



## Russian Federation Delegation Visits IMCTC Headquarters



On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received H. E. the Deputy Director of the National Defense Control Center of the Russian Federation, Lt. Gen. Iskuskov Oleg Ivanovich and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed a number of issues of common interest as well as opportunities and prospects for cooperation between the two sides in countering terrorism. The delegation was also fully briefed on IMCTC's duties and achievements across the four domains of counter-terrorism, namely ideology, communications, counter-terrorist financing and military domains. The visiting delegation toured IMCTC headquarters, and was briefed on the latest developments pertaining to countering terrorism for the purpose of enhancing international cooperation and coordination in this field.. (To be continued on Page 8)

## EASF Delegation Visits IMCTC Headquarters



On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received a delegation from the East African Standby Force (EASF) Secretariat, led by H. E. the Secretary-General of the Force, Brig. Gen. Paul Kahuria Njema. The meeting included a briefing on IMCTC and EASF and a discussion of all the means of joint cooperation between the two sides that could serve to improve the working system and serve the desired interests of IMCTC Member States. (To be continued on page 9).

## Guinea Dispatches its Delegate to IMCTC Headquarters



On Thursday, April 18, 2024, IMCTC received Naval Capt. Oumar Bokoum, delegate of the Republic of Guinea, to assume his duties at IMCTC headquarters. IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, welcomed the delegate of the Republic of Guinea, and wished him success in performing his duties. Worthy of note is that the Republic of Guinea is an IMCTC Member State and is sending its first delegate to IMCTC premises, thus bringing the number of countries that have already dispatched their delegates to IMCTC headquarters to thirty-four.





## IMCTC CELEBRATES EID AL-FITR

On Monday, April 16, 2024, IMCTC held a celebration for the delegates of its Member States and its staff members on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr (following the fasting month of Ramadan). During the celebration, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi delivered a speech in which he thanked the Almighty Allah for completing the fasting of the blessed month of Ramadan. His Excellency extended his congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, as well as HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, and all members of the esteemed Council. His Excellency also congratulated the leaders and peoples of IMCTC Member States, calling upon the Almighty Allah to bless everyone with permanent security, prosperity and stability. On this occasion, IMCTC Secretary General congratulated the delegates of Member States and IMCTC staff members and asserted the importance of implementing the directives of the leaders of IMCTC Member States to eradicate terrorism and eliminate its causes. He further thanked the delegates of Member States and IMCTC staff members

and reminded them of IMCTC vision and mission, and particularly highlighted the hopes built on IMCTC to become an influential global leader and successful role model for all global efforts seeking to maintain international peace and security all over the world. In his speech, Al-Moghedi praised all the efforts, dedication, hard work and sense of responsibility shown by IMCTC staff. He concluded his speech by urging all IMCTC delegates and staff members to aspire for more success via excellent and constructive achievements, quality initiatives, and innovative programs adapting with the future. He also stressed the importance of adopting modern and advanced counter-terrorism concepts with a one-team spirit within IMCTC's advanced technical environment, hoping that the outcomes of these programs will be up to the ambitions of IMCTC leaders, societies, and peoples. In the end, Al-Moghedi pointed out that IMCTC strategy has become a working constitution and a launching pad for developing initiatives, programs and implementation mechanisms in line with the changing strategic environment of international terrorism.











# Drama and Violence

By Dr. Nuwair Al-Qahtani  
Researcher at the Department of Studies and Research

Visual media play a pivotal role in terms of influence because they have a great impact on the process of knowledge and the information acquired by the public. These media also affect the formation of attitudes and inclinations, a process that has advantages, yet poses a danger when the material transmitted to the viewer or spectator is packed with scenes of violence and terrorism. These effects draw attention to the role of TV series in broadcasting scenes that may reflect or promote sectarian or ethnic racism or even justify acts of violence. Directors, authors, and actors thus employ films and series to present an influential picture to viewers about various issues, including violence.

**In this context, we can raise the following question: Is it possible that violent drama could be a new motive for terrorism?**

Answering this question requires a closer look at drama series and serials shown by some channels, based on the fact that the content shown on television influences the audience, and here lies the danger of shaping the viewer's attitudes and behaviors. Communication scientists and experts concerned with terrorism issues both agree that there is a mutual relationship between the media and terrorism. They liken this relationship to a partnership between two companies or institutions, one creating and the other marketing an event. Terrorism creates the event and drama undertakes its marketing. However, it cannot be fully maintained that the primary purpose of drama is always to market and promote the event. Sometimes, drama sponsors only seek to present new ideas, garner success and fame, and arouse dramatic feelings in the audience. The producers and directors of drama series are always keen to observe these essential points, but sometimes they fall into this trap without being intentionally aware of it.

Regardless of the good/bad intentions, the goal pursued by counter-terrorism studies and articles is to achieve sound intellectual orientation and the proper application of all measures that could eliminate terrorism, starting with dramas packed with

scenes of violence. The danger of these works lies in the audience's imitation of these films or series shown on TV. Educational psychology describes this kind of influence as a behavior acquired through an ideal model appealing to and imitated by the recipient.

For example, a movie scene of the Joker, which depicts the life of a complex character, was re-enacted in real life when a young Japanese, dressed in a Joker costume, attacked passengers aboard a train with a knife. The young man who took advantage of Halloween caused the injury of 17 people, as if he were re-enacting a scene from the film on a New York City subway train. The Joker character in the film stabbed three young men to death in a wave of hysterical laughter. During the investigation, the accused young man did not deny his admiration for the Joker's character and said that he wanted to kill as many people as he could.

Al Arabiya News Channel quoted an expert in criminology, saying: "Crime is an act that has existed since the creation of humanity, and its methods have always developed with the passage of time. However, we cannot overlook the role of drama in creating a societal scene devoid of any morals and principles, a scene that shies away from rectifying or correcting the corruption that has overwhelmed our life over the years. In this context, the thief becomes a hero, and the murderer a psychopath or sometimes a person under compelling circumstances."

In its issue no. 5681, dated Saturday, May 4, 2024, Al-Bilad newspaper published that, in 2004, Michael Hernandez, a fourteen-year-old teenager, stabbed his middle school classmate to death. Michael admitted that he was imitating the behavior of a serial killer in the film *American Psycho*, and said that he felt sympathetic towards crime and horror movie killers, shared their feelings, and sought to copy their behavior in his real life so as to become a serial killer. The same article also highlighted the crimes caused by a film entitled *Natural Born Killers*. A series of crimes, not simply a casual incident, were inspired by this film.



All these crimes comprised scenes of massacres of more than one person. In the United States, two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, carried out a school massacre using firearms that resulted in the killing of 12 students and one teacher, and injuring 21 more students. Harris and Klebold even committed suicide after the shooting. The firearms used in the shooting and the mass killing were the same as those used in the film. The United Kingdom completely banned the showing of the same film after another massacre was perpetrated in Dunblane High School in Scotland on March 13, 1996, where Thomas Hamilton killed 16 students and teachers, and injured 15 others before committing suicide.

Likewise, the action of the famous gory horror film series *Saw* revolves around two people, Adam and Lawrence, who wake up to find themselves chained next to a cassette tape, ordering each of them to kill his companion in order to survive. In connection with this film, an American mother reported her 14-year-old son and his 15-year-old friend to the police when she overheard them planning to kidnap and torture several people in the same manner as that indicated in the film.

### **Why do audiences get affected by series?**

- Selecting a favorite actor of the audiences to play the role of the gang leader, thus making it difficult to detach the feelings that the audience harbors for the actor from the violent, terrorist or horrifying behavior that he carries out against innocent people;
- Spotlighting this leader and his distinguished social status among his followers, and endowing him with heroic features;
- Stirring up feelings of admiration in the audience towards this figure. Despite the violent behavior carried out by the hero, the spotlight is thrown on situations where he may sometimes act nobly or generously, thus making the spectator unable to distinguish between truth and fiction or between good and evil;

- The promotion (through social media) of these characters by highlighting some of their actions and linking them with tokens of heroism, strength, nobility, and loyalty, thus incorporating a positive idea about this character in the younger generation;
- The poor cognitive background of the new and younger generations, which leads them to derive knowledge from social media and TV series without any intellectual reference;
- The distortion practiced in depicting dramatic scenes, such as showing gang leaders in heroic roles or in influential positions not subject to punishment or accountability, or letting them triumph in the end.

The bottom line is that violent drama, or films, which tend towards violence, have a major role in establishing crime and criminal behavior, even if doing so unintentionally. The multiple methods adopted by terrorist organizations to employ social media to deliver explosive media messages also play a major role in the emergence of the so-called "lone wolves" or "sleepers cells." In this context, all materials and content published and broadcast by print, audio and visual media, as well as cinema and social media, must be monitored and controlled. All relevant entities concerned with this issue must divide and share roles among themselves to eliminate these violent drama messages which have only afflicted communities in general with role-playing teenagers, thus leading to the dissemination of violence, terrorism, and crime. Therefore, it is necessary to activate media conventions that encourage virtue, elevate values, and establish ideals in societies, regardless of their type, affiliation, or way of thinking.



## Counter-Terrorism Efforts of the Arab Interior Ministers Council

Terrorism poses a major threat to all world countries, thus requiring a great number of countries and organizations to take several measures to reduce its risks. The Arab Interior Ministers Council has played a prominent role in countering terrorism. Within the context of its efforts to contain and eliminate this phenomenon, the Council took several measures, such as holding conferences and meetings, drawing up agreements and strategies, as well as laying down and circulating a wide range of counter-terrorism legislations and conventions for the use of its member states. The Council has also set guiding laws and created databases in relation to terrorism, coordinated the operations launched to pursue and prosecute terrorists, and sought to raise awareness of the dangers of terrorism. It has also been keen to strengthen cooperation with Arab and international counter-terrorism organizations and entities. Following is a review of the Council's major efforts in these various domains:

### ■ Conferences and Meetings

The annual conference of the officials responsible for countering terrorism in the Arab States has been held since 1998 within the framework of the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council. These conferences provide an opportunity for counter-terrorism officials in Arab states to exchange experiences and expertise. They also constitute an important forum for examining the various developments of this phenomenon and for proposing appropriate solutions.

### ■ Agreements, Strategies and Phased Plans

The Council has accomplished several achievements in this field, including the following:

#### 1. Counter-Terrorism Code of Conduct for Member States of the Arab Interior Ministers Council

The Council approved this Code in 1996. Under this Code, Member States undertake not to commit, attempt, or take part in any terrorist crimes in any manner whatsoever, and to prevent the use of their territories as a base for planning or executing such acts. These states also pledged to tighten the noose on terrorist groups, including the prevention of terrorists from infiltration into, or residence in, their territories, receiving or giving refuge to terrorists and saboteurs, or training, arming, or financing them.

#### 2. Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Phased Plans

The Council adopted this Strategy in 1997, which included a number of perspectives, components and objectives aimed to

coordinate counter-terrorism efforts of Arab States and to enhance cooperation with the international community in this respect. The Arab Bureau of Criminal Police, affiliated with the Council's General Secretariat, undertakes charge of the follow-up to the implementation of the Strategy by Arab countries and drafting a report to be submitted to the Council at its regular session.

#### 3. Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism

This Convention was signed at a joint meeting held between the Councils of Arab Ministers of Interior and Justice in Cairo in April 1998, out of a desire by Arab countries to strengthen their cooperation in the counter-terrorism domain. The two councils assigned a joint ministerial committee chaired by HRH Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, former honorary president of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, to set the executive procedures and forms required for the Convention. The committee adopted such procedures and forms at its meeting held in Tunisia on May 3, 2000, and assigned the Arab Bureau of Criminal Police to follow up on implementation of the Convention by Arab countries and to draft an annual report in this regard to be submitted to the two councils at their respective regular sessions. The Bureau was also assigned to follow up on executive procedures and forms with Member States and to evaluate them five years after their entry into force in early 2001.

Arab Convention on Combating Money-laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

This Convention was concluded by a joint committee of experts from the Councils of Arab Ministers of Interior and Justice, and

was signed at the joint meeting of the two councils held in Cairo on December 21, 2010.

#### 4. Arab Intellectual Security Strategy

The Arab Interior Ministers Council adopted this Strategy at its 30th session held in Riyadh on 13/3/2013. This Strategy aims to achieve a number of goals, including strengthening the intellectual security culture among Arab societies.

#### 5. Arab Strategy for Combating Money-laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

The Arab Interior Ministers Council adopted this Strategy at its 31st session held in Marrakesh on 12/3/2014. This Strategy aims to achieve a number of objectives, including, inter alia, combating and eliminating money laundering crimes, preventing the use of laundered funds, and strengthening and integrating the roles of the Arab security and banking sectors in maintaining the security of the Arab economy on the one hand, and achieving the security and stability of all Arab countries on the other hand.

#### 6. Arab Strategy for Combating the Illicit Proliferation of Weapons in the Arab Region

The Arab Interior Ministers Council adopted this Strategy at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session held in Tunisia on March 2, 2016. This strategy aims to achieve a number of goals, including, inter alia, preventing and countering the smuggling of weapons of various types across national borders and securing the various entry ports (land, air, sea). It also aims to enhance the capabilities of Member States to address the impacts of the illicit proliferation of weapons, and to provide appropriate mechanisms for achieving this purpose. The Strategy also focuses on raising the awareness of Arab people about the negative effects of the illicit possession and circulation of weapons, as well as the serious repercussions of this phenomenon on social security, and on encouraging these people to support government policies aimed at combating this illicit activity.

#### ■ Digests of counter-terrorism legislation and concluded agreements

In the context of implementing the phased plans of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Secretariat carried out the following tasks:

- Preparing a digest of counter-terrorism legislation in force in Arab Member States and circulating it to the interior ministries in Arab states for their use.
- Preparing a digest of bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism agreements and disseminating it to all Member States.

In the Field of Guiding Laws:

As part of its keenness to provide guiding legal frameworks to Arab countries in enacting or amending counter-terrorism legislations, the Council adopted and circulated two model laws in 2002 for the use of Member States, namely:

- The Arab Model Law on Combating Terrorism; and
- The Arab Model Law on Weapons, Ammunitions, Explosives and Hazardous Material.

#### Model Plans

Within the scope of its implementation of the phased plans of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Secretariat has drafted a set of model plans to address this phenomenon in its various aspects. The following model plans were circulated for the benefit of Member States:

- Two model plans to address terrorist acts, one of which focused on the legal aspects, while the second focused on the practical field.
- A model plan to combat aircraft hijacking and liberate hostages;
- A model plan to raid organized crime gangs;
- A model plan to counter terrorist acts on transportation means;
- A model plan to protect public facilities from riots;
- An Arab security plan to address terrorist acts on board boats and ships.
- A model plan to enhance the intelligence role in detecting terrorist plots.

#### Procedures for the Prosecution of Terrorists

The Department of Criminal Prosecution and Data within the General Secretariat carries out the following procedures in the context of prosecuting terrorists:

- Activating cooperation between Arab countries with respect to the procedures for pursuing, investigating, and arresting fugitives convicted of terrorist offences;
- Coordinating between Arab countries in terms of exchanging information on terrorism issues;
- Receiving and disseminating requests for searches and discontinuance of searches for fugitives charged with or convicted of terrorist offences;
- Conducting periodic revisions of the blacklist of plotters, executors and financiers of terrorist acts and circulating the list among Member States;
- Feeding the General Secretariat's database of terrorist fighters with information and making it available to Member States for their use in addressing this phenomenon in collaboration with the other Arab countries.

#### Media Awareness of the Threats of Terrorism

The Arab Interior Ministers Council has attached great importance to the role of media awareness in combating terrorism, given the major role that such awareness plays in addressing this serious phenomenon. Hence, the Council has adopted a set of procedures, including the following:

- Setting awareness plans
- Production of Awareness-Raising Films
- Issuing Press Releases

#### Cooperation with Arab and International Organizations

The Arab Interior Ministers Council has been keen to cooperate with Arab and international entities and organizations concerned with countering terrorism. At the Arab level, the Council maintains close ties with other Arab specialized ministerial councils and organizations operating within the framework of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The General Secretariat regularly participates in the meetings of the Arab Expert Group on Counter-Terrorism and the Permanent Expert Group on Monitoring the Role of Arab Media in Countering Terrorism. At the international level, the General Secretariat has concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) that outlines aspects of cooperation on criminal issues, including terrorism. It also engages in constructive cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

*The article was taken from the website of the Arab Interior Ministers Council via the following link.*

*بجهود وإنجازات / في مجال مكافحة الإرهاب (aim-council.org)*



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During the meeting, IMCTC Secretary General pointed out that by founding IMCTC and hosting its headquarters, this initiative by the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sought to deliver a global message. It called upon the whole world to reject violence and extremism and stressed the necessity of cooperation, solidarity, integration, and participatory action between all countries and organizations to defeat the scourge of terrorism which has exhausted the resources of many world countries. He also emphasized that terrorism knows no religion, color, race, or geographical borders. At the conclusion of the visit, Lt. Gen. Iskuskov Oleg Ivanovich expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by IMCTC, and lauded its effective role in strengthening regional and global stability. His Excellency also stressed the importance of extending bridges of bilateral cooperation between the Russian Federation and IMCTC in counter-terrorism fields and domains.





## EASF Delegation Visits IMCTC Headquarters



On Tuesday, April 23, 2024, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received a delegation from the East African Standby Force (EASF) Secretariat, led by H. E. the Secretary-General of the Force, Brig. Gen. Paul Kahuria Njema. The meeting included a briefing on IMCTC and EASF and a discussion of all the means of joint cooperation between the two sides that could serve to improve the working system and serve the desired interests of IMCTC Member States.

The visiting delegation was given an extensive tour of IMCTC headquarters and was briefed on IMCTC's latest publications and studies across the four domains of counter-terrorism, namely ideology, communications, counter-terrorist financing and military domains. The delegation was also briefed on the monitoring and follow-up operations conducted by IMCTC, and the relevant reports and statistics in this regard. H. E. the Secretary-General emphasized the significance of this visit as part of the ongoing joint efforts between counter-terrorism organizations and centers and as a means for opening greater horizons for solidarity and participatory action in all matters aimed at countering terrorism. His Excellency praised EASF for its crucial role in promoting security and stability within the East African region. By supporting regional and continental efforts, enhancing military capabilities, and fostering cooperation among East African countries, EASF's efforts included intervention in crises, conflicts and humanitarian operations, as well as provision of military support and assistance to Member States in emergency situations.

For his part, the head of EASF delegation, Brig. Gen. Paul Kahuria Njema lauded IMCTC tireless work and achievements in countering terrorism, and stressed the importance of IMCTC efforts in serving both civil and military sectors across its Member States, noting the rapprochement and great cooperation between the two sides to serve the interests of the relevant countries in eliminating the scourge of terrorism that has exhausted the resources of many world countries.

In addition, this meeting affirmed the strategic value of the visit, namely as a means to strengthen bridges of cooperation between the various counter-terrorism entities and bodies, and to expand joint efforts aimed at countering terrorism and defeating extremism. IMCTC Secretary-General drew attention to the active role played by EASF in ensuring stability and peace in the region. EASF serves as a cornerstone within regional and continental efforts to enhance military capabilities and strengthen cooperation between East African countries, and its contributions included responding to crises, humanitarian operations, future directions, and common ambitions. It is worth noting that this visit reflects the commitment of IMCTC and EASF to continuous and joint cooperation in countering terrorism and ensuring the security and stability of the region and the world at large, thus emphasizing international cooperation and solidarity in the face of contemporary security challenges.

## Republic of Togo's 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day



On Sunday, April 28, 2024, the delegate of the Republic of Togo to IMCTC, Lieut. Col. Aboubakari Salifou, held a ceremony on the occasion of the 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of his country. The ceremony was attended by H. E. the IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, and the delegates of IMCTC Member States. Lieut. Col. Salifou delivered a speech on this occasion expressing his gratitude to H. E. the Secretary General of IMCTC and to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for providing the opportunity for delegates of IMCTC Member States to celebrate the national days of their countries. He also praised the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, as well as HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, for their humanitarian vision and wisdom, which resulted in the inception of IMCTC to create a climate of peace and stability in the world and to disseminate a true image of the Islamic religion. The greatest evidence to this vision, he added, was the holding of the 2nd meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of IMCTC Member States in Riyadh on February 3, 2024, where initiatives were put forward to assist Member States in countering the threats of terrorism.

Togoland, as a former German colony, remained a German protectorate from 1884 to 1916, after the signing of a protection treaty between the German Commissioner Gustav Nachtigal and Ewe King Mlapa III of Togoville on July 5, 1884. After the defeat of Germany in World War I at the hands of the French and British allies coming from Dahomey, which is present-day Benin, and from the Gold Coast, which is present-day Ghana, Togoland was partitioned between France and Britain. The first partition, a part of present-day Togo with an area of 56,600 km<sup>2</sup>, was placed under the guardianship of the League of Nations and then entrusted to France, while the other partition of Togoland, with an area of 33,800 km<sup>2</sup>, was placed under the supervision of Great Britain and annexed to a former British

colony, now Ghana.

Togo remained under colonial rule until April 27, 1960, the date on which the people of the country snatched their international sovereignty from the hands of the French colonialists. Then the country was given a seat in the United Nations.

Following the UN-supervised elections, Mr. Sylvanus Olympio was elected the first President of Togo, and the Togolese flag was raised throughout the national territory of the country. The national motto of Togo is "Work, Liberty, Homeland". Togo is a secular state with a population of about 8 million people. The current president of the Republic is Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe.

Togo remains true to its mission and commitment to peace. It is considered the "Switzerland of Africa" due to its beauty, vegetation, fertility of its lands, its peaceful population, and above all, to the atmosphere of peace and solidarity which the country enjoys. The presence of Togolese delegates in IMCTC and their modest contribution to the war against terrorism stands as evidence to this peaceful approach. Togo also does not hesitate to engage its troops wherever peace is threatened. However, while Togo is fulfilling its promises to send its military forces as part of peacekeeping missions in countries plagued by internal conflicts and external aggression, it has also been facing a terrorist threat in its northern territory since September 11, 2018. This led to the creation of an operational force called the Kondjoaré Operations Force. Despite the ongoing efforts of the Government to provide the latest war equipment to its defense and security forces to be able to address this terrorist threat, the civilian and military population continue to be subjected to mass killings and assassinations day after day.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, IMCTC Secretary-General and all attendees offered their sincere congratulations to the delegates of the Republic of Togo, and wished continued progress and prosperity to these delegates and to the Togolese people.

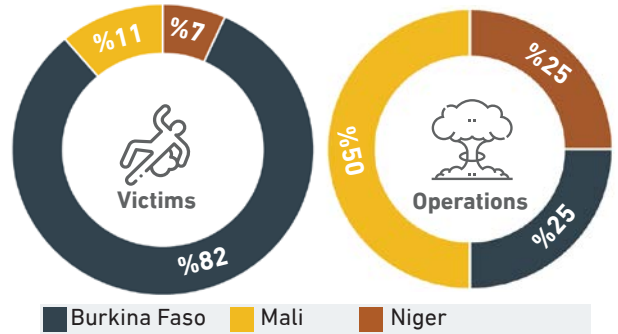


# Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during April 2024



During April 2024, the G5 Sahel Countries did not witness any change in the number of terrorist operations, as compared to March 2024, but these countries witnessed an increase in the total number of victims (deaths and injuries) by 8%, as compared to the previous month.

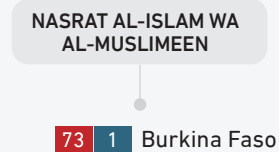
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (Deaths and Injuries)	
	Mar. 2024	Apr. 2024	Mar. 2024	Apr. 2024
Burkina Faso	1	= 1	27	↑ 73
Mali	1	↑ 2	2	↑ 10
Niger	1	= 1	23	↓ 6
Chad	1	↓ 0	7	↓ 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>= 4</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>↑ 89</b>



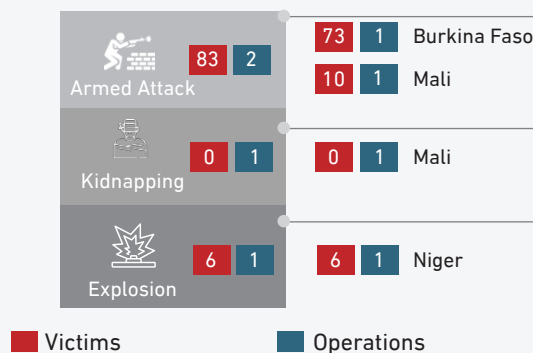
## Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Military Sector		Civilians	
	Victims	Operations	Victims	Operations
Burkina Faso	73	1	0	0
Mali	10	1	0	1
Niger	6	1	0	0
Chad	0	0	0	0

## Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



## Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



## Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso:** The Foreign Ministry in Burkina Faso ordered three French diplomats, including two political advisors, at the French embassy in Ouagadougou to leave the country after declaring them "persona non grata" due to so-called subversive activities.
- **Mali:** Sources in Mali reported that "terrorists" are likely holding more than 110 civilians in central Mali. Mali is a country located in the Sahel region and is facing a serious security crisis.
- **Niger:** The official media in Niger announced that military trainers arrived from Russia to Niger on a plane loaded with military equipment, as part of an agreement between the ruling military junta and the Russian president to enhance cooperation.
- **Chad:** The US Department of Defense announced that the

United States will temporarily withdraw some troops from Chad, days after announcing it would also withdraw troops from the neighboring Niger.

• **Mauritania:** The Mauritanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Malian ambassador to protest against the "repeated" attacks against Mauritians inside Malian territory. "This unacceptable situation persist despite the warnings that our country has been making on the occasion of similar incidents, based on the principle of preserving good fraternal relations and close ties between the Mauritanian and Malian peoples and maintaining the common interests between the two countries," the Ministry said in a statement.

## Terrorism Indicators and Trends in 2024

The activities of terrorist groups in the Middle East and its neighboring regions during 2023 were highlighted in an article published by the National Center for Middle East Studies in April 2024. These terrorist activities carried out in 2023 were characterized by the following:

- In the Horn of Africa and Central Africa Regions, terrorist operations have continued at an irregular pace (rising and falling). The Somali Al-Shabaab Movement continued to employ different forms of terrorist operations as part of its strategy to cope with the intensive security campaigns launched against the movement's strongholds in Somalia. Meanwhile, ISIS branches have been trying to re-organize their ranks in the region while continuing to conduct surprise and limited terrorist operations in some areas.
- The West Africa Region has witnessed an escalation of terrorist operations, followed by a number of political and security transformations. This region particularly represents a hotbed of armed conflict, and is likely to become the main hotbed of conflict throughout the coming period, especially after the decrease in the volume of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, which had remained as a hotbed of armed operations for many years.

### Possible Terrorism Trends in 2024

The threats of terrorism are likely to increase in the year 2024 amid the continued exacerbation of open armed conflicts (civil wars in many regions, the Israeli escalation in Gaza, and international conflicts). Moreover, there is a potential for

political unrest as a result of the continued deterioration of socio-economic conditions due to conflicts, disputes and natural disasters, in addition to the increasing risk of local conflicts expanding to a broader regional scale because of the clash of interests between many countries and groups. In this context, the expected trends of terrorist activities in 2024 might involve one or more of the following trends:

- Some terrorist and violent groups are likely to resort to a certain level of coordination or alliance in the face of government authorities in many regions. For example, the world may witness some coordination between ISIS and Al-Qaeda terrorist organizations in West Africa. Likewise, the pace of violence and terrorism is likely to rise in the West African region, especially following the withdrawal of international and regional troops from the region, and due to the fragile nature of border security in that region. Furthermore, terrorist groups may change their pattern of surprise armed attacks to another pattern focused on take-over and control of some regions.
- Terrorist operations carried out by the Al-Shabaab Movement are likely to continue in Somalia and Kenya, and the movement may attempt to reposition its presence in southern Somalia.



## IMCTC Congratulates Member States on their National Days

IMCTC congratulated the Republic of Senegal on the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Independence Day, on April 4, 2024. It also congratulated both the People's Republic of Sierra Leone on the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its Independence Day and the Republic of Togo on the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Independence Day, on April 26, 2024, wishing the three Member States and their peoples more security and prosperity. It is customary for world countries and their peoples to celebrate their national days since these occasions have a great impact in strengthening loyalty and patriotism.