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News from the Source · Daily print edition

DOMESTIC

Mali | President Assimi Goïta on a regional tour that includes Burkina Faso and Niger



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Mali | Army repels an armed attack and inflicts losses on terrorist groups in Baima

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Arrival of Malian President Assimi Goïta in Niger

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DOMESTIC

Mali | President Assimi Goïta on a regional tour that includes Burkina Faso and Niger

Secretary-General · 18:10



Mali's transitional leader, General Assimi Goïta, departed the capital, Bamako, this afternoon, heading to Burkina Faso. His tour will also include the Republic of Niger, as part of a working visit aimed at strengthening relations and joint coordination among the member states of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

The visit focuses on exploring ways to bolster the alliance's cohesion and intensify political, security, and military coordination among the three nations. It also involves consultations on shared regional challenges—foremost among them security threats and the fight against armed groups—as well as enhancing cooperation to address unfolding developments in the Sahel region.

This tour takes place within the context of ongoing efforts by Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger to solidify mechanisms for joint action and further develop cooperation among the alliance's member states.

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DOMESTIC

Mali | Army repels an armed attack and inflicts losses on terrorist groups in Baima

Secretary-General · 18:05



On October 31, the Malian Armed Forces successfully repelled an attack by armed elements affiliated with the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) in the Baima area. Following the clashes—which resulted in losses of both personnel and equipment for the armed groups—the attackers were forced to retreat, according to reports from local sources.

This development occurs amidst ongoing confrontations between the Malian Armed Forces and various armed groups active in the region.

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DOMESTIC

Arrival of Malian President Assimi Goïta in Niger

Secretary-General · 19:41



The head of Mali's transitional government, General Assimi Goïta, arrived today, Thursday, November 5, 2026, in Niamey, the capital of Niger. He was welcomed by Nigerien President General Abdourahamane Tiani during an official reception ceremony at Diori Hamani International Airport, which included a military salute and the playing of both national anthems.

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THE MAGHREB

Libya – France | High-level military meeting at the Élysée Palace brings together Khaled Haftar and French officials

Secretary-General · 18:16



On Wednesday, November 4, 2026, the Élysée Palace in Paris hosted General Khaled Haftar, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces affiliated with the General Command in eastern Libya. He met with General Vincent Giraud, Chief of the Military Staff to French President Emmanuel Macron, and Paul Soler, the French President's advisor in charge of the Libyan dossier.

This meeting takes place within the framework of ongoing French engagement with Libyan military leaders, reflecting France's continued interest in political and security developments in Libya. Key topics included the future of the military establishment, the unification of security and military institutions, and security challenges across the Sahel region and North Africa.

The reception of a high-ranking Libyan military official at the Élysée Palace underscores the continued direct communication between Paris and the military leadership in eastern Libya.

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DOMESTIC

Nigeria | The "Ansaru" group claims responsibility for the assassination of a preacher who advocated for religious coexistence.

Secretary-General · 16:04



The group "Ansar al-Muslimeen fi Bilad al-Sudan" (Ansaru)—an organization linked to Al-Qaeda in West Africa—has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Islamic preacher Yahya Ibrahim Masuku. The claim was made in a video lasting over 20 minutes, which included footage of the group's members undergoing military training at one of their camps in northwestern Nigeria. In the recording, a leader of the group announced their responsibility for the assassination, justifying the targeting of Masuku by citing religious and doctrinal disagreements. He accused Masuku of adopting the views of the "Kala-Kato" movement, which holds that the Quran is the sole source of religious law, while rejecting the authority of the Prophet's Sunnah and the Hadith. The speaker also sought to provide religious and historical justifications for the killing, referencing events from Islamic history and texts attributed to Ibn al-Qayyim. He asserted that the group does not recognize the legitimacy of the Nigerian government, nor does it acknowledge the state's authority to adjudicate matters concerning the group—a stance that reflects its rejection of state power and legal institutions. ### Details of the Assassination The incident took place on October 26 in the town of Dutsin-Ma, in Katsina State, northern Nigeria. Two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on the preacher Yahya Ibrahim Masuku and his friend, Adamu Abubakar, in front of his home, killing both men instantly. On October 27, the group claimed responsibility for the attack, noting that Masuku's religious positions—specifically his advocacy for peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Christians—were among the reasons for targeting him. ### Masuko: An Advocate for Dialogue and Opponent of Extremism Masuko was a religious figure known for his efforts to foster rapprochement between Muslims and Christians. He embraced the "Quranist" perspective, which rejects the use of the Prophet's *hadith* (traditions) as a source of religious legislation. His activities extended beyond theological debate; he participated in interfaith dialogue initiatives and visited regions plagued by sectarian tensions—such as the city of Jos—where he helped

organize meetings between Muslim and Christian religious leaders. He also took part in events hosted by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), including its Kano State branch, and publicly condemned attacks by militant groups, particularly those targeting Christian villages and communities in southern Kaduna State and Plateau State. One of his most notable statements was: "The blood of an innocent Christian is as sacred as the blood of a Muslim." Due to his work in promoting religious coexistence, he was dubbed an "Ambassador of Peace." In June 2025, he received an honorary award from the Good Governance and Transparency Network in Katsina State. In November 2025, local authorities summoned him following complaints regarding some of his religious views and teachings, which the complainants deemed contrary to Islamic principles. ### A Peace Project That Ended in Assassination Before his death, Masuko was in the process of establishing an organization called "Supporters of the Quran for Harmony and Peace" (*Ansar al-Quran lil-Tawafuq wal-Salam*) and was preparing to organize an interfaith peace summit in Katsina State. According to lawyer Audu Bulama Bukarti, who monitors the activities of extremist groups in the region, Masuku was preparing to hold a broad interfaith dialogue conference shortly before his assassination. Following his death, his students and representatives from Christian communities insisted on carrying out the initiative; an event was subsequently held at the Muhammadu Dikko Stadium in Katsina, with the participation of Christian clergy. Reverend Richard Shaibu Leethi, head of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Katsina State, affirmed that Masuku left behind an important legacy in the fight against religious intolerance, noting the Association’s commitment to continuing the initiatives he began to promote peace and coexistence. ### Security Implications The assassination—and the claim of responsibility by "Ansaru"—reveals a pattern of threats that extends beyond targeting security and military institutions to the elimination of religious and social figures who hold views contrary to the ideology of extremist groups. Furthermore, the group’s use of a video—featuring military training alongside an explicit declaration of the assassination—demonstrates an attempt to combine a display of military might with ideological propaganda and the intimidation of the local community. This case carries concerning indicators regarding the widening scope of targeting in northern Nigeria—specifically against voices advocating for interfaith dialogue—within a security environment where the activities of armed groups intersect with deep-seated religious and social divisions. **Al-Sahel News**

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