

CEP – KAS - Monitoring Sahel

By Pieter Van Ostaeyen

Report VIII – (January 20, 2023 – January 27, 2023)

January 19:

- an-Naba' 374



Translation: [Soldiers of the] Nigerian army and their militias killed and wounded and burning two of their vehicles in two attacks in Northern Nigeria.

ISWAP

This week the soldiers of the Caliphate killed and wounded a number of Nigerian soldiers and destroyed one of their vehicles. They also killed four of their supporting militia members and burned one of their vehicles in the area of (Borno) in the north-east of the country.

Four killed [in the ranks] of local militia

In detail: by the grace of God Almighty, on Thursday 19 Jumada al-Akhira, soldiers of the Caliphate attacked four members of supporting militia of the murtad Nigerian army with machine guns, in the village of (Marte) in the area of (Borno). They were killed and their vehicle was burned. A trusted source of an-Naba' added that the Mujahidin entered their camp and opened fire on them and killed them. Praise be God.

An opportunity for an attack on the Nigerian army

On the following day, Friday, the Mujahidin attacked a base of the murtad Nigerian army in the village of (Aziri) in the area of (Borno). They attacked them with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades. A number of them were killed and wounded and an armoured vehicle was destroyed. The Mujahidin captured a rifle and several machine guns. The media outlet of ISWAP sent pictures of the attack and the spoils of war. Praise be God.

The thwarted attack in pictures

After the attack governmental media showed pictures of vehicles and armoured vehicles and some weapons, in order to show that their troops thwarted the attack. In this regard, a source close to an-Naba' added that the vehicle and the weapons pictured were actually those captured by the Mujahidin during their attack. In their withdrawal, by daylight, they decided to leave it behind, despite the arrival of massive reinforcements in the area.

The source added that the vehicle was burned after it got stuck in a crevice on the bumpy road. So, the Mujahidin decided to burn it, so it could not be of any further use for the enemy. The source pointed out that the Nigerian army was looking for any opportunity to proof their achievement, even it was shown on the pictures [provided]. Praise be God.

They added that it was not just the Nigerian army who does this, all armies the Mujahidin fight are doing this for some reason.

Last week

During last week the soldiers of the Caliphate killed and wounded a number of Nigerian soldiers, destroyed two of their vehicles, captured a third one, and destroyed an army base. [This during] five different attacks and explosions targeting an army base and a patrol in the area of (Borno) in the North-East of the country.

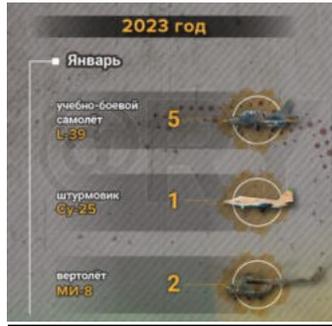
January 21:

- **Mu'asasat an-Nusra li-l-Intaj al-I'lami (JNIM)**

روسيا الكافرة الباغية ترسل دفعة طائرات عسكرية جديدة إلى حكومة مالي لقتال المجاهدين، منها طائرة غرب أفريقيا# ، والعاقة Mi-8 ، وطائرتي هليكوبتر من طراز L-39 ، وخمسة طائرات تدريبية قتالية من طراز Su-25 هجومية من طراز للمتقين.

Translation: *The infidel Russian aggressor sends a new batch of military aircraft to the government of Mali to fight the Mujahidin. This includes one SU-25 fighter jet, five L-39 combat training aircraft and two Mi-8 helicopters.*

- **Mu'asasat an-Nusra li-l-Intaj al-I'lami (JNIM)**



روسيا الكافرة الباغية ترسل دفعة طائرات عسكرية جديدة إلى [غرب أفريقيا](#) #

Translation: *The infidel Russian aggressor sends a batch of new military aircraft to Western-Africa*

January 22:

- **Picture report by ISWAP**

ISWAP fighters watching the recent IS Mozambique video



(ولاية غرب إفريقية صور: جانب من مشاهدة جنود الخلافة بولاية غرب إفريقية لإصدار (الله وليّ المؤمنين

Translation: *ISWAP – Pictures: Soldiers of the Caliphate in Western-Africa Province watching the broadcast*

January 23:

- **Bay'a to JNIM, published by Mu'asasat an-Nusra li-l-Intaj al-I'lami and az-Zallaqa Media**



[بيعة تنظيم القاعدة ببلاد المغرب الإسلامي# جماعة نصره الإسلام والمسلمين# مؤسسة الزلاقة للإنتاج الإعلامي# بعض اعيان قبائل ازواغ للشيخ ابو الفضل في منطقة منكا يناير](#)

Translation: *JNIM, az-Zallaqa Media, the pledge of allegiance of Azawagh fighters in Menake area, January*



January 24:

- **Video message by az-Zallaqa Media and by Nashir Media – bay'a by Northern Malian tribes to Iyad Ag Ghaly, emir of JNIM**



- **Report by FDD’s Long War Journal on the bay’a from Northern Mali to JNIM’s emir Iyad Ag Ghali**

Northern Mali clans swear allegiance to JNIM

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/01/northern-mali-clans-swear-allegiance-to-jnim.php>

“According to Radio France Internationale (RFI), the clan notables belonged to the Daoussahak community near the northern Malian town of Inékar, close to the borders with Niger. Though commonly referred to as a sub-section of the Tuareg due to common cultural and linguistic traits, the Daoussahak maintain they are an independent ethnic group in Mali’s north and predate many of the Tuareg in the area.”

- **Tweet by Zagazola**



- **Correction on the identification of the armoured vehicle by Calibre Obscura**



- **Tweet by the Nigerian Army**



- **Tweets by French Journalist Wassim Nasr**



- **Article in The Wall Street Journal**

Burkina Faso Tells French Troops to Leave

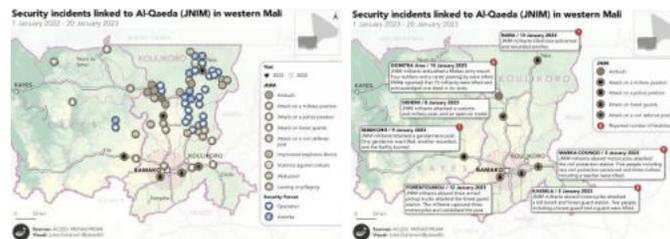
(source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/burkina-faso-tells-french-troops-to-leave-11674503354>)

“French troops who have been fighting Islamist militants in Burkina Faso will have to leave the West African nation, the country’s communications minister said Monday, dealing another blow to Europe’s presence in a region where Russia’s influence is growing. The decision by the government in Ouagadougou to abandon its military alliance with its former colonial power comes five months after France completed its withdrawal from neighboring Mali, which in 2021 hired the Russian paramilitary Wagner Group to support its war against jihadists affiliated with al Qaeda and Islamic State.”

- **Tweets and analysis by Jules Duhamel**

JNIM: attacks (January 1, 2022 – January 23, 2022)

<https://julesduhamel.wordpress.com/2023/01/24/security-incidents-linked-to-al-qaeda-jnim-in-western-mali/>



- **Statement by ISWAP – attack on Gashua**



ولاية غرب إفريقية بتوفيق الله تعالى، كمن جنود الخلافة لدورية للجيش النيجيري المرتد، قرب بلدة (غشوا) بمنطقة (يوبي) أمس، واستهدفهم بالأسلحة الرشاشة، ما أدى لفرارهم، واغتنام المجاهدون بندقية وذخائر، والله الحمد

Translation:

ISWAP – By the Grace of God Almighty, the soldiers of the Caliphate yesterday attacked a patrol of the murtad Nigerian army near the village of (Gashua) in the area of (Yobe). They attacked them with machine guns after which they fled. The Mujahidin captured a rifle and ammunition.

- **Picture report by ISWAP – attack on Gashua (9 pictures in the original)**



(ولاية غرب إفريقية صور: هجوم جنود الخلافة على دورية للجيش النيجيري المرتد قرب بلدة (غشوا) بمنطقة (يوبي)

Translation: *ISWAP – An attack of the soldiers of the Caliphate on a patrol of the murtad Nigerian army in the village of (Gashua) in the area of (Yobe)*



January 25:

- **Tweet by switched**

A message from the Support Group for Islam and Muslims addressed to one of the Azawad tribes to join them. (via pro-AQ channel)

[Tweet retainer](#)



January 26:

- **Mu'asasat an-Nusra li-l-Intaj al-I'lami (JNIM)**

A bay'a message to Iyad Ag-Ghaly, general leader of JNIM

[تقرير خبري#فَعَلَيْكُمْ النَّصْرُ](#) [مؤسسة النصر للإنتاج الإعلامي#](#)

"بيعة قبائل أزواغ لمجاهدي قاعدة الجهاد"

لا تزال دعوة المجاهدين في سبيل الله تكسب مزيداً من الأنصار والمؤيدين بفضل الله تعالى وحده بالرغم من حملات الشيطنة نقل إعلام مجاهدي غرب أفريقيا البشري ببيعة . الإعلامية التي يمارسها أرباب الحملة الصهيونصليبية المعاصرة على الإسلام قبائل أزواغ في ولاية مينكا لمجاهدي القاعدة وللشيخ الفاضل إيد أغ عالي حفظ الله الجميع، وهذا يعد انتصاراً للمجاهدين في سبيل الله لأن حملاتهم الإعلامية قد باءت بالفشل الذريع فسرعان ما تهاوت الأكاذيب والإفتراءات والشائعات الظلامية أمام نور إن بيعة القبائل المسلمة الأبية والتفافهم حول أبناءهم المجاهدين يعني الكثير والله الحمد والمنة؛ فهو يعني أن دول .الحق الساطع الصليب لم تنجح في عزل المجاهدين عن حاضنتهم الشعبية ويعني أن هذه القبائل المسلمة الأبية ستكون عوناً وسنداً لأبناءها إن وصول الجهاد في غرب أفريقيا لهذه المرحلة المباركة في إدارة الصراع هو محض توفيق من الله تعالى .المجاهدين لقد سعت دول الصليب .للمجاهدين في سبيل الله الذين أجهضوا مشروع الصليب في المنطقة ونشروا الوعي بين المسلمين وأتباعها بكل ما أوتوا من قوة أن يكسروا شوكة المجاهدين في سبيل الله في غرب أفريقيا فما استطاعوا والله الحمد والمنة وذلك لقد رأيت .من أجل أن تخلو لهم الساحة فيواصلوا احتلال بلادنا وانتهاك أعراسنا ونهب ثرواتنا وفرض مشاريعهم الخبيثة علينا القبائل المسلمة في غرب أفريقيا بأمر أعينها ما يفعله أبناء فرنسا من جهة وما يفعله أبناءهم المجاهدين من جهة أخرى فقررت الإنحياز الى صف أهل الحق والخير والفضيلة وهذا هو عهدنا بأمتنا المسلمة الحبيبة فهي دائماً وأبداً مع أبنائها الشرفاء يناير 2023 .الصادقين الأحرار

Translation: *The call of the mujahideen in the way of God continues to gain more supporters and backers, thanks to God Almighty alone, despite the media demonization campaigns practiced by the masters of the contemporary Zionist and Crusade campaign against Islam. The media of the Mujahideen of West Africa conveyed the good news of the allegiance of the Azawagh tribes in the state of (Meneka) to the Mujahideen of Al-Qaeda and to the virtuous Sheikh Iyad Ag Ghali, may God protect him. The pledge of allegiance of the proud Muslim tribes and their rallying around their mujahideen sons means a lot, praise be God. It means that the countries of the cross did not succeed in isolating the mujahideen from their popular base, and it means that these proud Muslim tribes will be aid and support for their mujahideen children. The arrival of jihad in West Africa to this blessed stage in managing the conflict is a pure success from God Almighty to the mujahideen fighting for the cause of God who aborted the project of the cross in the region and spread awareness among Muslims. The countries of the cross and their followers have sought with all their might to break the thorn of the mujahideen in the cause of God in West Africa, but they were unable, praise and gratitude be to God, in order to empty the arena for them, so that they continue to occupy our country, violate our honour, plunder our wealth, and impose their malicious projects on us. The Muslim tribes in West Africa have seen with their own eyes what the sons of France are doing on the one hand, and what their mujahideen sons are doing on the other hand, so they decided to align themselves with the ranks of the people of truth, goodness, and virtue.*

- **Article by MilitantWire**

Al-Qaeda Branch Emir Makes Rare Appearance in Menaka, Mali: What This Means for Islamic State in the Sahel

(source: https://www.militantwire.com/p/al-qaeda-branch-emir-makes-rare-appearance?publication_id=490119&isFreemail=false)

“Over two days starting on 22 January 2023, Al-Qaeda’s branch, the Group for Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), released footage through its media wing Az-Zallaqa on Chirp Wire showing notable tribal figures pledging allegiance to JNIM emir Iyad Ag Ghaly, who was present at the ceremony. Az-Zallaqa said that the men were from the “Azawagh tribe” in Mali’s Menaka region. In one image, Ag Ghaly appeared to be sitting at the center of the group surrounded by a few men dressed in Tuareg attire. Other images depicted weapons, technicals (vehicles with mounted guns), and several militants carrying AK-type rifles. However, the significance of the footage comes from its timing, the location, and the presence of Ag Ghaly himself in the Menaka region.

The appearances of Ag Ghaly (AKA Abu Al-Fadel) are rare. They usually occur in the Kidal region, the stronghold of the separatist Tuaregs, mainly the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad in northern Mali on the border with Algeria. Ag Ghaly shares tribal ties with the separatists, and the latter is often accused of cooperating with him or concealing his whereabouts.”