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ACLED
Bringing clarity to crisis

Last week in Africa, Islamist violence continued in conjunction with heightened intercommunal tensions in the Sahel. In Somalia, ongoing fighting between different state actors overshadowed confrontations with the Al Shabaab insurgency. Meanwhile, intercommunal violence has left thousands displaced in South Sudan.

In **Tunisia**, a suicide bombing was carried out near the United States embassy in the capital Tunis, leaving one police officer dead and four others injured. It is the first suicide bombing to hit the capital since Islamic State carried out a series of attacks in mid-2019.

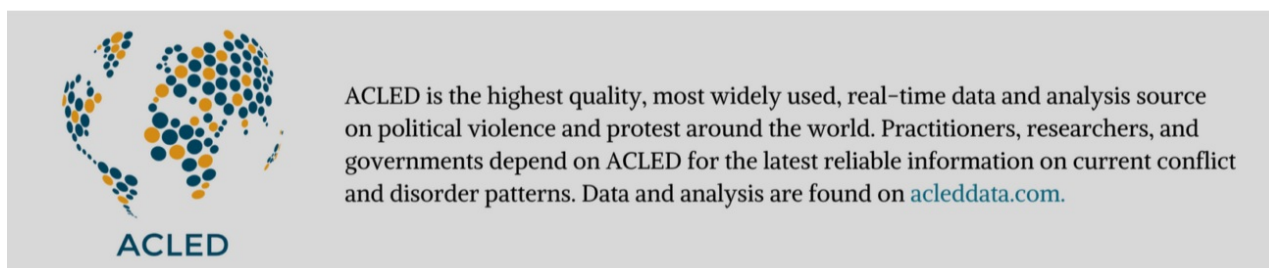
South Sudan was hit by ongoing intercommunal violence in Warrap and Jonglei. In Jonglei's Pibor county, heavy fighting occurred between armed men from the Lou Nuer and Murle ethnic groups. Reports suggest that thousands were displaced by the violence ([MSF, 2 March 2020](#)), with the worsening insecurity in Jonglei prompting new deployments of UN peacekeepers ([UNMISS, 6 March 2020](#)). In Warrap's Tonj South and East counties, intercommunal violence also resulted in dozens of fatalities.

Another week of violent confrontations was reported between different state actors in **Somalia**. In the Sool region, Puntland and Somaliland forces exchanged heavy artillery fire in a continuation of the previous week's hostilities. Meanwhile, Somali national forces clashed with troops from the autonomous Jubaland in Beled Hawo, on the Kenyan border. The clash was prompted by the Jubaland government's alleged protection of a fugitive former minister wanted by the central government. It has exacerbated existing tensions between Somalia and Kenya, a key supporter of the Jubaland administration, which has been accused by the Somali government of interfering in Somali internal affairs ([BBC, 6 March 2020](#)). Elsewhere, armed clashes between Somali military forces and Al Shabaab militants were reported in the Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Banadir and Bakool regions.

In **Mali**, Dogon communities staged mass demonstrations in the Mopti region to denounce the region's prevailing security situation. The demonstrations came as Fulani militiamen attacked, looted, and burned several Dogon villages in the Koro subdivision. Contrastingly, Malian military forces staged attacks on Fulani civilian populations in the Mondoro area, as well as Dogofri in the Segou region. The attacks followed an assault by Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) militants on a National Guard camp in Mondoro.

In **Burkina Faso**, JNIM and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) militants staged a number of attacks against civilians, security forces, and volunteer fighters in the Sahel, East, Centre-North and North regions. Security forces and Koglweogo reportedly carried out targeted attacks on the Fulani community in the Sahel Region. In the village of Cissé, Muslim Fulani worshippers were removed from a local mosque and summary executed. Dozens of civilians were also reportedly killed by security forces in two hamlets in the Mansila area.

In **Nigeria**, approximately fifty civilians were killed when armed bandits carried out raids on six villages in the Igabi and Giwa local government areas of Kaduna state. Meanwhile, Boko Haram launched attacks on civilians and state forces in Nigeria's Borno and Yobe states, **Niger's** Diffa region and the Far-North of **Cameroon**. Unsuccessful attacks on Nigerian military posts were reported in the Damboa and Kukawa local government areas of Borno state. Military forces responded with airstrikes targeting Boko Haram camps in the Sambisa Forest and the Gwoza local government area.



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