

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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SOLDIERS KILLED IN BOKO HARAM AMBUSH

At least 50 Nigerian soldiers were killed in an attack near the town of Goneri in north-east Nigeria on Monday March 23. The Nigerian army was preparing for a military offensive against Boko Haram.

The attack has been one of the most deadly in the history of the conflict, and is a huge setback for Nigeria's military. The armed uprising, led by the Islamic militant group, is entering its eleventh year.

The attack in Nigeria comes after another attack in south-west Chad on Sunday night, where 92 soldiers were killed. It is the largest number of Chadian soldiers ever killed fighting Boko Haram. The attack happened near Lake Chad, which borders Nigeria. Boko Haram are focusing their campaigns where the borders of Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger meet.

The violence caused by the insurgency has caused more than 36,000 deaths and displaced more than 2 million people. In 2015, countries in the region formed the Multinational Joint Force in order to eradicate the insurgent group.

GUINEA-BISSAU POLITICAL CRISIS DEEPENS

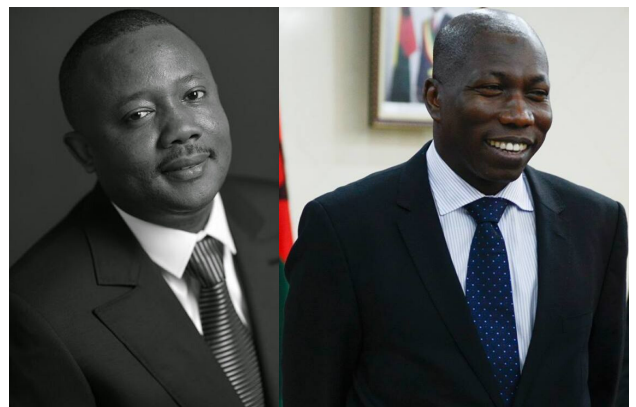
In late December 2019 Umaro Sissoco Embalo won the run-off presidential election in Guinea-

Bissau. Mr Embalo was installed on February 27 against the wishes of the majority in parliament, prompting some to call the event a presidential coup.

Mr Embalo won the election with his party, Movement for Democratic Change, a party that split in 2015 from the liberation party PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde). The leader of PAIGC, Domingos Simoes Pereira, lost the election to Mr Embalo, 54 per cent to 46 per cent.

Mr Pereira immediately contested the results of the election, claiming the counting of the ballots was incomplete and inaccurate. The election results were confirmed in late February. Mr Embalo organised an inauguration ceremony on February 27 in order to appoint himself president, vowing to end years of chaos in the West African state.

Many interpreted Mr Embalo's actions as a coup. Mr Embalo, a former army general, enlisted the help of the army in order to deploy armed officers at government offices. The officers refused entry



Umaro Sissoco Embalo [left] – Monem1986 (Wikimedia Commons)

Domingos Simoes Pereira [right] – Samuel Shavers (Wikimedia Commons)

to the former president, Cipriano Cassamo. Shortly after, Mr Cessamo resigned, citing death threats against him and his family.

INFLUENTIAL NIGERIAN TRADITIONAL LEADER OVERTHROWN

One of Nigeria's most influential leaders, Muhammadu Sanusi II, has been removed from his throne. Mr Sanusi is the Emir of Kano, and one of Nigeria's most influential Muslim leaders.

Mr Sanusi, an ex-central bank chief, has had a difficult relationship with the Kano governor, Abdullahi Ganduje, and opposed Mr Ganduje's election in 2017. Mr Sanusi was deposed for 'insubordination' and it is alleged that he was sacked for opposing Mr Ganduje.

Mr Sanusi is a reformist and on many occasions criticised the Nigerian government's policies, something that often placed him at odds with government officials. Mr Sanusi has often denounced the conservative interpretation of Islam in parts of northern Nigeria. The government has stated that Mr Sanusi was removed "in order to safeguard the sanctity, culture, tradition, religion and prestige of the Kano emirate".

Mr Sanusi has refused to appear before a panel tasked with investigating allegations of corruption against him. He has also been accused of selling property and mismanaging funds, but secured a court order to block the inquiry.

Aminu Ado Bayero, the son of Mr Sanusi's predecessor, has been chosen as Kano's new Emir.

Anet McClintock is currently in her final semester at the University of Melbourne, doing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in History and Politics, and a Diploma of Languages in German. She recently completed an exchange semester at Humboldt University in Berlin. She is also a subeditor with YDS, and will be interning with the Parliament of Victoria in 2020. She aspires to give a voice to young people, women and disadvantaged communities in global issues.