

Burkina Faso: January 2019 SITREP and Chronology of Violent Incidents Related to Al- Qaeda affiliates Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) and Ansaroul Islam, and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)

February 4th, 2019

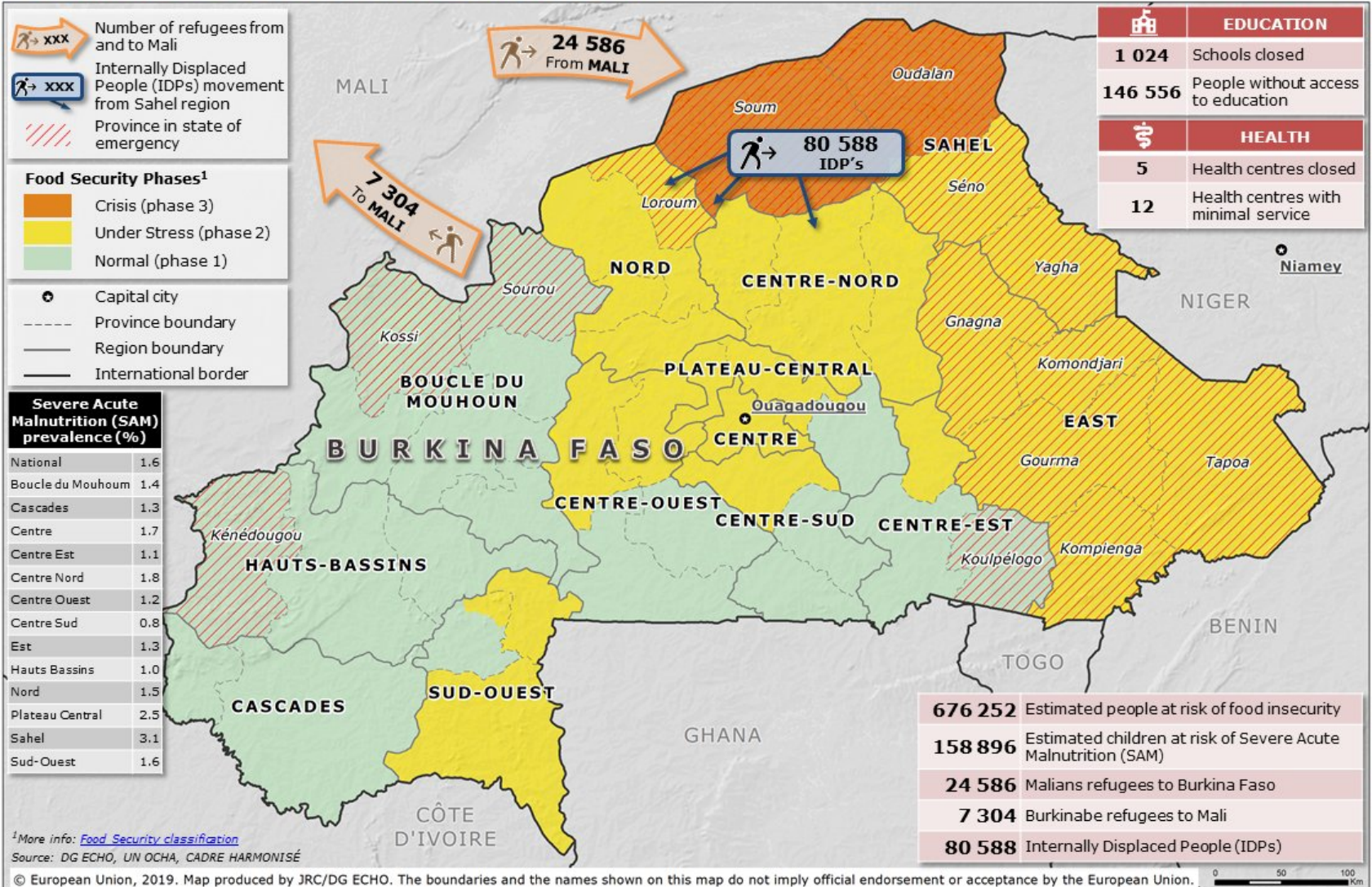
By Rida Lyammouri

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- January 2019 witnessed the kidnapping and killing of a Canadian citizen in Yagha Province, Sahel Region. An Italian and Canadian citizen been missing since mid-December and are presumed to have been kidnapped. They were last seen at Bob-Dioulasso, Houet Province, Hauts-Bassins Region. Circumstances of both incidents are different but going forward extreme vigilance is required while traveling in any parts of the country. While no group claimed latter kidnapping, the most likely scenario is that both hostages are handed to JNIM militant brigade and therefore been transferred to Mali. The likelihood of remaining in Burkina Faso is slim.
- January 2019 witnessed one of the worst, if not the worst, act of atrocity against civilians in recent history of Burkina Faso. Reportedly, between December 31 and January 2, Fulani villages were attacked by Koglweogo militiamen in Centre-Nord Region. Notable site of the attacks was Yirgou village but other villages nearby were also reported to have been targeted. Initial report put the number of victims between 50 and 76, however; [report](#) by local civil society organization (CSO) on February 1st put the number of casualties to be around 210 and could be more. Furthermore, the same CSO and victims lawyer claimed the attack against Fulani communities in those villages was planned and orchestrated, therefore calling it a “genocide.” Circumstances leading up to Yirgou massacre are unclear and difficult to confirm what exactly happened. However; the incident indicate the connection between acts of militant groups and inter-communal violence. Fulani communities continue to be perceived as backers of militant groups in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Reportedly, the assassination of a village chief by Ansaroul Islam or Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM) was the instigator Yirgou massacre.
- Hauts-Bassins Region was perceived relatively safe compared to the north, however recent weeks witnessed number of incidents. While some incidents appeared to be acts of banditry, others have militant groups signature. This trend likely to continue on the borders with Cote d’Ivoire and Mali in the southwest regions. Important to note that on January 18 at least five young demonstrators killed and eight others injured after clashing with local police at Orodara, Hauts-Bassins Region. Following the event the governor of Hauts-Bassins Region imposed three days curfew in Orodara. Other protests also took place in the region. Tensions between local authorities and population intensified, and exploitation by militant groups should not be ignored.
- On January 26 and following declaration of state of emergency on December 2018 Governor of Boucle du Mouhoun issued order to close for a week all markets and sale points of fuel at multiple locations where militant activities have been recorded. Desperate measures most likely to harm local communities and their livelihoods in addition to already dire humanitarian conditions (see next slide).
- JNIM suffered major setbacks in 2018 after number of its leaders killed by Barkhane in Mali mostly, however; JNIM will continue to pose serious threat and expand in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, thanks to their existing established networks. The group might take time to get re-organized but doesn’t appear to be short of weapons, equipment, or fighters. During January 2019 JNIM claimed responsibility for at least four deadly attacks in Burkina Faso (in addition to others in Mali). Attacks claimed exclusively targeted Burkinabe security forces while incidents of intimidation and against local public service installations were not claimed by neither JNIM or Ansaroul Islam or Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). Militants also targeted local entertainment installations (bars for example). With lack of permanent presence of capable security forces both trends will continue and highly likely to expand to other parts of the country.

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – DG ECHO Daily Map | 25/01/2019

Burkina Faso | Humanitarian Crisis



[01 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam militants assassinated municipal council of Pobé Mengao, Pobé Mengao Commune, Soum Province, Sahel Region.

[31 Dec 2018 - 02 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam carried an attack against the village of Yirgou, Centre-Nord Region. This attack against Yirgou village, which is inhabited mainly by Mossi ethnic group instigated a violent response by Koglweogo and Mossi self-defense militias against Fulani community in the area. The act of vengeance [caused death of between 50 and 76 civilians](#) from Fulani community. Among [casualties Yirgou village chief](#). The incident forced many families, more than 20,000 people to abandon their homes (see image to the right).



Yirgou displaced population. Source: Radio Omega Facebook Page.

[02 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam militants attacked police station in Tongomayel, Soum Province, Sahel Region after security forces supposedly abandoned the post due to lack of weapons. No casualties while building damaged and motorcycles set on fire.

[03 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam or JNIM militants attacked health center of Rimassa and Pelaboukou, Titao Commune, Nord Region and seized motorcycle belonging to the staff.

[04 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam or JNIM militants attacked and damaged local school of Petanaye, Titao Commune, Nord Region and seized motorcycle belonging to the staff.

[04 JAN 19](#): Suspected Ansaroul Islam or ISGS attacked gendarmerie station of Dan, Houet Province, Hauts-Bassins Region. The attack reportedly was repelled. Local witness stated presence of militants days prior to the attack in the area.

[06 JAN 19](#): Gendarmerie arrested 4 women in possession of grenades while arriving to Ouagadougou from Ouhigouya. The arrest happened at Yaghma checkpoint at the entrance of Ouagadougou.

07 JAN 19: Dozo militiamen clashed with unidentified militant members at Trimbio, Poni Province, Sud-Ouest Region according to the Ministry of Security. Arms, ammunition, and other equipment seized while militants managed to escape.

08 JAN 19: Unidentified gunmen seized motorbike belonging to veterinary agent while in vaccination mission in Dinguila village, Nord Region.

08 JAN 19: Suspected members of Ansaroul Islam or ISGS militants assassinated village chief of Tanli, Kompienga Province, Est Region.

08-09 JAN 19: Security forces repelled an armed assault by suspected Ansaroul Islam or ISGS militants against the police station of Comin-Yanga, Koulpelogo Province, Centre-Est Region.

10 JAN 19: Unidentified gunmen kidnapped then released five Malian refugees of Imghad Tuareg background under unclear circumstances near Dibissi, Oudalan Province, Sahel Region. Livestock were also seized by gunmen.

10 JAN 19: Suspected Ansaroul Islam or ISGS militants attacked local market of Gasseliki, Soum Province, Sahel Region. [Reportedly](#), at least 12 people killed and 2 injured, shops damaged and motorbikes seized by militants.

12 JAN 19: Water and forest agent killed and one guide injured by unidentified gunmen at the W national park, not far from Tapoa Djerma, Tapoa Province, Est Region.

14 JAN 19: Unidentified militant group attacked police station of border crossing at Yendéré, Cascades Region on the borders with Cote d'Ivoire. 1 civilian injured while building, vehicles, and other equipment damaged (see images). Two days earlier villagers killed two policemen who killed a civilian while firing warning shots.



15 JAN 19: Suspected JNIM or ISGS militants attacked mining site of Tiayangou, Mansila Commune, Yagha Province, Sahel Region. During the attack militants abducted a Canadian citizen identified as Kirk Woodman who is a Vice President of Progress Minerals. His was [found](#) dead the next day between Salmossi and Beiga, Sahel Region.

15 JAN 19: Suspected JNIM or ISGS militants attacked Gasseliki village, Soum Province, Sahel Region. At least 8 people killed and 2 injured.

15 JAN 19: Kisal NGO reported alleged execution of 7 civilians under unclear circumstances by Burkinabe security forces between Tanwalbougou and Piega villages, Gourma Province, Est Region.

15 JAN 19: Kisal NGO reported alleged execution of 5 civilians under unclear circumstances by Burkinabe security forces near Pama, Kompienga Province, Est Region. The 5 victims were traveling in a communal transportation vehicle.

18 JAN 19: Suspected members of JNIM or ISGS militants attacked and damaged local bar at Gorom-Gorom, Oudalan Province, Sahel Region. 1 civilian killed.

18 JAN 19: Suspected Macina brigade militants of JNIM assassinated municipal council at Derpon village, Loroum Province, Nord Region.

22 JAN 19: Unidentified gunmen attacked Sikiré village, a farming hamlet located about 10km from Arbinda, Soum Province, Sahel Region. 1 civilian killed, identified as traditional healer.

22 JAN 19: JNIM claimed responsibility for an IED attack against Burkinabe soldiers gathering in Djibo, Soum Province, Sahel Region. JNIM stated at least 3 soldiers killed. (right: JNIM statement #91)

تفجير لغم على تجمّع للجيش البوركيني في "جيبو" ولغم آخر على سيارة للجيش المالي في "موبتي" سقوط قتلى وجرّحى في صفوف القوات البوركينية وتدمير سيارة الجيش المالي

17 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 23 جانفي 2019 م [مؤسسة « الزلافة » / جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين]

بتوفيق من الله وفضله قام إخوانكم المجاهدون في "جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين" صباح يوم أمس الثلاثاء 16 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 22 جانفي 2019م بتفجير لغم أرضي على مكان لتجمّع الجيش البوركيني في قرية "جيبو" (بوركينافاسو) وتم ملاحظة سقوط قتلى وجرّحى في صفوف العدو. والله الحمد والمنة.

وفي مالي قام إخوانكم في "جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين" أول أمس 15 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 21 جانفي 2019م بتفجير لغم على سيارة للجيش المالي في ولاية "موبتي" (مالي) قرب منطقة "كونكرو" وتم تدمير السيارة بالكامل والحمد لله رب العالمين.

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24 JAN 19: JNIM militants carried an armed assault against police station of Mansila, Yagha Province, Sahel Region. No casualties, however the building and vehicles severely damaged ([see images](#)) while motorbikes and ammunition seized. JNIM claimed responsibility. (below statement #92)

هجوم على نقطة للدرك البوركيني في قرية "منسيلا"
السيطرة على البوابة وحرق سيارة وممتلكات للعدو وغنيمة ذخيرة و (03) دراجات
21 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 27 جانفي 2019 م [مؤسسة "الإلقة" / جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين]

بفضل الله وقوته وفي 18 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ الموافق لـ 24 جانفي 2018 م، قام إخوانكم المجاهدون في "جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين" بمهاجمة نقطة للدرك البوركيني في قرية "منسيلا" من ولاية "ياغا" (بوركينا فاسو)، فتتمت السيطرة على المكان وتفخيخه، وحرق سيارة وممتلكات للعدو، وغنيمة كمية من الذخيرة و(03) دراجات، ولا معلومات عندنا عن خسائر العدو البشرية، وانسحب المجاهدون سالمين غانمين والحمد لله رب العالمين.

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The aftermath of the Mansila attack by JNIM.

[25 JAN 19](#): Suspected JNIM or ISGS abducted then assassinated local notable and imam deputy of Boukari village, Oudalan Province, Sahel Region. His body was recovered between Petoy and Oursi.

26 JAN 19: Suspected JNIM or ISGS attacked village Solhan, Yagha Province, Sahel Region. A local bar was the target and have been severely damaged.

[26 JAN 19](#): Unknown gunmen seized ambulance and abducted two NGO workers of *Centre de Support en Santé Internationale (CSSI)* between Ouagadougou and Djibo.

[27 JAN 19](#): Suspected JNIM or ISGS militants carried an armed assault against Sikiré village, near Arbinda, Soum Province, Sahel Region. At least 10 people killed and 2 injured.

31 JAN 19: Suspected JNIM or ISGS destroyed local bar and ranger station at Kompiebiga, Kompienga Province, Est Region. Prostitutes were also beaten.

هجوم على قوات من وحدة مكافحة الإرهاب البوركينية

مقتل (04) من هذه الوحدة المجنبة وإصابة كثيرين آخرين وغنم أليات ودرجات وكميات جيدة من الأسلحة والخيرة وأمتعة كثيرة



26 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 01 فيفري 2019م [مؤسسة « الزلافة » / جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين]

بعد إعداد محكم وتوكل على الله عز وجل، تمكن إخوانكم المجاهدون في جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين من الإغارة على فوج لقوة مكافحة الإرهاب البوركينية وذلك في فجر يوم 22 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 28 جانفي 2019م في منطقة "ناسومبو" من ولاية "سوم" (بوركينا فاسو)، وتمكن الاخوة المجاهدون بفضل الله من السيطرة الكاملة على مقر الفوج والفضاء على (04) عناصر من وحدة مكافحة الإرهاب وجرح كثيرين آخرين وتدمير الموقع بشكل كبير، كما غنم المجاهدون في هذه الغزوة المباركة -إن شاء الله- : (01) سيارة و(05) دراجات نارية و(01) مدفع عديم الارتداد SPG9 و(16) كلاشنيكوف و(03) رشاشات بيكا و(05) قواذف ار بي جي RPG و(02) مسدس و(25) صندوق ذخيرة بيكا و(09) صندوق ذخيرة "دسك" و(04) صندوق ذخيرة كلاشنيكوف و(41) قذيفة ار بي جي RPG و(93) هواتف محمولة و(01) حاسوب، كما قام المجاهدون بإحراق العديد من الأليات والغنائم التي لا يحتاوتها.

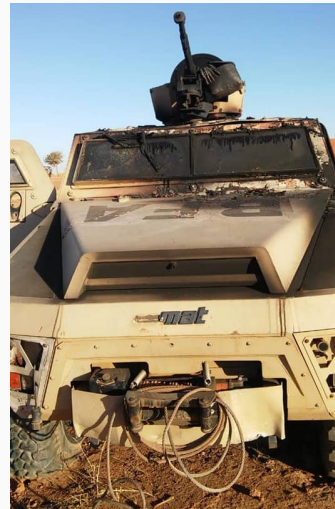
ونقول للحكومة البوركينية ولقواتها العميلة، إن حربنا معكم لا هودة فيها وإن مشاركتكم في الحلف الفرنسي الصليبي لغزو مالي وتمكين فرنسا من اعادة احتلال كل المنطقة احتلالا مباشرا مرة أخرى، سيجعلكم أهدافا مشروعة لنا ولن نألوا جهدا في استهدافكم حتى نحرركم ونحرق آخر جندي فرنسي أو صليبي عن ديارنا، والله أكبر والله العزة ولسوله وللمؤمنين ولكن المنافقين لا يعلمون.

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28 JAN 19: JNIM militants carried an armed assault against anti-terrorism unit GFAT (*Groupement des Forces Anti-terroristes*) in Nassoumbou, Soum Province, Sahel Region. At least 4 soldiers killed and 5 injured while vehicles destroyed and arms seized by militants. JNIM claimed responsibility and to have seized 1 vehicle, 5 motorbikes, 41 RPG, ammunition, and other equipment. (left: JNIM statement #97).

30 JAN 19: JNIM carried an attack against army post in Kompianbiga, Kompianga Province, Est Region. JNIM claimed responsibility and stated that at least 10 soldiers were killed while Burkinabe statement reported 1 soldier injured. (see images. Source: Facebook). (right: statement #98)



هجوم على تمرکز للجيش البوركيني في منطقة "كونبينايبغا" وقتل وجرح ما لا يقل عن 10 جنود

وحرقت مدرعتين و(03)سيارات للعدو وغنم (02) سلا بيكا و (09) سلاح كلاشنيكوف و(02) أر بي جي



27 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ / 02 فيفري 2019م [مؤسسة « الزلافة » / جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين]

بفضل الله وقوته تمكنت سرية من "جماعة نصرة الإسلام والمسلمين"، وذلك يوم 24 جمادى الأولى 1440 هـ الموافق لـ 30 جانفي 2019م من الإغارة على تمرکز للجيش البوركيني العميل في منطقة "كونبينايبغا" من ولاية "كونبينايبغا" (بوركينا فاسو) فتمكنوا بفضل الله من السيطرة على المكان وإيقاع ما لا يقل عن (10) جنود بين قتيل وجريح، وحرقت (02) مدرعتين و(03) سيارات للعدو، وغنم (02) سلاح بيكا و (09) سلاح كلاشنيكوف و(02) أر بي جي RPG.

وانسحب المجاهدون سالمين غانمين والحمد لله رب العالمين.

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