GLIC Weekly Report
18th April, 2025

## Top of the Agenda

# KILLINGS: GOV MUTFWANG BANS NIGHT GRAZING IN PLATEAU, RESTRICTS MOTORCYCLES

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has announced a ban on night grazing and restricted the use of motorcycles across the state following incessant attacks. At least 50 people were reportedly killed after gunmen invaded Kimakpa village, Miango district, in Bassa LGA of the state on April 14. The attack came barely two weeks after gunmen killed many residents in five communities in Bokkos and Mangu LGAs. In a state broadcast, Mutfwang described the attacks as "coordinated acts of terror" aimed at displacing residents and undermining their right to exist peacefully on their ancestral lands. The governor also prohibited the transportation of cattle by vehicles after 7pm. He said the directives take immediate effect, with the restriction on motorcycle use in place from 7pm to 6am across the state until further notice.

*Channels:* Killings: Gov Mutfwang Bans Night Grazing In Plateau, Restricts Motorcycles April 17, 2025

## Analysis

These killings and ethnic communal clashes calls for decisive political will and timely security measures from federal forces to forestall reoccurrence in Nigeria's North Central. This region is known for intercommunal conflict and land disputes between herders and farmers. Open gazing which is a major factor that inflames these clashes, should be curtailed through government policy to avert ethnic tensions that have long simmered. The Nigerian security agencies should entrench a synergised approach with local vigilante groups to organize patrols to bring security and stability back to the community. Although the governor has banned night grazing as a measure to address the repeated attacks, this only serves as a temporary measure, as bans alone may not be enough. Long-term peace requires dialogue, conflict resolution, intelligence-led security operations, and community trust-building.



### **NIGERIA**

#### 15 MILLION NIGERIANS AT HIGH RISK OF FLOODS IN 2025 – SHETTIMA

At least 15 million Nigerians are at risk of flood disasters in 2025, Vice President Kashim Shettima has disclosed. He made the disclosure at the commencement of a one-day Validation Workshop on the Anticipatory Action Framework for Nigeria held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre in the Office of the National Security Adviser Abuja on Wednesday. The Vice President, however, said the Federal Government is taking a proactive approach as against a reactive approach to forestall the disaster.

Channels: 15 Million Nigerians At High Risk Of Floods In 2025 – Shettima April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### TARABA, ONDO LEAD AS LASSA FEVER DEATH TOLL RISES TO 127

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has recorded 674 confirmed Lassa fever cases out of 4,025 suspected cases from January to April 6, 2025, in 18 states, across 93 local government areas. This was disclosed in the latest situation report by the NCDC on Tuesday. So far, the country has recorded 127 deaths with a Case Fatality Rate of 18.8 per cent. The states with reported death cases are Ondo (26); Bauchi (12); Edo (17); Taraba (31); Ebonyi (11); Kogi (four); and Plateau (five).

Punch: Taraba, Ondo lead as Lassa Fever death toll rises to 127 April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **AFRICA**

### G7 CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN WAR IN SUDAN AT TWO-YEAR MARK

G7 foreign ministers on Tuesday issued a statement calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Sudan and condemning attacks by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces. The war in Sudan erupted in April 2023, sparked by a power struggle between the army and the Rapid Support Forces, shattering hopes for a transition to civilian rule.

Reuters: G7 calls for immediate ceasefire in war in Sudan at two-year mark April 16th, 2025.

# US CONDEMNS SUDAN'S RSF FOR ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

The Trump administration on Tuesday condemned attacks by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on civilians in North Darfur and called for parties in the country's civil war to be held accountable

for breaches of international humanitarian law. "We are deeply alarmed by reports that the RSF has deliberately targeted civilians and humanitarian actors in Zamzam and Abu Shouk," U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce told reporters. "The belligerents must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law and be held accountable," Bruce added.

Reuters: <u>US condemns Sudan's RSF for attacks on civilians, calls for accountability</u> April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# SUDAN PARAMILITARY DECLARES RIVAL GOVERNMENT TWO YEARS INTO CIVIL WAR

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has announced the formation of a rival government, two years since the country descended into a brutal war that has left tens of thousands dead and triggered what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The RSF, led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo — also known as Hemedti — declared on Tuesday the establishment of the "Government of Peace and Unity" in areas under its control. The move directly challenges the army-led administration headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Aljazeera: Sudan paramilitary declares rival government two years into civil war April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### AMID ZIMBABWE'S POLITICAL CRISIS, HOPE AND FRUSTRATION BREW

Mozambique's security forces carried out a brutal, three-month crackdown on protesters after the country's election last year, a leading international rights group said Wednesday, citing local activists who alleged that more than 300 people were killed and more than 3,000 were injured in the unrest. In its new report, Amnesty International called on Mozambican authorities to investigate the killings and all rights violations in the wake of the election, and to bring law enforcement officials responsible to justice. Thousands of Mozambicans took part in waves of protests in the weeks after the Oct. 9 presidential and parliamentary election, where Daniel Chapo of the ruling Frelimo party was declared the winner amid allegations of rigging and election fraud raised by his challengers and international observers.

Africa News: Amid Zimbabwe's political crisis, hope and frustration brew April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## AFRICA'S HEALTH SYSTEMS BUCKLE AS US CUTS TRIGGER MALARIA, CHOLERA, AND VACCINE CRISES

The abrupt withdrawal of US health funding under President Donald Trump's administration is dismantling health systems across Africa, leaving millions vulnerable as diseases like malaria, cholera, and Mpox surge. In Nigeria's Borno state — which accounts for a third of global malaria deaths — dozens of clinics have closed, leaving unemployed nurses like Musa Adamu Ibrahim and Fatima Kunduli watching helplessly as patients go untreated. "There are no more free drugs or mosquito nets," said Ibrahim. The cuts stem from the shutdown of USAID and related programmes, disrupting services built through decades of collaboration between local governments, nonprofits, and American agencies. Particularly hard hit are malaria interventions

during the rainy season, with supply chains fraying across Mali, refugee camps in Kenya facing drug shortages, and treatment facilities in South Sudan closing mid-outbreak. In the DRC, government clinics in nine provinces relied on US-funded malaria drugs and tests.

iAfrica: Africa's Health Systems Buckle as US Cuts Trigger Malaria, Cholera, and Vaccine Crises April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### SA FACES HEALTH RESEARCH CRISIS AFTER US FUNDING CUTS

South Africa's health research sector is under severe threat following the termination of major US funding streams, particularly from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The move forms part of US President Donald Trump's efforts to cut federal spending and end support for programmes focused on diversity, LGBTQ+ populations, and global equity — areas central to HIV and public health research in South Africa. South African researchers were among the largest recipients of NIH funding globally, receiving an estimated R3 billion annually — more than the SAMRC's total government allocation. The SAMRC's Prof. Ntobeko Ntusi confirmed that major universities like Wits, UCT, and Stellenbosch could each lose over R200 million, while key research units face tens of millions in cuts. The cuts follow a 7 February executive order from Trump ending aid to South Africa due to land expropriation laws and its ICJ case against Israel. In response, the SAMRC has launched a coordinated fundraising campaign, engaging government and international philanthropies to protect vulnerable researchers, postgraduate students, and clinical trial participants.

iAfrica: SA Faces Health Research Crisis After US Funding Cuts April 15th, 2025.

### THE GLOBE

### TRUMP HOLDS SITUATION ROOM MEETING ON IRAN, OFFICIALS SAY

President Donald Trump met with his top national security aides on Tuesday to discuss Iran's nuclear program ahead of a second meeting between U.S. and Iranian officials on Saturday. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff is to meet his Iranian counterpart on Saturday, a session currently scheduled to be held in Oman. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Trump's bottom line in the talks, which included an initial session last Saturday, is that he wants to use negotiations to ensure Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon.

Reuters: Trump holds Situation Room meeting on Iran, officials say April 16th, 2025.

# TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES SCRAPPING UN PEACEKEEPING FUNDING

The White House budget office has proposed eliminating funding for United Nations peacekeeping missions, citing failures by operations in Mali, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Washington is the U.N.'s largest contributor, with China second, accounting for 22% of the \$3.7 billion core regular U.N. budget and 27% of the \$5.6 billion peacekeeping budget. The proposed cuts are included in a "Passback," the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) response to State Department funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on October 1. The overall plan must, however, be approved by Congress.

Reuters: <u>Trump administration proposes scrapping UN peacekeeping funding April 16<sup>th</sup></u>, 2025.

#### TRUMP REJECTED ISRAEL'S PLAN TO ATTACK IRAN - NYT

Israel drafted plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities in early May, aiming to delay its ability to develop a nuclear weapon by a year or more. After considering a combination of airstrikes and commando raids, the Jewish state reportedly proposed "an extensive bombing campaign" that would have lasted more than a week. Israeli officials had hoped that the US would not only greenlight the operation but also actively support it. Trump, however, shot down the plan earlier this month, following a "rough consensus" in the White House. Vice President J.D. Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard were among the top administration officials who reportedly raised concerns that the strikes would "spark a wider conflict with Iran."

RT: <u>Trump rejected Israel's plan to attack Iran – NYT April 17<sup>th</sup></u>, 2025.

#### RUSSIAN SPY CHIEF NAMES CONDITIONS FOR UKRAINE PEACE

Peace between Russia and Ukraine is possible only if Kiev abandons its plans to join NATO and acquire nuclear weapons, and recognises the new borders of Russia, according to the head of the country's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), Sergey Naryshkin. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Naryshkin reiterated that Russia has not changed its strategic goals in the Ukraine conflict.

RT: Russian spy chief names conditions for Ukraine peace April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### DETAILS OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR DEMANDS REVEALED - MEDIA

Iran is ready to provide assurances that it is not seeking to weaponize its nuclear program in exchange for US sanctions relief, the country's top diplomat has said. Iran wants a "win-win agreement" and "would not, under any circumstances, agree to dismantle its nuclear program. Iran is "willing to take steps to provide assurances against the militarization of its nuclear activities." This would include allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency access to the country's nuclear sites. In return, Tehran wants US sanctions on several sectors to be removed without the possibility of being brought back "under other pretexts.

RT: <u>Details of Iran's nuclear demands revealed – media</u> April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### FRANCE EXPELS 12 ALGERIAN DIPLOMATS

France has expelled 12 Algerian diplomats and recalled its ambassador, Stephane Romatet, from Algiers, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot announced on Tuesday. In a statement published the same day, the French presidency accused the Algerian government of being responsible for "a brutal degradation of our bilateral relations." Earlier this week, Barrot announced that the North African country had ordered 12 French Embassy officials to leave the country within 48 hours. He claimed Algeria's actions were "unjustified," adding "dialogue, always, but not one-way."

RT: France expels 12 Algerian diplomats April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# LEGAL DEFINITION OF A WOMAN REFERS TO 'BIOLOGICAL SEX', UK SUPREME COURT RULES

The UK's highest court has ruled that the definition of a "woman" in equality legislation refers to someone who is born biologically female, in a blow to campaigners for the rights of transgender people. The Supreme Court found in a unanimous decision that the meaning of "woman" in anti-discrimination law did not extend to a trans woman with a gender recognition certificate. The closely watched decision on Wednesday was welcomed by groups who campaign for the primacy of sex-based rights but prompted concerns that protections for transgender people could be undermined. "The terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refer to a biological woman and biological sex," Lord Patrick Hodge, deputy president of the Supreme Court, said. The ruling from the Supreme Court, which has jurisdiction across the UK, stems from a protracted legal battle in Scotland. Campaign group For Women Scotland (FWS) challenged the Scottish government over a bill passed in 2018 intended to increase female representation on the boards of public bodies.

Financial Times: <u>Legal definition of a woman refers to 'biological sex'</u>, <u>UK Supreme Court rules</u> April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.