

Balai Citoyen

BAC blanc 2023

Epreuve d'Anglais série A.

Durée 4h. Coefficient : 2



Text: Burkina Faso's Volunteer Defense Groups

Three years after Burkina Faso recruited civilian volunteers to join the fight against terrorists, those groups are being blamed for crimes. The deaths of 30 people in late December in the western province of Kossi are the latest example of how the groups, known as Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP), have become more aggressive. The attack was carried out by a VDP group dominated by Dozo, a fraternity of traditional hunters, in response to an attack on their headquarters.

The junta now ruling Burkina Faso shows few signs of reining in the VDP groups. In November, the government called for 50,000 new volunteers and got 90,000. Under the program, VDP members receive two weeks of training, which includes lessons in human rights, before receiving an AK-47.

Amid escalating violence in Burkina Faso, VDP groups have become victims as well as perpetrators of violence. In many cases, poorly trained and lightly armed VDP members are soft targets for terrorist groups. Hundreds have died in ambushes or been killed by roadside improved explosive devices (IEDs) since the VDPs first were created at the end of 2019.

As the attack in Nouna demonstrates, attacks against VDP groups can provoke reprisals that worsen interethnic conflict, according to Col. Auguste Denise Barry. In an analysis of his country's security, Barry said that creating VDP groups could lead to polarization of identities, militarization of communities, and the normalization of violence as a political tool.

In his 2021 report, Tisseron noted that, although VDP groups have the potential to strengthen Burkina Faso's security, they are a "doubled-edged sword." He urged increased oversight, accountability and eventual disarmament.

"[The government] must reduce the risks associated with the use of armed militias through inclusive recruitment, enhanced training, and penalties for VDPs guilty of abuses, and place improved trust between the state and communities at the heart of its priorities," Tisseron wrote.

PART I: GUIDED COMMENTARY (14 pts)

1. What have VDP groups been accused of according to the text ? (2 pts)
2. Referring to the text, what are common methods used by terrorists against VDPs? (2 pts)
3. Does Mr. Barry agree with the creation of VDP groups according to the text? Justify (3 pts)
4. In the light of the text, why are VDP groups considered as a double-edged sword? (2 pts)
5. Do you agree with the recruitment of VDP groups to combat terrorists? Why or why not? Do not exceed 120 words. (5 pts)

PART II: TRANSLATION (6 pts)

Translate into French from “**Three years after**”....down to “**their headquarters**”. (6pts)