



## THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

*GLIC Weekly Report*

*25th April, 2025*

### ***Top of the Agenda***

#### **BURKINA FASO FOILS ‘MAJOR’ COUP PLOT**

The military government of Burkina Faso has stated that its army has foiled a major plot to overthrow junta leader, Capt Ibrahim Traore. The security minister mentioned that the coup attempt was masterminded by current and former soldiers working with “terrorist leaders”. The Minister on Monday stated that the coup aimed to sow total chaos in the country in a bid to place it under the supervision of an international organization. It alleged that the plotters are believed to take shelter in neighbouring Ivory Coast. Despite promises from Capt. Traore’s military government to nip insecurity in the bud through partnership with Russia, Burkina Faso continues to battle intense armed Islamic insurgent attacks, which have about 40% of the country under siege.

*BBC: Burkina Faso Army Says It Foiled ‘Major’ Coup Plot 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.*

### ***Analysis***

Since the coup that ushered in Capt. Ibrahim Traore in September 2022, there have been several attempts to overthrow the government in Burkina Faso. The latest of the alleged coups in Burkina Faso occurred on Monday, 21 April 2025. Two major factors responsible for the persistent coup attempts in Burkina Faso include the deteriorating security situation caused by jihadist attacks, as well as the government's crackdown on the opponents of the military junta. Since coming into power, the state of insecurity in Burkina Faso has worsened, resulting in high rates of terrorism-related deaths and widespread displacement of people. In addition, there have been several arrests of members of the opposition and the abduction of people perceived to undermine the military junta’s authority. He has, however, failed to conduct elections or put in place a proper transitional process for the return to democratic governance in Burkina Faso.

## ***NIGERIA***

### **AIR PEACE CANCELS FLIGHTS NATIONWIDE AS NIMET WORKERS' STRIKE BITES**

Flight activities, including those of Air Peace, are being disrupted at local airports as workers of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET) stage protests over poor working conditions. The strike, which has lingered into day two, has left passengers on scheduled local flights stranded at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos and others. Air Peace passengers were informed that the airline had made the decision not to fly due to safety issues. In a video obtained by Channels Television on Wednesday, Air Peace's Chief Executive Officer, Allen Onyema, was heard ordering for cancellation of flights nationwide. "If NiMET has not called off the strike, cancel every Air Peace flight now with immediate effect. People's lives and the safety of our equipment and our crew are foremost.

Channels: Air Peace Cancels Flights Nationwide as NiMET Workers' Strike Bites 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

### **KWARA RESIDENTS COUNTER POLICE CLAIMS, SPEAK ON DISTURBING ATTACKS BY 'MAHMUDA' TERROR GROUP**

A terror group, Mahmuda, in Kaiama and Baruten local government areas of Kwara state, have unleashed mayhem. The reports of the group's activities caused anxiety in the state against the backdrop of security challenges in many parts of Nigeria. The leader of the terror group is believed to be Mahmuda; hence the reason why the group is called the Mahmuda terror group. They have been terrorising the environment since 2020 by kidnapping and killing people. They are very brutal, like the Boko Haram. They claim to be Islamic preachers but are very deadly.

Legit: Kwara Residents Counter Police Claims, Speak on Disturbing Attacks by 'Mahmuda' Terror Group 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2025.

### **STOP TAKING UNCERTIFIED HERBAL DRUGS – LASG WARNS RESIDENTS**

The Lagos State Government has warned residents against the consumption of herbal medicines not certified by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), citing serious public health risks. The State Commissioner for Health, Akin Abayomi, issued the warning during the 2025 Lagos State Ministerial Press Briefing held at Alausa, Ikeja, where he also presented key achievements in the health sector over the past year. Speaking on Wednesday, Abayomi cautioned, "No one should consume any herbal medication that is not certified by NAFDAC. "Those who indulge in unapproved herbal concoctions are exposing themselves to dangerous health conditions. The government will not be held responsible for such actions."

Channels: Stop Taking Uncertified Herbal Drugs – LASG Warns Residents 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

## ***WEST AFRICA***

### **RUSSIAN COMPANY TO LAUNCH SEA ROUTE TO WEST AFRICA**

Russia will launch a direct shipping route from Novorossiysk to Lagos by mid-June to boost trade with West Africa. The initiative, led by A7 Holding—founded by ex-FESCO co-owner Andrey Severilov—will use two chartered container ships, each with a 700 TEU capacity. Supported by the Russian trade mission in Nigeria, the project aims to strengthen bilateral economic ties. Severilov also revealed plans to expand the service to Senegal in the future. Russian news agencies TASS and Interfax reported the development as a strategic move to deepen Russia's commercial presence in the West African region.

RT: Russian company to launch sea route to West Africa 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.

### **BENIN ADMITS THAT 54 SOLDIERS KILLED IN ATTACK BY AL-QAEDA GROUP**

Benin's government has admitted that 54 soldiers were killed by suspected jihadists in the country's north last week near the borders with Burkina Faso and Niger. The authorities had previously said that only eight soldiers were killed. The revised figure makes it the deadliest known attack since insurgents began operating in northern Benin at the beginning of the decade. The attack has been claimed by an al-Qaeda-linked group - Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen, (JNIM), which is based in Mali but has in recent years expanded its operations to neighboring countries.

BBC: Benin admits that 54 soldiers killed in attack by al-Qaeda group 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

## ***AFRICA***

### **DR CONGO SEIZES ASSETS OF FORMER PRESIDENT**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has banned former President Joseph Kabila's party, the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD), and ordered the seizure of his assets, accusing him of supporting M23 rebels. The rebels have taken control of parts of Eastern DR Congo, including Goma, which Kabila recently returned to after two years in South Africa. The government criticized Kabila for entering the country through a rebel-held area and for not condemning the M23's actions. Kabila claims he wants to help end the conflict, but authorities question his motives and allege he maintains ties with the insurgents.

RT: DR Congo seizes assets of former president 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

### **DR CONGO AND M23 REBELS REACH CEASEFIRE DEAL IN QATAR TALKS**

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwandan-backed M23 rebels have agreed to halt fighting in the east of the country until peace talks mediated by Qatar reach their "conclusion". It is the latest truce deal since the rebels stepped up an offensive in eastern DR Congo where authorities

say 7,000 people have been killed since January. Both sides on Wednesday jointly announced to work towards peace following more than a week of talks, which they described as "frank and constructive". Last month, Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame also reaffirmed their commitment to an "unconditional" ceasefire in a surprise meeting in Doha.

BBC: [DR Congo and M23 rebels reach ceasefire deal in Qatar talks](#) 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

## ***THE GLOBE***

### **SMOKE IN ROME: WHAT'S REALLY COOKING BETWEEN TRUMP AND TEHRAN?**

Last Saturday, the US and Iran held a second round of nuclear talks in Rome after initial discussions in Muscat. Though both sides called the talks "constructive," mixed signals from the Trump administration quickly emerged. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz demanded Iran fully dismantle its uranium enrichment program. However, after the Muscat meeting, the US delegation leader indicated Iran might be allowed limited enrichment for peaceful purposes. This apparent shift was short-lived; the next day, he reversed his stance on social media, reaffirming the demand for full dismantlement. The sudden change raised questions about the reasons behind the conflicting U.S. messaging.

RT: [Smoke in Rome: What's really cooking between Trump and Tehran?](#) 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

### **OVERNIGHT STRIKES REPORTED ACROSS UKRAINE**

Ukrainian officials reported a major overnight assault by Russian forces involving missiles and drones across several regions, with Kiev suffering the most severe impact. Interior Minister Igor Klimenko described it as a "massive combined attack" affecting Kiev, Zhytomyr, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Poltava, Khmelnytsky, Sumy, and parts of Zaporozhye under Ukrainian control. The State Emergency Service confirmed nine deaths and 63 injuries in Kiev, with fires breaking out in various buildings and debris igniting cars and dry grass. In Kharkov, Mayor Igor Terekhov reported 19 strikes, including seven cruise missile attacks and 12 kamikaze drone hits.

RT: [Overnight strikes reported across Ukraine](#) 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

### **INDIA CUTS PAKISTAN OFF AFTER MASSACRE**

India has downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan following a deadly militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 civilians. In a Cabinet Committee on Security meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, five retaliatory measures were announced. These include expelling Pakistani defense advisors, reducing Pakistan's diplomatic presence in India, and withdrawing Indian military advisors from Islamabad. Additionally, India has cancelled visas for Pakistani

nationals under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme. These actions mark a significant escalation in tensions between the two nations in response to the cross-border assault.

RT: India cuts Pakistan off after massacre 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

### **UN AGENCY HALTS LIFE-SAVING TREATMENTS IN AFRICAN STATE**

The World Food Program (WFP) has suspended malnutrition treatment for 650,000 women and children in Ethiopia due to severe funding shortages. Country Director Zlatan Milisic warned that food aid for 3.6 million people could cease by June without urgent financial support. The WFP had aimed to assist two million vulnerable mothers and children in 2025 but now faces a \$222 million shortfall for the April-September period. Despite contributions from 15–20 donors, including the U.S., several have reduced funding this year, pushing the WFP to a critical point in its efforts to combat hunger in the country.

RT: UN agency halts life-saving treatments in African state 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

### **MOSCOW SEEKS AFRICAN SOLIDARITY AGAINST RUSSOPHOBIA**

Russia has called on African nations to support its fight against discrimination toward Russians, likening their treatment to colonial injustices in Africa. At a forum marking the 60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Russian UN representative Maria Zabolotskaya accused several European and Baltic states of targeting Russian-speaking populations. She cited policies that deny ethnic Russians voting rights and access to civil service positions, labeling them as “non-citizens.” Moscow framed its appeal as part of a broader struggle against racial discrimination and inequality on the global stage.

RT: Moscow seeks African solidarity against Russophobia 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

### **CHINA CONDEMNS US-PHILIPPINES ‘FULL-SCALE BATTLE’ DRILLS**

China has strongly condemned the 2025 Balikatan joint military drills between the US and the Philippines, accusing Manila of provoking regional tensions and destabilizing peace, particularly concerning Taiwan. The exercise, which began on April 21 and runs until May 9, involves 14,000 troops from the US and the Philippines, alongside forces from Australia and Japan, with other countries observing. Activities include live-fire training, amphibious landings, aerial surveillance, and a simulated island defense near the Luzon Strait. China criticized the drills as contributing to unilateralism and hegemony, warning that such actions undermine stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

RT: China condemns US-Philippines ‘full-scale battle’ drills 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

## **MAGNITUDE 6.2 EARTHQUAKE STRIKES NEAR ISTANBUL AS SCORES INJURED IN PANIC**

A 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Istanbul on Wednesday leading to scenes of panic in the Turkish metropolis, officials said. The quake occurred in the Sea of Marmara close to Silivri, which lies around 70 kilometres (40 miles) to the west of the city, and aftershocks are continuing, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD). Istanbul authorities said there had been no loss of life but that 151 people were injured after "jumping from heights due to panic." No residential buildings were damaged, the authorities added, but one abandoned building collapsed in the central Fatih District. Turkey's interior minister, Ali Yerlikaya, said the quake lasted a total of 13 seconds at a depth of seven kilometres, with 51 aftershocks recorded so far, the largest of which was of 5.9 magnitude.

CNN: Magnitude 6.2 earthquake strikes near Istanbul as scores injured in panic 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.

## **UK TO BOOST EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION – THE TIMES**

The UK plans to significantly increase explosives production to reduce reliance on the US, citing concerns over the reliability of American military support. Shipping containers will be used across the country to produce RDX, an essential explosive for 155mm artillery rounds. BAE Systems, the UK's sole manufacturer of these rounds, will also construct three new facilities to enhance resilience. This move follows the UK's extensive ammunition support to Ukraine. Growing wariness in the UK and EU is attributed to former President Donald Trump's unpredictable foreign policy, including trade tariffs and a temporary pause in military aid to Ukraine.

RT: UK to boost explosives production – The Times 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2025.

## **EU AND UK PREPARING NAVAL BLOCKADE OF RUSSIA – PUTIN AIDE**

The EU and the UK are gearing up to impose a naval blockade on Russia, Nikolay Patrushev, a senior aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, has said. He warned that Moscow has a fleet powerful enough to respond to any such move. The British Navy has been shadowing Russian ships passing near its waters for months, citing concerns about a perceived threat to national security and maritime infrastructure. NATO has increased its military presence in the Baltic Sea following the sabotage allegations, prompting Russia to warn that it would respond appropriately to any "violations" by the bloc's vessels.

RT: EU and UK preparing naval blockade of Russia – Putin aide 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.

