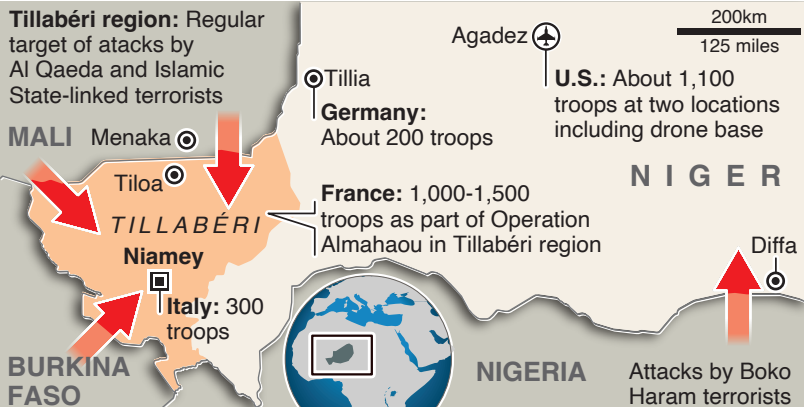


# Niger central to Sahel security

West African nations have imposed sanctions and threatened force if Niger's coup leaders do not reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum following the latest coup in the jihadist-plagued Sahel



■ **Jul 26:** President **Mohamed Bazoum** (left) is seized by members of presidential guard. Bazoum came to office in 2021, in Niger's first democratic transfer of power

■ **Jul 28:** General **Abdourahmane Tiani** (right), declares himself head of state, claiming he seized power because of worsening security. Since 2021 at least 500 people have been killed in terrorist attacks

■ Economic Community of West African States and West African Economic and Monetary Union ban commercial flights, halt financial transactions, freeze national assets

■ France suspends development aid which reached around €120 million last year. European Union suspends aid to Niger and stops all security cooperation