

Working Group:
Armed Forces and Society

Title:
EU Military Partnership Mission in Niger and Its Potential Effects on Preventing Violent Extremism in the Sahel Region

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Abstract:
Since 2012, the Sahel region has turned into a 'safe haven' that gives room for many terrorist organizations and local armed group. The picture that emerged after the joint military formations and operations such as Serval, Barkhane and Takuba points out the lack of coherence and cooperation between local and international actors in terms of counterterrorism strategies and doctrines. In this context, the study aims to examine the European Union Military Partnership Mission (EUMPM) in Niger, which was implemented in December 2022 under the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). The main argument of the study is that the local dynamics in the Sahel region is the main driving force that may determine whether the EUMPM will be effective or not. By setting local governance aside, conventional military operations led by western actors target only the military capacities of terrorist groups but overlook their social networks. These military partnerships, including the African Union (AU) and the G5 Sahel countries, are directed by the governments of the member countries and are evolving to the point where they serve their political continuity. The inability to adapt the operations according to local needs increases the current terrorist activity in the long run and requires the creation of a new strategy. In this sense, the study addresses the strength of the community violence reduction (CVR). CVR has been implemented in countries such as Mali (MINUSMA), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) and the Central African Republic (CAR) (MINUSCA) but has been partially successful and is not fully integrated with the military dimension of operations. Secondary sources and comparative analysis method will be used in the study.

Author Bios:
Ismail Numan Telci is the Vice President of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM) in Ankara. ORSAM is the largest think tank in Turkey focusing on Middle Eastern affairs. He also works as an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations and lecturer at the Middle East Institute (ORMER) at Sakarya University. His research focuses on democratic transformations in the Middle East, foreign policy of the Gulf countries and Turkish foreign policy. He is editor of Middle Eastern Studies, a peer-reviewed journal published by ORSAM. Telci is the author and editor/co-editor of six books, *Egypt: Revolution and Counter-Revolution* (2017), *Egyptian Foreign Policy Since the Revolution: From Search for Change to Quest for Legitimacy* (2019), *Eastern Mediterranean in International Politics* (2020), *Foreign Policy in the Gulf: Dependency, Interventionism and Neutrality* (2021), *Turkey-Gulf Relations: Crises, Opportunities and Expectations* (2022). His comments and opinion appeared in international media including TRT World, Al Jazeera, BBC, Deutsche Welle, Le Monde and Middle East Eye. His works and activities can be followed at: <https://twitter.com/numanis>

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