



## THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

*GLIC Weekly Report*

*29th August, 2025*

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

#### **DRONES POSE GROWING THREAT TO AFRICAN PORTS**

On May 4, Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) launched a drone strike on Port Sudan, a strategic hub for the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), killing 12 and injuring 30 while damaging fuel depots. The attack, using drones modeled on the Iranian Shahed-136, underscores growing threats to African ports from state and nonstate actors. Ports, vital for trade, humanitarian access, and military influence, are increasingly vulnerable to drone warfare due to open layouts and critical infrastructure. Similar strikes elsewhere, such as Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia and Russian strikes on Odessa, reveal the rising global risk to maritime facilities.

ADF: Drones Pose Growing Threat to African Ports August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### ***Analysis***

Nigeria should improve on its capacity to produce attack drones and also strengthen its ability to defend its territory against invading surveillance and attack drones. The evolution of modern warfare has demonstrated that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have become force multipliers, offering states asymmetric advantages in both conventional and counterinsurgency operations. Nigeria's current drone arsenal includes surveillance UAVs such as the Chinese-made CH-3 and CH-4 drones, as well as domestically produced platforms like the Tsaigumi and Gulma drones developed in collaboration with the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and local research institutions. However, these platforms remain largely focused on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) functions, with limited capacity for precision strike or sustained offensive missions. The Boko Haram insurgency, banditry in the North-West, and rising threats in the Gulf of Guinea illustrate the need for Nigeria to deploy armed drones that can deliver precision-guided munitions, reducing risks to personnel while enhancing response times. Equally important is the urgent necessity to invest in counter-drone technologies to safeguard critical infrastructure such as oil facilities, airports, seaports, and military bases, which are increasingly vulnerable to low-cost, high-impact drone attacks by nonstate actors. Recent examples from conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East highlight how drones are reshaping the security environment, especially in regions with porous borders and fragile state systems.

To achieve this, Nigeria must adopt a dual strategy: first, prioritizing local drone production through partnerships between the NAF, universities, and private tech firms to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers; and second, developing robust air defense systems, including radar-based detection, electronic jamming, and kinetic interceptors, to neutralize hostile drones. Strengthening Nigeria's drone capabilities will not only enhance national security but also position the country as a regional leader in unmanned systems technology, fostering both military resilience and technological innovation.

# ***NIGERIA***

## **DEADLY BANDIT ATTACK HITS ZAMFARA VILLAGE IN NIGERIA**

Eyewitnesses said dozens of men riding on motorcycles stormed the village of Gamdum Mallam in the afternoon of Saturday, before rounding up mostly women and children and leading them to a forest. The other attackers raided herds, grabbing cows, sheep and goats. Two people were also killed in the attack. Zamfara, in northwestern Nigeria, is the epicentre of attacks by armed men, locally known as bandits. The violent and mostly deadly attacks have made several aspects of civilian life difficult. Armed groups often demand ransom to release their victims. In 2022, the Nigerian Senate passed a bill imposing jail terms of at least 15 years for paying a ransom to free a victim of kidnapping, and made the crime of abduction punishable by death in cases where victims die.

Africa News: Deadly bandit attack hits Zamfara village in Nigeria August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **MOSQUE ATTACK: WHAT I SAW WAS HEARTBREAKING – KATSINA GOV**

Katsina State Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda, visited Mantau Village in Malumfashi Local Government Area to commiserate with families of the 32 worshippers killed by bandits during prayers. The attack, which occurred at dawn last Tuesday, left the community devastated. In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Mohammed, the governor announced a relief package of ₦500,000 for each affected household. Speaking to journalists, Radda described the scene as heartbreaking—seeing orphans, burnt houses, and grieving families. He assured residents that government would address their needs and urged unity against insecurity, noting the attack was a reprisal after villagers earlier resisted the bandits.

**Punch NG:** Mosque Attack: What I Saw Was Heartbreaking – Katsina Gov August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **KIDNAPPERS KILL 762 NIGERIANS IN 4,722 ABDUCTIONS; RAKE IN N2.6BN RANSOM**

Geopolitical research firm SB Morgen (SBM) Intelligence has reported that no fewer than 762 Nigerians were killed in 4,722 abductions between June 2024 and June 2025. In its latest report, “Economics of Nigeria’s Kidnap Industry,” SBM revealed that kidnappers demanded over ₦48 billion in ransoms but received only ₦2.57 billion. It described kidnapping as a lucrative criminal enterprise, with the Northwest remaining the most violent, while the Southeast and South-South face targeted religious and financial kidnappings. The report warned that unless security agencies dismantle criminal networks and tackle poverty, unemployment, and weak policing, the cycle of fear will persist.

Vanguard: Kidnappers kill 762 Nigerians in 4,722 abductions; rake in N2.6bn ransom August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **NIMET PREDICTS FLOOD IN LAGOS, KOGI, NIGER, FIVE OTHERS THIS WEEK**

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has forecasted floods in eight states: Niger, Kogi, Benue, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Cross River and Ebonyi between Thursday and Saturday. Thunderstorms with moderate to light rains are expected across the northern, central, and southern regions, including Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba, Plateau, Nasarawa, FCT, Kwara, and Osun. NiMet warned of high flood risks particularly in riverine and low-lying areas of Niger, Kogi, Benue, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Cross River and Ebonyi. Residents are advised to remain vigilant, heed official advisories and avoid dangerous crossings during heavy rains to minimize risks.

The Nation Online: [NiMet Predicts Flood in Lagos, Kogi, Niger, five others this Week](#) August 27th, 2025.

### **TWO FEARED DEAD AS VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT AT BALOGUN MARKET, LAGOS ISLAND**

Panic broke out at the popular Balogun Market on Lagos Island on Wednesday, after a violent clash reportedly left at least two people dead. Videos circulating on social media showed disturbing scenes from the incident. In one clip seen by DAILY POST, a man, apparently attacked with a machete, was seen lying motionless on the ground. Another video captured the suspected assailant, stripped naked and reportedly lynched by an angry mob. The cause of the unrest has not been clearly established. While some eyewitnesses suggest the violence was the result of a cult-related confrontation, others alleged it stemmed from an inter-tribal dispute between Yoruba and Igbo traders. In the aftermath, shops were hurriedly closed as traders and passersby scrambled for safety. Security operatives were yet to release an official statement on the incident at the time of filing this report.

Daily Post: [Two feared dead as violence breaks out at Balogun Market, Lagos Island](#) August 28th, 2025.

### **NIGERIA'S AIR FORCE SAID IT KILLED AT LEAST 35 ISLAMIC FIGHTERS**

35 Islamic fighters were killed in air strikes near the Cameroon border on Saturday, following intelligence that the group was planning an attack on ground troops. The strikes targeted four assembly points, air force spokesperson Ehimen Ejodame said in a statement, adding that communication was later restored with troops who confirmed the area had been secured. The operation is part of an intensified campaign in the northeast, where the military last week said it had killed 592-armed militia members in eight months, surpassing operational gains made in 2024. Reuters: [Nigeria's air force said it killed at least 35 Islamic fighters](#) August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **WEST AFRICA**

### **GROWING CONCERNS IN WEST AFRICA ABOUT HEALTH RISKS FROM USE OF UNREGULATED SEXUAL STIMULANTS**

As West Africa continues to be flooded by unregulated sexual stimulants, there are growing concerns about the health risks faced by the men who use them. A New York Times report has found that products claiming to be 100% natural herbal remedies for improving virility are resulting in serious consequences. These artisanal drugs are leaving men drooling uncontrollably, suffering from migraines and life-threatening erections, and facing a higher risk of heart attacks. Africa News: Growing concerns in West Africa about health risks from use of unregulated sexual stimulants August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **REPORT SPOTLIGHTS TENSIONS IN MALI MILITARY OVER WAGNER MERCENARIES**

A new report reveals that Russian mercenary operations in Mali, led by the Wagner Group, have fueled tensions within the army and military government, created security gaps, and failed to secure promised mining concessions. Wagner entered Mali after two coups in 2020 and 2021, following the expulsion of French and UN forces that had battled Islamist insurgents for years. Although Wagner announced its exit in June, a Kremlin-backed paramilitary unit, Africa Corps, composed of 70 to 80 percent ex-Wagner fighters, remains. Rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, have accused Wagner and Malian forces of atrocities against civilians, raising concerns about ongoing instability.

MSN: Report Spotlights Tensions in Mali Military over Wagner Mercenaries August 27th, 2025.

### **BURKINA FASO AND MALI BOYCOTT AFRICAN DEFENCE SUMMIT IN NIGERIA**

Burkina Faso and Mali boycotted the African Chiefs of Defence Summit in Abuja, highlighting ongoing tensions with Nigeria. Although Burkina Faso's Brig. Gen. Moussa Diallo, Mali's Maj. Gen. Oumar Diarra, and Niger's Brig. Gen. Moussa Barmou were invited, only Niger sent a representative, Col. Maj. Soumana Kalkoye. The absence reflects strained relations following Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's failed attempt, as ECOWAS chair, to invade Niger after its coup, which led Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to form the Confederation of Sahel States (AES). Despite this, Nigeria is hosting the three-day summit to foster defence cooperation, with CDS Gen. Christopher Musa urging stronger regional collaboration against terrorism.

West Africa Weekly: Burkina Faso and Mali Boycott African Defence Summit in Nigeria August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **JNIM SEEKS TO ASSERT DOMINANCE AS IT INTENSIFIES ATTACKS ACROSS SAHEL**

In June, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) stormed Mali's Boulkessi base, killing

over 100 soldiers in one of many attacks that month across Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. JNIM claimed over 400 military deaths in May–June, making May the Sahel’s deadliest month since 2024, with 850 killed overall. The group is expanding from rural assaults to targeting towns, capitals, and industrial sites, aiming to control territory and encircle Sahelian capitals. Despite Malian forces killing militants, JNIM’s coordination and use of stolen anti-aircraft weapons highlight its growing sophistication. Led by Iyad Ag Ghali, JNIM enforces harsh Islamic law, undermining state authority.

ADF Magazine: JNIM Seeks to Assert Dominance as It Intensifies Attacks Across Sahel August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## ***AFRICA***

### **UGANDA'S NRM ENDORSES MUSEVENI AS CANDIDATE FOR 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

Uganda's ruling National Resistance Movement has endorsed President Yoweri Museveni as its candidate for next year’s general election – and his seventh term as leader of the East African nation. Eighty-year-old Museveni accepted the nomination on Wednesday in a speech to the party’s delegate conference in Kampala, and thanked the party for putting its trust in him once again. Museveni first took power in 1986 as head of a rebel force. He has since been elected six times, after securing constitutional amendments to remove presidential term limits and an age cap. Should he win in January, it would bring him close to five decades in power in the East African nation.

Africa News: Uganda's NRM endorses Museveni as candidate for 2026 presidential election August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### **AID CUTS ARE PUTTING EMERGENCY NUTRITION PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA AT RISK**

Save the Children said that aid cuts are putting the lives of people in Africa at risk with severely malnourished youngsters the most vulnerable. It reports that at least four countries - Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan - are expected to run out of emergency food pouches over the next three months if funding gaps are not plugged. This “wonder food” – or Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) - is an energy-dense paste that typically includes peanuts, sugar, milk powder, oil, vitamins, and minerals. It is ideal for emergency situations as it has a long shelf-life, does not need refrigeration, and comes in easy-to-use foil pouches.

Africa News: Aid cuts are putting emergency nutrition programmes in Africa at risk August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **CYBERATTACKS TAKE AIM AT GOVERNMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, COMPANIES**

Cybercrime is rapidly escalating in Africa, accounting for up to 30% of crime in West and East Africa, with attacks increasingly targeting corporations, government agencies, and critical infrastructure rather than individuals. Internet use is surging, projected to reach 500 million users by 2030, but legal and security frameworks lag. Recent incidents include ransomware against Kenya's roads agency, attacks on Nigeria's statistics bureau and South Africa's health and energy systems, and Iranian cyberespionage in telecoms. Analysts warn corporate espionage is also rising. Interpol stresses stronger cross-border cooperation, reporting systems, and IT infrastructure are urgently needed to counter mounting cyber threats.

ADF Magazine: [Cyberattacks Take Aim at Government, Infrastructure, Companies](#) August 26th, 2025.

## **ISWAP DRAINS LAKE CHAD REGION THROUGH TAXES**

ISWAP, the Islamic State's affiliate in the Lake Chad region, collects about \$191 million annually in taxes from farmers, fishermen, and herders—far exceeding Borno State's \$18.4 million revenue in 2024. Operating across Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, ISWAP controls Lake Chad's islands as logistics hubs and sustains itself through taxation, extortion, and captured equipment. Though it offers limited services like water, transport, and health care to appear legitimate, taxation is arbitrary, coercive, and often brutal, with punishments including beatings, abduction, or death. By presenting itself as an alternative government, ISWAP strengthens recruitment, finances expansion, and entrenches its regional influence.

ADF Magazine: [ISWAP Drains Lake Chad Region Through Taxes](#) August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## ***THE GLOBE***

### **EXPERTS WARN OF 'JIHADIST PMCS' FANNING FLAMES OF CONFLICT**

A new threat is emerging in Africa: jihadist private military contractors (PMCs). Unlike traditional mercenaries such as Russia's Wagner Group, these are seasoned foreign fighters who provide training, battlefield support, and drone expertise to extremist groups for money or ideology. The Houthis, backed by Iran, supply weapons and training to al-Shabaab and IS Somalia, introducing missile and drone warfare to East Africa. Groups like Syria-based Malhama Tactical pioneered this model, later copied by others. These jihadist PMCs spread advanced tactics, use propaganda to recruit, and rotate fighters across regions, making militant networks more agile and harder to counter through conventional strategies.

ADF Magazine: [Experts Warn of 'Jihadist PMCs' Fanning Flames of Conflict](#) August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **RUSSIA PUSHES ANTI-COLONIAL NARRATIVE WHILE USING COLONIZER'S PLAYBOOK**

Russia has pressured the Central African Republic (CAR) to replace Wagner Group mercenaries with its state-run Africa Corps, tied to plans for a Russian military base. This reflects Moscow's wider strategy of deepening influence in Africa by trading military support for mining concessions, helping offset sanctions from its Ukraine invasion. In Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and CAR, Russia exploits gold, uranium, and other resources while embedding forces in governance, propaganda, and security. Though Moscow frames its role as "anti-colonial," analysts argue it mirrors exploitation, fueling corruption, violence, and rights abuses while institutionalizing long-term influence in Africa's politics and resource security.

ADF Magazine: [Russia Pushes Anti-Colonial Narrative While Using Colonizer's Playbook](#)  
August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

