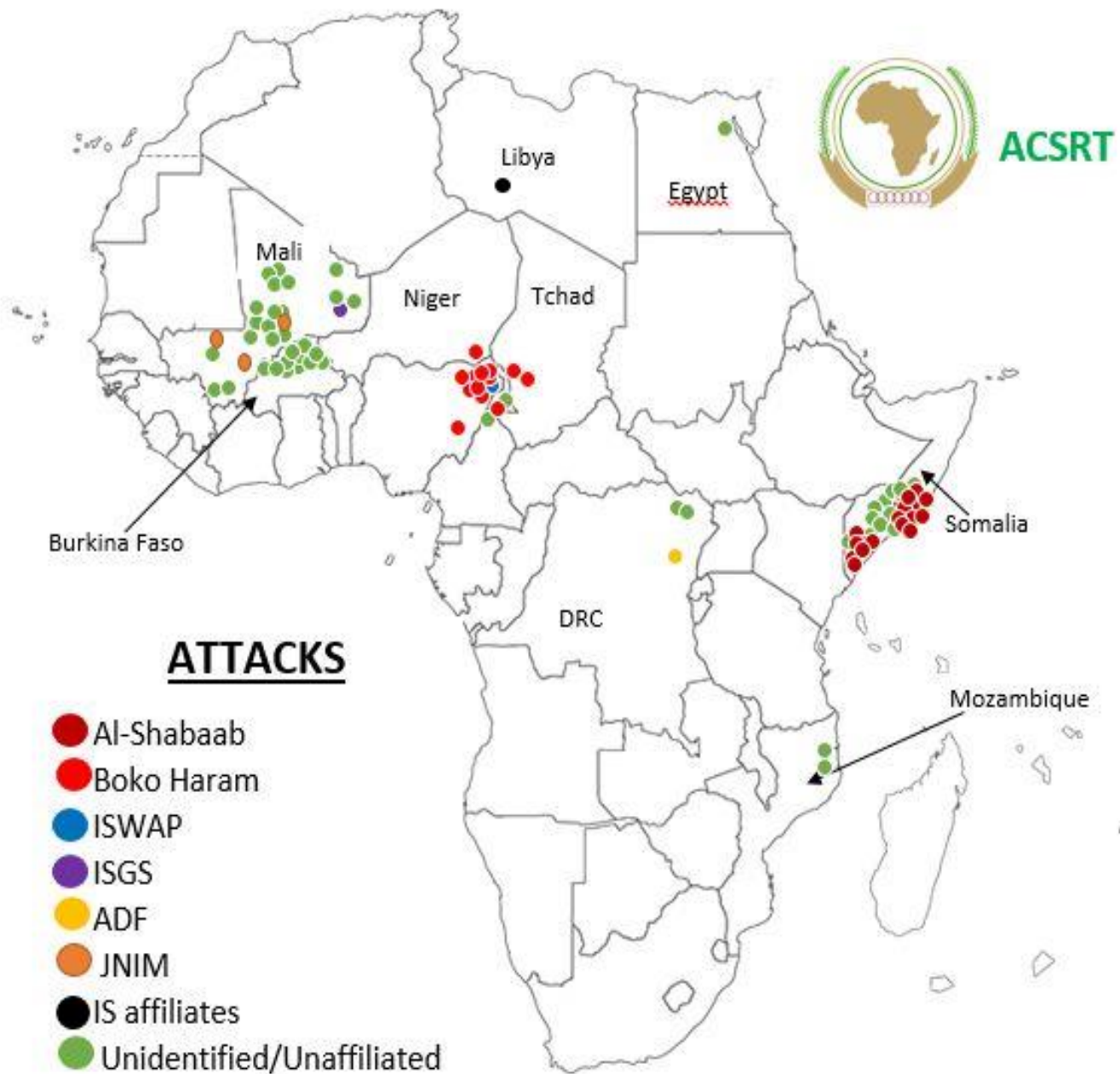
East and Horn of Africa. Al-Shabaab remained resilient particularly in Mogadishu, **Somalia** with the use of Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) against government, military and civilian targets. On 22 May in Mogadishu, al-Shabaab militants detonated a VBIED near the Presidential Palace killing nine persons including a former Foreign Minister. The group also launched 32 other attacks with 17 being against the Somalia National Army (SNA) including the 20 May attack in the Bakol Province, in the South which resulted in 28 deaths. Three of the attacks were against AMISOM. Four soldiers were killed in that attack. The army counter attack killed 14 al-Shabaab militants. During the period, US AFRICOM in conjunction with SNA conducted two airstrikes - one against the IS affiliated group in Puntland and the other against al-Shabaab elements in Golis Mountains.

Southern Africa. The insurgency in **Mozambique's** northern province of Cabo Delgado continued to create fear and panic in local communities and undermines stability in the gas-rich region. In addition to its known tactic of attacking and burning villages, the Militia has resorted to the use of IEDs. On 28 May 2019, in Macomia district, the militants used an IED to strike a civilian truck that was under military escort. The attack resulted in the deaths of 16 civilians, including three soldiers and the injury of 10 others. The introduction of the use of IEDs by the Militia into the insurgency enhances their capacity to cause harm and should inform counter-terrorism response planning.

GENERAL TREND: TERRORISTS ATTACKS/COUNTER-TERRORISM

Map 1: Map of Terrorism Incidents from 16th to 31st May 2019

AFRICA TERRORISM INCIDENTS MAP: FROM 16-31 MAY. 2019



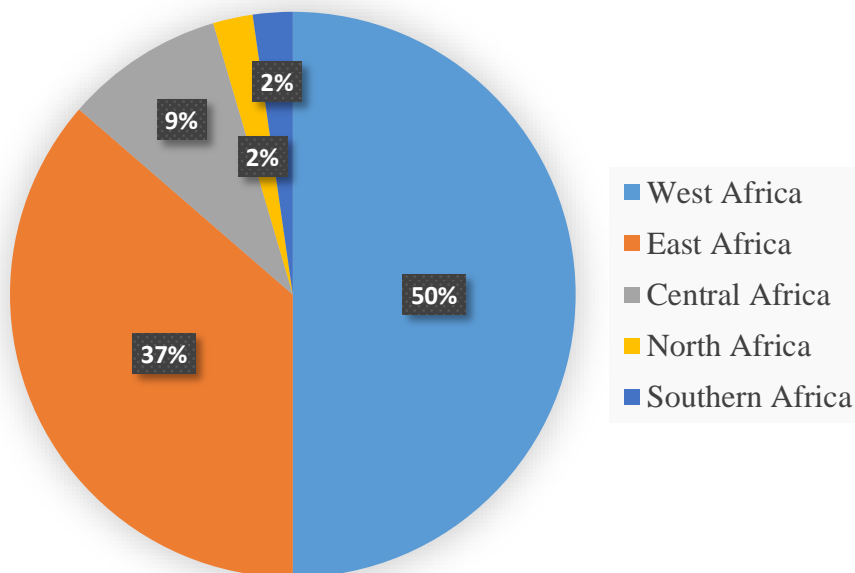
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

1. Total Terrorist Attacks:

A total of 88 terrorism incidents including seven cases of kidnapping were recorded from 16th to 31st May 2019.

2. Terrorists Attacks by Region

Figure 1: Regional Percentage



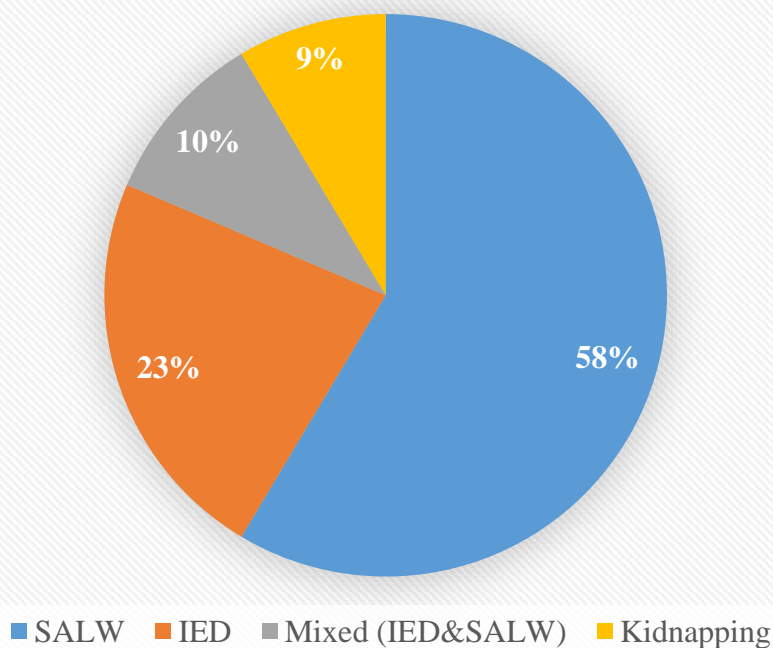
Number of Attacks per Regions:

- West Africa: 44
- East Africa: 32
- Central Africa: 8
- North Africa: 2
- Southern Africa: 2

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

3. Means of Attack

Figure 2: Percentage of Total



Means deployed per number of Attacks:

- SALW: 57
- IEDs: 21
- Mixed (IEDs & SALW): 3
- Kidnapping: 7

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

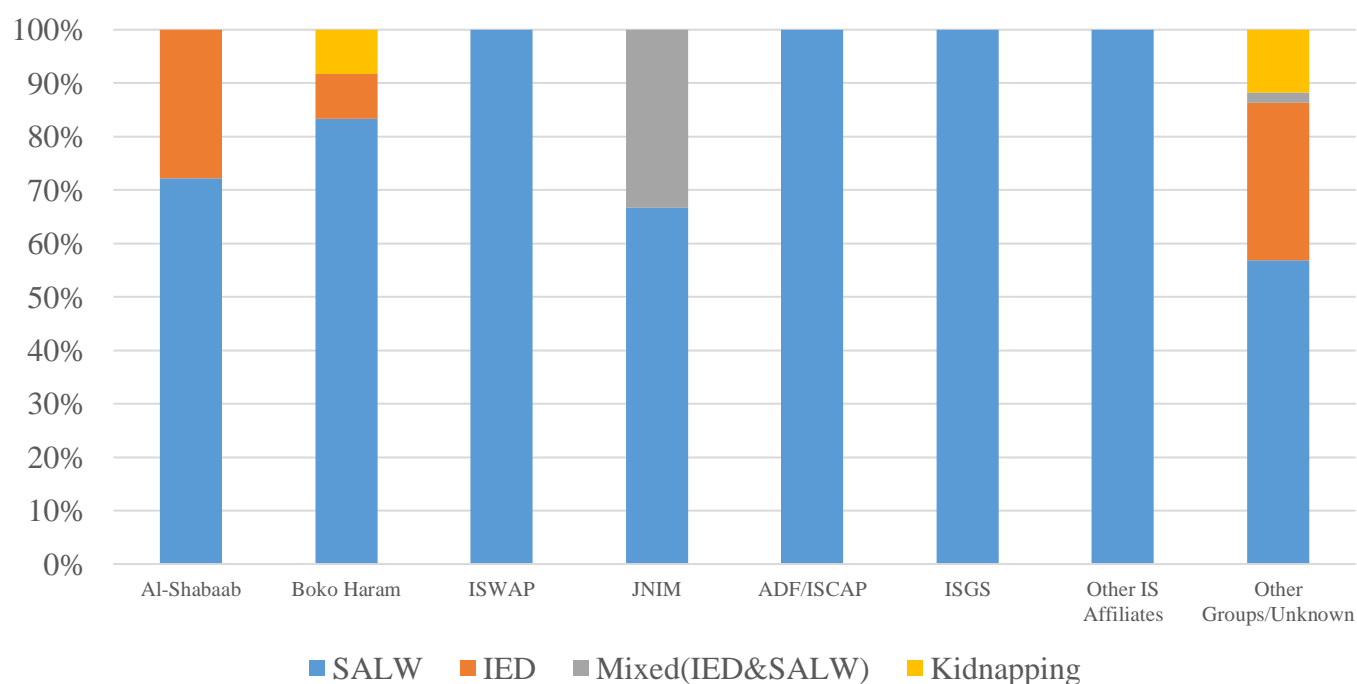
4. Means employed by Terrorist Groups for attacks

Table 1: Means Employed by Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	SALW	IED	Mixed	Kidnapping	Comment
Al-Shabaab	13	5	-	-	The group used SALW in 13 out of 18 attacks launched. Other five attacks used of IEDs.
Boko Haram	10	1	-	1	SALW continue to be the preferred means of attack by which Boko Haram. In 10 out of 12 attacks, the group used SALW. It used IEDs in one attack and one was kidnapping.
ISWAP	1	-	-	-	ISWAP carried out one attack using SALW.
JNIM	2	-	1	-	JNIM carried out two attacks using SALW and one attack using of both IEDs and SALW.
ADF/ISCAP	1				ADF /ISCAP carried out one attack using SALW.
ISGS	1	-	-	-	ISGS conducted one attack using SALW.
Other IS Affiliates	1	-	-	-	One attack by IS affiliates in Libya employed SALW.
Unknown/ Other Groups	29	15	1	6	Unknown/Other groups used SALW in the majority of their attacks. In 29, out of 51 attacks by these groups, SALW were used. They used IEDs for 11 attacks; one attack involved the use of both IEDs and SALW and they were responsible for six cases of kidnapping.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

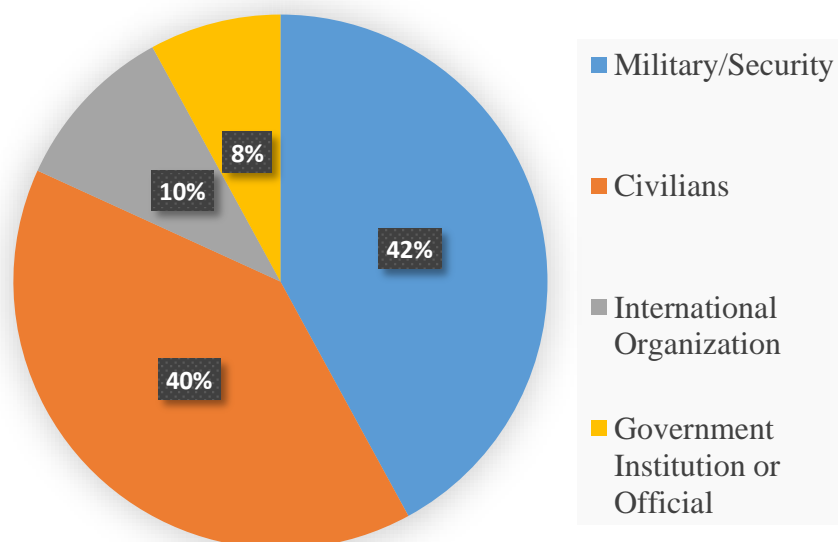
Figure 3: Percentage of Means Employed by Terrorist Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

5. Primary Targets

Figure 4: Primary Targets



Primary Targets

- Security/Military Forces: **37**
 - Civilians: **35**
 - International Organizations : **9**
 - Govt. Officials or Institutions: **7**
- 37 of the attacks representing **42%** targeted Security/Military Forces.
 - 35 attacks representing **40 %** targeted civilians.
 - Nine attacks representing **10%** targeted International Orgs (MINUSMA and AMISOM).
 - Seven attacks representing **8%** targeted Government Officials/ institutions.

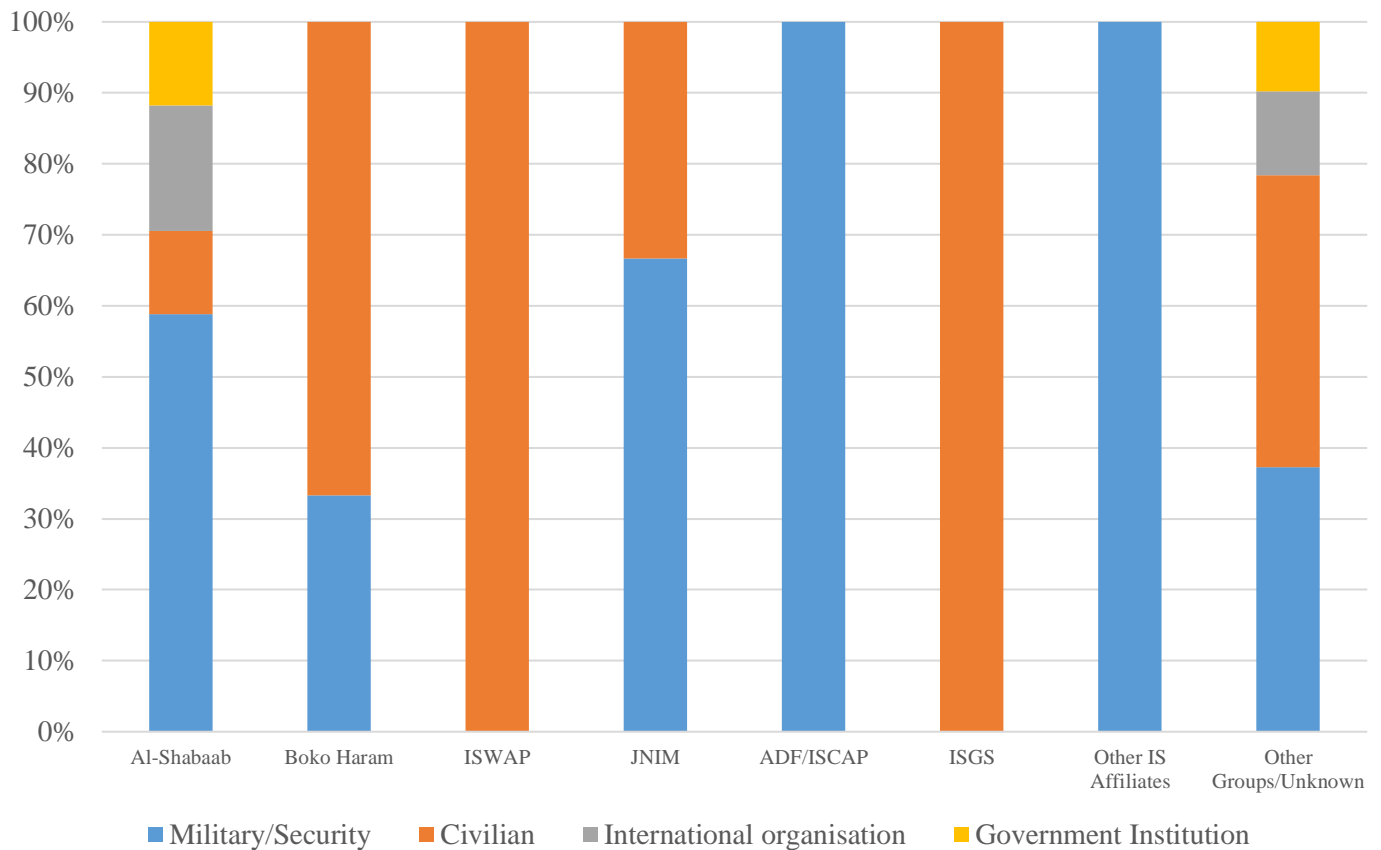
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

6. Terrorist Groups and Primary Targets

Table 2: Details of Terrorist Groups and their Primary Target

Terrorist Groups	Military/ Security	Civilians	Int. Org.	Gov't Inst.	Comment
Al-Shabaab	10	2	3	2	Attacks by Al-Shabaab were more targeted at military/Security forces (10).
Boko Haram	4	8	-	-	In 12 attacks carried out by Boko Haram, eight targeted civilians and four targeted Security.
ISWAP	-	1	-	-	ISWAP carried out one attack against civilians.
JNIM	2	1	-	-	JNIM carried out two attacks against Military Forces and one attack against civilians.
ADF/ISCAP	1	-	-	-	ADF/ISCAP carried out one attack against Military/Security Forces
ISGS	-	1	-	-	ISGS carried out one attack against civilians.
Other IS affiliates	1	-	-	-	IS affiliates in Libya carried out one attack targeting Military/Security Forces?
Unknown/ Other Groups	19	21	6	5	Attacks for which no group claimed responsibility mostly targeted civilians. 21 out of 51 attacks targeted civilians

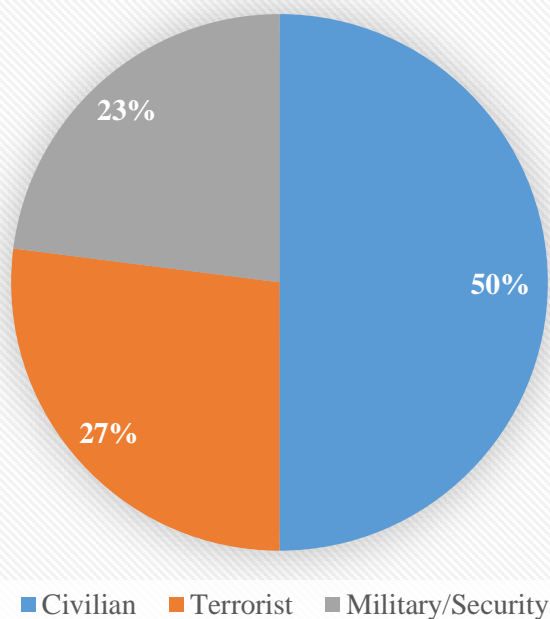
Figure 5: Percentage of Target per Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

7. Total Deaths

Figure 6: Percentage of Total Deaths



Total Deaths: 248

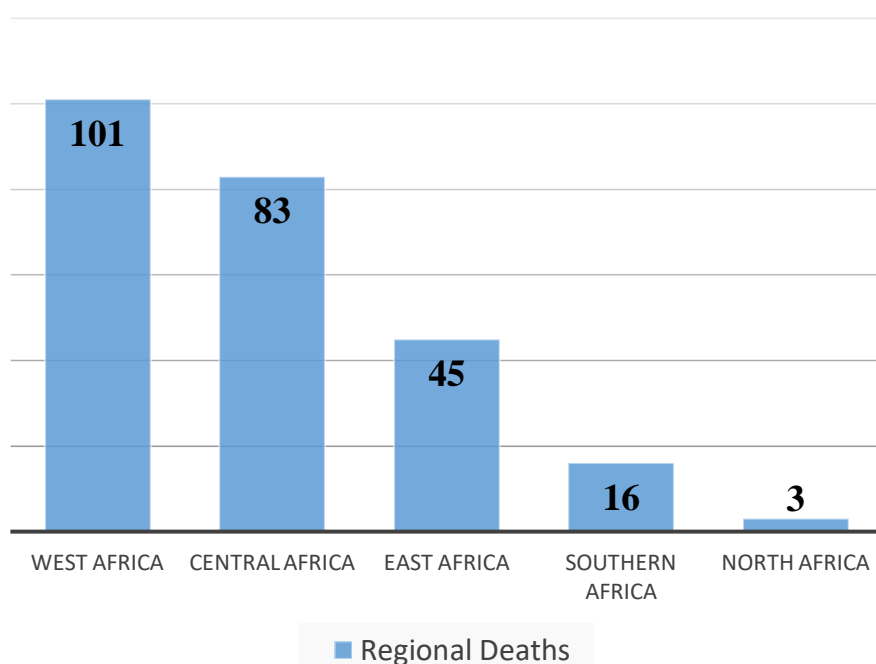
- Civilians: **124**
- Terrorists: **67**
- Security/Military: **57**

- A total of **248** deaths were recorded within the period under review.
- Out of the number, **50%** civilians and **23%** Security/Military were killed by terrorist groups. **27%** terrorists were also killed by security forces.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

8. Terrorism Deaths per Region

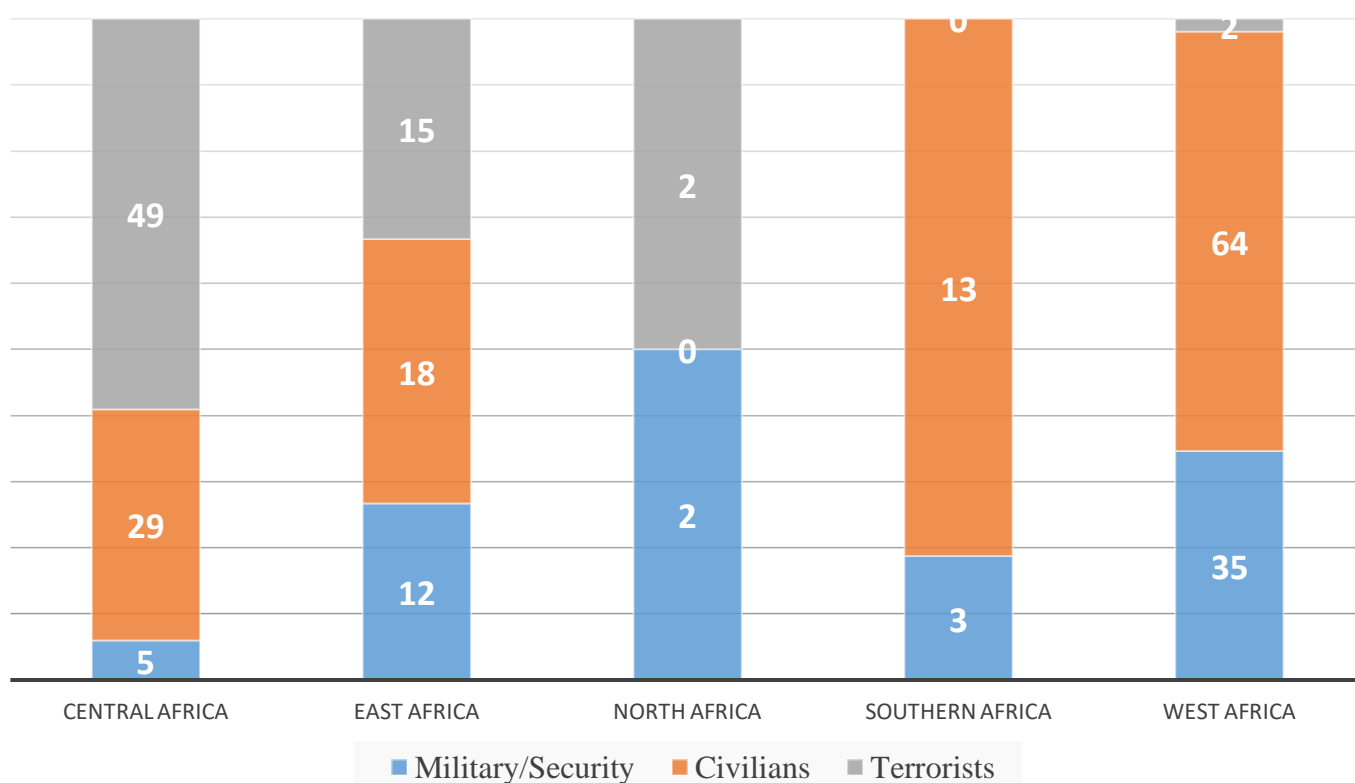
Figure 7: Regional Deaths



- West Africa recorded the highest number of terrorism-related deaths. **41%** of deaths recorded within the period occurred in the region.
- Central Africa region followed with **34%** of all deaths recorded within the period.
- 18%, 6% and 1%** of all terrorism deaths within the period occurred in, East, Southern and North Africa regions respectively.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

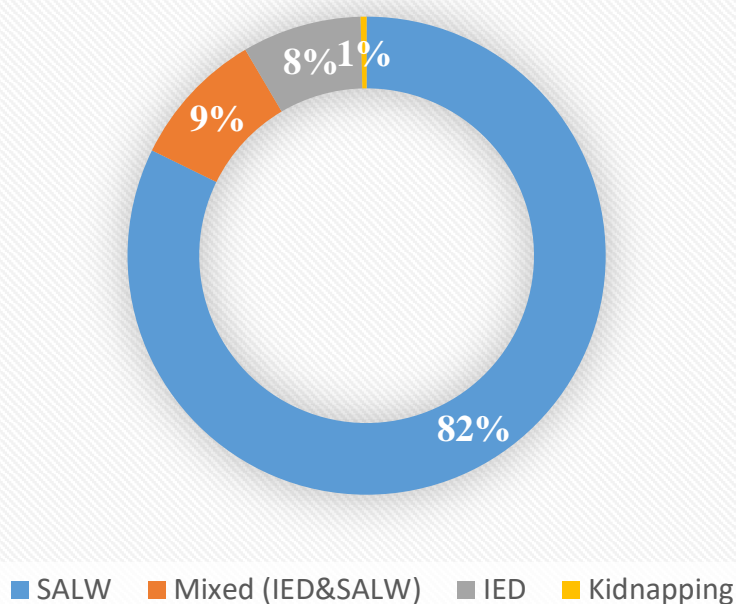
Figure 8: Regional Deaths by Category



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

9. Deaths by Means of Attack

Figure 9: Deaths per Means of Attack



Deaths by Means of Attack

- SALW: **204**
 - Mixed (IEDs & SALW): **23**
 - IEDs: **20**
 - Kidnapping: **01**
- SALW accounted for **82%** of the deaths occasioned by terrorists attack, whereas IEDs accounted for **8%** of deaths related to terrorist attacks.
 - **9%** of the deaths were associated with the use of both IEDs & SALW. One person, out of the **32** kidnapped was killed

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

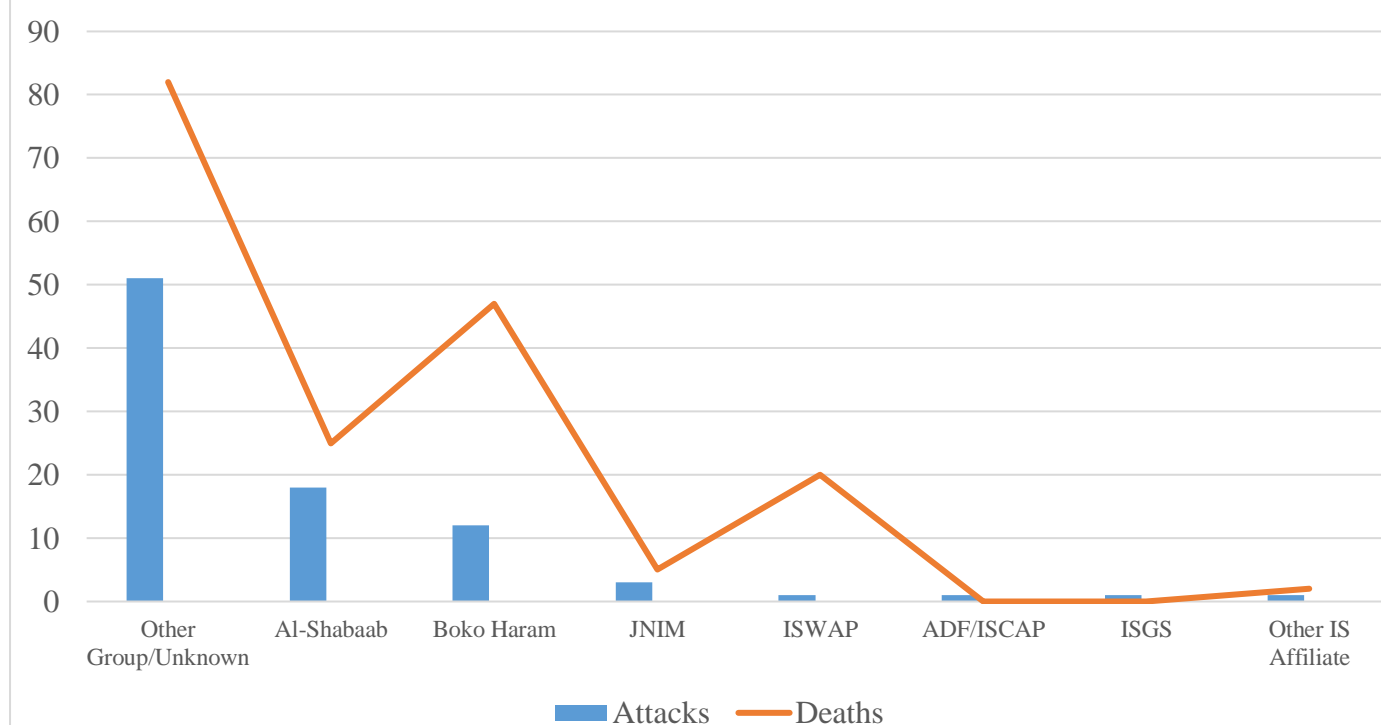
10. Number of Attacks by Terrorist Groups/Casualties inflicted

Table 3: Details of Attacks and Casualties from Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	Number of Attacks	Number of Deaths	Comments
Al-Shabaab	18	25	Al-Shabaab carried out the highest number of attacks. The group carried out 18 attacks, killing a total of 25 persons (14 Civilians, 11 Military/Security forces).
Boko Haram	12	47	Boko Haram inflicted the highest number of casualties. The group carried out 12 attacks, killing a total of 47 persons (35 civilians, 12 military).
JNIM	3	5	JNIM carried out three attacks, killing a total of 5 persons (1 Civilian, 4 Military/Security forces).
ISWAP	1	20	ISWAP carried out one attack, killing a total of 20 persons (15 Civilians, 5 Military/Security forces).
ADF/ISCAP	1	-	ADF/ISCAP carried out one attack with no casualty.
ISGS	1	-	ISGS carried out one attack with no casualty.
Other IS Affiliates	1	2	Other IS affiliates carried out one attack in Libya, killing 2 Security/Military forces.
Other Groups/Unknown	51	82	A total of 51 attacks were carried out by Unknown/Other groups. This resulted in 99 deaths comprising 59 Civilians and 23 Military/Security forces.

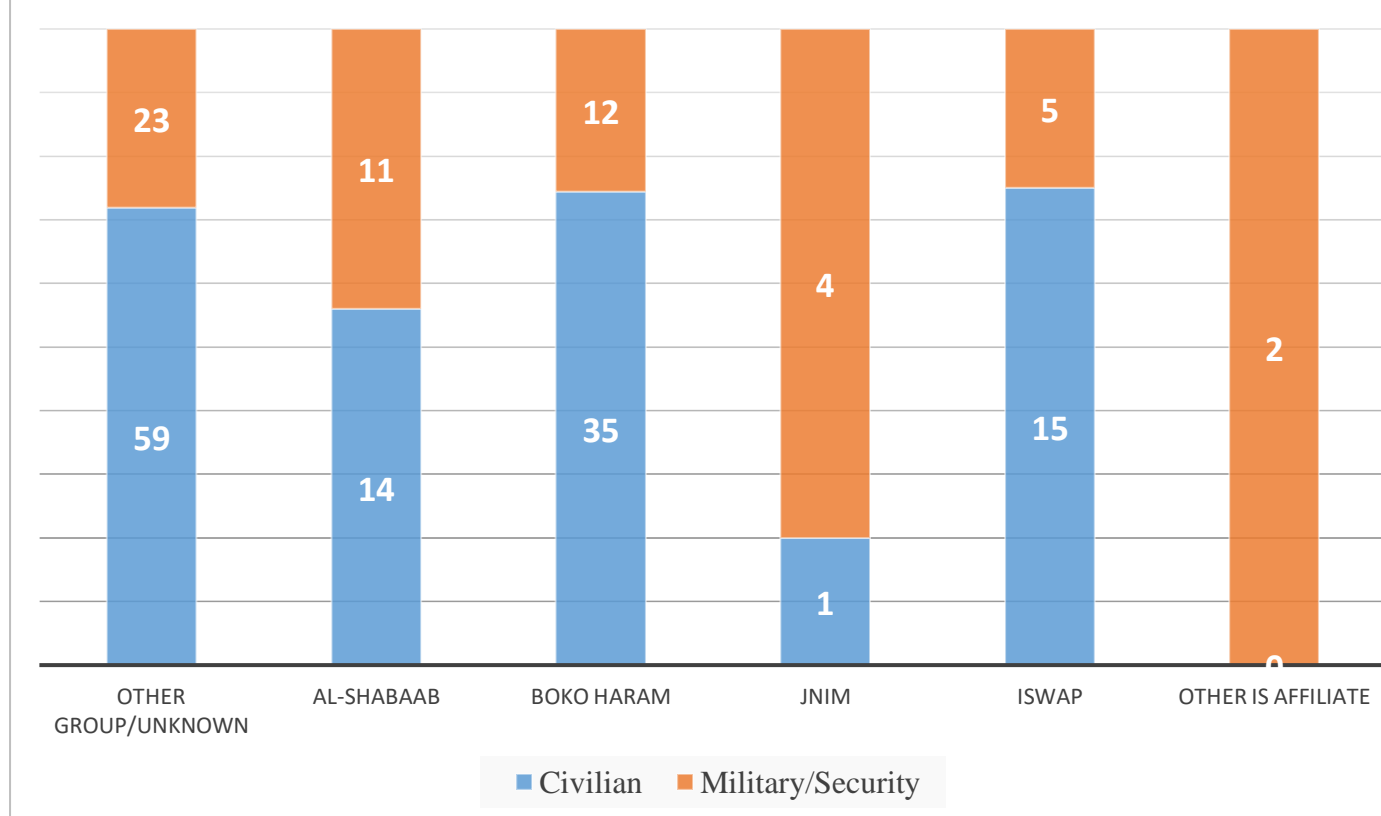
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 10: Attacks and Casualties Caused by Terrorist Groups



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 11: Category of Victims Killed by Terrorist Group



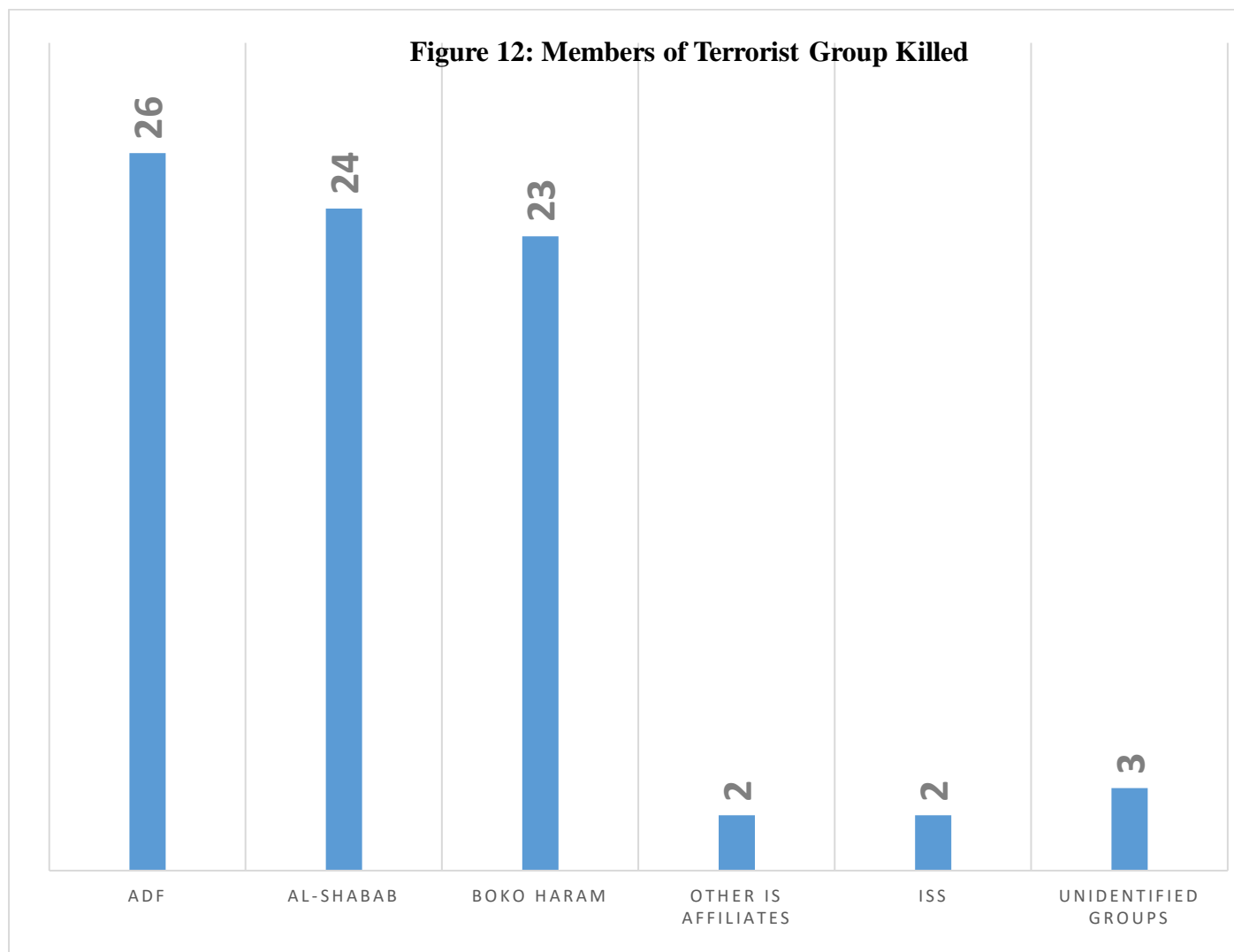
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

11. Members of Terrorist Groups Killed (In Attacks and Deliberate CT Operations)

Table 4: Details of Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	Number Killed	Comment
Al-Shabaab	24	24 fighters of Al-Shabaab were killed by security forces.
Boko Haram	23	23 fighters of Boko Haram (Shekau faction) were eliminated.
ADF	26	Among the members of terrorist groups killed in counter-terrorism operations and combat missions, ADF suffered the highest number of casualties. 26 fighters of the terrorist group were killed.
ISS	2	Two fighters of Islamic State in Somalia were killed
Other IS Affiliate	2	Two fighters of Other IS affiliates in Libya were also eliminated.
Other Group/Unknown	3	Three other terrorists killed belong to Unknown/Other groups

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

12. Five Most Affected Countries

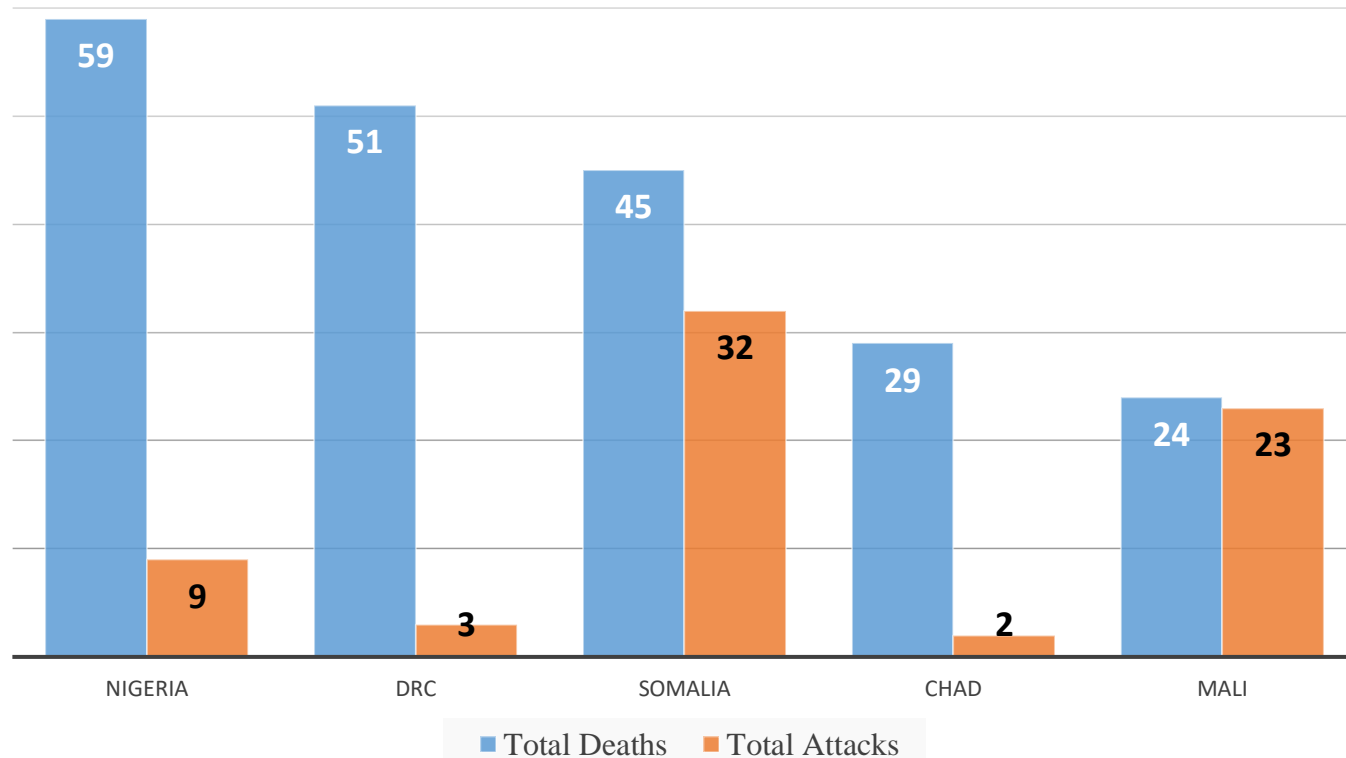
Table 5: Five Countries Most Affected

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths	Total injured
Nigeria	9	59	5
DRC	3	51	10
Somalia	32	45	32
Chad	2	29	0
Mali	23	24	26

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

- Nigeria recorded the highest number of deaths (59), resulting from nine attacks.
- DRC recorded 51 deaths from three (3) attacks.
- Somalia recorded the highest number of attacks (32), resulting in 45 deaths.
- Mali recorded 23 attacks, resulting in 24 deaths.
- Chad recorded two (2) attacks resulting in 29 deaths.

Figure 13: Most Affected Countries



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

TERRORISM INCIDENTS

THE MOST FATAL ATTACKS

13. Most Fatal Terrorist Incidents

Table 6: List of Most Fatal Terrorist Attacks

No	Country	City	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	DRC	North Kivu	30/05/19	ADF	26	Militants attacked an army post. Security forces repulsed the attack killing 26 of the militants.
2	Chad	Lake Chad	24/05/19	Boko Haram	24	Assailants attacked a military post killing one soldier. Reprisal attacks by security forces resulted in the neutralization of 23 militants.
3	DRC	Ituri	15/05/19	*NGCR	21	Armed men attacked a fish market, killing 21 civilians and injuring eight others.
4	Nigeria	Borno	26/05/19	ISWAP	20	ISWAP militants ambushed a convoy transporting civilians to displacement camps killing 20 persons
5	Somalia	Bakol	20/05/19	Al Shabaab	18	Assailants attacked an army base killing four soldiers. 14 militants were also killed.
6	Nigeria	Borno	26/05/19	Boko Haram	16	Armed men attacked a village killing 16 civilians
7	Mozambique	Cabo Delgado	28/05/19	*NGCR	16	Assailants ambushed a truck with an IED. 16 people were killed including soldiers on escort mission.

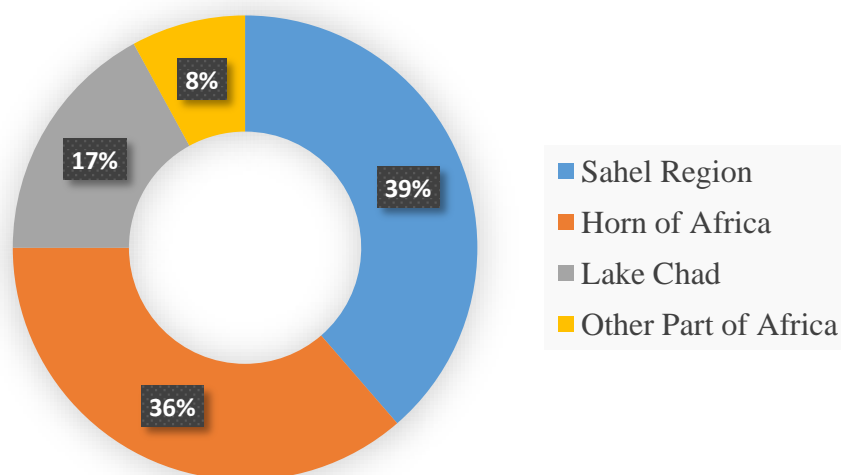
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019 *NGCR= No Group Claimed Responsibility

IN FOCUS

EPICENTRES

14. Attacks in Epicentres

Figure 13: Percentage of Attacks in Epicentres



Total Attacks in Africa: 88

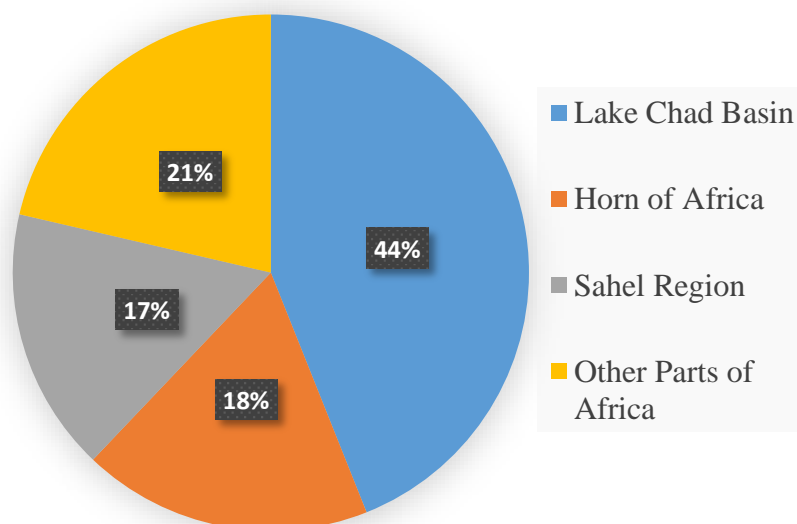
- Sahel region: **34**
- Horn of Africa: **32**
- Lake Chad Basin: **15**
- Other Parts of Africa: **7**

- Within the period under review, the Sahel (Mali and Burkina Faso) recorded 39%, Horn of Africa (Somalia) recorded 36%, and Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Niger-Diffa region) recorded 17% of all the attacks in Africa.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

15. Total Deaths Recorded in Epicentres

Figure 18: Percentage of Deaths in Epicentres



Total Deaths in Africa: 248

- Lake Chad Basin: **109**
 - Horn of Africa: **45**
 - Sahel Region: **41**
 - Other Parts of Africa: **53**
- 44% of the deaths recorded within the period under review occurred in the Lake Chad Basin
 - 18% of the deaths occurred in the Horn of Africa
 - 17% of deaths for the period occurred in the Sahel region.
 - 21% of the deaths occurred in other parts of Africa

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

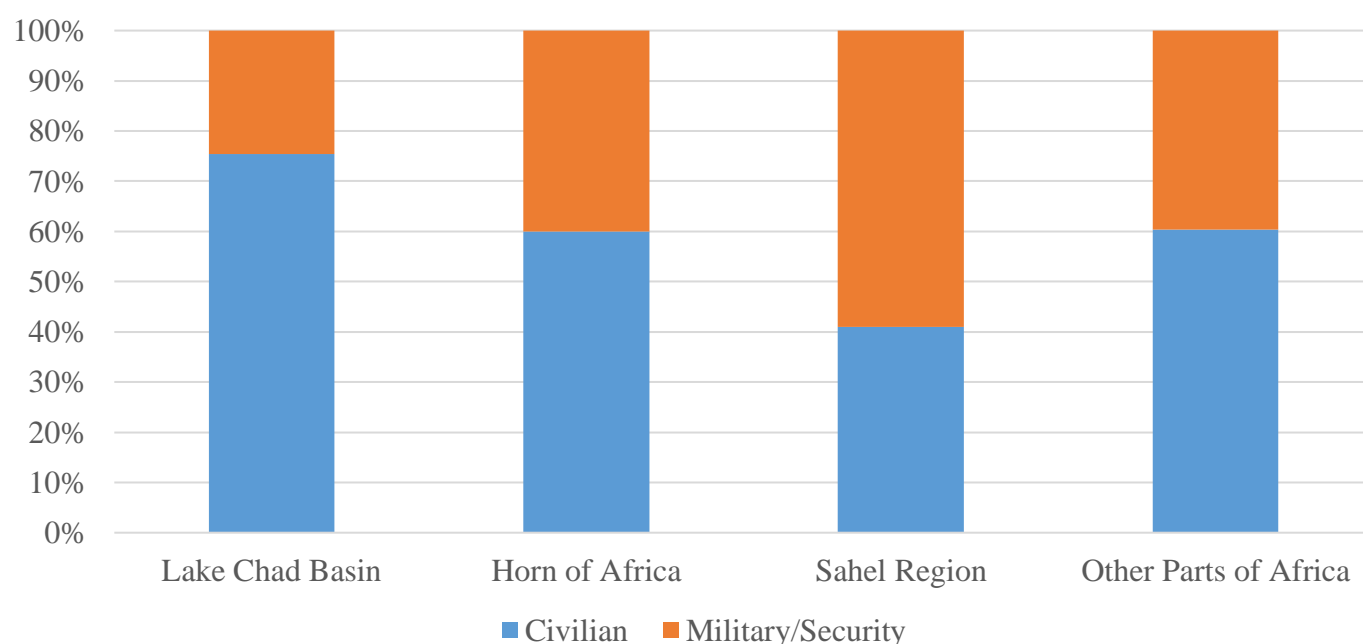
16. Deaths by Category in Epicentres

Table 7: Category of Deaths in Epicentres

Epicentre	Civilian	Military/Security	Comments
Lake Chad Basin	52	17	Majority of civilians were killed in the Lake Chad basin. The lake Chad Basin also recorded the second highest number of military deaths among the epicentres.
Horn of Africa	18	12	Civilians in the Horn of Africa were the second highest casualties among epicentres.
Sahel Region	16	23	The highest number of deaths against security/military among the various epicentres were recorded in the Sahel region
Other Parts	38	25	All other parts of Africa except epicentres recorded civilian deaths of 38 and 25 security forces were also killed

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 19: Percentage Deaths Category in Epicentres



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

KIDNAPPINGS

- The phenomenon of suspected terrorists and armed men kidnapping people featured prominently in the last half of May 2019.
- During the period, seven cases of kidnapping were recorded across Africa. A total of 32 persons were taken hostage in Cameroon, Libya, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Out of the 32 hostages, one person was killed, one person was released unhurt and 30 still remain in hostage.
- **Cameroon:** Five people were abducted in the villages of Madingring and Kosseyel by unidentified armed men.
- **Libya.** IS militants kidnapped four soldiers in Zillah Town located in Southern Libya.
- **Burkina Faso:** Four people were abducted in Burkina Faso. The first three people were abducted by unidentified men in a health center located in a refugee camp in Soum province and the Municipal Councilor of Loroum was also abducted later.
- **Mali:** A total of 8 people were abducted in Mopti and Timbuktu. One was released unhurt whereas seven remain in hostage.
- **Niger:** 11 people were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Toumour villiage located in Diffa region. One person was killed and 10 remain captivity.
- **Kenya:** Al Shabaab terrorist group is demanding a ransom of 1.5 million U.S. dollars (Ksh.150 million) ransom to free the two Cuban doctors kidnapped in Kenya in April. The doctors are reportedly treating the local community in Somalia under the control of Al-Shabaab militants.

CONCLUSION

The total number of terrorist attacks and the resultant number of deaths due to terrorist acts and counter-terrorism operations both reduced considerably during the period compared to the first 15 days of May. The terrorist threat however remains potent. While security forces and the civilian population did suffer the brunt of terrorist attacks in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin regions, government officials and installations were the primary targets of terrorist attacks in the East and Horn of Africa. The reduction could be attributed to a lull in the operations of the terrorist groups during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, although terrorist groups have in the past rather intensified their activities during the Moslem Holy month. The lull during the period provides an opportunity to review the general situation and raise a few fundamental questions. The projection however is that the momentum of the terrorists' offensive will increase in all regions after the Ramadan period.

A review of the general terrorism situation in Africa confirms that the terrorism offensive in Africa is being carried out predominantly by Salafi-Jihadist terrorist groups with affiliation to al Qaeda or IS. In addition to mere allegiance and affiliation, these groups have demonstrated sufficiently over time that they are guided by a Salafi-Jihadist world view as motive and ideology for their campaign.

Increasingly also, there is an escalating pattern of sub-national terrorism on the continent. The recurrent retaliatory attacks between the Fulani and Dogon communities in central Mali is a typical example. Although these attacks fit into the African Union definition of what constitutes a Terrorist Act, they tend to be categorized merely as inter-ethnic clashes and thereby attract rather insufficient punitive/deterrent action. It is considered that this approach as to categorization requires a review.

In spite of all the efforts being put into the fight against terrorism on the continent, the terrorist groups continue to increase their momentum particularly in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, DRC, and more recently in Mozambique. Lives and property continue to be at tremendous risk to terrorist attack. The terrorist groups have in a number of instances demonstrated a capability for planning and mobilizing adequate combat power to take on military deployments successfully, seize their equipment and take soldiers captive. One cannot overlook the adverse impact of such terrorist initiative and success on the morale of the security forces and the confidence of local communities on the ability of government to protect them. The situation raises a few critical questions at both the strategic and operational levels for consideration by policy makers. What exactly is the centre of gravity of the Salafi-Jihadist movement that must be attacked and defeated? What should be done to maintain the morale, esprit de corps, fighting spirit and confidence of the security forces in the face of the numerous casualties that they continue to sustain from terrorist attacks? How could the troops be better protected? How could the state retain the confidence of the local communities in its ability to protect them?

In mobilizing partnership, political will and resources to address the situation of terrorism in Africa, consideration would need first to be given to the *crystallization of consensus* on what exactly the challenge derives from, a clear concept of operation on how to address the challenge and what it takes to do so. Consideration may have to be given to the postulation that the centre of gravity of the terrorism offensive in Africa derives from a Salafi-Jihadist ideology which must be directly challenged and defeated. In such a consideration, attention needs to be paid to the strands of Salafi-Jihadism which manifest in a rejection of man-made laws and a self-serving manipulation of the interpretation of the concepts of *Jihad, Takfir, Al-wala bara, Tawhid and Hakimiyyah* which exist within normative mainstream Islam. The mobilization of Islamic scholarship and political support by the African Union in this endeavor is key.

FORECAST FOR NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin will cover terrorism incidents from 1st – 15th June 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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PROFILE OF ACSRT/CAERT

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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APPENDIX A: SYNTHESIS TABLE OF TERRORISM INCIDENTS IN AFRICA

No	Country/ Regions: Central Africa East Africa North Africa Southern Africa West Africa	Type and total of attacks				Terrorists Groups Clashes	Total Dead			Total Wounded			Hostages	Hostages Released	Arrested Terrorists	Primary Targets			
		Small Arms and light weapons (SALW)	Explosives (IED)	Mixed (IED and SALW)	Kidnapping		Security/Military	Civilians	Terrorists	Security/Military	Civilians	Terrorists				Security/Military	Civilians	Government officials or institutions	International Organizations
1	Cameroun	1	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	20	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	-
2	Chad	1	1	-	-	-	5	1	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
3	DRC	3	-	-	-	-	-	25	26	-	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
4	Somalia	17	15	-	-	-	12	18	27	23	25	-	-	-	4	18	6	4	4
5	Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
6	Egypt	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
7	Libya	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	4	-	1	-	-	-
8	Mozambique	1	-	1	-	-	3	13	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
9	Burkina Faso	9	-	-	2	-	5	10	2	5	2	-	4	-	-	4	4	3	-
10	Mali	16	3	1	3	-	18	6	-	20	6	-	8	1	5	9	9	-	5
11	Nigeria	9	-	-	-	-	12	47	-	5	-	-	-	-	4	2	7	-	-
12	Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total		57	21	3	6	-	57	123	80	53	92	0	21	5	15	37	34	7	9
General Total		87				-	260			145			21	5	15	87			

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

APPENDIX B: TERRORIST ATTACKS RECORDED BY REGIONS

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

19 May, Pont Vert, Far North. A grenade explosion in a bar killed two persons and injured 20 people. Authorities ruled out a connection with Boko Haram.

25 May, Mayo-Rey, Far North. Unidentified gunmen attacked Madingring and Kosseyel yebe villages and abducted five people.

23 and 24 May, Malika, Far North. Boko Haram attacked an Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camp. One civilian was killed and several others injured

CHAD

24 May, Ngounboua, Lake Chad. Boko Haram elements attacked a military post. One soldier was killed and 23 Boko Haram fighters were also eliminated.

25 May, Ngounboua, Lake Chad. A landmine targeted a vehicle carrying soldiers on their way to a military post that had earlier been attacked by Boko Haram. Four Chadian soldiers and a national TV reporter were killed.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

15 May, Tara, Ituri. Armed assailants suspected to be from the Lendu community attacked a fish market. 21 people were killed, eight others were wounded.

22 May, Lots, Ituri. Unidentified armed men with rifles and knives invaded a village. Four people were killed and two others were injured.

30 May, Ngite, North Kivu. The ADF militants attacked a military post. The army repulsed the attack and killed 26 rebels.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

16 May, Bakara, Mogadishu. Unidentified men opened fire at a soldier. The soldier sustained injuries. Reprisal attack by security forces killed one attacker.

17 May, Karan, Mogadishu. Unidentified militants shot and killed a well-known local government official.

17 May, Dharkenley, Mogadishu. Unidentified assailants shot and killed SNA soldier and stole his AK-47 assault rifle.

17 May, Afgoye, Lower Shabelle. Al-Shabaab militants attacked SNA checkpoint. Security forces repulsed that attack. No casualties reported.

17 May, Afgoye, Lower Shabelle. An IED exploded hitting security patrol convoy. There were no casualties or damage to equipment.

18 May, Bardale, Southwest Somalia. A landmine hit military vehicle, killing a local councilor and injuring six other people including a military commander.

18 May, Karan, Mogadishu. Unidentified assailants shot and killed an employee working for Mogadishu's local government.

19 May, Hamarweyne, Mogadishu. A parked car filled with explosives detonated. No deaths or injuries recorded. Two suspects were arrested.

20 May, Bakol Province. Al-Shabaab attacked an army base in southern Somalia. 14 militants and four soldiers were killed during the attack.

22 May, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab exploded a suicide car bomb near the presidential palace. Nine people were killed including former Foreign Minister Hussein Elabe Fahiye, who was an adviser to the current president. 13 others were injured.

22 May, Hoosh, Mogadishu. A remote-controlled landmine exploded targeting a vehicle belonging to a local NGO, killing the driver.

27 May in Dharkenley, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab shot and killed a policeman; the attackers took the gun of the policeman and fled.

27 May in Hawlwadag, Mogadishu. Two Al-Shabaab attackers shot and killed a male electoral delegate.

27 May in Aboiazz, Mogadishu. Toyota Filler vehicle exploded, the vehicle suspected to be a VBIED was parked alongside the roundabout near Lido beach and exploded during the breaking of Ramadan fast. No casualties were recorded.

27 May in Hawlwadag, Mogadishu. Unidentified men hurled grenade at police checkpoint. Two civilians were injured.

27 May 2019, Yaqshid, Mogadishu. Unidentified attackers hurled hand grenade at police checkpoint. One policeman and one civilian were injured.

28 May 2019, Hodan, Mogadishu. Unidentified attacker hurled hand grenade at soldiers. Five soldiers were injured. One suspect was arrested.

28 May in Dayniile, Mogadishu. RCIED exploded near Somali National Army convoy damaging one vehicle and injuring three soldiers. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility.

28 May 2019, Shalambood, Middle Shabelle. Al-Shabaab attacked AMISOM convoy. No casualties reported.

28 May 2019, Barawe, Lower Shabelle. Al-Shabaab exploded a RCIED targeting a Somali Armed Forces vehicle. Three soldiers were injured.

28 May, Merka, Lower Shabelle. Al-Shabaab attacked AMISOM logistics convoy. Security forces repulsed the attack. No casualties recorded

29 May, Deyniile, Mogadishu. Unidentified attackers hurled a hand grenade at SNA checkpoint. Soldiers reacted with gunfire towards the attackers. No casualties confirmed.

29 May, Heliwa, Mogadishu. AMISOM convoy hit a remote-controlled IED (RCIED). Four people including one AMISOM soldier and three civilian were injured. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility.

29 May, Hawlwadag, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab gunmen shot and killed a police officer.

29 May, Qoryoley, Lower Shabelle region. Al-Shabaab attacked SNA troops resulting in exchange of gunfire. Two soldiers were killed.

29 May, Balcad, Middle Shabelle. Two RCIED explosions targeted to SNA battlewagon convoy. Two SNA officers were killed while three others were injured. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility.

29 May, Afgoye, Lower Shabelle. A roadside IED that targeted AMISOM convoy detonated. Two soldiers and one civilian were injured.

30 May 2019, Aymiska, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab attacked Somali Army position. After gunfight Al-Shabaab withdrew. One soldier was injured.

30 May 2019, Medina village, Mogadishu. Two Al-Shabaab militants shot and killed a shopkeeper.

31 May 2019, Siigale, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab shot and killed former Member of Parliament of South West State.

31 May 2019, Suuqweyn, Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab shot and killed two clan elders.

31 May 2019, Mahaday, Mogadishu. Two Al-Shabaab gunmen shot and killed a Somali soldier.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

19 May, Cairo, near the Giza Pyramids. A roadside bomb hit a tourist bus travelling on a road close to the under-construction Grand Egyptian Museum. 17 people including tourists were wounded.

LIBYA

18 May, Zillah, Southern Libya. The IS militants attacked a checkpoint manned by Libyan National Army (LNA), killing two LNA fighters and kidnapping four others. Three abducted LNA fighters were freed and one of the IS fighters detonated a person-borne improvised explosive device (PBIED) to prevent being captured.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

22 May, Palma, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified group attacked a funeral convoy on a road wounding two people.

28 May, Macomia district, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified group targeted a truck carrying passengers and goods with an IED. 16 people including three soldiers were killed and 10 others injured. This was the first IED attack in northern Mozambique.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

16 May, Banh, Loroum. Unidentified armed individuals abducted a municipal councilor of the commune.

18 May, Arbinda, Soum. Unidentified armed individuals attacked a home of a Koglwéogo chief and killed two of his children.

18 May, Arbinda, Soum. Unidentified armed men ambushed a patrol of the Burkinabe security forces. One gendarme was killed.

21 May, Arbinda, Soum. Suspected terrorists blocked a road. Soldiers from the Anti-Terrorist Defense Group (GFAT) responded and two attackers were killed. Two soldiers were also injured.

21 May, Arbinda, Soum. Armed forces of the 11th Commando Infantry Regiment were ambushed. Four soldiers were killed, three vehicles burned.

22 May, Sakoani, Gourma. Unidentified gunmen attacked and burned the primary school and took away bags of rice and cans of oil.

23 May, Mentao, Soum. Unidentified armed individuals attacked a health center in a refugee camp and abducted three people including a doctor and a driver from an international NGO.

23 May, Matiacoli, Eastern Region. Gunmen ambushed the Tawori military detachment. Three soldiers were injured and a forest and water officer was killed.

26 May, Bouroum, Namentenga. A group of heavily armed individuals attacked a village. Three youths were killed and drinking bars were burned.

26 May, Toulfé, Northern Burkina Faso. Armed assailants attacked a Catholic church during mass, killed four persons and injured two others.

29 May, Kassoum, Sourou. Armed assailants attacked a county high school and a forestry post. No casualties recorded. However, the school canteen, teaching materials and forestry station were set on fire.

MALI

16 May, Diafarabé, Mopti. A FAMa patrol car was ambushed with IED followed by gunfire. Four soldiers were killed and nine others injured. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.

17 May, Socoura, Mopti. Attackers stormed Saré Seini village and abducted three people whom they accused of collaborating with the FAMa.

18 May, Tessalit, Kidal. A MINUSMA patrol vehicle hit an explosive device. Six peacekeepers were injured in the incident.

18 May, Timbuktu, Timbuktu. Unidentified armed assailants attacked two MINUSMA peacekeepers, killing one of them.

In the night of 18 to 19 May, Somadougou, Mopti. Armed assailants abducted three people. One of the victims was released unharmed on 25 May.

19 May, Gossi commune, Timbuktu. Armed individuals stormed Ezeguar village and burned one car contracted by international forces.

19 May, Koury, Sikasso. Armed assailants attacked a FAMa checkpoint. Four civilians, two Malian Gendarmes and a customs officer were killed.

19 May, Boura, Sikasso. Armed assailants attacked a FAMa checkpoint. One soldier was injured. Four suspects were arrested.

20 May, Komni, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements ambushed a patrol of the National Guard killing 10 military.

21 May, Tin-Tadeyni, Timbuktu. Armed assailants abducted a young female from the Kel Tamacharte community.

23 May, Sare Dina, Mopti. Unidentified radical armed elements killed a man in his house.

23 May, Timbuktu. Armed assailants hijacked the vehicle of an international organization. After disembarking the driver, they fled with the vehicle.

24 May, Timbuktu. A MINUSMA camp was targeted by an indirect fire attack. Two mortar shells landed near the airport runway. No casualties recorded.

25 May, Gao. Unidentified armed individuals opened fire at a FAMa soldiers on duty. No casualty reported.

25 May, N'Tilit, Gao. ISGS militants clashed with GATIA-MSA coalition's combatants. One GATIA-MSA vehicle was burnt and no casualties were reported.

25 May, Yoro, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements stormed a house in Bodol hamlet, stole several items and burned down properties.

25 May, Gao. Unidentified gunmen attacked a FAMa. Security forces repulsed the attack. No casualties recorded.

26 May, Soumouni, Segou. Macina Liberation Front (Katiba Macina) attacked Dozos militants, killing one Dozo and injuring five others.

26 May, Kouna, Mopti. Unidentified assailants on motorcycles opened fire on the local population, injuring a young girl. The assailants targeted a house and abducted one person suspected of collaborating with state authorities.

27 May, Yoro, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements stormed the village, triggering the displacement of population towards Yoro village and Burkina Faso.

27 May, Niamina, Koulikoro. Armed men attacked a Gendamerie Brigade and a sub-prefecture next door and burnt state symbols.

28 May, Nyamana, Koulikoro. Presumed elements of the Macin Liberation Front attacked and torched the Gendarmerie and sub-prefecture. No casualties were reported.

30 May, Kidal. A MINUSMA Force vehicle on patrol hit an explosive device. Four peacekeepers were injured, and one vehicle damaged.

31 May, Sévaré – Bandiagara, Mopti. An explosive device placed in a jerry can inside the water pipeline detonated. No casualty reported.

NIGER

29 May, Toumour, Diffa. Boko Haram militants attacked two families and kidnapped 11 people comprising eight women and three men. One man was killed.

NIGERIA

16 May, Alou Dam, Maiduguri, Borno. Boko Haram attacked fishermen killing at least 10 people.

16 May, Madagali, Adamawa. Boko Haram members attacked Shuwa, Duhu and Kaya villages, killing four civilians and one police officer. Several house and shops were burnt.

18 May, Dikwa, Borno. Boko Haram militants attacked an IDP camp, killing two people and injuring several others.

18 May, Lassa, Borno. Boko Haram militants attacked local populations, burning down several houses and shops. The assailants took away several food items.

19 May, Gubio, Borno. Boko Haram members attacked an army base. One soldier was killed and three others injured.

25 May, Bungiri, Damboa, Borno. Five army personnel were killed with two others injured in an attack carried out by suspected Boko Haram members. The assailants seized two military trucks with several army personnel declared missing.

26 May, Goni Abbachari and Dala Yazarra, Borno. Boko Haram attacked the local population and shot dead 16 civilians comprising five members of a local security group and 11 villagers.

26 May, Damboa, Borno. ISWAP attacked a convoy transporting civilians from Sabon Gari to displacement camps. 20 people were killed including five soldiers.

29 May, Maiduguri, Nigeria. Nigerian soldiers repelled an attack by Boko Haram.

APPENDIX C: COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE

16 May, Edo state, Nigeria. Four suspected Boko Haram insurgents seeking refuge in Edo State arrested by local police.

16 May, Sabratha, Libya. Sabratha Operations Room claimed that an ISIS member, Safwan Abdel Hamid Jabir Mahouda, was killed in the aerial attack.

18 May, Kismayo, Lower Juba, and Somalia. A senior leader of al-Shabaab surrendered to Somali government forces.

19 May, Kasserine province, Tunisia. The security services discovered an explosives storage and were able to disrupt plans by members of the extremist movement Oqba Ben Nafaa terrorist group to launch attacks during the month of Ramadan against security and military units.

20 May, Sidi Bel Abbes, Algeria. A detachment of the National People's Army (ANP) discovered and destroyed two bunkers for terrorists containing chemical substances used in the manufacture of explosives.

20 May, Mogadishu, Somalia. Somali Military Court sentenced two al-Shabaab members to death.

21 May, Tamanrasset and In Guezzam, Algeria. A Kalashnikov-type machine gun and a quantity of ammunition were seized by detachments of the National People's Army (ANP).

22 May, Puntland, Somalia. US AFRICOM in conjunction with SNA conducted airstrikes against IS in Somalia. Two IS militants were killed.

23 May, Guri-El town, Galgadud, Somalia. Security forces arrested a man strapped with suicide vests posing as a poet before he attempted to detonate his explosives.

23 May, Togo. A Burkinabe jihadist leader, Oumarou Diallo, aka Diawo Oumarou, was arrested and extradited to Burkina Faso.

24 May, Golis Mountains, Somalia. US AFRICOM in conjunction with SNA conducted airstrikes against al-Shabaab killing three militants.

27 May, Likrakar, Timbuktu, Mali. International forces arrested Al Izza Ould Yehia, an alleged AQIM member.

28 May, Gaharey, Adala, Somalia. Somali regional forces, Ahlu Sunna Wal-Jama forces, conducted an operation killing a senior al-Shabaab terrorist and three other fighters.