



THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

GLIC Weekly Report

11th April, 2025

Top of the Agenda

ALGERIA AND MALI BAN FLIGHTS AMID DIPLOMATIC CRISIS

Algeria and Mali banned flights to and from each other's airspace, their governments said on Monday, amid an escalating diplomatic crisis. On April 1, Algeria's defence ministry said the army had shot down an armed surveillance drone for violating the North African country's airspace near the rural Saharan commune of Tinzaouaten. Mali disagreed, noting that its drone wreckage was found 9.5 kilometres (5.9 miles) south of their shared border. Algeria's Foreign Ministry said data related to the incident, including radar images, showed a violation of Algerian airspace of 1.6 km. Reuter: [Algeria and Mali ban flights amid diplomatic crisis](#) April 7th, 2025.

Analysis

Historically, Algeria has played a role as a mediator in Mali's internal conflicts, particularly with the Tuareg rebels, and was instrumental in the 2015 Algiers Accord aimed at fostering peace in Mali. However, the recent geopolitical shifts, including Mali's withdrawal from ECOWAS and the creation of AES, have distanced Mali and its allies from Algeria. It's important to consider this situation within the broader context of regional rivalries and alliances. Algeria has historically had complex relations with its neighbors, including Morocco, with whom it severed diplomatic ties in 2021 due to long-standing disagreements over the Western Sahara and accusations of hostile acts. While Morocco is not directly involved in this specific drone row, the underlying tensions and competition for regional influence could be a contributing factor to the current situation. The AES, formed as an alternative to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), reflects the shifting dynamics in the Sahel. The drone incident and the subsequent diplomatic fallout represent a serious escalation in tensions between Algeria and the AES countries. The diplomatic fallout has already affected energy cooperation between Algeria and Niger, with key projects like the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP) and power station construction in jeopardy. These disruptions could hinder economic development and exacerbate energy shortages in AES countries, further straining relations and complicating efforts to address shared challenges. It underscores the fragile security situation in the Sahel, the complexities of regional alliances, and the deep-seated mistrust between key actors. The closure of airspace and the recall of envoys are significant steps that will likely have lasting implications for regional stability and cooperation. Moving forward, de-escalation through dialogue and potentially mediation from other regional or international actors will be crucial to prevent further deterioration of relations and to address the underlying security concerns.

NIGERIA

NIGERIA'S 'TAKE-IT-BACK' MOVEMENT DETERMINED TO HOLD PROTEST

Organizers of planned nationwide protests named the Take-It-Back Movement have said they will go ahead with their action despite a call by the authorities for the protests to be canceled. In a statement, the Nigeria Police Force said the April 7 date is "ill-conceived and mischievous," given that it coincides with the maiden edition of the National Police Day celebration. The take-it-back movement said it called the demonstration to address "authoritarianism of President Bola Tinubu administration, abuse of human rights and the misuse of the Cybercrime Act". The group's coordinator Juwon Sanyaolu listed as part of their demands the need to repeal the Cybercrime Act and end emergency rule in Rivers State.

All Africa: Nigeria's 'Take-It-Back' Movement Determined to Hold Protest April 7th, 2025.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAS GONE DIGITAL IN NIGERIA – FG ADMITS

The federal government has voiced its concerns regarding the growing trend of human traffickers in Nigeria utilizing digital platforms to attract and exploit victims. The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), highlighted this alarming issue on the 27th National Stakeholders' Consultative Forum on Human Trafficking in Abuja. Fagbemi characterized the situation as a rapidly evolving and transnational threat that necessitates immediate action. Fagbemi pointed out that human trafficking ranks as the third most lucrative criminal activity worldwide, following drug and arms trafficking. He urged for enhanced legal, institutional, and technological measures to combat this issue.

Naija News: Human Trafficking Has Gone Digital In Nigeria – FG Admits April 10th, 2025.

PLATEAU KILLINGS GENOCIDAL, SPONSORED — MUTFWANG

The Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, has described the recent killings in the state as genocidal, alleging that they were sponsored. Recall that at least 52 people, including children, were killed on March 28, 2025, following suspected herders' attacks on communities in the Bokkos and Bassa Local Government Areas and surrounding areas of the state.

Punch NG: Plateau killings genocidal, sponsored — Mutfwang April 9th, 2025.

NEMA, OTHERS RECEIVE 144 NIGERIANS REPATRIATED FROM LIBYA

The National Emergency Management Agency in Lagos, along with other important groups, have received 144 Nigerians returning from Libya at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Cargo Terminal, Ikeja, Lagos. "The returnees arrived at 17:15 hours aboard an Al Buraq chartered Boeing flight with registration number 5ADMG. "The group consisted of 89 males, 35 females, 17 children, and 3 infants. They were provided with necessary assistance by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in partnership with NEMA, NCFRMI, Nigeria Immigration, DSS, Port Health, and the Nigeria Police Force. Following the mandatory profiling and biometric

exercise, the returnees were relocated to the Igando IDPs resettlement center for further reintegration programmes.”

Punch NG: NEMA, others receive 144 Nigerians repatriated from Libya April 9th, 2025.

FG'S OIL TARGET THREATENED AS N'DELTA COMMUNITY PROTESTS, DISRUPTS 28, 000B/D PRODUCTION

Possibility of the Federal Government meeting its oil production target set in the 2025 national budget may have been disrupted, as a protest by the Itsekiri community in the Niger Delta halts operations at a 28,000-barrel-per-day Escravos oil production facility at Ogidigben, one of the seven communities in Ugborodo. The affected facility, previously operated by Shell and now managed by Renaissance Africa Energy Holdings, was peacefully occupied early Wednesday morning by men, women, and youths from the Itsekiri community. The protesters accused INEC of deliberately reducing Itsekiri representation in the newly proposed wards for Warri Federal Constituency while increasing wards for other ethnic groups in the region. The aggrieved protesters have also warned that additional shutdowns of oil facilities may follow in the coming days.

Channels TV: FG's Oil Target Threatened As N'Delta Community Protests, Disrupts 28, 000b/d Production April 9th, 2025.

GUNMEN KILL AT LEAST 52 PEOPLE IN NIGERIA'S PLATEAU STATE

Gunmen have killed at least 52 people and displaced nearly 2,000 others over several days of attacks in Nigeria's northern Plateau state, which has a history of violence between farmers and cattle herders, the national emergency agency said. The reason for the attacks in six villages in Plateau's Bokokos district last week was not immediately known but it is the worst outbreak of violence since December 2023, when more than 100 people were killed in the same district. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said the scale of the violence became clearer at the weekend as 52 people were confirmed dead while 22 others were taken to hospital. NEMA said in a statement late on Sunday that "gunmen carried out brutal assaults", leading to multiple fatalities and widespread destruction of property. "Over 1,820 individuals have been displaced. Three displacement camps have been established," the agency said, adding that the security situation remained tense. President Bola Tinubu directed security agencies to hunt down the attackers, who would face "severe punishment", the presidency said. Plateau is one of several ethnically and religiously diverse hinterland states known as Nigeria's Middle Belt, where inter-communal conflict has claimed hundreds of lives in recent years. The violence is often painted as ethno-religious conflict between Muslim herders and mainly Christian farmers. But climate change and the reduction of grazing land through agricultural expansion are also major factors.

MSN: Gunmen kill at least 52 people in Nigeria's Plateau state April 7th, 2025.

WEST AFRICA

SAHEL ALLIANCE RECALLS AMBASSADORS FROM ALGERIA AFTER THE DOWNING OF A MALIAN DRONE

A military alliance between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger withdrew their respective ambassadors from Algeria in response to the downing of a Malian drone last week, the group said late Sunday. The Alliance of Sahel States, which goes by its French acronym AES, blamed Algeria on social media for the drone's downing and condemned it as an "irresponsible act" that violated international law. The act was "contrary to historical relations and fraternal relations between the peoples of the AES Confederation and the Algerian people," the group said. Malian Prime Minister Gen. Abdoulaye Maiga, in a statement on the Malian Foreign Ministry's social media, denied claims by the Algerian government that the drone had violated Algeria's airspace by over 2 kilometers (1.2 miles). He claimed that "this action proves, if proof were needed, that the Algerian regime sponsors international terrorism."

AP: Sahel alliance recalls ambassadors from Algeria after the downing of a Malian drone April 7th, 2025.

ALGERIA AND MALI BAN FLIGHTS AMID DIPLOMATIC CRISIS

Algeria and Mali banned flights to and from each other's airspace, their governments said on Monday, amid an escalating diplomatic crisis. On April 1, Algeria's defence ministry said the army had shot down an armed surveillance drone for violating the North African country's airspace near the rural Saharan commune of Tinzaouaten. Mali disagreed, noting that its drone wreckage was found 9.5 kilometres (5.9 miles) south of their shared border. Algeria's Foreign Ministry said data related to the incident, including radar images, showed a violation of Algerian airspace of 1.6 km. Mali's transport and infrastructure ministry responded by announcing that it had closed its airspace to all Algerian aircraft due to Algeria's "persistence in sponsoring international terrorism" - without providing examples or evidence of such activity.

Reuter: Algeria and Mali ban flights amid diplomatic crisis April 7th, 2025.

ALGERIA SHUTS AIRSPACE WITH MALI, RECALLS ENVOYS AMID DRONE ROW

Algeria has denied the accusation of shooting down a Malian reconnaissance drone inside Malian territory. The Algerian defense ministry said radar data proves the drone had violated Algerian airspace. The accusation has led to deterioration of already fraught diplomatic relations between both nations. Algeria has announced the shutting of its airspace to flight "to and from Mali," and recalled its ambassadors to both Mali and Niger. The action appears to be in retaliation for a similar measure taken by the military-led juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on Monday, April 7, when all three Sahel states announced the recall of their ambassadors from Algeria over the downing incident.

All Africa: Algeria Shuts Airspace with Mali, Recalls Envoys Amid Drone Row April 8th, 2025.

AFRICA

SAAF SEEKS SPARES FOR MAJOR AIRCRAFT

The South African Air Force (SAAF) is currently grappling with an urgent need for spare and replacement parts for four critical aircraft types within its fleet, as evidenced by recent requests for information (RfIs) issued by Armscor. These aircraft include the CASA 212, Saab Gripen, Oryx, and C-130BZ. All four RfIs were released on March 28 and are set to close on April 7, reflecting the pressing nature of the situation. The urgency behind these RfIs stems from chronic underfunding of the SAAF and SANDF. This strain has left the SAAF struggling to keep its fleet operational.

Military Africa: [SAAF Seeks Spares for Major Aircraft](#) April 7th, 2025.

DEADLY FLOODING CAUSES DESTRUCTION IN DR CONGO

Nearly 22 individuals have been reported deceased in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, following a river's overflow that led to catastrophic flooding after heavy rains over the weekend. In a statement to the media, Kinshasa's Governor, Daniel Bumba, explained that most of the deaths, which occurred between late Friday night and Saturday, resulted from collapsing walls and drownings. The heavy rains caused the Ndjili River to exceed its banks, triggering floods and landslides across several districts. "Preliminary reports indicate that 22 people died and many were injured. The situation remains critical in several communes, but evacuations are ongoing," Bumba stated. The governor highlighted that emergency operations were in progress, and he urged residents to stay calm, assuring them of quick improvements in traffic conditions. Local reports revealed that six members of one family were killed in Matadi Kibala when a wall collapsed on them.

MENAFN: [Deadly Flooding Causes Destruction in DR Congo](#) April 7th, 2025.

CAPE TOWN GRAPPLES WITH WIDESPREAD FLOODING AS SEVERE WEATHER HITS

Heavy rainfall has led to significant flooding across Cape Town, impacting multiple neighborhoods and causing substantial disruptions. Areas such as Table View, Wynberg, and Parow have reported severe inundation, with numerous vehicles submerged and roadways rendered impassable. The City's Disaster Risk Management spokesperson, Charlotte Powell, indicated that the Disaster Operations Centre has received numerous reports of blocked roadways and flooding incidents, notably in Southfield and Vygieskraal, where canals have overflowed. Emergency services are actively addressing these situations to mitigate further impact. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to ensure safety during the winter season.

iAfrica: [Cape Town Grapples with Widespread Flooding as Severe Weather Hits](#) April 10th, 2025.

THE GLOBE

UN CONFRONTS RISING ILLICIT ARMS THREAT

The spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) continues to pose a significant threat to international peace and security, particularly in conflict zones under UN sanctions. An informal meeting convened by Sierra Leone in New York noted: ‘The uncontrolled flow of weapons destabilises entire regions, routinely violates UN arms embargoes and exacerbates both conflict and humanitarian crises.’ Michael Kanu, Sierra Leone’s ambassador to the UN, said that although the Security Council ‘has recognised this threat by integrating arms embargoes into sanctions regimes... enforcement remains a challenge’. In the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and Central Africa, the presence and illegal circulation of SALW often transform localised political crises into cross-border conflicts that pose regional threats.

Africa Briefing: UN confronts rising illicit arms threat April 8th, 2025.

RUSSIA SAYS IT WON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IRAN IN WIN FOR TRUMP

The U.S. will be having direct talks with Tehran over its nuclear program. Tehran says its program is for peaceful purposes. Trump has warned if the talks were not successful "it'll be a very bad day for Iran." He had earlier threatened Iran with bombing and secondary tariffs if Tehran did not come to an agreement over its nuclear program. A U.S. attack on Iran would have dire consequences for the region and Moscow would offer any help in negotiations between Tehran and Washington. Russia and Iran have close military ties. Tehran supplied Shahed drones to Moscow, a weapon that has wreaked havoc on Ukrainian infrastructure. While Putin and Masoud Pezeshkian signed the Iranian–Russian Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in January, it had no clause for mutual defense if one party is attacked.

News Week: Russia Says It Won't Have to Defend Iran in Win for Trump April 8th, 2025.

TRUMP SAYS HE COULD PULL US TROOPS OUT OF EUROPE

US President Donald Trump has indicated he would consider pulling American forces out of Europe if Washington’s NATO allies in the region do not pay more as part of broader negotiations over his sweeping tariff policy. NBC News reported on Tuesday that the US is considering withdrawing up to 10,000 troops from Eastern Europe. Sources noted that while the exact figure is still under discussion, the proposal could affect American forces stationed in Romania and Poland – two NATO members close to the Russian border.

RT: Trump says he could pull US troops out of Europe April 10th, 2025.

US HAS SECRET WEAPONS – TRUMP

Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods to 125%, in retaliation for countermeasures imposed by Beijing. China’s Ministry of Commerce previously vowed to fight the trade war “to the end.” When asked about his concerns about Beijing’s potential “escalation beyond the trade war” –

Trump said Chinese President Xi Jinping is a very smart person who would never “allow that to happen.” “We’re very powerful. This country is far more powerful than people understand. We have weaponry that nobody has any idea of, and it is the most powerful weapons in the world. He told journalists in the Oval Office.

RT: US has secret weapons – Trump April 10th, 2025.

