



Islamic State in the Greater Sahara

Source: Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute
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Start Date	End Date	Title	Description	Tags	Location Title	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Event Type	Layer
05/13/15	05/13/15	Sahraoui pledges to ISIS	ISGS emir Abu Walid al Sahraoui swore bay'at to ISIS emir Abu Bakr al Baghdadi.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
05/19/15	05/19/15	ISGS claims Romanian hostage	ISGS emir Sahraoui stated that his group is holding Romanian hostage Iulian Ghergut. Al Murabitoun kidnapped Ghergut in Burkina Faso in April 2015.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
05/04/16	05/04/16	Sahraoui threatens Morocco	ISGS emir Sahraoui, who is originally from the Western Sahara, called for attacks against Westerners in Morocco.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
09/02/16	09/02/16	ISGS attacks Burkinabe forces	ISGS militants attacked a Burkinabe gendarme post in Markoye, Burkina Faso.	DF		Markoye, Burkina Faso	14.63464	0.03889	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
10/12/16	10/12/16	ISGS attacks Burkinabe forces	ISGS militants attacked a Burkinabe gendarme post in Intangom, Burkina Faso.	DF		Intangom, Burkina Faso	14.9054	0.02593	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
10/14/16	10/14/16	[Unconfirmed] ISGS kidnaps American	Suspected ISGS militants kidnapped American aid worker Jeffrey Woodke from Abalak, Niger.	kidnapping, Unconfirmed		Abalak, Niger	15.46865	6.28809	Kidnapping or Assassination (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
10/17/16	10/17/16	ISGS attacks Nigerien prison	ISGS militants attacked a Nigerien prison near Koutoukale, Niger.	DF		Koutoukale, Niger	13.70998	1.75153	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
10/18/16	10/18/16	Sahraoui claims prison attack	ISGS emir Sahraoui claimed the group's attack on the Nigerien prison on October 17.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
10/30/16	10/30/16	ISIS informally recognizes ISGS	ISIS-affiliated Amaq News Agency accepted and recognized Sahraoui's pledge.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
02/23/17	02/23/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Nigerien army	Suspected ISGS militants attacked Nigerien army forces near Tirzawane, Niger.	DF, Unconfirmed		Tirzawane, Niger	14.47082	2.07211	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
03/06/17	03/06/17	ISGS attacks Nigerien army	ISGS militants attacked Nigerien army forces near Dolbel, Niger.	DF		Dolbel, Niger	14.57903	0.71673	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
05/11/17	05/11/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Nigerien forces	Suspected ISGS militants attacked Nigerien gendarmes near Ayorou, Niger.	DF, Unconfirmed		Ayorou, Niger	14.73454	0.91937	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
06/14/17	06/14/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS IED strikes army vehicle	A Malian army vehicle struck a suspected ISGS IED near Ansongo, Mali.	IED, Unconfirmed		Ansongo, Mali	15.63354	0.48167	IED (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
06/30/17	06/30/17	Sahraoui threatens MSA and GATIA	ISGS emir Sahraoui warned two Tuareg militias against aiding the Malian and Nigerien governments against his group.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
08/17/17	08/17/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS ambushes GATIA	Suspected ISGS militants ambushed GATIA vehicles in Tamkoutat, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed	Tamkoutat, Mali	Gao, Mali	16.24105	1.318359	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
09/08/17	09/08/17	ISGS abducts Malian civilian	ISGS militants abducted a civilian from Indelimane, Mali.	kidnapping		Indelimane, Mali	16.13951	1.43821	Kidnapping or Assassination	ISGS Operations
09/13/17	09/13/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks market	Suspected ISGS militants attacked a market in Indelimane, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed		Indelimane, Mali	16.13951	1.43821	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
10/04/17	10/04/17	ISGS ambushes US-Nigerien patrol	ISGS militants ambushed a joint US-Nigerien patrol near Tongo Tongo, Niger. The militants killed four U.S. soldiers in the attack.	DF		Tongo Tongo, Niger	15.05745	1.83705	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
10/21/17	10/21/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Nigerien army	Suspected ISGS militants attacked Nigerien army forces near Ayorou, Niger.	DF, Unconfirmed		Ayorou, Niger	14.73446	0.91009	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
12/01/17	12/01/17	[Unconfirmed] ISGS-JNIM leader meeting	JNIM and ISGS leadership were rumored to have met in Kidal region, Mali to discuss potential merger.	Meeting, Unconfirmed		Kidal region, Mali	18.98277	1.10023	Meeting/Coordination (Rumored)	ISGS and ISIS Statements
01/04/18	01/04/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks GATIA	Suspected ISGS militants attacked GATIA forces near Anderamboukane, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed		Anderamboukane, Mali	15.42198	3.01864	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations



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01/11/18	01/11/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS detonates SVBIED	Suspected ISGS militant detonated an SVBIED targeting a French convoy near Indelimane, Mali. The attack wounded three French soldiers.	SVBIED, Unconfirmed		Indelimane, Mali	16.13951	1.43821	SVBIED (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
01/12/18	01/12/18	Sahraoui claims Tongo Tongo attack	ISGS emir Sahraoui claimed the group's October 4 ambush of joint US-Nigerien patrol in Tongo Tongo, Niger. Sahraoui also claimed responsibility for a VBIED attack on French forces on January 11.						Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
01/28/18	01/28/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Malian army	Suspected ISGS militants conducted a complex attack on a Malian army position near Menaka, Mali. A militant detonated an SVEST at the base prior to a vehicles assault against the base.	SVEST, Unconfirmed		Menaka, Mali	15.91839	2.40207	Complex Attack (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
01/28/18	01/28/18	[Unconfirmed] JNIM-ISGS jointly plan attack	JNIM and ISGS were rumored to have jointly planned complex attacks against Malian army bases near Menaka, Mali and Soumpi, Mali.	Unconfirmed		Menaka, Mali	15.91839	2.40207	Meeting/Coordination (Rumored)	ISGS and ISIS Statements
02/17/18	02/17/18	JNIM leader defects to ISIS	The Salah ad Din Battalion led by Sultan Ould Badi defected from JNIM, al Qaeda's affiliate in Mali, to ISGS. Badi and ISGS emir Sahraoui were members of al Murabitoun from 2013-2015.						Defection	ISGS and ISIS Statements
02/22/18	02/22/18	GATIA attacks ISGS camp with French air support	French helicopters supported a GATIA attack on an ISGS camp near Indelimane in Gao region, Mali.			Indelimane, Mali	16.13951	1.43821	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
02/26/18	02/26/18	GATIA and MSA forces destroy ISGS camp	GATIA and MSA forces destroyed an ISGS camp in Banibango, Mali.		Banibango, Mali	Fafa, Gao, Mali	15.32326	0.814362	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
03/04/18	03/04/18	ISIS supporters release video	A pro-ISIS group released footage of the Tongo Tongo ambush and ISGS fighters pledging allegiance to ISIS emir Abu Bakr al Baghdadi.	Statement					Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
03/10/18	03/10/18	GATIA and MSA clash with ISGS	GATIA and MSA forces clashed with ISGS militants in Tin Abalak, Gao region, Mali.		Tin Abalak, Mali	Akabar, Gao, Mali	15.78168	1.988525	Counter-ISGS DF	Counter-ISGS Operations
03/27/18	03/27/18	Burkinabe security forces destroy suspected ISGS camp	Burkinabe security forces destroyed a suspected ISGS camp in Bakani, Komondjari Province, Burkina Faso.		Bakani, Burkina Faso	Bossongri, Komondjari, Burkina Faso	12.86737	1.163864	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
03/28/18	03/28/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Nigerien forces	Suspected ISGS militants attacked a Nigerien gendarme post near Goube, Niger.	DF, Unconfirmed		Goube, Niger	13.92838	2.07432	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
03/29/18	03/29/18	ISGS attacks GATIA-MSA	ISGS militants attacked GATIA-MSA forces near Talataye, Mali.			Talataye, Mali	16.53767	1.50999	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
04/01/18	04/01/18	GATIA and MSA forces clash with ISGS	GATIA and MSA forces killed 20 ISGS militants during clashes in Akabar, Gao region, Mali.		Akabar	15.3747895°, 002.0589077°	15.34776	2.043457	Counter-ISGS DF	Counter-ISGS Operations
04/01/18	04/01/18	GATIA and MSA forces clash with ISGS	GATIA and MSA forces clashed with ISGS militants near Banibangou, Tillabéri region, Niger.			Bani Bangou, Tillabéri, Niger	13.8824	1.51316	Counter-ISGS DF	Counter-ISGS Operations
04/08/18	04/08/18	ISGS assassinates mayor	ISGS militants assassinated the mayor of Koutougou, Burkina Faso.			Koutougou, Burkina Faso	14.5571	-1.3293	Kidnapping or Assassination	ISGS Operations
04/11/18	04/11/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS kidnaps German	Suspected ISGS militants kidnapped German citizen near Ayorou, Niger.	Unconfirmed		Ayorou, Niger	14.73446	0.91009	Kidnapping or Assassination (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
04/12/18	04/12/18	ISGS kidnaps teacher and burns school	ISGS militants kidnapped a teacher and burned a school in Bouro, Burkina Faso. The group promised to target anyone who teaches French or aids the Burkinabe government.			Bouro, Burkina Faso	14.37698	-1.42336	Kidnapping or Assassination	ISGS Operations
04/17/18	04/17/18	ISGS claims recent attacks	An ISGS spokesman claimed the assassination of the mayor and kidnapping of the teacher in Burkina Faso.						Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
04/26/18	04/26/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS kills Tuareg	Suspected ISGS militants killed 10 Tuareg civilians at a camp in Aklaz, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed		Aklaz, Mali	15.42198	3.01864	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations



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04/27/18	04/27/18	Burkinabe forces destroy ISGS camp	Burkinabe security forces destroyed a suspected ISGS camp in Foutouri, Burkina Faso.	Unconfirmed		Foutouri, Burkina Faso	12.72295	1.050494	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
04/27/18	04/27/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS kills Tuareg	Suspected ISGS militants killed 34 Tuareg civilians in Awakassa, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed		Awakassa, Mali	16.28083	3	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
05/01/18	05/01/18	ISGS kills Tuareg tribesman	ISGS militants killed up to 17 Idargane tribesman in the same region as the 26-27 APR attacks. The attacks occurred in Taylalene and Tindinbawen.			Taylalene, Mali	15.34965	2.990683	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
05/03/18	05/03/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS militants burn school	Likely ISGS militants burned an elementary school in Bafina, northern Burkina Faso. ISGS conducted a similar attack on April 12.	Unconfirmed	Bafina, Burkina Faso	Tougouri, Namentenga, Burkina Faso	13.73138	-0.94482	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
05/08/18	05/08/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS IED strikes GATIA vehicle	A GATIA vehicle struck a likely ISGS IED on the road from Djebok to Ahina in Gao region, Mali.			Djebok-Ahina road, Mali	17.16511	0.180062	IED (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
05/12/18	05/12/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Tuareg camp	Suspected ISGS militants killed five tribesmen at a Daousahak Tuareg camp in Takaghat, Gao region, Mali.	DF, Unconfirmed		Takaghat, Mali	16.27876	2.064074	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
05/16/18	05/16/18	U.S. designates ISGS and its emir	The U.S. Department of State designated ISGS as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. It also designated ISGS and its leader as Specially Designated Global Terrorists.	Statement					Counterterrorism Statement	Counter-ISGS Operations
05/31/18	05/31/18	ISGS attack GATIA/MSA convoy	ISGS fire on GATIA MSA convoy in In Kakane, Menaka, Mali.			In Kakane	15.87153	1.367798	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
06/04/18	06/04/18	MSA kills six ISGS militants	MSA forces claimed to kill six ISGS militants in Tabarde near Infoukaretane, Menaka region, Mali.		Infoukaretane, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.77441	2.452011	Counter-ISGS DF	Counter-ISGS Operations
06/07/18	06/07/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS kills gendarme	Suspected ISGS militants kill gendarme in Gossi, Timbuktu region, Mali.			Gossi, Timbuktu, Mali	15.81791	-1.30945	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
06/08/18	06/08/18	ISGS regroups in Gourma, Timbuktu	ISGS regroups in Gourma, Timbuktu, Mali after losing ground along Mali-Niger border.			Gourma-Rharous, Timbuktu, Mali	16.87767	-1.92535		ISGS Operations
06/23/18	06/23/18	ISGS releases video of clashes	ISGS releases videos of its Salah al Din Battalion clashing with GATIA						Public Communication	ISGS and ISIS Statements
06/27/18	06/27/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS ambushes GATIA	Suspected ISGS militants ambushed GATIA in Intillit, Gourma, Timbuktu region, Mali.			NTillit, Gao, Mali	15.5231	-0.47691	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
06/27/18	06/27/18	GATIA /MSA clash with ISGS	GATIA /MSA and ISGS clashed in Infoukaretane, Menaka, Mali.		Infoukaretane, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.77441	2.452011		Counter-ISGS Operations
06/27/18	06/27/18	ISGS attacks GATIA base	ISGS attacked a GATIA base in Gourma, Timbuktu region, Mali.			Gourma-Rharous, Timbuktu, Mali	16.87767	-1.92535	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
06/27/18	06/27/18	ISGS clashes with GATIA and MSA	ISGS militants clashed with GATIA and MSA forces in Infoukaretane, Menaka region, Mali.		Infoukaretane, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.77441	2.452011	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
07/06/18	07/06/18	French find weapons cache in Niger	French and Nigerien forces found a suspected ISGS weapons cache in Ouallam, Niger.			Ouallam, Tillabéri, Niger	14.31576	2.084779		Counter-ISGS Operations
07/08/18	07/08/18	ISGS battalion attacks Tuareg village	Katiba Salaheddine attacked an Imghad village in Anchawadi, Gao, Mali.			Anchawadi	16.94004	1.749871	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
07/09/18	07/09/18	GATIA destroys ISGS camp	GATIA forces destroy an ISGS Salah al Din Battalion camp in Djebock-Tamkoutat, Gao, Mali.			Djebock, Gao, Mali	16.34283	0.278399	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
07/15/18	07/15/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Ibogalitane	Suspected ISGS militants killed 14 Ibogalitane civilians in In-Jagalane, Menaka, Mali.			In-Jagalane	15.89002	3.35083	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations



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07/19/18	07/19/18	ISGS attacks GATIA convoy	ISGS militants attacked a GATIA convoy IVO Tidimbawen, Menaka, Mali.		Tidimbawen, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.28286	1.318359	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
07/20/18	07/20/18	ISGS raids Imghad camp	ISGS raided a civilian Imghad Tuareg camp in Tidimbawen, Menaka, Mali.		Tidimbawen, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.28286	1.318359	Direct Fire	ISGS Operations
07/28/18	07/28/18	Militants ambush GATIA and Malian army	Militants ambushed GATIA and Malian army forces in the Gourma in N'tillit, Gao, Mali.			N'Tillit, Gao, Mali	15.5231	-0.47691	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
08/02/18	08/02/18	Nigerien forces clash with militants	Militants clashed with Nigerien forces in Inates, Tillabery region, Niger near the Malian border.			Enatès, Dosso, Niger	14.21456	4.27057		Counter-ISGS Operations
08/02/18	08/02/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS assassinates MSA officer	Suspected ISGS militants assassinated a MSA officer in Menaka, Mali.			Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.9167	2.4	Kidnapping or Assassination (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
08/11/18	08/11/18	Militants attack mining convoy	Militants conduct complex IED attack on gendarmes escorting SEMAFO in Boungou Mine, Est region, Burkina Faso. ISGS operates in this region along with Ansar al Islam and other local Salafi-jihadi groups.			Boungou, Burkina Faso	11.46323	-0.33816	Complex Attack (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
08/11/18	08/11/18	Salah al Din Battalion emir surrenders	ISGS Salah al Din Battalion emir Salah Ould Badi surrendered to Algerian authorities in Tamanrasset, Algeria.			Tamanghasset, Algeria	24.08657	4.959306	Defection	Counter-ISGS Operations
08/27/18	08/27/18	French airstrike kills ISGS official	Operation Barkhane forces killed Mohamed Ag Almouner, an ISGS official involved in the October 2017 ambush on U.S. forces. The strike occurred near Infoukaretane, Menaka region, Mali.		Infoukaretane, Mali	Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.77441	2.452011	Airstrike	Counter-ISGS Operations
08/31/18	08/31/18	Barkhane spokesperson says ISGS weakened	An Operation Barkhane spokesperson said ISGS is weakened and may merge with JNIM, al Qaeda's Malian affiliate.						Counterterrorism Statement	Counter-ISGS Operations
09/07/18	09/07/18	ISGS militants demobilize in Niger	50 ISGS militants agreed to integrate into the Nigerien security forces after a meeting in Banibangou, Tillabery region, Niger.			Bani Bangou, Tillabéri, Niger	13.8824	1.51316	Defection	Counter-ISGS Operations
09/08/18	09/09/18	French forces capture ISGS logistics personnel	French for			Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.9167	2.4	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
09/13/18	09/13/18	French forces capture ISGS logistics personnel	French forces captured members of ISGS's logistics network on September 8-9 and September 13 in Menaka region.			Ménaka, Gao, Mali	15.9167	2.4	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
09/22/18	09/22/18	French air assault targets ISGS	French paratroopers conducted a raid that killed seven ISGS militants near Inazole, Menaka region, Mali.		Inazole, Mali		16.17247	2.125854	Raid	Counter-ISGS Operations
09/25/18	09/25/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Ibogalitane	Suspected ISGS militants attacked Ibogalitane civilians in Intibsite, Menaka region, Mali.		Intibsite	Inekar, Gao, Mali	15.95011	3.126297	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations
09/28/18	09/29/18	[Unconfirmed] ISGS attacks Idarfane	Militants killed 25 Idarfane Tuareg civilians in Amlawlaw, Menaka region, Mali.		Amlawlaw, Mali		15.39278	1.304626	Direct Fire (Suspected)	ISGS Operations