

Appendices

Appendix I: Burkina Faso Military Chain of Command in Reported Incidents

1st Military Region (North and Center-North Administrative Regions)

Bonsonmoré and Goutoula, North Region, February 2023

Two months prior to the attacks, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba was appointed commander of the 1st Military Region, on November 14, 2022.⁷⁶³ Sources indicate Tapsoba had taken up that position by at least February 17, 2023, the date of the attack.⁷⁶⁴ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of early February. Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁶⁵ also had been appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022, prior to the attack.⁷⁶⁶ Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023, although Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of early February 2023.⁷⁶⁷

⁷⁶³ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Émil Abdoul Razak Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, July 25, 2024,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20240912091518/https://www.aib.media/regions/2024/07/25/burkina-le-chef-de-bataillon-hamado-bambara-commande-desormais-la-1ere-region-militaire/> (accessed September 14, 2025).

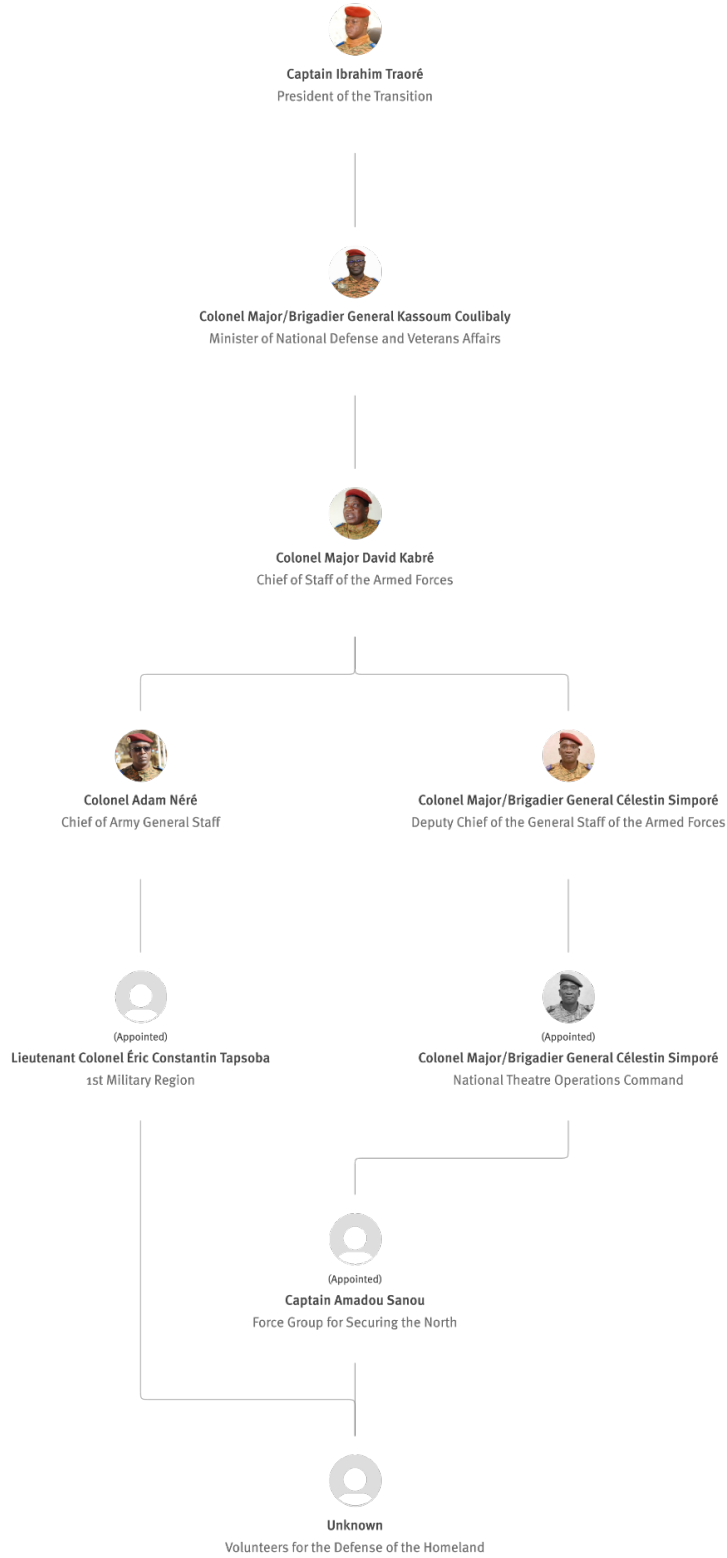
⁷⁶⁴ Dieu-Donné Windpouyré Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L'Observateur Paalga*, February 18, 2023,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20250504154810/https://www.lobspaalga.com/2023/02/18/complexe-social-de-la-premiere-region-militaire-soutenir-les-fds-blessees-et-les-ayants-droits-de-celles-tombees/> (accessed September 14, 2025). Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024. See Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁶⁵ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁶⁶ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces, https://web.archive.org/web/20221115210851/https://www.sidwaya.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Decret_Portant-nomination-des-commaandants-de-groupements-des-forces-CDT-GFS.pdf (accessed September 14, 2025).

⁷⁶⁷ Jules César Kabore, “Reconquête de l'intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*, October 25, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240910215129/https://burkina24.com/2023/10/25/reconquete-de-lintegrite-territoriale-au-front-avec-les-forces-combattantes/> (accessed September 14, 2025).



Chain of Command for Bonsonmoré and Goutoula, North Region, February 2023

Zambanga, Center-North Region, March 29, 2023 – early April 2023

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba served as commander of the 1st Military Region, having been appointed on November 14, 2022,⁷⁶⁸ and having taken up that position by at least February 18, 2023.⁷⁶⁹ The killings occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁷⁰ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁷¹ Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁷² Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had taken command by either March 29 or beginning of April 2023.

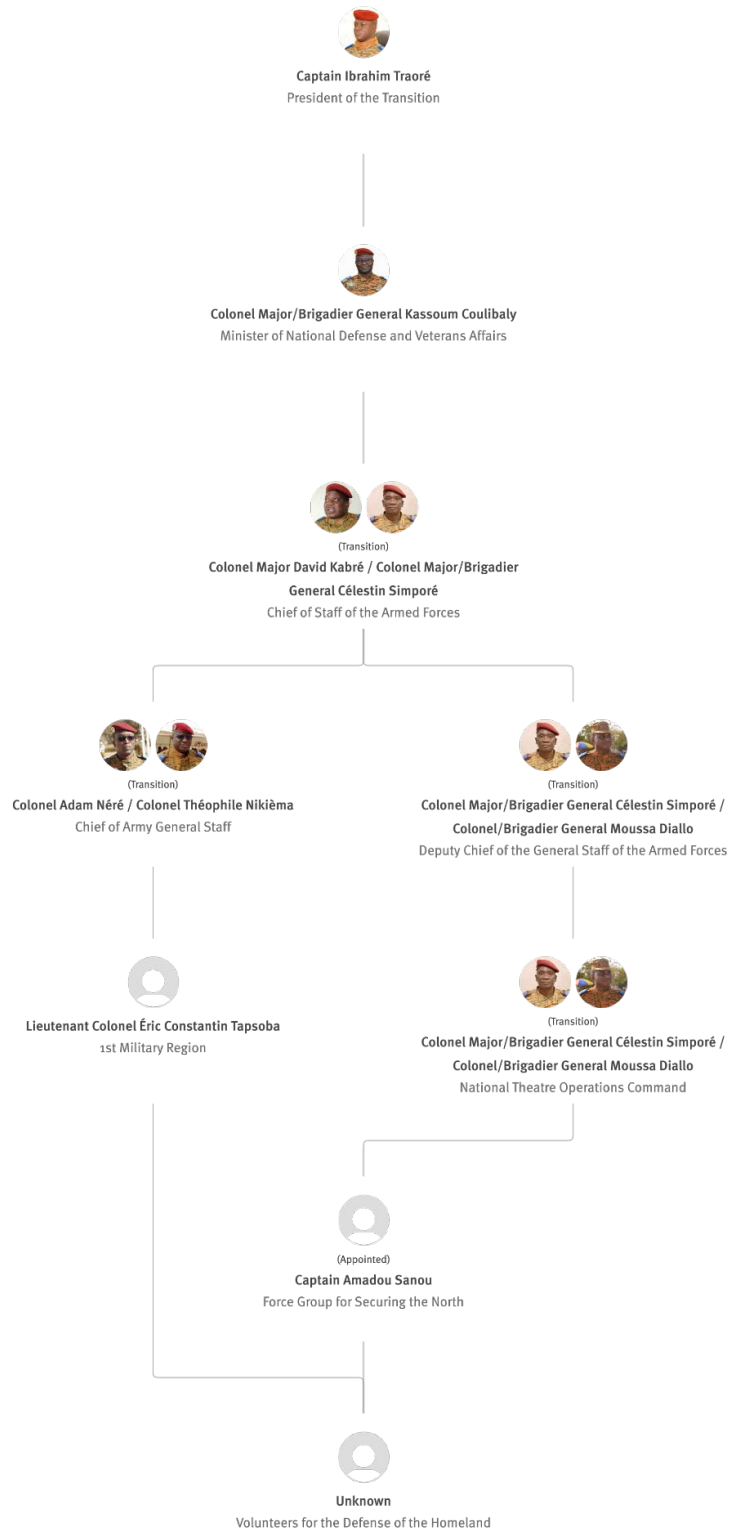
⁷⁶⁸ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁶⁹ Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L’Observateur Paalga*. Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024, see Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁷⁰ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁷¹ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁷² Kabore, “Reconquête de l’intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*.



Chain of Command for Zambanga, Center-North Region, March 29, 2023 – early April 2023

Karma, North Region, April 20, 2023

At the time of the attack, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba served as commander of the 1st Military Region, having been appointed on November 14, 2022⁷⁷³ and having taken up that position by at least February 18, 2023.⁷⁷⁴ The attack occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁷⁵ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁷⁶ Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁷⁷ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of April 20, 2023. The attack occurred after Capt. Jean Ouyia was appointed commander of BIR 3 on November 14, 2022.⁷⁷⁸ His career path after this date is not known.

⁷⁷³ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

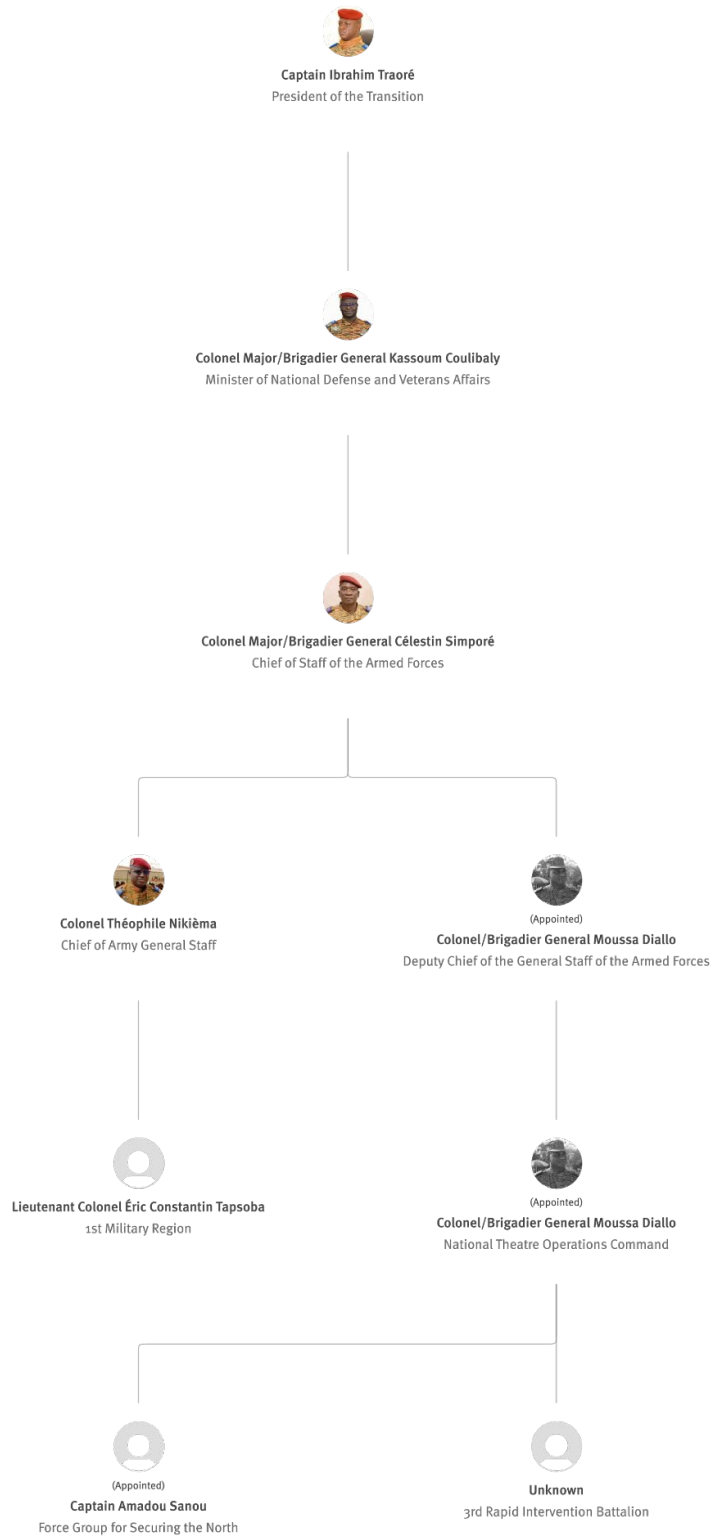
⁷⁷⁴ Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L'Observateur Paalga*. Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024, see Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁷⁵ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou, who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁷⁶ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁷⁷ Kabore, “Reconquête de l'intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkinaz4*.

⁷⁷⁸ Décret N°2022-0980/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de chefs de Corps des Forces Armées Nationales, https://web.archive.org/web/20221115210842/https://www.sidwaya.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Decret_portant-nomination-de-chefs-de-cops-des-forces-armees-nationales.pdf (accessed March 13, 2026).



Chain of Command for Karma, North Region, April 20, 2023

Barsalogo, Center-North Region, April 20, 2023

At the time of the apparent summary executions, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba was serving as commander of the 1st Military Region having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁷⁷⁹ and taken that position up by at least February 18, 2023.⁷⁸⁰ The apparent summary executions occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁸¹ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁸² Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁸³ Human Rights Watch was unable to determine whether he continued to hold that role as of April 20, 2023, when the apparent summary executions occurred.

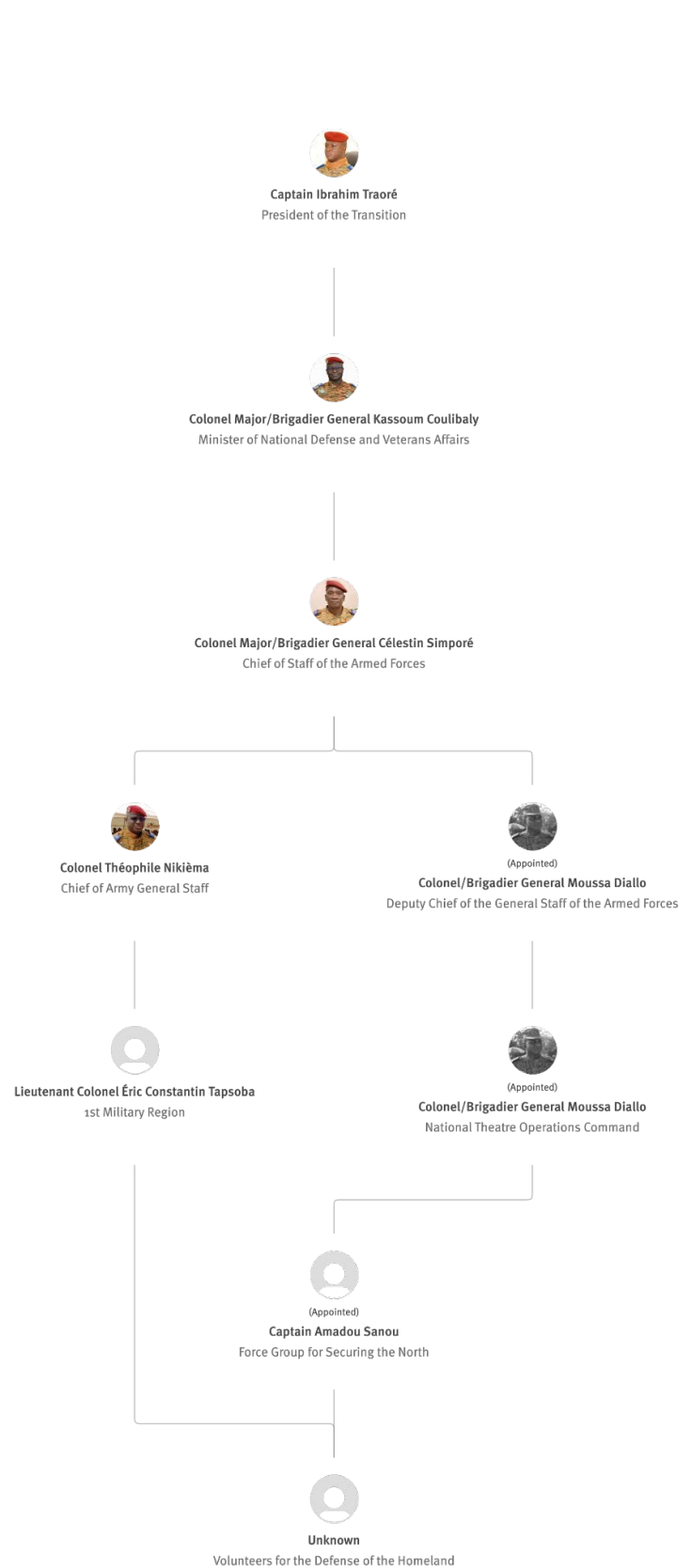
⁷⁷⁹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁸⁰ Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L'Observateur Paalga*. Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024, see Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁸¹ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou, who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁸² Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁸³ Kabore, “Reconquête de l'intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*.



Chain of Command for Barsalogo, Center-North Region, April 20, 2023

Nondin and Soro, North Region, February 25, 2024

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba was serving as commander of the 1st Military Region having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁷⁸⁴ and taken that position up by at least February 18, 2023.⁷⁸⁵ The killings occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁸⁶ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁸⁷ Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁸⁸ Human Rights Watch was unable to determine whether he continued to hold that role as of February 25, 2024, when the killings occurred.

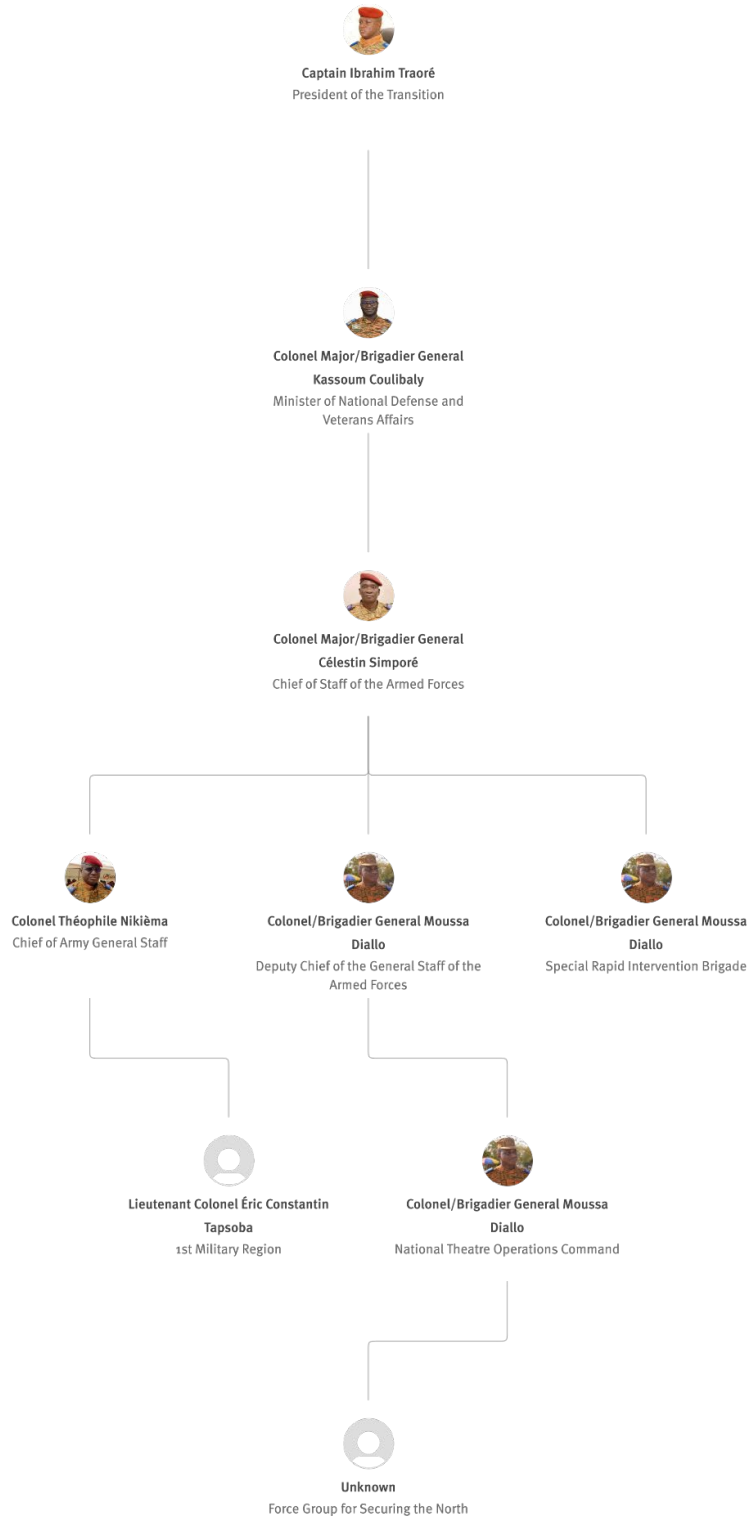
⁷⁸⁴ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁸⁵ Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L'Observateur Paalga*. Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024, see Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁸⁶ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou, who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁸⁷ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁸⁸ Kabore, “Reconquête de l'intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*.



Chain of Command for Nondin and Soro, North Region, February 25, 2024

Torobo and Ouahigouya, North Region, May 2024

At the time of the attack, Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba was serving as commander of the 1st Military Region, having been appointed on November 14, 2022,⁷⁸⁹ and having taken up that position by at least February 18, 2023.⁷⁹⁰ The attack occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁹¹ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁹² Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁹³ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he continued to serve in that position as of May 2024.

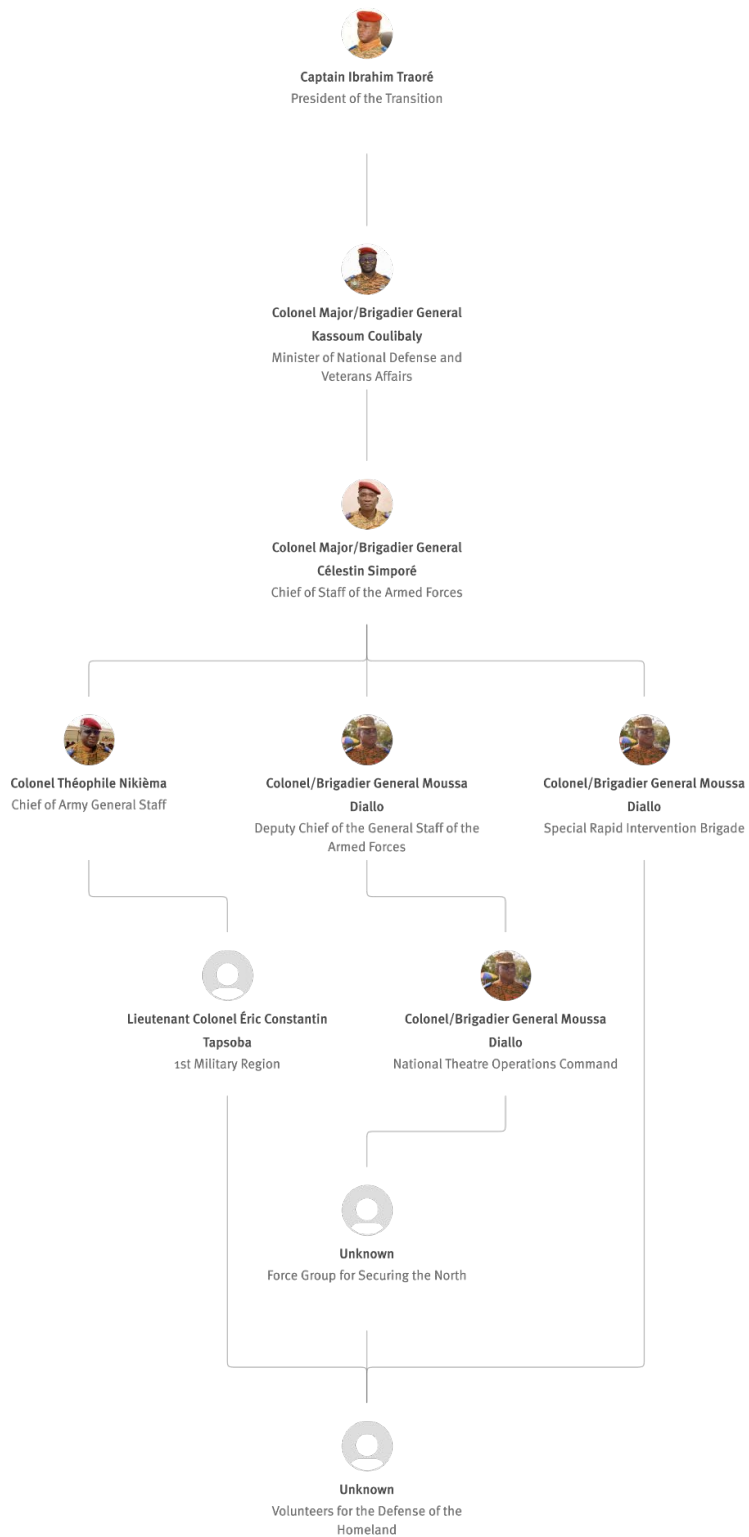
⁷⁸⁹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées. Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁹⁰ Ouédraogo, “Complexe social de la première région militaire : Soutenir les FDS blessées et les ayants droits de celles tombées,” *L’Observateur Paalga*. Tapsoba served as commander until at least June 12, 2024, see Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁹¹ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁹² Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁹³ Kabore, “Reconquête de l’intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*.



Chain of Command for Torobo and Ouahigouya, North Region, May 2024

Touka, Center-North Region, July 13, 2024

The killings occurred after Lt. Col. Éric Constantin Tapsoba was replaced as commander of the 1st Military Region with the appointment of Lt. Col. Hamado Bambara on June 12, 2024.⁷⁹⁴ Bambara however did not assume command until July 25, 2024.⁷⁹⁵ Human Rights Watch was unable to determine whether Tapsoba continued to be commander as of July 13, 2024, when the killings occurred. The killings occurred after Capt. Amadou Sanou⁷⁹⁶ was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the North on November 14, 2022.⁷⁹⁷ Sources indicate Sanou had taken up the role by at least October 25, 2023.⁷⁹⁸ Human Rights Watch was unable to determine whether he continued to hold that role as of July 13, 2024, when the killings occurred.

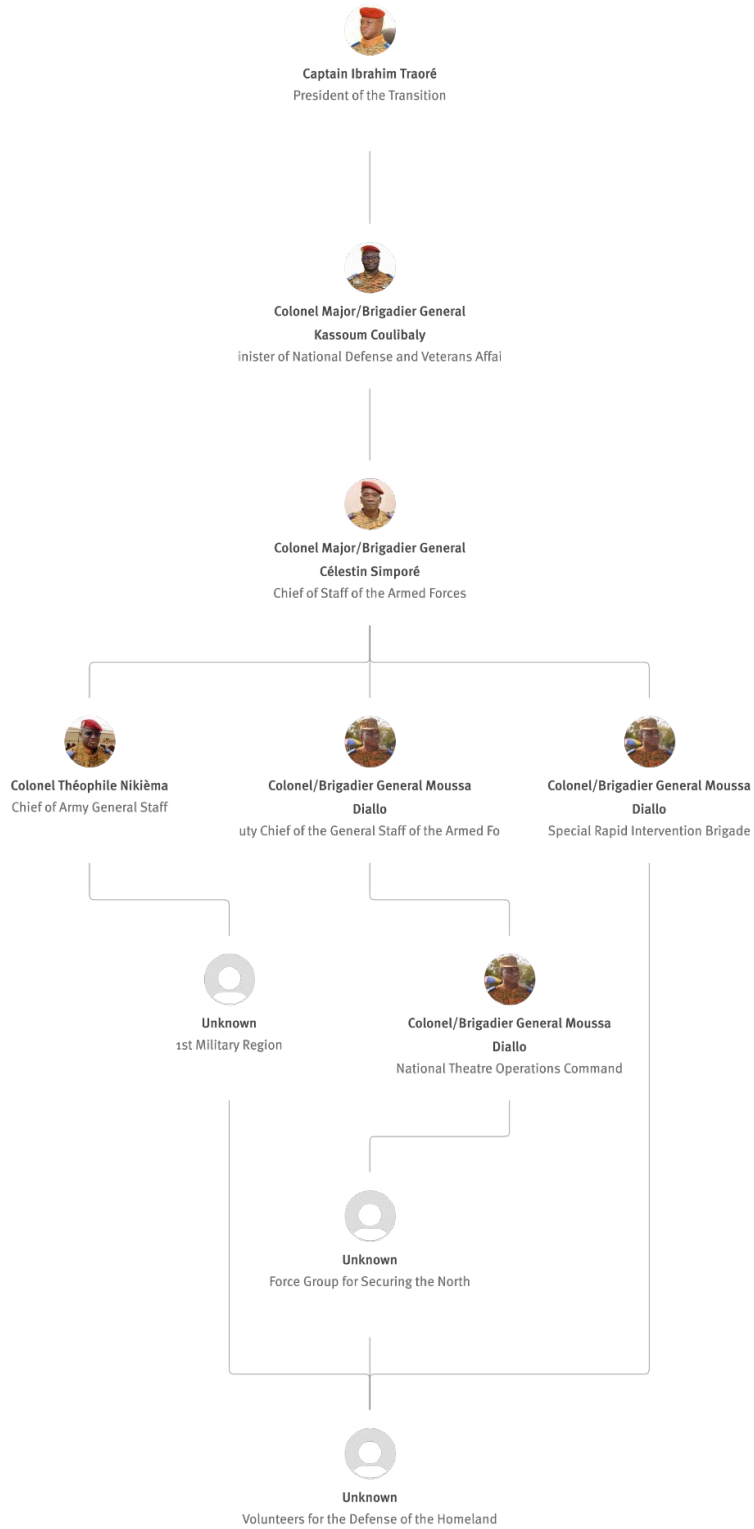
⁷⁹⁴ Segda, “Burkina : Le chef de bataillon Hamado Bambara commande désormais la 1ere région militaire,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁷⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁹⁶ This may be the same person as the Amadou Sanou who became commander of the 4th Military Region on February 28, 2025.

⁷⁹⁷ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁷⁹⁸ Kabore, “Reconquête de l’intégrité territoriale : Au front avec les forces combattantes !” *Burkina24*.



Chain of Command for Touka, Center-North Region, July 13, 2024

2nd Military Region (Cascades, South-West, and Hauts-Bassins Administrative Regions)

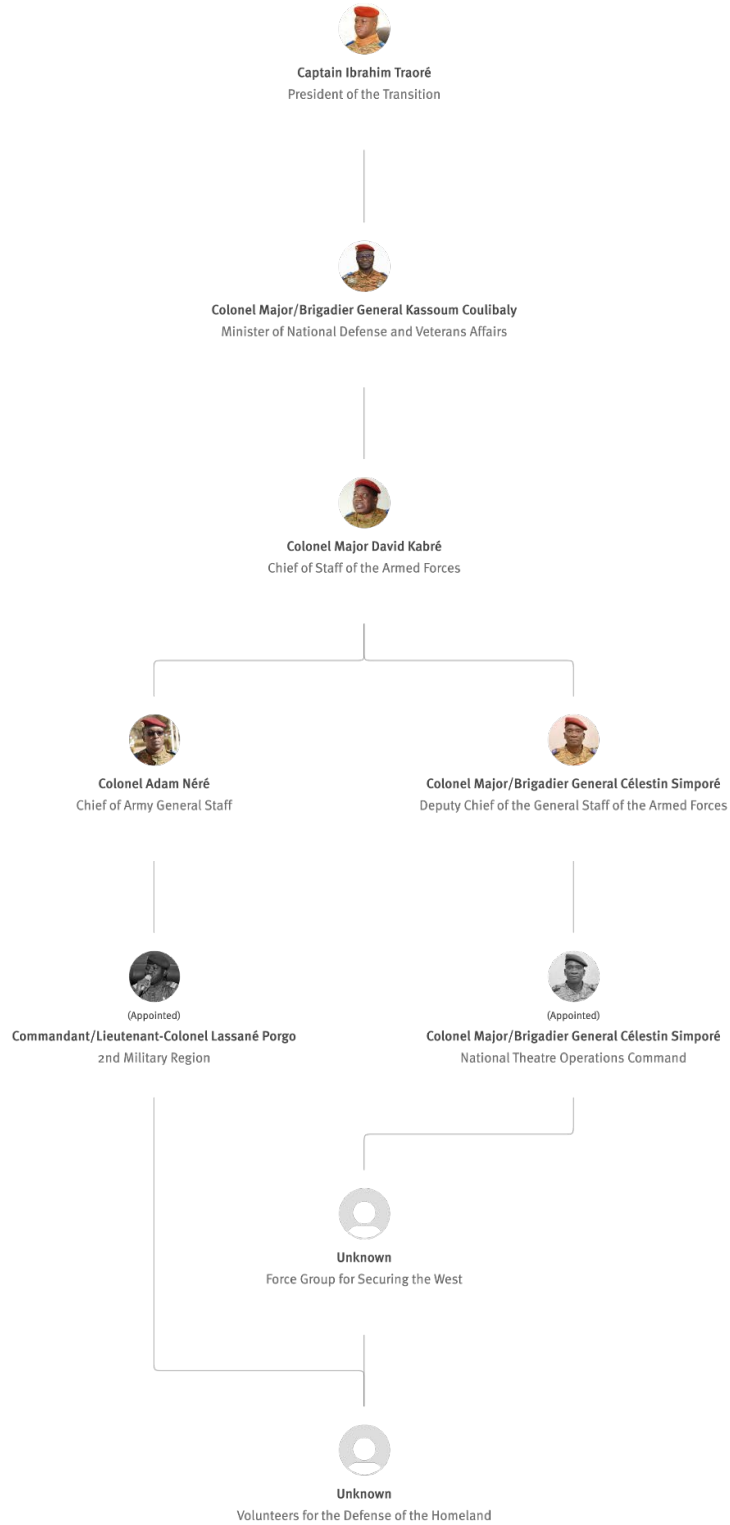
Man, Hauts-Bassins Region, February 2023

Human Rights Watch reviewed three lists compiled by the witnesses with the names of the 10 victims, all men, ages 23 to 70. These killings took place after Cdt. Lassané Porgo was appointed as commander of the 2nd Military Region on November 14, 2022.⁷⁹⁹ Porgo had taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸⁰⁰ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had taken command as of February 2023. These killings also took place after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸⁰¹ His career path after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁷⁹⁹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁰⁰ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, June 6, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20241110093451/https://www.aib.media/contingent-exceptionnel-complementaire-de-la-classe-2023-882-soldats-renforcent-les-rangs-des-forces-armees-nationales/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Porgo continued to serve as commander and, by April 3, 2025, had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. See Adaman Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique : Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, April 8, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250504000952/https://www.aib.media/regions/2025/04/08/journees-nationales-dengagement-patriotique-des-burkinabe-invites-a-promouvoir-lordre-et-la-discipline/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*, June 1, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250605192645/https://aconews.net/securisation-des-examens-scolaires-le-ministre-en-charge-de-leducation-de-base-remercie-les-fds/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸⁰¹ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Man, Hauts-Bassins Region, February 2023

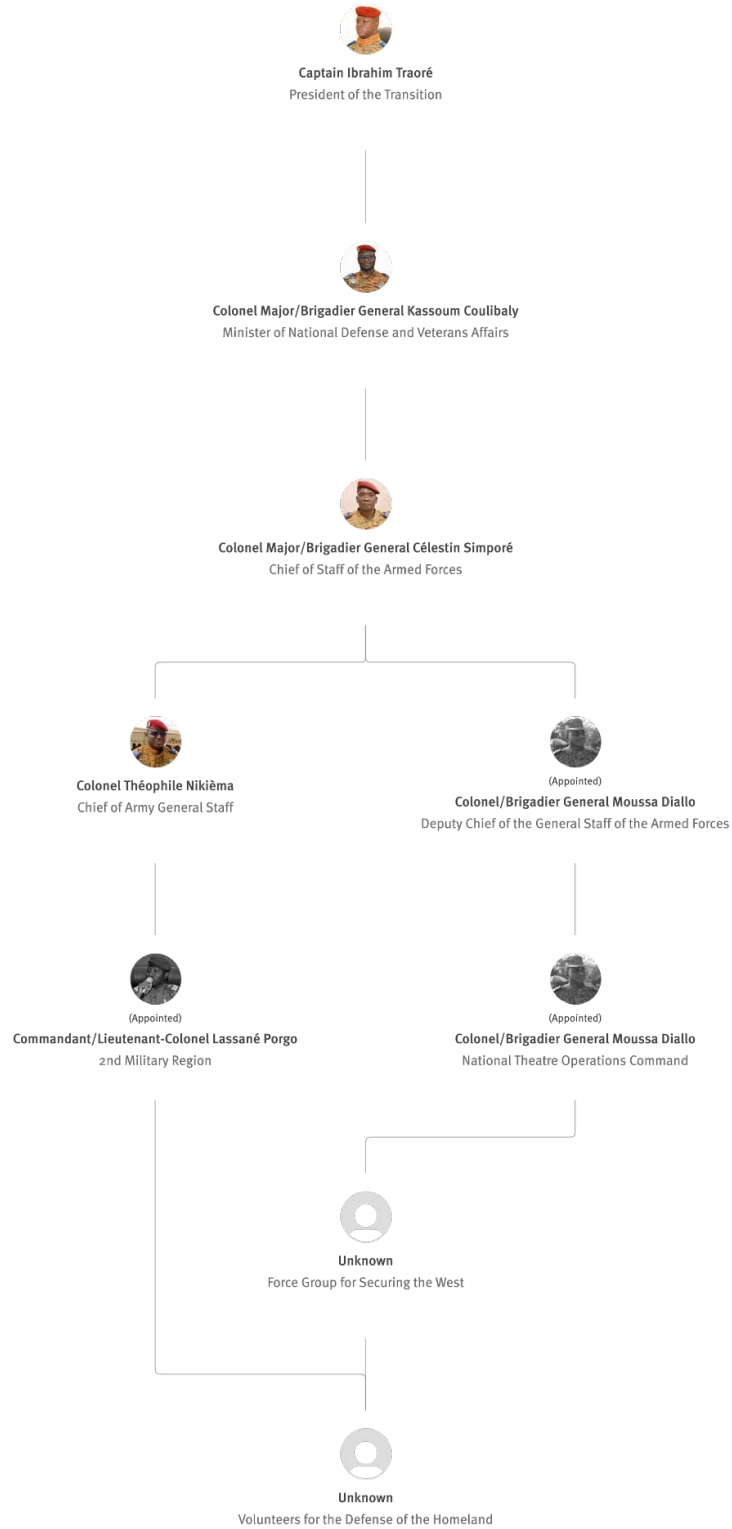
Pê, Hauts-Bassins Region, mid-late May 2023

At the time of the killings, Cdt. Lassané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022.⁸⁰² He had and taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸⁰³ The killings and alleged killings took place after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸⁰⁴ His career after that date was not known at time of writing.

⁸⁰² Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁰³ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by at least April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique : Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸⁰⁴ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Pê, Hauts-Bassins Region, mid-late May 2023

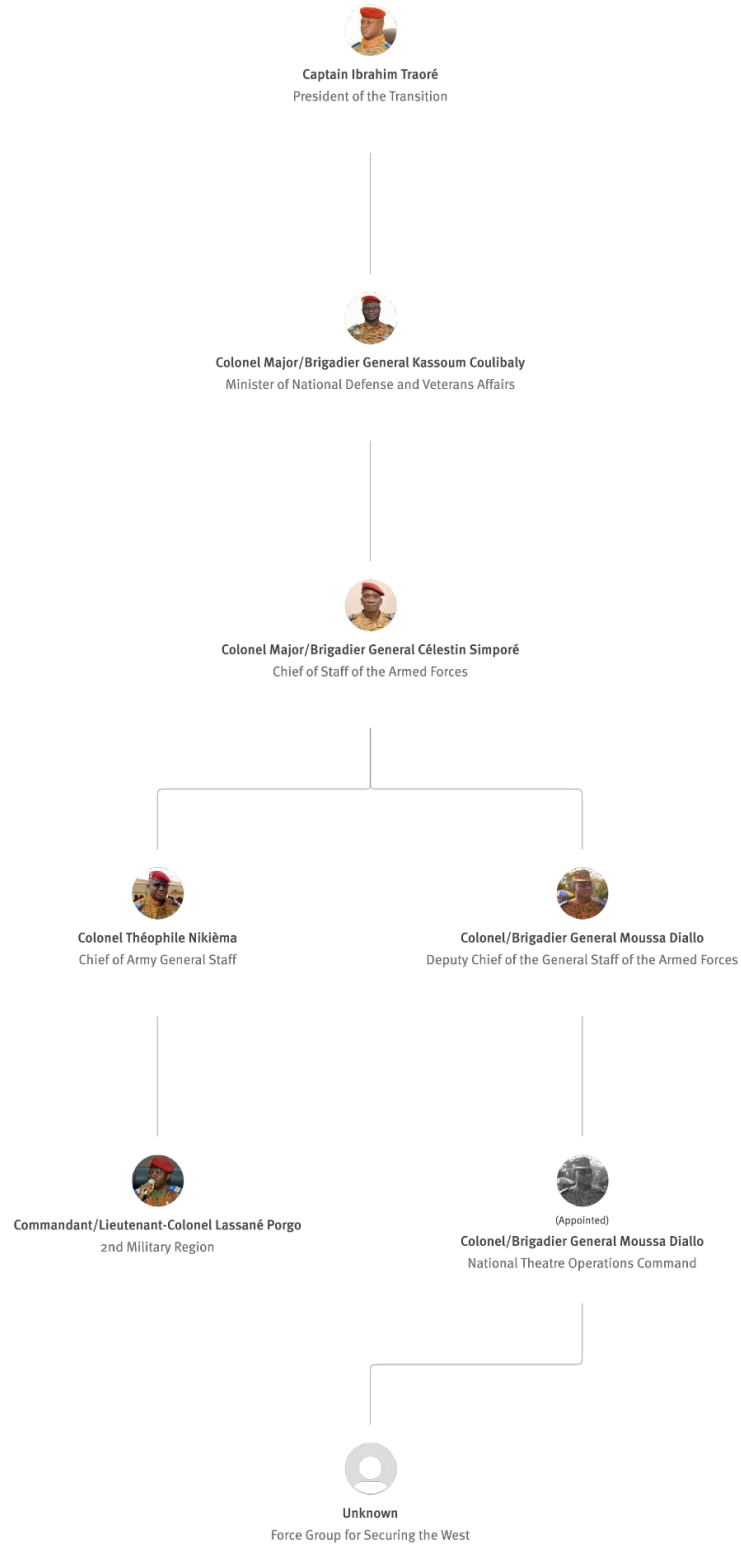
Ramatoulaye, Hauts-Bassins Region, July 8, 2023

At the time of the killings, Cdt. Lassané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁰⁵ and taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸⁰⁶ The killings occurred after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸⁰⁷ His career after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸⁰⁵ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁰⁶ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by at least April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique : Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸⁰⁷ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Ramatoulaye, Hauts-Bassins Region, July 8, 2023

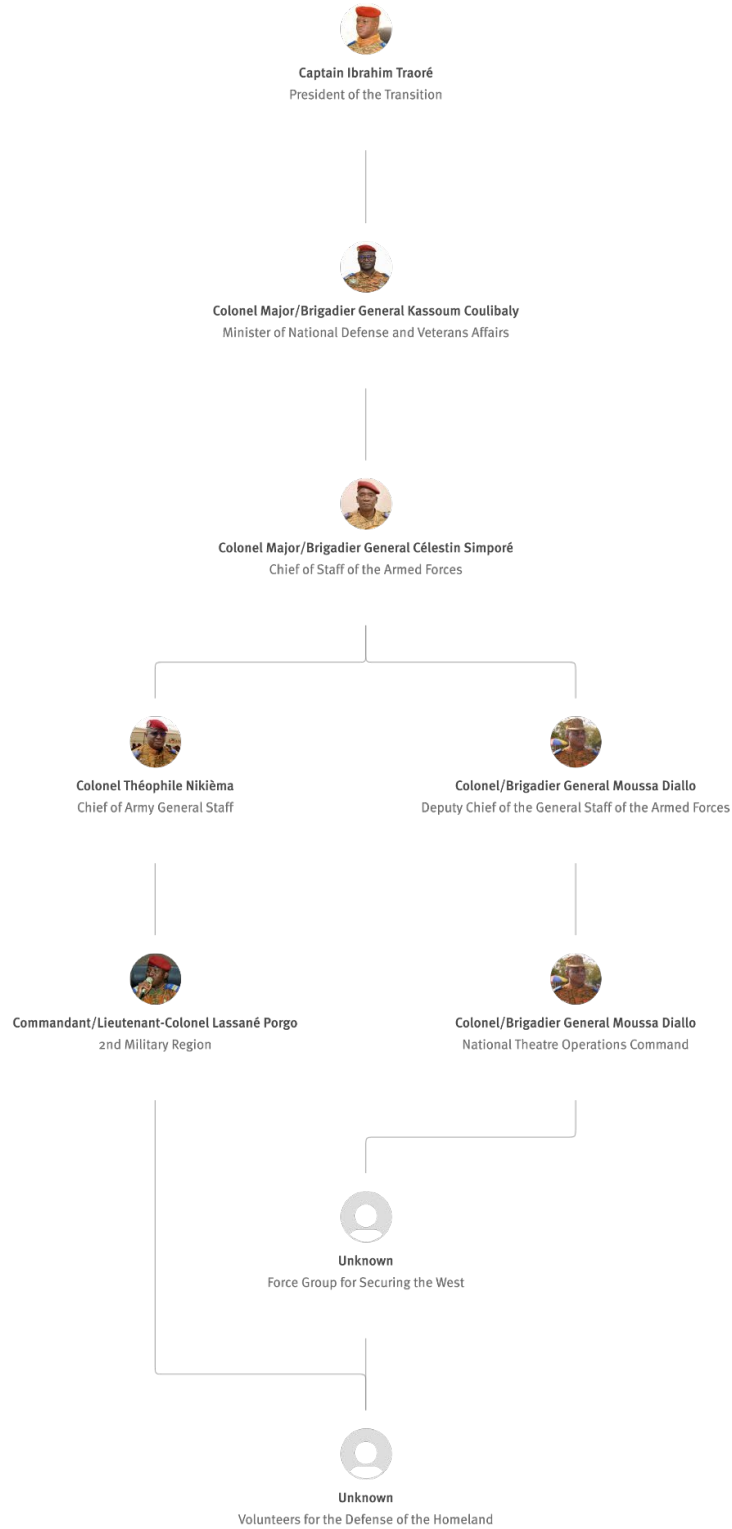
Djigouéma, Hauts-Bassins Region, September 2023

At the time of the killings, Cdt. Lassané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁰⁸ and taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023⁸⁰⁹. The killings and alleged killings occurred after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸¹⁰ His career after this date was not known.

⁸⁰⁸ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁰⁹ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel by at least April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique : Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸¹⁰ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Djigouéma, Hauts-Bassins Region, September 2023

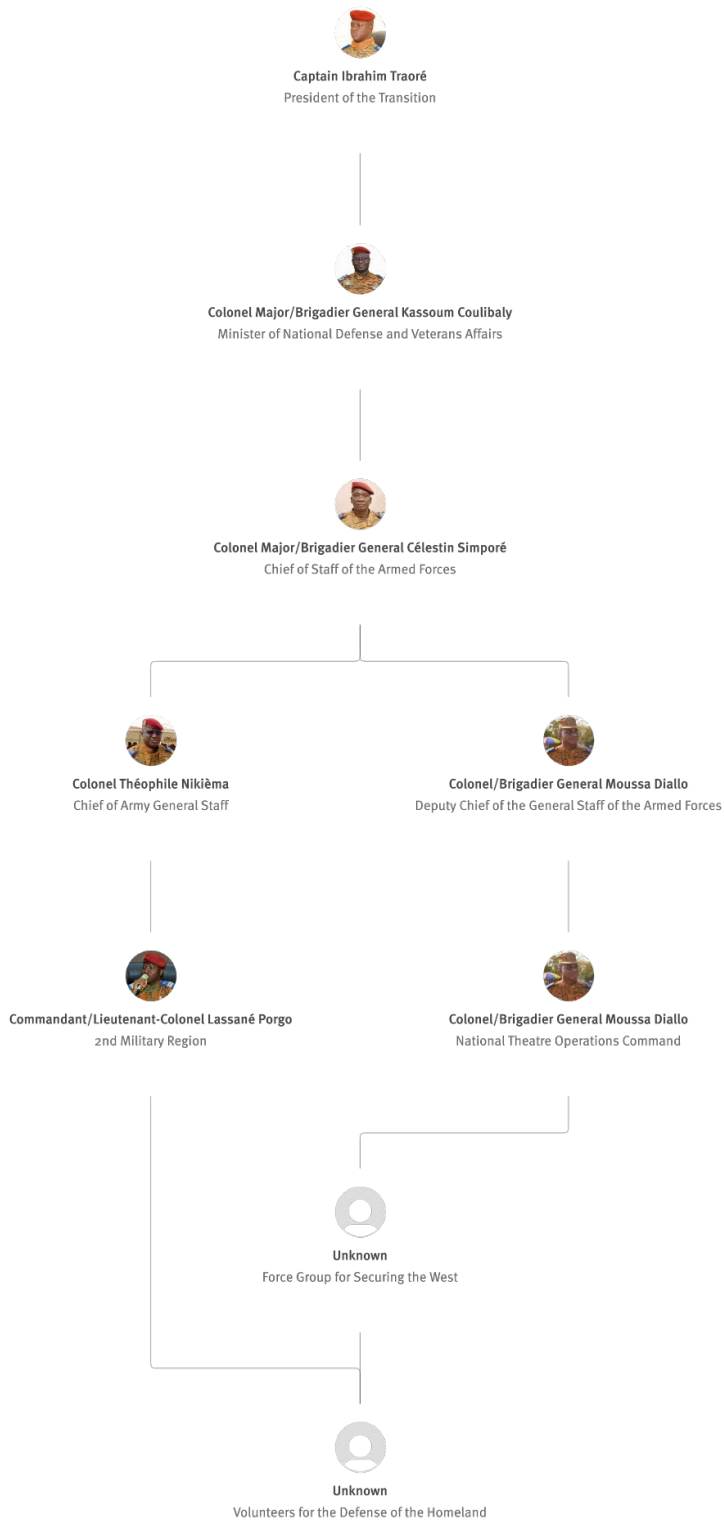
Bassé, Hauts-Bassins Region, late November 2023

At the time of the attack, Cdt. Lissané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed on November 14, 2022,⁸¹¹ and taken up this position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸¹² The attack and killings also took place after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸¹³ His career after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸¹¹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸¹² “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique :Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸¹³ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Bassé, Hauts-Bassins Region, late November 2023

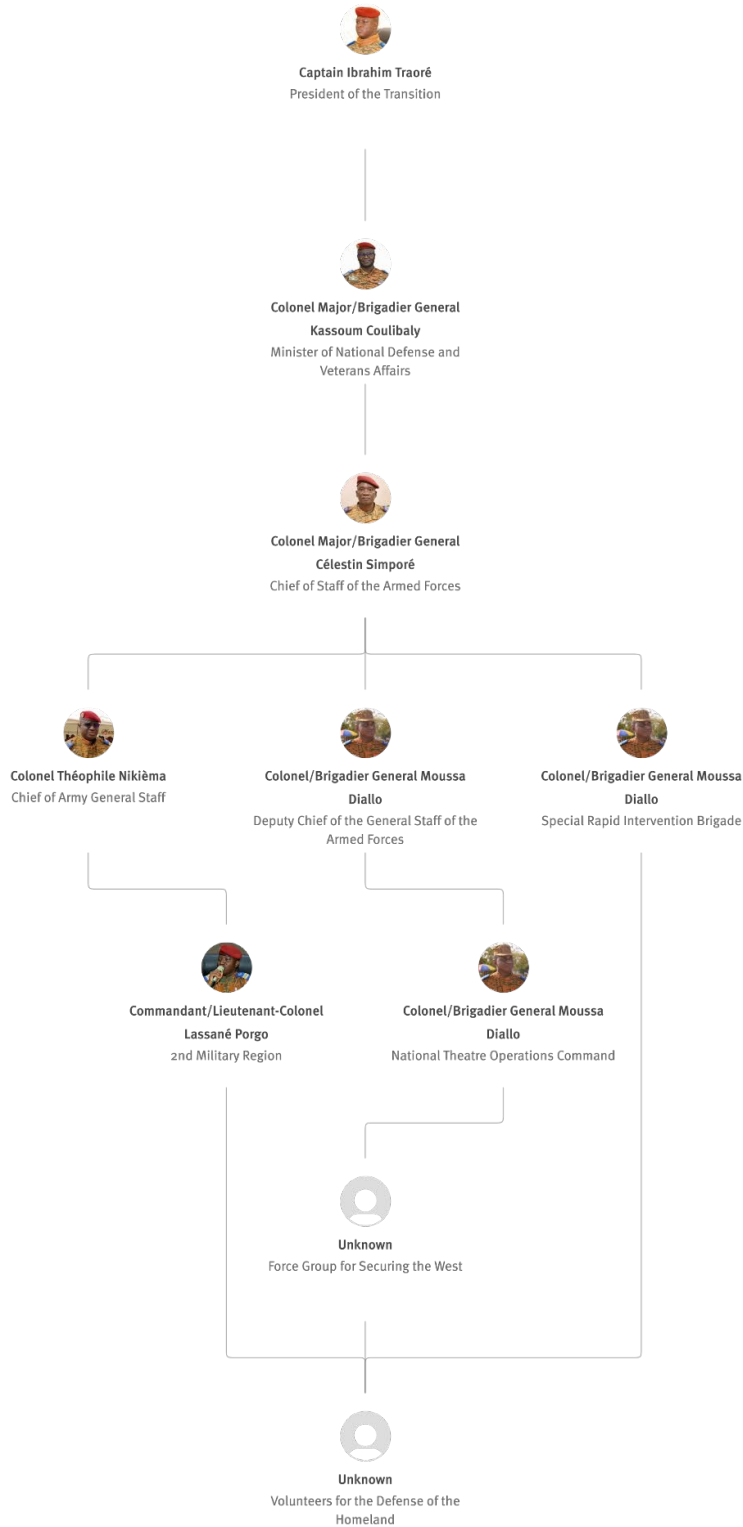
Niangoloko, Cascades Region, Burkina Faso, June 14, 2024

At the time of the killing, Cdt. Lassané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸¹⁴ and taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸¹⁵ The killing occurred after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸¹⁶ His career path after this date is not currently known.

⁸¹⁴ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸¹⁵ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique :Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸¹⁶ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Niangoloko, Cascades Region, Burkina Faso, June 14, 2024

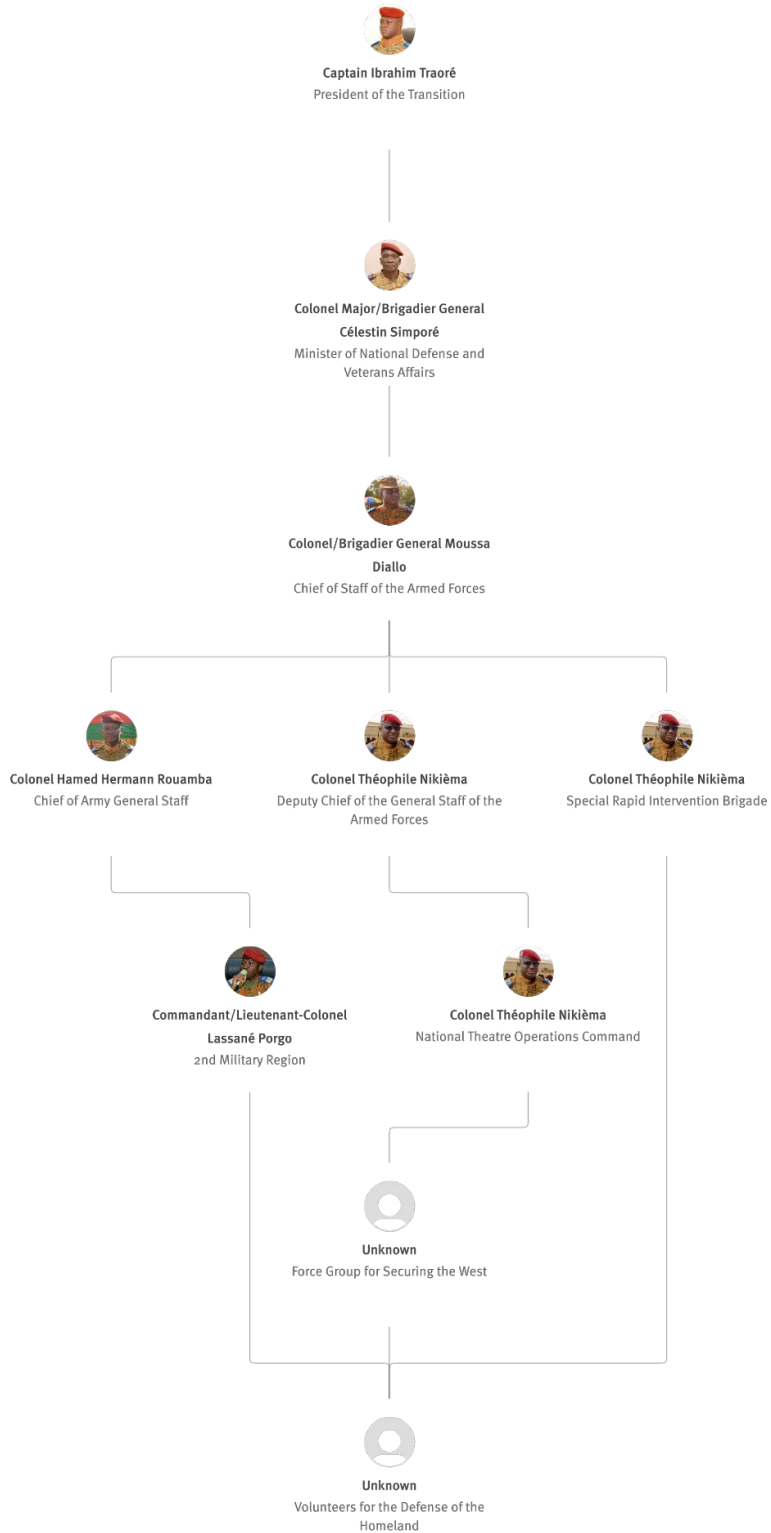
Dô-Diassa and Fanfiéla, Hauts-Bassins Region, January 31, 2025

At the time of the killings and alleged killings, Cdt. Lassané Porgo served as commander of the 2nd Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸¹⁷ and taken up that position by at least May 31, 2023.⁸¹⁸ The killings and alleged killings took place after Capt. Lokpala Kambou was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the West on November 14, 2022.⁸¹⁹ His career after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸¹⁷ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸¹⁸ “Contingent exceptionnel complémentaire de la classe 2023 : 882 soldats renforcent les rangs des Forces armées nationales,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by April 3, 2025. See Drabo, “Journées nationales d’engagement patriotique :Des Burkinabè invités à promouvoir l’ordre et la discipline,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*. Porgo continued to serve as commander until at least June 1, 2025. See “Sécurisation des examens scolaires : Le ministre en charge de l’Education de base remercie les FDS,” *Aconews.net*.

⁸¹⁹ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Dô-Diassa and Fanfiéla, Hauts-Bassins Region, January 31, 2025

*3rd Military Region (Center-South, Center-West, and Plateau Central
Administrative Regions)*

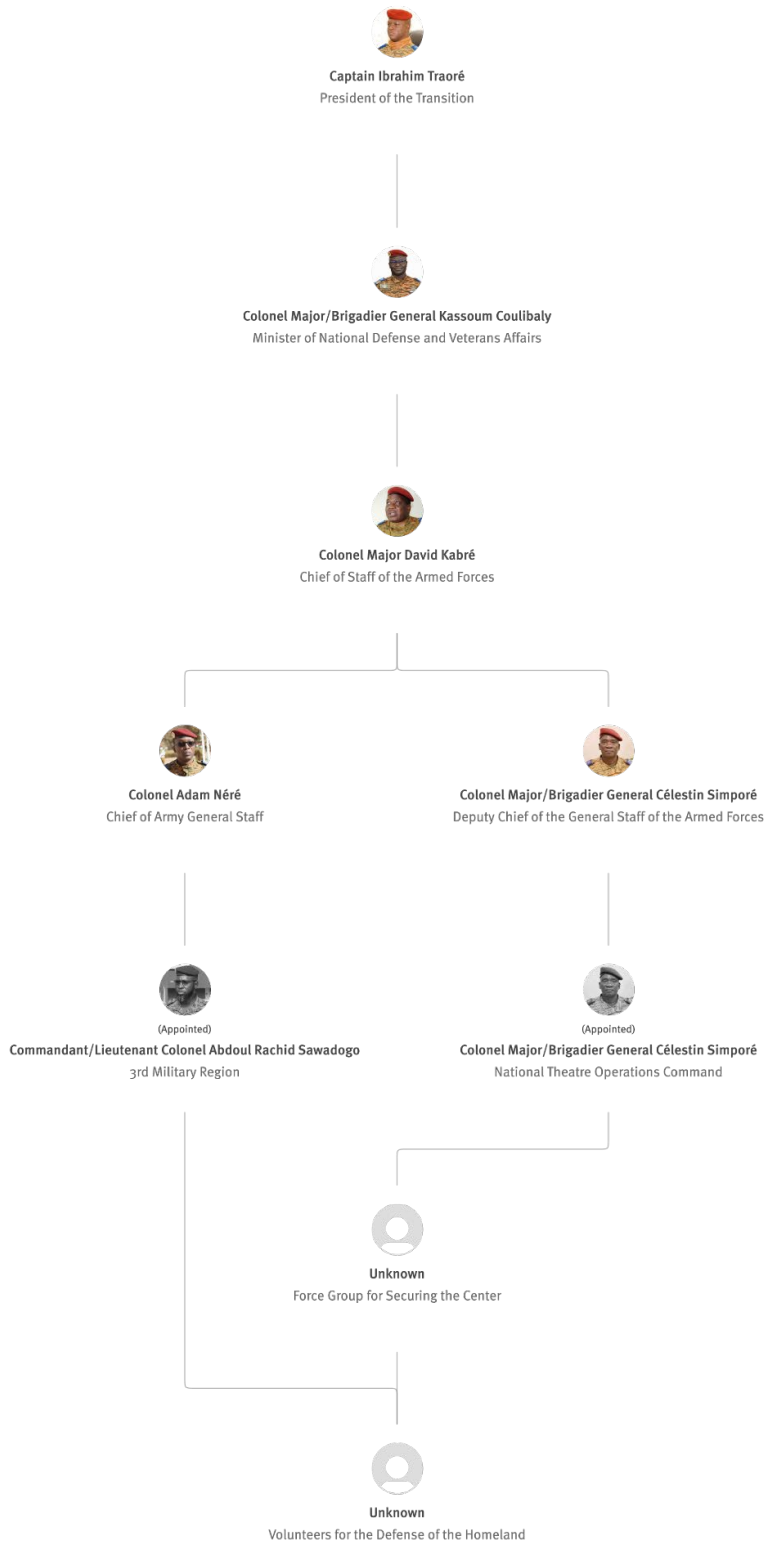
Gomboussougou, Center-South Region, February 2023

These killings took place after Lt. Col. Abdoul Rachid Sawadogo had been appointed commander on November 14, 2022.⁸²⁰ Sources indicate that Sawadogo had taken up the role by at least June 27, 2023.⁸²¹ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of February 2023. The killings also took place after Cdt. K. Ibrahim Bouda was appointed as commander of Force Group for Securing the Center on November 14, 2022.⁸²² His career path after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸²⁰ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸²¹ “Burkina Faso : Le CEMAT avec les unités de la 3e RM,” *Burkina24*, July 4, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230704101608/https://burkina24.com/2023/07/04/burkina-faso-le-cemat-avec-les-unites-de-la-3e-rm/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Sawadogo continued to serve as commander until at least July 12, 2023. See “Garnison de Pô : 546 recrues présentées au drapeau,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, July 14, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240302230613/https://www.aib.media/garnison-de-po-546-recrues-presentees-au-drapeau/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸²² Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Gomboussougou, Center-South Region, February 2023

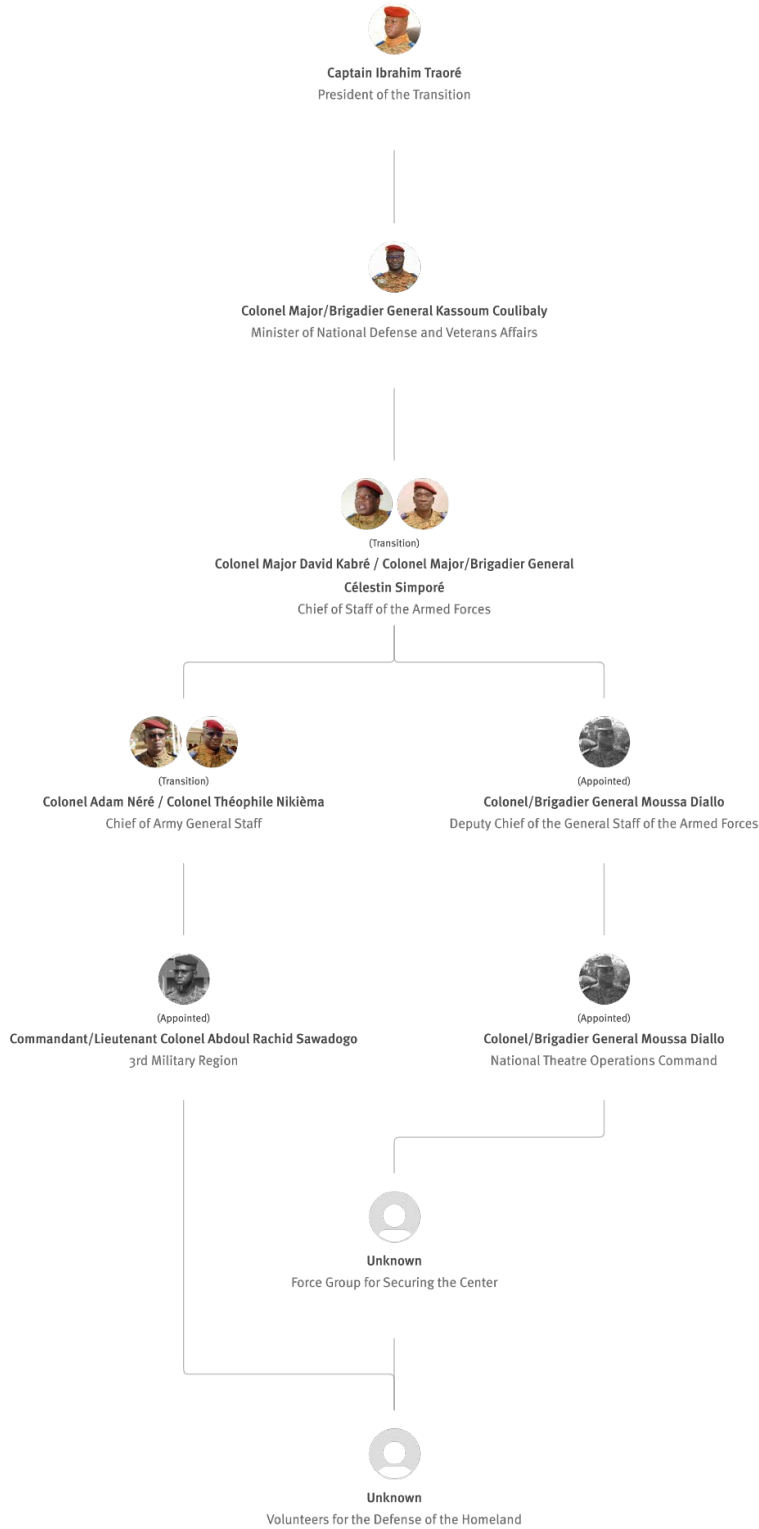
Sissili province, Center-West Region, April 2023

The abduction and torture took place after Lt. Col. Abdoul Rachid Sawadogo had been appointed commander on November 14, 2022.⁸²³ Sources indicate that Sawadogo had taken up the role by at least June 27, 2023.⁸²⁴ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of April 2023. The abduction and torture also took place after Cdt. K. Ibrahim Bouda was appointed as commander of Force Group for Securing the Center on November 14, 2022.⁸²⁵ His career path after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸²³ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸²⁴ “Burkina Faso : Le CEMAT avec les unités de la 3e RM,” *Burkina24*, July 4, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230704101608/https://burkina24.com/2023/07/04/burkina-faso-le-cemat-avec-les-unites-de-la-3e-rm/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Sawadogo continued to serve as commander until at least July 12, 2023. See “Garnison de Pô : 546 recrues présentées au drapeau,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, July 14, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240302230613/https://www.aib.media/garnison-de-po-546-recrues-presentees-au-drapeau/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸²⁵ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Sissili province, Center-West Region, April 2023

4th Military Region (Sahel Administrative Region)

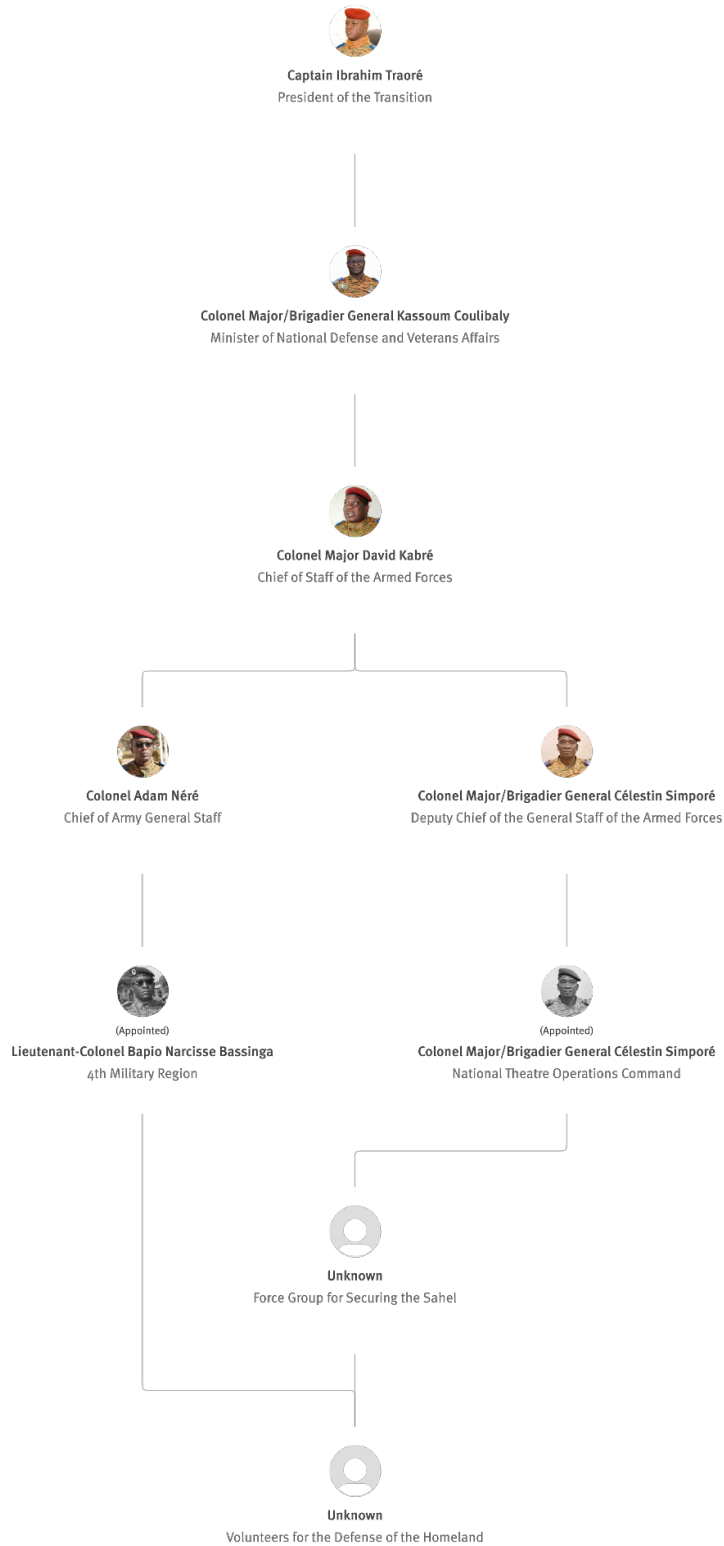
Guide, Sahel Region, January-March 2023

The killings took place after Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was appointed commander of the 4th Military Region on November 14, 2022.⁸²⁶ Sources indicate Bassinga took up this position by at least June 20, 2023,⁸²⁷ but Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of January 2023. The killings also took place after Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022.⁸²⁸ His career path after that point is not known at the time of writing.

⁸²⁶ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸²⁷ “Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l’Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori,” *LeFaso.net*, June 21, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230621181903/https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article122360> (accessed on September 12, 2025). Bassinga served as commander until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to colonel. See Souaibou Nombre, “4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement,” *Sidwaya*, March 2, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250405231216/https://www.sidwaya.info/4e-region-militaire-le-chef-de-bataillon-amadou-sanou-prend-le-commandement/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸²⁸ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Guide, Sahel Region, January-March 2023

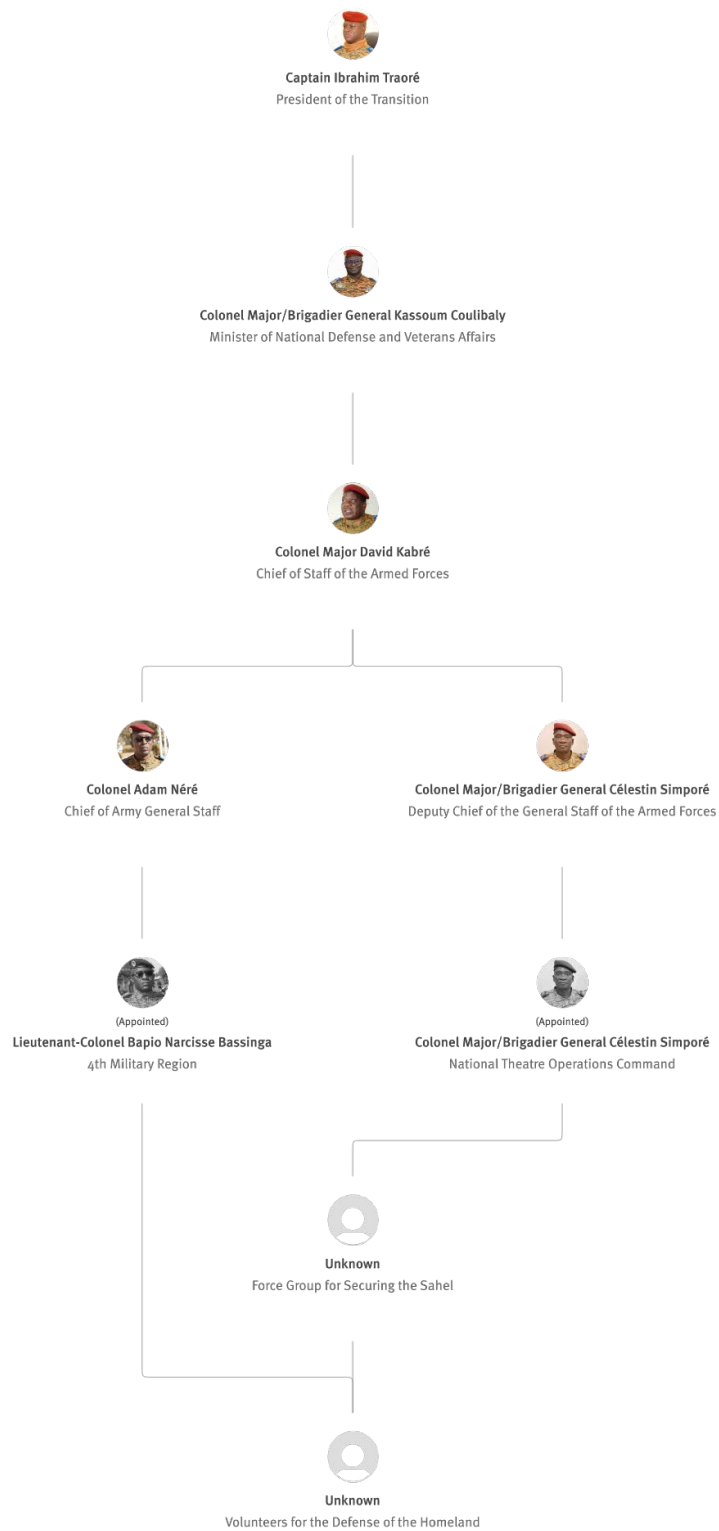
Ekeou, Sahel Region, February 15, 2023

The arrests and discovery of bodies took place after Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was appointed commander of the 4th Military Region on November 14, 2022.⁸²⁹ Sources indicate that Bassinga had taken up that position by at least June 20, 2023.⁸³⁰ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of February 2023. The arrests and discovery of bodies also took place after Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022.⁸³¹ His career path after that point is not known at time of writing.

⁸²⁹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸³⁰ “Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l’Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori,” *LeFaso.net*. “1re et 4e Régions militaires au Burkina Faso : Les commandants installés,” *Faso7*, June 21, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230621180716/https://faso7.com/2023/06/21/1re-et-4e-regions-militaires-au-burkina-faso-les-commandants-installes/> (accessed September 10, 2025). Bassinga served in that position until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of colonel. See Nombre, “4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement,” *Sidwaya*.

⁸³¹ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Ekeou, Sahel Region, February 15, 2023

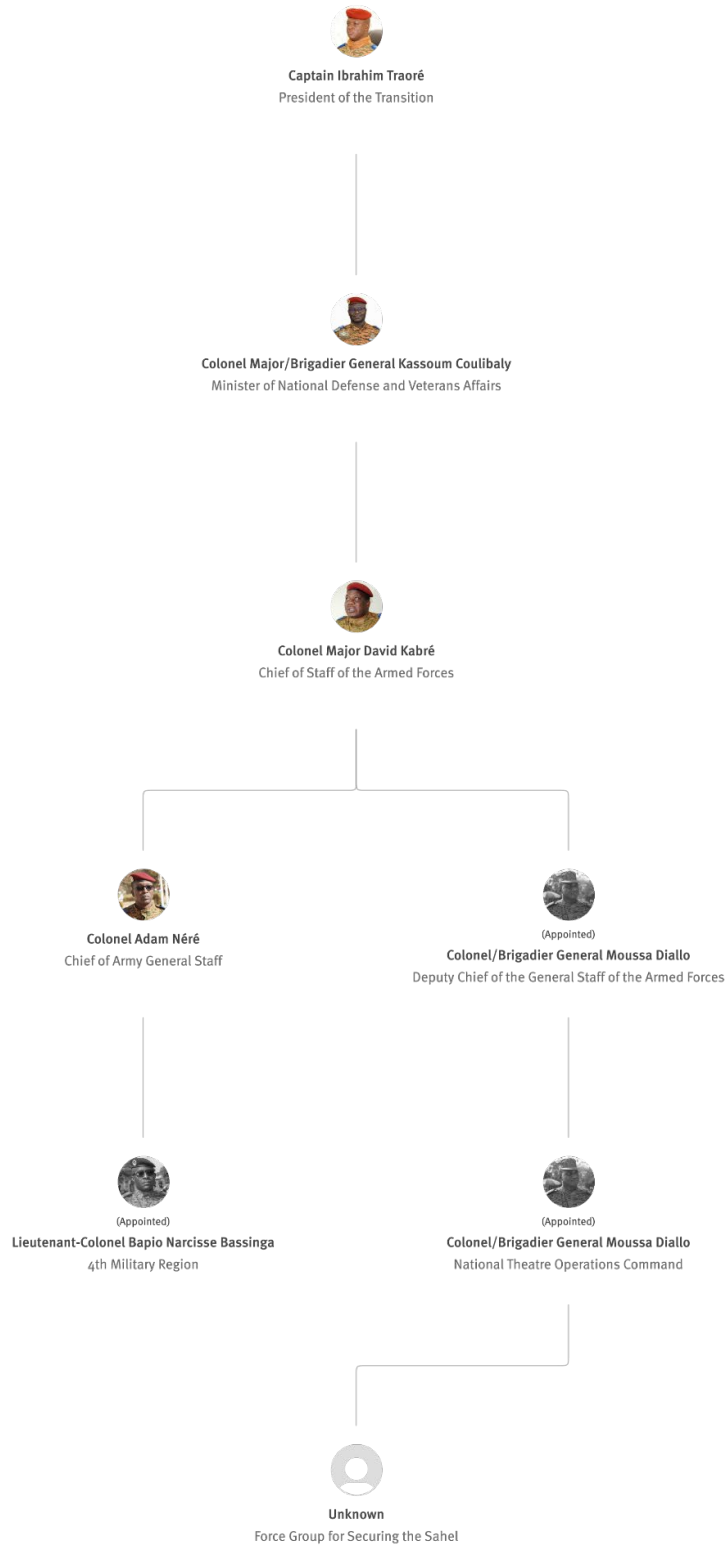
Gangaol, Sahel Region, April 3, 2023

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was serving as commander of the 4th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸³² and taken up the position by at least June 20, 2023.⁸³³ The killings occurred after Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022.⁸³⁴ His career path after that point is not known at time of writing.

⁸³² Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸³³ “Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l’Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori,” *LeFaso.net*. Bassinga served as commander until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to colonel. See Nombre, “4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement,” *Sidwaya*.

⁸³⁴ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Gangaol, Sahel Region, April 3, 2023

Operation Tchéfari 2, December 11-14, 2023

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was serving as the commander of the 4th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸³⁵ and taken up the position by at least June 20, 2023.⁸³⁶ Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022, however, his career path after that point is not known at time of writing.⁸³⁷ The killings occurred after Capt. K. Farouk Azaria. T Sorgho (also referred to as Farouk Azaria Sorgho) was appointed the commander of BIR 4 on November 14, 2022,⁸³⁸ and took up that position by at least November 27, 2024.⁸³⁹ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of December 11 to 14, 2023. The killings occurred after Capt. N. Justin Yameogo and Capt. Oumarou Dima were appointed the commanders of BIR 5 and BIR 6, respectively, on November 14, 2022.⁸⁴⁰ Their careers after that date are not currently known.

⁸³⁵ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

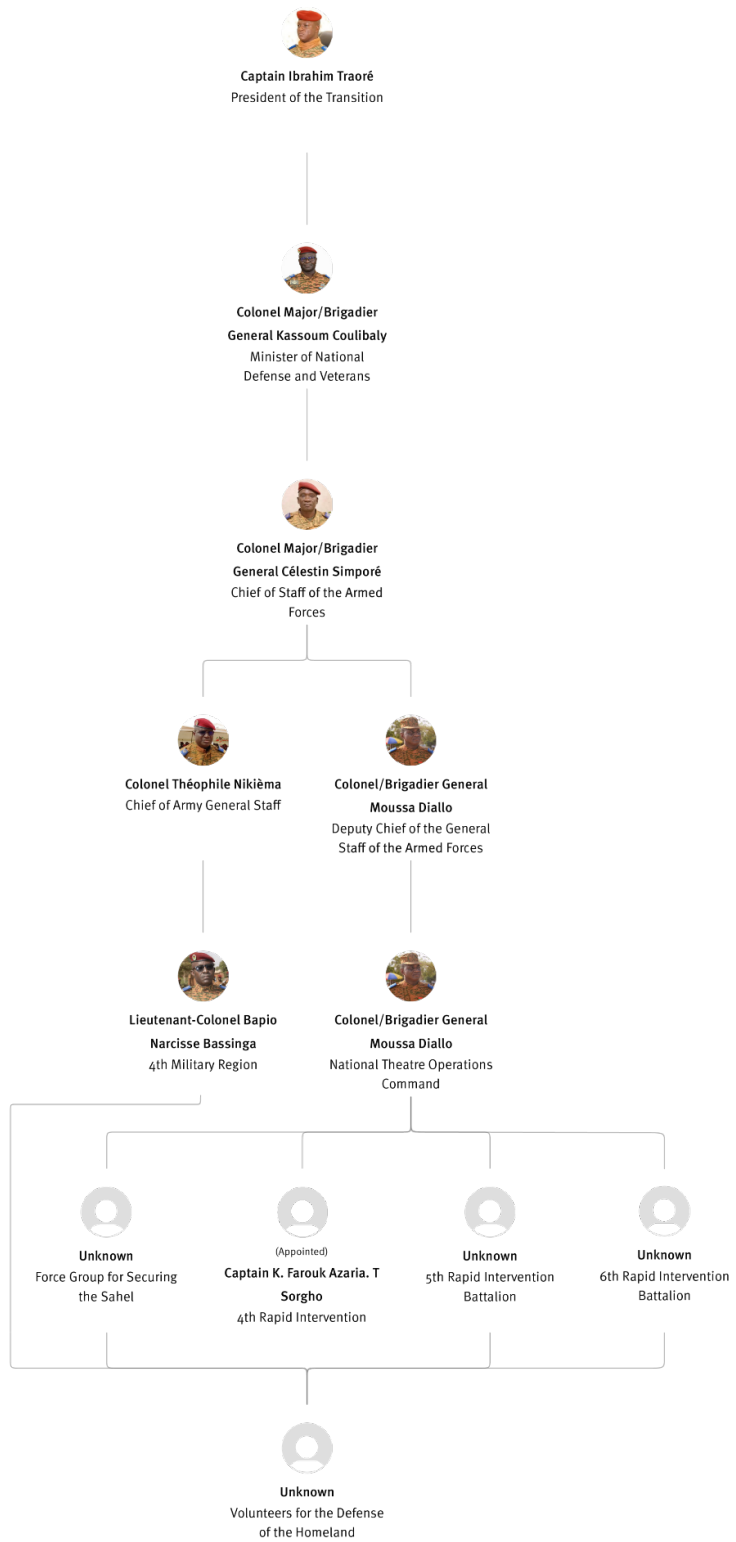
⁸³⁶ “Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l’Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori,” *LeFaso.net*. Bassinga served as commander until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to colonel. See Nombre, “4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement,” *Sidwaya*.

⁸³⁷ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁸³⁸ Décret N°2022-0980/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de chefs de Corps des Forces Armées Nationales.

⁸³⁹ “Burkina : Le pouvoir fait des “révélations graves” sur des entreprises immobilières,” *LeFaso.net*, November 27, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250318080530/https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article134456> (accessed March 13, 2026).

⁸⁴⁰ Décret N°2022-0980/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de chefs de Corps des Forces Armées Nationales.



Chain of Command for Operation Tchéfari 2, December 11-14, 2023

Dori-Sebba-Dori Convoy, Sahel Region, January-March 2025

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was serving as commander of the 4th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁴¹ and taken up the position by at least June 20, 2023.⁸⁴² At the time of the convoy's return, Capt. Amadou Sanou was serving as commander of the 4th Military Region having assumed command on February 28, 2025.⁸⁴³ The killings occurred after Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022,⁸⁴⁴ however, his career path after that point is not known at time of writing. The killings occurred after the appointments on June 30, 2023, of Capt. Wendlassida Karol Nana and Capt. Azisse Ramdé as commanders of BIR 9 and BIR 8, respectively.⁸⁴⁵ However their careers after this date are not currently known.

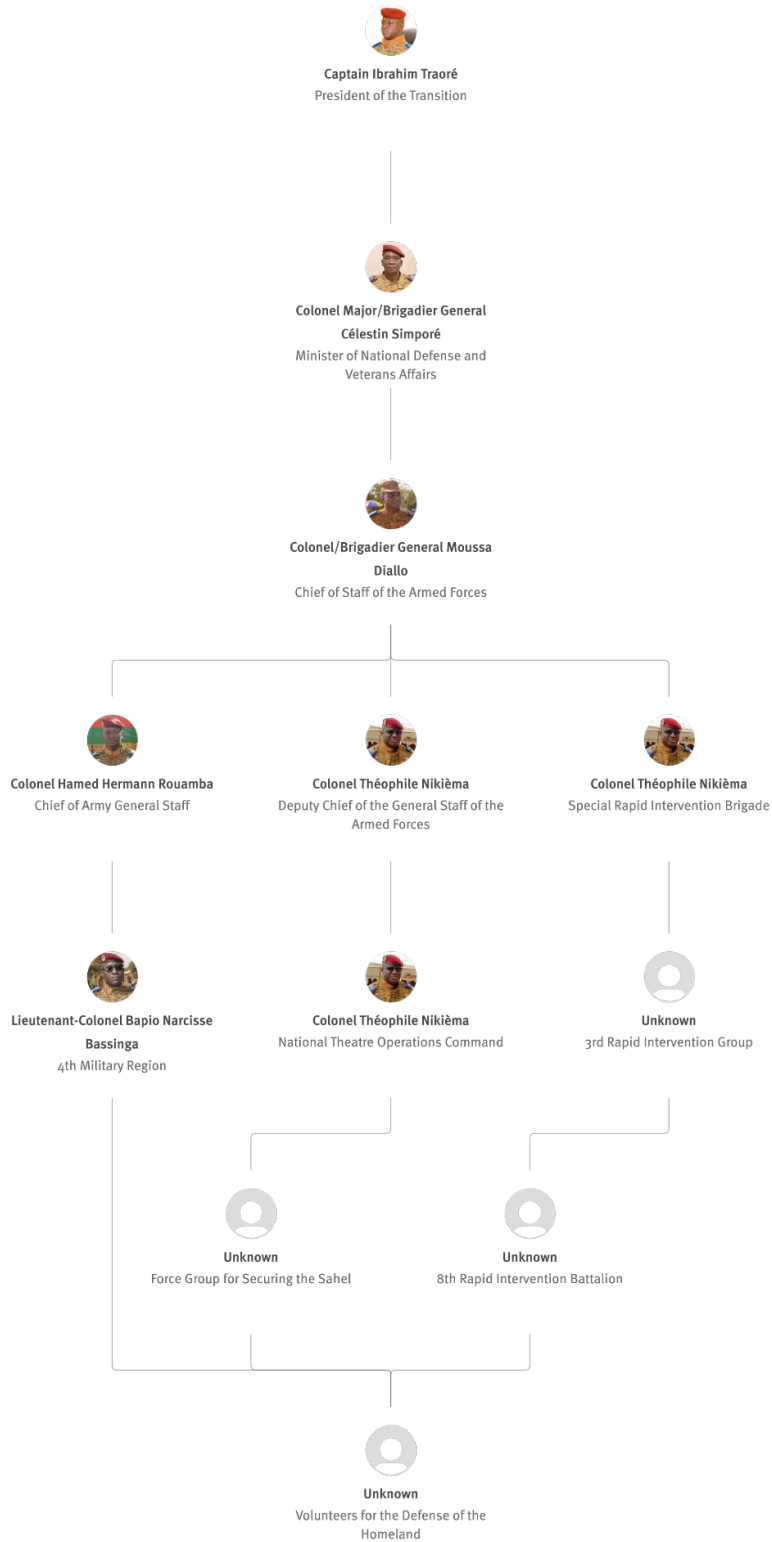
⁸⁴¹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁴² "Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l'Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori," *LeFaso.net*. Bassinga served as commander until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to colonel. See Nombre, "4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement," *Sidwaya*.

⁸⁴³ Nombre, "4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement," *Sidwaya*. Sanou continued to serve as commander until at least May 10, 2025. See "Sahel : Immersion des jeunes de Dori dans la révolution progressiste et populaire burkinabè à travers une conférence publique," *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, May 12, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250513033219/https://www.aib.media/sahel-immersion-des-jeunes-de-dori-dans-la-revolution-progressiste-et-populaire-burkinabe-a-travers-une-conference-publique/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸⁴⁴ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

⁸⁴⁵ Bernard Kaboré, "Forces armées nationales: le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations," *L'Observateur Paalga*, July 2, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250505172145/https://www.lobsaalga.com/2023/07/02/forces-armees-nationales-le-capitaine-ibrahim-traore-procede-a-des-nominations/> (accessed March 16, 2026). Carine P. Zongo, "Burkina Faso : des nominations dans l'Armée," *24heures.bf*, July 2, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240228164204/https://www.24heures.bf/burkina-faso-des-nominations-dans-larmee/> (accessed September 12, 2025).



Chain of Command for Dori-Sebba-Dori Convoy, Sahel Region, January-March 2025

Gaskindé, Sahel Region, February 20, 2025

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Bapio Narcisse Bassinga was serving as commander of the 4th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁴⁶ and taken up the position by at least June 20, 2023.⁸⁴⁷ The killings occurred after Capt. Abdoulaye Toula was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Sahel on November 14, 2022,⁸⁴⁸ however, his career path after that point is not known at time of writing. At the time of the killings, BIR 10 was under the command of GIR 2.⁸⁴⁹ Capt. Abdoul Aziz Ouattara served as commander of GIR 2 at the time of the killings, having been appointed commander on January 19, 2024,⁸⁵⁰ and having assumed that position by at least January 2025.⁸⁵¹ At the time of the killings, Capt. Wendpanga David Ouédraogo was serving as the commander of BIR 10, having been appointed as commander on June 30, 2023,⁸⁵² and taken up this position by at least February 8, 2025.⁸⁵³

⁸⁴⁶ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁴⁷ “Burkina/Défense nationale : Le patron de l’Armée de terre échange avec la troupe à Kaya et à Dori,” *LeFaso.net*. Bassinga served as commander until February 28, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to colonel. See Nombre, “4e région militaire : le chef de bataillon Amadou Sanou prend le commandement,” *Sidwaya*.

⁸⁴⁸ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.

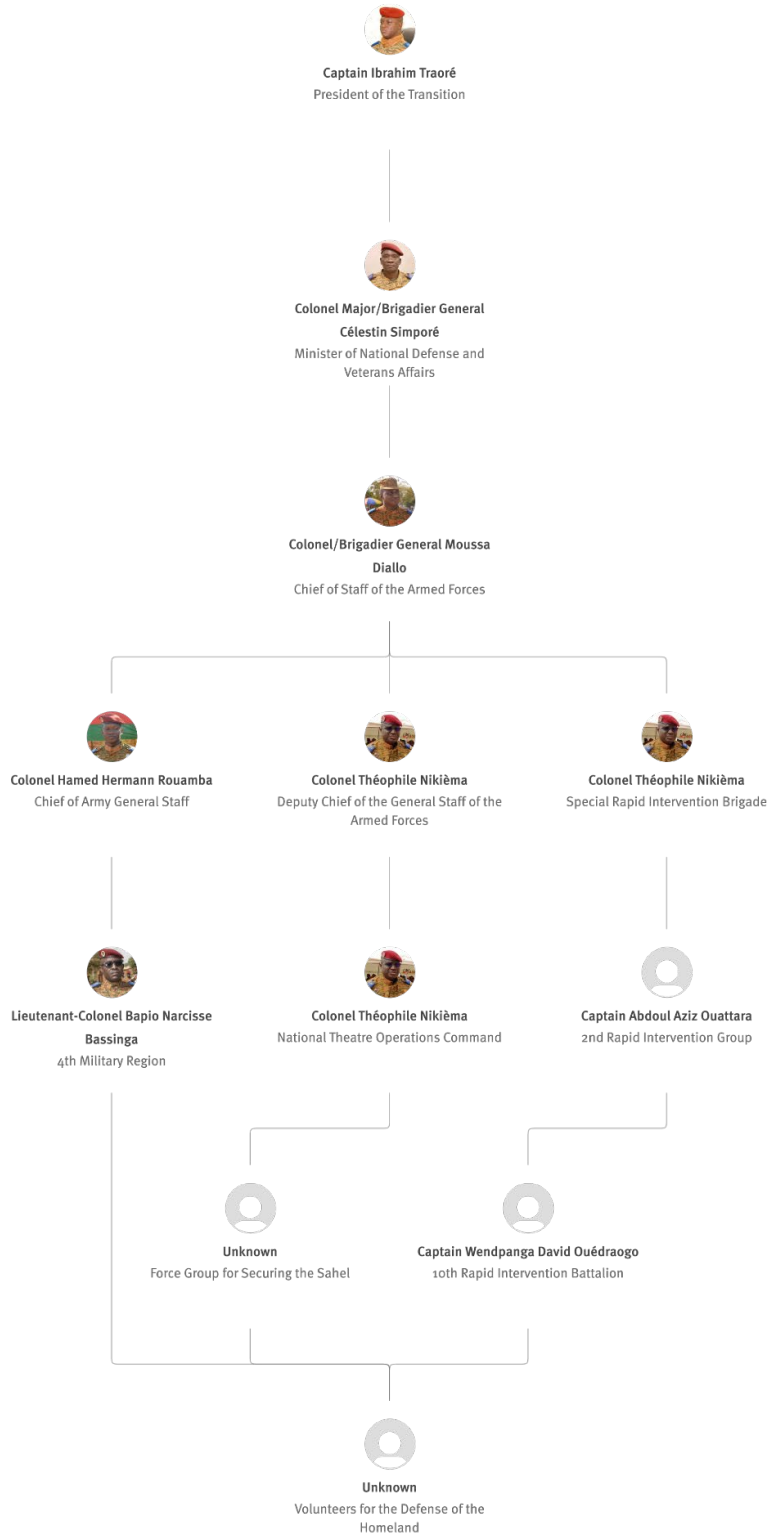
⁸⁴⁹ Décret n°2024-0003/PRES-TRANS/MDAC portant création, organisation et fonctionnement d’une Brigade spéciale et d’intervention rapide, document on file with Human Rights Watch, art. 7. “Succès Militaire : Les Forces Spéciales Intensifient la Lutte Contre le Terrorisme,” *Faso Times*, March 10, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250427220822/https://fasotimes.net/succes-militaire-les-forces-speciales-intensifient-la-lutte-contre-le-terrorisme/> (accessed March 13, 2026). “Boucle du Mouhoun/Opération «Tourbillon Vert 2» : Un succès majeur contre le terrorisme dans la région,” *Aconews.net*, April 2, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250418230926/https://aconews.net/boucle-du-mouhoun-operation-tourbillon-vert-2-un-succes-majeur-contre-le-terrorisme-dans-la-region/> (accessed March 16, 2026).

⁸⁵⁰ “Burkina : nominations des commandants des Groupements d’intervention rapide,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, January 19, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240119230304/https://www.aib.media/regions/2024/01/19/burkina-nominations-des-commandants-des-groupements-d-intervention-rapide/> (accessed March 13, 2026).

⁸⁵¹ Matteo Maillard, Matthieu Millecamps, and Mathieu Olivier, “Les Peuls face aux junte du Sahel : enquête sur un peuple sacrifié,” *Jeune Afrique*, May 20, 2025, <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1688395/politique/les-peuls-face-aux-junte-du-sahel-enquete-sur-un-peuple-sacrifie/> (accessed March 13, 2026). He continued to serve in that role until at least March 10, 2025. See “Succès Militaire : Les Forces Spéciales Intensifient la Lutte Contre le Terrorisme,” *Faso Times*.

⁸⁵² Bernard Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L’Observateur Paalga*, July 2, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250505172145/https://www.lobspaalga.com/2023/07/02/forces-armees-nationales-le-capitaine-ibrahim-traore-procede-a-des-nominations/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Carine P. Zongo, “Burkina Faso: des nominations dans l’Armée,” *24heures.bf*, July 2, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240228164204/https://www.24heures.bf/burkina-faso-des-nominations-dans-larmee/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸⁵³ “Mouhoun : Des jeunes sensibilisés dans la lutte pour la souveraineté nationale,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, February 10, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250325160641/https://www.aib.media/mouhoun-des-jeunes-sensibilises-dans-la-lutte-pour-la-souverainete-nationale/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Ouédraogo continued to serve as commander until at least October 4, 2025. See “Mouhoun/Le Vent Républicain : La contribution des femmes à la Révolution progressiste populaire au cœur des échanges,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, October 6, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20251007233516/https://www.aib.media/mouhoun-le-vent-republicain-la-contribution-des-femmes-a-la-revolution-progressiste-populaire-au-coeur-des-echanges/> (accessed March 13, 2026).



Chain of Command for Gaskindé, Sahel Region, February 20, 2025

5th Military Region (Boucle du Mouhoun Administrative Region)

Yaho, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, June 2023

At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Jean Marie Syriouma (also spelled Jean Marie Siryouma) served as commander of the 5th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁵⁴ and taken up that position by at least April 2023.⁸⁵⁵ The killings also occurred around when Cdt. Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun on June 20, 2023.⁸⁵⁶ Sources indicate Coulibaly had taken up the role by at least January 18, 2025.⁸⁵⁷ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command when the killings occurred in June 2023. He later became commander of the 5th Military Region on April 3, 2025.⁸⁵⁸

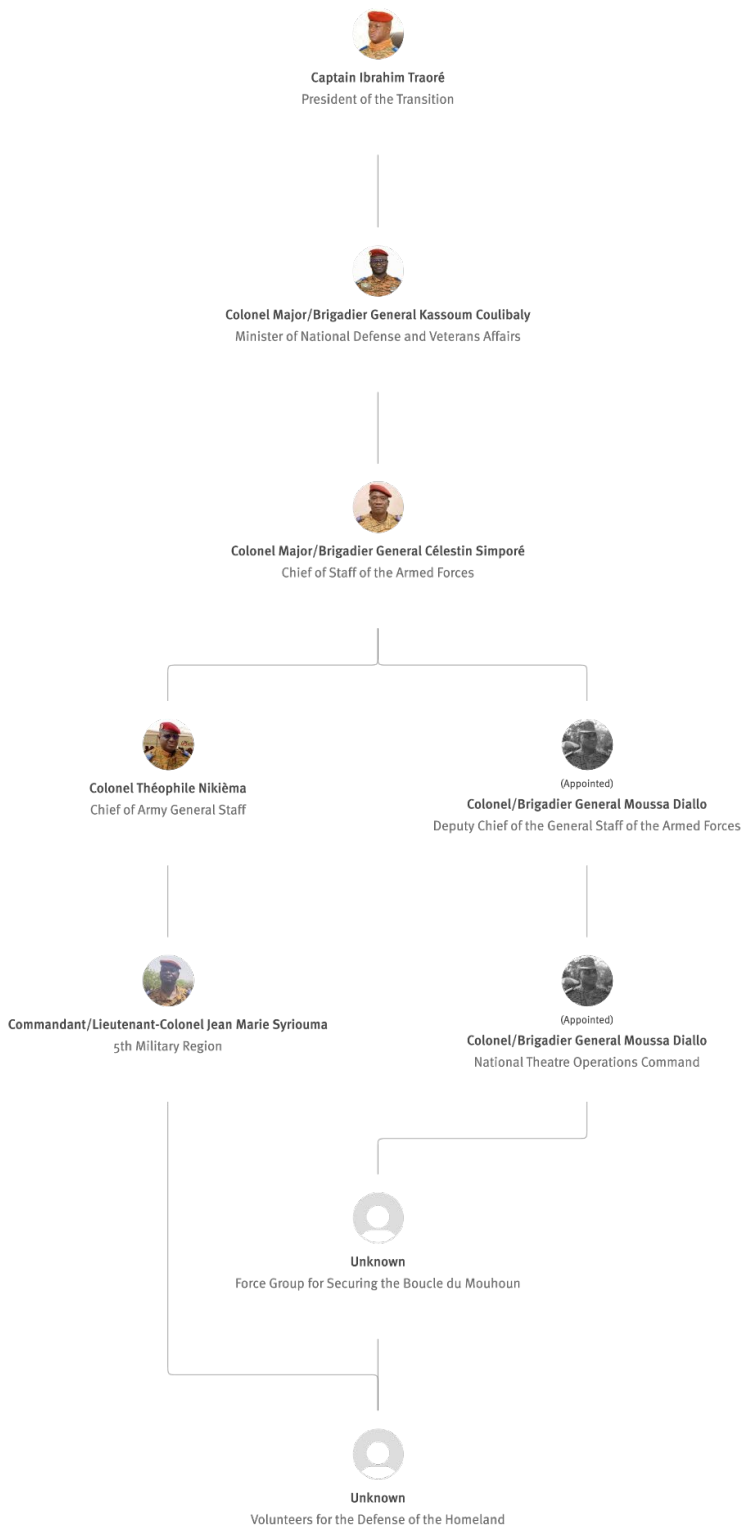
⁸⁵⁴ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁵⁵ Syriouma continued to serve as commander until he was replaced on April 3, 2025. See “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, April 4, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230621181903/https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article122360> (accessed September 14, 2025).

⁸⁵⁶ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L'Observateur Paalga*.

⁸⁵⁷ Souleymane Ouédraogo, “5e Légion de Gendarmerie : Le Commandant de Légion aux côtés des hommes engagés sur le théâtre des opérations,” *Aconews.net*, January 21, 2025, <https://aconews.net/5e-legion-de-gendarmerie-le-commandant-de-legion-aux-cotes-des-hommes-engages-sur-le-theatre-des-operations/> (accessed March 16, 2026).

⁸⁵⁸ Yacouba Sama, “Forces armées nationales : Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les rênes de la 5e Région militaire,” *LeFaso.net*, April 4, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250404154421/https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article137207> (accessed October 10, 2025).



Chain of Command for Yahoo, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, June 2023

Koumana, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, November 23, 2023

BIR 10 was also reported as operating in Koumana and several other villages in Bondoukou department on December 30, 2023.⁸⁵⁹ The killings occurred after Capt. Wendpanga David Ouédraogo was appointed as commander of BIR 10 on June 30, 2023.⁸⁶⁰ Sources indicate he was in this position by at least February 8, 2025.⁸⁶¹ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of November 23, 2023. The Boucle du Mouhoun region, where the killings in Koumana occurred, falls under the 5th military region⁸⁶² and the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun.⁸⁶³ At the time of the attack and killings, Lt. Col. Jean Marie Syriouma (also spelled Jean Marie Siryouma) served as commander of the 5th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁶⁴ and taken that position up by at least April 2023.⁸⁶⁵ The attack and killings also occurred after Cdt. Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun on June 20, 2023.⁸⁶⁶ Sources indicate Coulibaly had taken up the role by at least January 18, 2025.⁸⁶⁷ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of late November 2023.

⁸⁵⁹ “Boulsa : Une trentaine de terroristes neutralisés dans le Namentenga, des criminels défaits à Loropéni,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*, December 30, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240304095935/https://www.aib.media/boulsa-une-trentaine-de-terroristes/> (accessed September 2, 2025).

⁸⁶⁰ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L'Observateur Paalga*. Zongo, “Burkina Faso : des nominations dans l'Armée,” *24heures.bf*.

⁸⁶¹ “Mouhoun : Des jeunes sensibilisés dans la lutte pour la souveraineté nationale,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁶² Décret N°2022-0975/PRES-TRANS portant organisation du territoire national en Régions Militaires. “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

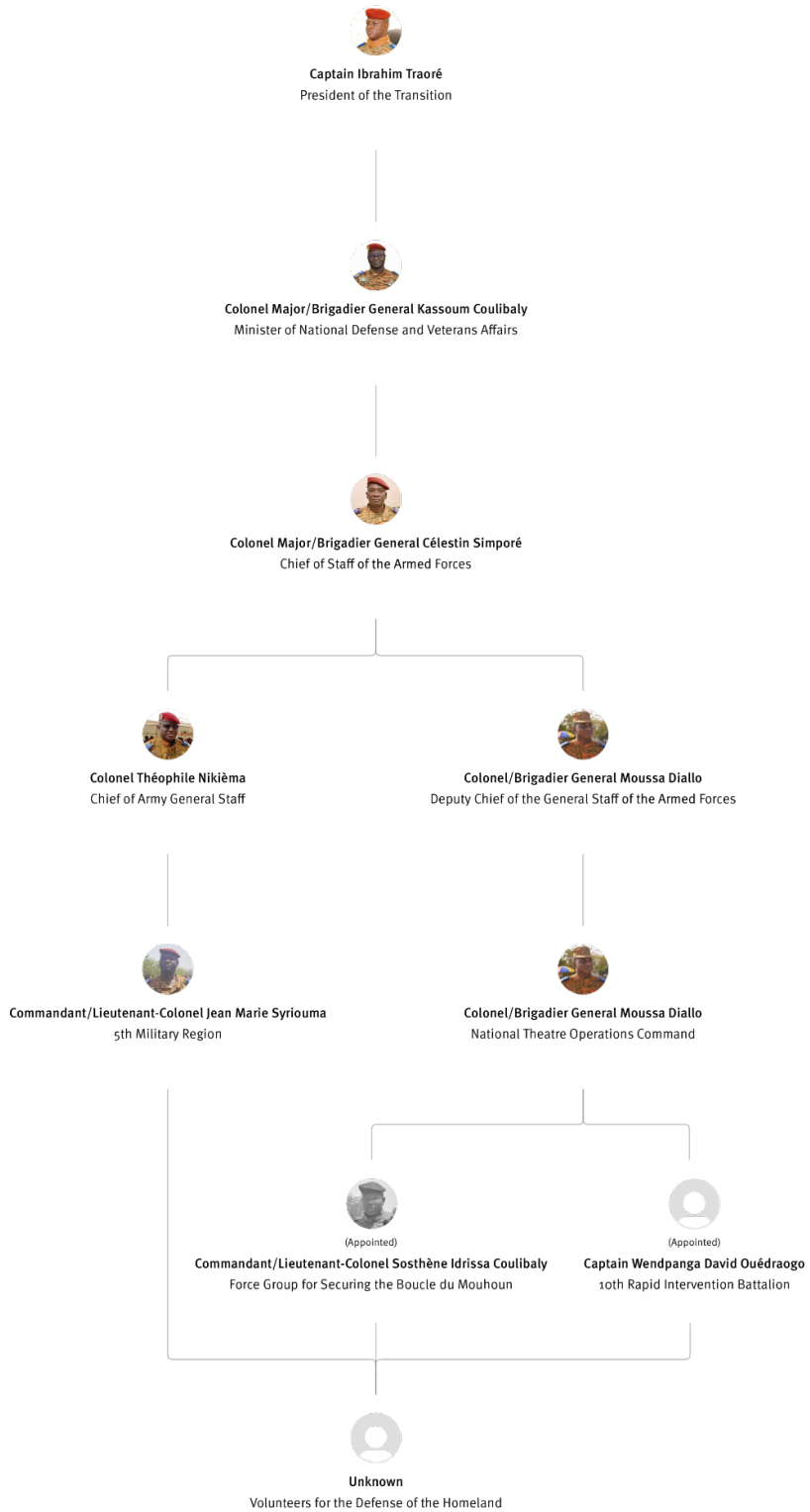
⁸⁶³ Décret n°2022-0976/PRES-TRANS/MDAC/MATDS/MJDHRI/MEFP/MEEA portant organisation, attributions et fonctionnement du Commandement des Opérations du Théâtre National (COTN), https://web.archive.org/web/20221115210829/https://www.sidwaya.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Decret_Portant-organisation-attribution-et-fonctionnement-du-COTN.pdf (accessed March 13, 2026). Human Rights Watch telephone interview with M.O., April 24, 2025.

⁸⁶⁴ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁶⁵ Syriouma continued to serve as commander until he was replaced on April 3, 2025. See “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁶⁶ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L'Observateur Paalga*.

⁸⁶⁷ Ouédraogo, “5e Légion de Gendarmerie : Le Commandant de Légion aux côtés des hommes engagés sur le théâtre des opérations,” *Aconews.net*.



Chain of Command for Koumana, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, November 23, 2023

Konga, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, January 2024

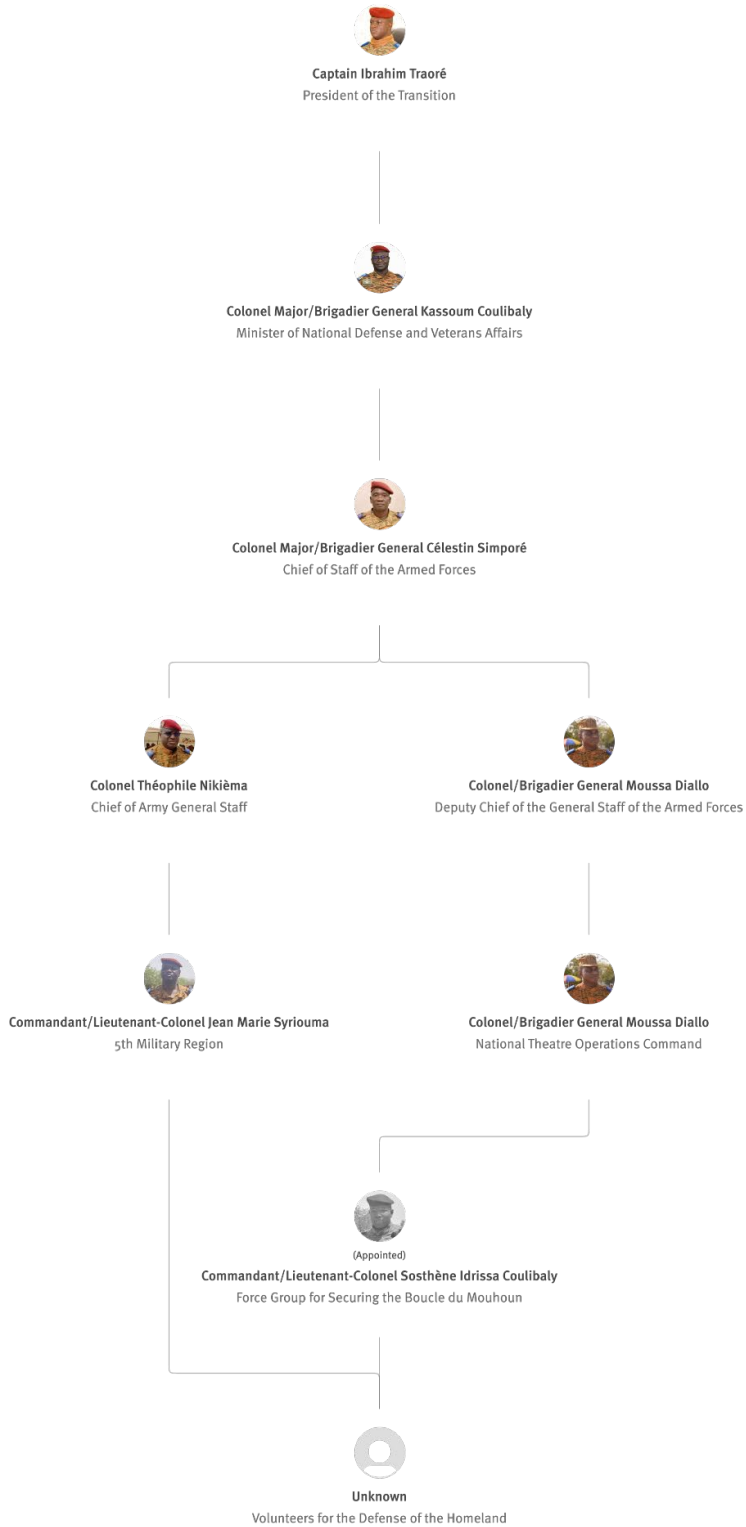
At the time of the killings, Lt. Col. Jean Marie Syriouma (also spelled Jean Marie Siryouma) served as commander of the 5th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁶⁸ and taken up that position by at least April 2023.⁸⁶⁹ The killings also occurred after Cdt. Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun on June 20, 2023.⁸⁷⁰ Sources indicate Coulibaly had taken up the role by at least January 18, 2025.⁸⁷¹ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command by at least January 2024, when the attack and killings occurred.

⁸⁶⁸ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁶⁹ Syriouma continued to serve as commander until he was replaced on April 3, 2025. See “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁷⁰ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L'Observateur Paalga*.

⁸⁷¹ Ouédraogo, “5e Légion de Gendarmerie : Le Commandant de Légion aux côtés des hommes engagés sur le théâtre des opérations,” *Aconews.net*.



Chain of Command for Konga, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, January 2024

Sanakuy, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, August 15, 2024

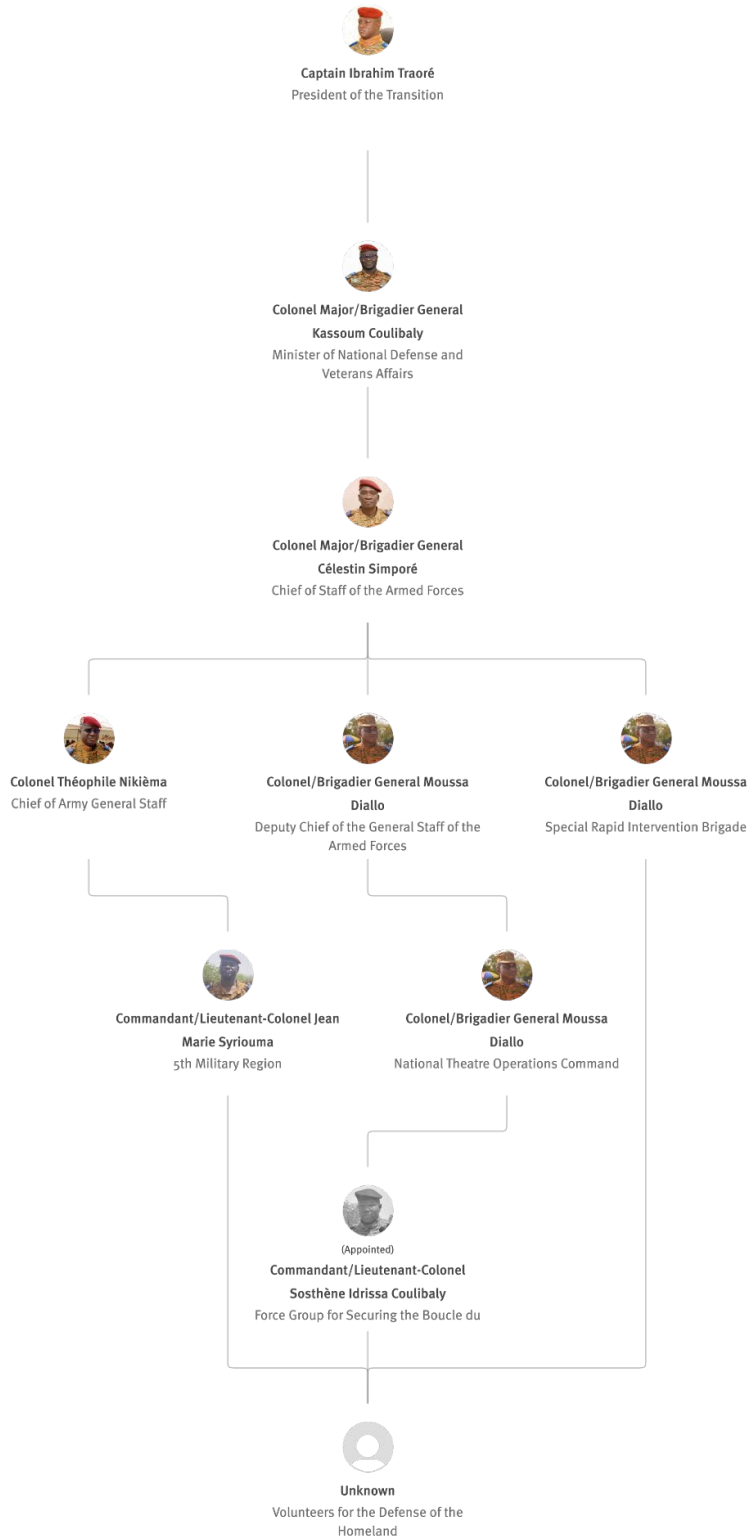
At the time of the apparent killings, Lt. Col. Jean Marie Syriouma (also spelled Jean Marie Siryouma) served as commander of the 5th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022,⁸⁷² and taken that position up by at least April 2023.⁸⁷³ The killings also occurred after Cdt. Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly was appointed commander of the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun on June 20, 2023.⁸⁷⁴ Sources indicate Coulibaly had taken up the role by at least January 18, 2025.⁸⁷⁵ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command by January 2024, when the attack and killings occurred.

⁸⁷² Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁷³ Syriouma continued to serve as commander until he was replaced on April 3, 2025. See “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d'Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁷⁴ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L'Observateur Paalga*.

⁸⁷⁵ Ouédraogo, “5e Légion de Gendarmerie : Le Commandant de Légion aux côtés des hommes engagés sur le théâtre des opérations,” *Aconews.net*.



Chain of Command for Sanakuy, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, August 15, 2024

Operation Green Whirlwind 2, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, February 27 – April 2, 2025

Capt. Abdoul Aziz Ouattara served as commander of GIR 2 during the time of at least some of the killings, having been appointed commander on January 19, 2024,⁸⁷⁶ taken up that position by at least January 2025,⁸⁷⁷ and last seen in the position as of March 10, 2025.⁸⁷⁸ At the time of the killings, Capt. Wendpanga David Ouédraogo was serving as the commander of BIR 10, having been appointed as commander on June 30, 2023,⁸⁷⁹ and taken up this position by at least February 8, 2025.⁸⁸⁰ At the time of the killings, Capt. Papa Parfait Kambou served as commander of BIR 18, having become commander in a hand-over ceremony on January 8, 2025.⁸⁸¹ Capt. Teegwendé Laurent Zallé was appointed commander of BIR 23 on January 19, 2024,⁸⁸² and was in that position by at least January 30, 2025.⁸⁸³ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he continued to hold that role when the killings occurred from February 27 to April 2, 2025.

At the time of the attack and killings, Lt. Col. Jean Marie Syriouma (also spelled Jean Marie Siryouma) served as commander of the 5th Military Region, having been appointed commander on November 14, 2022.⁸⁸⁴ He had taken up that position by at least April 2023.⁸⁸⁵ The killings also occurred after Cdt. Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly was appointed

⁸⁷⁶ “Burkina : nominations des commandants des Groupements d’intervention rapide,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁷⁷ Maillard, Millecamps, and Olivier, “Les Peuls face aux juntes du Sahel : enquête sur un peuple sacrifié,” *Jeune Afrique*.

⁸⁷⁸ “Succès Militaire : Les Forces Spéciales Intensifient la Lutte Contre le Terrorisme,” *Faso Times*.

⁸⁷⁹ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L’Observateur Paalga Zongo*, “Burkina Faso : des nominations dans l’Armée,” *24heures.bf*.

⁸⁸⁰ “Mouhoun : Des jeunes sensibilisés dans la lutte pour la souveraineté nationale,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*. He continued to serve as commander until at least October 4, 2025. See “Mouhoun/Le Vent Républicain : La contribution des femmes à la Révolution progressiste populaire au cœur des échanges,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

⁸⁸¹ “Banwa : Le nouveau commandant du 18e BIR s’engage à obtenir des résultats probants,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, January 9, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250110155313/https://www.aib.media/banwa-le-nouveau-commandant-du-18e-bir-sengage-a-obtenir-des-resultats-probants/> (accessed March 13, 2026). Kambou continued to serve as commander until at least May 25, 2025. See Salifou Ouédraogo, “Solenzo: Le BIR 18 offre 4 tonnes de riz aux PDI,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, May 30, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250601073806/https://www.aib.media/solenzo-le-bir-18-offre-4-tonnes-de-riz-aux-pdi/> (accessed March 13, 2026).

⁸⁸² “Burkina : Les responsables des nouveaux BIR sont connus,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, January 19, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240807153717/https://www.aib.media/burkina-les-responsables-des-nouveaux-bir-sont-connus/> (accessed March 16, 2026).

⁸⁸³ “Le BIR 23 poursuit le nettoyage au Nayala: 11 terroristes neutralités, deux capturés,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, January 30, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250204151026/https://www.aib.media/le-bir-23-poursuit-le-nettoyage-au-nayala-11-terroristes-neutralites-deux-captures/> (accessed March 16, 2026).

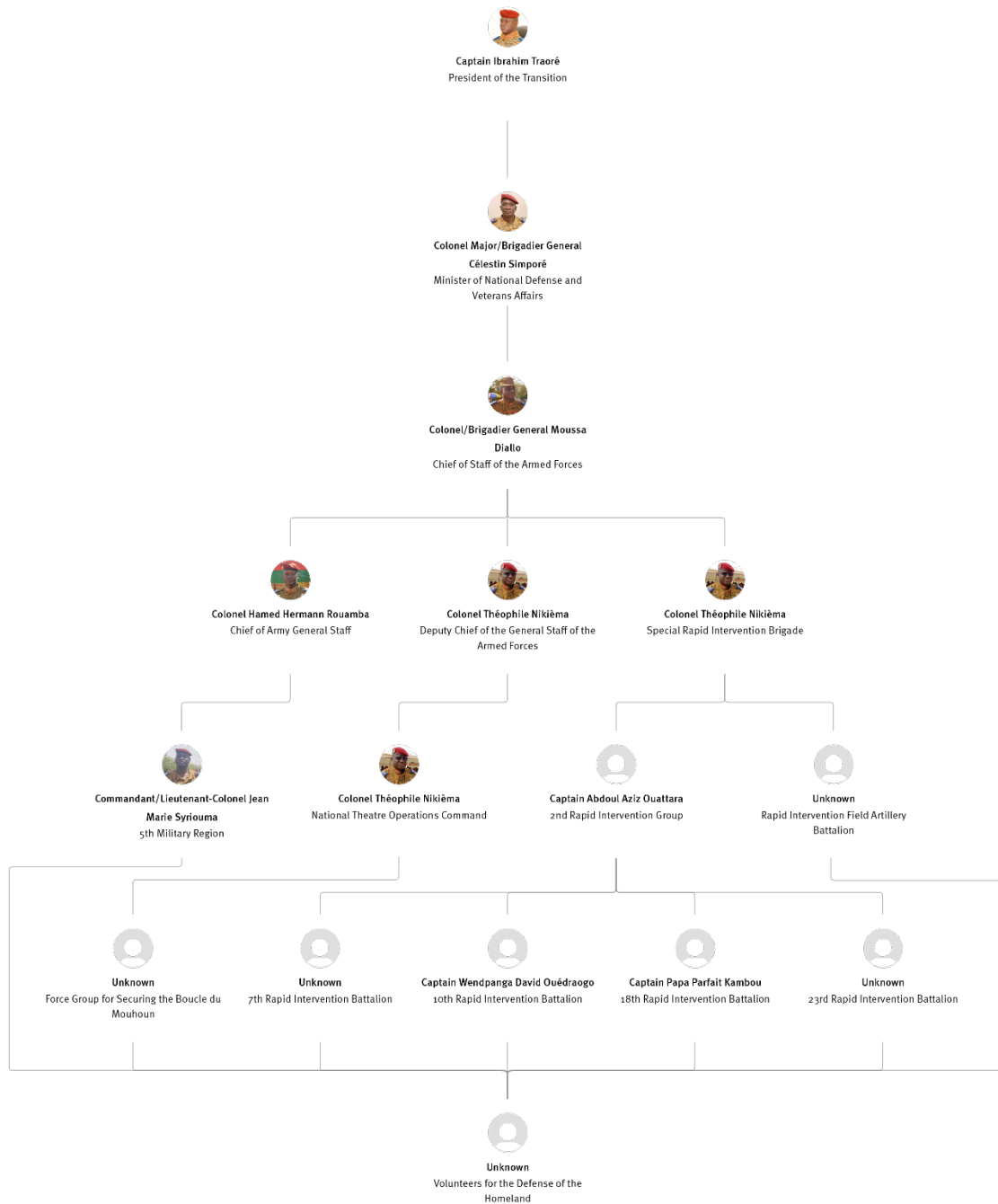
⁸⁸⁴ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁸⁵ Syriouma continued to serve as commander until he was replaced on April 3, 2025. See “Mouhoun/5e Région militaire : Le Lieutenant-colonel Sosthène Idrissa Coulibaly prend les commandes,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*.

commander of the Force Group for Securing the Boucle du Mouhoun on June 20, 2023.⁸⁸⁶ Sources indicate Coulibaly had taken up the role by at least January 18, 2025.⁸⁸⁷ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he continued to hold that role when the killings occurred between February 27 and April 2, 2025.

⁸⁸⁶ Kaboré, “Forces armées nationales : le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré procède à des nominations,” *L’Observateur Paalga*.

⁸⁸⁷ Ouédraogo, “5e Légion de Gendarmerie : Le Commandant de Légion aux côtés des hommes engagés sur le théâtre des opérations,” *Aconews.net*.



Chain of Command for Operation Green Whirlwind 2, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, February 27 – April 2, 2025

6th Military Region (Center-East and East Administrative Regions)

Petit Zabré, Center-East Region, February 2023

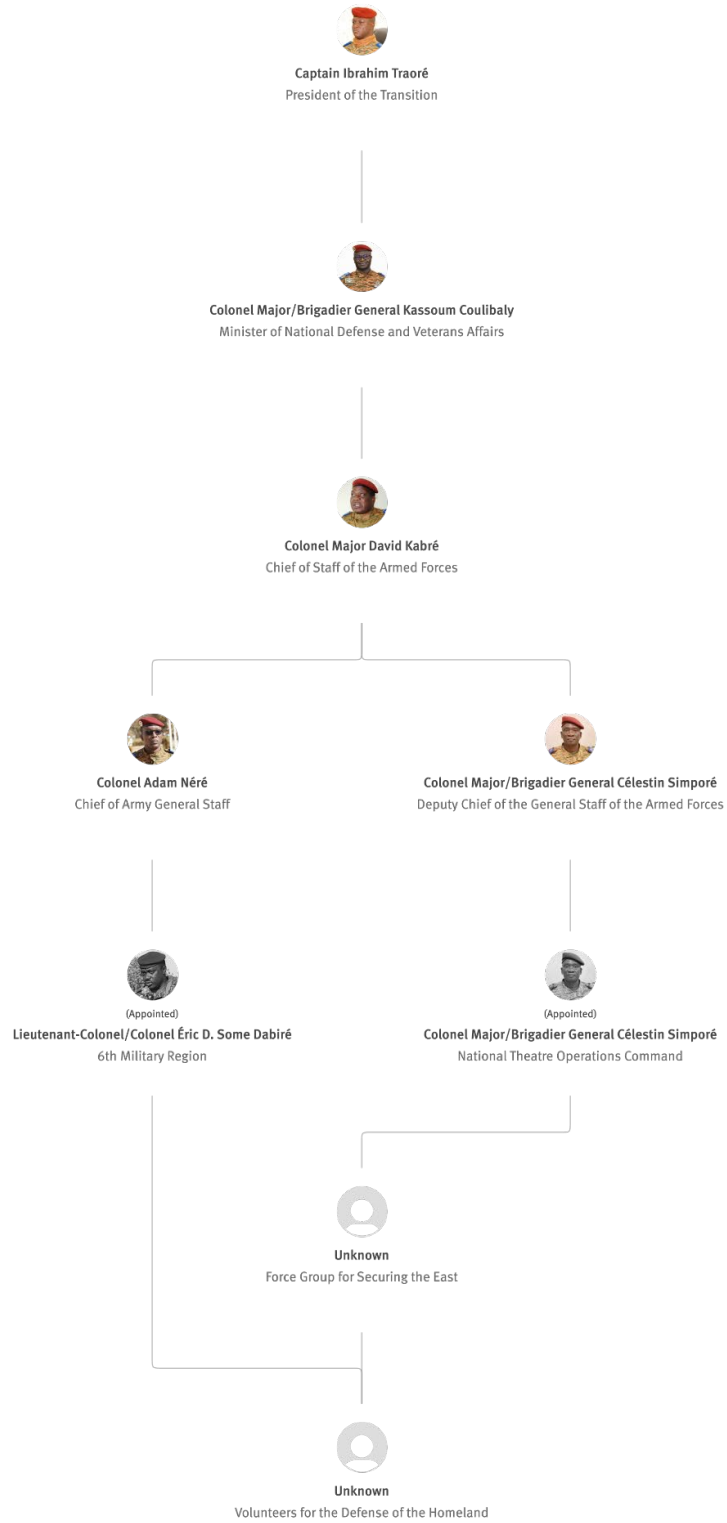
The killings took place after Lt. Col. Eric D. Some Dabiré had been appointed as commander of the 6th Military Region on November 14, 2022.⁸⁸⁸ Sources indicate Dabiré had taken up that position by at least June 22, 2023.⁸⁸⁹ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of February 2023. The killings also took place after Capt. Maurice Ouedraogo was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the East on November 14, 2022.⁸⁹⁰ Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he continued to hold this role when the killings occurred.

⁸⁸⁸ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁸⁹ Kanliéyama Aboubakar Combaré, “Gourma : La 6^{ème} région militaire bénéficiera d’un complexe social,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*, June 27, 2023,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230628075456/https://www.aib.media/regions/2023/06/27/gourma-la-6eme-region-militaire-beneficiera-dun-complexe-social/> (accessed September 12, 2025). Dabiré continued to serve as commander until February 26, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of colonel. See “6^e région militaire : Le colonel Eric Dabiré passe le commandement au chef d’escadron Aboubacar Dadijan,” *Burkina24*, February 26, 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250226200757/https://burkina24.com/2025/02/26/6e-region-militaire-le-colonel-eric-dabire-passe-le-commandement-au-chef-descadron-aboubacar-dadijan/> (accessed September 12, 2025).

⁸⁹⁰ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Petit Zabré, Center-East Region, February 2023

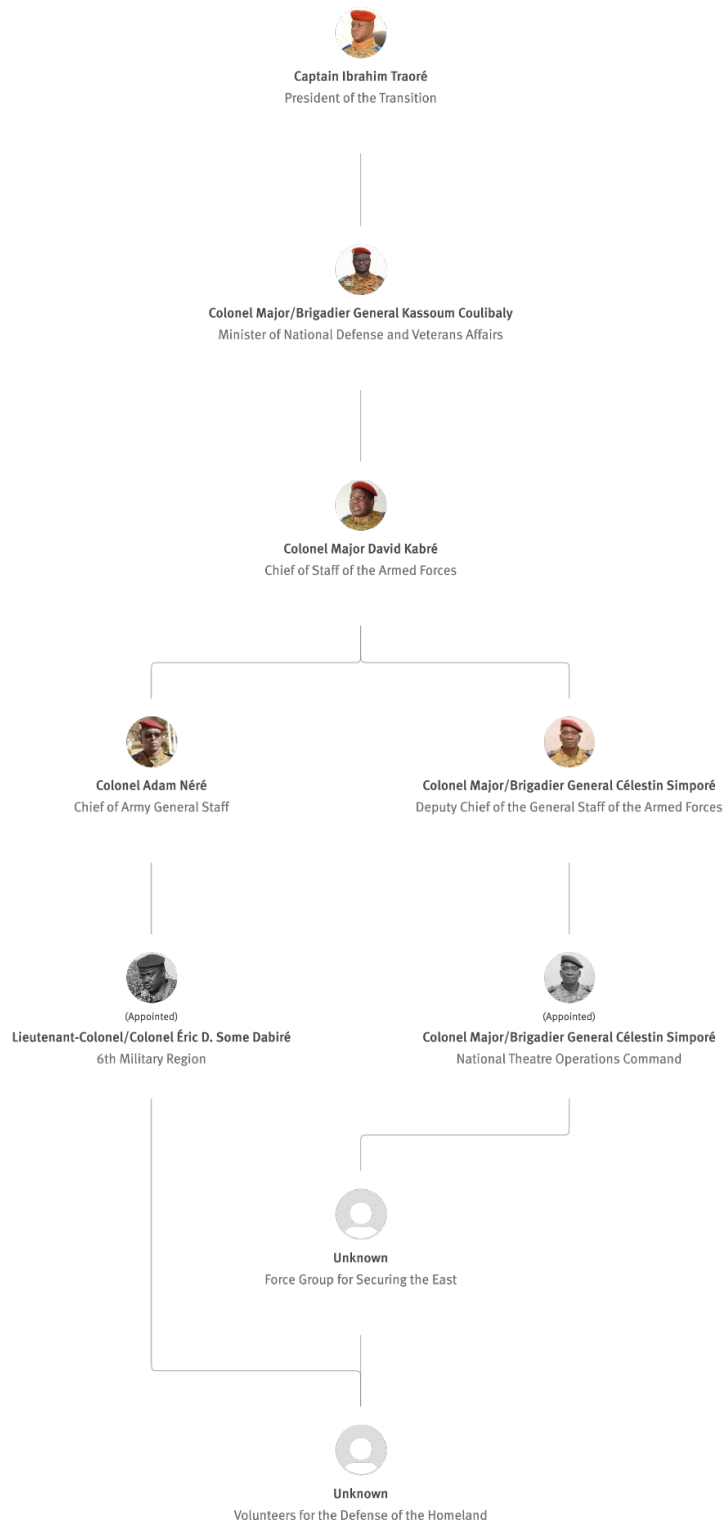
Békouré, Center-East Region, February 2023

The killings took place after Lt. Col. Eric D. Some Dabiré had been appointed as commander of the 6th Military Region on November 14, 2022.⁸⁹¹ Dabiré had taken up that position by at least June 22, 2023.⁸⁹² Human Rights Watch was unable to ascertain whether he had assumed command as of February 2023. The killings also took place after Capt. Maurice Ouedraogo was appointed as commander of the Force Group for Securing the East on November 14, 2022.⁸⁹³ His career path after this date is not known at time of writing.

⁸⁹¹ Décret n°2022-0978/PRES-TRANS portant nomination de Commandants de Régions Militaires et Assimilées.

⁸⁹² Combarry, “Gourma : La 6ème région militaire bénéficiera d’un complexe social,” *Agence d’Information du Burkina*. Dabiré continued to serve as commander until February 26, 2025, by which time he had been promoted to the rank of colonel. See “6e région militaire : Le colonel Eric Dabiré passe le commandement au chef d’escadron Aboubacar Dadijan,” *Burkina24*.

⁸⁹³ Décret n°2022-0979/PRES-TRANS portant nomination des Commandants de Groupements des Forces.



Chain of Command for Békouré, Center-East Region, February 2023

Appendix II: Software-Assisted Analysis of Primary Sources

This appendix details the methodology used by Human Rights Watch to develop software that extracted and analyzed 36,243 news segments from the RTB YouTube channel, and 2,476 posts from ChirpWire channel. The collection period spanned from September 15, 2021, to April 23, 2025. The software generated a searchable database of locations, military units, dates, and—at times—individuals involved, which helped researchers corroborate witness accounts, confirm the involvement of key actors in atrocities, and support a broader effort to map the warring parties' chain of command.

Content Extraction

The software first extracted all available videos and posts published on both channels, then converted each item into a textual snapshot. For RTB news segments, this included the video title, description, date of publication, and a transcription of the video using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR). For ChirpWire posts, this included the post text, date of publication, any text extracted from images using Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and ASR transcriptions for embedded videos. Using this textual snapshot, the software then filtered for posts whose text contained mentions of armed activities and chain of command.

For each relevant post, a Large Language Model (LLM) then generated key information relevant to Human Rights Watch's research. Key information included: references to military operations, including military unit positioning or involvement in specific attacks, as well as references to the military chain of command, including names, ranks, and roles of members of the military.

Database Graphical User Interface (GUI)

Relevant posts, along with their textual snapshot and associated key information, were then stored in a database. For ease of analysis, Human Rights Watch developed an accompanying Graphical User Interface (GUI) which allowed the user to search for keywords and filter based on dates, location, military branch, military unit, and military officers' names. Researchers used these features to cross-reference witness accounts—for example, filtering by date and location to find reporting of an attack—and to reconstruct

missing parts of the military chain of command, such as identifying ranks or deployment updates for particular officers.

Report Impacts

Given that the software extracted, transcribed, filtered, and analyzed nearly 40,000 posts from the target sources, it enabled researchers to capture and cross-reference key information about the activities of perpetrators at a scale that would have otherwise been impossible to cover. Moreover, data collection allowed researchers to systematically draw from both state and JNIM sources, ensuring a more comprehensive and balanced coverage of the conflict.

For instance, the database was used to identify the chain of command of the military operation Tchéfari 2, conducted in December 2023 in the Sahel administrative region (see relevant chapter above). The software flagged a news segment covering the operation that included, among others, the names of military units, ranks of military officers, and locations.⁸⁹⁴ Using the GUI, researchers could search by date and location to locate the video, extract information about the military units involved, and corroborate witness accounts.

⁸⁹⁴ “52 sur la RTB : Opération Tchéfari ou le miel des guerriers dans une zone à haut risque de djibo,” video clip, YouTube, *RTB – Radiodiffusion Télévision du Burkina*, January 19, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC2EV8l45Ew> (accessed July 29, 2025).