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A Monthly Newsletter Issued by IMCTC

Issue 46, December 2022

Dr. Samir Al-Tebayyib Visits IMCTC

On Wednesday, December 14, 2022, IMCTC received, at its headquarters in Riyadh, HE, Dr. Samir bin Abdul Aziz Al-Tebayyib, Advisor to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and CEO of the Saudi MoD Development Program, and the accompanying delegation. H.E. received a detailed briefing on IMCTC's efforts in countering extremist ideology, coordination of all efforts to counter terrorist trends across IMCTC's four counter-terrorism domains-Ideology, Communications, Counter Terrorism Financing (CTF), and Military-along with its effort to coordinate and enhance the work of IMCTC member countries. Dr. Al-Tebayyib and the accompanying delegation were also briefed on the latest efforts and updates on terrorist groups and incidents around the world, as well as the monitoring tools used by IMCTC in this regard.



Sudan's Chief of Staff Visits IMCTC



IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received HE, the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Sudan, Gen. Mohammed Othman Al-Hussein Al-Hassan and the accompanying delegation at IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh, on Monday, December 19, 2022.

Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi pointed out that IMCTC represents an integrated system that seeks to strengthen cooperation among its member countries, as well as being premised on the values of legitimacy, independence, coordination, participation, and makes sure that all counter-terrorism efforts are in line with international regulations, norms, and laws. He further added; "terrorism is a scourge that requires the concerted efforts of all countries and organizations to eliminate it by all appropriate means and methods." "As modern technology advances, the means of dealing with terrorist groups evolve as well; as a result, efforts must be made to cut off their funding sources to stop them from committing crimes and ultimately defeating them."

IMCTC Receives Benin's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



On Thursday, December 8, 2022, IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received at IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh, HE, Ambassador Adam Bagoudou Zakari of the Republic of Benin to Saudi Arabia and the accompanying delegation. Over the course of the meeting, Ambassador Zakari was briefed on IMCTC's counter-terrorism efforts across the four counter-terrorism domains. The delegation was also briefed on the latest development and updates on terrorist groups and terrorist incidents around the world, along with the monitoring mechanisms used by IMCTC.

Ambassador Zakari commended IMCTC's great efforts to counter and eradicate the scourge of terrorism in conjunction with other international organizations concerned with countering terrorism and violent extremist ideology. He further praised the critical and leading role of Saudi Arabia in supporting IMCTC and actions taken to eliminate terrorism and criminal groups.



IMCTC CELEBRATES BAHRAIN'S NATIONAL DAY

On Sunday, December 18, 2022, Col. Ali Mohammad Mahmoud, delegate of the Kingdom of Bahrain to IMCTC, held a ceremony at the IMCTC headquarters, celebrating Bahrain's National Day, where he delivered a speech in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, delegates of IMCTC member countries, and IMCTC personnel.

Col. Mahmoud spoke about the ancient and current history of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and thanked the attendees for taking part in the ceremony that precedes the anniversary of the Bahraini Martyrs Day that falls on December 17 every year.

On this occasion, he extended his congratulations and compliments to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, his good government and loyal Bahraini people. He also expressed his gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud for establishing this great organization that stands in defense of Islam and Muslims against the misrepresentation of extremists of all faiths and doctrines, and fights terrorism in its all forms, shapes and manifestations.

He talked about the civilization of the Kingdom of Bahrain, describing its people as humble, sophisticated, generous, simple, developed, tolerant, and brave. He described Bahrain as a na-

tion that adopted Islam as a faith, peace as a constitution, cooperation as an approach, progress as a goal, and determination as a path. Following his speech, the audience watched a short film highlighting history of the Kingdom of Bahrain, based on Bahrain's Vision 2030. He went on to say, "civilizations are not only the product of large countries, given the areas of Bahrain is only 785 km², its population of no more than 1.5 million and a GDP of \$39 billion in 2021, a figure that may seem small compared to the rest of the GCC countries. Taken together, the GCC countries form a strong well-connected bloc whose peoples enjoy the blessings of security, stability, and progress".

Great civilizations were built by visionary leaders who decide to make history, establish human values, principles, develop systems, laws that regulate the relationships among all, and multiple inter-governmental institutions working in tandem to uplift the individual before the society, and help him overcome obstacles, persevere in times of difficulty, seize opportunities, and adapt to political, economic, environmental, and social setting.

Allah almighty has blessed Bahrain with many bounties, namely, the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain; HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, in addition to a



well-established constitution that protects the rights, consolidates the three legislative, executive, and judiciary authorities. Bahrain's 2002 constitution enshrines solid foundations that played a key role in taking Bahrain to the level it attained in safety, security, progress and prosperity.

On the political front, for instance, article 1 (d) stipulates; "the system of government in the Kingdom of Bahrain is democratic, its people are sovereign and are the source of all powers". Article (4) states that "justice is the basis of governance; cooperation and compassion constitute a deep bond among citizens; freedom, equality, security, tranquility, knowledge, social solidarity, and equitable opportunities for all citizens are bedrocks of society are guaranteed by the State".

On the legislative side, in 2022, Bahrain celebrated the 20th anniversary of its modern democratic experience through which Bahrain kept pace with civilized democratic nations where the people and political leadership jointly take part in in making today and tomorrow's decisions. The Bahraini people have proved their patriotic responsibility by participating in the parliamentary and municipal elections of 2022, with 73% share of the voting bloc.

On the judicial front, paragraph (b), article (104) stresses the independence of the judiciary: states "no entity shall exercise

authority over the judge in his judgment. Under no circumstances no interference shall be made in the course of justice and the law guarantees the independence of the judiciary, and lays out the guarantees for the judges and their judgments."

In the economic sphere, the Bahraini constitution states that the national economy is founded on social justice and fair cooperation between public and private sectors. It seeks economic development in accordance with a well-thought out plan designed to achieve the prosperity for the people, all within the bounds of the law. The government of Bahrain works on realizing economic unity among the GCC and Arab League countries by all appropriate means to foster cooperation, synergy, and mutual support.

Moreover, constitution also addressed a set of values that underpin society, including justice, equality of all before the law, freedom of expression, and freedom of worship that the government is keen to stress for all within the bounds of common traditions and the genuine values of the Bahraini people. The Kingdom also sponsors innovators in the fields of science, literature, arts, and encourages scientific research. It also provides educational and cultural services for citizens, making education mandatory and free of charge in the early stages defined by the law.

INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT; EXERTS CONCERTED EFFORTS TO SET THE PACE OF PERFORMANCE



Tuesday, June 7, 2022 was a notable day as all IMCTC personnel met with H.E. Abdul-Aziz bin Saleh Al-Furaih, Senior Advisor to the Saudi Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Steering committee of the Ministry of Finance, in an engaging presentation titled: "Internal Audit: Its Importance and Added Value" to mark the International Internal Audit Awareness Month. HE, Al-Furaih provided valuable information and introduced the leading role of internal audit as a tool that enables officials to check on the progress of work in any entity where internal audit stands out as a line of defense in protecting funds and public resources and ensure their optimal use. The audit vision also ensures good performance and the swift, efficient realization of objectives. This is a part of what IMCTC's Internal Audit Department performs as a leading and professional entity.

"We bear the responsibility of protecting IMCTC, its assets and overcoming the obstacles it encounters"

Additionally, department's staff works tirelessly to raise awareness about its key roles, tasks, and functions. Meanwhile, IMCTC personnel met with the Head of IMCTC Internal Audit Department, Mareei Al-Shahrani, where he answered all questions in a way that would certainly raise the awareness about the role of the Department. At the outset, he offering the following answer to a question on the importance and objectives of internal audit at IMCTC:

"This gathering comes as part of the annual awareness plan, approved by the Secretary General, covering various activities, including awareness-raising presentations delivered by well-known external internal audit experts. It also involves sending

educative SMS and email messages to all IMCTC personnel intended to raise their awareness about the role of internal audit at IMCTC and its added value to all departments and sections".

It is obvious that regulatory rules are a prerequisite for governance; however, it is more important to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of those rules through the functions conducted by the Internal Audit Department. These functions are the key element on which the top management counts since they provide assurances on the compliance of executive departments in adhering to the laws, regulations, policies, procedures, controls, and standards approved by IMCTC, in addition to the effectiveness of the regulatory, governance, and risk management system. The key objective of the Internal Audit is to improve the performance of the work, executive departments, ensure the quality of its outputs and level of efficiency, and strengthen the reliability of financial and operational reports. All this should lead to the protection of the funds, assets of the entity, and eventually to its sustainability," he added.

On what the regulatory rules and internal audit mean, he gave the following answer:

"These are a set of means, procedures, processes and methods used to protect finances and other assets, ensure accurate accounting, enhance production efficiency, and encourage compliance with the prescribed administrative policies."

Regarding the question of how to distinguish between internal control and internal audit, he gave the following answer:

"Internal Control includes all procedures, processes, regulations, and laws set by IMCTC for its activities and departments to protect its tangible and intangible assets, while, Internal Audit, however, aims to ensure the proper implementation of the internal control system and review of implemented regulations and procedures."

When asked about how to identify a certain department for internal auditing, Al-Shahrani answered:



“Internal Audit Department has an annual plan approved by the Secretary General, and pursuant to article (4) of the internal audit rule which states that the Internal Audit department develops and submits an annual risk-based auditing plan, approved by the Secretary General. It includes the time and space framework for the audit and any other details he requires to be included in the plan. The plan may be amended, when necessary, following the approval of the Secretary General”.

“As per Standard 2010, being one of the international standards for the professional practice of internal auditing stipulates that the “head of Internal shall develop a risk-based plan to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent CTC’s objectives. In line with the best practices, we develop an annual auditing plan based on the analysis, assessment, and classification of the impact of risks on all departments, sections, and all the activities under audit at IMCTC.”

Hence, based on his explanations, it is clear that the Internal Audit Department conducts its auditing approach based on risk assessment and identifying high operational risk departments that should undergo internal auditing. The process might require changes to the annual auditing plan with the approval of the Secretary General whenever the internal auditing department deems that appropriate in light of any new risks that might potentially impede IMCTC from realizing its objectives.

On the issue of the level of cooperation between the rest of departments and the Internal Audit Department to facilitate the internal auditing processes, the head of the IA replied:

“Certainly, the cooperation between IMCTC colleagues and the internal audit team has an important positive impact. He cited article (4) paragraph (2) of the Internal Auditing Regulations, which states that one of the tasks of the IAD is to communicate directly with officials and specialists in all IMCTC departments, sections to get unfettered access to all IMCTC books, records, documents, facilities, assets, property, other documents required for the auditing work. It can further request any necessary data and clarifications in this regard. All IMCTC personnel shall cooperate and provide all the necessary assistance that enables it to carry out

“We saw how keen IMCTC Secretary General is to enhance internal audit in view of its importance and effective role”

its mission.”

Additionally, IMCTC’s code of conduct, paragraph (7.5), provides in that “all IMCTC personnel shall commit to cooperate with the Internal Audit Department, and no staff member shall provide false or misleading information directly or indirectly to the internal auditor when internal auditing is conducted.”

Similarly, the Internal Audit evaluates the level of cooperation of under-auditing IMCTC departments according to established and approved standards after every auditing process and reports the findings to the Secretary General. The head of internal audit department stressed that, based on several audits performed by the department, they observed significant cooperation from all those who believed in the importance of internal auditing and the overall value it brings to IMCTC, through the recommendations and the advice provided to the various departments to enhance its processes.

What entity or department reviews the work of the Internal Audit Department? Al-Shahrani responded to this question by saying:

“As you know, the Internal Audit Department is a regulatory department that performs its tasks in accordance with an approved set of regulations and is bound by the International Professional standards of Internal Auditing. According to Standard (1312) that deals with external evaluations, such evaluations should be conducted at least once every five years, by a qualified, independent auditor or auditing team from outside the organization under auditing.

“Internal audit is a means that assesses IMCTC on a risk-based approach rather than constraints”

There are also internal evaluations, based on Standard (1311) conducted through the ongoing monitoring of the activity of the internal auditing. Similarly, periodical auditing conducted through self-assessment or by other individuals within the organization who have sufficient knowledge of internal audit practices.

Mr. Al-Shahrani provided the following answer to the IMCTC Newsletter’s question regarding which department is responsible for protecting IMCTC’s public fund, assets and property:

He replied; in short, the protection of public fund and the maintenance of IMCTC assets and property is the responsibility of its all personnel, without exception.”

In his closing remarks, the Head of IMCTC Internal Audit Department added, “I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to HE IMCTC Secretary General for his unlimited support to all the tasks of internal audits and his constant guidance to help achieve its mission. , further, the SG believes strongly in the importance of internal audit to enhance IMCTC’s operational work by improving the performance and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory controls.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL DELIVERS A LECTURE AT IMCTC



The Deputy Attorney General for Oversight of Prisons and Judgements Execution gave a lecture on the “Role of Saudi Arabia in Countering terrorism and its Financing”, on Monday 26/12/2022. In his lecture, HE addressed four major themes. The first theme covered the most important international conventions, treaties and instruments on counter-terrorism and terrorism financing that the Kingdom is party to. In fact, the Kingdom has complied with all international resolutions issued by the UN Security Council regarding counter-terrorism, assets freezing and travel ban to all persons listed on the consolidated list of the Sanctions Committee of UN Security Council, and continues to cooperate with international organizations through the UN committees, such as the Sanctions Committee. The Kingdom seeks to learn from experiences, research and share them with international and regional organizations, and always calls for the conclusion of international agreements to counter terrorism.

It is worth noting that the first international conference on counter-terrorism convened in Riyadh, February 2005, and produced 43 recommendations, 15 of them on combating terrorist financing.

In the second theme, HE gave an overview of the preventive approach to counterterrorism and combating terrorist financing in the Saudi law. This law introduced preventive regulations for charitable societies and reform and rehabilitation programs in this regard, along with the establishment of the Counseling and Care Center as well as the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal).

The Kingdom has formed a high committee for counterterrorism and a permanent committee that examines the requests received from international bodies and organizations. The committee also enforces the UN Security Council resolutions regarding terrorism and combating terrorist financing. The Kingdom has also exerted great efforts to periodically communicate and coordinate with international organizations and bodies and dispatched counter-terrorism delegations to the UN. One of the notable counterterrorism efforts is the Kingdom's participation in the work of the 6th UN Committee to discuss the measures that need to be taken against international terrorism. The Kingdom has also signed several international and regional agreements concerned

with counterterrorism and countering terrorism financing, such as the 16 international counterterrorism conventions. The Kingdom has similarly signed regional counter-terrorism instruments and ratified several security agreements with foreign, Asian, Arab and Islamic countries.

In the third theme, HE addressed the criminalization of terrorism and terrorist financing in the Saudi law and gave a quick view of the law of countering terrorist crimes and counter-terrorism financing and the pertinent implementing regulations issued by the cabinet resolution No. 228, dated 1440H. There is also the resolution of the Council of Senior Scholars No 239 dated 27/4/1431H, which stipulates that terrorist financing, or attempting to engage in terrorist financing, is prohibited and deemed a crime punishable by the sharia, whether through providing or raising funds, or by whatever means. It further stipulates whether the assets are financial or non-financial, and whether the sources of funds are legitimate or illegitimate. Whoever commits such a crime knowingly is deemed as having committed something forbidden and committed a crime punishable by Sharia from the judicial point of view.

He also highlighted the preventive approach for counter-terrorism and counter-terrorism financing that the Kingdom adopts in this regard. HE pointed out the Kingdom's approach in criminalizing terrorism and counter-terrorism financing in the Saudi law as well as the role of the Public Prosecution in counter-terrorism and counter-terrorism financing during investigation and trial stages. At the end of his lecture, HE recommended that exerting more efforts by IMCTC member countries' delegates to intensify international cooperation with respect to counter-terrorism financing, strengthening the laws that help dry up the sources of terrorism financing. Such can include drug and human trafficking, money laundering, etc., stressing the need to pay more attention to the areas of training, development and other means that help in countering terrorism and drying up of its funding sources.

IMCTC Legal Department Concludes International Humanitarian Law Course



In fulfilment of the objectives of the national strategy of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, and IMCTC's counter-terrorism strategy, and based on the principle of cooperation with the Standing Committee on International Humanitarian Law in the Kingdom, IMCTC Legal Department organized a training course on the Basic Rules of International Humanitarian Law, during 19-21 December 2022.

All IMCTC member countries' delegates, most of IMCTC personnel, along with officers from the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and legal advisors from the office of His Highness Minister of Defense, attended the course. The training course lasted for three days, with two presentations per day. A group of specialists and practitioners in international humanitarian law delivered the training course.

On its first day, 19/12/2022, the training course addressed the concepts of international humanitarian law along with its historical evolution, sources, principles, scope of escalation, implementation mechanisms, and most important terms. Brig. Gen. Mansour Sultan Al-Subaie delivered the first presentation. Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Pharmacist, Ali Ahmed Al-Kinani, focused in his presentation on the rights and duties of workers in humanitarian services.

On the second day, 20/12/2022, in a presentation delivered by Prof. Awdash Al-Eidi Bin Ammar, who addressed the issues of strategic leadership, its role in ensuring, respecting and promoting international humanitarian law at the national level, as well as its criminal liability of such leadership.

The course also explored the topic of international humanitarian law in light of Islamic sharia in a presentation given by Prof. Khalid Hamad Al-Shunaiber, along with a presentation given by Brig. Gen. Mansour Sultan Al-Subaie on the preventive measures and protec-

tion in military operations (rules of engagement and targeting).

On the last day, 21/12/2022, Prof. Awdash Al-Eidi Ben Ammar, gave a presentation on contemporary challenges facing international humanitarian law such as (modern warfare, proxy warfare, illegal armed groups, modern equipment, cyberwarfare, private security companies) was given by

The Basic Rules of International Humanitarian Law course concluded with a presentation on the role of consultants and specialists in the humanitarian legal field, given by the legal adviser Brig. Gen. Mansour Sultan Al-Subaie.

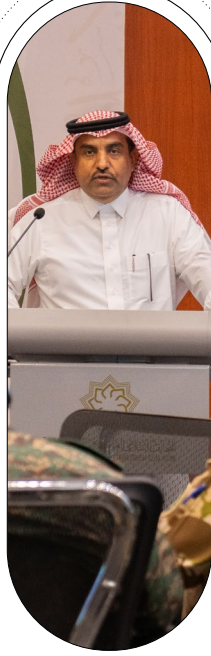
■ Excerpts from the course

- HE IMCTC Secretary-General delivered opening remarks at the outset of the course in which he stressed the importance of understanding international humanitarian law, and commended the Standing Committee on International Humanitarian Law for its keenness to deliver this training course.
- On the sidelines of the course, all members of the Standing Committee on International Humanitarian Law taking part in the training course were given a field tour to familiarize them with IMCTC facilities and were briefed on the Coalition in the Situation Room.
- At the end of the course, IMCTC Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi honored all organizers and participants of the Standing Committee and the speakers.

The Legal Department played an outstanding role in preparing for the course in all aspects. Similarly, other relevant departments were instrumental in delivering this event in manner that lives up to the expectation of IMCTC.

Recap of IMCTC activities in 2022

18
Presentations



5
Workshops

4
Courses and programs



1
Communications/media symposia

6
In-house events





12

External visits



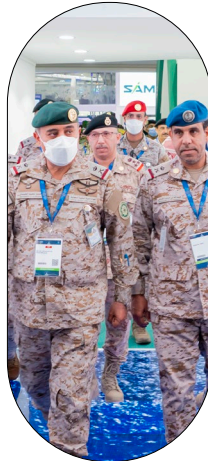
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Accession of the Republic of Kenya to IMCTC



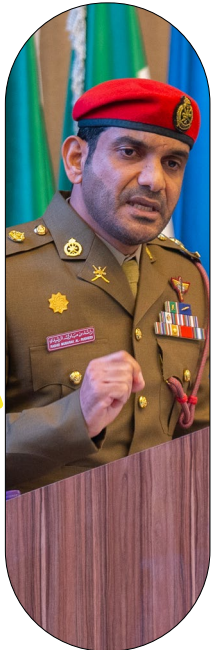
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Official visits to IMCTC



2

IMCTC participations



13

Ceremonies/ national days of IMCTC member countries



42

Countries

2022 

IMCTC RECEIVES A DELEGATION OF JOINT COMMAND OFFICERS



On December 20, 2022, IMCTC received officers of the Joint Operations Planning Course held at the Saudi Armed Forces Command and Staff College. The visiting delegation was briefed on the most important tasks of IMCTC across the various counter-terrorism domains, its strategies to implement its counter-terrorism initiatives, and the role IMCTC plays in countering extremist ideology and coordination of all efforts to counter terrorist threats through ideology, communications, CTF and military initiatives. Likewise, the delegation was briefed on IMCTC efforts to coordinate and intensify the joint efforts of its member countries.

During his meeting with the delegation, IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Saeed Al-Moghedi, pointed out that

IMCTC is anchored on the values of legitimacy, autonomy, coordination, participation, and seeks to ensure that all of its counter-terrorism actions are consistent with international regulations, norms and laws.

Afterwards, the visiting delegation toured IMCTC Headquarters and got acquainted with its key publications across counter-terrorism domains. It was also briefed on the latest developments, updates about terrorist groups and incidents around the world, in addition to IMCTC tracking of these developments. It is noteworthy that this visit comes within the framework of the joint work between IMCTC and its member countries to strengthen the partnership in exchanging experiences to help eradicate the scourge of terrorism.



TERRORISM IN THE G5 SAHEL COUNTRIES

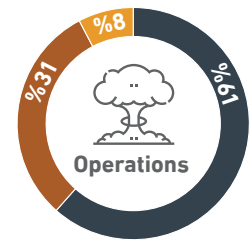
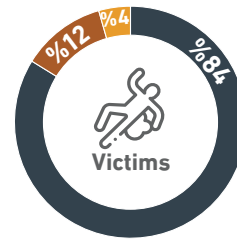
December 2022



In December, the G5 Sahel countries experienced 13 terrorist attacks that no terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for so far. This represents an increase of 44% rate compared to the situation in November 2022.

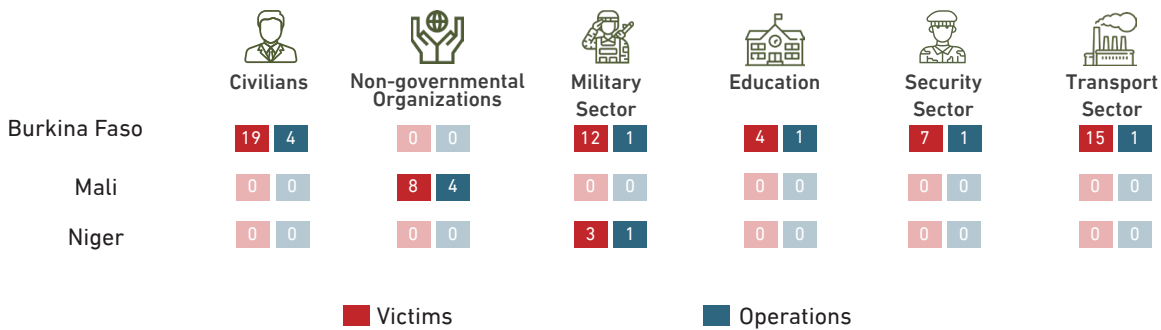
Terrorism in the G5 Sahel region poses a threat to the stability of its countries in light of the successive crises that occurred in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and due to the lack of coordination among the key players countering terrorism and extremism. There are also other contributing factors including the existence of a conducive environment that help fuel extremism and terrorism coupled with weak local governments.

Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022
Burkina Faso	4	↑ 8	32	↑ 57
Mali	3	↑ 4	20	↓ 8
Niger	1	= 1	4	↓ 3
Chad	1	↓ 0	10	↓ 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	9	↑ 13	66	↑ 68

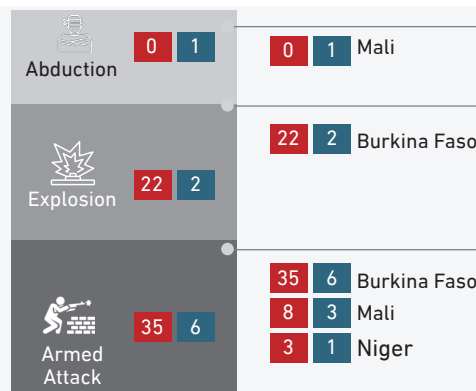


■ Burkina Faso ■ Mali ■ Niger

Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks



Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



Burkina Faso: Burkina Faso declared the UN coordinator, Mrs. Barbara Manzi, of Italy, a persona non grata and asked her to leave the country.

Mali: The Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) asked the ruling military council in Mali to release 46 Ivorian soldiers detained in Bamako before January 2023, or else Mali could face new sanctions.

Niger: The EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels have agreed to create a common partnership military mission for security and defense policy to support Niger in its war against armed terrorist groups.

Chad: President of Chad, Gen. Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno met in Washington with the US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Victoria Jane Nuland. Over the course of the visit, both parties discussed means of further developing and strengthening Chadian-American relations.

Mauritania: Mauritania's Chief of Staff, Gen. Mukhtar Bellah Shaaban, held talks with the Chief of Staff of the Malian Army, Gen. Oumar Diarra and discussed means and mechanisms of strengthening the existing military cooperation relations between the two countries, particularly along with their shared border areas.

SECRETARY GENERAL PRESENTS IMCTC DECORATION TO THE DELEGATE OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN



IMCTC Secretary-General presented IMCTC decoration to Col. Hadi Ali Al-Rawashedeh, delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at the end of his assignment at IMCTC, on Dec. 29, 2022, in recognition of efforts at the Coalition. The award of the decoration is pursuant to the orders of HRH, Minister Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council.

It is worth noting that IMCTC decoration is presented to all IMCTC member countries' Delegates at the end of their respective assignment, along with the decoration certificate.



IMCTC PERSONNEL TAKE PART IN DERAYAH PROGRAM

IMCTC has sent a group of its personnel to take part in (Derayah capacity development) training course, which is part of Salam project for Intercultural Communication. It is worth noting that "Salam Project for Intercultural Communication" was established pursuant to the Council of Minister's resolution No (12) in October 2015, under the umbrella of the National Committee for Following up the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Initiatives for Interfaith, Intercultural Dialogue as a national project intended to promote intercultural communication. The program is line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, guided by two themes (an ambitious homeland and a vibrant society) that track the image of the Kingdom an highlight the aspects of coexistence and tolerance, and keep track of the publications of international organizations and centers. Salam Project is a meaningful and useful platform for dialogue, open communication, and positive understanding among the Saudis and other societies to have a better understand of the human and cultural commonalities. It also seeks to open up dialogue on issues that may not be clear to them and might affect the image of the Kingdom in the minds of those societies. This third group of 10 IMCTC participants, which was sent in December, follows the previous first and second batch of IMCTC's personnel.

IMCTC CONGRATULATES MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THEIR NATIONAL OCCASIONS



IMCTC congratulated its member countries on their national/ independence days and wished them and their people security and prosperity, including

- United Arab Emirates, 51st National Day, December 2, 2022.
- Burkina Faso, Republic Day, December 11, 2022.
- Republic of Kenya, 59th Independence Day, December 12, 2022.
- Kingdom of Bahrain, 51st National Day, December 16, 2022.
- State of Qatar, National Day, December 18, 2022.
- State of Libya, 71st Independence Day Anniversary, December 24, 2022

Countries and peoples celebrate their national occasions because such celebrations significantly enhance the sense of belonging to homeland and reinforce the concepts of unity, fraternity, tolerance and peace among societies.