

The Sahel Horizon



WEEKLY UPDATE

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Weekly Update | Week 28: 05.10-11.10

Welcome to this week's edition of *The Sahel Horizon: Weekly Update*. This briefing provides an overview of the most significant political, security, and regional developments across the Sahel, highlighting key trends shaping the current landscape.

Regional Updates

Senegal

- **Senegal Urges Guinea-Bissau Military to Ease Election Restrictions**

Senegal, mediating for ECOWAS, called on Guinea-Bissau's military rulers to lift political and civil restrictions after the electoral commission warned conditions are unsuitable for December polls. The country has been under military control since the November 2025 coup.

- **Senegal Seizes Fake US Dollars And Euro Worth Approximately US\$1.9 Million**

Senegal's gendarmerie arrested six people and seized fake US dollar and euro notes worth over 1.1 billion CFA francs (about US\$1.9 million), plus weapons and mercury, in operations across Dakar, Thiès, Mbour and Louga

Burkina Faso

- **Burkina Faso Builds 380,000-Tonne Food Sovereignty Stocks**

Burkina Faso has accumulated more than 380,000 tonnes of strategic food reserves after purchasing over 350,000 tonnes of cereals from local producers in the 2025-2026 campaign, supported by major gains in national production.

- **Burkina Faso Suspends Cereal Flour Exports**

Authorities suspended exports of millet, maize and sorghum flour and related products until further notice to ensure regular domestic supply and improve consumer access, also halting special export permits.

Mauritania

- **Mauritanian PM Resigns Then Reappointed to Form New Government**

Prime Minister El Moctar Ould Djay resigned on 9 October following a critical report on electricity substation fires, but President Ghazouani reappointed him the same day and tasked him with forming a new 29-member cabinet.

Niger

- **Niger Maintains Fuel Prices, Targets Fraud**

The government kept Super at 499 CFA and gasoil at 618 CFA per litre, rejecting any increase, while focusing on informal circuits and fraud blamed for shortages and price pressures.

Chad

- **US Keeps Chad on Tier 3 Trafficking List**

The US State Department again ranked Chad Tier 3 in its 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report, citing no investigations, prosecutions or convictions of traffickers and no victim identification during the reporting period.

Critical Zones

Mali

- Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) announced strategic withdrawal of fighters from Kidal on 6 October 2026, citing aerial pressure; Malian army and Russian partners launched major air-ground operations without claiming full reconquest.
- Gao criminal court session (6-8 October 2026) sentenced three to death, one to life, and others to 10-20 years for murder, rape and child sex offences; Mali retains death penalty but has observed a de facto moratorium since 1980.
- Nearly 5,400 fuel tanker trucks reached Bamako since September 2026 under military escort, including a 957-tanker convoy on 10 October, securing petroleum supplies amid security and logistics challenges.

Sudan

- OPCW Executive Council (opened 6 October 2026) intensified scrutiny of alleged chemical weapons use by Port Sudan-aligned forces; EU, South Africa and others demanded transparent investigation under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- Russian firm Alliance for Mining denied debts to eastern Sudan communities after protests halted operations at two Red Sea State gold sites over unpaid social-responsibility payments and local jobs.
- Germany warned at the OPCW that Sudan's military may run an undeclared chemical-weapons programme beyond 2024 battlefield use; Australia, Belgium, US and Finland pressed for full transparency and investigation.
- Nyala schools closed for a second day after teacher Mohamed Hamed was killed and students injured on 8 October 2026 when an RSF vehicle struck them; protests followed.
- US adviser Massad Boulos renewed calls for a nationwide arms embargo, warning Sudan's neighbours against supplying weapons or allowing their territory to fuel the war after UNSC extended only the Darfur regime to 11 December.
- TASIC forces seized large army and militia weapons stockpiles in Blue Nile while advancing on Ed Damazin, claiming control of ~85 % of the region; army units reportedly withdrew toward Singa.
- TASIC denied responsibility for the 41-death Abu Shandi drone strike (Blue Nile) and accused an Egyptian military drone launched from army-held Wad al-Mahi of the attack near a displacement site



South Sudan

- Presidential envoy Adut Salva Kiir stated on 9 October 2026 that December elections are non-negotiable after inter-party dialogue; opposition groups rejected the process while Riek Machar remains detained.
- President Salva Kiir ordered constitutional-office holders to obtain prior permission for foreign travel, restating the rule on 10 October while briefing the caretaker cabinet on Kenya and South Africa visits.
- President Kiir returned to Juba on 9 October 2026 after visits to Kenya and South Africa, securing pledges of technical and logistical support for the 22 December elections.
- Intercommunal clashes in Rumbek, Lakes State, killed approximately 71 people (including four soldiers) on or around 10 October 2026; security forces regained control after outsiders briefly seized the town.

Non-State Armed Actors of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa

- Suspected Al-Shabaab IED on the Mandera–Elwak road (Kenya) on 9 October 2026 injured six people, one critically; part of intensified cross-border attacks linked to Jubaland operations.
- Moroccan judicial police in Tangier arrested a 22-year-old on 10 October 2026 for alleged ISIS allegiance and bomb-making preparations; explosives precursors, electronics and manuals were seized.
- Nigerian troops killed over 25 IS-aligned militants in Borno (Kukawa) while bandits killed at least 25 soldiers and over 100 gold miners in Zamfara in early October 2026 attacks.
- Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud ruled out any Al-Shabaab return to national power (5 October 2026 interview), stating the group controls no major cities though the insurgency may persist.
- Armed gangs killed 28 people in Plateau State attacks (Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi) around 5 October 2026 despite a curfew imposed after previous violence that claimed over 30 lives.
- Suspected Boko Haram militants killed one person and burned a church and vehicle in Bala-Tela, Gombi LGA, Adamawa State on or about 9 October 2026; the village had suffered a prior attack killing 29.
- Somalia's NISA announced that a 1 October 2026 operation in Jilib killed Bashir Ahmed Haji Nunow (alias Geescadde), former Al-Shabaab Amniyat security chief (2016-2024) linked to major Mogadishu attacks.

From The African Realm

Established as a French colonial settlement in the 17th century, Saint-Louis underwent significant urban development during the mid-19th century. It served as Senegal's capital from 1872 to 1957 and became an important cultural and economic hub for West Africa. Its distinctive character stems from its location on an island at the mouth of the Senegal River, its orderly urban layout, network of quays, and characteristic colonial architecture.



Source: UNESCO

**Sources consulted for this article are available upon request. Readers interested in further documentation are invited to leave a message.*

**Special note: To carry out this newsletter, artificial intelligence was used only in part, as a working tool and not otherwise.*