WIRE World Instability

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Baseline work today: the Sahel (AF-T2) Statement of Normalcy is written and the topic is scored for the first time, at POTENTIAL CRISIS. That lifts the Africa region row to POTENTIAL. Next in the rotation: European internal stability (EU-T2), brought forward because of the French protests and today's Serbian result.

BLUF. The Middle East holds at **PROBABLE CRISIS (=)**. Kpler's 26 Oct briefing puts the 7-day average of oil clearing the **Strait of Hormuz at about 65% of its pre-war baseline**, down from 74% three days earlier (a preliminary floor). US officials told CNN that forces in the region can launch major new operations against Iran **within 96 hours** of an order, most likely after the 3 Nov midterms. Against that, Saudi, Pakistani and Turkish delegations from the Mecca defence pact are in **Tehran** today for the first joint high-level talks since the Houthi campaign on Saudi Arabia escalated, and Israel's defence minister says Israel had "no intention" of striking Iran before Tuesday's vote. Saudi air defences intercepted another missile at Riyadh overnight; the coalition says it destroyed four Houthi launchers. **Europe/Russia** holds at **POTENTIAL (=)**. The **Americas** hold at **ENVIRONMENT (=)**, with 28.9M early votes cast. The **Sahel (AF-T2)** enters at **POTENTIAL CRISIS**. **Global roll-up: PROBABLE CRISIS (=).**

0. WIRE World Instability Dashboard

REGION / TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
Global roll-up (GL-T1)	PROBABLE CRISIS	EXTREME	Highest regional level (Middle East); US strike readiness against regional de-escalation talks in Tehran	=
Middle East: widespread war (ME-T1)	PROBABLE CRISIS	EXTREME	Kpler Hormuz 65% of baseline; 96-hour US readiness; missile at Riyadh intercepted, coalition strikes Sanaa launchers; Mecca-pact delegations in Tehran	=
Europe/Russia: Russian aggression (EU-T1)	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	140 drones and 4 missiles overnight; energy site hit in Khmelnytskyi region; Oleshky ceasefire starts 0300 Kyiv, 27 Oct	=
Americas: US election integrity (AM-T1)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	28.94M early votes; no TRO/PI motion in the consolidated D.D.C. cases	=
Indo-Pacific: Korean Peninsula (IP-T2)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	No new launch since 12 Oct	=
Indo-Pacific: South China Sea (IP-T3)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	No new water-cannon incident found since 8 Oct	=
Indo-Pacific: Taiwan Strait (IP-T1)	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	3 PLA aircraft, 6 PLAN and 9 official ships	=
Africa: Sahel (AF-T2)	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	First scored: Bamako under a declared jihadist fuel blockade, supplied by escorted convoys; 57 Nigerien security personnel killed in one day (23 Sep)	↑ **(new)**
Africa: Sudan and the Horn (AF-T1)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	Abyei market toll put at 153 by the area's information minister; RSF drones at Wad Madani and Um Rawaba (SAF claims intercepts)	=

Indicator: ROUTINE | ABNORMAL | SIGNIFICANT | EXTREME **Crisis level:** NO CRISIS | ENV. FOR CRISIS | POTENTIAL | PROBABLE | IMMINENT

Level change since 25 Oct: none on previously scored topics. AF-T2 newly scored at POTENTIAL CRISIS, which raises the Africa region row from ENVIRONMENT to POTENTIAL. Trend change: ME-T1 and the global roll-up move from ↑ to =. Trend key: ↑ toward crisis, ↓ away, = no net change.

Moved indicators (vs 25 Oct). No previously scored indicator changed band. Within-band moves: **W-1** EXTREME ↑ (Kpler 7-day average about 65% of baseline; 8 tanker crossings on 24 Oct against a pre-war 50); **W-2** EXTREME = (missile at Riyadh intercepted; coalition strikes on Sanaa launchers; two injured by debris in the south on 25 Oct); **W-5** SIGNIFICANT ↑ (96-hour readiness reported); **W-8** SIGNIFICANT ↓ (Mecca-pact delegations in Tehran); **W-7** SIGNIFICANT ↓ (Brent about $114.60 in early Monday trade); **AF-T2** first scored.

I. MIDDLE EAST: ME-T1 WIDESPREAD WAR (ISRAEL-ORIGINATED) | PROBABLE CRISIS

Hormuz and energy. Kpler's media briefing of 26 Oct (flow data to 24 Oct) puts the 7-day average of total Hormuz clearance at **11,213 kbd, about 65% of the pre-war baseline of 17,147 kbd**, down from about 74% in the 23 Oct briefing. Strait transits excluding Iranian-origin vessels averaged 8,634 kbd, about half of baseline, and **tanker crossings were 8 on 24 Oct** and averaged 14 over seven days against a pre-war 50. Kpler stresses that the latest readings are preliminary floors that have typically settled 1.5 to 2 times higher; Fujairah and Oman loadings run about 20% above their baseline, and Kpler cites the IMO as reporting at least 10 attacks on VLCCs in October (Kpler media briefing, 26 Oct; 23 Oct). Brent settled at **$116.72** on Friday (logged 25 Oct), finishing the week up 6%; it was down $2.12 at **$114.60** at 0232 GMT on Monday (CNBC, 26 Oct). UKMTO's latest listed warning remains 181-26 of 22 Oct.

Houthi–Saudi front. Riyadh residents received a Civil Defense "aerial threat" alert at 03:42 local time on Monday; coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki said air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile fired toward Riyadh, and that the coalition destroyed **four ballistic-missile launchers**, a missile depot and tunnels in Houthi-held territory, including Sanaa (Arab News, 26 Oct; CNA/AFP, 26 Oct; SPA). Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree claimed a ballistic missile struck King Khalid International Airport "with precision" and that drones hit oil pumping stations; Saudi authorities have not confirmed either (CNA/AFP). On Sunday, debris from two intercepted missiles **injured a Saudi citizen and an Asian resident** in Khamis Mushait and Ahad Rafidah, damaging three buildings and seven vehicles, per Civil Defense (Arab News). Houthi media said coalition strikes on Sanaa on 24 Oct killed 11; a Houthi-run health ministry tally gave 10 killed (The Hindu/AFP). No death on Saudi soil since 23 Oct and no confirmed Aramco damage was found (WAR-16, WAR-17 open). No new airport suspension was reported after Sunday's reopening (WAR-19 open).

US posture. US officials told CNN that forces in the region can launch major new operations against Iran within 96 hours of an order, against a target list that includes energy, military and nuclear sites; the reporting says any order would most likely come after the midterms (CNN, 26 Oct; Jerusalem Post). CNN also reports that Israel lobbied for a joint strike and was told to hold off. The President told Fox News on Sunday: "Do I finish it off ... or do I make a deal?" and later said "there will not be a strike today." The US embassy in Riyadh now requires chief-of-mission approval for government staff to use any Saudi airport and bars travel within 20 miles of the Yemeni border (The National, 25 Oct). No US or Israeli strike on Iranian soil was found (WAR-05, WAR-14 open).

Diplomacy. Saudi defence minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin are in Tehran on Monday for a joint meeting with an Iranian team led by Supreme National Security Council secretary Mohsen Rezaei, Iranian and Saudi officials confirmed. A Saudi deputy minister described the visit as support for "de-escalation" and for mediation by Qatar and Pakistan (Al Jazeera/Reuters, 26 Oct; AP). It is the first high-level contact between Iran and all three members of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, under which an attack on one member counts as an attack on all. No US–Iran announcement was found (WAR-01 open).

Israel. Defence minister Israel Katz called reports of a clash between the political leadership and the military chief over Iran "completely baseless and false" and said "Israel had no intention of initiating an attack on Iran before the elections," while warning of a forceful response to any Iranian attack (Times of Israel, 26 Oct). The reports originated with Channel 12 on Sunday night and were echoed by the military's radio station citing two senior security officials (same source). Israel votes on **27 Oct**; the Central Elections Committee lists 7.3 million eligible voters at 18,000 ballot boxes, and the military will impose a West Bank lockdown during the vote (Times of Israel). No Iranian launch at Israel was found (WAR-04 open).

Egypt. The House of Representatives meets on Monday in its third closed session to vote by roll call on authorizing the President to send forces to defend Saudi Arabia; approval needs two-thirds of members (Al-Masry Al-Youm, 26 Oct; Masrawy). The Social Democratic Party has said it will abstain; Al-Adl, Wafd and Nour back the request. No result had been published at press time (WAR-09 open).

Lebanon. Reports list Israeli air and artillery strikes across Nabatieh, Marjayoun, Bint Jbeil and Tyre districts on 25–26 Oct (Annahar). No strike on Beirut's southern suburbs was found (WAR-12 due 27 Oct).

Indicators. W-1 EXTREME (↑ within band). W-2 EXTREME (=). W-3 SIGNIFICANT (=). W-4 ABNORMAL (=). W-5 SIGNIFICANT (↑ within band). W-6 SIGNIFICANT (= ; Egyptian vote pending). W-7 SIGNIFICANT (↓ within band). W-8 SIGNIFICANT (↓ within band). Roll-up: 2 Extreme + 5 Significant = **PROBABLE**. Tripwires (W-5 Extreme, W-6 Extreme, or W-4 and W-3 both Extreme) not met. Trend set to **=**: the Hormuz drop and US readiness are offset by the Tehran meeting and Israel's on-record denial.

Analyst Comment. Two forces now pull in opposite directions. On capability, the US has said through officials that it is ready, and the Hormuz flow figure is the lowest Kpler reading we have logged since mid-October; if confirmations do not lift it, WAR-18 (a ≤70% reading in a briefing dated 27 Oct to 6 Nov) is now **likely**. On intent, the Saudi decision to send its defence minister to Tehran is the clearest sign yet that Riyadh wants the Houthi front closed by negotiation, not by a wider war. We judge a US strike on Iranian soil before 3 Nov **unlikely** (about 10%; WAR-05 logged at 10%). The window of highest risk opens after the US vote.

II. EUROPE/RUSSIA: EU-T1 RUSSIAN AGGRESSION | POTENTIAL CRISIS

Strikes. Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched **140 Shahed-type drones** (70 jet-powered), three Kh-59/69 missiles and one Kh-31P from 18:00 on 25 Oct; 112 drones and all three Kh-59/69s were downed or suppressed by 08:00, with hits at **15 locations** and debris at four. Ukrinform adds that Russia launched about 1,600 glide bombs, 48 missiles and nearly 2,300 drones over the past week (Ukrinform, 26 Oct). Late on Sunday an **energy facility in the Kamianets-Podilskyi district** of Khmelnytskyi region was damaged, causing outages, the regional head said; four people were injured in Zaporizhzhia (Telegraf, 26 Oct).

RUS-14 tally: 12 days (14–25 Oct), adding 25 Oct on the Khmelnytskyi statement; it needs three of the remaining six days.

Negotiations. The **Oleshky** local ceasefire starts at 0300 Kyiv time on 27 Oct. Ukraine's military command says it will implement it; NPR reports Russia says it will open a humanitarian corridor (Ukrinform; NPR, 26 Oct; White House). No Kremlin-confirmed energy-strike moratorium (RUS-05) was found.

Europe, unscored context (EU-T2). Serbia's ruling party conceded Sunday's snap parliamentary election to the student-led protest movement. Its leader said "it is clear we have lost these elections"; the independent pollster CeSID projected 52.9% for the Student List on 69.34% turnout (BBC, 26 Oct). The electoral commission's partial count, on 8,077 polling stations, gives the Student List 52.54% and United Serbia 39.29% (Tanjug). The EU enlargement commissioner said "the door to the EU is open" (BBC). A presidential election is due in December.

Indicators. R-3 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-4 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-5 SIGNIFICANT (=). R-6 ABNORMAL (=). R-8 ABNORMAL (=). R-10 ABNORMAL (=). R-1 ROUTINE (=). Roll-up: 3 Significant = **POTENTIAL**. Tripwires not met.

Analyst Comment. The pattern of steady, mid-sized raids on the grid continues. The Oleshky start tomorrow is the first live test of any Russian–Ukrainian arrangement this autumn. In Serbia, a peaceful concession after two years of protest lowers near-term unrest risk in the Balkans. The transfer of power and the December presidential vote are the points to watch.

III. AMERICAS: AM-T1 US ELECTION INTEGRITY (MIDTERMS) | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Process. NBC's tracker shows **28,942,282** mail and early in-person votes cast (14.7M mail, 14.2M in person), with 57.82M mail ballots requested or sent and eight days remaining (NBC News, 26 Oct). That is up about 2.0M from Sunday's reading.

Courts. Democracy Docket's tracker for *NAACP v. DHS* lists no filing after the 23 Oct consolidation under *LULAC v. DHS*; the last motions were for expedited discovery, granted in part on 21 Oct (Democracy Docket). No TRO or PI motion has been reported. MID-06 (motion by 27 Oct) is likely to miss.

Americas, unscored context (AM-T2). Brazil's Superior Electoral Court announced that the incumbent president won Sunday's run-off with **51.79%** against 48.21%. The runner-up has not conceded and told supporters he will seek annulment, citing a two-hour extension of voting that both campaigns had requested (BBC, 26 Oct; AP). The new term begins on 5 January 2027.

Indicators. M-1 SIGNIFICANT (=). M-2 ABNORMAL (=). M-7 ABNORMAL (=). M-3 to M-9 pending Election Day. Roll-up: 1 Significant + 2 Abnormal = **ENVIRONMENT**.

Analyst Comment. With eight days left, US turnout is high and the litigation is moving in an orderly way. Brazil's non-concession matters for AM-T2 baselining, but this assessment takes no position on any party's prospects in either country.

IV. INDO-PACIFIC

Taiwan Strait (IP-T1). Taiwan's MND reported **3 PLA aircraft sorties** (one crossed the median line), 6 PLAN ships and 9 official ships between 0600 on 25 Oct and 0600 on 26 Oct (MND). That is within the routine band. **NO CRISIS (=).**

Korean Peninsula (IP-T2). No DPRK ballistic launch since 12 Oct was found (Korea Herald). **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=).** IPA-01 open.

South China Sea (IP-T3). The last confirmed water-cannon use was by China Coast Guard vessel 5306 during an 8 Oct medical evacuation from BRP Sierra Madre (Manila Times, 10 Oct). No new incident was found. **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=).** IPA-02 open.

V. AFRICA

Baseline work: Statement of Normalcy, AF-T2 Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger)

SUBJECT: Central Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger) Normal for this theatre is military-led governance (the AES juntas) and an entrenched jihadist insurgency (JNIM, IS Sahel Province) that holds much of the countryside. Thresholds are set against that baseline, not against peacetime. SA-1 Regime stability (Political; L): ROUTINE juntas in place, no attempt reported; ABNORMAL officially reported plot or arrests of officers; SIGNIFICANT a failed coup attempt or a mutiny; EXTREME a successful coup SA-2 Pressure on capitals (Military/Infrastructure; L): ROUTINE attacks on rural posts and roads; ABNORMAL declared blockade of a regional town or corridor; SIGNIFICANT a declared blockade of a capital, with supply only by escorted convoys, or an attack inside a capital; EXTREME a capital's fuel supply cut for 14+ days, or a capital stormed or encircled SA-3 Lethality against state forces (Military; Lg): ROUTINE events under 20 killed; ABNORMAL one event with 20-49 security personnel killed in 45 days; SIGNIFICANT one event with 50+ killed, or 50+ across one day; EXTREME 100+ in one event, or a major garrison or regional capital overrun SA-4 Foreign forces (Strategic competition; L): ROUTINE Russian Africa Corps and Turkish drone support as now; ABNORMAL announced entry or exit of a foreign contingent; SIGNIFICANT foreign forces in direct large-scale combat; EXTREME foreign intervention to defend or topple a government Baseline sources / period reviewed: ISS Africa (Jun 2026); Africanews/AFP and ACLED analyst comments (Oct 2026); Niger defence ministry via GNA/dpa (Sep 2026); convoy reporting (Sep-Oct 2026); 2023-2026 **Current reading.** On 25 April, JNIM and the Azawad Liberation Front carried out coordinated attacks on Kati, Mopti, Sévaré, Gao and **Bamako**, and Mali's defence minister was assassinated. Five days later JNIM imposed a **blockade on the capital** along its western routes (ISS Africa, 4 Jun). Bamako is now supplied by escorted mega-convoys: 643 tankers arrived on 3 Oct, 957 on 10 Oct and 734 on 17 Oct (The Global Analyst, 4 Oct; Benin Web TV; Sputnik Afrique, Russian state media, 17 Oct). In Niger, the defence ministry reported **38 soldiers killed at Dabagu (Tahoua)** and 19 gendarmes killed near Abala–Filingué on 23 Sep, at least 57 in one day (GNA/dpa). On 20 Oct, gunmen killed 12 people, including a soldier, on two buses on the Arlit–Agadez road (NAMPA/Xinhua, 22 Oct). IS Sahel Province claimed it killed more than 400 JNIM fighters in Oudalan, Burkina Faso, after clashes on 9 Oct (not independently confirmed). An ACLED analyst counts more than 320 battles between the two groups since 2019, with about 2,200 deaths, and says the fighting has spread into western Niger and north-west Nigeria (Africanews/AFP, 16 Oct).

Indicators. SA-1 ROUTINE (no verified coup attempt found in the window). SA-2 SIGNIFICANT (declared blockade of Bamako, supply by escorted convoys). SA-3 SIGNIFICANT (57 security personnel killed on 23 Sep, inside the 45-day window). SA-4 ROUTINE (Russian and Turkish support continues at baseline). Roll-up: 2 Significant = **POTENTIAL CRISIS** (first scored line). No override. Tripwire (Imminent): SA-1 or SA-2 at Extreme.

Sudan and the Horn (AF-T1). The Abyei administration's information minister told AP and Reuters that the toll from the 19 Oct drone strike on Amiet market rose to **153**, and a military source told the BBC that the Sudanese Armed Forces carried it out. The Sudan War Observatory reported 150 killed in strikes on mourners at Al-Dabab, West Kordofan, the evening before (BBC, 20 Oct). Sudanese outlets report RSF drones aimed at Wad Madani and Um Rawaba at dawn on 25 Oct; a military source says they were shot down, and no casualties have been published (DefenceMENA, 25 Oct). AF-1 SIGNIFICANT (=), AF-2 ABNORMAL (=), AF-3 ABNORMAL (=), AF-4 ABNORMAL (=). **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=).**

Analyst Comment. The Sahel scores higher than Sudan on its own baseline for one reason: a capital is under a declared blockade. Bamako is managing it, not ending it. Escorted convoys of 600 to 950 tankers a week keep the city running, but each one depends on escort capacity. The JNIM–IS rivalry consumes jihadist manpower; it does not reduce the pressure on the states. The topic would move to PROBABLE if a convoy is destroyed on the approach to Bamako, or if another single-day loss above 50 security personnel occurs (new **AFR-02**).

VI. INDICATORS TO WATCH | EWC / EWP ASSESSMENT

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
EXTREME	EWC	W-1 Hormuz attacks / flows	Kpler 65% of baseline (preliminary); 8 tanker crossings on 24 Oct	≤70% in a briefing dated 27 Oct+ (WAR-18); confirmed sinking (WAR-07)
EXTREME	EWP	W-2 Houthi-Saudi / Bab el-Mandeb	Missile at Riyadh; coalition strikes on launchers; two injured by debris	Death on Saudi soil (WAR-16); Aramco damage (WAR-17); airport halt (WAR-19)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-5 US forces	96-hour readiness; "finish it off or make a deal"	Any strike (WAR-05, WAR-14); US vote 3 Nov
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-6 Gulf-state belligerency	Egyptian roll call Monday	Approval (WAR-09); deployment (WAR-10)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-8 Diplomacy	Mecca-pact delegations in Tehran	Any US–Iran announcement (WAR-01)

SCORE	TYPE	INDICATOR	WHY IT MATTERS	NEXT TRIGGER
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	W-7 Energy price shock	Brent $114.60 in early trade, off Friday's $116.72	Settle >$120 (WAR-08)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	SA-2 Bamako blockade	Capital supplied by escorted convoys	Convoy destroyed near Bamako; fuel cut 14+ days
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	SA-3 Sahel lethality	57 Nigerien personnel killed on 23 Sep	20+ in one event (AFR-02)
SIGNIFICANT	EWP	R-3 Strikes on Ukraine	140 drones, energy hit in Khmelnytskyi	15 energy-strike days (RUS-14)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	AF-1 Sudan lethality	Abyei toll 153	50+ in one event (AFR-01)
SIGNIFICANT	EWC	M-1 Federal posture on elections	No TRO/PI motion	MID-06 (27 Oct), MID-08
ABNORMAL	EWP	R-10 Negotiation track	Oleshky ceasefire 0300 Kyiv, 27 Oct	Aid delivered (RUS-15)
ABNORMAL	EWC	W-4 Iran-Israel exchange	Israel votes 27 Oct; defence minister denies pre-vote plan	Any launch (WAR-04); Israeli strike (WAR-14)
ABNORMAL	EWP	SC-1 South China Sea incidents	Last water cannon 8 Oct	Water cannon (IPA-02)
ABNORMAL	EWP	K-1 DPRK launches	None since 12 Oct	Launch by 15 Nov (IPA-01)

VII. PREDICTION LEDGER CHECK (WI prefixes)

Resolved today: none.

Open WI calls due within 7 days (by 2 Nov): - **MID-06** (TRO/PI motion in the D.D.C. cases by 27 Oct, 50%): none found. **Very unlikely.** Resolves tomorrow. - **WAR-12** (Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs by 27 Oct, 20%): none found. **Very unlikely.** Resolves tomorrow. - **WAR-09** (Egyptian approval by 31 Oct, 70%): roll call today. **Likely.** - **RUS-14** (15 energy-strike days by 31 Oct, 75%): 12 days through 25 Oct; needs 3 of 6. **Likely.** - **RUS-02** (trilateral in-person meeting by 31 Oct, 35%): none scheduled. **Very unlikely.** - **RUS-05** (Kremlin-confirmed energy-strike moratorium by 31 Oct, 20%): none. **Very unlikely.** - **RUS-06** (>800 in one night by 31 Oct, 30%): not met; last night 144. **Very unlikely.**

Other open WI calls: **WAR-18** no qualifying briefing yet (the 26 Oct briefing at 65% predates the window). **WAR-05 / WAR-14** no strike on Iranian soil. **WAR-08 / WAR-11** not met. **WAR-16 / WAR-17** two injuries, no death; Aramco damage unconfirmed. **WAR-19** no new suspension. **WAR-15** not met. **WAR-07** no confirmed sinking. **WAR-13** no UK intercept reported. **MID-05 / MID-08** no TRO or PI. **IPA-01 / IPA-02** no qualifying event. **RUS-15** ceasefire starts tomorrow. **AFR-01** no qualifying event since 26 Oct. **WAR-01 / 02 / 04 / 06 / 10, RUS-01 / 04 / 12 / 13, MID-01 / 02 / 03** no qualifying event.

New predictions (dated 2026-10-26): - **WAR-20:** The Saudi-led coalition, Saudi defence ministry or SPA (or Reuters/AP/AFP citing them) reports a missile or drone intercepted over or toward **Riyadh** on at least **5 distinct dates** from 27 Oct to 9 Nov. **65%, likely.** Resolve by 2026-11-09. - **AFR-02:** The government of Mali, Burkina Faso or Niger (or Reuters/AP/AFP citing officials) reports a single attack, dated 27 Oct to 30 Nov, in which at least **20 soldiers, gendarmes or police** were killed. **60%, likely.** Resolve by 2026-11-30.

VIII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Kpler** latest-week figures are preliminary floors that Kpler says have typically settled 1.5 to 2 times higher; the 65% reading may be revised up.
- **Houthi claims** of hits on Riyadh's airport and oil pumping stations on 26 Oct are not confirmed by Saudi authorities. Sanaa casualty figures come from Houthi media and a Houthi-run ministry.
- **CNN's 96-hour report** rests on unnamed US officials.
- **Tehran meeting:** the AP report could not be fetched directly (timeout); attendance is confirmed by Al Jazeera/Reuters citing Iranian and Saudi officials. The outcome is not yet known.
- **Egypt:** the vote time differs between sources (11:00 per Ahram earlier; 13:00 per Al-Masry Al-Youm). No result was available at press time.
- **Lebanon:** casualty reports for 25–26 Oct come from partisan or single sources and are not used.
- **Oleshky:** the NPR report could not be fetched directly (timeout); it was read from search excerpts.
- **Sahel:** convoy counts for 10 and 17 Oct come from a regional outlet and from Russian state media. IS Sahel Province's claim of 400+ JNIM dead is unverified. One tracker refers to a recent coup attempt in Niger that we could not verify, so SA-1 stays Routine pending

confirmation. Reports that the Russian Africa Corps escorts convoys are secondary. ACLED event series were not pulled directly.

- **Sudan:** the 25 Oct drone intercepts at Wad Madani and Um Rawaba are one-sided military claims.
- **Serbia:** the commission's figures are partial (8,077 polling stations); CeSID's number is a projection.

Sources

Kpler media briefings (23 and 26 Oct); CNBC (26 Oct); Arab News (26 Oct); CNA/AFP (26 Oct); SPA; The Hindu/AFP; CNN (26 Oct); Jerusalem Post (26 Oct); The National (25 Oct); Al Jazeera/Reuters (26 Oct); AP (26 Oct); Times of Israel (26 Oct); Al-Masry Al-Youm (26 Oct); Masrawy (26 Oct); Annahar; Ukrinform (26 Oct); Telegraf (26 Oct); NPR (26 Oct); White House; BBC (20 and 26 Oct); Tanjug; NBC News early-vote tracker (26 Oct); Democracy Docket; Taiwan MND (26 Oct); Korea Herald; Manila Times (10 Oct); ISS Africa (4 Jun); The Global Analyst (4 Oct); Benin Web TV; Sputnik Afrique (17 Oct); GNA/dpa (Sep); NAMPA/Xinhua (22 Oct); Africanews/AFP (16 Oct); DefenceMENA (25 Oct).

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