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Centre de Recherches et d'Études Géostratégiques

Center for Geostrategic Research and Studies

MEDIA MONITORING

« INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE »

From November 16 to 23, 2020

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AFRICA

MOROCCO – 11/16/2020 : Morocco, Polisario Exchange Fire in Western Sahara : Report : The pro-independence Polisario Front said that intense fighting was continuing along the 2,700-kilometer Moroccan wall of defense.
(The Defense Post-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/16/2020 : Gunmen Kill 34 in Attack on Bus in West Ethiopia : Rights Body : There is no known link between the violence in Benishangul-Gumuz and military operations in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region. **(The Defense Post-Article Link)**

LIBYA – 11/16/2020 : Tough start for Libya's political forum as talks stall : Participants of the the UN-brokered Libyan Political Dialogue Forum failed to reach a full agreement in discussions over the future of Libya and potential resolutions to the country's ongoing civil war.
(Africa News-Article Link)

MOROCCO – 11/16/2020 : Western Sahara Ends Truce With Morocco : A leader of the Polisario Front said on Sunday that the independence movement was mobilizing "thousands of volunteers" to join the Saharawi armed forces on the third day of the crisis between it and Morocco in the disputed territory of Western Sahara.
(Africa News-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/16/2020 : Explainer : Why is Ethiopia fighting one of its regions ? : Battles are raging in Ethiopia's northern Tigray state. The Ethiopian government has called it a law enforcement operation against a rebellious region.
(Africa News-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/16/2020 : Gunmen kill dozens in bus attack in Ethiopia : Gunmen killed at least 34 people in a "horrific" bus attack in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of western Ethiopia, the scene of recent deadly violence against civilians, the national human rights agency reported on Sunday.
(Africa News-Article Link)

SUDAN – 11/16/2020 : Sudan struggles to house 25,000 Ethiopian refugees : 25,000 Ethiopian refugees have fled the northern Tigray region into neighboring Sudan. They are fleeing heavy fighting in East Africa's most populous nation.
(Africa News-Article Link)

D.R. CONGO – 11/16/2020 : Op Mistral rotation in DR Congo underway : Any change in plans as regards the composition of the United Nation's single largest mission – MONUSCO – have either not been finalised or reached South Africa, a troop and equipment contributor to the Democratic Republic of Congo mission.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

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LIBYA – 11/16/2020 : Libyan family searches for missing son, a year on : A year ago, Mohammed al-Magri's son disappeared when fighting intensified in Tripoli, Libya. **(Africa News-Article Link)**

IVORY COAST – 11/16/2020 : After Ivory Coast election, fighting comes to a once-calm town : Before last month's presidential election, M'Batto in central Ivory Coast was a small, peaceful town where ethnic groups intermarried and churches and mosques existed side by side without friction, residents say.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/16/2020 : Crime stats increased between July and September, report reveals : Following a lull in criminal activity during the hard national COVID-19 lockdown, figures began to rise as restrictions were eased between July and September. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

ETHIOPIA – 11/16/2020 : Are mediation efforts possible in Ethiopia ? : After a lively weekend raised fears of escalating violence in the northern Tigray region, various mediation efforts tried to silence weapons in a crisis that now heightens fears of a regional conflict in the Horn of Africa. **(Africa News-Article Link)**

SAHEL – 11/16/2020 : Many challenges remain for Sahel Joint Force, warns Lacroix, welcoming 'increased coordination' : It will take a variety of different actors to confront and deal with the "daunting challenges" in the Sahel region, the head of UN peacekeeping told the Security Council on Monday. **(UN News-Article Link)**

LIBYA – 11/16/2020 : Twenty migrants drown in Libya shipwreck, fourth accident this week : Twenty African migrants are believed to have drowned off the coast of Libya when their boat sank as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to Europe, while more bodies washed ashore on Libyan beaches on Friday from a shipwreck earlier this week. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

NIGERIA – 11/16/2020 : 'The soldiers kept shooting:' witnesses testify in Lagos protest probe : Nigerian soldiers shot dead peaceful protesters at a demonstration in Lagos last month, trucking away the bodies, said written witness testimonies submitted to a judicial panel on Saturday but contradicted by an army general. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/16/2020 : SA records fewer GBV cases between July and September : While there has been a drop in the number of sexual offences reported, the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) continues to haunt women and children in the country. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

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EGYPT – 11/17/2020 : Egypt getting Lurssen patrol boats : Egypt will be receiving nine Lurssen patrol boats from Germany under a 130 million euro deal after the contract with the original customer, Saudi Arabia, fell through. Egypt will also be getting a single coastal defence boat.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

GUINEA GULF – 11/17/2020 : Three more Gulf of Guinea attacks : The Gulf of Guinea continues to live up to its world's worst rating for pirate and ship attacks with at least another three reported off the west African coast in recent days.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/17/2020 : RDM supplying SANDF with new 40 mm medium velocity ammunition : Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) is supplying the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) with new 40 mm medium velocity ammunition as part of Project Kamogelo, the acquisition of new Y4 40 mm grenade launchers from Milkor.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/17/2020 : Worsening refugee crisis from Tigray conflict-UNHCR : The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR says it is extremely concerned about the worsening crisis in northern Ethiopia where ongoing clashes between the Ethiopian federal government and Tigray forces are driving thousands of people to flee.
(Africa News-Article Link)

SUDAN – 11/17/2020 : Putin, extending Russian footprint, approves new naval facility in Sudan : President Vladimir Putin on Monday approved the creation of a Russian naval facility in Sudan capable of mooring nuclear-powered surface vessels, clearing the way for Moscow's first substantial military foothold in Africa since the Soviet fall.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

MALAWI – 11/17/2020 : Malawian protesters demand tougher penalties for rape : Hundreds of Malawians took to the streets on Monday to demand tougher rape penalties following months of protests over sexual abuse in the country, including a high-profile case involving the head of the public broadcaster.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/17/2020 : Ethiopia eyes Tigrayan capital as surrender ultimatum passes : "The three-day ultimatum given to Tigray Special Forces and the militia to surrender … has ended today," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Facebook. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

D.R. CONGO – 11/17/2020 : Dozens Killed in Eastern DR Congo, ADF Militia Blamed : Twenty-nine bodies were found in the Virunga Park in the country's troubled east.
(The Defense Post-Article Link)

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ETHIOPIA – 11/17/2020 : Ethiopia's Abiy Vows 'Final' Push in Tigray : Abiy announced the campaign against Tigray's ruling party, the TPLF, in response to attacks by the TPLF on federal military camps. **(The Defense Post-Article Link)**

AFRICA – 11/17/2020 : China talks up its peacekeeping role in Africa : As China this year marks three decades of participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, it says it is a strong force for safeguarding African peace.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

SOMALIA – 11/18/2020 : At least six dead after suicide bomber attacks restaurant in Somali capital : Six people died on Tuesday in Somalia's capital Mogadishu when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a restaurant near a police academy, a police spokesman and a witness said.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

AFRICA – 11/18/2020 : African customer orders SPREOS DIRCM for VIP, military aircraft : An unidentified African customer has ordered Bird Aerosystems' SPREOS (Self Protection Radar Electro-Optic System) directional infrared countermeasures (DIRCM) system for its VIP and military aircraft fleet.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/18/2020 : Deputy President heads up high level military veterans team : Deputy President David Mabuza wasted no time in getting to grips with his newest task – military veterans and specifically the support they are supposed to enjoy from government.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

TOGO – 11/18/2020 : France donates boats to Togo : France has donated two semi-rigid patrol boats to Togo's navy, which will use them to combat piracy and other maritime crimes.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

NIGERIA – 11/18/2020 : Nigeria's president vows to prevent repeat of anti-police brutality protests : Nigeria's president will do what it takes to prevent a repeat of demonstrations against police brutality last month that led to unrest in which dozens of protesters and police were killed and more than 200 buildings torched, the police minister said. **(Defence Web-Lien Article)**

SOMALIA – 11/18/2020 : Trump may withdraw troops from Somalia as part of global pullback : President Donald Trump may withdraw nearly all US troops from Somalia as part of a global pullback that includes reductions of forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, US officials said on Tuesday.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

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NIGERIA – 11/18/2020 : Nigeria convicts family of sex traffickers with rare jail sentence : Nigeria has jailed three family members for forcing a teenager into prostitution in Russia, the country's anti-trafficking agency said on Tuesday, as officials and prosecutors hailed a rare prison sentence for human traffickers.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

D.R. CONGO – 11/18/2020 : Army patrol discovers 29 bodies in eastern Congo : A military patrol has discovered 29 bodies in a region of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where civilians are facing a sharp rise in attacks by Islamist militants, local authorities said on Tuesday.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/18/2020 : Nobel body urges peace in Ethiopia where laureate engaged in conflict : The committee that awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Tuesday it was deeply concerned about the conflict in Tigray region and called on all parties to end violence.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

AFRICA – 11/18/2020 : US designates al Shabaab leaders as terrorists : On 17 November, the US Department of State designated Abdullahi Osman Mohamed and Maalim Ayman, senior leaders of al Shabaab as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs).
(Defence Web-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/18/2020 : 'Full-scale' humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ethiopia: UN : A major humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Ethiopia, the United Nations refugee agency said on Tuesday, with more than 27 000 people now having fled heavy fighting to Sudan. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

MOROCCO – 11/18/2020 : Morocco PM says Western Sahara wall at centre of dispute completed : Morocco has finished building a sand barrier in a UN-monitored buffer zone in Western Sahara, Prime Minister Saad Eddine El Otmani told Reuters on Tuesday, after the Polisario Front independence movement withdrew from a ceasefire. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

EGYPT – 11/18/2020 : Russian and Egyptian navies conduct joint naval exercise Friendship Bridge 2020 : According to information published by the Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) on November 17, 2020, warships from the Egyptian Navy enter for the first time in the port of Novorossiysk, Russia, to participate in the Friendship Bridge 2020 naval exercise, held jointly with the Russian Navy.
(Navy Recognition-Article Link)

AFRICA – 11/18/2020 : African airline acquires narcotics and explosives detectors from MS Tech : US company MS Tech has delivered its Duoscan explosives and narcotics detection system to a major airline in Africa.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

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ETHIOPIA – 11/18/2020 : Ethiopia faces 'hell' in battle for Tigray, say rebels : The rulers of Ethiopia's rebellious Tigray region refused on Wednesday to surrender to federal troops and instead claimed they were winning a war that has exacerbated ethnic fractures in the vast nation and further destabilised the Horn of Africa. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/18/2020 : Cele calls stock theft economic sabotage : Releasing crime statistics for the second quarter of this year Police Minister Bheki Cele acknowledged livestock theft was a serious crime likening it to economic sabotage. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

ETHIOPIA – 11/19/2020 : Ethiopia says disarms Tigrayan peacekeepers in Somalia over security : Ethiopia said on Wednesday peacekeepers from its Tigray region serving in Somalia had been disarmed over a security issue, raising concerns over the forces' ability to fight al Qaeda-linked militants. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/19/2020 : Defence Works Formation progress reported to oversight committee : Back when he was CArmy then Lieutenant General Solly Shoke recognised the national defence force's fixed assets were not being adequately and timeously maintained and re-established the Works Regiment in the landward force. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

UGANDA – 11/19/2020 : Three dead and 34 injured in protests against arrest of Uganda's Bobi Wine : Three people died and at least 34 were injured, including with gun shot wounds, in protests that erupted after police arrested Ugandan presidential candidate and pop star Bobi Wine on Wednesday, Ugandan police and the Red Cross said.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

NIGERIA – 11/19/2020 : Nigerian Army Bombs Highway 'Bandits' After Kidnappings : Over the last week, gangs of gunmen known locally as bandits have killed and abducted dozens of travelers along the Abuja-Kaduna highway.
(The Defense Post-Article Link)

LIBYA – 11/19/2020 : Libya Rivals Yet to Start Withdrawing Forces: UN Envoy : An October ceasefire agreement says all military units and armed groups must withdraw from the frontlines while mercenaries and foreign fighters must Libya within 90 days. **(The Defense Post-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/19/2020 : SAAF helicopter squadrons top the Sword of Peace recipient list : Recent recipients of the SA Air Force's (SAAF) highest operational honour – the Sword of Peace – are largely confined to the force's helicopter squadrons.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

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AFRICA – 11/19/2020 : Commitment is crucial to strengthen Security Council : Highlighting the importance of the UN Security Council in addressing peace and security challenges in an increasingly complex world, the President of the General Assembly called on ambassadors to drive "true reforms" to make the body more effective. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

ETHIOPIA – 11/19/2020 : Ethiopia accuses WHO head Tedros of backing Tigray rebels : Ethiopia's military accused World Health Organization (WHO) head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday of supporting and trying to procure arms and diplomatic backing for Tigray state's dominant political party, which is fighting federal troops. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/19/2020 : SANDF wants power to manage its own facilities 19TH NOVEMBER 2020 : The South African National Defence (SANDF) is edging closer to managing its own military facilities which could also see an end to high lease costs estimated to rise to around R1-billion "in less than ten years". **(Engineering News-Article Link)**

ETHIOPIA – 11/19/2020 : Leader of Ethiopia's rebel Tigray forces says Axum town 'with us' : The leader of rebel forces in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region said on Thursday that the town of Axum remained in their hands though another locality, Shire, had fallen to federal troops seeking to close in on the state capital Mekelle.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/19/2020 : As AU chair, South Africa's leadership fell short in key areas : Cyril Ramaphosa handled COVID-19 well, but more could have been done on governance, security and violent extremism. **(ISS-Article Link)**

SENEGAL – 11/19/2020 : A group of villagers, a migrant boat and a deadly end in Senegal : Seven neighbours from a village in western Senegal boarded a fishing boat crammed with migrants just after midnight on 26 October.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

MALI – 11/20/2020 : Mali activists, army feud over composition of interim parliament : In Mali, a new political storm is forming as political parties and activists are locked in a standoff with the military over the composition of the so-called National Transitional Council. **(Africa News-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/20/2020 : Aerospace and Defence Trade Show at Lanseria in March : The gap between the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibitions will be filled by the Aerospace and Defence Trade Show (ADTS) next year.
(Defence Web-Article Link)

ETHIOPIA – 11/20/2020 : Tigray Forces Fire Rockets at Ethiopian Regional Capital : Authorities barred journalists from visiting the sites where the rockets landed. **(The Defense Post-Article Link)**

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MOZAMBIQUE – 11/20/2020 : Mozambique police say northern village, site of reported beheadings, retaken from insurgents : Over 1 000 Mozambique troops on Thursday recaptured the northern village of Muidumbe from Islamist insurgents, police general commander Bernardino Rafael said, killing 16 and destroying some of their logistics. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/20/2020 : New South African aviation and defence show announced for next March : outh African aerospace and defence show organiser AAD Expo has announced that it has organised a new event, Aerospace and Defence Trade Show (ADTS) 2021, which will be held at Lanseria International Airport from March 24 to March 26 next year.
(Engineering News-Article Link)

UGANDA – 11/20/2020 : At least 37 killed in Uganda protests after presidential candidate Wine's arrest : At least 37 people have died and hundreds have been detained in unrest in Uganda triggered by the arrest of presidential candidate and pop star Bobi Wine, police said on Friday, as the East African country gears up for elections in January. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

ETHIOPIA – 11/20/2020 : UN aid agencies call for ceasefire in Ethiopia, seek $200 million aid : United Nations aid agencies called on Friday for an immediate temporary ceasefire in Ethiopia and the setting up of humanitarian corridors that would enable access to civilians after two weeks of fighting. **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

SOUTH AFRICA – 11/20/2020 : 2 SA Battalion Alpha Company Commander and reaction team assist village under ADF attack : On 17 November 2020, the 2 South African Infantry Battalion Alpha Company Commander, based in Mai Moya, Beni, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo,... **(Defence Web-Article Link)**

MOROCCO – 11/21/2020 : Morocco to purchase 30 French Nexter CAESAR 155mm 6x6 self-propelled howitzers : According to an article published in the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces magazine, edition August/September 2020, Morocco confirms the acquisition of French-made Nexter CAESAR 155mm 6x6 self-propelled howitzers. **(Army Recognition-Article Link)**

NIGERIA – 11/23/2020 : Gunmen Kill Five in Mosque Attack in Nigeria : Police : Around 100 cattle thieves on motorcycles opened fire on a Muslim congregation in remote Dutsen Gari village in Maru district. **(The Defense Post-Article Link)**

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ATLANTIS - CENTER
Publication

48, Ifrane street CIL
Casablanca 20200
Morocco

contact@atlantis-center.org

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