Causes and Components of Violent Extremism in the Sahel

Ms. Laurence-Aïda Ammour

CAUSES AND COMPONENTS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE SAHEL

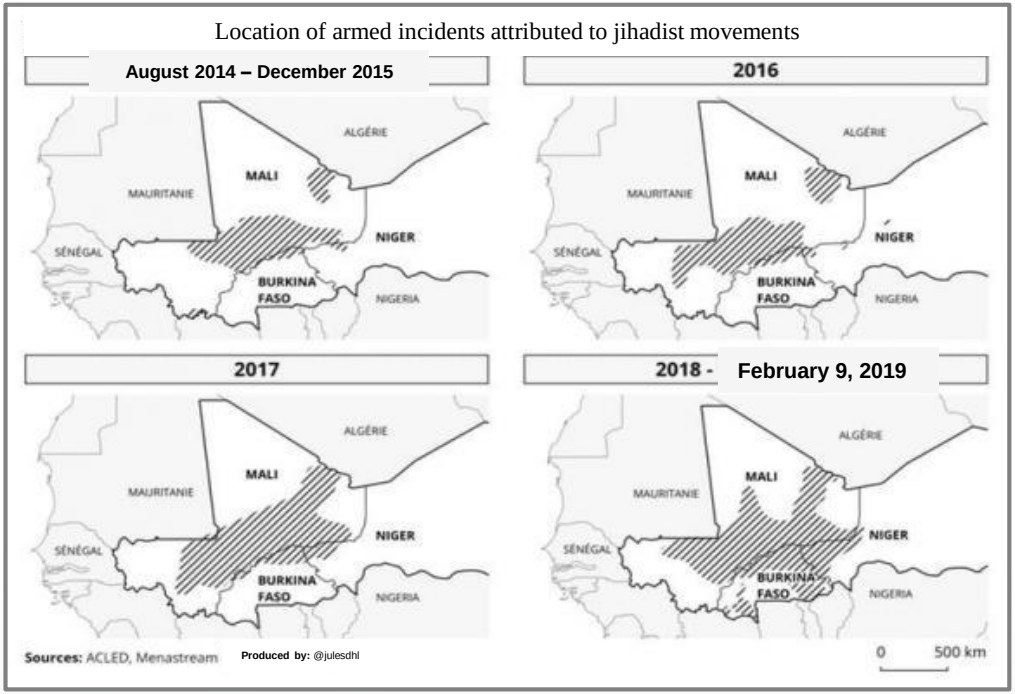
Laurence-Aïda Ammour

Social Science Approach

Two types of violence coexist:
- Extremist jihadi violence
- Inter-community violence

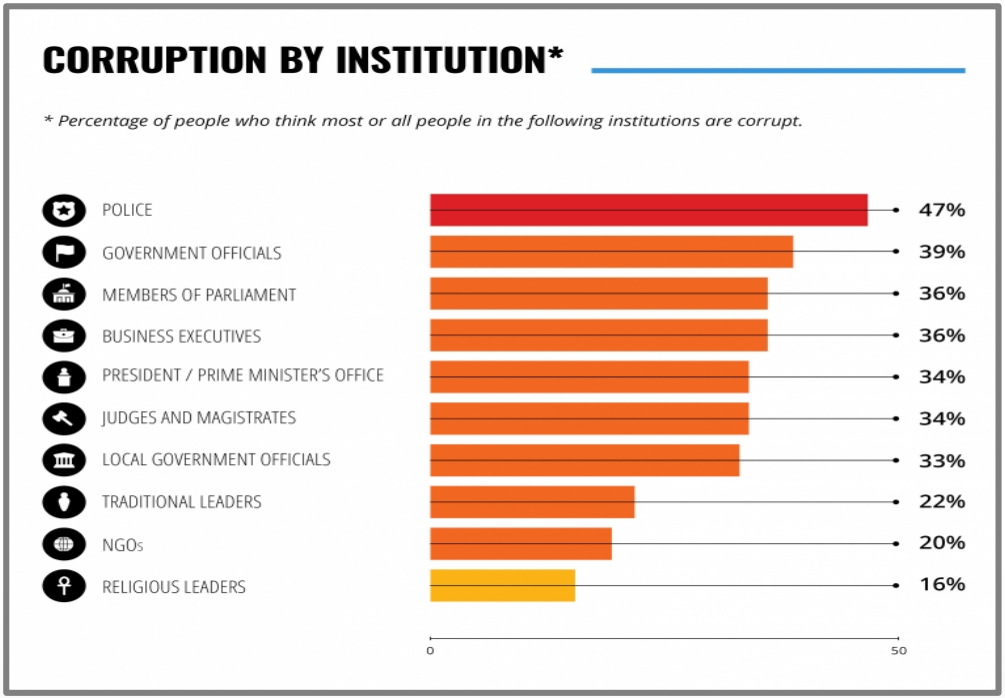
These two types of violence can occasionally dovetail or overlap
Violent extremism takes advantage of environmental tensions
Violent extremism feeds local community violence
Some extremist groups use identity-focused rhetoric
Inter-community violence is the symptom and result of structural issues

The movements in question are: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA), Al-Morabitoun, Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM/GSIM), Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS), Ansar ul Islam, Macina Liberation Front (MLF). (Guichaoua, March 2019)



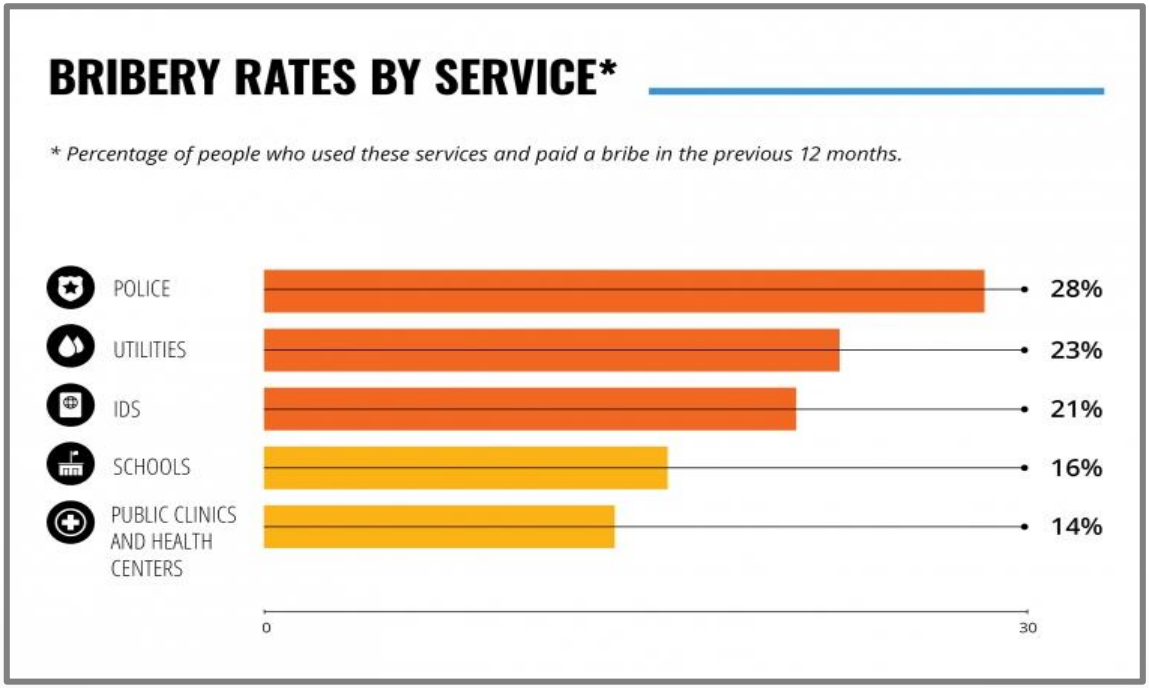
Corruption by institution – Percentage of those surveyed who think that most people who work in these institutions are corrupt

source : Global Corruption Barometer Africa, 2019

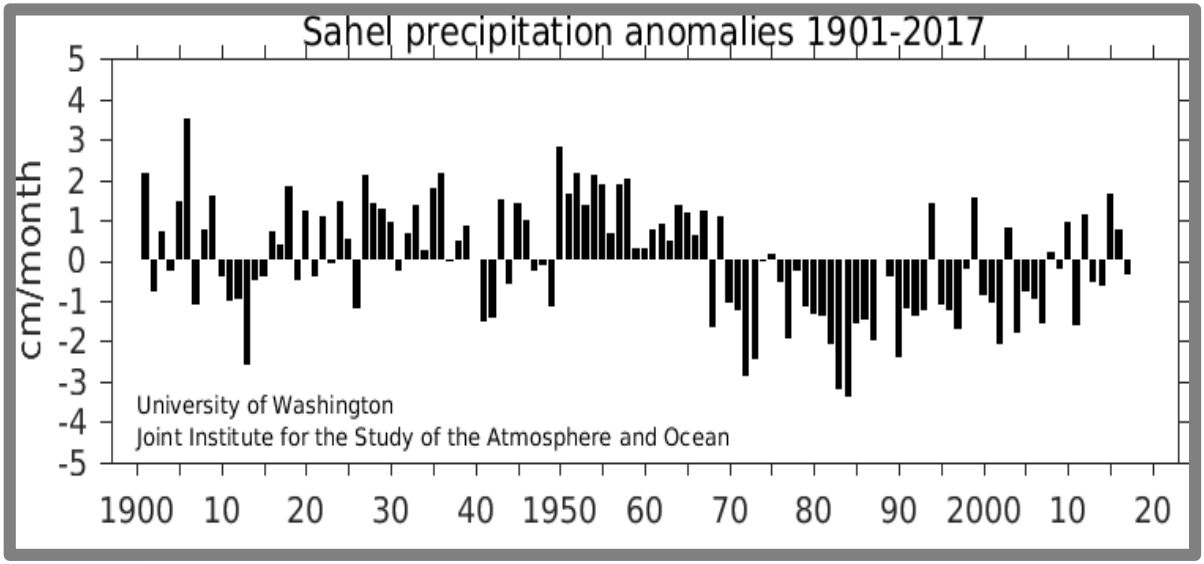


Bribery by service – **Percentage of people questioned who use these services and have paid a bribe in the previous 12 months**

source : Global Corruption Barometer Africa, 2019

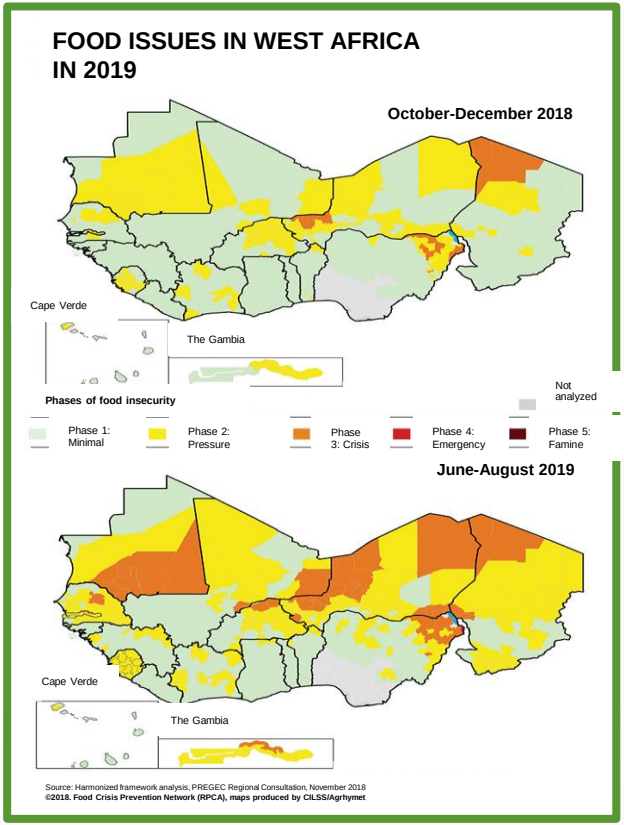


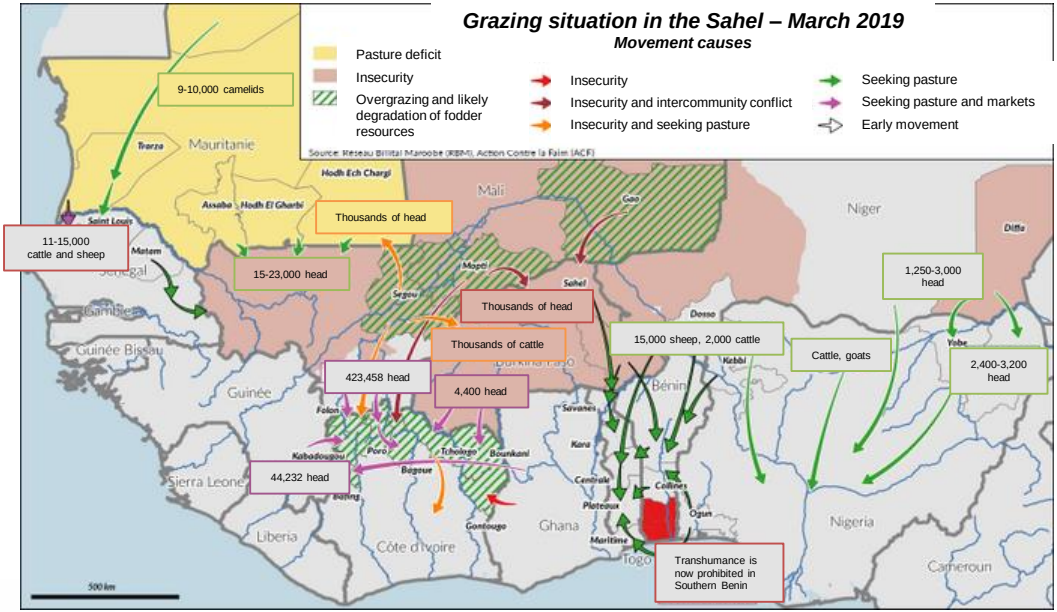
SAHEL PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES 1901-2017



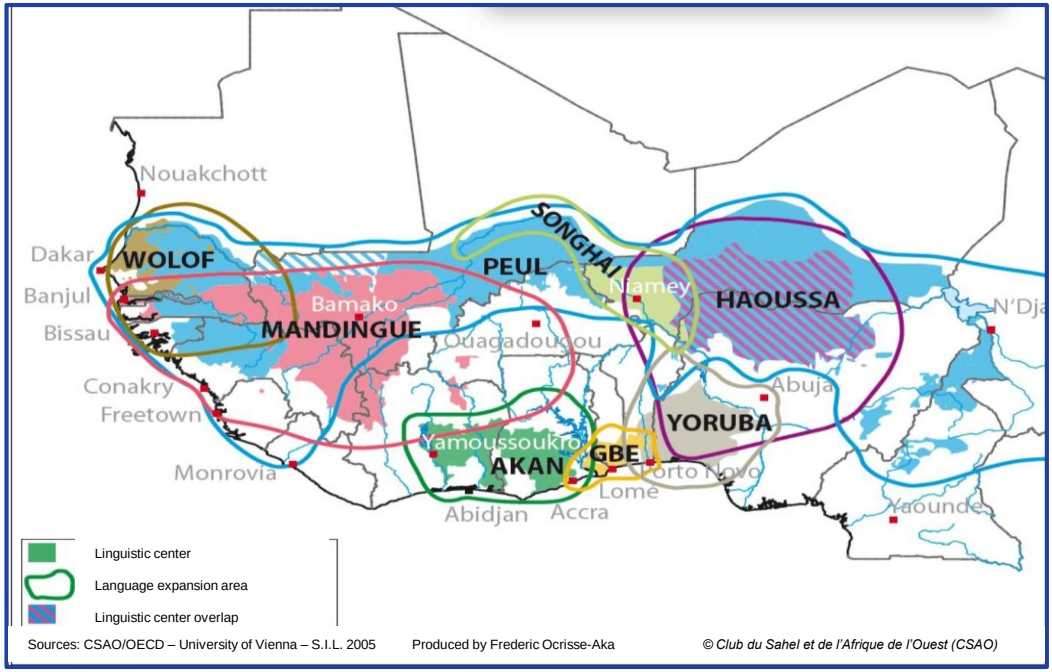
Food insecurity phases

(October-December 2018 and June-August 2019)




Grazing situation in the Sahel – March 2019
Movement causes
Pasture deficit
Insecurity
Overgrazing and likely degradation of fodder resources
Insecurity
Insecurity and intercommunity conflict
Insecurity and seeking pasture
Seeking pasture
Seeking pasture and markets
Early movement
Source: Réseau Billital Maroobe (RBM), Action Contre la Faim (ACF)
9-10,000 camelids
11-15,000 cattle and sheep
Thousands of head
15-23,000 head
Thousands of head
Thousands of cattle
423,458 head
4,400 head
44,232 head
15,000 sheep, 2,000 cattle
Cattle, goats
1,250-3,000 head
2,400-3,200 head
Transhumance is now prohibited in Southern Benin
Mauritanie
Mali
Niger
Guinée
Sierra Leone
Liberia
Côte d'Ivoire
Ghana
Togo
Nigeria
Cameroun
Guinée Bissau
Gambie
Sénégal
Bénin
500 km

PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES IN THE SAHARA-SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA



The “militiazation” of rural societies and security privatization

- *Dan Nan Ambassagou* (Dogon) Militia
- Macina Liberation Front (MLF)
- Ansar ul Islam
- Alliance for the Salvation of the Sahel (ASS)
- The *Koglweogos*

SUMMARY

Define the nature of the violence: violent extremism and/or extreme violence? To what extent do these two forms of violence overlap in time and space?

Mixed motivations of violent activities and possible intermingling of forms of violence

Peoples' perceptions of threats and insecurity are important to understanding the dynamics and logic behind how the enemy is conceived of, and to implementing dialogue and mediation.

"Full-security" governance imposed by anti-terrorism efforts overlooks the rural, pastoral and agrarian dimensions of violence.

By tolerating and/or encouraging **security privatization,** governments are delegating **a sovereign power** to armed civilians and compromising **domestic tranquility.**

Jihadist groups intentionally **politicize and fuel violence between communities** by inserting themselves in the **social fabric.**

"Militiazation" of rural societies exacerbates latent conflicts and provokes new conflicts (cycles of reprisals and violence)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ……

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