



## KSA contributes 100 million riyals to support the Fund for Financing Initiatives

In their final Communiqué, Defense Ministers stress their keenness to continue their efforts through organized collective action and comprehensive plans and initiatives in support of IMCTC's domains of work.

## KSA offers 46 training programs for candidates from Member States



## IMCTC Defense Ministers conclude their Second Meeting in Riyadh

On Saturday, February 3, 2024, HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, chaired the Second Meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council held in Riyadh. The Meeting was attended by their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Defense of IMCTC Member States and Supporting Nations and discussed ways to strengthen and intensify the efforts aimed at countering terrorism through strategic partnerships that contribute to cooperation between Member States. (To be continued on P. 2)

## HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman Visits the IMCTC's Pavilion at the World Defense Show

HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, visited the IMCTC's pavilion during its participation in the Second World Defense Show held in Riyadh from February 4 to 8, 2024. This participation stemmed from IMCTC's belief in the importance of its presence on international platforms to highlight its counter-terrorism efforts and present its vision of achieving global leadership in countering terrorism. IMCTC also aimed to emphasize its role as a major partner in international efforts to maintain international peace and security, as well as its mission in coordinating, unifying and supporting the efforts exerted by Member States in the ideology, communications, counter-terrorist financing and military domains with a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness, and in partnership with friendly countries and international organizations to counter terrorism and highlight the tolerance of the true Islamic religion. (To be continued on P. 6)



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3 فبراير 2024 الموافق 22 رجب 1445 هـ  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Riyadh , February 3, 2024 Rajab 22, 1445 AH

وزراء دفاع دول  
مكافحة الإرهاب  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of



## Second Meeting of Defense Ministers of IMCTC Member States

On Saturday, February 3, 2024, the Second Meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council was held in Riyadh, under the chairmanship of HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, to emphasize that countering terrorism is a shared responsibility. The meeting was attended by their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Defense of IMCTC Member States and Supporting Nations and discussed ways to strengthen and intensify the efforts aimed at countering terrorism through strategic partnerships that contribute to cooperation between Member States.

The meeting was opened with an address delivered by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, in which he stated the following:

"I am pleased to welcome Your Excellencies to your second home country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to convey to you the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and their wishes for the success of our efforts.

### Your Highnesses and Excellencies...

Our meeting today is only an extension of the first meeting held upon the announcement of this blessed Coalition, where we agreed upon the frameworks and foundations required for the launch of this Coalition and declared our commitment to harness all efforts to counter terrorism and extremism, due to the threats they pose for regional and international security and stability. Your Excellencies surely recognize the importance and seriousness of this mission and of the great aspirations which we yearn to achieve, and which require concerted efforts, integration, cooperation and partnership with various world countries and international bodies and organizations. We are

sure that we will be able to achieve the hopes of our leaders, countries and peoples, namely to counter terrorism in terms of ideology, media and military aspects and to dry up its funding sources under the umbrella of IMCTC.

### Your Highnesses and Excellencies...

Our countries have identified the risk posed by terrorist groups and organizations, which constantly seek, through their capabilities, tools and resources, to undermine security and stability and to hinder the movement of development and construction in many world countries. Based on the foundations of our true Islamic religion, which calls for moderation and coexistence with others in an atmosphere of security and peace, and rejects extremism and fanaticism, and out of belief in the importance of confronting such threats in all their forms and manifestations, IMCTC seeks to contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts by coordinating efforts and launching joint initiatives according to a clearly defined methodology, prepared in collaboration between



the representatives of Member States for the next three years. In this context, Saudi Arabia has furnished headquarters for the IMCTC Center in Riyadh, in line with the highest specifications and standards. Furthermore, all legal and regulatory requirements have been satisfied to enable the Center to carry out the tasks assigned to it, and operating expenses have been allocated since the announcement of IMCTC's formation in an amount of SAR 1,267,000,000.

#### **Your Highnesses and Excellencies...**

The continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people requires a unified position by IMCTC Member States to condemn the Israeli violations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the necessity of immediately stopping this aggression in accordance with the decisions of the Extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit, held in Riyadh on November 11, 2023.

#### **Your Highnesses and Excellencies...**

In continuation of the support provided by Saudi Arabia to

IMCTC, I would like to announce the Kingdom's contribution in an amount of SAR 100 million to support the IMCTC Fund for Financing Initiatives, and its provision of 46 training programs for candidates of Member States in the key domains of IMCTC. The Kingdom has also launched a special initiative entitled "IMCTC Program to Combat Terrorism for the Sahel Countries (G5)", in accordance with IMCTC's governance. In this context, we hope that IMCTC Member States contribute to supporting the Fund for Financing Initiatives and providing training programs to achieve IMCTC's objectives in accordance with its governance.

#### **Your Highnesses and Excellencies...**

We are confident that our combined efforts and joint cooperation will certainly help to achieve our desired goal towards creating a world in which security, peace, moderation and coexistence prevail. We ask Almighty Allah to help us and guide our steps and wish that this meeting would fulfill the hopes and aspirations of our leaders and peoples".

## Group Photo of Their Highnesses and Excellencies



After the speech delivered by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi addressed the meeting. He began his speech with the usual greetings and expression of thanks and gratitude to HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman for his generous sponsorship of this meeting and for his unlimited support and continuous directives that enabled IMCTC to perform its duties leading to this meeting.

IMCTC Secretary General emphasized IMCTC's commitment to carrying out its tasks under the directives of His Royal Highness to create a cooperative work environment aimed at countering terrorism in all its forms. This effort mainly focuses on countering the most difficult and serious aspect of terrorism, namely deviant and misleading ideologies, which are the main tools used by extremists to engender terrorism and to mislead and recruit young people.

Al-Moghedi further shed light on the role played by IMCTC, with the participation of the authorized representatives of Member States, in drawing up various initiatives, which aim to counter terrorism in IMCTC Member States by assisting the various institutions in charge of preserving the safety of citizens and the stability of the state. This goal can be achieved by rectifying misleading ideologies, activating

the role of moderate religious and media discourse, refuting the claims of terrorists and exposing their falsehoods, as well as by assisting financial institutions to fill the loopholes that may be exploited to finance extremist groups, and supporting the efforts of security agencies in charge of countering terrorism on the ground in IMCTC Member States, in accordance with national sovereignty and international norms. IMCTC Secretary General also pointed out that IMCTC's work approach is based on the principle of achieving peace, security and stability for all world countries and societies by exerting more efforts and launching initiatives to counter terrorism in accordance with IMCTC's domains and governance.

IMCTC Secretary General's speech was followed by 16 other speeches delivered by their Excellencies the Ministers of Defense participating in the meeting. Their Excellencies stated that their countries are determined to counter terrorism and coordinate and unify efforts to ward off its dangers. They also praised the steps taken by IMCTC so far and stressed the importance of joint collective action to address all forms and images of terrorism and extremism.

The speakers included the Defense Ministers of the State of Libya, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Chad, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Sudan,





the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Djibouti, the Kingdom of Morocco, the State of Palestine, Malaysia, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Bangladesh, and Burkina Faso.

**The final Communiqué of the second meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council read as follows:**

The Defense Ministers of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), during their Second Meeting held, Saturday, 3rd of February, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, at the invitation of HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council, express their appreciations for HRH's address, his keenness on activating the role of IMCTC for safeguarding the stability of its Member States and ensuring the safety of their peoples.

**The Communiqué added:**

IMCTC Member States express their support for the address of HRH, the Saudi Minister of Defense, Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council on stressing the importance of having a unified stance on condemning the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The Defense Ministers of Member States also reaffirmed the

determination of their countries to strengthen cooperation, coordination and intensify their collective efforts to curb the menace of terrorism and underscored the importance of the collective joint action to counter terrorism and extremism in their all forms, shapes, and manifestations. They further expressed their satisfaction with the progress made regarding the evolution of IMCTC and stressed their keenness to continue their efforts to counter terrorism and eradicate it through collective, organized, and comprehensive actions by developing plans and initiatives in line with IMCTC's ideology, communications, counter-terrorist financing and military domains.

The Defense Ministers were briefed on IMCTC's counter-terrorism approach, and its initiatives tailored for the needs of its member countries through their delegates to IMCTC, in accordance with its governance framework.

**The Communiqué added:**

As the congregants are well aware of the importance of activating these initiatives aimed at countering terrorism across the various domains, they agreed on launching IMCTC's Initiatives Fund dedicated for the receipt of financial contributions from member countries, supporting nations and relevant international organizations.

The congregants also commended the positive spirit that prevailed throughout the meeting demonstrating the consensus of opinions, positions, and the importance of concerted efforts to help realize IMCTC's counter-terrorism objectives through collaboration of its Member States along with the existing partnerships with like-minded supporting nations, relevant counter-terrorism international organizations, in line with the principles of international legitimacy and welcoming countries willing to join IMCTC in the future.

Finally, IMCTC Defense Ministers highly commended the countries that contributed support for IMCTC' Initiatives Fund. They reiterated their thanks and appreciations for the Kingdom's efforts in establishing and supporting IMCTC to continue its mission as planned, and for hosting the Second Meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council. They further expressed their thanks and gratitude for HRH, the Saudi Defense Minister for the great efforts that made the convening and the results of the meeting a success.





### IMCTC's Participates in the Second World Defense Show

Out of its belief in the importance of its presence on international platforms to highlight its counter-terrorism efforts and present its vision to a wider audience, IMCTC participated in the Second World Defense Show held in Riyadh on February 4-8, 2024. IMCTC's stand at the Show displayed videos and visual presentations explaining IMCTC approach and work strategy in its four domains. IMCTC also showcased relevant publications comprising the latest studies and research concerned with countering terrorism and extremism. Delegates of IMCTC Member States appeared at the Coalition's stand and introduced its activities and missions. IMCTC achieved multiple gains from participation in this World Show, most notably meeting with important and influential figures who visited the Show and building bridges of communication with these figures and others, as well as introducing IMCTC's activities in the domains of countering terrorism and exchanging experiences, to expand communication with the relevant entities with regard to all actions and activities that would contribute to countering terrorism and extremism.







## IMCTC's Participates in the Second World Defense Show









## IMCTC signs headquarters agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In fulfillment of its vision and mission and in furtherance of the principle of international cooperation and coordination of joint global efforts in countering terrorism, and in order to achieve global security and stability, IMCTC carried out a number of measures and practical steps towards achieving its strategy and objectives. Among such measures was the signing of a headquarters agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, this agreement was signed between H. E. IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, representing IMCTC, and H. E. the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral International Affairs, Dr. Abdulrahman bin Ibrahim Al-Rassi, representing the Ministry. On this occasion, IMCTC Secretary General asserted that the signing of the headquarters agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an expression the generous patronage and unlimited support that IMCTC receives from the host country under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and HRH the Crown Prince, and close oversight by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Defense and Chairman of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council. The headquarters agreement strengthens cooperation and unifies efforts between countries, as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always been keen on in supporting joint global action. It is worth noting that a headquarters agreement is defined as an international agreement concluded between an international organization and a state in whose territory this organization has its headquarters. This agreement regulates the conditions of the headquarters and the employees of that international organization, especially with regard to immunities, privileges and exemptions. As an international treaty, this agreement sets forth the rights and duties of the two parties towards each other and

regulates the organization's activities and legal personality on the territory of the host country. It also decides on the immunities and privileges of the headquarters of the international organization, its employees, affiliates, and delegates assigned to the organization. It also provides for methods to resolve any dispute that may arise between the two parties, which usually include negotiation or having recourse to international arbitration and judiciary. Worthy of note is that, like any international treaty, this agreement is merely a legal document that provides for legal effects on its parties and enters into force immediately upon the final consent of both parties, namely the host country and the organization. This headquarters agreement is governed by the same rules governing international treaties, and its main reference is the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of International Treaties concluded by international organizations, which are the same rules governing international treaties concluded by states and included in the 1969 Vienna Convention.

The signing of this agreement affirms the principle of constructive collaboration and the promotion of joint efforts. The governing principle of all these agreements is that of equality between all Member States without any distinction between the host country or any country to which an employee belongs by nationality. Moreover, the host country has no advantage, superiority or influence on the legal operation of the organization, and their relationship is governed by the headquarters agreement and by the agreement on the privileges and immunities of the organization, which sets out the rights and duties of the two parties vis-à-vis each other. Based on this principle, and with a view to achieving IMCTC's strategic objectives and perform its tasks, this agreement was concluded between IMCTC and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## Algerian Chief of Staff visits IMCTC headquarters



On Thursday, February 8, 2024, H.E. the Chief of Staff of the Algerian People's National Army, Lieut. Gen. Saïd Chanegriha, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters and was received by IMCTC Secretary General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi. His Excellency the Chief of Staff and the accompanying delegation were briefed on IMCTC's major activities in countering terrorism and on all of IMCTC's publications. They were also briefed on the situation room and listened to a detailed explanation of its vital role in conducting operations of analyzing, monitoring, and anticipating the movements of terrorist groups. This room also has indicators for assessment of the current

situation and for anticipating and forecasting potential changes to help make sound strategic decisions. His Excellency commended IMCTC's efforts in building bridges of cooperation with Member States and its approach in countering and confronting extremist groups. IMCTC Secretary-General expressed hope that the Republic of Algeria would join IMCTC, considering the significant impact it would have on enhancing the exchange of experiences among Member States. He also expressed his appreciation of Algeria's decisive role in countering terrorism

## Pakistan Naval War College delegation visits IMCTC headquarters



On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, IMCTC Secretary General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received a delegation from the Pakistan Naval War College, headed by Maj. Gen. Azhar Mahmood, Commander of the Naval War College of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The visiting delegation was briefed on IMCTC's achievements across its four key domains and on its strategies and approaches. The delegation also received answers to a number of inquiries raised by some of its members. This visit was carried out as part of the joint work between IMCTC and its Member States, and aimed to strengthen cooperation and coordination, as well as to enhance the development and



exchange of information and experiences between Member States. The head of the delegation commended IMCTC's efforts and its role in coordinating, unifying and supporting the efforts of Member States in the four key domains of IMCTC (ideology, communications, counter-terrorism financing, and military aspects). This visit is an extension of previous visits aimed at deepening partnership and exchange of experiences and knowledge between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and IMCTC for countering terrorist groups, rejecting extremism, and promoting security and stability. It is worth noting that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is an IMCTC Member State.

## INTERPOL dries up terrorist financing



The International Criminal Police (INTERPOL) has carried out several operations to help dry up the sources of terrorism. As part of the efforts to strengthen border security in Zambia and Zimbabwe through field training courses and to improve the use of INTERPOL's policing tools, its global databases were searched more than 100,000 times, resulting in matches to data on wanted persons at the international level. The INTERPOL conducted two phases of the training and

operations program in the field of combating migrant smuggling at Harare and Lusaka International Airports during October 3-5 and April 19-21, respectively. These measures aimed to strengthen security measures at these two major African airports. The two operations specifically sought to unify the efforts of law enforcement agencies around the world to combat transnational organized crimes such as trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, and terrorism.

## US decision to classify Houthi on terrorism lists enters into force



The US Department of State has announced the redesignation of the Houthi militias as among "terrorist groups" and specified that the decision would be effective 30 days after the announcement date. According to a statement issued by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, this decision was a result of the Houthis' involvement in attacks against international maritime vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. It is worth noting that if the designation of the Houthi militias as a terrorist group enters into force, as announced by the US State Department's, this

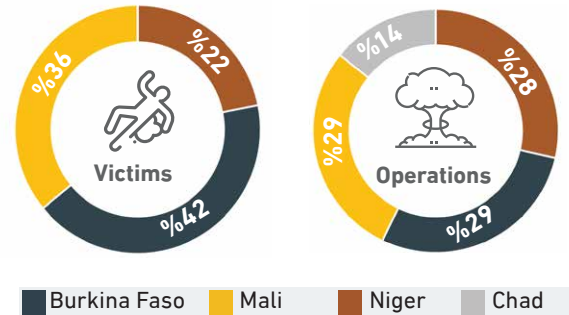
will mean freezing any assets that the militias may possess in the United States and cutting off their sources of funding. According to the US National Security Advisor, this designation is an important means for obstructing the financing of Houthi terrorist groups, restricting their access to financial markets, and holding them accountable for their actions, especially that the previous US designation of the Houthi militias, which was later cancelled, prohibited any dealings with them.

# Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during February 2024



During February 2024, the G5 Sahel Countries witnessed an increase by 250% in terms of the number of terrorist operations, and a similar increase by 100% in the total number of fatalities and wounded, as compared to January 2024.

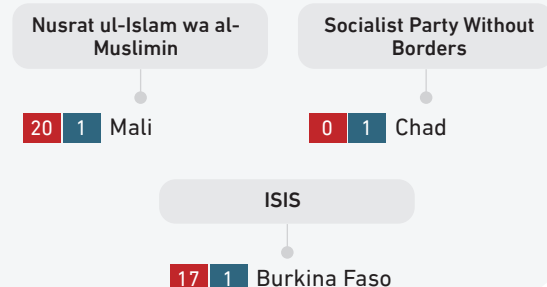
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (Deaths and Injuries)	
	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024
Burkina Faso	0	↑ 2	0	↑ 27
Mali	0	↑ 2	0	↑ 23
Niger	2	= 2	32	↓ 14
Chad	0	↑ 1	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>↑ 7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>↑ 64</b>



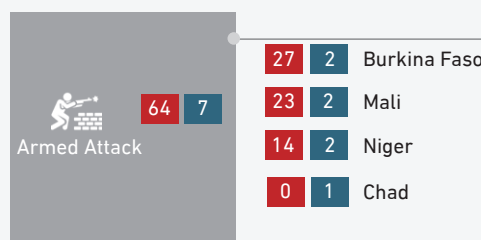
## Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

Country	Military Sector		Civilians	
	Victims	Operations	Victims	Operations
Burkina Faso	0	0	27	2
Mali	20	1	3	1
Niger	14	2	0	0
Chad	0	1	0	0

## Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



## Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



## Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso:** According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mali, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are intending to create a new confederation after announcing their withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- **Mali:** Mali welcomed the security "progress" in the country with the help of Russia. It stated that "this strategic bilateral relationship allowed for significant progress, especially in the field of security," referring particularly to the Malian army's control of the city of Kidal, the stronghold claimed by the separatists and the stake of sovereignty for the central government.
- **Niger:** The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced that it will lift the sanctions imposed on Niger, which include closing the borders and halting financial transactions.

- **Chad:** The opposition leader in Chad, Yaya Dillo, a leading opponent of Chad's ruling junta chief in Chad, has been killed in an army attack on his party's headquarters before the elections. Dillo was the main rival to his cousin and transitional president Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno.
- **Mauritania:** Opposition parties in Mauritania have called on the government to refrain from signing an agreement with the European Union (EU) under which Nouakchott would shelter illegal immigrants. They further called on the people of Mauritania to join forces to prevent taking such a step. In a statement distributed to the media, these opposition parties considered the government's agreement with the EU regarding immigrants to "pose a threat to national security."

## IMCTC BIDS FAREWELL TO A NUMBER OF DELEGATES OF MEMBER STATES



On Thursday, February 8, 2024, IMCTC bid farewell to a number of delegates of Member States upon concluding their term of office, including Col. Mahmoud Ayed Al-Atawi, delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Likewise, on Monday, February 12, 2024, IMCTC bid farewell to Col. Ali Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed, delegate of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and on Thursday, February 15, 2024, to Lieut. Col. Ahmed Ermi Fikri Bin Harris, delegate of the State of Malaysia. At the end of the ceremony held on this occasion, IMCTC Decoration was presented to all departing delegates in recognition of their efforts during their assignments, in accordance with the orders of HRH the Minister of Defense and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers. It is worth noting that IMCTC Decoration is awarded to all delegates of member countries at the end of their assignment at IMCTC, along with an accredited decoration certificate.

## IMCTC RECEIVES A NUMBER OF DELEGATES OF MEMBER STATES



A number of delegates of Member States assumed their duties at IMCTC. On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, IMCTC received the delegate of the Republic of Niger, Col. Abu Bakr Monkaila Badie and on Sunday, February 18, 2024, the delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Col. Salam Abdul Rahim Al-Majali. On Wednesday, February 28, 2024, IMCTC also received Mr. Abdullah Muhammad Dubat, the delegate of the Republic of Kenya. IMCTC sincerely wishes the newly joined delegates of countries to achieve success in performing their duties.