

On 26.02.23, at least 60 people were reportedly killed in another attack. Suspected jihadists reportedly attacked the village of Partiaga in eastern Burkina Faso. Houses were destroyed and livestock stolen. On 09.03.23, the military announced that they had regained control of Partiaga.

Burundi

Burundian public prosecutor charges 24 people with same-sex acts

According to local press reports, 24 people were charged with homosexual practices and incitement to same-sex acts on 09.03.23. Police had arrested 17 men and seven women on 23.02.23 during a seminar organised by the Muco Burundi organisation in the capital Gitega. According to the human rights organisation Acat Burundi, the accused will remain in detention until their trial. According to media reports, the penal code issued in 2009 by the late President Pierre Nkurunziza criminalises "sexual relations with a person of the same sex", punishable by three months to two years in prison. In early March 2023, President Evariste Ndayishimiye had called on the citizens of his country to ban homosexuality from Burundi. In East Africa, LGBTIQ people face hostility and discrimination in conservative societies that are predominantly Christian or Muslim and where homosexuality is taboo.

China

Hong Kong: convictions for commemorating Tian'anmen massacre

On 11.03.23, a Hong Kong court sentenced three former members of the non-profit organisation Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China to 4.5 months in prison, respectively, under the Security Act. The Hong Kong Alliance had been organising vigils in commemoration of the 1989 bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests for three decades before they were banned in 2020. The accused, Chow Hang-tung, Tang Ngok-kwan and Tsui Hon-kwong, had refused to hand over documents to the security police concerning the work and finances of the organisation, which was dissolved in 2021. As the Hong Kong Alliance is a "foreign agent" in the eyes of the authorities, they were reportedly obliged to do so.

Colombia

Attack on the Director of the National Protection Unit

On 07.03.23, the director of the National Protection Unit (Unidad Nacional de Protección) (UNP), Augusto Rodríguez, was attacked by four people outside his home in the capital Bogotá. In a gunfire exchange between the assailants and Rodríguez's security detail, one of the gunmen was killed and one bodyguard suffered injuries. Rodríguez and his daughter, who was also present, were unharmed. The director of the UNP stated that he had already been followed by a vehicle the night before and that his security detail had detected this. Bogotá's Secretary of Security, Óscar Gómez Heredia, announced a reward of COP 20 million (approximately EUR 4,000, as of 13.03.23) for information that could help to clarify the circumstances surrounding the crime. The UNP is responsible for the protection of persons at risk and provides them with, among other things, vehicles, bodyguards, bullet-proof vests and other means of protection. Currently, the UNP provides protection to about 7,000 Colombians, including about 3,600 social leaders. After taking office last year, Rodríguez criticised irregularities in the management of resources within the agency.

Côte d'Ivoire

Prison sentences for supporters of the PPA-CI

On 09.03.23, a court in Abidjan sentenced 26 supporters of former President Laurent Gbagbo's party, Parti des peuples africains - Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI) (Party of African Peoples - Ivory Coast), to two years in prison for disturbing public order. One defendant was acquitted. According to press reports on the verdict and background, 31 people were arrested when they protested against the summoning of PPA-CI Secretary General Damana Adia Médard, known as Damana Pickass, in Abidjan on 24.02.23. He is suspected of being involved in the attack carried