Niger: December 2018 Chronology of Violent Incidents Related to Al-Qaeda affiliates Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM), Boko Haram, Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)

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By Rida Lyammouri

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NIGER: DECEMBER 2018 SITREP

- Nigerien government announced on 07 December 2018 the extension of State of emergency in Diffa Region three more months.
- **Reportedly**, on 10 December 2018 militants cell discovered 15km from Birni N’Konni at Jima-Jima village, Sokoto Region on the borders with Nigeria. Local prefect pointed out this was an attempt to establish a coordination site to exchange information between different militants’ cells.
- On 07 December the government declared State of emergency in Gotheye and Tillabéri departments, Tillabéri Region.
- On 29 December 2018 JNIM released statement claiming the attack against police station of Tera, Tillabéri Region carried on 30 November 2018.
- On 21 December 2018 and under the initiative of Mr. Mahamadou Bakabé, Diffa Region Governor, a meeting on the security situation extended to the administrative, customary, military and religious authorities in the presence of representatives of youth, women, and the media. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the very worrying security situation and the upsurge of attacks recently in addition the phenomenon of people kidnapping by suspected Boko Haram militants.
  - Important recommendations were formulated to deal with the situation, with particular emphasis on monitoring and the ability of the population to be resilient to the shock.
- In December hundreds of schools have closed or suspended their courses in Tillabéri Region following threats from ISGS militants. These schools are mostly located near Ayorou and Abala on the borders with Mali, and Torodi on the borders with Burkina Faso.
- French and Nigerien forces conducted air-ground joint operations near Tongo Tongo, Tillabéri Region. According to French defense ministry statement at least 15 suspected ISGS members killed while arms and ammunition seized.
- Notable increase in acts of intimidation, ethnic related violence, and armed banditry in Tahoua and Tillabéri Region during month of December 2018 forced number of families to seek refuge in Ménaka, Mali.
- In December 2018 important number of shops ransacked in villages in Diffa Region near Lake of Chad during incursions by suspected members of Boko Haram.
03 DEC 18: Three members of ISGS arrested after they entered and threatened population of a village near Ouallam, Tillabéri Region.

05 DEC 18: Suspected ISWAP militants allegedly killed 3 Fulani herders 7km east of Ngalewa village, Diffa Region.

08 DEC 18: Agadez Air-Info reported that civilian vehicle attacked by unidentified gunmen near Tanout on the road between Zinder and Agadez. 1 civilian killed and vehicle taken.

09 DEC 18: Suspected ISWAP militants briefly abducted 50 locals at Ara Malari village, 9km east of Bosso, Diffa Region. Supposedly were used to transport militant’s equipment. They were released later unharmed.

14 DEC 18: Suspected ISWAP or Boko Haram militants attacked the village Garin Gawaï, 15km west of N’Guigmi, Diffa Region. 1 killed and 3 injured while unclear if victims were civilians or members of security forces. 9 civilians also taken during the attack, 3 of which were released on 16 December.

15 DEC 18: Unknown gunmen attacked and destroyed a vehicle belonging to alleged drug traffickers in Salvador Pass on the Nigerien-Libyan borders. 1 killed and 1 injured.

15 DEC 18: Unidentified gunmen kidnapped and assassinated village traditional chief of Bolsi, Torodi Province, Tillabéri Region.

16 DEC 18: Nigerien forces clashed with militants responsible for Bolsi village chief kidnapping near borders with Burkina Faso in Torodi Province, Tillabéri Region. Reportedly at least 4 militants killed and 1 arrested while 1 gendarme and 1 civilian killed, and 3 other civilians injured. Gendarmerie vehicle was also destroyed (see image).
17 DEC 18: Allegedly members of Boko Haram assassinated under unclear circumstances a Fulani herder near Bosso, Toumour Commune, Diffa Region.

17 DEC 18: Nigerien forces special unit clashed with and killed two suspected members of ISGS near Tin Tadangawi, Tillabéri Region. Arms, a motorcycle, and ammunition also seized.

18 DEC 18: Reportedly farmers and herders clashed in Tam village, Diffa Region. 4 people injured and supposedly herders managed to flee into Nigeria after Nigerien gendarmerie intervened.

18 DEC 18: Urgence Diffa reported that alleged Boko Haram members entered the village of N’Guagam, Diffa Region and ransacked number of local stores in addition to taking livestock belonging to local population. Gunmen also attacked and ransacked local imam’s house.

20 DEC 18: Urgence Diffa reported that alleged Boko Haram members entered the village N’Gayami, Diffa Region and assassinated 3 people under unclear circumstances.

21 DEC 18: Urgence Diffa reported that alleged Boko Haram members entered the village Gueskerou, Diffa Region and ransacked multiple local shops.

24 DEC 18: According to protection cluster in Niger members of Doussahak Tuareg and Fulani communities of Tankademi village, Tahoua Region clashed under unclear circumstances. At least 9 people killed and others injured.

26 - 27 DEC 18: Urgence Diffa reported suspected armed Boko Haram militants entered Toumour Commune, Diffa Region and ransacked multiple local shops.
26 DEC 18: Protection cluster Niger reported unknown gunmen, probably members of ISGS, attacked Tuareg camp 15km NW of Agando, Tahoua Region. 5 people injured and gunmen accused villagers of backing an opposing group. Villagers were also given an ultimatum of 7 days to abandon the camp.

27 DEC 18: French and Nigerien forces conducted air-ground joint operations near Tongo Tongo, Tillabéri Region. According to French defense ministry statement at least 15 suspected ISGS members killed while arms and ammunition seized.

27 DEC 18: Security forces mistakenly wounded two women passing by Sahel G5 camp at Bankilaré, Tillabéri Region.

27 DEC 18: Suspected ISGS militants threatened local imam of Amazagan Koira village, 13km NW of Banibangou, Tillabéri Region. He was given 3 days to abandon the village. Source: Cluster Protection Niger.

27 DEC 18: Unidentified gunmen entered the village/camp of Tazaïlloite, 18km NE of Inates, Tillabéri Region and seized locals’ livestock. The act forces families to flee the area. Source: Cluster Protection Niger.

28 - 31 DEC 18: Nigerien government reported to have carried important air and ground operation against ISWAP and Boko Haram militants on the borders with Nigeria and around the Lake of Chad. Claimed more than 200 militants killed while arms and vehicles seized.

29 DEC 18: Nigerien and Nigerian forces clashed with unidentified group of militants near Doumbouroum village, 20km south of Chirgué, Madarounfa Commune, Maradi Region. 5 Nigerien and 5 Nigerian soldiers killed in addition to dozens of militants also killed and others wounded.

30 DEC 18: Unidentified gunmen attacked vehicle transporting civilians 35km east of Ekrafane between Abala and Azaragan, Tillabéri Region. Passengers were traveling to weekly market and were stripped of their cash. Source: Cluster Protection Niger.
**DEC 2018 Chronology of Violent Incidents by JNIM, ISGS, and Armed Bandits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 DEC 18</td>
<td><em>Urgence Diffa</em> reported inter-community clashes at displaced population camp of Kablewa, N’Guigmi Commune, Diffa Region. At least 15 people injured.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 DEC 18</td>
<td><em>Urgence Diffa</em> reported gendarmerie stationed at Woulouwa, Gueskerou Commune, Diffa Region mistakenly fired at vehicle transporting health worker. Health worker identified as Mahaman Elh Issoufou and his driver injured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 DEC 18</td>
<td>Jeunesse Diffa reported incursion by Boko Haram members at Dabagouné village, Chetimari Commune, Diffa Region. Local population fled the location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 DEC 18</td>
<td>Jeunesse Diffa reported incursion by Boko Haram members and forcing local wealthy man at Damaram, Chetimari Commune, Diffa Region to pay 2 million Naira (~5,500 USD).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 DEC 18</td>
<td>Suspected ISGS militants entered Tin-Gara village, Tillabéri Region looking for individuals providing information to security forces about their locations. Source: Cluster Protection Niger.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Useful Summary (in French) for 2018 Instability in Tillabéri Region by Cluster Protection Niger.
Useful Map (in French) for Displaced Population as of 27 DEC 2018 in Tahoua Region by Cluster Protection Niger.
Useful Map (in French) for Displaced Population as of 27 DEC 2018 in Tillabéri Region by Cluster Protection Niger.