

Regional Overview: Africa 17-23 April 2021

 acleddata.com/2021/04/28/regional-overview-africa17-23-april-2021/

April 28, 2021



ACLED
Bringing clarity to crisis

Last week in Africa, Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno was killed on the battlefield by rebel fighters, prompting a military takeover of the government; international forces maintained a prominent role in combatting entrenched Islamist and domestic militant insurgencies across the Sahel and central Africa; and dozens of fatalities were reported during ongoing intercommunal violence in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

In **Chad**, President Idriss Deby Itno died from injuries sustained during clashes with Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT) militants on the frontlines in Kanem region. Following his death, the Chadian constitution was suspended, the National Assembly was dissolved, and a Transitional Military Council, headed by Deby's son, Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, was established and took over the government ([DW, 21 April 2021](#)). Clashes between FACT and Chadian military forces continued throughout the week in western Kanem province.

Meanwhile, the Chadian contingent of the G5 Sahel Force, along with French, Malian, and Burkinabe forces conducted operations against suspected Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State West Africa (ISWAP) Greater Sahara faction militants in the Mopti region in **Mali**, and the Tillaberi region of **Niger**, respectively. In Tillaberi, presumed ISWAP Greater Sahara militants killed more than a dozen civilians during an attack on the village of Gaigorou.

In **Burkina Faso**, JNIM militants ambushed joint military and Volunteer for Defense of Homeland (VDP) forces in Yirgou in the Centre-North region, killing and wounding several soldiers. Elsewhere, presumed Katiba Macina militants raided the town of Koumbri in the North region, displacing a large number of residents. In Alidouougou, Burkinabe air forces launched an airstrike against suspected Katiba Macina positions, near the border with Ivory Coast.

In **Nigeria**, bandit attacks in the Gasau, Maradun, and Bakura local government areas of Zamfara state left more than 80 civilians dead. Elsewhere, Nigerian military forces carried out operations against ISWAP positions in Borno state, with airstrikes in Dikwa reportedly killing over 40 militants.

In the **Central African Republic (CAR)**, military forces supported by United Nations peacekeepers (MINUSCA) and the Wagner Group regained control over towns in Ouham, Haute-Kotto, and Ouaka prefectures from Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) rebels. Following the most recent clashes in the north of the country, the UN reported more than 2,000 civilians crossing the border into Chad to seek refuge ([UN News, 20 April 2021](#)).

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, several days of clashes were reported between the Patriotic and Integrationist Force of Congo (FPIC) fighters and the military (FARDC) and allied UN peacekeeping (MONUSCO) forces in Ituri province. The violence, including targeted FPIC attacks against the Hema community, resulted in over 40 fatalities. Demonstrations calling for the departure of MONUSCO continued in Beni, due to the peacekeeping mission's inability to resolve violence and deteriorating socio-economic conditions.

In **South Sudan**, deadly clashes increased this week in the troubled state of Lakes, amid an intersectional dispute within the Agar Dinka community in Rumbek East county over grazing land. In Yirol West county, intersectional clashes within the Atuot community were also reported.

In **Ethiopia**, demonstrations were held in major towns across the Amhara region, against targeted attacks on ethnic Amhara civilians. While most demonstrations remained peaceful, clashes were reported between demonstrators and police in Bahir Dar city. In the Oromia region, clashes between Amhara and Oromo ethnic militias continued in the area surrounding Gutin. Reports indicate that the Shane splinter faction of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF-Shane) were involved, and several Amhara civilians were killed following clashes. Meanwhile, an armed group, allegedly associated with the Gumuz People's Democratic Movement, overran local forces in Sedal Woreda, seizing control of the administrative center of Diza, and killing an unspecified number of local militiamen and civilians.

In **Somalia**, Al Shabaab staged multiple attacks on government officials in the Lower Shabelle and Banadir regions. In the Lower Shabelle region, a senior member of the Afgooye administration, a Hamar Jajab district commissioner, and a Warshiikh district officer were killed. In the Banadir region, the convoy of the Dayniile deputy district commissioner was targeted by an explosive device, resulting in the death of the commissioner.

A separate, weekly discussion of the ongoing conflict in Mozambique can be found in the [Cabo Ligado project](#).