



## THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

*GLIC Weekly Report*

*28th February, 2025*

### *Top of the Agenda*



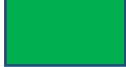
#### **IVORY COAST ASSUMES CONTROL OF FINAL FRENCH BASE AS TROOPS DEPART**

Ivory Coast has taken control of the last French military base in the country, marking a significant shift in both countries' defense relationship. At a press conference, the Ivorian Defense Minister Tene Birahima Ouattara announced that although most French forces are departing, about 80 troops will remain to advise and train the Ivorian military. Ouattara emphasized that evolving security threats require forward-looking partnerships as opposed to colonial era-based relationships. The move follows similar actions across West Africa, where local leaders have increasingly pushed for the withdrawal of French troops. With France now largely confined to Djibouti and Gabon, the region is set for a dramatic transformation in its defense dynamics.

iAfrica: [Ivory Coast Assumes Control of Final French Base as Troops Depart](#) February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### *Analysis*

The growing anti-French sentiment and the steady exit of Western military presence from Chad, Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso and now Ivory Coast has left a vacuum with grave implications for security and counter-terrorism in the region. Nigeria's current 4D (Democracy, Development, Demography and Diaspora) foreign policy thrust must be utilized as a framework to fill this void and reassert herself in the region. Nigeria must awake from her slumber and begin to occupy the vacuum created by the anti-French sentiments and the gradual rollback of French influence in the francophone countries- a vacuum Russia is stealthily creeping in to fill. Now is the time for Nigeria to position herself as a regional power and a friend of francophone countries and refrain from actions that can be perceived by francophone countries as pro-France and overly friendly towards France. This can be achieved through a more dynamic bilateral and multilateral engagement that address the plethora of challenges that plague the West African region including unconstitutional changes of governments, terrorism and violent extremism, widespread poverty and insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel.

	<b>HIGH RISK</b>
	<b>MEDIUM RISK</b>
	<b>LOW RISK</b>

## ***NIGERIA***

### **BENUE REPORTS LASSA FEVER OUTBREAK.**

The Benue State government has announced an outbreak of Lassa fever following a concerning rise in cases over the past four years. Speaking at a press conference in Makurdi on Monday, the Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr. Yanmar Ortese, revealed that the state had recorded 40 suspected cases this year alone, with five confirmed infections and three deaths. This translates to a 60 percent Case Fatality Rate (CFR).

Daily Post: [Benue reports Lassa fever outbreak.](#) February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## ***WEST AFRICA***

### **NIGER COMMITTEE SETS 5-YEAR TIMELINE FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE**

A national committee in Niger, composed of 700 community leaders and diaspora members, has proposed a five-year roadmap for returning to civilian rule. The plan suggests strict political party limits, calling for the abolition of all existing parties and the creation of new rules permitting no more than five political parties. It also recommends that the junta, which seized power in 2023, remains in power during the transition. Furthermore, the committee's plan recommends that the junta's leader, Brig. Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani, should be allowed to contest in future elections. Tchiani has expressed full support for the plan and has pledged to carry it out.

iAfrica: [Niger Committee Sets 5-year Timeline for Return to Civilian Rule.](#) February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION FUELS FRENCH MILITARY EXPULSION IN SAHEL**

Cote d'Ivoire has become the latest country to expel French troops, following a similar departure from Chad in January. With Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso having also carried out expulsions of the French, analysts have said it marks the end of French military presence in the Sahel. One researcher notes that Russia has used propaganda to exploit anti-imperialist sentiments and historical colonial grievances to turn public opinion in Africa against France. Contents creators on social media, with reported links to Russia, have framed the French departure as an "end to colonial exploitation". The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, which is affiliated with the U.S. Defense Department, has said that Russia is the "primary source of disinformation in Africa", with over 80 documented campaigns targeting more than 20 countries.

All Africa: [Russian Disinformation Fuels French Military Expulsion in Sahel.](#) February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# ***AFRICA***

## **UNKNOWN ILLNESS KILLS OVER 50 PEOPLE IN CONGO**

An unknown illness has killed over 50 people in northwestern Congo, according to doctors on the ground and the World Health Organization on Monday. The interval between the onset of symptoms and death has been 48 hours in most cases, and "that's what's really worrying," Serge Ngalebato, medical director of Bikoro Hospital, a regional monitoring centre, told The Associated Press. The latest disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo began on Jan. 21, and 419 cases have been recorded including 53 deaths.

Africa News: Unknown illness kills over 50 people in Congo. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **DRC: THOUSANDS DEAD AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DISPLACED IN CONFLICT**

Since January, the ongoing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has claimed the lives of around 7,000 people, Prime Minister Judith SuminwaTuluka reported at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The deadly conflict has also left 450,000 people without shelter after the destruction of 90 displacement camps. The advance of the M23 rebel group, which has captured key territories and valuable mineral deposits, marks the worst escalation in over a decade.

Africa News: DRC: Thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced in conflict. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **SEVERAL MISSING AS KENYA TIGHTENS BORDER SECURITY AFTER FISHERMEN CLASH**

Kenya has stepped up security along its border with Ethiopia after a violent clash between Ethiopian fishermen and their Kenyan counterparts at the Omo River, which left several people missing. The Turkana community from Kenya and the Dassanech community from Ethiopia, who share economic activities such as fishing, were involved in the altercation. The incident has caused significant concern among both communities. Kenyan Minister of Interior Kipchumba Murkomen addressed the situation, stating that the uncertainty surrounding the missing individuals has created a great deal of anxiety. "More than twenty people are missing. If they were found dead or injured, it would have been easier to handle than the uncertainty we're facing now. Not knowing whether they are alive or dead creates a lot of anxiety, and that uncertainty hurts even more," Murkomen said.

Africa News: Several missing as Kenya tightens border security after fishermen clash. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **EASTERN DRC: WAR INJURIES PUT STRAIN ON MEDICAL FACILITIES AS M23 REBELS ADVANCE**

The advance of M23 rebels in eastern DRC has worsened an already fragile healthcare situation in the country. Caring for wounds from the fighting between the rebels and the Congolese armed forces has become an increasing challenge for hospitals. 34 facilities in North Kivu have also been affected by the battles. But war injuries are not the only challenge for DRC hospitals. Regular outbreaks of infectious illnesses also put medical facilities under strain.

Africa News: Eastern DRC: war injuries put strain on medical facilities as M23 rebels advance. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **RWANDA CALLS UK SANCTIONS "REGRETTABLE" OVER ALLEGED M23 SUPPORT**

Rwanda has condemned the UK's recent sanctions, calling them "regrettable," after the UK accused the country of supporting M23 rebels in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced several measures, including suspending direct financial aid, excluding support for the poorest Rwandans, halting high-level attendance at government events, and suspending defence cooperation. Rwanda's Foreign Ministry responded, stating that the sanctions "do nothing to help the Democratic Republic of Congo, nor do they contribute to a sustainable political solution to the conflict." The statement also emphasized that it is unreasonable for Rwanda to compromise its national security, especially in light of the ongoing violence in the region.

Africa News: Rwanda calls UK sanctions "Regrettable" over alleged M23 support. February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **BUKAVU: OVER 200 POLICE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS JOIN M23**

In Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, more than 200 police officers and soldiers have defected to the Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC/M23), a rebel movement active in the country's east. The defection ceremony took place in front of the provincial police headquarters, drawing the attention of the local population.

Africa News: Bukavu: Over 200 Police Officers and Soldiers Join M23. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **PEOPLE WILL STARVE' BECAUSE OF US AID CUT TO SUDAN**

The freezing of US humanitarian assistance has forced the closure of almost 80% of the emergency food kitchens set up to help people left destitute by Sudan's civil war, the BBC has learned. Aid volunteers said the impact of President Donald Trump's executive order halting contributions from the US government's development organization (USAID) for 90 days meant more than 1,100 communal kitchens had shut. It is estimated that nearly two million people struggling to survive have been affected. The conflict between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has killed tens of thousands of people, forced millions from their homes and left many facing famine since it erupted in April 2023. The kitchens are run by groups known as emergency response

rooms, a grassroots network of activists who stayed on the frontlines to respond to the crises in their neighborhoods.

BBC News: People will starve' because of US aid cut to Sudan. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **UGANDA PROBES DEATH OF NIGERIAN FOOTBALLER IN SHOPPING MALL**

Police in Uganda are investigating the death of a Nigerian professional footballer who allegedly fell from a shopping mall in the capital, Kampala. Abubakar Lawal, 29, reportedly fell from a third-floor balcony at the Voice-mall Shopping Arcade, where he had gone to visit a Tanzanian friend. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead, the police said. They said Lawal's friend, identified as Omary Naima, had left him in her room – which is part of the mall building - preparing tea before the incident happened. Lawal was a striker playing for local team Vipers Sports Club, which has expressed its sadness for the "untimely passing of our beloved player".

BBC News: Uganda probes death of Nigerian footballer in shopping mall. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **G20 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMIC DIVISIONS AMID GLOBAL TENSIONS**

The recent G20 foreign ministers' meeting revealed significant economic divisions, as global economic challenges, including inflation, trade tensions, and the ongoing Ukraine conflict, remain unresolved. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's absence, amid accusations of anti-American sentiment, underscored the rift between major economies. Despite the group's importance in addressing international economic issues, differing stances on trade, global security, and economic recovery hindered productive cooperation. As countries struggle with rising inflation and recession concerns, the G20's inability to reach a consensus on economic strategies suggests continued instability in global markets.

iAfrica: G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Highlights Economic Divisions Amid Global Tensions. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **AFRICA ENERGY BANK AIMS TO TACKLE POWER SHORTAGE AMID CLIMATE CONCERNS**

A group of African countries plans to create the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) to finance oil and gas projects, countering reduced fossil fuel investments from Western institutions. Led by the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) and Afreximbank, the initiative seeks to bolster Africa's industrial growth by expanding energy access. However, environmentalists argue that fossil fuels risk stranded assets, which could leave nations saddled with debt as the world shifts to renewables. Nevertheless, African officials insist their context is unique, citing minimal historical carbon emissions and a pressing need for industrial development. Critics, however, say the AEB should prioritize the continent's vast renewable energy potential instead of deepening its reliance on oil and gas.

iAfrica: [Africa Energy Bank Aims to Tackle Power Shortage Amid Climate Concerns](#). February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **SUDAN'S RSF AND ALLIES FORM PARALLEL GOVERNMENT AMID CIVIL WAR**

Sudan's Rapid Support Forces has inked a charter to set up a parallel "government of peace and unity" with allied political and armed groups. The charter was signed during a closed event in Kenya, leading to criticism of Nairobi by the army-aligned Sudanese government. The document envisions Sudan as a secular, democratic, and non-centralized state with a single national army while allowing armed groups to remain. Furthermore, the charter states that the new formation will unify the country and help end the ongoing civil war. While the parallel government is not expected to receive widespread recognition, it has already drawn concern from the UN.

iAfrica: [Sudan's RSF and Allies Form Parallel Government Amid Civil War](#). February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## ***THE GLOBE***

### **UN CHIEF SAYS WARMONGERS AND AUTOCRATS ARE 'SUFFOCATING' HUMAN RIGHTS**

On the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that human right worldwide is under threat by "warmongers" and "autocrats". Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday, he also noted abuses linked to economics, technology, climate change, migration, and gender. "We have our work cut out for us. Human rights are the oxygen of humanity, but one by one, human rights are being suffocated by autocrats, crushing opposition because they fear what the truly empowered people would do," he said. "Human rights are being suffocated by the climate crisis and by a morally bankrupt global financial system that too often obstructs the path to greater equality and sustainable development," Guterres added.

Africa News: [UN chief says warmongers and autocrats are 'suffocating' human rights](#). February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **WHY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MAY WANT UKRAINE'S MINERALS**

Countries vary in which minerals they deem strategically critical. The U.S. Department of the Interior has designated 50, and Ukraine has more than 20 of those. These elements include Titanium, Graphite, Uranium, manganese, etc. Ukraine is rich in rare earths. Rare earths are a subset of critical minerals and there are 17 of them. Electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar photovoltaic panels and other clean energy technology require the rare earths for components such as magnets and batteries; broadly, renewable energy and decarbonization are placing high demand on minerals across the globe. China controls much of the world's supply of these materials. Opening access to Ukraine's supply could reduce U.S. dependence elsewhere.

AP News: Why the Trump administration may want Ukraine's minerals. February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **NORTH KOREA APPEARS TO HAVE SENT MORE TROOPS TO RUSSIA TO BACK ITS WAR AGAINST UKRAINE, SEOUL SAYS**

North Korea appears to have sent additional troops to Russia, after its soldiers deployed on the Russian-Ukraine fronts suffered heavy casualties. The National Intelligence Service said it was trying to determine how many more troops North Korea has deployed to Russia. The NIS also assessed that North Korean troops were redeployed at fronts in Russia's Kursk region in the first week of February, following a reported temporary withdrawal from the area. North Korea has been supplying a vast amount of conventional weapons to Russia, and last fall it sent about 10,000-12,000 troops to Russia. Earlier Wednesday, South Korea's JoongAngIlbo newspaper reported that an additional 1,000-3,000 North Korean soldiers were deployed to Kursk between January and February.

AP News: North Korea appears to have sent more troops to Russia to back its war against Ukraine, Seoul says. February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **TAIWAN CONDEMNS CHINA FOR CONDUCTING SHOOTING DRILLS OFF ITS COAST**

Taiwan on Thursday condemned China's military exercises after Beijing designated an area to conduct shooting drills off the self-governed island's southwest coast. "China is the biggest troublemaker for regional peace and stability, and the sole and greatest threat to peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the Indo-Pacific region," Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said in its statement. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said in a 24-hour period it detected 45 aircraft, 14 navy vessels and one ship from the Chinese military operating around Taiwan, of which 34 had crossed into its waters and airspace.

AP News: Taiwan condemns China for conducting shooting drills off its coast. February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **UKRAINE CAN FORGET ABOUT NATO – TRUMP**

US President Donald Trump has stated that Ukraine should abandon its aspirations to join NATO, acknowledging this as a possible reason behind the conflict with Russia. Moscow has consistently opposed the US-led bloc's eastward expansion, viewing it as a threat to its national security.

RT: Ukraine can forget about NATO – Trump. February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **FBI ACCUSES NORTH KOREA OF LARGEST CRYPTO HACK IN HISTORY**

North Korea is responsible for the theft of around \$1.5 billion in virtual assets from the Dubai-based Bybit cryptocurrency exchange, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation claimed on Wednesday. The heist, which was reported last week, is believed to be the largest crypto hack in history. While the FBI did not attribute the hack to a specific North Korean group, it said the



attackers used something called ‘TraderTraitor’, a set of malicious cryptocurrency applications that trick victims into installing malware under the guise of job offers. Once installed, the malware allows hackers to compromise financial systems and steal funds. Western intelligence agencies have long accused North Korea of using cyberattacks to fund its weapons programs and evade international sanctions.

RT: FBI accuses North Korea of largest crypto hack in history. February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **ISRAEL LAUNCHES AIRSTRIKES TO ‘DEMILITARIZE’ SYRIA**

Israeli warplanes have conducted airstrikes on military targets in southern Syria, including areas near Damascus and the Deraa province, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s demand for the complete demilitarization of the region. On Tuesday night, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) struck several Syrian “command centers” and “sites containing weapons” in the town of Kiswah, south of Damascus, and in the southern province of Deraa, arguing that the presence of “military forces and assets in the southern part of Syria poses a threat to the citizens of Israel.”

RT: Israel launches airstrikes to ‘demilitarize’ Syria. February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.