

## **Burkina Faso's Escalating Terrorism Crisis: Challenges and Implications**

Burkina Faso's junta-controlled National Conference on the transition adopted a new charter extending Military Rule until Jul 2029. The charter came into effect on 02 Jul and enabled key junta figures, including junta leader Ibrahim Traore, to run in the country's next presidential and legislative Elections. Traore seized power in a Sep 2022 coup, initially committed to the transition timeline set by former leader Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba, planning for legislative and presidential elections by Jul 2024.

According to the 2024 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Burkina Faso has experienced a 69% increase in terrorism-related fatalities. This indicates that terrorist operations have become more Lethal, posing a significant threat to the country's Security and Stability. The Deadliest Attack in 2024 was on 17 Feb, when an armed assailant ambushed at least 71 Burkinabe Soldiers on the Oursi and Deou axes in Oudalan province. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the incident, which also resulted in three injuries and multiple abductions.

The adoption of the charter solidifies military rule in Burkina Faso, signalling a harsher regime with increased Crackdowns on Opposition Figures. Despite provisions for elections before 2029, this is unlikely as Traore seeks to extend Military Rule for a favourable election outcome. The junta's abandonment of a civilian transition complicates ECOWAS's efforts for Burkina Faso's reintegration, as ECOWAS is likely to demand a shorter transition timeline. The junta will likely continue aggressive Counterinsurgency tactics, potentially increasing recruitment by terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda affiliate Jamaat Nusrat AllIslamwal Muslimin.