

## **Nigeria: clergy live dangerously**

The Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) reports that 145 priests have been abducted in the last 10 years, 11 of them have been killed, four are still missing, all others have been released. Owerri province with 47 cases is the high risk region for clergy followed by Onitsha province 30 cases and Kaduna province 24 cases and 7 deaths

## **Liberia: Internally displaced persons jeopardise security**

Liberia is facing growing security concerns due to the influx of Burkinabe refugees. An estimated 23,000 Burkinabe refugees are registered in Grand Gedeh County alone and around 40,000 are believed to be in the south-eastern region. The situation in Liberia is not an isolated case, but part of a wider regional crisis in West Africa. Burkina Faso, the country of origin of the refugees, is struggling with a severe security crisis characterised by violent extremism, ethnic conflict and political instability. The effects of this crisis are being felt in the neighbouring countries of Mali, Niger and now Liberia. 12.03.2025

## **Ethiopia: New Abbaa Gadaa**

In southern Ethiopia, thousands of people have gathered for one of the country's biggest cultural event. The week-long Gadaa ceremony, the official handover of power from a traditional ruler to his successor, takes place every eight years. The Gadaa system, which was inscribed on the UN World Heritage List in 2016, is a democratic system that has been practised for the past 500 years under the Oromo in East Africa. 12.03.2025

## **Nigeria: School closures during Ramadan**

Schools in four states in northern Nigeria have been closed for five weeks during Ramadan, affecting all pupils regardless of their religious affiliation. This is the first suspension of this kind in Nigeria's history. This applies to Kano, Katsina, Bauchi and Kebbi. The head of Katsina's vice squad insisted that public schools must also comply with the closure. The northern region is Muslim-majority and 12 of its states - including the four that carried out the closures - are under Sharia law. The move has alarmed Christian leaders, teachers' and students' organisations, who fear that the constitutional right to education is under threat. The Nigerian federal government is being urged to intervene. There is also concern about what this means for Nigeria's secular status under Section 10 of the Constitution. Theoretically, Sharia (Islamic law) is subordinate to federal law and should only be applied to Muslims. 11.03.2025

## **Kenya: Cuts in humanitarian aid and consequences**

Widespread demonstrations broke out in the Kakuma refugee camp in north-west Kenya, with police firing live ammunition at the protesters. The protests broke out due to food and water shortages in the camp. The shortages come as humanitarian aid in Kenya has been reduced due to funding cuts by USAID. The camp, which is one of the largest in the world, is home to around 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers. They are mainly refugees from the neighbouring countries of South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. 11.03.2025

## **Mozambique: Extensive damage after Cyclone Jude**

Cyclone Jude swept across Mozambique with wind speeds of up to 120 km/h and torrential rainfall. It caused flooding and extensive damage to the infrastructure. The inhabitants of Nacala were surprised by the severity of

the disaster. The situation in the region is already precarious and humanitarian capacities are overstretched after the two most recent cyclones in December and January. Unrest continues in Maputo, with police firing on opposition protests. 11.03.2025

## **Congo DRC: Minerals for weapons**

The United States is open to partnerships with the Congo in the area of critical minerals. A Congolese senator had contacted US officials to propose a minerals-for-collateral deal. The Democratic Republic of Congo, which is rich in cobalt, lithium and uranium, among other minerals, is battling Rwandan-backed M23 rebels who have captured large parts of the country this year. 'The United States is open to discussions about partnerships in this sector that are consistent with the Trump administration's America First agenda,' a State Department spokesman said, pointing out that Congo has "a significant amount of critical minerals needed for advanced technologies".

## **Somalia: IS-Somalia on the retreat**

The Somali armed forces in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland have achieved significant successes against Islamic State (IS) fighters in the Cal-Miskaad mountains and captured important strongholds. The month-long campaign, which was supported by air strikes from the United Arab Emirates and the USA, has resulted in over 100 IS fatalities and the loss of strategic positions such as the Togjaceel Valley. Most of the IS fighters have fled, splitting into smaller groups and seeking new safe havens. The offensive has dealt a heavy blow to IS Somalia, but some analysts believe it could resort to asymmetric warfare if forces in Puntland fail to secure the liberated areas. 10.03.2025

## **DRC: M23 rebels advance**

The armed group M23 has advanced deeper into the mineral-rich region of the Democratic Republic of Congo after capturing the key cities of Goma and Bukavu - the capitals of North and South Kivu provinces respectively - in recent weeks. The Rwandan-backed rebels have entered the village of Nyabiondo, about 100 kilometres north of Goma, on the road leading to the strategically important town of Walikale in North Kivu. The authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have offered a reward of 5 million dollars for the arrest of rebel leaders. In Lubero in the north, more than 100,000 people have been newly displaced. More than 7,000 people have been killed in the fighting in the east since January, including a 'significant' number of civilians.

## **Kenya: Church donation leads to clashes**

President Ruto's donation of 20 million shillings (US\$155,000) to the Jesus Winner Ministry in the Nairobi suburb of Roysambu sparked criticism from some young Kenyans struggling with the high cost of living. Kenyan police used tear gas to disperse protesters trying to occupy the church. Ruto has defended his donation and has offered a similar gift to another church in Eldoret. Last year, both Catholic and Anglican church leaders refused donations on the grounds that the church needed to be protected from political instrumentalization. 10.03.2025

## **More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>**

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