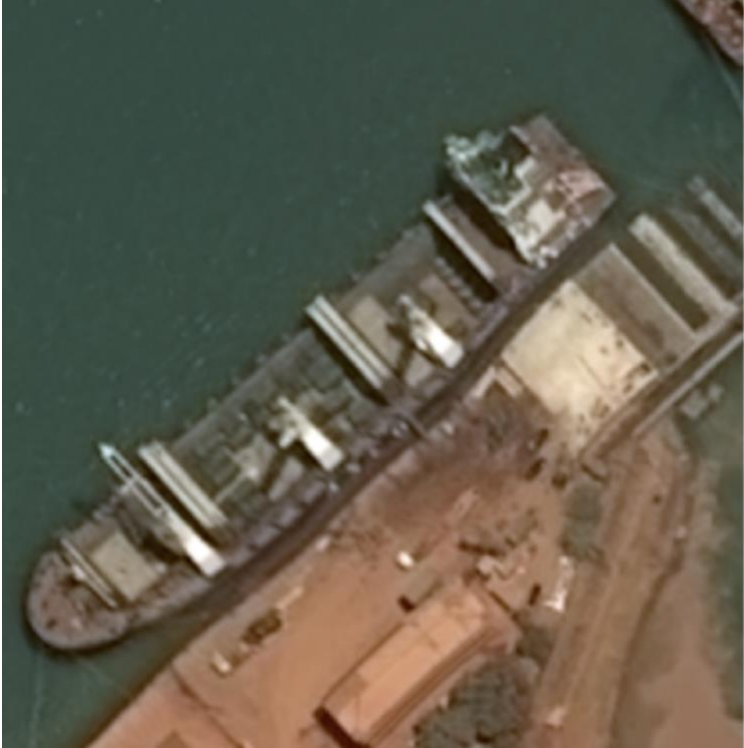


Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



Russia Transports Military Vehicles to Mali

Connor Ellinghaus

Head of Desk
Africa Desk

On 14 APR, the Russian Federation transported dozens of military vehicles to Mali through the Port of Conakry in Guinea, despite international sanctions, to bolster the Malian junta's military capacity.

Satellite imagery shows the military vehicles being loaded onto the Sabetta, a Russian cargo ship, at the Baltiysk Port in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. The Sabetta was photographed transporting Chinese-constructed CS/VP14 armored vehicles and Russian BMP-3 to the port of

Conakry to reinforce either the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) or the Russian Africa Corps private military company.

The shipment of military vehicles arrived shortly after the United States (U.S.) and the Malian junta resumed talks on 09 MAR to reestablish intelligence sharing, allowing American aircraft and drones to resume reconnaissance flights in Mali's airspace.

Mali has struggled to combat the growth of extremist groups in the region, such as Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State, and has relied on foreign countries to aid in counterterrorism operations.

Following the military coup in 2021, Mali shifted its allegiance from the West to Russia, citing the West's inability to counter the growing instability. However, recent dialogue with the US indicates the junta's willingness to re-engage with the West.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely the Russian Federation will continue to supply the FAMA and Africa Corps with military equipment to supplement losses suffered while fighting extremist groups in the country, while maintaining its strategic ties in the Sahel region.

Russia Claims it Foiled a Ukrainian-sponsored Bomb Attack

Matthew Petersen
Head of Desk
Russia Desk

On 20 APR, the Russian Federation's Federal Security Service (FSB) announced the arrest of a German national after foiling a bomb plot alleged to be backed by Ukraine. The unnamed woman was detained outside of a police station in Pyatigorsk after the station's signal detection equipment alerted employees to an explosive device hidden within the woman's backpack.

The police station claimed that it was able to stop the device's detonation utilizing a signal jammer, which allowed the FSB to

make the arrest. An unnamed individual from Central Asia was arrested the same day in connection with the bomb plot. The FSB stated the individual admitted to recruiting the German woman to carry out the attack on behalf of Ukrainian intelligence.

This comes after a series of arrests made by Russian security services since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, in which arrested individuals were accused of attempting sabotage and violent attacks while working for Ukrainian intelligence. The FSB accused Ukrainian intelligence of being behind the 2022 Moscow car bombing that killed the daughter of a Russian nationalist, as well as

organizing the Crocus City Hall attack in 2024, which was claimed by ISIL. Ukrainian officials have consistently denied these accusations.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely that Russia will continue to arrest foreign nationals on charges of collaborating with Ukrainian intelligence.



Afghan Refugees Displaced in Qatar

Malena Santa Ana
Analyst
Asia Desk

Over 1,100 Afghan refugees evacuated by the U.S. in 2021 remain in prolonged limbo at Camp As-Sayliyah (CAS) in Doha, Qatar, following repeated delays and the eventual suspension of their resettlement to the U.S.

Originally established under the Biden administration as a temporary processing site on a former U.S. Army base, CAS has transformed into an area marked by significant displacement. Policy shifts under U.S. President Donald Trump have altered the trajectory of Afghan resettlement efforts. The current administration's decision to suspend refugee processing in JAN 2025, followed by restrictions on

Afghan entry into the U.S. in JUN 2025, has significantly impeded pathways to resettlement. Moreover, the impending closure of CAS by 31 MAR introduces additional uncertainty for the individuals and families residing at the camp.

The recent conflict in the Middle East, initiated by the United States in conjunction with Israel on 28 FEB, has escalated regional tensions. As Iran's retaliatory missiles streak through the sky, they are intercepted by the air defense systems of the U.S. and Qatar, resulting in debris raining down on the surrounding areas. With plans to close CAS, a humanitarian crisis may occur or worsen, leaving many refugees without adequate resources or support structures.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely the U.S. will proceed with the closure of the camp and develop plans to relocate the Afghan refugees. We can also assess with high confidence that it is likely CAS's closure will produce long-term strategic deficits for diplomatic relations with other actors, as their ability to maintain a positive rapport with allied nations and bolster international support may be compromised.



Senior Commander Defects Amid Sudanese Civil War

Olivia Connell
Senior Analyst
Africa Desk

On 11 APR, in North Darfur, Al-Nour Ahmed Adam (Al-Qubba), a senior commander within the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), defected to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), bringing with him 136 combat vehicles and a collection of lower-level fighters. The commander had previously played a central role in RSF operations in El Fasher and led the Peace Shield unit, a mobile force established to aid in civilian protection.

The defection followed months of internal disputes within the RSF

leadership, particularly after Al-Qubba was passed over for command positions in North Darfur in favor of rival commanders. He had withdrawn from frontline operations and maintained a semi-autonomous position prior to his defection.

On 19 APR, SAF Army Chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan welcomed Al-Qubba's defection during a meeting in the Northern province of Sudan near the Egyptian border. He made a statement welcoming all RSF defections, emphasizing that the door will remain open to those who will lay down their arms and join the army's path to the reconstruction of the nation.

We assess with moderate confidence that it is likely this defection will create a rise in SAF territory gain over the next 60 days, similar to the last high-profile defection in OCT 2024. We also assess with high confidence that it is likely there will be continued RSF defections caused by internal struggles in the coming weeks.



Former Brazilian Intelligence Chief Detained in United States

Anna Howard
Analyst
Americas Desk

On 13 APR former chief of Brazilian Intelligence (ABIN) Alexandre Ramagem was detained by United States (U.S.) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Ramagem was in custody for approximately 72 hours and was released on 15 APR. Upon Ramagem's release on 15 APR, he publicly credited the Trump Administration and asserted he was residing in the U.S. legally.

Ramagem had fled to the U.S. from Brazil in SEPT 2025 after participating in a coup plot in 2022 alongside seven other Brazilian officials to overthrow the current president,

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, after he defeated former President Jair Bolsonaro in the election. The former chief was sentenced to 16 years in prison for his involvement. Brazilian Federal Police initially announced the arrest on Monday; however, they did not name Ramagem directly. The announcement emphasized that the arrest was due to international cooperation with American authorities. Silva released a statement requesting that Ramagem be extradited back to Brazil before he was released from custody.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely the relations between Brazil and the U.S. will continue to improve with the

recent agreement between the countries to target organized crime, despite Ramagem being released from custody. We can also assess with high confidence that the upcoming elections in OCT 2026 will play a role in Ramagem's potential return to Brazil, with Jair Bolsonaro's son, Flavio Bolsonaro, being a primary candidate tied with Silva in recent polls.



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Editor-in-Chief

Brandon Macallair

Associate Editors

Connor Ellinghaus

Matthew Petersen

Anna Howard

Olivia Connell

Malena Santa Ana

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