



THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

GLIC Weekly Report

9th May, 2025

Top of the Agenda

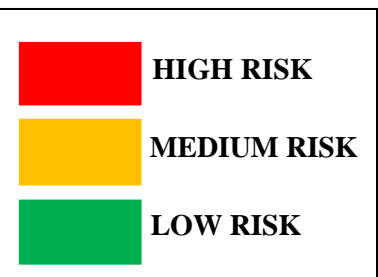
PROTESTS GROW IN MALI AS OPPOSITION LEADER FACES TRIAL OVER JUNTA CRITICISM

Tensions are rising in Mali as opposition leader Mamadou Traoré, known as "the King," faces trial next month for criticizing the military rulers. His arrest, along with protests and calls for democratic elections, highlights the escalating political crisis. Traoré, leader of the Alternatives for Mali party, is charged with undermining the state and spreading false news. This follows previous arrests and convictions of political figures for similar offenses, reflecting the junta's crackdown on dissent and its controversial plan to dissolve political parties and delay the return to civilian rule.

RFI: [Protests grow in Mali as opposition leader faces trial over junta criticism](#) May 7th, 2025.

Analysis

The instability caused by military coups in Mali and the broader Sahel region underscores a critical need to return to democratic governance. Military rule, while sometimes presented as a solution to instability, often exacerbates the problems it claims to solve. Without democratic institutions, such as a free press, an independent judiciary, and regular elections, military regimes are prone to corruption, human rights abuses, and a lack of accountability. These factors can fuel resentment among the population and create fertile ground for extremist groups to flourish. Furthermore, military governments often lack the legitimacy and popular support necessary to implement effective policies. They may struggle to address the complex challenges facing the region, including poverty, climate change, and ethnic tensions. International partners are also hesitant to provide substantial aid or investment to countries ruled by military juntas, which further hinders development. Returning to democracy, however, is not a simple process. It requires a commitment to the rule of law, respect for human rights, and inclusive political processes. It also necessitates the active participation of civil society, including journalists, activists, and community leaders. Only through genuine democratic reforms, can Mali and the Sahel region hope to achieve lasting peace and stability.



NIGERIA

WHAT META'S DISPUTE IN NIGERIA MEANS FOR ITS MILLIONS OF USERS

Nigerian authorities have fined Meta \$290 million for regulatory breaches, prompting the social media giant to threaten pulling Facebook and Instagram from the country. The showdown is the latest development in a year-long regulatory battle between the social media behemoth and Africa's most populous nation. The dispute began in 2021 when Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) started a probe into WhatsApp's new privacy policy. The commission said Meta committed multiple and repeated infringements of the country's Nigerian rules, including "denying Nigerians the right to control their data, transferring and sharing Nigerian user data without authorization, discriminating against Nigerian users compared to users in other jurisdictions, and abusing their dominant market position by forcing unfair privacy policies." After remediation efforts failed, the FCCPC issued its final order in July 2024, imposing a \$220 million fine along with penalties from other agencies that took the total amount to \$290 million.

Restofworld: [What Meta's Dispute in Nigeria Means for Its Millions of Users](#) 9th May, 2025.

WEST AFRICA

NIGER SEIZES EQUIPMENT FROM FRENCH URANIUM MINER – REUTERS

Niger's security forces raided the offices of French state-owned miner Orano's subsidiaries in Niamey, seizing equipment and arresting local director Ibrahim Courmo, according to Reuters. The raid targeted Somair, Cominak, and Orano Mining Niger. Orano expressed concern, saying it has been unable to contact its representative in Niger and has limited information since losing control of its subsidiaries in December. The incident reflects growing tensions between Niger's military-led government and Orano. In June 2024, Niger revoked Orano's license to operate the Imouraren mine, one of the world's largest uranium mines, deepening the standoff with the French nuclear fuel firm.

RT: [Niger seizes equipment from French uranium miner – Reuters](#) 7th May, 2025.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN MALI POSTPONE PROTEST OVER DISSOLUTION

Mali, political parties postponed a planned demonstration against the transitional government's suspension of all political and civil association activities. Initially scheduled for Friday, the protest was called off due to concerns that members of the National Transitional Council might incite violence. Organizers cited public safety as the reason for the delay. The parties had intended to protest what they called the unconstitutional dissolution of political freedoms, viewing it as a significant setback for Mali's democracy amid rising political tensions. The decision reflects

growing unrest over the government's actions and the country's democratic trajectory. WADR: Political parties in Mali postpone protest over dissolution 9th May, 2025.

MALI PRESSED TO PAY 'ENORMOUS' DEBT FOR REGIONAL DAM

Mali owes over \$94 million to Sogem, the entity managing the Manantali Dam, which provides power to Mali, Senegal, and Mauritania. This debt, now described as "a question of life and death" for the dam's operation, threatens to worsen Mali's already fragile electricity supply. The Manantali Dam, operational since 2002, has an installed capacity of 200MW, with more than half of its output allocated to Mali. The debt has escalated tensions, as electricity outages in Mali have undermined public support for the military government that came to power after coups in 2020 and 2021. Business Live: Mali pressed to pay 'enormous' debt for regional dam 8th May, 2025.

MALI'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Mali's military government has suspended all political activities across the country "until further notice". The decree signed on Wednesday by transitional president, General Assimi Goita, cited "reasons of public order" and applies to both parties and organisations. It was issued a few days after a rare pro-democracy rally and ahead of a planned protest on Friday against the junta which has ruled the country since coups in 2020 and 2021. Hundreds of activists last weekend defied government threats and demonstrated in the capital, Bamako, against a bill recommending the dissolution of all political parties. "I'm not surprised, I expected this because this is their way of preventing us from carrying out our activities, but we will continue to defend democracy in Mali," said one of its leaders, Cheick Oumar Doumbia

Africa News: Mali's military government suspends all political activities 9th May, 2025.

AFRICA

SOUTH SUDAN CLASHES BLOCK AID TO 60,000 MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

Intense fighting in South Sudan, particularly in Upper Nile State, has prevented vital food supplies from reaching 60,000 malnourished children for nearly a month, according to the United Nations. The conflict, involving forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar, has disrupted key transport routes along the White Nile. The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF warned that the region, already grappling with over 300,000 malnourished children, is on the brink of catastrophe. Escalating violence, looting, and disrupted supply lines threaten to exhaust life-saving supplies by May 2025, exacerbating the crisis for vulnerable children in the country.

Macau: South Sudan clashes block aid to 60,000 malnourished children 7th May, 2025.

US TO CUT \$50 MILLION HEALTH AID TO ZAMBIA BECAUSE OF MEDICINE THEFT

The United States said on Thursday that it will cut \$50 million in annual aid to Zambia because of what it described as the “systemic theft” of donated drugs and medical supplies. Washington’s ambassador to the country, Michael Gonzales, said the “difficult” decision comes after repeated warnings to the government to safeguard the vital medicines. These included life-saving drugs to treat malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis. He said the US discovered in 2021 that medicine and medical supplies that were meant to be provided free to Zambians were being taken and sold by pharmacies across country. An investigation of around 2,000 pharmacies in Zambia between 2021 and 2023 found that nearly half of them were selling medicines and products paid for by US aid funds.

Africa News: US to cut \$50 million health aid to Zambia because of medicine theft 9th May, 2025.

GLOBAL

UKRAINE LABELS RUSSIAN CEASEFIRE A FARCE AFTER REPORTS OF HUNDREDS OF VIOLATIONS

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha condemned Russia’s unilateral three-day ceasefire, calling it a “farce” due to continued attacks along the front line. He reported 734 violations by Russia since the ceasefire began, adding that Ukraine was responding appropriately. Russia’s defense ministry, however, insisted the ceasefire was being observed and accused Ukraine of 488 violations. The truce, declared by President Vladimir Putin to mark Victory Day, failed to stop hostilities, with at least one person killed in Ukraine's Sumy region due to Russian strikes, according to emergency services. The ceasefire has thus been largely ineffective in halting violence.

BBC: Ukraine labels Russian ceasefire a farce after reports of hundreds of violations 8th May, 2025.

RUSSIA BUILDING NEW EXPLOSIVES FACILITY

RUSSIA is expanding a factory in remote Siberia to increase production of a powerful explosive used in artillery shells and other munitions for the ongoing war in Ukraine, according to a Reuters review of public state documents. This expansion aims to boost Russia’s firepower, building on its success in outproducing Ukraine in shells, which has been a significant factor in its battlefield victories. The additional explosives from the new project could significantly enhance Russia's military capacity as Ukraine and its Western allies ramp up ordnance production to counter Russian advances, according to defense analysts.

Daily Star: Russia building new explosives facility 9th May, 2025.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR LATEST

Zelensky hits out at Putin’s Moscow ‘Victory Day’ parade as ‘bile and lies’: Volodymyr Zelensky has hit out at Russia’s forthcoming Victory Day commemorations as a “parade of bile and lies”, in a passionate rant as he walked through the streets of Kyiv. “Tomorrow, the atrocities of the

Nazis will be brought up by the organizer of mass graves in Bucha,” the Ukrainian president said in a post marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, a day before Russia’s Victory Day tomorrow. “It will be a parade of cynicism, there is just no other way to describe it. A parade of bile and lies, as if it were not dozens of allied states but Putin personally who defeated Nazism.” Russian president Vladimir Putin welcomed his “dear friend” Chinese president Xi Jinping to the Kremlin on Thursday morning, a symbolic visit in which the Chinese leader will join ceremonies marking the anniversary of Russia's “sacred” Second World War victory. Mr Putin has called a unilateral 72-hour Victory Day ceasefire but Kyiv accused Russia of breaching the truce within minutes of its taking effect. One person was killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine’s northeastern Sumy region as Russia continued to attack the front line, Ukraine’s military said - but no ballistic missiles or drones were recorded overnight.

MSN: [Ukraine-Russia war latest](#) 7th May, 2025.

INDIAN SHARES FALL AS TENSIONS WITH PAKISTAN ESCALATE

Indian shares fell on Thursday in their most volatile session in a month after the country said it "neutralized" attempts by Pakistan to "engage" several military targets in its northern and western regions. Indian forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan, they said late afternoon, while Pakistan's military said it had shot down 25 Indian drones. The developments triggered broad-based selling, multiple analysts said, with the benchmark Nifty 50 falling as much as 1.1%. "These ups and downs will happen. The tensions are not completely out of the way," said Arun Malhotra, fund manager at CapGrow Capital. The volatility index (.NIFVIX), opens new tab, often called the "fear" gauge, jumped to 21.01, its highest closing level since April 9. "A prolonged conflict will definitely impact capital inflows and hurt the Indian economy," said Vineet Arora, managing director at NAV Capital. "Conflict is a reminder of geopolitical risks inherent in the subcontinent and could temper market momentum in near term," he said.

Reuters: [Indian shares fall as tensions with Pakistan escalate](#) 8th May, 2025.

UK-US TRADE DEAL LIVE

Trump to announce tariff cuts and hails ‘full and comprehensive’ agreement with Britain: The US and UK are poised to announce the first major trade deal made since Donald Trump’s sweeping “Liberation Day” tariffs were introduced last month. Trump hailed the deal as a “full and comprehensive” agreement, saying it was a “great honour to have the United Kingdom as our first announcement”. “The agreement with the United Kingdom is a full and comprehensive one that will cement the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom for many years to come,” he said. “Because of our long time history and allegiance together, it is a great honour to have the United Kingdom as our FIRST announcement.” The president is set to announce the deal at the White House at about 3pm UK time (10am EST), with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer expected to provide an update around the same time. Sir Keir has made a trade deal with the US a

key priority, hoping it can reduce the impact of sweeping tariffs imposed by President Trump last month.

MSN: UK-US trade deal live 8th May, 2025.

NORTH KOREA SAYS LEADER KIM SUPERVISED MISSILE TESTS SIMULATING NUCLEAR STRIKES AGAINST RIVALS

Kim Jong Un supervised tests of short-range ballistic missile systems that simulated nuclear counterstrikes against U.S. and South Korean forces, as the North continued to blame its rivals for escalating tensions through their joint military exercises. The report came a day after South Korea's military detected multiple launches from North Korea's eastern coast and assessed that the tests could also be related to the country's weapons exports to Russia during its war in Ukraine. The tests involved a mobile ballistic missile system apparently modeled after Russia's Iskander, as well as 600-millimeter multiple rocket launchers. Both are part of a growing lineup of weapons systems that the North says could be armed with "tactical" nuclear weapons for battlefield use.

AP: North Korea says leader Kim supervised missile tests simulating nuclear strikes against rivals 9th May, 2025.

PAKISTAN'S CHINESE-MADE JET BROUGHT DOWN TWO INDIAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, US OFFICIALS SAY

A Chinese-made Pakistani J-10 fighter jet reportedly shot down at least two Indian military aircraft, according to anonymous U.S. officials. One of the downed planes was identified as a French-made Rafale. The officials emphasized that Pakistan did not use U.S.-made F-16s in the incident. India has denied losing any aircraft, claiming instead to have successfully targeted alleged terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. The incident has heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, prompting calls for restraint from global powers including the U.S., Russia, and China, amid fears of escalation in one of the world's most volatile and densely populated regions.

Alarabiya: Pakistan's Chinese-made jet brought down two Indian fighter aircraft, US officials say 8th May, 2025.

CHINA CALLS OUT CIA 'PROVOCATION'

Beijing has accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of "political provocation" after it released Chinese-language recruitment videos targeting Chinese officials. At a press conference, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian condemned the U.S. for using "despicable methods" to steal secrets, interfere in internal affairs, and commit subversion. He claimed such actions violate international law and norms, accusing the U.S. of attempting to recruit Chinese government personnel as informants. Lin vowed that China would take all necessary steps to counter foreign infiltration and protect its national sovereignty, security, and development interests, signaling escalating tensions between the two global powers.

RT: China calls out CIA 'provocation' 6th May, 2025.

IDF AIRSTRIKES ‘FULLY DISABLED’ YEMEN’S MAIN AIRPORT – ISRAEL

Airstrikes launched by the Israeli Defense Forces have “fully disabled” the international airport in Yemen’s capital Sanaa and hit other targets, the IDF announced on Tuesday. The series of strikes on Houthi-controlled targets in the country came as a response to the rebel group’s ballistic missile attack on Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on Sunday. “The fighter jets struck and dismantled Houthi terrorist infrastructure at the main airport in Sanaa, fully disabling the airport,” the IDF said. It added that several power stations and a concrete plant were also hit.

RT: [IDF airstrikes ‘fully disabled’ Yemen’s main airport – Israel](#) 6th May, 2025.

NEW GERMAN CHANCELLOR TELLS US TO ‘STAY OUT’ OF BERLIN’S AFFAIRS

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has urged the U.S. government to avoid interfering in Germany’s domestic politics after American officials criticized Berlin’s classification of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party as “extremist.” U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance likened the move to rebuilding the Berlin Wall, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio called Germany a “tyranny in disguise” and urged a policy reversal. Merz, who became chancellor after an initial failed confirmation vote, responded by labeling the comments from Washington as “absurd” and emphasized on national television that the U.S. should refrain from commenting on Germany’s internal political decisions.

RT: [New German chancellor tells US to ‘stay out’ of Berlin’s affairs](#) 7th May, 2025.

EU NATION BACKTRACKS ON UKRAINE F-16S PROMISE

Belgium will delay its delivery of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine until it receives its own F-35s from the U.S., Defense Minister Theo Francken announced. Although Belgium pledged in 2023 to supply Ukraine with jets—alongside NATO allies Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway—the timeline has shifted. Ukraine has so far received around 20 F-16s from Denmark and the Netherlands. Meanwhile, the U.S. recently approved a \$310.5 million support package for Ukrainian-operated F-16s, covering training, spare parts, modifications, logistics, and software. Belgium’s contribution is now expected to occur “in the years to come,” pending its F-35 fleet’s arrival.

RT: [EU nation backtracks on Ukraine F-16s promise](#) 7th May, 2025.

PUTIN AND MADURO INK STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DEAL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro have signed a strategic partnership agreement to deepen cooperation across various sectors. The deal, finalized in Moscow during Maduro’s visit for Victory Day celebrations, emphasizes joint opposition to unilateral sanctions, breaches of the UN Charter, and neo-colonial practices. The agreement also outlines plans for collaboration on global and regional security, counterterrorism, counter-extremism, and efforts to combat historical revisionism and the glorification of Nazism. The partnership highlights strengthened ties between Moscow and Caracas amid shared resistance to Western influence and a commitment to mutual geopolitical and security goals.

RT: Putin and Maduro ink strategic partnership deal 7th May, 2025.

VANCE OUTLINES CHANGED US STRATEGY ON UKRAINE

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance stated that Washington seeks to move beyond Ukraine's proposed 30-day ceasefire, focusing instead on achieving a lasting peace with Russia. Speaking at the Munich Leaders Meeting, Vance explained that while Ukraine suggested a month-long truce in response to Russia's 72-hour proposal tied to WWII commemorations, Moscow rejected it, claiming Kiev would use the pause to regroup. Vance also said Russia's initial peace terms were excessive but emphasized that negotiations often begin that way. He warned that President Trump is ready to walk away from talks if no progress is made, urging both sides to pursue diplomacy.

RT: Vance outlines changed US strategy on Ukraine 8th May, 2025.

RUSSIA AND CHINA TO FIGHT 'COERCION' ON WORLD STAGE – XI

During a meeting in Moscow, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed their commitment to opposing unilateralism and coercion in global affairs. Xi, in town for the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany, emphasized the shared responsibility of China and Russia as major powers and UN Security Council members to defend historical truth and resist power-based tactics. He hailed the strengthening of political, economic, and cultural ties under their joint leadership. Putin echoed Xi's sentiment, stressing that their cooperation is not aimed at any third party but reflects mutual respect and strategic alignment.

RT: Russia and China to fight 'coercion' on world stage – Xi 8th May, 2025.

MILITARY ESCALATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

India has launched strikes on targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir in response to a recent terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, according to its Defense Ministry. Dubbed "Operation Sindoor," the offensive targeted nine alleged terrorist camps. India described the operation as "focused, measured, and non-escalatory." Pakistan condemned the strikes as "unprovoked aggression" and responded with its own shelling, while warning it reserves the right to retaliate. Pakistan's military reported 26 civilian deaths and 46 injuries. India, in turn, warned of further retaliation if provoked, briefing foreign envoys that it is prepared to respond to any Pakistani military action.

RT: Military escalation between India and Pakistan 7th May, 2025.