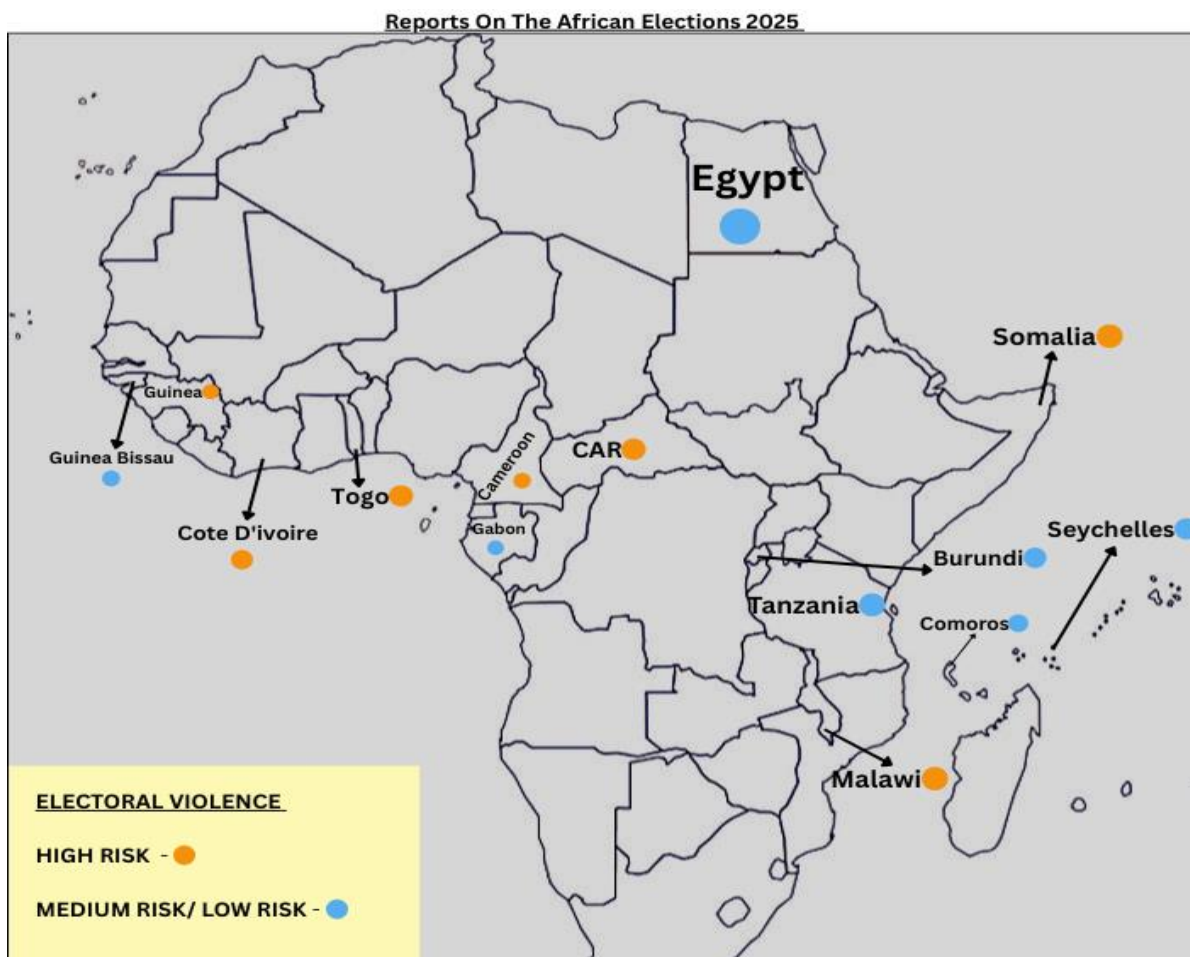


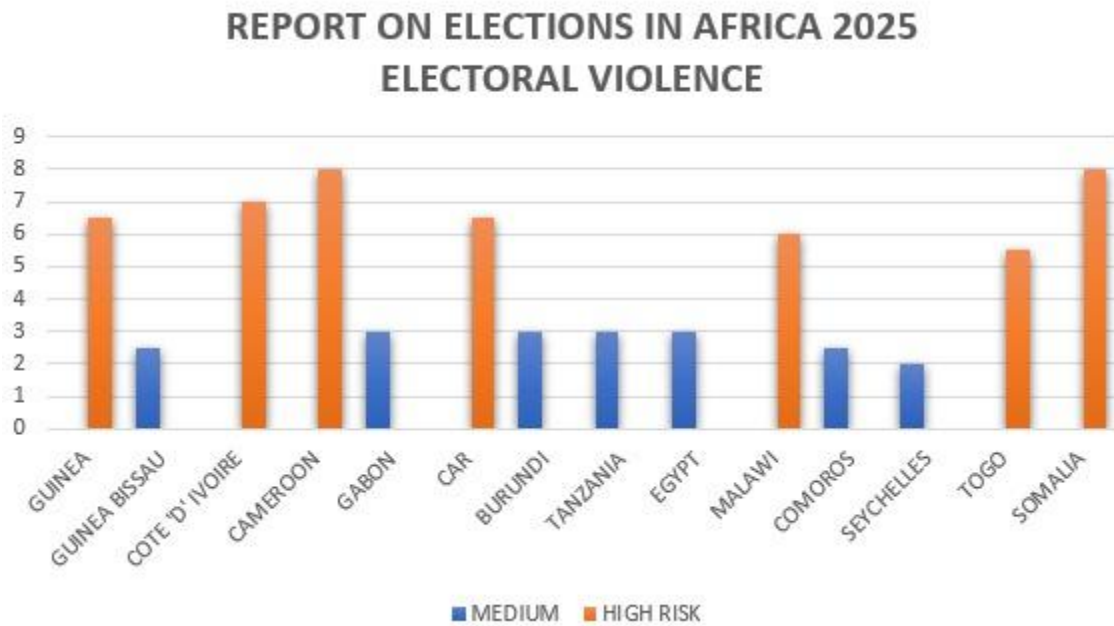
THE EARLY WARNING FACTSHEET

August 2025

Africa's 2025 Elections

In 2025, Africa is set to hold thirteen elections, spanning general and legislative contests marked by intense rivalry among opposing political factions. Given the continent's fragile geopolitical landscape, recent history shows that in countries with a track record of electoral violence—during campaigns, on election day, and throughout the transition period—poorly managed elections can quickly escalate into conflict. These contests often unfold in deeply polarised environments, fueling civil unrest and undermining democratic principles. Since the turn of the 21st century, elections in some African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, have frequently triggered ethnic tensions and violence, rather than fostering peace, political stability, or economic progress.





The dynamics of electoral violence in African elections in 2025 vary exclusively in the states during the electoral cycle.

CENTRAL AFRICA:

- Cameroon: At 91 years old, Paul Biya—the world’s longest-serving president—is ramping up his campaign for an eighth term, a move that heightens Cameroon’s already fragile geopolitical landscape ahead of the presidential election on 12th October.
- Gabon: On 12 April 2025, Gabon conducted its presidential election, where interim president General Brice Oligui Nguema, who led the August 2023 coup that deposed President Ali Bongo, secured a sweeping victory at the polls..

EAST AFRICA:

- Tanzania’s 29 October 2025 election is expected to be fiercely contested, serving as a pivotal moment to decide whether the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)—in power since 1977—will maintain its dominance or if the opposition can finally end its decades-long grip.
- In Somalia, the legislative elections scheduled for September mark a historic milestone as the country prepares to hold its first national vote based on universal suffrage.

WEST AFRICA:

- Guinea is preparing for a potential return to democratic governance through a proposed constitutional referendum on 21 September under the current junta regime. This initiative marks a critical first step toward restoring civilian rule and sets the stage for national elections in 2025.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, the 2016 constitutional reform may provide incumbent President Alassane Ouattara grounds to argue that his previous terms were reset, potentially enabling him to seek a controversial fourth term in office in the elections on 25th October.
- Guinea-Bissau faces rising tensions ahead of its presidential and legislative elections on 23 November. President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, who dissolved Parliament in December 2023, declared in November 2024 his intention to remain in power beyond 2030—well past the end of his second term—should he secure re-election.
- In Togo, electoral cycles have been marred by violence since the death of long-time president Gnassingbé Eyadéma. The country is set to hold local elections across 117 municipalities in 2025 amid widespread public unrest. Weeks of protests demanding the resignation of President Faure Gnassingbé have intensified tensions, underscoring the nation's troubled electoral history.

SOUTHERN AFRICA:

- Malawi is set to hold general elections on the 16th September to choose its President and members of the National Assembly. This high-stakes contest pits incumbent President Lazarus Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) against former President Peter Mutharika of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). The political dynamics have grown more complex following the United Transformation Movement's (UTM) exit from the ruling coalition, triggered by the death of Vice President Saulos Chilima.

NORTH AFRICA:

- Egyptians cast their votes August 4-5, to elect members of the Senate, the advisory upper chamber of Parliament that supports the more influential lower house in shaping legislation, policy, and constitutional affairs. The election unfolded amid widespread public frustration, as a stagnant economy continues to burden citizens with surging inflation and escalating costs of essential goods such as food and fuel.

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