

Equatorial Kundu – Scenario and country briefing:

- Landlocked country in Greater Kundu region in West Africa. 580 000 km². Independent since 1961 (from Mercury) – Republic – President Jean Louie Abu-Jehangir

- **Geography and population - Northwest:** Deserts and mountains. Nomadic Muslim tribes; trading, smuggling and livestock. Desertification. Cities: Badan, Baz-Nkommi, Mireet and Djotau. Kundu River.

Southeast: higher temperatures & more rainfall, agriculture and commerce. Cities: Azunaka (capital) Lati and Kirkun, modern, literate. Muslim, but with Christian minorities.

- **History:** Peace and relative prosperity since 1961, due to one-party rule in control. Youth unemployment, sectarian divisions, and ethnic rivalries. Desertification – migration to south - conflicts.

- **Main events: In 2019:** demonstrations turned violent, rioting and looting in capital, followed by armed revolt of marginalized northwestern tribal movement joined in North Kundu Liberation Movement (NKLM). Gov. intervention stopped rebellion but led to atrocities – and rebellion strengthened. **The** Islamist jihadi group, The Sahel Great Caliphate (SGC), joined NKLM and drove Gov. Forces southeast, led to marauding soldier attacks on Christian communities.

- **May 2020:** President Jenhagir fled Kundu leaving weak government led by Minister of Interior, Ibrahim Diallo. SGC rapidly consolidated control of northwest, pushing aside NKLM and started establishing Sharia law and setting goal of SGC to establish an Islamic caliphate in whole Kundu.

- **July 2020:** meetings in UN in New York in July 2020 due to conflict and security situation. On **1 Aug 2020** a UN SC Res was adopted, condemning violence, calling for a cease-fire and pacific settlement of disputes, and calling for emergency relief aid. No change in Kundu.

- **Nov, 2020:** UNSC Resolution 2133 authorized an African Union-led mission, AMEK, to intervene to restore order, and authorized the Mercury government, after Kundu Gov request, to intervene, to deploy 4,000 troops to counter SGC, AMEK and Mercury deployed 2019/20.

- **Mid-2021:** Situation continued to deteriorate. The Mercury forces stopped SGC progress toward the south and liberated the Northwest three cities, but attacks on small Mercury forces continues.

- NKLM groups still active, but remain outside cities and no big threat, some joined forces with jihadi and criminal groups - trafficking weapons and narcotics into East Qumran and onwards.

- AMEK regional forces that deployed to the northwest proved ineffective due to lack of equipment and logistic support.

- In Southeast, the humanitarian crisis worsened. Christian civilians have mostly fled to IDP camps around South cities protected by AMEK, who are also partly accused by human rights groups of attacks and sexual assaults. No progress on political process, no elections held, weak interim government with acting president Diallo still rules despite attempts by military takeover.

- Police Force dissolved, EU training and equipping failed. Diamonds discovered in West near borders to East Qumran resulting in influx of fortune hunters and lawlessness.

- General unrest, instability, fragile economy and food crisis. International action is required.