

THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

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Top of the Agenda

AGAIN, TROOPS REPEL BOKO HARAM/ISWAP ATTACKS IN BORNO AND YOBE

Troops of Operation HADIN KAI (OPHK) repelled coordinated terrorist attacks on Dikwa, Mafa, Gajibo, and Katarko in Borno and Yobe States on October 23, 2025. Backed by air support and intelligence assets, the troops neutralized over 50 terrorists, recovered large quantities of weapons, and pursued about 70 wounded insurgents. The attacks, launched between midnight and 4 a.m., were reportedly coordinated from the Cameroon axis and the Timbuktu Triangle. Despite minor damage and some troop injuries, the military reaffirmed its resolve to protect Nigeria's territorial integrity, commending the soldiers' gallantry and professionalism in the decisive counteroffensive.

Vanguard Newspaper: <u>Again, troops repel Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks in Borno and Yobe</u>. October 24th, 2025.

Analysis

The threat posed by ISWAP and JAS insurgencies in Nigeria is far from over. Although terrorist activities have declined, the latest round of attacks in Yobe and Borno States was significant. The assaults on locations including a military demonstrate a strategy by the militants aimed at discouraging the military's presence and weakening the morale of troops stationed in the theatre of the insurgency. The attacks also indicate an attempt by the terrorists to rearm themselves by seizing military logistics had their assaults been successful. Some of the terrorists are believed to have launched attacks from locations close to Cameroon, and given Yobe State's proximity to the Niger Republic, it is important for the Nigerian government to strengthen its defence and security cooperation with Niger and Cameroon under the framework of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The terrorist threat is far from over; therefore, member states of the MNJTF must increase surveillance and intelligence gathering around the Lake Chad Basin. The Air Force must also work closely with them to conduct adequate reconnaissance operations and monitor the theatre from the air to detect illegal movements before they develop into terrorist mobilisation for attacks.

As the year draws to a close, the terrorists may attempt a resurgence to make a statement before year-end. Hence, the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) must intensify their efforts in countering insurgency and violent extremism in the region. Greater access should also be granted to local and international civil society organisations to

provide humanitarian services in the BAY states, particularly around the Lake Chad Basin. Nigeria's Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation also has a strategic role to play in this effort. Poverty is on the rise in Nigeria, and it has long been exploited by terrorists to recruit members. The Ministry must enhance its work in the North-East, especially in communities affected by the insurgency, to win the hearts and minds of the people and ensure their continued commitment to Nigeria's unity and prosperity. Security is development; therefore, the Ministry must collaborate with the security services to ensure sustainable peace and development in the North-East.

NIGERIA

FG LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN ON OIL, GOLD SMUGGLERS

The National Economic Council on Thursday said it would begin a crackdown on illegal gold miners as part of a broader strategy to safeguard Nigeria's natural resources and boost government revenue. The move follows the Council's decision to expand the mandate of its Adhoc Committee on Crude Oil Theft Prevention and Control, chaired by Imo State Governor Hope Uzodinma, to include the fight against illegal mining and mineral smuggling. Briefing State House correspondents after the 153rd NEC meeting chaired by Vice President Kashim Shettima at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, Uzodinma said the expanded terms of reference reflect government's resolve to close off revenue leakages from solid minerals. "The National Economic Council Ad-hoc Committee on Crude Oil Theft Prevention and Control, which I chair, presented an interim report today to the Council.

Punch News: FG launches nationwide crackdown on oil, gold smugglers. October 24th, 2025.

LAGOS GOV, CJ, OTHERS MOVE AGAINST RITUAL ABUSE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged a united and culturally sensitive African response to the growing link between ritual abuse and human trafficking. Represented by SSG Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin at the First African Colloquium against Human Trafficking in Lagos, he called for a continental alliance to combat these "heinous crimes." The event, organised by Pepperdine University's Sudreau Global Justice Institute and the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, gathered Attorney Generals from several African countries. Speaking for AGF Lateef Fagbemi, Ezinne Nwaokoro reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to dismantling trafficking networks through legal, diplomatic, and community-based interventions.

Guardian News: <u>Lagos gov, CJ, others move against ritual abuse, human trafficking</u>. October 24th, 2025.

SHIRORO MILITANT CELL TERRORIZES NIGERIA

A Boko Haram faction, Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS), led by Abubakar Saidu ("Sadiku"), has entrenched itself in Niger State's Shiroro area, terrorizing communities

through killings, kidnappings, and extortion. Known for brutal attacks—such as the 2024 massacre of 20 villagers—JAS recruits boys, enslaves women, and collaborates with Fulani bandits for resources and local support. Its flexible ideology and forest-based operations in Shiroro, Munya, and Rafi enable evasion of military airstrikes. With supply links to Lake Chad, JAS has displaced over 42,000 people and threatens regional security by expanding through porous borders into northwestern Nigeria and Benin

Africa Defense Forum: Shiroro Militant Cell Terrorizes Nigeria. October 20th, 2025.

OGUN ALERTS RESIDENTS AHEAD OF OYAN DAM RELEASE

The Ogun State Government has issued its third flood alert of 2025, warning residents of riverbank and wetland areas of possible flooding between October 20 and November 3 due to the controlled release of water from the Oyan Dam following heavy northern rains. Commissioner Ola Oresanya attributed potential overflow to high water levels and tidal rise but noted improved flood management, with water releases reduced from 17,000 to 12,000 million litres daily compared to 2024. Despite ongoing dredging and precautionary measures, natural factors persist. Residents, especially in listed flood-prone communities, are urged to relocate, stay vigilant, and harvest fish stocks early.

Punch News: Ogun Alerts Residents Ahead of Oyan Dam Release. October 22nd, 2025.

NIGERIAN LAWMAKERS LAUNCH PROBE INTO \$4.6 BLN HEALTH GRANTS AS DISEASE DEATHS RISE

Nigerian lawmakers on Wednesday launched an investigation into how \$4.6 billion in international aid grants between 2021 and 2025 was used, saying the money had failed to prevent high mortality rates from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. In a motion presented to the Nigeria's House of Representatives they said urgent oversight and a reevaluation of current strategies was necessary to prevent the country missing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending epidemics of those diseases by 2030. The House directed its Committee on HIV/AIDS to report back after a month to propose legislative action. The committee will investigate the grants provided by the United States Agency for International Development and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Nigerian politicians noted that the United States Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief also contributed \$6 billion over the same period to support HIV/AIDS treatment and strengthen health systems. "Despite these significant investments, Nigeria remains burdened by public health challenges, including 51,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2023, ranking third globally," the parliamentary motion said.

Punch News: Nigerian lawmakers launch probe into \$4.6 bln health grants as disease deaths rise. October 22nd, 2025.

FG APPROVES №32.9BN DISBURSEMENT, UNVEILS BHCPF 2.0 TO STRENGTHEN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Federal Government has approved the disbursement of ₹32.9 billion under a revised

funding framework for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), aimed at expanding access to quality primary healthcare services and improving transparency in resource utilisation. The announcement was made at the 12th Ministerial Oversight Committee (MOC) meeting of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMOHSW), held on Wednesday in Abuja. Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare and Chairman of the MOC, Professor Muhammad Ali Pate, also unveiled the BHCPF 2.0 Revised Guideline, a policy instrument designed to ensure equitable, efficient and accountable delivery of basic health services across the country. He said the ₹32.9 billion disbursement would be completed before the end of October 2025 and would support over 8,000 primary health care centres nationwide, with expansion to 13,000 facilities under the new phase of the programme.

Federal Ministry of Health: <u>FG Approves №32.9bn Disbursement</u>, <u>Unveils BHCPF 2.0 to Strengthen Primary Healthcare Accountability</u>. October 24th, 2025.

NIGERIA ADVANCES NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH WORKFORCE

Nigeria's government launched a national strategy to strengthen nursing and midwifery, aiming to expand access to quality health services and accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Nigeria Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (NSDNM) 2025–2030 details reforms to enhance the training, deployment, and performance of nurses and midwives. Developed by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMOH) with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and funded by the UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), it aligns with the Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative and WHO's Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (2021–2025). Government priorities health workforce strengthening.

WHO: Nigeria advances nursing and midwifery reforms to strengthen health workforce. October 23rd, 2025.

AFRICA

HEMETI ISSUES CROSS-BORDER THREATS AS SUDAN'S WAR DEEPENS

RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti" Dagalo vowed to target any planes or drones taking off from Sudan or neighboring countries, accusing the army of "ethnic cleansing" and attacks on tribal leaders. His remarks followed a deadly drone strike in North Kordofan that killed several chiefs, including Prince Suleiman Jaber Jumaa Sahl. Hemeti called for an international investigation into war crimes since April 2023 and urged improved public services in RSF-held areas. Facing setbacks after losing Khartoum, he pledged continued resistance, threatening retaliation against foreign-backed attacks and labeling Sudan's Islamic Movement "a cancer" to be eradicated.

Sudan Post. <u>Hemeti Issues Cross-Border Threats as Sudan's War Deepens</u> October 22nd, 2025.

SUDAN'S TWO WARRING SIDES CONTINUE TO UPGRADE WEAPONRY DESPITE ARMS EMBARGO

Since April 2023, Sudan's civil war between the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has intensified, with both sides using increasingly advanced drone warfare. Between October 21 and 23, the RSF launched drone attacks on Khartoum Airport and nearby areas, reportedly from Nyala in South Darfur—about 1,000 km away. Nyala's airfield has become a key base for RSF drone operations, allegedly supported by the United Arab Emirates. Despite UN arms embargoes since 2004, reports and eyewitnesses indicate Abu Dhabi's ongoing supply of drones and weapons, underscoring its significant backing of the RSF in the conflict.

Le Monde News: <u>Sudan's two warring sides continue to upgrade weaponry despite arms</u> <u>embargo</u>. October 24th, 2025.

BATTLE FOR SUDAN'S EL-FASHER INTENSIFIES AS RSF CLAIMS SEIZING ARMY HO

Fighting has escalated in Sudan's el-Fasher, North Darfur, as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claimed control of the Sudanese Armed Forces' (SAF) Sixth Infantry Division, their last major base in the region. The RSF called it a turning point toward building a new Sudan, though reports indicate the army had withdrawn and still holds parts of the city. Analysts warn that full RSF control could accelerate Sudan's division and trigger further ethnic violence. The 18-month siege has left 250,000 civilians trapped amid starvation and bombardment, with the SAF struggling to resupply forces and yet to release an official statement.

Yahoo News: <u>Battle for Sudan's el-Fasher intensifies as RSF claims seizing army HQ</u> October 26th, 2025.

LAST EBOLA PATIENT IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO DISCHARGED

The last Ebola patient in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was discharged today, marking an important milestone in the efforts to end the outbreak. The recovery kicks off a 42-day countdown to declaring the outbreak over if no further cases are confirmed. A total of 19 patients have recovered from the disease. No new cases have been reported since 25 September. In total, 64 cases (53 confirmed and 11 probable) have been reported since the outbreak was declared on 4 September in Bulape health zone, in Kasai Province. The outbreak occurred in a rural and hard-to-reach locality. Despite the challenges of distance, poor roads, and limited infrastructure, the Ministry of Health, with strong support from World Health Organization (WHO) and partners, acted swiftly to scale up outbreak response measures.

WHO: Last Ebola patient in Democratic Republic of the Congo discharged. October 19th, 2025.

THE GLOBE

WESTERN EUROPE 'PREPARING FOR CONFLICT' WITH RUSSIA - SPY CHIEF

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service chief, Sergey Naryshkin, claimed Western Europe is preparing for war with Russia due to its inability to accept a multipolar world order. Speaking in Samarkand, he said the EU's €800 billion defense plan and rising "Russophobia" reflect this struggle. Naryshkin accused European leaders of fueling anti-Russian propaganda, rearming NATO, and militarizing the continent while facing recruitment challenges and public apathy. He warned that Moscow views these actions as war preparations but hopes the global power shift occurs without conflict. He also suggested Europe doubts Washington's willingness to honor NATO's collective defense commitments under Article 5.

RT News: Western Europe 'preparing for conflict' with Russia – spy chief. October 21st, 2025.\

RUSSIA LAUNCHES DEADLY WAVE OF DRONE, MISSILE ATTACKS ACROSS UKRAINE

A large-scale wave of drone and missile attacks launched by Russia struck multiple regions of Ukraine overnight, including the capital, Kyiv. At least two people were killed and five injured, among them a two-year-old child, in residential zones where drone debris and missile fragments caused fires and damage. Local officials reported strikes on railway and port infrastructure, power systems and energy assets in the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Odesa regions. The attacks come amid Kyiv's efforts to secure longer-range weapons from its Western allies and heighten tensions over future cease-fire negotiations.

Aljazeera: Russia launches deadly wave of drone, missile attacks across Ukraine. October 22nd, 2025.

EU AND UKRAINE TO OFFER TRUMP 'PEACE PLAN' WITH NO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS

Ukraine and its European allies are finalizing a 12-point peace plan that excludes territorial concessions to Russia, according to Bloomberg. The proposal reportedly includes a ceasefire along current front lines, a prisoner swap, security guarantees, and accelerated EU membership for Ukraine. A "peace board" chaired by US President Donald Trump would oversee implementation, with European officials expected to present the plan to him soon. While the plan allows talks on governing occupied territories, it rejects Russia's new borders. Moscow, however, insists on border recognition and troop withdrawal. Trump reportedly urged Zelensky to cede land, but Zelensky refused, demanding a ceasefire instead.

RT News: <u>EU and Ukraine to offer Trump 'peace plan' with no territorial concessions</u>. October 22nd, 2025.

PERMAFROST THAWED BY CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS REMOTE VILLAGES IN ALASKA

In rural Alaska, some Indigenous communities face land collapse as rising temperatures melt the underground frozen soil known as permafrost. Yup'ik village residents describe the resulting unstable ground as "Alaskan quicksand." The ice-rich soil thawing causes homes, roads and foundations to tilt or sink, forcing villages to consider relocation. Moreover, the thaw contributes to a feedback loop: as frozen carbon-rich soil defrosts, it releases greenhouse gases that further accelerate climate change. This crisis underscores how remote communities bear disproportionate risks from warming permafrost.

PBS News: <u>Permafrost thawed by climate change threatens remote villages in Alaska</u>. October 22nd, 2025.

WHO LAUNCHES NEW COUNTRY GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH EMERGENCY COORDINATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a comprehensive guide, the National Health Emergency Alert and Response Framework, to help countries strengthen their preparedness and response to health emergencies. Developed with input from global experts and organizations and informed by real-world experiences, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the framework offers a consistent and proven approach to emergency management. Health emergencies are becoming more frequent and complex, driven by factors such as climate change, urbanization, geopolitical shifts, and increased global mobility. This new guidance equips national and subnational authorities with the tools and strategies needed for a rapid, coordinated, multi-sectoral response, which is essential to minimize suffering and death at times of crisis.

WHO: WHO launches new country guidance for health emergency coordination. October 23rd, 2025.

NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILES AHEAD OF TRUMP'S ASIA TRIP

North Korea conducted its first ballistic missile tests in five months, launching multiple short-range missiles from south of Pyongyang that flew about 350 kilometers northeast, according to South Korea's military. The tests occurred days before U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to South Korea for an Asia-Pacific summit. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles didn't land in the sea and reaffirmed readiness to counter any provocation with U.S. support. Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi confirmed close coordination with Washington and Seoul, including real-time data sharing. North Korea has not commented on the launches, which heighten regional tensions.

AP News: North Korea test-fires ballistic missiles ahead of Trump's Asia trip. October 22nd, 2025.

VENEZUELA'S MADURO SAYS US 'FABRICATING WAR' AS IT DEPLOYS WORLD'S LARGEST WARSHIP

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has accused the US of "fabricating a new war" after Washington deployed the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest warship, to the Caribbean. The Pentagon said the move aims to disrupt drug trafficking and dismantle criminal networks, but Maduro claims it signals preparations for regime change. The US, which does not recognise Maduro's 2024 re-election, has conducted airstrikes against suspected traffickers and linked Venezuela's government to cocaine smuggling. Analysts believe the deployment, ordered under President Trump, is more about political pressure and intimidation than counter-narcotics operations, raising regional fears of escalation and legal controversy.

BBC News: <u>Venezuela's Maduro says US 'fabricating war'</u> as it deploys world's largest warship October 26th, 2025.

