

Forum: Security Council

Issue 2: The question of addressing insecurity, terrorism, and political instability in Mali and the wider Sahel region

Chairs: Claudia Monge & Yago Marantelli

The question of addressing insecurity, terrorism, and political instability in Mali and the wider Sahel region

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- [UNDP Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement](#)

Key Terms

Terrorism: the use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act.

Violent extremism: the holding of extreme political or religious views, coupled with the advocacy or use of illegal, violent, or other extreme measures to achieve one's goals.

Counterterrorism: Action taken to prevent the activities of political groups who use violence to try to achieve their aims.

Political instability: the propensity of a government collapse either because of conflicts or rampant competition between various political parties.

Governance: the framework by which organisations are directed and controlled. It identifies who can make decisions, who has the authority to act on behalf of the organisation and who is accountable for how an organisation and its people behave and perform.

Sovereignty: the power of a country to control its own government.

State fragility: a condition where a government lacks the capacity, authority, or legitimacy to fulfill its core responsibilities.

Peacekeeping: the efforts made to maintain or restore peace in conflict-affected areas, often through the deployment of international forces.

Internally displaced people: referred to as IDPs, have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, they remain within the borders of their own country.

Overview

The situation in Mali is one that also impacts the wider Sahel region , mainly Burkina Faso and Niger. The area has experienced the expansion of violent terrorist and extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda- affiliated and islamic-affiliated groups (UNDP journey to extremism in Africa) as well as many cross-border threats such as : armed groups and illicit trafficking (security council reports on Mali) . Furthermore , the weak governance and political instability is clearly linked to the rise in instability.

In 2012 Northern Mali experienced armed rebellion and state collapse which aided the creation of opportunities for extremist groups (MINUSMA background page) . Following these events , MINUSMA was established in 2013 in order to endorse stabilisation , civilian protection and the deployment of peace strategies. Yet , despite this violence and extremism continued to spread throughout the region and military coups occurred in the following regions : Mali , Burkina Faso , and Niger (UNOWAS). On December 1st 2023 , MINUSMA withdrew from the Sahel region due to the military junta's request for it to be terminated (UN news).

Over the years there have been frameworks , missions and organisations created in order to control the security concerns and instability in the region. MINUSMA targets stabilisation, the protection of civilians , endorsement of political processes and peace implementation (MINUSMA mission page) . The African Union centres around terrorism and extremism prevention , promotion of governance and security coordination (AU peace and security council) . ECOWAS' focus is the maintenance of democratic governance and the prevention of coups (UNOWAS reporting on regional responses) .

There are a plethora of humanitarian concerns linked to the instability in the wider Sahel region. A key concern is the displacement of people within their nations due to the violence and instability in the region. Furthermore, the conflict has exacerbated living conditions in the region - worsening food insecurity; creating limited education and healthcare access (UN news). What is more, women and children are affected in a greater manner.

Statistics & Infographics

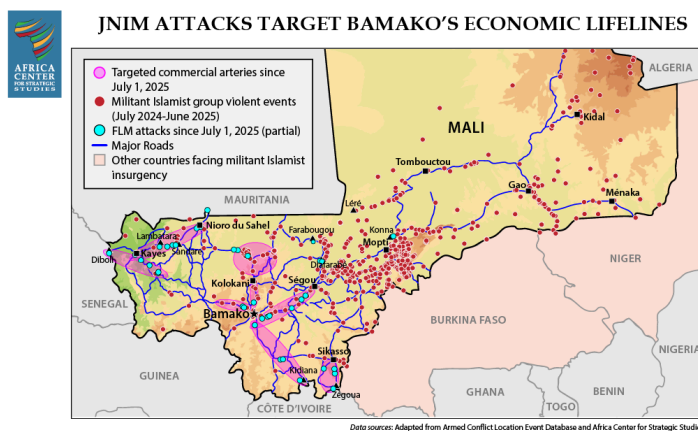


Figure 1

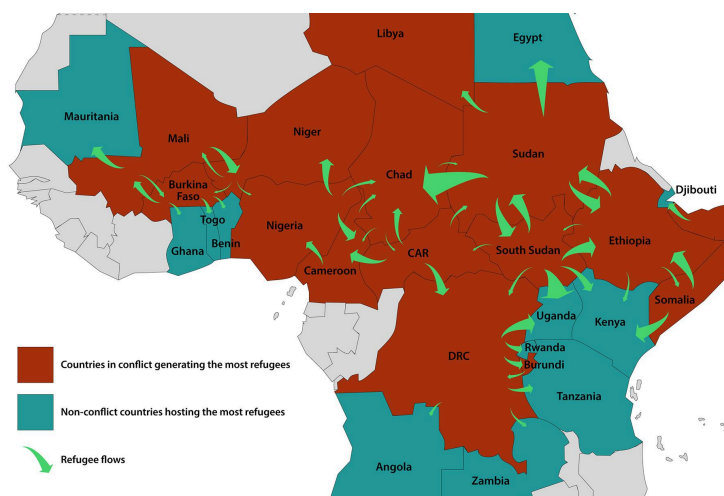
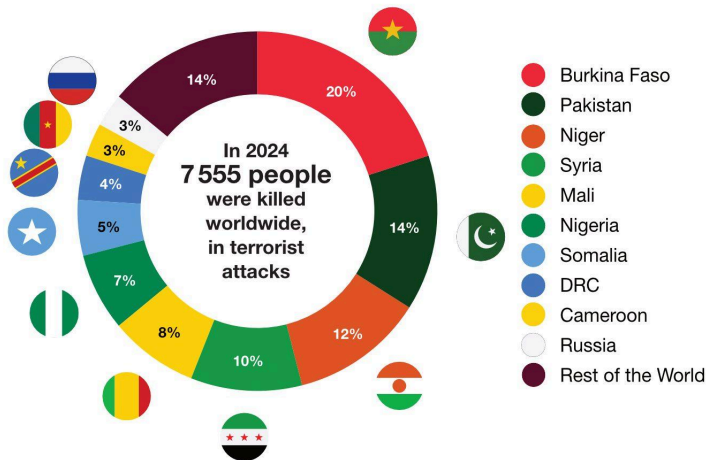


Figure 3

The Sahel is the Global Epicentre of Terrorism

Percentage of deaths, caused by acts of terrorism in 2024, by country



Source: Institute of Economics and Peace

Figure 4

Timeline

Jan 2012	A Tuareg rebellion led by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) began in northern Mali. Armed extremist groups subsequently expanded their influence amid weakening state authority.
March 2012	Mali experienced a military coup, further weakening state institutions and security structures.
2013	The UN establishes the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali through Security Council Resolution 2100.
2015	Signing of the Algiers Peace Agreement.
2017	UNDP publishes Journey to Extremism in Africa.
2020 - 2021	Two military coups occur in Mali.
2022	Two military coups occurred in Burkina Faso.
2023	Military coup in Niger and MINUSMA's mandate is terminated and the mission begins withdrawal.
2024 - Present	Terrorism, humanitarian crises, displacement, and governance

	challenges persist across the Sahel.
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Major Parties

Mali– it serves as the geographical epicentre for crime and extremist groups whilst its political instability consistently impacts neighbouring states. Furthermore , its uncontrolled borders aid and abet transnational trafficking systems.

Burkina Faso– it is the intersection of Mali , Niger and west africa and considered to be the epicentre of jihadist activity . The counterterrorist efforts depend on its regional stability.

Niger – it is considered a major party due to its geographical position (bordering Mali and Burkina Faso) as well as due to its involvement in counterterrorism

France – France is a major party , addressing the wider conflict in the sahel in order to prevent regional instability and to provide national protection against terrorism.

United States – involves itself in the conflict to prevent the Sahel region from becoming a safe haven for extremist groups; to prevent Russian geopolitical expansion and to safeguard precious minerals found in the region.

Possible Solutions

The Security Council at RCMUN 2026 should be in full cooperation to find solutions working to ensure that terrorism and political instability is minimised in Mali and the wider Sahel regions. The United Nations should aim to create an organisation that provides humanitarian aid in the region. Furthermore , intervention mechanisms should be discussed in the forum. Taking into account the opinions and requests of all nations, the Security Council will create a solution that is beneficial to the global community.

Committee Objective

The objective of the security council is to develop comprehensive, practical, and collaborative solutions to address terrorism, insecurity, and political instability in Mali and the wider Sahel region. Delegates should seek to strengthen governance, improve regional and international cooperation, protect civilians and human rights, and support humanitarian assistance, while respecting state sovereignty and promoting long-term peace, stability, and sustainable development throughout the region.

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