Terrorist Operations In Africa

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Preamble

Despite the current global health crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, terrorist groups and rebel movements are still rampant in the African continent. This month, April 2021, at least 59 bloody attacks have been reported, causing the death of at least 886 people, the injury of about 265, as well as the kidnapping and displacement of many others.

The African Affairs Unit at Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights releases its April 2021 Monthly Report on Terrorist Operations in Africa, to track down the phenomenon of terrorism in all African countries. The report concludes with a number of recommendations that aim to promote Goal 16 of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development along with Aspiration 4 of the African Union Agenda 2063, including the principles of peace, justice, security and stability.
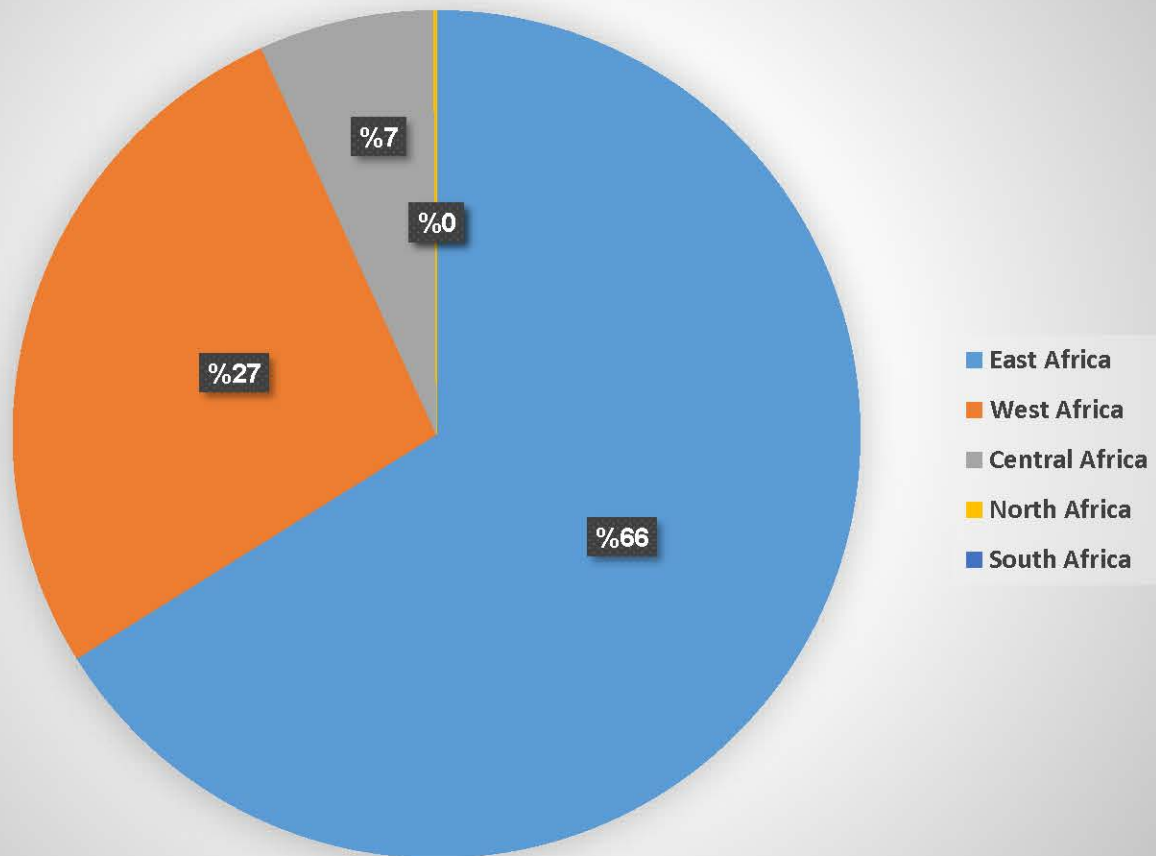
Indicators & Conclusions: What Do the Figures Say?!

A review of the terrorist operations Africa has witnessed throughout April 2021. These terrorist operations are classified according to three basic criteria:

A. The classification of terrorist operations according to geographical distribution

According to late observations, **East Africa** is the worst regions affected by terrorism, chiefly due to the bloody ethnic disputes in Ethiopia and Sudan. Not less than 26 bloody attacks have caused the death of 586 people and the injury of 179 others. **West Africa** came second with 240 deaths and about 92 injuries as a result of 25 terrorist attacks by Boko Haram extremist group. **Central African** came at third place, where extremist groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have launched nearly 5 bloody attacks, killing about 59 people and wounding 20 others. **North Africa** came at fourth place, with 3 attacks causing the death of one civilian in Libya and the injury of 5 others, this is not to mention the other continuous attacks by armed militias there. Finally, **South Africa** reported no casualties have throughout the month.
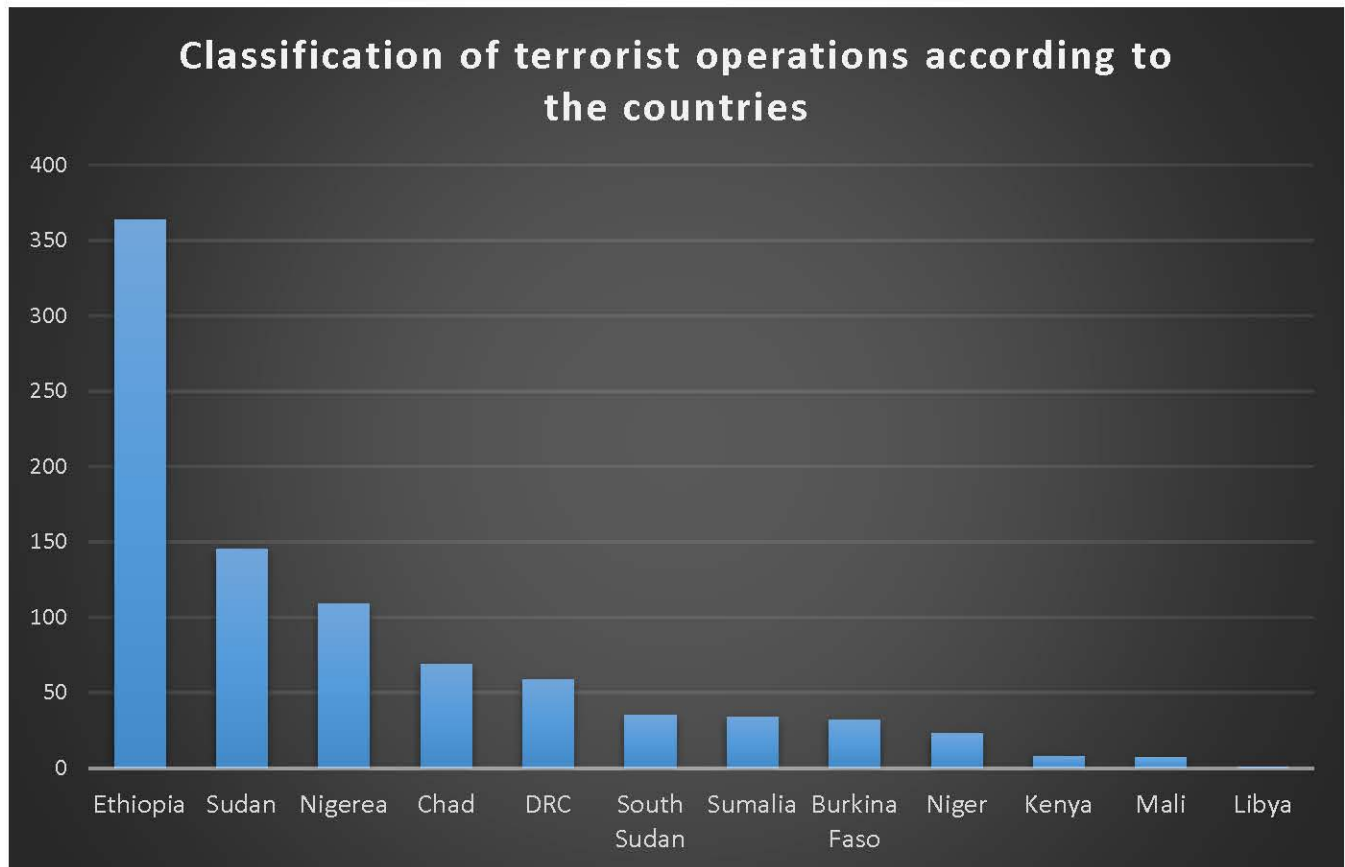
Classification of terrorist operations according to geographical distribution

Legend:
- East Africa
- West Africa
- Central Africa
- North Africa
- South Africa

%66, %27, %7, %0

B. Classification of terrorist operations according to the countries

Ethiopia topped the African countries with about 364 deaths, chiefly due to the ongoing ethnic disputes, followed by Sudan, where 145 people fell dead, then Nigeria at the third place with 109 victims, as a result of the heinous attacks by Boko Haram terrorist group, Chad, came at the fourth place with 69 deaths as a result of the escalating violence, the Democratic Republic of the Congo came fifth after 59 people were killed, South Sudan came sixth with 35 victims mainly as a result of tribal violence, Somalia came seventh after al-Shabaab militant managed to kill 34 people, both civilian and military, Burkina Faso came eighth with 32 victims as a result of terrorist operations on the border areas, the Niger came ninth with 23 deaths as result of the attacks of Boko Haram, Kenya came tenth with 8 victims, Mali came

eleventh after 7 People fell down, and finally Libya, came at last with one person killed by the rebel elements there.

Classification of terrorist operations according to the countries

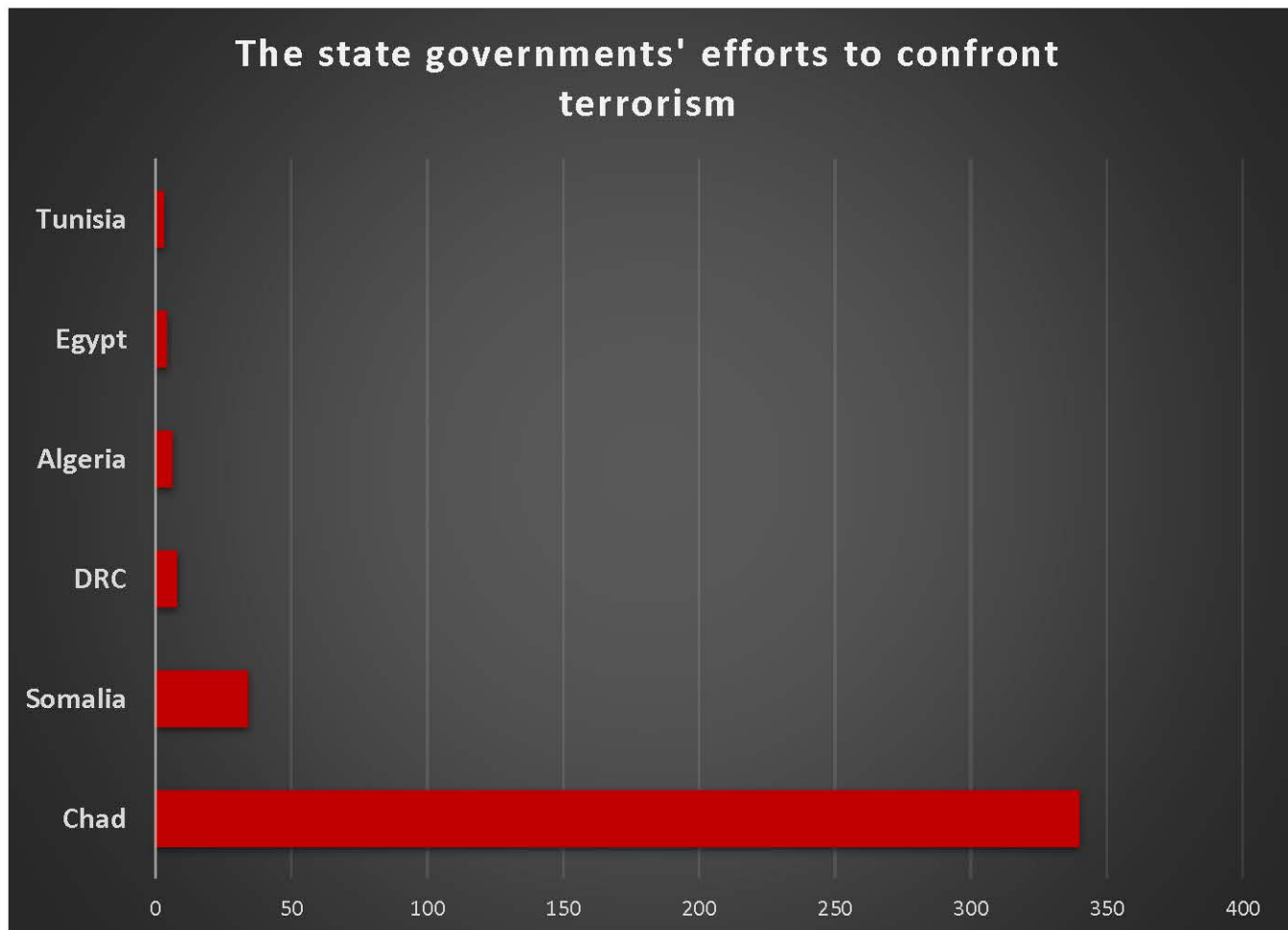| Country	Value
Ethiopia	~365
Sudan	~145
Nigerea	~108
Chad	~68
DRC	~58
South Sudan	~35
Sumalia	~34
Burkina Faso	~31
Niger	~22
Kenya	~8
Mali	~7
Libya	~1

C. The efforts of state governments to confront terrorism

This part focuses on the governments' responses to the terrorist attacks it have been subjected to throughout the month. Instead of focusing on the governments' general efforts to counter terrorism, this section highlights the number of extremist elements that have been killed by the governments. As a result of concerted regional efforts, 391 terrorist elements have been killed and 3 terrorist cells have been dismantled.

The government of Chad topped the list, as about 340 armed elements have been targeted and fell down; second came Somalia, which succeeded in neutralizing 34 terrorist elements; in the third place came the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which shot down 8 elements, and fourth, Algeria after it shot down 6 terrorist elements; fifth, Egypt, which shot down 4 terrorists; and sixth, Tunisia, where 3 takfirists were shot down and a number of terrorist cells were dismantled. As for

Nigeria, and as part of its efforts to confront the rampant terrorism in the continent, it deployed 144 soldiers in Somalia to participate in operations to secure the capital, Mogadishu, from terrorist attacks. In this race against terrorism, the government of South Africa sought to send a number of its forces to Mozambique within the framework of joint cooperation mechanisms between the two countries to address the threat of ISIS militia in the southern region.

The state governments' efforts to confront terrorism

Recommendations

Having observed the most prominent terrorist attacks in Africa during last April and having the results and extracted indicators, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents a number of recommendations in its endeavor to reduce the impact of terrorism:

First, Maat warns again that the escalating ethnic clashes has become no less dangerous than terrorism and extremist ideology, and reiterates its

recommendations to the current Ethiopian government on the need to activate the principles of dialogue and raise awareness among young men and girls, whether to resolve ethnic differences or to limit the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies.

Second, Maat recommends the current Sudanese government to put the current Darfur crisis on its list of political priorities, and work to activate the principles of the peace agreement signed in Juba to ensure the safety and security of the population, which has become one of the bloodiest spots in East Africa.

Third, Maat follows up the recent developments made by the Kenyan government in countering the attacks of the Somali Al-Shabaab movement, and recommends the current Somali government to create a new joint cooperation mechanism with the relevant authorities in the Kenyan government and to benefit from its experiences in clearing terrorist strongholds on its territory.

Fourth, the governments of Southern Sudan and Uganda should intensify joint security efforts between them and work to deploy military forces along the border road between them, which has become a primary targeting point for the rebel armed groups there.

Fifth, Maat is deeply concerned about the continued incursion of the Ethiopian militia and Ethiopian farmers into the Sudanese territories, which greatly threatens the safety and security of the Sudanese living on the border lands, and it reiterates its recommendations for the necessity of bringing Sudan and Ethiopia to the negotiation table and finding a middle ground between the two states.