



CEP – KAS - Monitoring Sahel

By Pieter Van Ostaeyen

Report X – (February 2, 2023 – February 9, 2023)

February 2:

an-Naba' 376

المرتد، في بلدة (نغالا) بمنطقة (برنو)، ودارت اشتباكات بالأسلحة المتنوعة، أسفرت عن مقتل عنصر وإصابة آخرين وفرار البقية، ولله الحمد. بدورها قصفت مفارز الإسناد في نفس اليوم، معسكرا للجيش فتوري) بمنطقة (برنو)، بقذيفتي

التفاصيل ص ٥

مقتل وإصابة ١٠ من الجيش النيجيري المرتد وتدمير آلية بثلاث هجمات بولاية غرب إفريقية

سقط نحو ١٠ قتلى وجرحى على الأقل الخلافة بمنطقة (برنو) شمال النيجيري المرتد، في بلدة (مالم من الجيش النيجيري هذا الأسبوع شرقي نيجيريا. ودُمرت إحدى آلياتهم، وتعرّض وفي التفاصيل، بتوفيق الله تعالى هاون، وكانت الإصابة محققة، معسكر لهم لقصف بقذائف الهاون، هاجم جنود الخلافة في يوم الخميس ىثلاث هجمات منفصلة لجنود (٤/رجب) حاجزا للجيش النيجيري

Translation:

10 murtad Nigerian soldiers killed and wounded, one of their vehicles destroyed in three attacks by ISWAP

At least ten Nigerian soldiers were killed or wounded this week, one of their vehicles was destroyed. One of their army camps was shelled with mortars in three different attacks in the area of (Borno) in North-Eastern Nigeria. By the grace of God Almighty, on Thursday (Rajab 4) soldiers of the Caliphate attacked a roadblock of the murtad Nigerian army in the village of (Ngala) in the area of (Borno) and engaged them with a variety of weapons. One was killed, two wounded, the rest fled, praise be God. In turn, on that same day they mortarbombed supporting forces, an army camp of the murtad Nigerian armed forces, in the village of (Malam Fotori) in the area of (Borno). The damage was significant.



Translation:

At least ten Nigerian soldiers were killed or wounded this week, one of their vehicles was destroyed. One of their army camps was shelled with mortars in three different attacks in the area of (Borno) in North-Eastern Nigeria

One killed in an attack on an army roadblock

By the grace of God Almighty, on Thursday (1 Rajab) the soldiers of the Caliphate attacked an army roadblock in the village of (Ngala) in the area of (Borno). The attack was conducted with a variety of weapons, one of them was killed, two others wounded, the rest of them fled, praise be God.

Attack on an army camp with mortars

On the same day they conducted a mortar attack on supporting detachments in a camp of the murtad Nigerian army in the village of (Malam Fotori) in the area of (Borno), leading to significant damage. Praise be God.

Nine Nigerian soldiers killed and wounded

In a related context; on Friday (Rajab 5) the soldiers of the Caliphate detonated an explosive device, targeting a patrol of the murtad Nigerian army during a sweeping operation near the village of (Sabon Gari), in the area of (Borno). The patrol was destroyed, killing and wounding around nine, praise and thanks to God.

The Mujahideen usually target the patrol on foot while carrying out operations combing the roads linking the villages and towns where the Mujahidin are active.

Last week

Last week the soldiers of the Caliphate killed and wounded a number of murtad Nigerian soldiers, destroyed one of their vehicles and managed to foil an aerial attack by the army of Niger in a border town, killing and wounding some of them.

February 4:

• RFI - Le Bénin expulse un ressortissant belge condamné par le passé pour avoir recruté des jihadistes

(source: https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20230204-le-b%C3%A9nin-expulse-un-ressortissant-belge-condamn%C3%A9-par-le-pass%C3%A9-recruter-des-jihadistes)

(brief note: This news concerns the Belgian citizen Jean-Louis Denis "Le Soumis", who was sentenced to five years in prison for recruitment of Belgian FTF's involved in the war in Syria and Iraq. Denis was named as the likely successor of Fouad Belkacem, former leader of Sharia4Belgium and was one of the top recruiters in Belgium. Denis engaged himself in a project he called "Resto du Tawheed" near one of the main railway stations in Brussels. He and his wife distributed free meals among the needy. At the same time however he was building a network of recruits. After he served his time his first statement to the press was that he was more radical than ever. Early January there was speculation Denis would reengage in Molenbeeck, Brussels; instead he opted for Benin. On his own account he was engaging there in agricultural projects funded by donations. He has since returned to Belgium and is actively engaged via social media. Question is how this case might evolve.)

• az-Zallaga media statements and pictures



Translation: Attack on a Malian gendarmerie outpost in the city of (Singaji)

The barbaric operations carried out by the Malian army against the Mujahidin still have their consequences (...) On Wednesday, January 2, 2023, Rajab 10, 1444, a patrol of JNIM engaged in an attack in the area of (Sikaso) on a checkpoint of the gendarmerie in the city (Singaji). One Malian soldier was killed, one car and 7 motorcycles were burned. The

Mujahidin captured 3 Kalashnikov rifles, 17 magazines, a lot of ammunition, 3 motorcycles and other material.

(...)



<u>Translation:</u> Clashes with the Malian army in the provinces of (Sico) and (Kolikoro) By the grace of God Almighty, JNIM's operations continue:

On Saturday January 18 [sic] 2023, 26 Jumada al-Akhira 1444 a vehicle of the Malian army was destroyed on the road between (Nono) and (Sirbala).

On Wednesday January 24 [sic] 2023, 4 Rajab 1444 the Mujahidin of JNIM set an ambush for the Malian army on the road between the villages of (Medina) and (Kalaforo) in the province (Kolikoro). The cowardish Tawaghit did not stand up against the Mujahidin but instead fled from the battlefield. (...)

On Thursday January 24 [sic] 2023, 4 Rajab 1444 the Mujahidin set an ambush for the Malian army on the road between the villages of (Farabogo) and (Sokolo). One of them was killed, the rest fled. The Mujahidin captured two PK machine guns, one Kalashnikov and boxes of ammunition.

On Friday January 28 [sic] 2023, 6 Rajab 1444 a vehicle of the Malian army hit a landmine on the road between (Nogo) and (Buwanda) in (Sico) province. The car was completely destroyed (...)

On Monday January 30 2023, 8 Rajab 1444 a car of the Malian army was targeted on the road between (Dogofiri) and (Nemgal). 4 soldiers were killed.



February 5:

az-Zallaga media statements and pictures



Translation: Attack on the checkpoint of (Mamasi) in (Sikaso) province

On Friday February 4 2023 [sic], 13 Rajab 1444 God almighty granted the Mujahidin of JNIM the chance to attack a gendarmerie checkpoint in (Mamasi) in (Sikaso) province. They withdrew, leaving 3 Kalashnikovs, ammunition and a motorcycle as loot for the Mujahidin. The Mujahidin returned to their base safe and sound.





<u>Translation:</u> An attack on the checkpoint of (Narina) close to the border with Guinea By the grace of God Almighty, on 12 Rajab 1444, February 3 2023 Mujahidin of JNIM conducted a covert operation on a Malian gendarmerie checkpoint in the village of (Narina) in the western province of (Kolikoro). A soldier among them was killed, the rest of them fled. The Mujahidin captured 6 light rifles, 1 PK and a stash of ammunition, praise be God. (...)



France24 : Mali junta expels UN mission's human rights chief over 'destabilising' actions

(source: https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20230205-mali-junta-expels-un-mission-s-human-rights-chief-over-destablising-actions?ref=tw)

February 7:

- Al-Jazeera: Burkina Faso gunmen kill 15 Nigerian pilgrims bound for Senegal (source: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/7/burkina-faso-assailants-kill-at-least-15-nigerian-pilgrims-travelling-to-senegal)
- Statement by the Malian Army



February 8:

• MilitantWire: JNIM Emir Exploits Anti-Islamic State Sentiments in Northern Mali

(source: https://www.militantwire.com/p/jnim-emir-exploits-anti-islamic-state)

- AFP Two Police Officers, Gendarme Killed in Western Mali Attack: Sources (source: https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/02/08/police-officers-gendarme-killed-western-mali/)
- Az-Zallaqa Media (JNIM)



<u>Translation:</u> Attacks on Malian gendarmerie checkpoints in the area of (Mecina) On Monday Rajab 15 1444, February 7 2023 [sic], God Almighty granted the Mujahidin of JNIM the chance to attack a checkpoint of the Malian gendarmerie in (Sirakola) in (Kolikoro) province. The Tawaghit fled, the Mujahidin captured two motor cycles, Kalashnikovs, magazines and other material. The Mujahidin safely returned to their base. Praise be God

On Monday Rajab 15 1444, February 7 2023 [sic], the checkpoint in (Nara) in the province of (Kolikoro) was captured. 2 Malian soldiers were killed, 2 Kalashnikovs captured. The Mujahidin returned safe and sound.



February 9:

• Statement by ISWAP



و لاية غرب إفريقية بتوفيق الله تعالى، استهدف جنود الخلافة معسكرا للجيش النيجيري المرتد، في بلدة (سابون غاري) . بمنطقة (برنو) أمس، بـ 3 قذائف هاون، وكانت الإصابة محققة، ولله الحمد

<u>Translation:</u> ISWAP, by the grace of God Almighty, yesterday, soldiers of the Caliphate attacked a camp of the murtad Nigerian army in the village of (Sabon Ghari) in the area of (Borno) with three mortar shells. Significant damage was caused, praise be God.