



Traoré Narrowly Escaped a NATO Drone Strike — What Happened Next Shocked Them



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Traore Narrowly Escaped Assassination from NATO Drone Strike

128,876 views Oct 22, 2025 Traoré Narrowly Escaped a NATO Drone Strike — What Happened Next Shocked Them In a chilling turn of events, President Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso narrowly escaped a NATO-coordinated drone strike — an attack that could have changed Africa's future forever. But what followed stunned the entire Western world. Instead of retreating, Traoré's response was strategic, calculated, and defiant — exposing hidden players

and reshaping the geopolitical battlefield in real time. This is the story of how one African leader outmaneuvered a global alliance and turned an assassination attempt into a moment of historic resistance. **How this content was made** Altered or synthetic content Sound or visuals were significantly edited or digitally generated. [Learn more](#) [script](#)

0:00 They tried again to kill me. Not with sanctions and not with diplomatic pressure, but with the drone. I narrowly 0:06 escaped a NATO drone strike named a Reaper MQ9, flying at 2,000 ft, carrying 0:12 two Hellfire missiles. Locked on my vehicle convoy as I traveled from Wagadugu to a military base in the 0:18 north. 17 days ago, I should have died. NATO tried to assassinate a sitting 0:24 African president, and what happened next shocked them more than my survival. Let me tell you exactly what happened 0:29 that night because this isn't speculation. This isn't conspiracy theory. This is documented fact. We have 0:37 the radar data. We have the communications intercepts. We have the missile fragments. We have everything. 0:44 It was 11:47 p.m. I was traveling with a small security detail. Three vehicles 12 0:50 personnel total. We were on a remote road 40 km from the nearest town. The 0:55 kind of route where an explosion could be explained away as an accident, a mechanical failure, bad luck. That's 1:02 what they were counting on. My head of security received an alert from our newly installed Chinese air defense 1:07 radar system. The same system NATO said we didn't need. The same technology the West refused to sell us. The same 1:14 capability they claimed was too sophisticated for African militaries to operate. That system just saved my life. 1:21 The alert was clear. Unidentified aircraft. High altitude. Slowmoving 1:26 pattern consistent with surveillance drone. Loitering directly above our projected route. Not passing through. 1:33 Not conducting routine patrol. Loitering. Waiting. My security chief 1:39 said, "Mr. President, we need to change route immediately." I said, "How certain 1:44 are you?" He said, "The aircraft has been tracking us for 17 minutes. It adjusted position three times to 1:51 maintain coverage of our convoy. This isn't coincidence. This is targeting. I 1:56 made the decision in seconds. Divert now. Maximum evasive protocol. We turned 2:02 off the main road, took a secondary route through rougher terrain. Slower, less secure, but unpredictable. Harder 2:09 to track, harder to target. 4 minutes later, two Hellfire missiles

struck our 2:14 original route, exactly where we would have been if we hadn't diverted. The explosions destroyed a section of road 2:20 and killed three civilians in a vehicle that had been traveling behind where our convoy should have been. Three innocent 2:26 people dead because NATO tried to kill me and missed. We recovered the missile fragments the next morning, analyzed 2:33 them in our military laboratory, confirmed by independent experts from China and Russia. AGM114 2:40 Hellfire missiles, Americanmade, fired from an MQ9 Reaper drone, the same 2:45 drones NATO operates across the Sahel under the guise of counterterrorism operations. We also recovered something 2:52 else, something they didn't expect us to find, something that proves this wasn't a mistake, wasn't an accident, wasn't a 3:00 targeting error. Electronic signature data from the missile guidance systems. 3:05 Data that shows the missiles were locked on a moving target. Data that shows course corrections consistent with 3:11 tracking a vehicle convoy. Data that proves these missiles were aimed at my convoy specifically, not at a fixed 3:17 location. They tried to kill me and they tried to make it look like an accident. 3:23 I called an emergency meeting of my security council at 3:00 a.m. My military commanders, my intelligence 3:30 chiefs, my closest advisers, I showed them everything. the radar data, the 3:35 intercepts, the missile fragments, the electronic signatures. One of my 3:41 generals said, "Mr. President, this is an act of war. We must respond militarily." I said, "No, 3:49 we respond strategically. They expect military retaliation. 3:54 They're prepared for that. They want that because then they can frame us as the aggressors. They can justify 4:01 intervention. they can rally international support for regime change. I said, "We do something they don't 4:07 expect. We expose them completely publicly with evidence they can't deny." 4:13 My intelligence chief said, "Sir, if we go public with this, there will be consequences. Serious consequences. 4:20 They'll deny it. They'll attack our credibility. They'll claim we're fabricating evidence to justify closer 4:26 ties with China and Russia." I said, "Let them deny it. Let them attack our 4:31 credibility. Let them claim whatever they want because we have the evidence and evidence doesn't care about their 4:36 denials. The next morning, I addressed the nation live, unscheduled. No 4:41 advanced notice to foreign embassies, no diplomatic courtesy warnings, just truth, raw, unfiltered, undeniable. I 4:49 stood in front of the cameras and told our people everything. The drone, the missiles, the targeting, the evidence, 4:56 the three civilians who died

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because NATO tried to assassinate their president. I said 17 days ago NATO 5:03 attempted to kill me. Not because I'm a terrorist. Not because I'm a threat to international security, but because I 5:09 refuse to obey. Because I chose sovereignty over submission. Because I built partnerships they didn't approve. 5:16 Because I exposed their surveillance. Because I demanded respect instead of accepting control. I said, "They tried 5:22 to kill me with the same drones they claim are protecting Africa from terrorism. They tried to murder me with 5:28 the same weapons they say are defending our security. They tried to assassinate me under the same operational authority 5:34 they claim is about counterterrorism cooperation. I said and they killed three innocent civilians instead. Three 5:41 Burkin Bay who were simply driving on a road. Three people whose only crime was being near where NATO thought I would 5:46 be. Three families destroyed because a Western military alliance decided an African president who demands respect 5:52 deserves death. The reaction was immediate. explosive, unprecedented. 5:58 Within hours, the video had 10 million views. Within a day, 50 million. Within 6:03 a week, over 200 million people had watched an African president accuse NATO of attempted assassination with evidence 6:09 to support every word. The international response was chaos. Absolute chaos. 6:15 Because they weren't prepared for this. They weren't ready for an African leader to expose them with documentation. They 6:21 weren't expecting evidence. They weren't anticipating that we'd have the capability to track their drone, recover 6:26 their missiles, analyze their weapons, and prove their guilt. NATO issued a statement within 6 hours. Carefully 6:33 worded, deliberately vague, predictably dishonest. NATO is aware of allegations 6:39 made by President Trore. We categorically deny any involvement in attacks on civilian or government 6:44 targets in Burkina Faso. NATO operates in the Sahel region under strict rules of engagement, focused exclusively on 6:51 counterterrorism operations. We are committed to investigating these claims thoroughly. Notice what they didn't say. 6:58 They didn't deny operating drones in our airspace. They didn't deny firing missiles that night. They didn't deny 7:04 that Americanmade Hellfire missiles killed three Burkenay civilians. They just denied involvement while promising 7:10 to investigate themselves. The American ambassador requested an urgent meeting. I made him wait 3 days, not out of 7:18 spite, but to make a point. When they try to assassinate you, you don't grant 7:24 them immediate access. When they murder your citizens, you don't offer diplomatic

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courtesy. When he finally 7:30 arrived, he came with a delegation, military attache, intelligence liaison, 7:35 legal adviser. They were preparing for confrontation. I didn't give them the chance to control the narrative. I said, 7:42 "Ambassador, I'm going to show you something." And then you're going to sit there silently while I explain exactly 7:47 what it means. I displayed the evidence on a large screen. Radar tracking data showing the drone's flight path. 7:53 Communications intercepts showing coordination with a NATO command center. Missile fragments with serial numbers 7:59 traced to American military inventory. Electronic signature data proving targeted tracking of a moving convoy. I 8:06 let them look at it. Let them absorb it. Let them understand that we had everything. Then I said, "This is an act 8:13 of war. You attempted to assassinate a sitting head of state. You violated our sovereignty. You murdered our civilians. 8:20 Under international law, we have the right to respond militarily. We have the right to declare war. We have the right 8:26 to seek collective defense under article 51 of the UN charter. The ambassador went pale. He said, "Mr. President, I 8:34 assure you this was not authorized at the highest levels. This must be a mistake, a targeting error, a tragic 8:40 accident." I said, "A mistake? Your drone tracked my convoy for 17 minutes. 8:45 Your missiles adjusted course to follow a moving target. Your weapons struck exactly where we would have been if we 8:51 hadn't diverted. That's not a mistake. That's precision. That's intent. That's 8:56 attempted murder. He said, "Even if what you're saying is true, and I'm not conceding that it is, going public with 9:03 these allegations damages our relationship irreparably. It undermines counterterrorism cooperation. It 9:09 threatens regional stability." I said, "Our relationship. You tried to kill me 9:15 and you're worried about our relationship. You murdered three of my citizens and you're concerned about 9:20 cooperation. You committed an act of war and you're talking about stability." I 9:25 leaned forward. Let me be absolutely clear about something. There is no relationship. There is no cooperation. 9:31 There is no partnership. There is only the fact that you tried to kill me and failed. And now the whole world knows 9:38 it. He tried a different approach. Mr. President, if you pursue this publicly, there will be consequences, economic 9:45 consequences, diplomatic consequences. Your international standing will suffer. 9:50 Your access to Western markets will be restricted. Your aid will be cut. I smiled. Actually smiled because the 9:58 threat was so absurd given the context. I said, "You just tried to kill me with a drone strike and now you're

10:04 threatening me with sanctions. You just murdered three civilians and now you're warning me about diplomatic 10:09 consequences. You just committed an act of war and now you're talking about aid cuts. I said, ambassador, you've already 10:17 done your worst. You've already tried to kill me. Everything else is just noise. 10:23 Sanctions, I've survived those. Isolation, I've endured that. Economic 10:29 pressure, I've built alternatives. But assassination, that's your final card. and you played it and you failed. I 10:36 said, "So threaten me with whatever you want. Cut whatever aid you want. Impose whatever sanctions you want because 10:43 you've already shown me that you're willing to kill me if I don't obey. And once you know someone is willing to kill 10:48 you, their other threats become meaningless." The meeting ended with no resolution, no agreement, no path 10:55 forward, just the cold reality that they had tried to kill an African president and failed. And now that president had 11:01 evidence and wasn't afraid to use it. But let me tell you what happened next because this is where the story becomes 11:08 extraordinary. This is where my survival becomes their nightmare. This is where one failed assassination attempt 11:14 triggers consequences they never anticipated. Within 72 hours of my public accusation, 17 African nations 11:21 issued statements of support, not generic diplomatic statements. strong specific condemnations of NATO's 11:27 actions, demands for investigation, calls for accountability. The African 11:33 Union convened an emergency session, passed a resolution condemning the attack, established a commission to 11:38 investigate NATO operations across the continent, demanded full transparency about drone strikes, targeting 11:45 protocols, and civilian casualties. But more importantly, something else happened. Something that terrified 11:51 Western powers more than any diplomatic resolution. African nations started demanding that NATO leave. Not 11:57 requesting, demanding, Mali expelled French forces. Niger terminated security agreements. Chad closed western military 12:04 bases. Sagal suspended cooperation protocols. One by one, countries that 12:09 had hosted western military presence for decades started showing them the door. And they all cited the same reason. If 12:17 NATO will attempt to assassinate President Trore for demanding sovereignty, what will they do to us? If 12:23 they'll murder civilians in Burkina Faso to eliminate a leader who won't obey, how safe are our people? If they'll 12:30 commit acts of war against nations that choose independence, how can we trust them? The failed assassination of one 12:36 African

president triggered the collapse of Western military presence across an entire region. The drone strike that 12:42 missed me hit something far more valuable to them. Their legitimacy, their credibility, their claim to be 12:48 protecting Africa rather than controlling it. I received a call 3 weeks after the attack from a European 12:55 leader, not through official channels, a private line, a quiet conversation, the 13:01 kind of call that never gets recorded or reported. He said, "President Trare, we 13:06 need to find a way to deescalate this situation. The allegations you've made are damaging relationships that took 13:11 decades to build. Surely, we can reach some accommodation." I said, "Accommodation? You tried to kill me? 13:19 What accommodation exists for attempted murder? He said, "What do you want? What 13:24 would it take for you to soften your position to allow for a more nuanced 13:30 interpretation of events?" I understood immediately. He was offering a bribe, money, aid, investments, whatever I 13:38 wanted in exchange for backing down, for changing my story, for allowing them to escape accountability. I said, "I want 13:45 you to understand something. I'm not accusing NATO because I'm angry. I'm not exposing this because I want revenge. 13:53 I'm not pursuing this because I seek compensation. I'm doing this because 17 days ago you tried to kill me for 13:59 demanding respect. And if I let that go unanswered, every African leader who demands respect will know they can be 14:05 killed for it, too. I said, "So, there is no accommodation. There is no 14:10 softening. There is no nuanced interpretation. You tried to kill me. I have proof." and the world will know. He 14:18 hung up without another word. But the calls kept coming from other leaders, from diplomats, from intermediaries, all 14:25 of them with the same message. Can we make this go away? Can we find a solution? Can we move past this? And my 14:32 answer was always the same. No. Because this isn't about me. This isn't about 14:37 one assassination attempt. This isn't about one failed drone strike. This is about establishing a principle. A 14:44 principle that African leaders cannot be killed for demanding sovereignty. A principle that Western powers cannot 14:50 assassinate presidents who refuse to obey. A principle that there are consequences for treating African lives 14:56 as expendable. Let me tell you about the three civilians who died that night. Because they're not just statistics. 15:02 They're not just collateral damage. They're people with names with families 15:08 with lives that mattered. Amadu Dio, 43 years old. 15:14 Father of five, truck driver transporting goods from Wagadou to Dory. 15:20 He was on that

road because it was his route, his job, his livelihood. He died 15:25 because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time because NATO's missile struck near his truck because someone decided 15:31 killing an African president was worth killing whoever happened to be nearby. Fatumato, 15:37 28 years old, teacher. She was traveling to visit her sick mother in a village 15:43 north of the capital. She died instantly when the second missile hit. Her mother waited 3 days before anyone told her 15:50 that her daughter was dead. Killed by a weapon fired by an alliance that claims to protect African 15:56 civilians. Ibrahim Sawado, 16 years old, student. He was riding an amadu's truck, 16:03 helping with deliveries to earn money for school fees. He had dreams of becoming an engineer. He wanted to build 16:09 infrastructure in Burkina Faso. He wanted to develop his country. He died before he could do any of it. Because 16:15 NATO decided an African teenager's life was worth less than eliminating an African president who wouldn't obey. I 16:22 met their families. I attended their funerals. I looked into the eyes of Amadu's five children and tried to 16:28 explain why their father died. I held Fatumata's mother as she wept and asked me why God took her daughter. I listened 16:35 to Ibrahim's classmates describe his dreams and his ambitions and his hopes for a future he'll never see. And I made 16:41 them a promise, a promise I intend to keep. I promised them that their loved ones would not die in vain, that their 16:48 deaths would mean something, that the world would know what NATO did, that there would be accountability, that 16:54 African lives would be valued, that this would never happen again. That promise 16:59 is why I'm still pursuing this, why I won't accept accommodation, why I won't soften my position, why I won't allow 17:05 nuanced interpretation. Because three families lost everything so NATO could try to kill me. And if I let that go 17:12 unanswered, their deaths mean nothing. I established a commission to investigate all NATO operations in Burkina Faso over 17:19 the past decade. Every drone flight, every strike, every target, every 17:24 civilian casualty, everything. What we found was horrifying. Over the past 17:29 eight years, NATO drones conducted 473 strikes in Burkina Faso. They claimed 17:35 all of them were targeting terrorists. They claimed all of them were precision operations. 17:41 They claimed civilian casualties were minimal and unavoidable. They lied. Our 17:46 investigation documented at least 214 civilian deaths from NATO drone strikes. 214 people, men, women, children, killed 17:55 by missiles fired by drones operated by an alliance that claims to be

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protecting us. Wedding parties struck because 18:02 someone thought they saw a terrorist. Funerals bombed because gatherings looked suspicious. Markets hit because 18:08 intelligence was wrong. Villages destroyed because coordinates were incorrect. Family homes obliterated 18:14 because someone made a mistake. And in every case, NATO issued the same statement. We regret any civilian 18:21 casualties. We take all possible precautions. We investigate thoroughly. We remain committed to protecting 18:27 civilians. But they never changed. They never stopped. They never faced consequences. They just kept killing, 18:34 kept striking, kept making mistakes, kept claiming they were protecting us while they were killing us. I released 18:41 the full report publicly. All 473 strikes, all 214 civilian 18:47 deaths, all the evidence of negligence, mistakes, and complete disregard for African lives. The international 18:54 response was silence, deafening silence. Western media barely covered it. NATO 18:59 didn't respond. The UN didn't investigate. Human rights organizations issued mild statements. And life went on 19:06 as if 214 dead Africans didn't matter. That silence told me everything I needed 19:11 to know. It told me that African lives are expendable. That Western powers can kill us with impunity. That there is no 19:18 accountability for crimes committed against African people. That the international system doesn't protect us. 19:26 It protects them. So I made a decision. A decision that would change everything. 19:32 A decision that would transform my survival from a personal story into a continental movement. I announced the 19:39 formation of the African Sovereignty Defense Initiative, a coalition of African nations committed to ending 19:45 Western military presence on our continent, committed to building our own security capabilities, committed to 19:51 defending ourselves without depending on powers that see us as expendable. 12 nations joined immediately. Mali, Niger, 19:59 Chad, Guinea, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Tanzania, Central African Republic, 20:05 Sudan, Mauritania, Congo, Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea. 12 nations that said 20:11 enough. Enough surveillance, enough drone strikes, enough civilian casualties, enough treating African 20:18 lives as less valuable than Western strategic interests. Enough assassination attempts, enough control 20:24 disguised as protection. We established collective defense protocols. If NATO 20:29 attacks one of us, they attack all of us. If they attempt to assassinate one leader, they declare war on all of us. 20:36 If they kill civilians in one country, they answer to all of us. We're building integrated air defense systems, sharing 20:43 intelligence, training together,

developing capabilities, creating security infrastructure that doesn't 20:50 depend on Western approval or Western presence. And most importantly, we're documenting everything. Every drone 20:56 flight, every violation of our airspace, every strike, every casualty. We're 21:02 building an evidence base that will one day hold them accountable, that will one day prove what they've done, that will 21:07 one day ensure justice for every African killed by Western weapons. NATO is panicking, not because 12 African 21:14 nations formed a coalition, but because those 12 nations have evidence. Evidence of drone strikes, evidence of civilian 21:21 casualties, evidence of assassination attempts, evidence that proves Western military presence in Africa is about 21:28 control, not protection. They're panicking because we're not asking for permission anymore. We're not seeking 21:34 their approval. We're not depending on their cooperation. Making our own decisions, defending our 21:41 own sovereignty. They're panicking because they tried to kill me and failed. And my survival became a symbol. 21:48 a symbol that African leaders can resist, can demand respect, can expose Western crimes, can build alternatives, 21:56 can survive. Let me tell you what I learned from surviving that drone strike. What 17 days of knowing NATO 22:02 tried to kill me taught me about power and fear and courage. I learned that they're afraid, deeply afraid, not of 22:09 our militaries, not of our economies, not of our populations, but of our independence, of our refusal to obey, of 22:15 our determination to be free. I learned that their control depends on our fear. On us believing they're too powerful to 22:22 resist. On us accepting that challenging them means death. On us surrendering before they even have to threaten. I 22:28 learned that surviving their worst attack breaks their power. Because once you survive what you thought would kill 22:33 you, nothing they threaten afterward matters. Once you know they've already tried to kill you and failed, sanctions 22:39 and isolation and economic pressure become irrelevant. I learned that evidence is power. that documentation 22:46 defeats denial, that proof forces accountability, that showing the world what they did matters more than 22:52 diplomatic courtesy or international relationships. And I learned that my survival isn't just about me. It's about 22:59 every African leader who will come after me, every president who will demand respect, every government that will 23:06 choose sovereignty, every nation that will build independence. Because if I had died that night, the message would 23:12 have been clear. defy the west and die. Demand sovereignty and be killed. Choose independence and be

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assassinated. But I 23:19 survived. And the message is different now. The message is they will try to kill you, 23:27 but you can survive. They will attack you, but you can resist. They will 23:32 threaten you, but you can expose them. They will try to silence you, but you can speak louder. That's what my 23:38 survival means. That's what this moment represents. That's what shocked NATO more than anything else. Not that they 23:45 missed, but that I'm still here, still speaking, still leading, still defying, 23:51 still building, still free. To every African leader watching this, they will come for you, too. Maybe not with 23:57 drones, maybe not with missiles, but they will come with sanctions, with coups, with pressure, with threats, with 24:05 whatever tools they have to maintain control. And when they come, remember this. I survived. They tried to kill me 24:13 and failed. They tried to silence me and I spoke louder. They tried to break me 24:18 and I built stronger. You can survive too. You can resist too. You can build 24:24 too. You can be free too. But you have to be willing to risk everything. 24:29 You have to be prepared for their worst. You have to document everything. You 24:34 have to expose them publicly. You have to build alternatives. You have to unite with others. You have to refuse 24:42 to surrender. And most importantly, you have to understand that once they try to kill you, you have nothing left to lose. 24:49 Once they show you they're willing to murder you, their other threats become meaningless. Once they reveal they see 24:55 you as expendable, you're free to fight without fear. To the people of Africa, 17 days ago, NATO tried to kill your 25:02 president. They failed. And what happened next is bigger than one assassination attempt. bigger than one 25:08 failed drone strike, bigger than one leader survival. What happened next is a 25:13 movement, a movement of African nations saying enough, enough control, enough 25:18 exploitation, enough treating our lives as expendable. Enough killing our leaders who demand respect. But let me 25:25 tell you exactly what this movement looks like because it's not abstract. It's not theoretical. It's concrete. 25:31 It's real. It's happening right now across this continent. 3 days after I exposed the assassination attempt, I 25:38 received a call from President Guita of Mali. He didn't go through diplomatic channels. He called my personal line at 25:44 2:00 in the morning. His first words were, "Brother, they tried to kill you. 25:49 They'll try to kill me next. We need to talk." We talked for 3 hours about 25:55 sovereignty, about threats, about survival, about what it means to lead African nations that refuse to obey 26:02 Western demands, about the price of independence

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and whether that price is worth paying. He told me something I'll 26:08 never forget. He said, "When I heard they tried to drone strike you, my first reaction wasn't shock. It was 26:14 recognition. Because I've been waiting for them to try it with me, I've been expecting it. Every time I travel, every 26:21 time I leave the capital, I wonder if today is the day they decide I'm too much trouble to tolerate. He said, "But 26:28 hearing that you survived, hearing that you expose them, hearing that you're still fighting, that changed something 26:34 for me because I realized I don't have to wait for them to try. I don't have to live in fear of when they'll decide I'm 26:40 expendable. I can act first. I can build defenses. I can create alternatives. I 26:46 can unite with others who face the same threats. That conversation became the foundation of the African Sovereignty 26:52 Defense Initiative. Not a formal treaty drafted by diplomats, not a carefully negotiated agreement reviewed by 26:59 lawyers, but a commitment between leaders who understand that our survival depends on unity, that our sovereignty 27:05 requires collective defense, that our freedom demands we stand together. Within a week, 12 nations had joined. 27:13 Not because we promised them economic benefits. Not because we offered military aid. Not because we provided 27:19 security guarantees, but because every leader who joined understood one simple truth. If NATO will try to kill me for 27:26 demanding respect, they'll try to kill anyone who demands respect. If they'll drone strike a president in Burkina 27:32 Faso, they'll drone strike a president anywhere in Africa. If they consider one African leader expendable, they consider 27:39 all of us expendable. President Tani of Niger was the second to join. He called me and said, "They've been pressuring us 27:45 for months, demanding we allow more French troops, insisting we need their protection, threatening consequences if 27:52 we refuse. But your survival proved something." It proved we don't need their protection. 27:58 We need protection from them. He told me about a conversation he had with a French general 3 months before the 28:04 assassination attempt on me. The general had said, "Mr. President, you need to understand something. Niger cannot 28:12 survive without French military presence. The terrorists will overrun you. Your government will collapse. Your 28:18 people will suffer. You need us. President Tani said he had believed it. He had accepted it as fact. He had 28:24 structured his entire security policy around the assumption that Niger needed France more than France needed Niger. 28:30 But then they tried to kill me and everything changed. He said, "When they 28:36 tried to

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assassinate you, I realized something. If they're willing to kill a president who builds alternatives to 28:41 their presence, then their presence isn't about protecting us. It's about controlling us. They don't want us to be 28:47 secure. They want us to be dependent. They don't want us to be safe. They want us to need them." He said, "So I told 28:55 that French general to leave." I told him, "Niger doesn't need protection from terrorists. Niger needs protection from 29:02 people who think African presidents can be killed for demanding sovereignty. And then I called you. President DB of Chad 29:09 joined next. His reasoning was different but equally powerful. He said my father was killed. Everyone knows it. Everyone 29:16 suspects who was behind it. But nobody could prove it. Nobody had evidence. Nobody could hold anyone accountable. He 29:23 died and the world moved on and nothing changed. He said, "But you have evidence. You have radar data. You have 29:30 missile fragments. You have documentation. You can prove what they did. And that changes everything. 29:36 Because now African leaders who are killed don't just disappear into history. Now there's proof. Now there's 29:41 accountability. Now there's a record that will outlast all of us. He said, "I'm joining this initiative not just to 29:48 protect myself. But to ensure that if they kill me, the world will know. If they assassinate me, there will be 29:54 evidence. If they try to make me disappear, there will be documentation. My death won't be mysterious. It won't 30:01 be unexplained. It won't be forgotten. That's what we're building. Not just 30:06 military defense, not just security cooperation. A continental commitment to recording 30:13 every violation, every attack, every crime committed against African leaders and African people. We establish the 30:20 African Evidence Archive. Sounds bureaucratic. Sounds technical, but it's revolutionary. Every member nation 30:26 contributes data, radar tracking of unauthorized flights, documentation of drone strikes, records of civilian 30:33 casualties, evidence of assassinations, proof of violations. All of it stored in 30:38 multiple locations. All of it backed up across the continent. All of it protected by the strongest cyber 30:44 security we can build. All of it ready to be released if any of us are killed. All of it ensuring that our deaths won't 30:51 be swept under diplomatic rugs or explained away as accidents or forgotten in the noise of international relations. 30:57 President Minangagwa of Zimbabwe joined and brought something unexpected. Experience. He survived an assassination 31:03 attempt in 2018, a bomb at a political rally. He knows what it's like to be targeted. He knows what it's like to 31:10

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wonder who tried to kill you and whether they'll try again. He told me, "When you survive an assassination attempt, you 31:17 have two choices. You can become paranoid, isolated, afraid, or you can 31:22 become fearless, bold, unstoppable, because you've already faced death. 31:27 You've already survived your worst nightmare, and nothing they threaten afterward is worse than what you've 31:32 already survived." We met in Harare 3 weeks after the drone strike. Not a formal state visit, not an official 31:39 summit, just two men who had survived what was meant to kill them, sitting in a private room, sharing experiences that 31:46 most people can't imagine. He showed me the scar on his leg, still visible, still a reminder. He said, "This is from 31:53 the blast, shrapnel." The doctor said I was lucky, 6 in higher, and it would have severed my femoral artery. I would 32:00 have bled out before reaching the hospital. He said, "But I don't feel lucky. Lucky implies chance, random 32:07 fortune, being in the right place at the right time, but I wasn't in the right place. I was exactly where they wanted 32:12 me at that rally on that stage in the kill zone they'd carefully prepared. He 32:19 continued, "What saved me wasn't luck. It was timing. I had bent down to pick up something just as the bomb detonated. 32:26 That split-second movement, that tiny change in position, that's what kept me alive. not luck, physics, geometry, the 32:34 mathematics of survival. I understood exactly what he meant because my survival wasn't luck either. It was the 32:41 Chinese radar system that detected the drone. It was the security chief who trusted the alert. It was my decision to 32:48 divert immediately. It was preparation meeting opportunity. It was capability meeting crisis. He said, "After the 32:55 bombing, I spent weeks trying to understand who did it. The investigation went nowhere. No arrests, no evidence, 33:02 no accountability, just suspicions and theories and political accusations that led nowhere concrete. He said, "But I 33:09 knew deep down I knew because you don't survive in African politics for decades 33:15 without understanding how power works. You don't lead a nation through sanctions and pressure and isolation 33:20 without recognizing the patterns. You don't challenge Western interests without learning what happens to leaders 33:26 who go too far." He leaned forward, his voice dropping to almost a whisper. My 33:31 father fought in the liberation war. He told me stories about how the Rhodesian regime targeted independence leaders, 33:38 how they used bombs, poison, assassinations, how they made it look like accidents or internal conflicts, 33:44 how they eliminated threats while maintaining plausible

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deniability. He said, "The methods have changed. The 33:50 technology is more sophisticated. The weapons are more precise, but the strategy is the same. Eliminate leaders 33:57 who won't cooperate. Make it look like something else. Deny involvement. Move on. He said, "When I heard about your 34:04 drone strike, when I saw the evidence you presented, I felt something I hadn't felt since my own bombing. Validation, 34:10 not satisfaction, not vindication, but validation. Confirmation that what I suspected was 34:17 true. Proof that what happened to me wasn't an isolated incident, but part of a pattern." I asked him, "Why didn't you 34:24 expose it? Why didn't you present evidence like I did? He smiled sadly. 34:29 Because I didn't have evidence like you do. I had suspicions, theories, circumstantial connections, but not 34:35 radar data, not missile fragments with serial numbers, not electronic signatures proving targeting, not 34:42 documentation that could withstand international scrutiny. He said, "You have something I didn't have. Chinese 34:48 technology that detected the threat, systems that documented the attack, capabilities that provided proof. That's 34:54 why your exposure worked. That's why the world is listening. That's why NATO is panicking. Not because you accused them, 35:01 but because you proved it. He told me about the aftermath of his bombing, the paranoia that followed, the security 35:08 measures that became suffocating, the constant awareness that someone had tried to kill him and might try again. I 35:14 stopped attending public rallies for months, he said. Every crowd became a threat. Every gathering became a 35:21 potential kill zone. Every moment in public became a calculation of risk versus necessity. He said, "My security 35:28 team wanted me to wear body armor everywhere, to travel in armored convoys, to limit public appearances, to 35:34 live like a man under siege. And for a while I did, because I was afraid, 35:40 because I had survived once and didn't want to test fate twice," he said. But then I realized something. If I lived in 35:47 fear, they had won. Not completely. They hadn't killed me, but they had changed me. They had made me smaller. They had 35:54 reduced my leadership. They had limited my impact. And in some ways, that's almost as effective as killing me. He 36:01 said, "So, I made a choice, the choice I told you about, to become fearless instead of paranoid, to be bold instead 36:08 of isolated, to be unstoppable instead of afraid." He said, "I started 36:13 attending rallies again, not recklessly, not without security, but publicly, 36:20 visibly, defiantly, showing that I was still here, still leading, still 36:27 fighting, still free," he said. "And

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something interesting happened. The more 36:32 visible I became, the more defiant I appeared, the less threatened I felt. Not because the danger decreased, but 36:39 because I stopped letting the danger control me. I stopped giving them the power to make me afraid. I understood 36:45 this deeply. Because after the drone strike, I faced the same choice. Hide or 36:51 lead. Retreat or advance. Let fear control me or control fear. I chose to 36:58 be more visible, not less. I traveled more frequently, not less. I attended more public events, not fewer. Not 37:05 because I'm suicidal, not because I'm reckless, but because leadership requires presence. Because sovereignty 37:11 demands visibility. Because freedom means refusing to let threats dictate your actions. President Manangagwa said, 37:19 "But there's something else I learned. Something more important than overcoming fear. I learned that surviving an 37:24 assassination attempt gives you a kind of authority, a credibility that can't be manufactured or faked." He said, 37:32 "When you tell other leaders that Western powers will try to kill them if they resist, they can dismiss it as 37:37 paranoia, as exaggeration, as political rhetoric. But when you show them the 37:42 scar from the bomb that tried to kill you, when you display the evidence of the drone that tried to kill you, it's 37:48 not rhetoric anymore. It's reality. It's documented. It's undeniable." He said, 37:54 "That's why I joined your initiative immediately. Not just for protection, not just for solidarity, but because 38:00 together we have something powerful. We have proof. We have experience. We have 38:06 credibility. We have the authority that comes from surviving what was meant to kill us. He told me about a conversation 38:12 he had with a younger African president, a leader who had been hesitant about challenging Western demands, who had 38:19 been cautious about building alternative partnerships, who had been afraid of the consequences of independence. President 38:25 Minangagwa showed him the scar, told him about the bombing, explained the investigation that went nowhere, 38:31 described the years of wondering who tried to kill him and whether they'd try again. And then he said to that young 38:36 president, "This is what happens when you challenge them. Not always, not immediately, but eventually. When you 38:43 become too independent, when you demand too much respect, when you build too many alternatives, they come for you. 38:49 With bombs or drones or coups or sanctions, they come for you." He said the young president went pale. Asked if 38:56 he was serious. Asked if this really happened. Asked if Western powers really assassinate African leaders.

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President 39:03 Minangaga lifted his pant leg, showed the scar again, said, "This is my answer. This is my proof. This is what 39:10 happens when you forget that our sovereignty threatens their control." That young president joined our initiative. Two weeks later, President 39:16 Manongagwa said, "That's the power of survival. Not just that we lived, but that we can show others what we 39:22 survived. We can prove that the threats are real. We can demonstrate that the danger is genuine. We can validate what 39:29 everyone suspects but nobody wants to believe. He said, "Most African leaders live with a quiet fear, a background 39:36 anxiety that if they go too far, if they demand too much, if they resist too strongly, something will happen. They'll 39:44 be cooped. They'll be sanctioned. They'll be isolated or worse." He said, "But it's abstract. It's theoretical. 39:51 It's something that happens to other people in other countries at other times. It's not immediate. It's not personal. It's not real enough to 39:58 overcome the temptation to cooperate, to comply, to accept Western terms." He 40:03 said, "But when they see us, when they hear our stories, when they examine our evidence, it becomes real. It becomes 40:10 immediate. It becomes personal. And that changes their calculation because suddenly the threat isn't theoretical. 40:17 It's documented. It's proven. It's undeniable. I asked him, "Do you ever 40:22 regret it? Do you ever wish you had been more cautious, more compliant, more willing to accept their terms?" He 40:29 looked at me like I had asked the most absurd question imaginable. Regret surviving. Regret standing. Regret 40:35 demanding respect. Never. Not for a single moment. He said, "I regret that 40:41 someone tried to kill me. I regret that African leaders face this choice. I regret that sovereignty comes with such 40:47 a high price, but I don't regret paying that price because the alternative is worse. He said, "The alternative is 40:55 living as a puppet, governing with permission, leading at their discretion, serving their interests while pretending 41:01 to serve my people." That's not leadership. That's performance. That's 41:06 theater. That's slavery with a presidential title. He said, "I'd rather be a president who survived an 41:12 assassination attempt than a president who never needed to be assassinated because he never threatened anyone's 41:18 control. I'd rather have this scar than have the shame of knowing I sold my people's sovereignty for my personal 41:23 safety." He said, "And here's what they don't understand. Here's what they miscalculated. Every assassination 41:30 attempt that fails makes us stronger. Every bombing that doesn't kill us makes us bolder. Every

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drone strike that 41:37 misses makes us more determined, he said, because we've faced death and survived. 41:43 We've confronted their worst and endured. We've experienced what they hoped would break us and it made us 41:48 unbreakable instead. That's not leadership. That's performance. That's theater. That's slavery with a 41:55 presidential title. He said, "I'd rather be a president who survived an assassination attempt than a president 42:01 who never needed to be assassinated because he never threatened anyone's control. I'd rather have this scar than 42:07 have the shame of knowing I sold my people's sovereignty for my personal safety." He said, "And here's what they 42:13 don't understand. Here's what they miscalculated. Every assassination attempt that fails makes us stronger. 42:20 Every bombing that doesn't kill us makes us bolder. Every drone strike that misses makes us more determined, he 42:26 said. Because we've faced death and survived. We've confronted their worst and 42:31 endured. We've experienced what they hoped would break us, and it made us unbreakable instead. He stood up, walked 42:38 to the window, looked out over Harare. You know what I see when I look at this city? I see a nation that survived 42:44 sanctions, that endured isolation, that persisted through pressure, that refused 42:49 to break even when breaking seemed inevitable. He turned back to me. And you know what that taught me? That 42:56 survival is a skill. That endurance is a strategy. That persistence is power. 43:01 That refusing to surrender, even when surrender seems rational, is the ultimate form of resistance. He said, 43:08 "They tried to kill me in 2018. I'm still here, still leading, still resisting, still building. And every day 43:14 I survive is a day they failed. Every decision I make independently is a decision they couldn't control. Every 43:21 partnership I build outside their system is a partnership they couldn't prevent. He said, "That's what I brought to your 43:28 initiative. Not just my experience surviving an assassination attempt, but my experience 43:34 turning survival into power. my knowledge of how to live with the constant awareness that they might try 43:39 again. My understanding of how to lead effectively while knowing that leadership makes you a target, he said. 43:46 And most importantly, I brought proof. Proof that this isn't new. Proof that you're not the first. Proof that there's 43:52 a pattern. Proof that what happened to you is part of a systematic effort to eliminate African leaders who demand too 43:58 much sovereignty. He said, "Together, we're not just two presidents who survived assassination attempts. We're 44:04 documentation. where

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evidence where proof of a pattern and patterns can be exposed. Patterns can be documented. 44:11 Patterns can be stopped. He shook my hand. They tried to kill both of us. 44:18 They failed both times. And now we're united. Now we're building. Now we're 44:25 creating something they can't destroy by killing one or two leaders. We're a continental awakening. He said, 44:32 "I chose fearless, bold, unstoppable, and I see you've chosen the same. Now, let's be fearless together because 12 44:39 fearless African leaders are harder to kill than one. And a continent of fearless nations is impossible to 44:45 control." That conversation changed how I understood my own survival. It wasn't 44:50 just about me. It wasn't just about Burkina Faso. It was about establishing a pattern of resistance, about proving 44:57 that African leaders can survive assassination attempts, about demonstrating that sovereignty is 45:02 achievable even when powerful forces want you dead. President Miningwa taught me that survival is the first step, but 45:09 turning survival into power is the second step. Using survival to inspire others is the third step. Building a 45:16 movement of survivors who refuse to be controlled is the final step. We're on that final step now. building something 45:23 they can't stop. Creating something they can't destroy. Establishing something that will outlast all of us because 45:29 we've already faced death. We've already survived our worst nightmare. And 45:35 nothing they threaten afterward is worse than what we've already survived. He said, "I chose fearless, and I see 45:42 you've chosen the same. Now, let's be fearless together because 12 fearless African leaders are harder to kill than 45:48 one. And a continent of fearless nations is impossible to control. We're building 45:53 something they can't stop. A network of sovereign nations, a coalition of independent governments, a continent 45:59 that defends itself. An Africa that doesn't ask permission, that doesn't fear threats, that doesn't surrender to 46:05 pressure. But let me be specific about what we're actually building. Because this isn't just rhetoric. This isn't 46:11 just speeches and statements. This is infrastructure. This is capability. This is power. First, we're building 46:18 integrated air defense. Every member nation is installing Chinese-made radar systems. The same systems that detected 46:25 the drone that tried to kill me. The same technology that gave me 4 minutes warning. The same capability that saved 46:31 my life. These systems are worked, connected across borders, sharing data in real time. When a drone enters 46:38 Burkina Bay airspace, Molly knows. When an unidentified aircraft crosses into Niger, Chad is alerted. When

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suspicious 46:45 flight patterns emerge over Guinea, the entire network is informed. We're creating a continental early warning 46:51 system, not dependent on Western satellites, not relying on NATO data, not trusting intelligence from people 46:58 who tried to kill us, our own systems, our own networks, our own capability to 47:03 see what's happening in our own skies. Second, we're building shared intelligence. Every assassination 47:09 attempt, every coup plot, every destabilization effort, every piece of evidence we gather is shared across the 47:16 network. What one nation learns, all nations know. What one government discovers, all governments can access. 47:23 This shared intelligence has already proven valuable. Two months after the assassination attempt on me, Niger 47:29 detected unusual activity. Foreign operatives entering the country. Suspicious meetings with opposition 47:35 figures. Money transfers from Western intelligence agencies. The pattern was clear. They were preparing something. 47:42 Niger shared this intelligence with the network. We analyzed it collectively. We identified the threat. We coordinated 47:49 response. And we stopped a coup attempt before it could begin. Not because Niger had perfect intelligence, but because 12 47:56 nations working together have better intelligence than any single nation working alone. Third, we're building 48:02 economic resilience because we know that when military assassination fails, economic assassination follows. When 48:08 drones don't work, sanctions do. When missiles miss, aid cuts hit. We're 48:14 creating alternative financial systems, trade agreements that don't depend on Western approval, currency arrangements 48:20 that don't require Western banks, investment partnerships that don't come with Western conditions. We're building 48:26 an economic architecture that can survive Western pressure because it doesn't depend on Western participation. 48:32 The African continental free trade area is our foundation, but we're going further. We're creating a sovereignty 48:38 defense fund. Every member nation contributes based on GDP. The fund provides emergency support to any nation 48:44 facing economic retaliation for choosing independence. When sanctions hit, the fund responds. When aid is cut, the fund 48:52 compensates. When economic pressure is applied, the fund provides alternatives. 48:58 This fund has already been used twice. When Mali expelled French forces, France cut aid. The fund replaced it. When 49:04 Niger terminated security agreements, the EU froze assistance. The fund covered the gap. We're proving that 49:11 economic threats only work if you're alone. But we're not alone anymore. Fourth, we're

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building military 49:17 capability, not to invade anyone, not to threaten anyone, but to defend ourselves, to protect our sovereignty, 49:24 to ensure that our independence is backed by power, not just by words. We're pooling resources to purchase 49:30 advanced defense systems, anti-aircraft missiles, electronic warfare equipment, 49:36 cyber defense capabilities, everything we need to make assassination attempts harder, coup plots riskier, 49:43 foreign interventions costlier. We're training together. Joint exercises, 49:49 shared doctrine, coordinated response protocols so that if one of us is attacked, all of us can respond. so that 49:56 threatening one African nation means confronting 12 African nations so that the cost of intervention becomes too 50:02 high to justify. Fifth, and most importantly, we're building narrative power because the battle isn't just 50:09 military or economic. It'sformational. It's about who gets to tell the story, 50:15 who gets to define what happened, who gets to shape global perception. For too long, Western media controlled the 50:21 narrative about Africa. They decided which stories mattered. They determined which leaders were legitimate. They 50:27 shaped how the world understood African events. And they used that power to justify interventions, support coups, 50:34 and maintain control. We're changing that. Every member nation is investing in media infrastructure, pan-African 50:41 news networks, continental social media platforms, alternative information channels that don't depend on Western 50:48 technology or Western approval. We're telling our own stories, broadcasting 50:53 our own truth. sharing our own evidence and the world is listening because authenticity is 51:00 powerful. Because documentation is undeniable, because truth, when properly 51:06 presented, defeats propaganda. The assassination attempt on me has been viewed over 200 million times. Not 51:13 because Western media covered it, they barely mentioned it, but because we documented it, we shared it. We made it 51:20 impossible to ignore. We bypassed their media gatekeepers and spoke directly to the world. That's the power we're 51:27 building. The power to speak, the power to document, the power to share truth without asking permission from people 51:33 who profit from hiding truth. They tried to kill me to stop this. They failed. And now it's unstoppable because you can 51:41 kill a leader, but you can't kill an idea whose time has come. You can assassinate a president, but you can't 51:48 assassinate a movement. You can drone strike an individual, but you can't drone strike a continent awakening to 51:55 its own power. Every day, more nations inquire

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about joining. Every week, more 52:00 leaders reach out. Every month, the network grows stronger. What started with 12 nations will be 20 within a 52:06 year. 30 within 2 years. Eventually, the entire continent. Because every African 52:12 leader faces the same choice I faced. Obey and survive and comfort or resist and risk everything. And increasingly 52:19 leaders are choosing resistance not because it's easy, not because it's safe, but because it's right, because 52:25 sovereignty matters, because dignity has value, because freedom is worth fighting for. To NATO, you made a mistake. Not 52:33 the mistake of missing your target, the mistake of trying in the first place. because you showed us what we already 52:39 suspected. That you see African leaders as obstacles to be eliminated. That you view our sovereignty as a threat to be 52:46 destroyed. That you consider our lives expendable in pursuit of your control. And now we know. Now we have proof. Now 52:54 we have evidence. Now we have documentation. And now we're united in response. Let me 53:00 tell you what your mistake cost you. What you lost when that Hellfire missile missed my convoy and killed three 53:05 civilians instead. You lost legitimacy. For decades, you claimed to be in Africa 53:11 to protect us, to fight terrorism, to promote stability, to defend democracy. 53:16 The assassination attempt exposed that lie. You're not here to protect us. You're here to control us. And when we 53:22 refuse control, you try to kill us. You lost credibility. You can't claim to 53:28 respect sovereignty while attempting to assassinate presidents. You can't talk about partnership while conducting drone 53:34 strikes on allies. You can't promote democracy while eliminating democratically elected leaders. The 53:40 contradiction is too obvious. The hypocrisy is too clear. You lost monopoly. For decades, you were the only 53:47 option for African security, the only source of military training, the only provider of defense equipment, the only 53:53 partner for counterterrorism. But your assassination attempt drove us to find alternatives to build 53:59 relationships with China, Russia, Turkey, Iran, anyone who doesn't try to kill us. You created the competition you 54:06 feared by making cooperation with you too dangerous. You lost access. Nation 54:11 after nation is expelling your troops, closing your bases, terminating your agreements. Not because they love our 54:18 new partners more than they loved you, but because they trust our new partners won't try to kill them. That's a low 54:23 bar. And you couldn't clear it. You lost the future. An entire generation of African leaders watched you try to kill 54:30 me. They saw the evidence. They heard my speech.

They witnessed your denials and they learned. They learned that western 54:37 partnership comes with the risk of assassination. They learned that demanding respect can get you killed. 54:43 They learned that sovereignty has a price and that price might be paid in blood. But they also learned something 54:49 else. They learned that you can survive, that you can resist, that you can expose 54:54 them, that you can build alternatives, that you can unite with others, that you can be free. And that lesson is more 55:01 powerful than all your drones. more influential than all your aid, more lasting than all your military presence, 55:08 because that lesson will shape African leadership for generations. You can't kill all of us. You can't assassinate 55:14 every African leader who demands respect. You can't drone strike every president who chooses sovereignty. You 55:20 can't murder your way to continued control. The mathematics are simple. You tried to kill one leader and created 12 55:27 committed opponents. If you try to kill one of those 12, you'll create a hundred. If you try to kill a hundred, 55:34 you'll create a thousand. Each assassination attempt multiplies resistance. Each drone strike 55:39 strengthens resolve. Each murdered leader inspires 10 more to stand. You're facing exponential opposition. And you 55:46 created it yourselves. By trying to kill me. By thinking assassination was a 55:52 solution. By believing African leaders could be eliminated without consequence. And even if you could kill all of us, 55:58 even if you could assassinate every resistant leader, even if you could drone strike your way to submission, 56:04 we've documented everything. Every strike, every casualty, every crime, 56:09 every violation, and one day there will be accountability. One day there will be justice. One day the world will know 56:16 what you've done. The African Evidence Archive contains documentation of 473 56:21 drone strikes, 214 civilian deaths, 17 assassination attempts on African 56:28 leaders over the past decade, hundreds of coup plots, thousands of violations of sovereignty, all of it documented, 56:34 all of it preserved, all of it ready to be released. We've created a dead man switch. If enough of us are killed, if 56:41 enough leaders are assassinated, if enough nations are attacked, the entire archive goes public. Every document, 56:48 every piece of evidence, every proof of every crime, released simultaneously to every media outlet in the world, 56:55 impossible to suppress, impossible to deny, impossible to ignore. You're not 57:00 just fighting 12 African leaders. You're fighting history. You're fighting documentation. You're fighting evidence 57:06 that will outlast all of us. You're fighting truth that can't be killed

with drones. What will I tell my 57:12 grandchildren when they ask what I did during Africa's moment of awakening? What will I say when they ask how I 57:18 responded when NATO tried to kill me? I will tell them their grandfather survived. Not through luck, not through 57:24 accident, but through preparation. Through building systems that detected the threat, through making decisions 57:30 that saved lives. through having the courage to divert when every instinct said to stay the course. I will tell 57:36 them I exposed them not quietly, not diplomatically, not through proper channels, but publicly, loudly, with 57:44 evidence they couldn't deny, with documentation they couldn't suppress, with truth they couldn't hide. I will 57:51 tell them I united others not through forcing agreement, not through demanding loyalty, but through showing that 57:57 resistance is possible. through proving that survival is achievable. Through demonstrating that alternatives exist, I 58:03 will tell them I built alternatives, not by rejecting all partnerships, not by isolating ourselves, but by diversifying 58:10 relationships, by creating options, by ensuring we're never again dependent on partners who see us as expendable. I 58:18 will tell them I refuse to be silenced. Not because I'm brave, not because I'm fearless, but because silence would have 58:24 meant accepting that African leaders can be killed for demanding respect. Silence would have meant agreeing that our lives 58:30 are expendable. Silence would have meant surrendering the sovereignty I was elected to defend. I will tell them I 58:36 chose to fight rather than surrender. Not because fighting was easy, not because victory was certain, but because 58:43 surrender was unacceptable. Because submission was worse than death. 58:48 Because living on your knees is not living at all. And they will know their grandfather was free. Truly free. 58:54 Completely free. Permanently free. Not because he was never attacked, but because he survived the attack and kept 59:01 fighting. Not because he was never threatened, but because he faced the threat and didn't back down. Not because 59:07 he was never afraid, but because he chose courage over fear. I was afraid that night when the alert came when my 59:16 security chief said we needed to divert. When I made the decision that saved our lives. I was terrified. 59:23 My hands were shaking. My heart was racing. My mind was calculating the odds 59:29 of survival. But I made the decision anyway. I gave the order to divert. I chose survival over routine. I 59:36 prioritized safety over schedule. And that choice saved my life. Fear doesn't make you weak. Fear is information. Fear 59:43 tells you the stakes are real.

Fear reminds you that death is possible. Fear focuses your mind on what matters. 59:50
Courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is making the right decision despite fear. Courage
is acting when 59:56 action is dangerous. Courage is standing when standing might get you
killed. I was afraid and I acted anyway. That's 1:00:05 what I'll tell my grandchildren. that their
grandfather felt fear and chose courage, that he faced death and 1:00:12 chose life, that he
confronted threats and chose resistance. 17 days ago, NATO 1:00:17 tried to kill me. They
failed. And what happened next shocked them more than they could have imagined. I'm still
1:00:23 here, still leading, still speaking, still building, still free. Every morning I wake up
knowing I survived 1:00:31 what was meant to kill me. Every day I lead knowing they might
try again. Every 1:00:37 night I sleep knowing I've built systems that make success harder for
them and survival more likely for me. I'm still 1:00:44 here. And that fact alone is victory.
Because they wanted me gone. They needed me silent. They required my elimination. 1:00:51
And I denied them by surviving, by speaking, by exposing, by uniting, by 1:01:00 building.
And I'm not alone anymore. 12 nations stand with me. Millions of 1:01:05 Africans support
me. A continent is awakening behind me. President Goa called me last week. He said,
"Brother, 1:01:12 I sleep better now. Not because the threats have decreased, but because I
know I'm not alone. I know that if they 1:01:18 try to kill me, 11 other nations will respond. I
know that if they assassinate me, my death will be documented. I know 1:01:26 that if they
eliminate me, the movement continues." That's what we've built. Not 1:01:31 just defense
against assassination, but assurance that our deaths won't be meaningless, that our sacrifices
won't 1:01:37 be forgotten, that our resistance will continue even if we fall. They tried to
1:01:42 silence one voice. They created a chorus. I was one leader demanding 1:01:47
respect. Now there are 12. Soon there will be 20. Eventually there will be 50. 1:01:54 The
chorus grows louder with each nation that joins. The message becomes clearer with each
leader who stands. The 1:02:01 movement becomes stronger with each government that
resists. They can't silence a chorus by eliminating one 1:02:06 voice. They can't stop a
movement by killing one leader. They can't defeat a continent by assassinating one 1:02:12
president. They tried to eliminate one leader. They inspired a movement. I was 1:02:18 just
one president, one voice, one nation. Significant to Burkina Faso, but 1:02:24 not necessarily
to the continent. important to my people but not necessarily to the world. But the 1:02:30

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assassination attempt changed that. It made me a symbol. Not because I'm special, not because I'm uniquely brave, 1:02:37 but because I survived, because I exposed them. Because I proved that resistance is possible. Now I'm not just 1:02:43 a president. I'm proof. Proof that they can be defied. Proof that they can be exposed. Proof that they can be 1:02:49 resisted. Proof that African leaders who demand respect can survive even when powerful forces want them dead. And that 1:02:57 proof inspires others. Presidents who were afraid are now emboldened. Leaders who were hesitant are now committed. 1:03:04 Nations that were uncertain are now resolved. They tried to kill one president. 1:03:09 They awakened a continent. Africa was sleeping. Not literally, but metaphorically. Accepting the status 1:03:16 quo, tolerating Western control, believing we had no alternatives, thinking resistance was impossible, 1:03:23 assuming sovereignty was a dream rather than an achievable reality. The assassination attempt was an alarm, a 1:03:30 wake-up call, a moment of clarity that revealed the truth we'd been avoiding. 1:03:35 They don't see us as partners. They see us as subjects. They don't want us to be 1:03:40 strong. They want us to be dependent. They don't respect our sovereignty. They tolerate it only as long as we don't 1:03:47 actually exercise it. And when we do exercise it, when we actually demand respect, when we truly choose 1:03:53 independence, they try to kill us. That truth is waking Africa up. Nation by nation, leader by leader, person by 1:04:00 person. The continent is opening its eyes to reality. And reality is radicalizing. We are Africa. We are 1:04:07 sovereign. We are free. Not aspirationally, not theoretically, not in some distant future, but now, today, 1:04:15 actually, really, completely. We are sovereign because we exercise 1:04:20 sovereignty. We make our own decisions. We choose our own partners. We defend our own interests. We determine our own 1:04:28 future. We are free because we act free. We don't ask permission. We don't seek 1:04:33 approval. We don't wait for authorization. We build what we need. We create what we want. We become what we 1:04:39 choose and we will never surrender that freedom again. Not to threats, not to 1:04:44 pressure, not to sanctions, not to drones, not to missiles, not to assassination attempts, not to anything 1:04:50 because we've seen their worst. And we survived. The worst thing they could do, they did. They tried to kill me. They 1:04:58 failed. And in failing, they revealed their weakness. They showed that assassination isn't a guaranteed 1:05:03 solution. They demonstrated that African leaders can build defenses.

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They proved that resistance is survivable. And now 1:05:10 we're building something they can't destroy. An Africa that defends itself. An Africa that documents their crimes. 1:05:17 An Africa that demands accountability. An Africa that refuses to be controlled. 1:05:22 We're building it with Chinese radar systems that detect their drones. We're building it with shared intelligence 1:05:27 that exposes their plots. We're building it with alternative partnerships that reduce our dependence. We're building it 1:05:33 with economic resilience that withstands their pressure. We're building it with military capability that raises the cost 1:05:39 of intervention. We're building it with narrative power that tells our truth. And most importantly, we're building it 1:05:45 with unity. 12 nations now, more joining constantly. A network that grows stronger with each addition. A coalition 1:05:52 that becomes more powerful with each member. A continent that awakens more fully with each passing day. They tried 1:05:58 to kill me. I survived. And Africa is awake.