



# Threat Environment Report East & Central Africa

May 2021

DILIGENCE | DISCRETION | ADAPTABILITY

ST  
GROUP

# Threat Ratings

	Overall Threat Rating	This Month's Status	Forecast Next Month
Burundi	Amber	Red	Amber
DRC	Amber	Red	Amber
Djibouti	Green	Amber	Amber
Eritrea	Amber	Amber	Amber
Ethiopia	Amber	Red	Amber
Kenya	Amber	Amber	Amber
Malawi	Amber	Amber	Amber
Rwanda	Green	Amber	Amber
Somalia	Red	Amber	Amber
South Sudan	Red	Red	Red
Tanzania	Amber	Amber	Amber
Uganda	Amber	Amber	Amber

The 'overall threat rating' is assessed by analysing all threats affecting the potential to operate in the country as a whole

<b>GREEN</b>	An overall permissive operating environment, although there are likely to be underlying security issues
<b>AMBER</b>	There are notable security challenges to consider while operating in this environment
<b>RED</b>	An overall unstable operating environment

'This month's status' is decided by monitoring trends in comparison to the previous reporting period

<b>GREEN</b>	There has been an improvement in the overall security situation over the reporting period
<b>AMBER</b>	The overall security situation has remained broadly unchanged over the reporting period
<b>RED</b>	The overall security situation has worsened over the reporting period

The 'forecast next month' is a prediction assessed by looking at indicators which could alter the short term security situation

<b>GREEN</b>	There are indicators that there will be an improvement in the overall security situation
<b>AMBER</b>	There are no indicators to a coming change in the overall security situation
<b>RED</b>	There are indicators and warnings that there could be degradation in the overall security situation



# Burundi

Over the reporting period, the country's threat environment was marked a notable increase in armed attacks, as well as a continuation of forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and acts of politically-motivated violence against perceived political dissidents.

Significantly, on 10th May, an unidentified group of suspected bandits killed eight people and injured 12 others during an ambush on the Bujumbura-Gitega Road near Muramvya, Muramvya Province, approximately 50 kilometres Northeast of Bujumbura. While it remains unconfirmed whether the attack was targeted, Lt Col Onesphore Nizigiyimana, a senior officer in the Burundian Nation Defence Force (FDNB), and his daughter were among the victims. Credible reports indicated that approximately a dozen heavily armed men fired at and subsequently destroyed Nizigiyimana's vehicle, before targeting three other vehicles with long rifles and grenades, including a commercial transport bus. Unconfirmed reports alleged that the group looted items from the victims and their vehicles before fleeing to the Kibira Forest.

Meanwhile, on 25th May, unknown assailants detonated four grenades at the Cotebu Market in Bujumbura's northern Ngagara sector, killing two people and injuring several others. Burundi's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Security stated that at least two suspects were injured, one of whom was later arrested by responding security forces. The incident took place amid the 51st meeting of the United Nation's (UN) Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura. One fatality was recorded following a separate grenade attack in Cunyu, Cibitoke Province, on 10th May.

Abductions, beatings, and extrajudicial killings continued throughout the month, with police, National Intelligence Service (SNR), and affiliates of the Imbonerakure – a youth division of the ruling National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party – targeting suspected members of the opposition National Congress for Liberty (CNL) party and former military personnel, as well as civilians.

On 18th May, Imbonerakure injured five civilians in Kirekura, Bujumbura Rural Province, with the group razing approximately 500 residences in Buhoro, Cibitoke Province, on 07th May. Two incidents of torture by police and SNR officials were reported in Gitega and Mwaro Provinces, leaving a refugee from the Mutaho Refugee Camp and the CNL Chief of Busiga commune severely injured.

## FORECAST

No significant changes to the country's threat environment are anticipated to occur over the upcoming reporting period. A moderate decrease in the number of armed attacks and assassinations against the civilian population is likely, as many tend to be fueled by localised and isolated land disputes. Nevertheless, SNR agents, police, and Imbonerakure affiliates are expected to continue targeting political dissidents and suspected opposition members.

### Status:





# The Democratic Republic of Congo

The reporting period was marked by the 22nd May volcanic eruption on Mount Nyiragongo in North Kivu Province, which resulted in the deaths of at least 32 individuals and injuring of several others. A large number of residences were destroyed during the eruption, while a total of approximately 25,000 individuals fled the area. At least 259 earthquakes were reported in the city of Goma by 25th May, resulting in the injuring of eight further individuals. On 23rd May, at least ten artisanal miners were killed and seven others injured in a landslide at a makeshift gold mine in Kanana, Bondo, Bas-Uele Province, although a direct connection to the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo remains unconfirmed .

On 03rd May, the Ministry of Public Health declared an end to the twelfth Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Northeastern region. On 06th May, the Governor of Tanganyika Province, Zoe Kabila, was dismissed over mismanagement and an alleged lack of respect for the Provincial Assembly, as well as other national institutions. Zoe Kabila, brother to former President Joseph Kabila, was the only of the 26 Governor in the country refusing to join President Felix Tshisekedi's new political alliance, the "Union Sacrée".

Meanwhile, the security situation was marked by increased operations by security forces, following the implementation of the 30-day 'State of Siege' military rule in North Kivu and Ituri Province by the government, in efforts to reduce the elevated levels of violence in the region . On 21st May, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) conducted an operation across Ituri Province, killing 38 Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Cooperation for the Development of Congo (CODECO), Mai-Mai and Patriotic and Integrationist Force of Congo (FPIC) fighters. However, despite this operation in Ituri Province , the ADF managed to

escalate their attacks elsewhere, killing at least 13 civilians in Malambo in Ruwenzori, Beni, North Kivu Province, on 25th May. On 19th May, two individuals working with non-governmental organization (NGO) "ActionAid" were abducted by Makanika militiamen in Kakenge, Fizi, while two other individuals working with "Action for Health, Environment and Development" (ASED), were abducted in Ruzizi, Uvira, South Kivu Province, on 20th May.

## FORECAST

Further security operations will likely be conducted in Northeastern region, particularly in North Kivu and Ituri Province, where the State of Siege remains in place. However, the ADF in particular is expected launch counter-offensives to maintain their positions, while other armed groups in areas where the State of Siege is not in effect could intensify their attacks. Activity on Mount Nyiragongo as well as further earthquakes are expected through late of May.

### Status:





# Djibouti

Following the victory of incumbent President Ismail Omar Guelleh in last month's Presidential Elections conducted on 10th April, regional Heads of State and other dignitaries arrived to Djibouti for the swearing-in ceremony for the fifth term in office of President Guelleh, held at the Presidential Palace on 15th May. Those in attendance included Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble, South Sudanese Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior, as well as several high-ranking officials from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU).

During his inaugural address, Guelleh called upon the region's leaders to form a more united Africa, whilst underscoring the importance of horizontal economic integration and development between like-minded states. He reiterated his government's commitment to support multilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening regional economic cooperation, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), stating that "Africa will be powerful if it is united. It will be rich if we are together [and] if our countries cooperate and complement each other in pursuit of our common vision of strong and efficient states". The re-elected President further commented on issues of insecurity across the region and the need for "peace and stability" if states are to develop and advance economically, although he did not specifically highlight any current conflict, while urging leaders to "work together" towards achieving these aims.

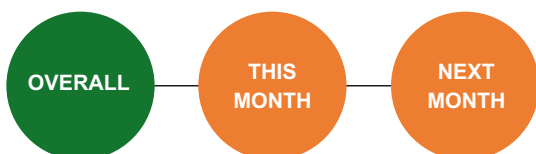
Meanwhile, Nairobi-based KenGen energy firm, which entered into a contract with the Djibouti government earlier this year for the Galla Le Koma geothermal project, is reportedly set to commence drilling operations for two geothermal wells located near Lake Assal in June 2021. The estimated USD 6.5m project is being managed by the Djibouti Office

of Geothermal Energy Development (ODDEG). Reports released in mid-May indicated that preparations for the commencement of drilling operations were approximately 80 per cent complete.

## FORECAST

The country's threat environment is expected to remain unchanged over the upcoming reporting period, with limited reshufflings within the President's Cabinet likely to continue in the near-term. At the outset of President Guelleh's fifth term in office, the government is anticipated to continue to prioritise the country's economic development and bilateral ties with regional states whilst promoting a further deepening of trade relations.

### Status:





# Eritrea

The United States (US) government escalated its concerted public diplomacy offensive against Eritrea across multiple channels this month with a view to forcing Asmara into ending its military intervention in Ethiopia's Tigray Region, where ongoing conflict has displaced one-third of the Tigrayan population. Despite commitments by the Ethiopian authorities in April that they were departing, some regional observers contend that the Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) soldiers are more entrenched in Tigray Region than ever before.

US President Joe Biden reiterated calls for EDF troops to withdraw from Ethiopia's Tigray Region on 26th May, several days after the US imposed visa restrictions on Eritrean officials accused of perpetuating the Tigray conflict. Following US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statement on 23rd May that humanitarian relief was being actively blocked by armed actors, including the EDF, Biden demanded in his statement that all parties, including EDF personnel, allow immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access to Tigray to prevent widespread famine. Stark warnings of impending famine were echoed by the United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, Mark Lowcock, to the UN Security Council (UNSC) in May. Diplomatic pressure was heightened on 27th May when US State Department Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, Robert Godec, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Eritrea should anticipate further coercive measures in the event armed actors under its authority fail to reverse course. According to Godec, the State Department was considering a range of sanction policies, including through the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, targeted at individuals and institutions.

In May, human rights groups accused the EDF of

committing atrocities in Tigray amounting to ethnic cleansing, including killing unarmed civilians, the raping of women, blocking convoys transporting vital food and medical supplies as well as wanton destruction of crops, grain, livestock and water infrastructure; and looting and razing public and private properties, such as hospitals. Corroborated witness statements have moreover claimed that EDF fighters are present deep into Eastern and Southern Tigrayan territory, at times dressed in Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) military fatigues, occupying towns and transport infrastructure, with little to no command and control from the Ethiopian Ministry of Defence.

## FORECAST

The growing humanitarian crisis along the Eritrea-Ethiopia border region is assessed to likely prompt the international community to increase political and economic pressure on the Eritrean government to fulfil its commitment to withdraw EDF troops from Northern Tigray Region. However, there is no indication that the ongoing refugee emergency over the upcoming reporting period will ameliorate, with multiple humanitarian organisations warning of a heightened risk of famine and human rights abuses.

### Status:





# Ethiopia

The threat environment remained largely unchanged over the reporting period. Tensions remained heightened in Tigray Region as the conflict persisted. The presence of Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) continued to be reported despite Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announcing previously that they would be withdrawn from the country. On 12th May, EDF troops disguised as Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) soldiers reportedly blocked humanitarian aid from accessing central Tigray Region. On 20th May, an Irish reporter working with the New York Times was deported for allegedly spreading misinformation regarding the conflict. Meanwhile on 24th May, the United States (US) announced visa restrictions on unnamed Ethiopian and Eritrean officials accused of fomenting the Tigray conflict. Meanwhile, in a continued territorial dispute, Ethiopian troops clashed with Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) along the Ethiopia-Sudan border in the vicinity of Al-Fashqa area in Sudan's Eastern Al Qadarif State, on 08th May. The SAF soldiers took control of the Ethiopian settlement Shay Beit, in Al-Fashqa, as a result.

Elsewhere, on 15th May, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) claimed to have abducted three Chinese nationals working at a mine in Mendi, West Welega, Oromia Region. On 08th May, OLA fighters killed 12 members of the security forces in Horo Guduru, Oromia Region. On 03rd May, suspected security forces raided the residence of OLF Chairman Dawud Ibsa in an unconfirmed location in Addis Ababa. Security forces reportedly assaulted the Ibsa's family members and security guards as well as vandalised property and confiscated computers, mobile phones, documents, and personal belongings, including cash. Officials further withdrew guards stationed in the area. Ibsa's whereabouts remained unknown at the time of writing.

Separately, on 11th May, security forces conducted

several operations in various locations, arresting 71 suspects over plans to carry out terror attacks in Addis Ababa and other parts of the country. Approximately USD 300,000 in cash as well as several firearms were also recovered during the operation. Finally, the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) announced 21st June 2021 as the date for the commencement of the General Elections.

## FORECAST

Armed attacks against civilians and clashes between security forces are expected to continue in Tigray Region over the coming month, with the continued presence of Eritrean troops in the area likely. Similarly, clashes between Ethiopian and Sudanese soldiers over ongoing territorial disputes are anticipated to continue unabatedly, while incidents of ethnic violence remain a source of concern throughout much of the country.

### Status:





# Kenya

Al Shabaab militants continued to carry out attacks over the month, which resulted in several fatalities including civilians and security forces. Six al Shabaab attacks were recorded during the reporting period in Wajir, Mandera and Lamu counties. On 03rd May, a private vehicle was targeted by a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) in the vicinity of Ishakani village in Lamu East, Lamu County. Two occupants in the vehicle were killed, while one other was injured as a result. Of significance was the 21st May ambush which targeted a police patrol vehicle in Derkale, Banisa, Mandera County, and resulted in the death of three officers while five others sustained injuries. It was indicated that al Shabaab militants planted an IED which detonated after being triggered by the police vehicle and subsequently opened fire. A similar modus operandi was observed on 18th May along the Bodhei-Kiunga Road in which a Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) vehicle ran over an IED, followed by an armed ambush by an unconfirmed number of militants. Three KDF officers were killed while several other casualties were recorded.

The month was also marked by the 13th May abduction of a American-Somali national identified as Bashir Mohamud from the Mialle 72 Lounge in Lavington, Nairobi County. Mohamud's body was later floating along the Nyamindi River on 16th May in Kirinyaga County. Media reports indicated that the body showed signs of torture. The incident sparked widespread attention leading to questions over an increase in enforced disappearances within the country. Another kidnapping was recorded on 20th May when two assailants were shot dead while two others escaped with gunshot wounds after they were intercepted by police along Kamiti Road, Kiambu County, following the abduction of a pastor. It was indicated that the criminal gang had car-jacked the pastor as he was driving home in the Jacaranda area

before forcing the victim to drive to the Kiamumbi area. Responding police recovered a pistol loaded with two rounds of 9mm calibre ammunition and a knife from the suspects.

## FORECAST

The upcoming reporting period is anticipated to remain largely unchanged. Security forces are expected to heighten operations in the border counties with Somalia as a result of this month's rise in al Shabaab attacks. Additional abductions and killings are moreover likely to continue to shape the threat landscape within the country, with civil and human rights groups calling for thorough investigations into the cases recorded in May.

### Status:







# Malawi

The threat landscape remained unchanged over the month of May, with opportunistic criminal activity remaining the most commonly-observed incident type. On 04th May, two females were arrested in Zomba for breaking into a private residence and stealing MWK 300,000 (USD 380) after the occupant left for work. Incidents of violent criminal activity also continued to be recorded, following the 13th May home-invasion in which 12 unknown criminals, who were armed with bladed weapons, raided a residence in Mangochi. The robbers assaulted a male occupant and doused him with flammable liquid, before escaping with property worth MWK 730,000 (USD 925). Meanwhile, on 11th May, police arrested a suspect in Kasungu District, who was linked to livestock-rustling in Mpafeni, Zambia. On 07th May, a mob lynched a suspected criminal and injured his accomplice, after being accused of stealing several herds of livestock at Sekeni village in Chikwama District.

As of 27th May, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) regulations in the country largely remained unchanged. However, on 21st May, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services stated that it had tightened restrictions on travellers arriving from countries which had recorded severe surges in COVID-19 cases. The measures followed reports that several cases of the variant of COVID-19 originating in India were recorded in Malawi, prompting concerns of the possibility of a third wave erupting in the country.

Vaccination programmes have been ineffective in Malawi, following claims by the Minister of Health, Kumbize Kandodo, of a negative public perception of COVID-19 vaccines. As a result, on 19th May, the government destroyed at least 17,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses that had expired in mid-April. The Ministry of Health official stated that widely-spread

propaganda and misinformation prevalent amongst the general population had caused a reluctance to receive the vaccine.

On 27th May, President Chakwera arrived in Maputo, Mozambique, to attend the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Extraordinary Double Troika Summit. The President declared that the Summit will discuss insecurity in the region, particularly the insurgency in Northern Mozambique. He further stated that Malawi's participation in the Summit aimed to affirm its influence in security matters within the bloc.

## FORECAST

The threat landscape is expected to largely remain unchanged. The threat environment is expected to feature continued reports of opportunistic crime and mob violence incidents, while it is assessed as likely that health officials will embark on a public sensitisation campaign to urge residents to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

### Status:





# Rwanda

During the month, the country's threat environment was largely characterised by natural disasters including a series of earthquakes across the Western region triggered by the 22nd May eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in North Kivu Province of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Several earthquakes between magnitude 4.2 and 4.7 were recorded in Western Province, primarily in the Districts of Rubavu and Ngororero between 23rd and 27th May, with additional reports of notable seismic activity being observed up to the time of writing. The earthquakes damaged at least 40 residences and other infrastructure, as well as displaced dozens of residents in Rubavu District, near Northern Lake Kivu, believed to be the epicentre of the activity. The town also received an influx of Congolese residents fleeing from Goma in the days prior to and during the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo. Local authorities reported that more than 5,000 Congolese had entered Rwanda at the Gisenyi border crossing, after it had been opened to those fleeing the eruption and lava flows following an agreement made between officials from Kinshasa and Kigali.

Rwandan authorities began organising transportation back across the border to Goma for Congolese wishing to return following reduced threat levels of volcanic activity affecting the city. However, officials from Rwanda's seismic monitoring department raised concerns over the continuation of earthquakes recorded along the Rwanda-DRC border area near Lake Kivu in the days following the initial eruption, further warning that a second eruption of Mount Nyiragongo remained a distinct possibility.

Meanwhile, the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) reportedly intercepted and clashed with a unit of National Liberation Front (FNL) fighters in Bweyeye

Sector on 23rd May, killing two assailants and recovering several firearms. The fighters were believed to have entered the country from Burundi via the Ruhwa River near the village of Rwamisave in Nyamuzi Cell. The Rwanda National Police (RNP) also carried out several anti-narcotics operations throughout the country during the month under review, seizing large amounts of illicit narcotics including cannabis and banned alcohol, locally known as 'kanyanga'. On 22nd May, 400ltrs of kanyanga and four kilogrammes of cannabis were confiscated in the Districts of Burera and Nyagatare; while 17,716 cannabis pellets were seized from seven suspects in three separate operations in Rusizi, Nyabihu, and Ngororero Districts respectively between early and mid-May.

## FORECAST

While the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic remains a more entrenched threat within the country, the immediate and credible risks posed by the recent eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in the neighbouring DRC are a source of significant concern, with additional refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) contending for limited emergency response resources from the government while it simultaneously attempts to contain the ongoing pandemic.

### Status:





# Somalia

Following the escalation of politically-motivated violence observed in Mogadishu over the previous reporting period, May 2021 saw a notable reduction of tensions and overall security-related incidents, which fell further from 49 in April 2021 to 35 during this month. However, several high-impact al Shabaab attacks were nonetheless recorded this month, including the 09th May person-borne improvised explosive device (PBIED) attack at the Waberi Police Station which resulted in six fatalities, as well as the killing of Garasbaley District Commissioner Abdirahman Ahmed Garyare and two members of his personal security detail in a roadside IED attack on 21st May.

Outside of Mogadishu, overall incident numbers rose again during the course of the month, from 106 recorded in April 2021 to 130 during the current month. While clan-related armed clashes escalated in the vicinity of Beledweyne, Hiiran region, on 19th May, a large group of 'macawiisley' militiamen attacked security forces at a checkpoint in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle region, following a dispute over the previous arrest of a militia leader, resulting in at least ten fatalities. SNA officials claimed to have killed approximately 100 al Shabaab militants during large-scale operations near Cali Fool Dheere, Middle Shabelle region, while Puntland officials announced the killing of a senior Islamic State (IS) militant on 29th May.

Politically, the reporting period was marked by signing of an electoral agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), the Federal Member States (FMS) and Mogadishu Mayor Omar Mohamud Mohamed ("Filish") following the conclusion of the National Electoral Consultative Summit in Mogadishu on 27th May. As a result of the four-day talks, which were chaired and facilitated by Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble, the

postponed General Elections are scheduled to be held within 60 days. The agreement was widely hailed by Somali and international stakeholders as a successful basis for elections, which will largely be based on the indirect model outlined in the original September 2020 FGS-FMS agreement as well as a series of technical recommendations presented by a group of experts convened by all stakeholders in Baidoa earlier this year. President Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed ("Farmaajo"), who had been excluded from the talks, also signaled his support for the agreement, although details regarding the election of the 57 Members of Parliament (MPs) representing Somaliland reportedly still remain subject to debate.

## FORECAST

Following the conclusion of the National Electoral Consultative Summit, political tensions are expected to fall over the coming reporting period, given the support of most key stakeholders. Meanwhile, with the end of politically-motivated violence, al Shabaab are expected to increase their overall activity in Mogadishu again, likely capitalising on assets and personnel infiltrated during this previous period of reduced capacity by security forces.

### Status:





# South Sudan

Politically, the reporting period was marked by the announcement by the faction of the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) led by the National Salvation Front (NAS) under Thomas Cirillo on 06th May that the group would boycott the upcoming round of the Sant'Egidio peace talks in Rome, citing the targeted killing of the Chief of Staff of one of its member factions, the South Sudan National Movement for Change/Army (SSNMC/A), General Abraham Wana Yoane Bondo, in Nansana, Wakiso District, Uganda, on 20th April. In its statement, the SSOMA further alleges that the killing "bears the hallmarks" of an assassination orchestrated by South Sudanese government security forces, without providing further details. In response, the Chairman of the National Transitional Committee, Tut Gatluak, dismissed the allegations and called on all SSOMA factions to re-join the peace process "unconditionally". Government officials alleged that on 14th May, NAS fighters attacked South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) positions in Barawul, Maridi County, Western Equatoria State, killing three soldiers.

Meanwhile, President Salva Kiir dissolved the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and the Council of States on 08th May – in accordance with the latest peace agreement – before reconstituting it on 10th May, which was positively received by members of the international community. On 24th May, President Kiir authorised the formation of a ten-member committee to facilitate a dialogue with the Sudanese government over the disputed Abyei Administrative Area.

On 16th May, 12 individuals were killed and seven others injured by suspected Misseriya gunmen in the settlement of Dungoub, located East of Abyei town. In Ayod County, Jonglei State, seven individuals were killed and 5,800 head of cattle stolen by a group of

armed assailants suspected to have crossed over from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) on 19th May. In Rumbek Central County, Lakes State, five individuals were killed and seven others injured in a cattle-rustling incident in the Cuei-Adukan area on 12th May. Five individuals were killed in a roadside ambush by unidentified gunmen targeting a civilian vehicle along the Yei-Kaya road in Yei River County, Central Equatoria State, on 12th May. Finally, two aid workers were killed in Eastern Equatoria State and Unity State by unidentified gunmen over the reporting period on 12th and 21st May, respectively, prompting condemnation from United Nations (UN) and government officials.

## FORECAST

The likely absence of the SSOMA from the next round of Rome talks remains a source of significant concern, as the scope of talks is likely to remain limited as a result. Reports of sporadic attacks by NAS fighters on security forces positions further serve to underline the threat this may pose to the overall implementation of the latest peace agreement.

### Status:





# Uganda

The reporting period was marked by the inauguration of President Yoweri Museveni for his sixth term at the Kololo Independence Grounds on 12th May . Ahead of the inauguration ceremony, security forces were deployed at National Unity Platform (NUP) party offices in Kamwokya, Kampala, for several days, blocking access to the building. No violence was reported. Prior to this, on 10th May, Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) soldiers and police officers surrounded the residence of NUP leader Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu ('Bobi Wine') in Magere, Kampala District, as well as the residence of opposition party Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) member Kizza Besigye in Kasangati, Wakiso District. Security forces also arrested at least 41 other individuals for allegedly planning to disrupt President Museveni's inauguration.

On 10th May, unidentified assailants threw Molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) at the Georgian House building in Kampala, in which the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) is located, causing a fire at the premises. Former Jinja Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Eric Sakwa's vehicle was destroyed during the incident. No casualties were reported. On 04th May, a suspected criminal was shot dead by security forces in Namungoona, Kampala, with an item believed to have previously been stolen, recovered. In Luweero District, three individuals were killed and four others injured in Kyabugga, in a suspected arson attack targeting the residence of Edward Ssekandi, the Local Council II (LC II) Chairperson for Kabanyi parish in Bamunanika. On 25th May, security forces announced the killing of ten Karamojong cattle-rustlers and the arrest of five others in unconfirmed locations in Karamoja Region, during clashes with Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) officers working alongside UPDF soldiers over the last three-week

period. Security forces recovered eight sub-machine guns (SMGs) and 188 rounds of ammunition from the assailants .

Around 01st May, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Uganda Airlines as well as several senior managers were suspended to allow investigations into allegations of abuse of office and financial mismanagement. On 06th May, the International Criminal Court (ICC) sentenced Dominic Ongwen, former Ugandan commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group, to 25 years in prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity including killings, sexual enslavement, child abductions and torture.

## FORECAST

While no concerted protests were recorded in the immediate aftermath, Anti-government protests may be recorded following President Museveni's inauguration. Meanwhile, cattle-rustling and clashes with security forces particularly in the Karamoja Region remain likely, given porous borders and a ready availability of illegal firearms.

### Status:



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