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EDITORIAL

The year 2020 has been particularly complex in all fields, in this context a group of people in different countries has fulfilled extraordinary tasks that require staying strong while the majority fears, staying on the streets, while the majority shelters, look for and care for those infected, while the majority avoids them. To that special group of people, members of the relief corps, firefighters, paramedics, and Civil Defense brigade members, we pay a special tribute today. Thanks!

This issue of TRIARIUS contains various works by our senior analyst Guadi Calvo, an expert on Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. In the first of them, he takes us to Somalia to make us reflect on moral issues, set in the humanitarian tragedy that this country has suffered for decades, where thousands of people are forced to decide between the bad and the worst in order to survive. .

We then move on to Mozambique, to try to understand a little the role of France in the deadly chess game played in that country by the central government and the different terrorist groups that operate there. All mainstreamed by the issue of gas exploitation.

Guadi Calvo dedicates two articles to the subject of the recent coup d'état in Mali, and the consequences that this will bring for that country and for its region, immersed in an endless war against terrorism, with the presence of European troops -especially French- and others under UN flag.

On this occasion, the last scenario that we visit hand in hand with Guadi, is the Philippines, where the activity of terrorist groups intensifies, and where it is verified that the widows of terrorists who previously blew themselves up are following in the footsteps of their deceased husbands.

Two additional articles that are presented in this edition have to do with the possibility that US President Donald Trump may carry out some violent action against Venezuela, as a campaign closing act that will attract the votes of the most radical, while that the other work tells us about the Remotely Manned Aircraft in use by the Colombian Armed Forces, complementing a material that has been published in previous issues. Thank you very much for reading us.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

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TRIARIUS

Autarky is the economic condition of an organization, region or country, which is capable of self-sufficiency, without requiring elements from outside or abroad. This of course provides an important level of independence where imports would be unnecessary. Although in modernity and with the process of globalization of the economy and communications, bonds of interdependence have been created that make absolute autarky a utopia, the geopolitical, security, sovereignty, and now health conditions recommend trying to be self-sufficient in some sectors, especially in the area of food, medicine and basic weapons. Not only at the country and regional level, but also at the family level. Do you know that you can harvest a lot of food in 1 m2 of surface? Have you noticed that on that wall of the balcony or your patio, you can have a vertical garden? Do you understand that it is more useful to grow medicinal plants than flowers? how are you preparing for the next world crisis?

On the cover, **Austrian Commandos**. See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Somalia, between traditions and bombing

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Child marriage is a tradition highly questioned by Westerners.

A wave of indignation seems to shake the good consciences of the world, according to what can be read in the mass media, upon learning of the news that a law that would legitimize marriages between adults and minors is being debated in the Somali parliament. Although the law could defeat the efforts of many international agencies and NGOs to prevent this type of practice, it will take a lot of energy and time, fundamentally, so that these kinds of unions, an ancient custom on the other hand, can be extinguished. Since almost fifty percent of the young women are delivered in these marriage classes before turning 18, after paying the bride's family a dowry, which consists of cattle or money. Given the current situation in the country:

war against terrorism, poverty, epidemics and droughts, added to the highest standards of poverty in the world, this seems to be the only way out before they have to emigrate, in many cases to prostitute themselves in some slum in Europe, or much worse to embark towards the Basateen neighborhood, in the Yemeni port of Aden, a square today occupied by a genocidal war, which was used as a springboard to reach one of the rich monarchies of the Persian Gulf, to get together with maid or continue in the trade. Although that option has been practically closed since 2015, after the start of the war declared by Saudi Arabia.

The West has much to be astonished by the "aberrant" cultural practices in many of those

nations, which are only placed on the map, when it comes to exploiting their resources or bombing them. Other ancestral customs, which include minors and are perhaps worse than a forced marriage, and just to name a few we could mention the *Leblouh*, a practice in some regions of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Mauritania, which literally consists of the fattening of marriageable girls, since for these societies obesity, in addition to being considered an attribute of beauty, is also a way of showing health, fertility and, above all, wealth. To achieve this there are "fattening farms" in which girls from five years old to 19, are forced in many cases under torture, to consume about 20 liters of camel milk daily along with

a mixture of two kilos of crushed millet with two pots of butter, which represent about 16 thousand calories. What makes them *gain* between 15 and 20 kilos per year, even the tebtath , the stretch marks produced by the accumulation of fat are considered sensual. This aberrant practice, which is still carried out by 7% of the population in urban areas and 75% in rural areas, hides something even worse: the artificial growth of these bodies, concealing their age and thus marrying them off to older men. Afghanistan *Bacha bazi* (in *Darí* , one of the two official languages of the country, playing with children), is a widespread custom in the rural areas of the south and east of the country, and in the *Tajik regions* of the north, for which the men of power: soldiers, politicians and rich merchants, have the right to dispose of one or more children, for their sexual use, whom they proudly display publicly. These children reach the condition after being kidnapped, as payment of some debt or sold by their families. In the interregnum of the *Taliban government*, 1996-2001, this practice was abolished, but thus -in the shadows- even the leaders of the organization, kept several of these *Bachas*, who once grown up and having "lost grace", they were forced to join the terrorist group. The West has also been unable to do anything about female genital mutilation (FGM) or amputation of external genitalia, a widespread practice in Africa and some countries in the Middle East, which, beyond awareness campaigns, is not only carried out in the countries of origin, but also in the large European cities, which have welcomed thousands of refugees, who have arrived carrying not only their pain and needs, but also their customs and rituals.

Trump the Bomb Lord

Unfortunately, in Somalia, the problem is not only related to forced marriages, the country is usually known for circumstances such as those that are taking place at the time these lines are being written, on the afternoon of Sunday, August 16, a group of Five militants from *al-Shabab* , the *al-Qaeda* franchise in Somalia, attacked the *Elite hotel in front of the Lido* beaches in Mogadishu , in one of the most secure areas of the city, very frequented by political figures, property of parliamentarian Abdullahi Mohamed Nur at the time, former Minister of Finance.

According to reports, the security forces needed more than four hours to retake control of the building, which the *mujahideen had entered*, after detonating a car at the entrance, a frequent tactic of this organization in this type of assault. The *Elite* joins the already important list of hotels attacked by this organization only in the country's capital, such as the *Ambassador*, the *Sahafi*, the *Beach View* , the *SYL* , the *Dayah* , the *Maka al -Mukarama* , which should be add another two in Kenya. The last one had occurred on December 10, 2019, against the *SYL hotel*, which had already received three others since 2015 and eleven people died on that occasion. Although that year ended with a brutal attack, on the 30th, at one of the city gates in which 81 people died, mostly students.

The information secretary confirmed that at least 22 people died in the event, thirteen guests, four officials and the five assailants, while the rescuers reported between 28 and 43 wounded, which will undoubtedly stretch the number of dead. At the same time, 205 people were rescued after the troops ended the takeover.

Although perhaps the fundamentalist insurgency is not the worst of the evils in which the Somali people live, but rather the solution found by their liberators, a recently revealed report revealed that so far in 2020, the Trump administration has carried out 43 air strikes, one more than those carried out during the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama, between 2007 and 2017. At an average of one air strike every two or three days. Although it is not yet close to the 2019 record in which there were 63 air operations.

Despite the fact that the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, in the first days of the pandemic insisted on several occasions on a "global ceasefire", Washington continued with its air operations over the Horn of Africa and in other places such as the produced in Syria on Monday 17. The last air attack on Somalia was recorded on July 29. Although the slowdown in air strikes in recent weeks has been notorious, AFRICOM (United States Africa Command) is still preparing more operations

In a July 16 *Defense Department Inspector General report*, he acknowledges that *al-Shabaab* has managed to maintain its military capabilities, such as *hit-and-run tactics*, ambushes, and improvised explosive device operations. (IED) and that the United States, along with its Somali allies and the African Union, have failed in the attempt, almost ten years after the operations against it began, for which it continues to maintain a great capacity to attack the interests of US partners in Somalia and East Africa.

Investigations still underway have found that in nine of those attacks alone, 21 civilians were killed and 11 others injured. Other investigations say that since 2007, in Somalia, between 72 and 145

civilians have died as a result of this type of attack, during the Pentagon's campaign to degrade both the actions of *al - Shabaab* and some of the Daesh *khatibas* , which operate in from the north of the country, even so, a trifle compared to the few more than 13 thousand civilians killed, due to similar attacks against *Daesh* in Iraq. Although the good consciences of the West have justified reasons to be horrified by forced marriages, perhaps knowing this warlike reality will help them to be a little more horrified.

Image Source:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/3/130313-child-brides-marriage-women-sinclair-photography/>

Guadi Calvo

(Argentina) Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.



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Mozambique, terror, gas and French

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The *Mozambican Defense Forces* (SDF) confirmed that on the night of Wednesday, August 12, men belonging to the *Ansar al-Sunna* (Followers of the Traditional Path or Defenders of Tradition) group, launched a series of coordinated attacks on several nearby villages. to the port of Mocímboa da Praia, a city close to 30,000 inhabitants, in the north of Mozambique, which he had already captured last March.

Since the end of July, activity by the insurgent group had already been detected, taking and forcing the army to withdraw from the villages near the port, such as Awasse, Anga and Ntotwe, while several participants in a funeral procession had been kidnapped for ransom. . But since day five, when major clashes broke out, activity has not stopped so far. It was

learned that on the eighth day, insurgents dressed in uniforms similar to those of the SDF, assaulted the village of Litamanda, in the Macomia district, killing five civilians in addition to looting and burning several homes, which demonstrates the operability and number of troops and means available to the insurgents.

Mocímboa da Praia is the most important port city in the province of Cabo Delgado, located about 80 kilometers south of the Afungi peninsula, where the French *Total*, which since 2019 has become the main operator of the LNG megaproject, has an important plant, for the development of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Last June, an attack by the fundamentalist group left at least eight dead among the workers who carry out work for the French

multinational. Despite repeated attacks, *La Total* reported that it will continue with the project, which is estimated at an investment of around 23 billion euros.

Since 2017, the constant attacks by the insurgency have tried to hinder the exploitation of gas reserves on the high seas, off the coast of Cabo Delgado, already causing the displacement of some 250,000 people, and at least 1,500 deaths.

According to the information given by the SDF, the *mujahideen* and the government security forces, after the continuous clashes that began on day five, the insurgents managed to isolate the regular troops, preventing their ammunition resupply and causing the At least 60 dead and close to a hundred wounded, who were transferred to Pemba, the provincial capital, more

than 200 kilometers south of the fighting front. Given the number of casualties, and the blockade of supplies, the SDF men had to withdraw, possibly towards the large military base in Mueda, a hundred kilometers southwest of Mocimboa da Praia, leaving the city to their fate.

It was learned that the private South African "security" company *Dyck Advisory Group* (DAG), contracted to provide air support to the Mozambican army, would not have been able to resupply them since their helicopters were not enough to refuel in Pemba, and return to the site of the fighting, where they were unable to remain in the combat area for more than a quarter of time, given the ferocity of the confrontation.

During the seizure of the port, the invaders with an RPG-7 grenade launcher managed to sink one of the government's *HV32 interceptor ships* docked in the port. The information does not specify if the ship was bringing ammunition or was rescuing soldiers who were trying to leave the place, so it is believed that, if it was the last option, the number of army casualties could have risen significantly.

The *khatiba* or brigade that has conquered Mocimboa da Praia again, according to experts, could maintain control of the city for longer than they have done on other occasions, in which after taking two or three days, after the corresponding looting, and the vigorous show of force, the combatants left the square. If so, bloody days are expected as soon as the government troops arrive, yes or no, they must liberate the city.

Other sources believe that the insurgents will not occupy Mocimboa da Praia indefinitely, since international companies operate in this port, they are

developing different exploitations in the natural gas reserves in the Rovuma basin, for which the port is a priority. for the government of President Felipe Nyussi, which is why it has become the main objective of the fundamentalists, who seek to weaken it.

The classic French twist

The number of fighters with which *Ansar al-Sunna* has carried out this operation, which is part of the campaign with which the *Daesh* franchise, the *Willat of Central Africa* or ISCAP, by its name in English, is trying to establish itself in that region.

Analysts discuss the reason why the DAG pilots did not use Macomia, Mueda or Palma to resupply the small air fleet, which had added an *Alouette III combat helicopter* on Tuesday the 11th.

Undoubtedly, the current situation in Mozambique will be discussed by the *political, defense and security body* of the *Southern African Development Community* (SADC), fifteen nations including Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia, which had already given their approval for the nations that make it up to collaborate individually with Maputo to combat the growing insurgency, which will undoubtedly be reinforced with the current perspective next Monday the 17th, at its summit. annual, which on this occasion, due to the pandemic, will be held by video conference and in which precisely President Nyussi will replace the president of Tanzania, John Magufuli, as the head of the SADC. The one that perhaps requires the SADC to comply with the articles of that body that obliges the signatory nations to participate militarily in case of foreign attack or terrorism.

The Daesh, after more than a month of silence, without making any claim for actions in the Indian country, on day six, when the operation against Mocimboa da Praia had already begun a week, reported that it had attacked two army barracks in which he produced about fifty casualties between dead and wounded and seized an important cache of weapons and ammunition. The army ignored this statement, although photographs were released showing several combatants with handguns, rocket-propelled grenades and *Avtomat assault rifles. kalash-nikova Modernizirovannyj* (AKM), on the other hand, media linked to the government, reported that the SDF repelled two insurgent attacks, causing almost twenty deaths, although it did not provide proof of said information, perhaps as a consequence that since the beginning of these Recent combats have cut off electricity and cellular services.

So the continuity of the battle could become a mystery, as much as the "business" that Paris continues to do in Mozambique, who has practically taken over since 2013, the immense gas reserves of the African country estimated at about 5 thousand million cubic meters, which would make it the ninth largest in the world. To whom, in addition, he has sold 24 fishing boats and six military boats, for a value of 200 million dollars and an amount of undeclared weapons, a maneuver that allowed three public companies in Mozambique to borrow ten times that amount.

A deal in which the renowned Franco-Lebanese arms dealer Iskandar would not be absent Safa, whose companies are justly masked from other businesses, including shipyards, which today would be in litigation with the Mozambican state, while France, which with the sale of the ships

saved the shipyards of *Normandía (CMN) from bankruptcy* biqueño gas for its own benefit, with *Construcciones Mecánicas de* , continues to drain the mozam- its classic elegance.

Image Source:
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mozambique>

Here could be the advertising of your company.
Thousands of people would be watching it now.

Will Venezuela be "The surprise of October"?

By Pablo Escalante Tcnel . (RA) Bolivarian Military Aviation of Venezuela.



An october surprised

The "October Surprise" It is a term that emerged in 1972, on the eve of the presidential election between Richard Nixon and George McGovern. Although the Vietnam War was not in its last days, Henry Kissinger assured on October 26 of that year that peace was imminent. That statement could have guaranteed Nixon's victory.

In an interview with CNBC, the mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel warned that the president of the United States, Donald Trump, could intervene in Venezuela to divert attention from important problems of his administration and obtain political benefits that guarantee victory in the elections. Congressional elections to be held on November 6 this year.

"We have a phrase in this country: the surprise of October (...) I think that right now he is looking to do anything and will do anything," he told journalist John Harwood of CNBC.

That's where the shots go

In recent months, after the failed attempt to incursion by mercenaries along the Venezuelan coast, called Operation GEDEON, whose material authors were all arrested and imprisoned, including two former United States Green Berets, a series of mechanisms have been increased, which allow determine that a large-scale aggression against Venezuela was being prepared. The scenarios in which this aggression moves are varied and include several allied countries of the United States in the region such as Colombia and Brazil, which is why, as part of a hybrid war, it is a multidimensional attack.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL ATTACK

Military pressure

A chain of events has been presented in recent days in relation to a military siege by the United States and its allies over Venezuela, which includes the deployment of air and naval assets of the United States on the maritime borders with Venezuela, as a supposed war on drug trafficking, trying to blame President Nicolás Maduro for managing drug trafficking operations in the Caribbean, through an alleged and fictitious Cartel of "Los Soles" to try to damage the image of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces FANB, making it look like the one that manages the alleged drug trafficking to the United States, in view of the fact that the FANB has remained firm to the democratic institutionality and has complied with what is established in the Magna Carta, such as the principle of subordination and loyalty to its commander in chief.

On the other hand, in recent days the so-called "Colombia Growth Initiative" was reported, it was presented without details at the Casa de Nariño, seat of the Colombian government, by President Iván Duque and two US officials: the National Security Adviser, Robert O'Brien, and the CEO of the International Development Finance Corporation, Adam Boehler. Duque affirmed that it is a cooperation plan to promote economic growth, security, democracy and rural and infrastructure development in Colombia.

On August 22, Admiral Remigio Ceballos, head of the operational strategic command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB), declared that "the international intelligence agencies allied to Venezuela inform us that Colombia is preparing an aggression and the FANB will respond with force and forceful any aggression against the sovereignty and independence of Venezuela, under the command of our Commander in Chief Nicolás Maduro Moros."

"We are in the presence of the Colombian government that has attacked Venezuela the most in all of our history," he added. Ceballos also wrote on Twitter that, during the year 2000, Plan Colombia was installed with seven US military bases in that country "to prepare its aggression against our nation and the entire region."

After much controversy in the Colombian Senate, US troops entered Colombia on August 27. The president of Colombia, Iván Duque, authorized the resumption of operations by a US military brigade in the country.

During the month of July, the US State Department circulated among governments considered to be allies a document that would serve to reactivate international attention on the Venezuelan crisis. For its part, Brazil is carrying out an unprecedented mobilization of troops and rocket launch systems towards the Amazonian border with **Venezuela**. Between 04 and 23SEP20 the Brazilian Army will be developing the "Operation Amazônia" in the state of Amazonas under the coordination of the Military Command of the Amazon based in Manaus. On August 12, a convoy of vehicles transporting components of **the Astros 2020 rocket launch system** was mobilized to Belem do Pará by land, from the central state of Goiás. In the port of the capital of Pará, the equipment was shipped for its transfer to Manaus by river. The convoy included launchers, fire control and logistics support vehicles. The Astros is a multiple launch rocket system built in Brazil, capable of reaching ground targets up to 300 kilometers away. A veteran of wars in the Middle East, **it is considered a rival to the Russian BM-30 Smerch system**, operated by the Venezuelan military.

Economic pressure

As for suffocating the Venezuelan economy, the Donald Trump administration has carried out numerous aggressions. Recently, the United States Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, told the media in April that the pressure they are exerting against the Nicolás Maduro regime "is greater than ever, thanks to the sanctions, the support of the international community and the implemented strategy.

To this is added, he assured, "the fall in the country's income as a result of the collapse in oil prices, the mismanagement of resources, the coronavirus and also the will of the Venezuelan people."

On Thursday, August 13 US officials told the Wall Street Journal that the United States managed to seize four tankers on the high seas, allegedly loaded with gasoline from Iran for Venezuela, in violation of US sanctions that have been imposed against both allied countries. These types of sanctions harm the most harm to the common citizen who requires fuel to move, the movement of passengers in public transport, the movement of military, police and emergency vehicles, in addition to generating long queues or rows at service stations. waiting for the tanker trucks to arrive to unload the fuel, generating many delays and discomfort among citizens, especially in times of pandemic.

It must be remembered that the sanctions imposed on Venezuela since the time of the Obama administration and continued with greater force by Trump have cut the flow of foreign currency destined for investment in improvements to Venezuelan refineries, freezing of assets abroad, impossibility of acquiring spare parts and supplies for their repair and maintenance, which are mostly US technology, this has generated as a consequence the almost total paralysis of Venezuelan refineries, for which the Venezuelan government has been forced to import fuel to other nations, but the United States seeks and persecutes any country that supplies fuel to the South American country, for this reason the Iranian government has been in solidarity with Venezuela by sending tankers with fuel to alleviate the crisis.

Covert operations

In recent days, the disappearance of militants from the Venezuelan left and the assassination by special action forces of the police, of alternative communicators of community media, under supposed confusion with criminals, have been presented in the public and private media. , for which the Attorney General's Office immediately launched investigations, handling the hypothesis of infiltration of people in the police forces to carry out this type of criminal action.

Likewise, there have been clashes between police agencies and criminal gangs in popular areas of Caracas, with criminal gangs with high-caliber weapons, this has been investigated because the Venezuelan opposition has had communicating vessels with these criminal gangs and has provided weapons and resources in order to confront the police forces that, according to them, are the ones that protect and maintain support for the legitimate government of Nicolás Maduro, trying to break the morale of these bodies, since they have revealed and frustrated in numerous opportunities terrorist attacks and acts by members and sympathizers of the opposition, who have been captured and imprisoned.

Disinformation campaigns

As part of a brutal hybrid war, the media does not escape these attacks, for this reason the Twitter accounts of numerous people affected by the government have been blocked, including official accounts of ministers, journalists, ministries, public bodies. For the first time, the American company GOOGLE restricted YouTube accounts and emails from the Venezuelan state television station VTV. Looking for the news blackout, remembering that a couple of months ago the North American company AT&T, which managed the DIRECTV satellite television, left the country, leaving more than a third of the population without service, alleging that the US sanctions did not allow it to broadcast Venezuelan channels. vetoed by the sanctions and that the Venezuelan government obliged him by contract and for being the owner of the radio spectrum to transmit all the channels in his programming grid.

They have also tried to generate negative opinion matrices regarding the handling of the covid-19 pandemic by the Venezuelan government, trying to distort official information by accusing it of hiding the numbers of cases and deaths, as well as the handling of the hospital resources, in order to generate the matrix of the supposed hospital crisis. Although it is true that the sanctions have severely hit the Venezuelan free public health system, the number of cases and deaths is the lowest among all its neighboring countries, contradicting the supposed Venezuelan health crisis, with which they intended to say that Venezuela was a health threat to the region, in order to create the external conditions for an intervention, in the face of a supposed "humanitarian crisis", despite the rate of return of Venezuelan nationals returning to their land after the mistreatment and hardships suffered in other latitudes.

The stage is set for a disastrous October surprise, especially given the low chances of Trump's re-election based on the latest polls.

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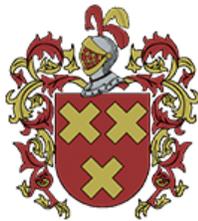
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Image Source: www.latinta.com.ar

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fuerzasmilitares.org
el portal militar colombiano

Coup in Mali, an African postcard

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Colonel Assimi Goita , visible leader of the recent coup in Mali.

On the morning of last Tuesday the 18th, after the break-in of several vans with armed men led by Colonel Assimi Goita at the Soundiata military base near the city of Kati, in the Kulikoró district , about twelve kilometers north of the city of Bamako, the capital of Mali, a brief exchange of fire began between the guard and the raiders who recognized themselves as members of *the National Committee for the Salvation of the People* (CNSP), also men from the army. The confusion was quickly cleared up, the arsenals were opened, the troops were armed, and the invading column left for the capital again, with ten more vans loaded with heavily armed troops.

The event began a new coup d'état in the African country, the last one had occurred in 2012, now, that nation, harassed in the north by

Wahhabi violence , from different organizations linked to *al-Qaeda* and *Daesh* , *in the center, the always latent, tribal war between Fulani* nomadic herders , also known as *Peuls* , and *Dogon* farmers , to which must be added the political instability, generated by the constant popular protests, which for months put the government, of the now impeached president Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta or IBK, as he is popularly known, on the brink of the abyss, to which he has just fallen along with his 20 million compatriots, despite the fact that on several occasions he had been pointed out as the model of democracy in the region.

On Tuesday night, IBK announced that he was resigning from the position, which he had assumed in 2013, with a victory close to 77 percent of the vote, and

re-elected for another five years in 2018. The deposed president had already been arrested, along with the Prime Minister Boubou Cissé , Finance Minister Abdoulaye Daffe and his son and fellow MP Karim Keïta at their home in Sebenikoro , the "distinguished" district of the capital.

The deposed president was also forced to announce the dissolution of the *National Assembly* in order to prevent the command from being claimed by Moussa Timbiné , the president of that legislative body.

The news of the president's arrest caused the streets of the capital to fill with demonstrators who came out to celebrate the fall of a government, which already lacked any type of support, due to strong suspicions of corruption, economic mistakes and the Terrible management of the war against

fundamentalist terrorism, which since 2012 has not stopped expanding throughout the north of the country, overflowing the borders of Burkina Faso and Niger. During 2019, the Malian army suffered significant casualties, attacks by the *Jamā'at nuṣrat al -islām wal-muslimīn* (Front of Support for Islam and Muslims) or JNIM, tributaries of *al-Qaeda* and the signatories of *Daesh* or *Daesh in the Greater Sahara* (ISGS) that forced the Malian high command to abandon several posts in the north from the country. The 2019 casualties, some 4,000, have increased fivefold since 2016, and the projection for 2020 so far already threatens to far exceed the last record.

To this wide spectrum of conflicts must be added the critical situation of state employees and teachers who, given the restrictions taken by the Pandemic, the government decided to close many organizations and schools, greatly expanding what until recently was the 43% percent of the population, according to the *World Bank*, lived on less than two dollars a day.

The social protests began after the accusations of fraud after the legislative elections of March and April, fueled by the fundamentalist *imam* Mahmoud Dicko, known as the "Imam of the People", is a veteran player in Malian politics, a former IBK ally, who has chaired the Islamic High Council from 2008 to 2019 and that last June, has been at the head of the massive anti-government mobilizations.

The coup d'état seemed (?) to "surprise" many Western allies of the Sahelian country, but particularly *Elise* or, since France, the former metropolis, with which it maintains very close economic, military and political ties, has fluid contacts in all levels of that country, particularly in the military. Since 2012, France has supported some 5,000 soldiers, along with another

3,000 from the United Kingdom, Spain, Estonia, Denmark and the Czech Republic, as part of *Operation Barkhane*, which is fighting terrorists in the north of the country and it is very difficult to believe that the French intelligence that operates freely throughout the country, has not been able to detect anything about the approaching coup, so it would be necessary to suspect, that he only let it go and that his current statements are only *pour la galerie*. Information had been known that the French president, Emanuel Macron, had had a long telephone interview with the now dismissed IBK, to assess the situation, while also having communicated with other heads of state in the region such as Alassane Ouattara de Ivory Coast, Macky Sall from Senegal and Nigerian Mahamadou Issoufou. The situation was also discussed behind closed doors in the *United Nations Security Council*, given that the UN maintains a military mission in Mali, with almost 16,000 men. In addition, the uprising was condemned by the *African Union*, the United States and *the Economic Community of West African States* (ECOWAS), a bloc in which some fifteen nations in the region participate.

"A reasonable period"

The lack of an immediate resolution in the coup against President Amadou Touré in 2012, which also began in Kati, made possible the uprising of the *Tuareg people*, in search of their ancestral Azawad territory. That rebellion, which was not the first and surely will not be the last, enabled the arrival in northern Mali of several *Wahhabi armed organizations*, which operated mainly in Algeria and Mauritania, which with the recent fall of their great enemy, Colonel Mohammad Gadaffi, they felt liberated to start the escalation

of a war, which they continue to win eight years from now, while the *Tuareg claims* continued and continue to be postponed.

Today, the situation, beyond some coincidence, does not seem to be the same as in 2012, the coup plotters already have a leader, Colonel Goita, who on Wednesday addressed the population calling for them to unite under the banners of the CNSP, the organization that tries to give political structure to the coup, to the political parties and civil society, to unite in a movement that he considers to be transitional in view of future elections that will be, according to the military, in "a reasonable time." Swiftly, the opposition organization to the former IBK president, *M5-RPF* hailed the coup and declared itself ready to work together with the coup plotters for a political transition. Nothing has been said about the fate of a significant number of military personnel who are awaiting trial for their responsibility in torture and forced disappearances in the framework of the war against terrorism, perhaps an element that will be taken into account at the time to catalog the intentions of the new government.

fundamentalist armed organizations, which will undoubtedly try to permeate the spirit of the new military leaders, although it is unknown with what animosity the young colonels approach the war with the terrorism.

As beyond the borders of Mali, in countries such as Senegal, Ivory Coast and Guinea, their governments are experiencing crises similar to the one that preceded Tuesday's coup at the Soundiata military base, do not become an unstoppable and bloody domino effect, which would drag other nations of the continent into a process that was believed to be over and the coup, is nothing more than another African postcard

Image Source:

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/08/316624/malis-new-leader-thanks-morocco-for-crisis-resolution-efforts/>



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Mali, a half-burnt country

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



While the members of the *National Committee for the Salvation of the People* (CNSP) the group of Malian soldiers, led by Colonel Assimi Goita, who overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar last Tuesday the 18th Keïta (IBK), are gaining power backed by important demonstrations that have been held in the capital since the insurrectionary movement became known.

The West, In A Clear Attempt To Draw Lines To The Malian Colonels, Hastened To Condemn The Coup: *United Nations*, *European Union* And *State Department* American, and the *African Union*, demand the return of IBK, to power, while the delegation of the *Economic Community of West African States* (ECOWAS),

led by former Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan, arrived in Bamako to discuss with the uprising leaders the new situation in the country and press for the release of the now former IBK president, and the possibility of reversing the process started last Tuesday. (See: Mali: An African postcard) after warning of the risk of economic sanctions by the ECOWAS, closing the commercial borders of the members of the bloc to Mali, beyond what other countries and regional blocs may say. In the talks that lasted from Saturday to last Monday, the CEDAO delegates were unable to reduce the military's postulates at all, leaving the situation as it was stated on Tuesday the eighteenth.

For their part, the coup plotters have also met with the leaders of

the opposition coalition to the Keïta government, encompassed in the *June 5 Movement-Concentration of Patriotic Forces* (M5-RFP), which beyond their true pretensions, Given the popular support that the *National Committee for the Salvation of the People* (CNSP) has received, they will have to negotiate a democratic solution, which, according to what the CNSP postulates, will be a three-year process, led by a military officer.

The slam of the door that the CEDAO delegates received must have sounded chilling in many offices of power in the West, especially in the Elysee, since France has too many economic and political interests not only in Mali, but also in several countries in the region. .

Goodluck Jonathan, the former Nigerian president, at the head of the ECOWAS delegation, suspected of important crimes, fundamentally corruption, without knowing with certainty the degree of "purity" with which the military intend to lead the country from now on, differentiating themselves from the IBK government, accused of large-scale fraudulent maneuvers.

Now, it remains to be seen what the reaction of the *al-Qaeda* and *Daesh* commanders, who operate in the north of the country, will be. Perhaps some of those organizations prefer to lower their military expectations. The maxim of both is to declare an *Islamic State*, and prefer to gain political space in the new government of Bamako, in the image of what is applied by the *Muslim Brotherhood*, the political/religious and military organization, which has given political scaffolding and support ideological both *al-Qaeda* and *Daesh*, which accompanied President Mohamed Morsi in Egypt, which resulted in the bloody coup of 2013. Between the fundamentalist organizations that fight in the north and the colonels that govern from Bamako, there is an important link, fundamentalist *imam* Mahmoud Dicko, who had capitalized on the massive protests that began the end of the government of President Ibrahim Keita and opened the door for the coup. Without a doubt, this possibility must be contemplated by the governments with interests in West Africa, which must be structuring a wide range of responses. Although one thing is certain, the West knows that it cannot corner the coup plotters, Mali is a half-burnt country, it does not take much to spread the fire beyond its borders.

Now, after the military junta slammed the CEDAO delegation, they have entrenched themselves in

their "government plan", maintaining power and directing an electoral process, which they announce will be resolved in three years, during which time one of them would govern the country, which would point to the leader of the uprising, Colonel Assimi Goita, commander of the *Autonomous Special Forces Battalion* who received training in anti-terrorist warfare from the *United States Africa Command* (AFRICOM) as recognized by the *Pentagon*, it was also known that Colonel Goita operated together with the *Operations forces Special Units of the United States*, which "monitor" the actions of the terrorist groups linked to *al-Qaeda* and *Daesh*, which since 2012 began to expand in various West African countries.

Goita, who also received training from Germany and France and participated in several of the military exercises that the United States annually conducts together with armies of the region known as *Flintlock*, has spent much of his military career in the deserts of the North and the cities in the center of the country, where the presence of fundamentalist groups is critical for the security of the region.

Beyond the political upheaval, it is key what will be the actions of the new military leadership in the face of the war that is being waged in the north of the country against the *Jamā'at nuṣrat al -islām wal-muslimīn* (Support Front for Islam and Muslims) or JNIM, tributaries of *al-Qaeda* and the signatories of *Daesh* or *Daesh* in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) for which since 2012 France has stood out in northern Mali 5 thousand men in *Operation Barkhane*; supported by another 3,000 from five European armies, which on several occasions have been overwhelmed by the actions of the *mujahideen*, who have surpassed Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso, where they have opened very

active fronts, degrading the security of large sectors of these countries generating thousands of deaths and nearly two and a half million displaced persons.

Domino effect?

The instability in Mali exacerbates the political situation in the West African countries that will have elections before the end of the year: Burkina Faso, Niger, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Ghana. The outbreak of the Mali crisis has drawn the attention of the governments of these countries, particularly Burkina Faso and Niger, whose borders with Mali have been overwhelmed by fundamentalist *khatibas*, in addition to corruption, the constant increase in poverty and the attempts of many heads of government to perpetuate themselves in power, according to the *Democracy Index 2019 report* by *The Economist*, more than half of the 55 countries on the African continent are governed by authoritarian regimes, have put in a state of alert many opposition groups of the respective governments.

According to the international observer Coupcast, which measures statistical data that predicts the likelihood of a coup for different nations, has Burkina Faso and Niger among the top ten African countries likely to suffer a coup.

Although in that direction one of the most complicated is the Ivory Coast, whose 78-year-old president Alassane Ouattara, with the support of Emanuel Macron, announced that in March his willingness to run for a third term with his *Hufuetistas Association party to Democracy and Peace* (RHDP, for its acronym in French) in the elections of next October 31. That announcement generated countless protests in different parts of the country which, in three days of street clashes,

caused nearly a dozen deaths and more than a hundred injuries, mostly in Divo, a town 200 kilometers northwest of Abidjan.

It is feared that, in the southeastern regions of the country, where the opposition to President Ouattara is strongest, they will become ungovernable, provoking once again outbreaks of violence that will subject the Ivorian country to a new bloodbath like the ones so they have been produced intermittently since 2010, after the end of the war that left 3,000 dead and 300,000 displaced. Côte d'Ivoire, which is the world's largest producer of cocoa and a major exporter of coffee, has high levels of poverty, with almost half of its 25 million inhabitants living on little more than a dollar a day, while their hope of life is 54 years. 12% of the population suffers from food insecurity. The country of 189 ranks

165th in the 2019 UN Human Development Index, and 165th out of 189 in the Gender Inequality Index.

In Burkina Faso, where the presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on November 22, in the midst of a campaign of extremist violence since 2016, which is raging particularly in the north, near the border with Mali, forcing almost a million of people to leave that region. The deterioration of security in that country began after the resignation after almost thirty years of government of President Blaise Compaore in 2014, in the midst of a popular uprising and a confused coup. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré has governed since 2015, and after the postponement of a referendum indefinitely, the political situation froze, so Kaboré will continue in office in the same way.

In Niger, which also has an extensive and uncontrolled border with Mali, the presidential elections will be held on December 27, it frequently suffers major attacks from the *Willat group Daesh in the Great Sahara*, which has overwhelmed security, added to the economic depression that exacerbates the social issue.

In Guinea, its president Alpha Condé, 82 years old and in power since 2010, is believed to be trying to run once again, just like Macky Sall, president of Senegal, aged sixty, a youngster compared to his colleagues, aspires to a new term. in 2024, which could last forever, like Paul Biya, 87, the president of Cameroon, with 42 years in office.

Now, for the West, the danger is not only the fire in Mali, but also the concrete possibility that the fire will spread at the whim of the wind.

Image Source:

<https://www.mapade.org/mali.html>

Drone Squads in Colombia

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



In 2018, two important news were recorded on the subject of drones in Colombia, the first was the inauguration of the Basic School of Remotely Manned Aircraft (EBART), and the other the activation of an ART Squadron in the Department of Nariño, southwest of Colombia, opening an ART launch base there.

The aforementioned Squadron's mission is to support the authorities' fight against illegal armed groups in that region, which by the way is currently one of the most troubled in the country. Specifically, the new base arrived to support the operations of the nearly 10,000 men and women of the *Hercules Joint Task Force*, a military unit recently created to combat violent actors operating in southwestern Colombia.

It was announced at the time that the ART Launch Base would be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to monitor illegal activities such as deforestation, illegal mining, drug trafficking, smuggling of supplies for illegal activities, and arms trafficking. But they will also be ready to support the authorities in dealing with possible natural disasters and emergencies that arise in the department of Nariño. It should be mentioned that, at that time, the

last known report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was from July 2017, and there it was recorded that coca crops had increased by 52 % in 2016, going from 96,000 to 146,000 hectares planted. Being the departments where drug crops grew the most, Putumayo and Nariño.

In the corresponding military ceremony, the head of the Air Operations Command of the Colombian Air Force, Major General Rodrigo Valencia, pointed out that the FAC's experience with the use of drones was evidenced by 12 years of continuous operation, 30,000 flight hours, and a team of 200 highly trained people in different specialties, which as a whole make it possible to increase the effectiveness of intelligence and reconnaissance operations using ART.

Specifically, this new FAC squad operates the ART Scan Eagle and Night Eagle, and the personnel assigned to the unit have extensive experience with them and in working together with United States personnel who cooperate in the fight against drug trafficking. ticos in the country.

That was the first ART squad constituted by the Scan Eagle / Night Eagle model and permanently deployed to a specific area. Until then, all units had been mobile

and deployed wherever operations required. At this time (2020), each Air Combat Command of the Colombian Air Force has in its structure a Remotely Manned Aircraft Squadron (ART) equipped with Scan Eagle / Night Eagle equipment.

On the other hand, there is an ART squad that is not talked about much. It is made up of the 6 Hermes 450 and the 2 Hermes 900, acquired by the Colombian Air Force from Israel in 2012, and which entered into operation in 2013, acting in strategic missions and against high-value targets. They operate from Villavicencio, at the headquarters of the Air Combat Command No.2, CACOM 2, and are part of the 2017 Combat Squadron "Chimera" of the Combat Group No. 21. From there they are deployed in ISR Missions (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) on the different objectives designated by the High Command.

Hermes 450 / Hermes 900

An analysis published in the magazine of the Higher School of Air Warfare of Argentina, RESGA (2014), indicates that among the best-selling ART in Latin America are the Elbit Hermes 450 and Hermes 900, the latter being capable of receiving weapons and becoming aUCAV. Among the buyers of these ART are Brazil, Chile and Colombia.

Purpose digital system Advanced stabilized System, and with PODS to attach the Lockheed Martin AGM-114 Hellfire missile and GBU-12 laser-guided bombs. It also has day/night cameras, laser targeting, SAR/GMTI, Comint DF and ELINT systems. It has a double data link encryption system (LOS), as well as for communication via (Beyond Line of Sight), BLOS, among other features.”

The Hermes 900 would then be the most capable ART at the service of the Colombian Armed Forces, being operated by the Air Force. These drones weigh 970 kilos, measure 8.3 meters long, have a 15-meter wingspan, retractable landing gear, can carry a payload of 300 kilos, and remain in flight for up to 30 continuous hours. They are operated from a *Universal Ground Control Station*, by a team of 8 people, including officers and technicians.

Other ART of the defense sector in Colombia

In addition to the Scan Eagle / Night Eagle and the Hermes, operated by the Colombian Air Force, the National Navy operates the Scan Eagle from the FS-1500 Light Frigates and the OPV-80 Heavy Patrolers. The Colombian Navy calls the ART the *Maritime Surveillance Air-Naval Platform System - PAVMA*.

The Special Forces of the Colombian National Army have Remotely Manned Aircraft of different models, here they are called *Unmanned Aerial Systems for Ground Maneuvering (SAMNT)*. They are known to have the RQ-11B Raven, the RQ-20 Puma, and the Parrot AR- Drone.

As for the National Police of Colombia, this institution has fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. In the fixed-wing ART inventory, there are 2 ABM Global Devourers, the Blue Birds Aerosystems, and the Aeronautics System Orbiter-2. The last two were exhibited for the first time in 2017 at the Expodefensa fair, held in Bogotá. As for rotary-wing aircraft, the Colombian Police has small quadcopters of different models, including the Inspire 2, from DJI Technology, which were acquired in 2018.

should be noted that all the forces and also the police have different models of quadcopters for civilian use, used in various local settings.

Drones to monitor borders

In March 2017, there were some problems on the binational border with Venezuela. On that occasion, a group of approximately 60 Venezuelan soldiers entered Colombian territory, in the general area of Arauquita, generating a diplomatic incident.

Who was at that time the Commander of the Quirón Task Force of the National Army, with jurisdiction in that sector, General Álvaro Vicente Pérez, requested the support of the Government of the department of Arauca, so that this entity would provide the FT Quiron 15 state-of-the-art drones, which would make it easier for the military unit to control such a porous border.

At that time, the Colombian media, such as Caracol Radio (2017), reported that the request had had a positive response from the Government of Arauca, citing Mrs. Mercedes Rincón, Secretary of the Departmental Government, who said that they would comply with the requested by the Army, and that the drones would not only serve to monitor the border, but also to combat cattle rustling, which was gaining strength in the region.

Drones for anti-narcotics fumigation

At this time, the aerial fumigation of illicit crops is suspended in Colombia, due to a ruling by the high courts. The need to fight against the cultivation and processing of alkaloids, then forces them to be tackled through manual eradication, which is quite dangerous, taking into account that many times the crops and laboratories are protected by heavily armed people, and by artifacts. improvised explosives. In addition to

these dangers, manual eradication is slow, inefficient and requires a lot of personnel. It is no coincidence that since the suspension of aerial spraying, the indicators of hectares planted and hectares eradicated have become unfavorable for the fight against drugs.

We must take into account the reasons why the courts ordered the suspension of anti-narcotics aerial spraying. The first has to do with the harmlessness of the agrochemicals used, in this case glyphosate, which is claimed to be carcinogenic. Secondly, there is the issue of agrochemicals overflowing beyond the target area, due to the action of wind and other factors, and thirdly, the contamination of internal, underground or adjacent waters to the target area. All of this occurs when glyphosate is sprayed conventionally with spray planes.

Thinking of recovering aerial spraying capacity, overcoming the problems mentioned by the courts, in June 2018 it was announced that agricultural fumigation drones would be used to spray glyphosate, this through contracting with private Colombian companies that are dedicated to this activity. Considering that the drones can fly at a very low altitude, there is great precision in the delivery of the agrochemical, which in turn allows minimizing the quantities required.

According to the tests carried out, the cost of spraying a hectare of coca using drones is 618,000 Colombian pesos, while if it is done with a conventional spray plane, the cost increases to 1,800,000 Colombian pesos, which is three times more expensive. In addition, it is estimated that under ideal conditions a team of agricultural spraying drones can spray 4 hectares in 15 minutes, using only 10 liters of

agrochemical per hectare, which is quite efficient and reduces collateral effects.

Conclusions

Every day the use of Drones for the most diverse tasks, including those related to security and defense, is gaining strength. The Colombian Armed Forces are no strangers to this trend, and for this reason they have been preparing for the efficient use of this resource in their own tasks. In the same way, they have acquired in the international market, the equipment they have considered meets the operational requirements of the type of conflict that is being waged in Colombia, without being oblivious to the need for the country to develop its own Drone industry.

In this sense, the Colombian Aeronautical Industry Corporation - CIAC, a company belonging to the Colombian State, and attached to the Defense Social and Business Group (Ministry of Defense), has been working since 2017 on the development of three models of Drones to meet the requirements of the country's Military and Police Forces, and also be able to export these technologies to friendly countries. The models that are under development cover three segments, there is a light drone, which can be carried by one man and launched by hand, there is a medium drone with greater range and capabilities, and there is a third model, heavy, with superior capabilities and presumably with the possibility of being able to be armed. It is estimated that by 2025 the three models will be fully operational, and would enter service in the Colombian Armed Forces and Police, where they would gradually standardize the currently existing fleets.

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was being monitored by anti-terrorist units from the United States and Australia.

This type of attack is striking since in the Philippines, suicide attacks were not part of the *modus operandi* of these organizations, although this last one is the fifth since July 2018, confirming the presumption of many experts that this type of action, they are becoming more and more frequent by the *khatiba*, which responds to *Daesh* in Southeast Asia, since prior to the one perpetrated by Norman Lasuca, it had never been recorded before despite the numerous actions that *Abu Sayyaf* has performed since its founding in the 1990s in the island country. This group, after the return of Filipino veterans who participated in the anti-Soviet war in Afghanistan, had a defeat of positions that led them from the separatism of the *Moro National Liberation Front*, with connections to the *Marxist guerrilla* of the *New People's Army* to lighter fundamentalist postulates, until the conversion to the most closed chapter of *Sunnism*, *Wahhabism*, at the hands of *al-Qaeda*, until in 2015, when he made his *bay'ah* or oath of loyalty to the then head of *Daesh*, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi or *Caliph Ibrahim*.

According to the investigators behind these attacks would have been Mundi Sawadjaan, explosives expert, who is already considered the intellectual author of this latest double attack, nephew of the current leader of *Abu Sayyaf* and *emir* of *Daesh* in Southeast Asia, Hatib Hahan Sawadjaan.

The toughest sectors of Manila insist on reinstating the *State of Siege*, as had already been

established from 2017 to 2019. The region, with a vast *Muslim majority*, seemed to be heading for a solution after years of war, after achieving the creation of the *Bangsamoro Autonomous Region* in Muslim Mindanao in the referendum, which was part of the peace accords between the government of President Rodrigo Duterte and the *Moro Islamic Liberation Front* (MILF), which left the fundamentalists with virtually no flags more than fanaticism.

A long and winding road to peace

From May 2017 to December 2019, the entire region remained under martial law, after the seizure of Marawi, a city of 200,000 inhabitants, which the *Abu Sayyaf group* together with the organization of the Maute brothers or *Ranao Islamic State* they took and kept under their control from May to November 2017, resisting the siege of the army together with North American and Australian commando groups that in an underhanded way, and not so much, participated in the recovery, (See: Philippines: Marawi the city that will become a legend) Since then, the government authorities have decided to establish close control over the entire area, which is why the state of siege was extended for almost two more years, after the retaking of Marawi.

So everything and beyond the loss of their top leaders Isnilon Hapilon, in addition to being *emir* of *Daesh* in Southeast Asia and his second Omar Maute, the fundamentalist group has managed to reunite, and after appointing Hatib as the new *emir* Sawadjaan.

In addition to these latest attacks, the authorities are investigating the group's responsibility in the death of four army intelligence men with the mission of preventing terrorist attacks at the end of last June, who were at the time on a surveillance operation to capture two women who, according to the information collected, were about to launch a suicide attack. It is believed that some infidel members of the Jolo police also participated in these deaths. Some versions mention that the four soldiers were on their way to the center of Jolo when they were stopped by nine policemen at a checkpoint and shot to death in broad daylight.

In the last hours of Wednesday 26, Jamiul was arrested Nassalon, aged 41, in Mabuhay City, Zamboanga Sibugay, by a team made up of men from the *9th Regional Intelligence Unit*, the *PNP Intelligence Group* and the *9th Regional Intelligence Division*. Nassalon, who is considered one of Emir *Sawadjaan*'s closest lieutenants, is suspected of having participated in several crimes in addition to being considered the intellectual author of the kidnapping and beheading of Droteo Gonzales in Barangay Buenavista, Zamboanga City in 2009, after his family refused to pay the ransom, and the explosive attack at the Guiwan bus terminal, in Zamboanga City, in 2015, in which two people died and fifty were injured, among many other actions.

In the south of the Philippines the war continues to extend in time and beyond the desire for peace of the *Muslim people*, the dead return to continue killing.

Image Source:

<https://worldorder.com/maps/geopolitics-philippines/>

Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Arduentes Fortuna Iuvat



Austria Jagdkommando

The functions of this elite unit, like its counterparts such as the United States Army Special Forces, are primarily counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency. Jagdkommando soldiers are highly trained professionals whose thorough and rigorous training enables them to take charge when tasks or situations exceed the capabilities and specialization of conventional units.



History

The name "Jagdkommando" originates from the time of the First World War, when the small assault squads of the Austrian KuK army were called what translates to "fighter command".

The history of the Austrian Special Operations Forces began in 1961, when a group of Austrian officers participated in the US Army Ranger School as part of their training to establish a similar course for the eventual establishment of the Jagdkommando. Since then, Jagdkommando officers and soldiers have continued to evolve, taking part in similar courses in the United States and throughout Europe and combining the lessons learned with "own" tactics and knowledge. The unit has earned the respect of other nations' special forces very quickly. The Jagdkommando headquarters is located in Wiener Neustadt.

Most missions are classified, but the Jagdkommando generally operates in places where regular Austrian troops are also located, such as the Balkans (KFOR, etc.), Afghanistan (ISAF/ Resolute Support) and Chad (EUFOR Tchad /RCA). Some 50 Jagdkommando soldiers were deployed in eastern Chad to protect refugee camps near the Darfur border from early 2008 to 2009.



In 2016, the Jagdkommando was deployed to Mali alongside French Special Forces as part of Operation Barkhane.

Actual structure

- 1st Special Operations Task Group
- 2nd Special Operations Task Group
- 3rd Special Operations Task Group (Reserve)

Selection and training

The selection is usually carried out once a year and lasts for 6 months. The program normally starts in January with 3 weeks of pre-selection. During this time, the candidate will take the required physical tests, receive additional training and undergo a 72-hour Field Exercise, which is the central event of the selection process.

Most candidates will fail during the 72-hour exercise, which includes long road marches in squad-sized elements, batteries of psychological tests and total sleep deprivation. The pre-selection course is carried out by both the active operators and the enablers of the unit.

Normally 20-25% of all candidates will pass the pre-selection course and go on to the so-called Jagdkommandogrundkurs, the basic selection course. The first few weeks take place in the remote Allentsteig area, a giant military training area very close to the Czech border. The first seven weeks of small unit tactics are marred by heavy snow, freezing weather, too little sleep, and permanent physical performance. Candidates will get used to the heavy Lowe backpack and will spend most of the day with it on their backs while on patrols, ambushes and raids in the woods around the Allentsteig.



After the small unit tactics phase, which will weed out the last unfit candidates, the basic course will continue with a block course of two or three weeks each:

- Basic demolition course.
- Airborne course.
- Amphibian Insertion / Extraction Course.
- Field survival course.
- Basic CQB course.
- Combat Diver Course.
- Field training exercises.
- DRIED.
- I WILL BE.

The final and most infamous course is SERE training. For the last few years, SERE training has taken place in the Salzburg Alps. The "enforcement phase" will last up to ten days, while the candidate must register at certain checkpoints every 24 hours. Checkpoints are spaced 20–30km apart, considering the mountains between the checkpoints and the tactical need to stay off roads and trails, candidates will be very busy meeting their time limits and rarely find sleep. Finally, after days on the run and being chased by infantry units, helicopters, and K9 units, the candidates will be ambushed and captured at one of their checkpoints. This marks the beginning of the "captivity phase". Being the last phase of the selection course, this phase will last 72 hours.

After completing the SERE course, the remaining soldiers (normally 10-15% of all applicants who started the pre-selection course) are accepted into the Jagdkommando brotherhood and awarded the Green Beret with the unit crest. Most graduates will be assigned a position as active operators in one of the unit's two Task Groups, while some will return to their regular Army unit.



Jagdkommando soldiers take pride in their long and unique selection course and the prestige that comes with earning the olive green beret within the armed forces.

If a soldier is chosen to become an operator after selection, he will attend Einsatzausbildung 1, a course where he will hone his operator skills. The training will last up to one year.

It usually starts with a five-week driving course, followed by shooting lessons. This will be the first time operators have used the Steyr AUG A2 Kdo and FN P90 advanced weapon systems. After weeks on the shooting range, the next courses will be very mountain oriented, such as the mountain airborne course, winter warfare and mountaineering courses, as well as ski training.

After the mountain courses, individual job training will begin. Depending on the assignment, the operator will attend the Sergeant-at-Arms course, Medic course, Communications Sergeant course, or Engineer course. The SOF CQB course that follows teaches the latest techniques in HRO, CC and DDO. Jagdkommando operators train alongside various NATO SOF units around the world, so the SOPs and tactics used are very similar to other SOF units.

Other different courses will complete the Einsatzausbildung 1, such as the Urban SR course, advanced combat training and air assault techniques.

After more than 18 months of training, the operator will be assigned to a team in the 1st SOTG (Special Operations Task Group) or the 2nd SOTG. The third SOTG belongs to the Army Reserve Component. A typical Jagdkommando team consists of six operators: the team leader, the team sergeant, a sniper weapons sergeant, the engineer sergeant, the medical sergeant, and the communications sergeant. Each team is assigned an insertion specialty, such as free fall, amphibious, mountain, and mobility.



The duties of the Jagdkommando include:

- Special recognition
- High-level military intelligence gathering
- command operations
- High-profile operations such as hostage rescues or the arrest of war criminals
- Personal security
- (this task was handed over to the Austrian Military Police in 2008)
- counterterrorism
- Fight against subversive forces like terrorists.
- Evacuation
- Evacuation from dangerous or conflict areas

Requirements to enter the Grundkurs :

Exceptional physical and mental fitness.

Complete the " vorbereitende Kaderausbildung " (Cadre Preparation Course) for enlisted soldiers
no criminal record





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