

## Burkina Faso : Between asserting sovereignty and the challenges of stabilisation

### Timbuktu Institute - Week 3 - February 2026

This week, Burkina Faso is facing a complex equation combining persistent insurrection, a major humanitarian crisis and political and judicial tensions. Between Captain Ibrahim Traoré's assertions of sovereignty, the resurgence of attacks in the north of the country and tensions surrounding sensitive legal cases, the country is facing a systemic crisis in which security, governance and social resilience are closely linked. The central issue is the authorities' ability to transform their rhetoric of reconquest and sovereignty into tangible and lasting stabilisation of the territory.

### A systemic and multidimensional humanitarian crisis?

Since 2015, the country has been facing a terrorist insurgency that has profoundly transformed its political, security and diplomatic architecture. Under the leadership of Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the country has taken a strong sovereignist stance, focused on territorial reconquest and the reorientation of its international partnerships. However, the humanitarian situation remains alarming. The [National Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (PNRH) for 2026 targets 4,474,321 vulnerable people, at a total cost of 769,841,825,700 CFA francs. This plan specifically targets 1,294,232 internally displaced persons and 902,042 returnees, reflecting a profound demographic and social crisis marked by massive population displacement, forced territorial restructuring and the lasting fragility of community structures. The Minister of Family and Solidarity, who is also President of the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), emphasises that sectoral priorities cover 'food security and nutrition, health, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation, education in emergencies, and shelter'. She emphasises the interdependence of sectors, which implies greater overall effectiveness of humanitarian action. Burkina Faso is thus facing a systemic crisis in which security, governance and social resilience are closely intertwined.

### Attack on Titao: persistent insecurity with regional repercussions

Meanwhile, on Saturday 14 February, armed individuals carried out a [large-scale attack](#) on the town of Titao, located in the north of the country, about fifty kilometres from Ouahigouya. The military camp, telephone facilities and shops were destroyed and looted. To date, the government has not released an official assessment of the attack, leaving citizens waiting for accurate information. According to statements by Ghana's Minister of the Interior, seven of the traders killed were Ghanaian nationals. This situation highlights the cross-border dimension of the security crisis. The presence of Ghanaian nationals among the victims testifies to the intensity of regional trade dynamics and serves as a reminder that local instability can have diplomatic and economic repercussions. It also highlights the need for enhanced security cooperation between neighbouring states to protect civilians and secure trade corridors in West Africa. This attack also demonstrates the intact operational capacity of armed groups, capable of attacking a strategic urban centre, and the continuing vulnerability of the north of the country, despite efforts to regain control of the territory.

## Ouagadougou Court of Appeal: a judicial decision at the heart of political and security tensions

On the legal front, on Tuesday 17 February 2026, the Ouagadougou Court of Appeal handed down its decision on the appeal lodged by lawyer Ina Benjamine Esther Doli in her dispute with the public prosecutor's office. This proceeding follows posts published at the end of August 2025 on her Facebook profile, which the public prosecutor's office of the Ouaga I High Court considers to be criminally liable. In her message, the lawyer criticised the practices of 'three Sahelian states' which, according to her, claim to be close to Russia, while adopting behaviours that she considered 'in total contradiction with the respectability' of the Russian president. In particular, she referred to certain abuses observed in Burkina Faso.

Ultimately, the lawyer was given a twelve-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of one million CFA francs. She was prosecuted for 'treason', 'insulting the head of state' and 'undermining the morale of the armed forces'. The country is plagued by constant tension between asserting its sovereignty and persistent structural weaknesses. The central challenge now is to translate the stated political direction into concrete and lasting stabilisation of the territory.

## Côte d'Ivoire: political, judicial and institutional dynamics in flux

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This week, the news in Côte d'Ivoire is marked by the political consolidation of the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP), significant judicial developments, the strengthening of the partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) around the PND 2026-2030, and increased regulation of the media by the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA).

### Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix in Massala: territorial consolidation and a logic of continuity

On 16 February 2026, a large delegation from the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP), led by Bouaké Fofana and Adama Dosso, held a large rally in the No. 204 electoral district of Massala, ahead of the partial legislative elections. Party leaders called on voters to 'make the right choice' by voting for Mamadou Dosso, so that 'Worodougou can continue its glorious march of development spearheaded by President Alassane Ouattara'. This mobilisation by the RHDP in Massala reflects a classic strategy of territorial consolidation by the ruling party in these partial legislative elections. By evoking the 'glorious march of development' driven by President Ouattara, the leaders are banking on the party's track record and continuity as levers of electoral legitimacy in this politically strategic constituency for Worodougou. The candidate says he is 'very confident', believing that 'the ministers and officials of the region are supporting us, which is an additional assurance'. He has promised to continue with structural projects, particularly in terms of roads and access to water. The withdrawal of Metola Coulibaly, an independent candidate who stated, 'I was independent, but I realised I had to come home,' strengthens the RHDP's momentum in this constituency.

### Prince Arthur Dalli: release under judicial supervision with measured political implications

On the legal front, the mayor of Lakota, Prince Arthur Dalli, who had been remanded in custody on 23 January, was released under judicial supervision by order of 16 February 2026. According to a statement from his political office, he 'remains fully available for the remainder of the legal proceedings, in strict compliance with the obligations that have been notified to him.' This release on bail marks a significant procedural development, without closing the case. It reaffirms the principle of the presumption of innocence and respect for judicial guarantees, while keeping the person concerned under legal constraint pending the outcome of the proceedings. The mayor reaffirmed his commitment to 'peace, social cohesion and sustainable development in the department of Lakota', calling for 'dialogue, stability and national unity'. This decision illustrates how judicial mechanisms operate in a closely scrutinised political context.

## The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Côte d'Ivoire: a strengthened strategic partnership for the 2026-2030 National Development Plan

At the strategic level, UNDP has reaffirmed its commitment to Côte d'Ivoire for the implementation of the 2026-2030 National Development Plan (NDP). During a meeting with the Minister of Planning, Dr Souleymane Diarrassouba, the Resident Representative assured him that UNDP interventions would 'align with the priorities of the NDP 2026-2030'. This renewed commitment by UNDP confirms the essential role of international partnership in Côte d'Ivoire's economic trajectory. This alignment demonstrates a commitment to strategic coherence between national planning and technical support, particularly with regard to reducing inequalities, governance and territorial resilience. For his part, the Minister welcomed the 2021-2025 cooperation programme (US\$35 million) and the adoption of the new Country Cooperation Framework (CPD) 2026-2030 (US\$99 million), highlighting its consistency with national priorities, particularly the reduction of inequalities and the digitalisation of PND monitoring.

## High Authority for Audiovisual Communication: suspension of Radio-école BLM and challenges of audiovisual regulation

On another note, on 18 February 2026, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) announced the precautionary suspension of Radio-école BLM for non-compliance with its specifications. The regulatory body stated that it had acted following reports concerning an alleged authorisation to operate an Arabic-language radio service. This decision is part of the HACA's normal exercise of its regulatory powers and monitoring of compliance with its specifications. This suspension reflects the authorities' increased vigilance regarding content compliance and operating licences, in a context where control of the audiovisual space is a sensitive issue of governance and social cohesion. During their hearing, the managers acknowledged that they had broadcast music in Arabic two days a week, while denying any parallel online broadcasting.

## Togo: tensions over freedoms, judicial issues and strategic assertiveness

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In Togo, current events reveal a country plagued by tensions between strategic assertiveness and institutional challenges. From threats against journalist Roger Amemavoh to the appeal trial of Félix Abalo Kadangha, via Faure Gnassingbé's goal of food sovereignty and his presidency of the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa, this sequence illustrates the delicate balance between political ambition, governance requirements and the protection of freedoms.

### Threats against Roger Amemavoh: a sign of the structural challenges to press freedom in Togo

The threats against journalist Roger Amemavoh reveal the challenges facing press freedom in Togo. The Observatoire Togolais des Médias (OTM) has denounced 'a serious attack on freedom of expression and the media,' calling on the authorities to guarantee the journalist's safety. For its part, the Union of Independent Journalists of Togo (SYNJIT) condemned these threats 'in the strongest possible terms' and referred to a 'resurgence of attacks on press freedom'. The government, through the ministries responsible for communication and security, said it was 'monitoring the situation closely'. This case has reignited the structural debate on the protection of journalists in Togo. While the official reaction marks institutional recognition of the problem, the challenge now lies in the ability to translate these statements into concrete protection measures and effective procedural guarantees.

### Félix Abalo Kadangha's appeal trial: credibility of military justice and issues of state responsibility in Togo

Five years after the death of Colonel Toussaint Bitala Madjoulba, Félix Abalo Kadangha's appeal trial opened on 16 February 2026 before a military court. Sentenced in 2023 to 20 years' imprisonment for 'conspiracy against state security', 'complicity in murder' and 'obstruction of justice', the former chief of staff is contesting a decision that his lawyers consider to be marred by procedural flaws and a glaring lack of evidence. This trial is highly symbolic; it calls into question the credibility of the military justice system, the handling of sensitive cases involving the armed forces, and the transparency of accountability mechanisms at the highest levels of government. This event comes amid ongoing debate over Damiba's extradition and his various misadventures.

## Faure Gnassingbé: Focus on food sovereignty and self-sufficiency in agricultural production in Togo

During his visit to the planned agricultural development zones (ZAAP) of Dankpen and Binah, he stated: "Beyond food security, it is imperative to achieve food sovereignty. ' The President of the Council stressed that 'the government does not have all the answers" and called for greater collaboration with producers. This statement marks a strategic shift towards a logic of autonomy in agricultural production. By distinguishing between food security and food sovereignty, he emphasises reducing dependence on imports and the joint responsibility of the state and producers. The challenge is not limited to agricultural production: it is about consolidating the country's economic resilience and structuring rural value chains in a sustainable manner. This approach is therefore part of a strategic self-sufficiency strategy aimed at reducing dependence on imports and consolidating national economic resilience. However, the success of this approach will depend on the effective professionalisation of agricultural and agri-food activity zones (ZAAPs) and access to finance, inputs and markets.

## Harmonisation of business law in Africa: a diplomatic lever for Togo's strategic repositioning

The Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) is a diplomatic lever for Togo's strategic repositioning. This assumption of office gives Togo increased visibility in the African legal arena. This accession to the presidency of OHADA strengthens Togo's diplomatic position within the African legal architecture. It provides Lomé with a strategic platform to promote legal certainty, investment attractiveness and regional economic integration, while strengthening its image as an influential institutional player. The country is making progress on several fronts, but sustainable consolidation will depend on the ability of institutions to simultaneously guarantee security, civil liberties and inclusive governance.

## Chad: Towards discreet military cooperation with Paris?

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At the end of January, Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Déby's visit to the Élysée Palace formalised the resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Chad, one year after French forces withdrew from the country. While both sides laconically welcomed a 'revitalised partnership based on mutual respect and shared interests', the meeting also provided an opportunity to lay the foundations for a new form of military cooperation. According to *Le Monde*, the cooperation projects underpinning this reconciliation include 'a discreet military component'. Under the new arrangements, Paris could provide intelligence support and training to Chadian forces without deploying large numbers of soldiers, as was previously the case. This new formula seems to be adapted to the new realities of the sub-region, where the geopolitical situation remains fluid and complex. Chad, a strategic country in the Sahel belt, now faces worrying instability on its eastern border, marked by the conflict in neighbouring Sudan. From a broader perspective, Paris appears to be making a discreet but effective return to the sub-region via N'Djamena, which is likely to raise questions among observers of a sub-region whose geopolitical situation remains fluid and complex.

### North under surveillance

The vast and rugged north of Chad remains the scene of persistent security concerns. In the province of Borkou, on the road linking Faya to Kouba Oulanga, an ambush attributed to suspected road bandits on the night of 17 to 18 February resulted in the death of a travel agency driver. The army was dispatched to the scene and intervened to repel the attackers. Unofficial reports indicate that four officers were killed, while three attackers were neutralised and another captured. Aware of these security challenges, the Chadian authorities are striving to address them. It was in this context that officials from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Chadian Ministry of Public Security and Immigration held a strategic meeting on 16 February on the fight against narcotics. Following the meeting, the US agency presented the Chadian ministry with the 'Drug Identification Bible,' a strategic document on the treatment and prevention of illicit drugs. N'Djamena hopes to consolidate its cooperation with the United States while improving its ability to identify criminal networks through an integrated approach to preventing crime and consolidating both national and regional stability.

### Lake Chad Basin: a constant equation

In the Lake Chad Basin, the issue of human mobility lies at the intersection of security, environmental and socio-economic challenges. Faced with these interrelated issues, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) signed a memorandum of understanding in N'Djamena on 19 February 2026 to strengthen their cooperation in community stabilisation efforts in the Lake Chad Basin region. This agreement institutionalises an existing partnership. But this time, it aligns with the Regional Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (SR-SRR 2.0) adopted in 2025. Given the complexity of the challenges, this example of institutional cooperation highlights the need for a coordinated approach at the sub-regional level, which continues to share vulnerability.

## Cameroon: Controversy surrounding African migrants transferred from the United States

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This is a case that the shadow of silence managed to cover up for only a month. It concerns the imbroglio surrounding fifteen migrants of African origin, who were sent back from the United States and are currently under house arrest in Cameroon. In fact, there were two stages to the story. First, two Ghanaians, three Zimbabweans, one Sierra Leonean, two Ugandans and one Kenyan arrived in Yaoundé on 14 January 2026 from a detention centre in the state of Louisiana. These first nine were then joined on 16 February by eight others, bringing the total number of migrants deported under Donald Trump's new migration policy to 17.

The Cameroonian authorities have made it clear [to those deported] that they will only be allowed to leave to return to their country of origin. For some, this would be tantamount to signing their death warrant," according to their lawyer, contacted by Jeune Afrique. In any case, judging by appearances, the Cameroonian authorities seem at the very least embarrassed by this situation. Indeed, while attempting to contact those under house arrest, four journalists and a lawyer were arrested and then released on 18 February in Yaoundé. Faced with this situation, the main question that arises is this: has Cameroon concluded an agreement with Washington to take in migrants deemed undesirable, following the example of Ghana and Equatorial Guinea? For the time being, this question remains unanswered. However, the validity of this transfer operation is being debated within Cameroonian public opinion, in a context of uncertainty following the postponement of the upcoming legislative and municipal elections.

### Ngarbuh massacre: an inadequate verdict?

After a six-year legal saga, on 19 February 2026, the military court in Yaoundé sentenced three Cameroonian soldiers to prison terms of between five and ten years for the massacre of 21 civilians in Ngarbuh (North-West region) on 14 February 2020. Ten years' imprisonment for the highest-ranking officer, Sergeant Baba Guida, eight years for Constable Sanding Sanding and five years for Private First Class Gilbert Haranga. The latter were found guilty of 'murder, arson, violence against a pregnant woman and violation of orders'. In addition, former separatist Afa Fong, who did not attend the hearing because he is on the run, was found guilty of the same charges. However, the verdict is far from satisfactory for the families' lawyer. According to him, 'these were extremely serious offences that could have led to a life sentence (...) This verdict does not do justice'. For the time being, neither the prosecution nor the defence has indicated any intention to appeal. Be that as it may, even if this case has come to a legal conclusion, it is far from being closed on a symbolic level. This is because the verdict, which some consider lenient, has reignited the debate on the fight against impunity and the ability of the Cameroonian justice system to respond appropriately to the violations committed in the context of the Anglophone crisis.

## Mali – Mahmoud Dicko: the enduring influence of an imam in exile facing the authorities

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Imam Mahmoud Dicko, a central figure in Malian socio-political life, now finds himself at the heart of an 'ambiguous adventure' marked by his transition from being an indispensable power broker to a vocal opponent in exile. After playing a decisive role in the fall of Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta in 2020, he gradually distanced himself from the military rulers, denouncing their failure to respect the transition timetable. Now a refugee in Algeria, Dicko is seeking to redefine his role by positioning himself as a mediator for peace, while joining opposition coalitions abroad, such as the Coalition of Forces for the Republic (CFR). His rhetoric, which skilfully blends religious rigour, populism and criticism of the elites, continues to divide opinion: his supporters see him as an indispensable moral bulwark against an authoritarian junta, while his detractors are concerned about his theocratic influence and ultra-conservative positions, which they believe threaten the secular nature of the state. Despite the dissolution of his movement (CMAS) by the authorities in Bamako, the imam remains a key figure whose ability to mobilise support, even from a distance, continues to pose a major challenge to the colonels in power.

## FAMa operation in Ségou: Terrorists neutralised and equipment seized

According to a statement issued by the army general staff on Monday 16 February 2026, the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) carried out a major search operation on the previous Sunday in the Nampala area (Ségou region). The intervention, which targeted the areas around the villages of Toulé and Akoub, resulted in the neutralisation of several terrorists. In addition to the human toll, the army seized a significant amount of equipment, including weapons, ammunition and communications equipment. Through this operation, the military hierarchy reaffirms its determination to track down armed groups throughout the national territory to ensure the safety of the population.

## The AES launches its roadmap for its second year

On 17 February 2026, the Malian government officially examined the roadmap for Year II of the Confederation of Sahel States (AES), which aims to consolidate the achievements of the first year and operationalise the commitments made by Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. This step follows the recent ratification of four major protocols on defence, diplomacy, development and the creation of a confederal parliament. Under the rotating presidency of Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the confederation intends to transform these legal texts into concrete actions to meet the urgent needs of the population in terms of security, free movement and infrastructure. The authorities reaffirm the irreversible nature of this regional integration process, born out of the break with ECOWAS and the desire of the three states to build a sovereign and secure space.

## Niger: The standoff with France continues

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General Abdourahamane Tiani proposes to return to France its share of uranium (63.4%) from a stockpile of 156,000 tonnes accumulated at the Somair mine before its nationalisation in June 2025. This announcement, seen as a gesture of clarification in the diplomatic standoff between Niamey and Paris, nevertheless sets a strict limit: all uranium produced after the junta took power remains the exclusive property of Niger, with the authorities claiming to have invested 24 billion CFA francs to maintain operations after Orano's withdrawal. This position illustrates Niger's sovereignist stance on its natural resources, while the legal dispute over 'expropriation' and environmental damage continues to fester between the two countries.

## Algeria–Niger: An official visit to seal reconciliation

General Abdourahamane Tiani's official visit to Algiers marks the end of an 'abnormal period of coldness' and the beginning of a 'cautious resumption of bilateral dialogue' after months of heightened tensions linked to the July 2023 coup and migration management. Welcomed with honours by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the Nigerien transitional leader, supported by a high-ranking ministerial delegation (Defence, Energy, Petroleum), is seeking to transform this diplomatic détente into a solid operational partnership. Beyond the symbolic return of ambassadors, the challenge is to reactivate structural projects such as the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP), fibre optic interconnection and border security cooperation, while repositioning Algeria as an essential regional mediator in the face of Niger's isolation. This summit demonstrates a mutual political will to stabilise the Sahel-Saharan region, although the realisation of these ambitions remains dependent on the ability of both states to overcome administrative burdens and local political fragilities.

## AES Unified Force: A rise in strength to 6,000 men

Faced with the resurgence of jihadist threats and the use of advanced technology by 'mercenaries', General Abdourahamane Tiani announced that the strength of the Unified Force of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) would be increased from 5,000 to 6,000 soldiers. This strategic increase aims to strengthen the operational capacity of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to secure the Sahel region, which has been marked by recent attacks such as the one against Niamey airport. Beyond simply increasing troop numbers, the alliance is focusing on greater coordination of intelligence and logistics and on raising awareness among defence forces of new types of asymmetric threats. This military reinforcement is accompanied by a desire for broader integration, including the fight against disinformation and the creation of common economic institutions, despite persistent challenges related to financing and the establishment of an operational supranational framework.

## Senegal: Justice under pressure from legislation?

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The National Assembly of Senegal has begun examining several crucial bills, including one concerning the request to lift the parliamentary immunity of MP Farba Ngom. This legislative procedure, which is part of a drive for accountability desired by the new authorities, aims to allow the justice system to hear the MP on financial matters. The Assembly's bureau met to set the timetable for this procedure, marking a significant symbolic step in the management of parliamentary privileges.

**Farba Ngom's response: 'Hand on the Koran'** In response to the allegations of embezzlement, Farba Ngom vigorously proclaimed his innocence, claiming that he had never received a single franc from the public treasury illegally. To emphasise his good faith, the MP symbolically took an oath with his hand on the Koran, declaring that he was prepared to respond to any legal summons once his immunity had been lifted. He denounced what he called an attempt at political demonisation, while insisting that his wealth was the result of transparent private activities.

### Bassirou Diomaye Faye: Modern and preventive justice

President Bassirou Diomaye Faye outlined his vision for far-reaching reform of the judiciary, arguing that modern justice should go beyond its purely repressive role to become a lever for conflict prevention. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of promoting social dialogue and mediation to relieve congestion in the courts. For the Head of State, a peaceful and accessible justice system is essential to guarantee social stability and restore trust between citizens and institutions.

### Death of Abdoulaye Ba: six uniformed men punished

The investigation into the tragic death of Abdoulaye Ba has resulted in the official punishment of six defence and security forces officers, a decision confirmed by lawyer Bamba Cissé, Minister of the Interior and Public Security. These administrative and disciplinary measures are intended to punish the serious misconduct observed during the intervention that led to the victim's death. This announcement is seen as a strong signal against impunity within the law enforcement agencies, responding to the expectations of justice of the family and public opinion.

### Tightening of laws and extension of the scope of 'unnatural acts'

The Senegalese government has decided to significantly strengthen the Penal Code with regard to 'unnatural acts'. The new reform now provides for the punishment of not only the acts themselves, but also their advocacy, with prison sentences. This decision is part of a clear desire to preserve the country's socio-cultural and religious values in the face of what the authorities consider to be deviant behaviour, thereby tightening the existing legal framework.

The bill to amend the Senegalese Penal Code has been clarified to include two new profiles in the context of the repression of unnatural acts. Parliamentary debates indicate that the law now more specifically targets those who encourage or facilitate these practices, thereby broadening criminal liability. This legislative extension reflects pressure from certain social and religious groups for stricter and more comprehensive legislation on these moral issues.

## Nigeria: Massacre of 46 civilians in the centre-west of the country

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A new wave of deadly violence in Nigeria is being felt in the centre-west of the country, where at least 46 people were killed in coordinated attacks on three villages by armed 'bandits'. The attackers, who arrived in large numbers on motorbikes, opened fire on residents, looted shops and set fire to homes, also causing the displacement of hundreds of survivors. This tragedy illustrates the persistent chronic insecurity in this region, marked by conflicts over control of resources and kidnappings for ransom, despite repeated promises by the Nigerian authorities to strengthen the protection of civilian populations against increasingly daring criminal groups.

### Escalating violence against Christian communities in Taraba

A deadly attack on 10 February 2026 in Mchia, Taraba State, where ten Christians were killed by Fulani herdsmen. Leaders of the Diocese of Wukari denounce a 'bloodbath' and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis: since September 2025, the violence has reportedly left more than 100 people dead, destroyed 200 churches and communities, and displaced 90,000 Catholics. The attackers are said to be specifically targeting religious buildings and homes in the early hours of the morning, while seizing agricultural land and committing abuses against civilians. In response to this situation, the Church is launching an urgent appeal to the Nigerian government for the immediate deployment of security reinforcements in vulnerable rural areas and is calling for increased humanitarian aid to avert a major catastrophe.

### Eight soldiers killed in ISWAP attack near Lake Chad

A large-scale offensive was carried out by approximately seventy fighters from Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) against a military base in Cross Kauwa, in north-eastern Nigeria. The violent assault killed eight soldiers and wounded twenty-three, while the attackers destroyed eleven armoured vehicles and stole anti-aircraft equipment before fleeing. This raid is evidence of the general resurgence of violence in Borno State, despite the recent deployment of American reinforcements to support the Nigerian army. In a conflict that has been ongoing since 2009 and has already claimed more than 40,000 lives, this attack highlights the resilience of jihadist groups in the strategic Lake Chad area, forcing the authorities to strengthen their international security cooperation.

### Jihadist massacre in seven villages in Kebbi State

A series of coordinated attacks carried out on 18 February 2026 by the jihadist group Lakurawa against seven villages in the Arewa area of Kebbi State (north-western Nigeria). These violent assaults targeted residents who tried to resist, killing more than 30 civilians and creating a climate of terror. The emergence of this group, suspected of links to Islamic State in the Sahel, exacerbates a security situation already weakened by the activities of local criminal gangs specialising in kidnapping for ransom. Despite the immediate deployment of the army and local militias to stabilise the area and track down the attackers, this outbreak of violence highlights the continuing challenges for the Nigerian authorities in a region now at the heart of transnational jihadist threats.