

# SHADOW WARS

## CONFRONTING THE HIDDEN NETWORKS SHAPING VIOLENCE

First session:  
5 May 2026

Time: 3:00-4:30pm  
(Yaoundé time)

Frequency:  
Every six weeks

Languages:  
French and English

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### *Free six-part webinar series*

#### **WARS AS TRANSNATIONALIZED ARMED CONFLICTS**

The Central African region is home to some of the deadliest and most protracted armed conflicts in modern African history, with Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at their epicentre. These wars are marked by their longevity, lasting decades and profoundly reshaping societies. Often labelled as 'civil wars', the reality is far more complex: wars in the region are not only fought on battlefields – they are shaped, financed, enabled and prolonged through criminal markets, illicit financial flows and transnational alliances.

#### **ABOUT THE SERIES**

'Shadow Wars' offers a deep dive into the hidden architectures of violence in Central Africa. Across six interactive sessions, participants will explore:

- The crime-conflict nexus
- Typologies of criminal actors operating across borders
- High-value criminal markets driving conflict (inward) – Part I
- High-value criminal markets driving conflict (outward) – Part II
- Criminal architectures enabling proxy warfare and mass violence
- Actionable strategies to disrupt these systems and reshape incentives towards peace

#### **JOIN THE CONVERSATION. HELP SHAPE THE SOLUTIONS.**

Without confronting the underlying systems, peacebuilding efforts will continue to fall short and violence will persist. Experts and participants will have the opportunity to share innovative ideas through the interactive chat, contributing directly to a forthcoming white paper on strategies and instruments aimed at addressing the political economy of crime and conflict in the region.

*Learn more about the Central Africa Observatory on Organized Crime and Violence:* [centralafrica.globalinitiative.net/conflict-and-crime](https://centralafrica.globalinitiative.net/conflict-and-crime)