



# **Mali Country Report:** Children & Security

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Updated as of 31 January 2017

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## I. Background

### Map of Mali<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, 'Mali', available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html> accessed 31 January 2017.



## Children in Mali – Struggle Within Conflict

Conflict in Mali began in 2012 and has been marked by an increase in violent extremist and asymmetric attacks as well as grave violations committed against civilians.<sup>2</sup> The human rights situation in Mali is of serious concern with grave violations being committed against children.<sup>3</sup> Persistent insecurity exists in the north of the country, some of which remains under the control of armed groups that continue to limit access to basic social services and pose serious protection risks for children. Clashes in northern Mali continued in 2015 and 2016 despite a peace accord signed by the parties to the conflict.

Children in Mali have been killed during rocket attacks and crossfire, and by explosive remnants of war and attacks involving improvised explosive devices.<sup>4</sup> In 2015 alone, the United Nations (UN) verified the killing of 12 children and the maiming of 39.<sup>5</sup> In this regard, it is estimated that 60 per cent of the victims of the explosive remnants of war in Mali are children.<sup>6</sup> Children in Mali continue to be recruited and used by parties to the conflict and detained by Malian authorities for their association with armed groups.<sup>7</sup> They have also been subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence by government forces as well as armed groups.<sup>8</sup>

The conflict has forced more than 33,000 to flee their homes within Mali and another 135,985 to flee to neighbouring countries.<sup>9</sup> Within Mali, more than 3.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance,<sup>10</sup> over two million of whom are children.<sup>11</sup> Humanitarian access is a major concern, especially in the regions of Tombouctou, Gao, Menaka, Taoudeni, and Kidal and some parts of Mopti. Humanitarian personnel have also been the direct target of attacks. The basic provision of services, including food and

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016) ('2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), para. 93.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali', UN Doc. S/2016/498 (31 May 2016) ('May 2016 SG Report on Mali'), para. 22; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 93-99.

<sup>4</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 95.

<sup>5</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 95.

<sup>6</sup> UNOCHA, 'Sahel: Overview of humanitarian needs and requirements' (December 2016), available [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/hnro\\_sahel-2017-en\\_1.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/hnro_sahel-2017-en_1.pdf) accessed 31 January 2017 ('2017 HNO'), p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> May 2016 SG Report on Mali, para. 23.

<sup>8</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 95.

<sup>9</sup> 2017 HNO, p. 15.

<sup>10</sup> 2017 HNO, p. 15.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF, 'Mali', available <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali.html> accessed 31 January 2017 ('UNICEF Mali').



nutrition remains limited in the north, with 142,000 children aged 6-59 months expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2017.<sup>12</sup>

## II. Security Situation

### 1. Context

Mali is no stranger to conflict, with multiple rebellions since Mali gained independence from France in 1960. Armed conflict erupted in 2012, characterised by a fourth Tuareg rebellion, occupation of the north by Islamist groups, and a subsequent military junta that seized power in the south, imprisoned most of the legitimate authorities, and called for revenge in the north.<sup>13</sup> Despite various interventions and attempted ceasefire agreements, the conflict has continued to destabilise Mali for the last five years.

By the end of June 2012, Timbuktu and Kidal were under the firm control of Ansar Dine and Gao was under the control of Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA) / Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest.<sup>14</sup> The security situation further deteriorated in January 2013, leading the Malian authorities to request assistance from France following the capture of the city of Konna by extremist groups.<sup>15</sup> Throughout 2014 and 2015, the situation remained rather unchanged with continued persistent attacks by numerous pro- and anti-government armed groups in the north.<sup>16</sup> The delivery of humanitarian aid proved difficult and in fact worsened in 2015, where the increase in violence and attacks by rebel groups on peace-keepers and aid workers has been a barrier.

On 20 June 2015, a peace accord was signed between the government (the Platform) and the Azawad-based Tuareg rebels (Coordination of Azawad Movement (CMA) / Coordination des mouvements de

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<sup>12</sup> UNICEF Mali.

<sup>13</sup> International Criminal Court, 'Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report' (16 January 2013) ('ICC Situation in Mali'), paras. 3-4, 26; Human Rights Watch, 'Mali: Country Summary' (January 2013), available [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related\\_material/mali.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/mali.pdf) accessed 31 January 2017 ('HRW 2013 Mali Summary'), pp. 1 -2.

<sup>14</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 29.

<sup>15</sup> MINUSMA, 'United Nations Stabilization Mission in Mali', available <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minusma/background.shtml> accessed 31 January 2017. ('MINUSMA Background').

<sup>16</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2015: Mali, Events of 2014' (2015) available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/mali> accessed 31 January 2017. See also Human Rights Watch, 'Mali: Events of 2015' (2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/mali> accessed 30 January 2017.



l’Azawad).<sup>17</sup> The deal granted partial autonomy to the Tuareg in the north, including Timbuktu and Gao. However, despite this deal, there has been a marked deterioration in security and an increase in violence and human rights violations, including attacks against protected groups, including peacekeepers.<sup>18</sup> Since the 2012 crisis, the number of armed groups in Mali has increased steadily in response to peace talks and a large swathe of the northern part of the country remains beyond the control of the national authorities. The UN, the International Criminal Court (ICC), and other organisations have been documenting the serious human rights violations, including crimes of recruitment and use of children, summary executions, torture, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, pillaging, and destruction of cultural property.<sup>19</sup> Proceedings before the ICC have resulted in one conviction for the destruction of cultural property in Timbuktu.<sup>20</sup>

Furthermore, the implementation of the peace agreement was stalled in 2016 as violence persisted by armed groups linked to Al-Qaeda, and also spread into several southern and western regions. Human Rights Watch described 2016 as a year of no war and no peace in Mali.<sup>21</sup> The UN, the International Criminal Court (ICC), and other organisations have been documenting the serious human rights violations, including crimes of recruitment and use of children, summary executions, torture, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, rape and sexual violence, other cruel/inhuman/degrading treatment, pillaging, and destruction of cultural property. Proceedings before the ICC has resulted in one conviction for the destruction of cultural property in Timbuktu.

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<sup>17</sup> See e.g. United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali’, UN Doc. S/2016/819 (29 September 2016) (‘SC Situation in Mali September 2016’), para. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Human Rights Watch, ‘World Report 2017: Events of 2016’ (2017) (‘2017 Human Rights Watch Report’), p. 419. See also United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali’, UN Doc. S/2016/819 (30 December 2016) (‘SC Report December 2016’), paras. 10-14.

<sup>19</sup> See United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali’, UN Doc. A/HRC/31/76 (21 January 2016) (‘2016 HRC Report on Mali’). See also ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 89-126.

<sup>20</sup> See below ICC section.

<sup>21</sup> 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 419.



## 2. State, Non-State, Regional and International Actors

### a) State Actors

#### Government Forces

The Malian Armed Forces, created in October 1960,<sup>22</sup> are comprised of the Malian Army, Air Force, and Navy.<sup>23</sup> The governmental paramilitary forces further include the gendarmerie, Republican Guard, National Guard, and National Police Force.<sup>24</sup> The armed forces as a whole are estimated to number between 12,150 and 15,500 personnel in 2011.<sup>25</sup> The age of 18 is a prerequisite to eligibility for military service.<sup>26</sup> The Malian military has been tested by conflict, notably the rebellion in the north and its spillover into the southern region. However, the military's ability to deal with this strain has been bolstered by the assistance of vigilante pro-government militias and support from other actors.

Government forces are accused of committing numerous violations against suspected supporters and members of Islamist armed groups in 2016, including summary killings of at least five detainees and the torture of over a dozen suspects, as well as mock executions and ill-treatment.<sup>27</sup> Members of the security forces were also implicated in frequent acts of extortion, bribery, and theft. The military made little effort to investigate and hold to account soldiers or militiamen.<sup>28</sup> At least six children suspected of supporting armed groups were detained in state-run detention centres.<sup>29</sup> In 2014, Malian forces reportedly held 13 children in detention on security association-related charges.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, government forces are further accused of additional crimes against civilians and protected people. In one instance, two members of the

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<sup>22</sup> See e.g. President Amadou Toumani Toure, 'Cinquantenaire du 20 janvier: Discours de Son Excellence Monsieur Amadou Toumani Toure, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, Chef Suprême des Armées' (19 January 2011), available <http://www.maliweb.net/fetes-nationales/cinquantenaire-du-20-janvier-discours-de-son-excellence-monsieur-amadou-toumani-toure-president-de-la-republique-chef-de-l-e2%80%99etat-chef-supreme-des-armees-1639.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>23</sup> United States Library of Congress – Federal Research Division, 'Country Profile: Mali' (January 2005), available <https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf> accessed 31 January 2017 ('US Congress Mali Profile'), p. 18.

<sup>24</sup> US Congress Mali Profile, pp. 18-19.

<sup>25</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 76.

<sup>26</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, 'Mali', available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>27</sup> 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 421.

<sup>28</sup> 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 421.

<sup>29</sup> 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 421.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015) ('2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), para. 125.



national guard in Mopti were suspected of raping a 16-year-old girl.<sup>31</sup> Members of the Malian Armed Forces (Malian Defence and Security Forces) are alleged to have perpetrated four (of a total of 38 documented) incidents of rape and other acts of sexual violence against girls in 2014<sup>32</sup> and three (of 22 documented) in 2015.<sup>33</sup> These are but a few examples of the numerous grave violations committed against children in Mali. Pro-government militias as will be discussed below have also committed crimes during the conflict.

## b) Non-State Actors

There are a number of non-state actors which operate in Mali. Due to the ongoing negotiations, however, groups formed, reformed, and merged, attempting to gain advantage from the negotiating process.<sup>34</sup> The following offers an overview of the main actors partaking in negotiations, as well as an overview of the complex and every-changing security environment. However, this should not be considered an exhaustive account of the non-state actors operating in Mali.

### **The Coordination of Movements and Patriotic Resistance Front I (CM-FPR I) / Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance**

The *Forces Patriotiques de Résistance* (Patriotic Resistance Forces (CM-FPR), a pro-government movement, consists of several forces that grouped together in the northern part of Mali, including Ganda Koy (a Songhai ethnic self-protection militia), Ganda Izo (a Fulani ethnic militia),<sup>35</sup> and the Liberation forces that allied together in Algiers to form a platform regarding the situation in the north.<sup>36</sup> A section of this group, led by Ibrahim Abba Kantao and created as CM-FPR II in 2014, separated and joined the CMA as a result of differences regarding autonomy.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> See e.g. ICC Situation in Mali, para. 69.

<sup>32</sup> 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 127.

<sup>33</sup> SG 2016 Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 96.

<sup>34</sup> See e.g. Center for Civilians in Conflict, 'Fending for Ourselves: The Civilian Impact of Mali's Three-Year Conflict' (2015), p. 15.

<sup>35</sup> Al-Jazeera, 'Making Sense of Mali's Armed Groups' (17 January 2013) <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/01/20131139522812326.html> accessed 28 January 2017.

<sup>36</sup> Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report, para. 34; Ibrahim Maiga, 'Armed groups in Mali: Beyond the labels' (Institute for Security Studies, 20 June 2016), available <https://issafrica.s3.amazonaws.com/site/uploads/WestAfricaReport17.pdf> accessed 31 January 2017 ('Armed Groups in Mali'), p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> See Armed Groups in Mali.





## **The Imghad and Allied Toureg Self-Defence movement (GATIA) / Groupe Autodédense Touraeg Imghad et Alliéés**

GATIA was established in 2014. It is a loyalist, pro-government movement opposed to any independence in northern Mali.<sup>38</sup> In April 2015, it seized rebel positions in the northern town of Menaka.<sup>39</sup> In March 2016, the UN verified the recruitment of 27 children by GATIA.<sup>40</sup> In September 2016, the Malian government was asked by the US Ambassador to break all ties with GATIA on the grounds that these ties appeared to be contrary to the signed peace deal and the planned restoration of peace in northern Mali.<sup>41</sup> On 2 October 2015, the Human Rights Division of MINUSMA noted the presence of at least five children, armed and wearing military fatigues, among GATIA elements.<sup>42</sup>

## **National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) / *Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad***

The MNLA is a secular Tuareg nationalist movement operating with political and military branches in the Azawad, the territorial name for the northern Mali region.<sup>43</sup> Established in 2011, the MNLA is considered to be an outgrowth of the broader Tuareg opposition movement, comprised of pro-Gaddafi fighters returning to Mali after the conclusion of the Libyan revolution in 2011.<sup>44</sup> It is commanded by Bilal Aq Cherif, and the armed group reportedly consisted of 10,000 fighters as of June 2012.<sup>45</sup>

Early in the conflict, MNLA allied with Ansar Dine (see below) though their discordant aims led quickly to a rift. While the MNLA took the primary role in combat operations, Ansar Dine imposed Sharia law in newly conquered areas.<sup>46</sup> The rift deepened in April 2012 when, on 6 April, the MNLA declared the

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<sup>38</sup> BBC, 'Mali: le GATIA accepte de liberer Anéfis' (26 August 2015), available [http://www.bbc.com/afrique/region/2015/08/150826\\_gatia\\_mali](http://www.bbc.com/afrique/region/2015/08/150826_gatia_mali) accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>39</sup> News 24, 'Mali peace deal threatened as army, rebels clash' (30 April 2015), available <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Mali-peace-deal-threatened-as-army-rebels-clash-20150430> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>40</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 94; May 2016 SG Report on Mali, para. 22.

<sup>41</sup> Reuters, 'U.S. calls on Mali government to sever ties with northern militia' (28 September 2016), available <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-violence-idUSKCN11Y2AA> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>42</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 68.

<sup>43</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 30; BBC, 'Mali Tuareg Rebels Control Timbuktu as Troops Flee' (2 April 2012), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-17576725> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>44</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 30.

<sup>45</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 77-78.

<sup>46</sup> International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect, 'Crisis in Mali', available <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-mali>, accessed 31 January 2017 ('ICRtoP Crisis in Mali').



independence of Azawad, to which Ansar Dine's military chief responded, '[w]e are against independence. We are against revolutions not in the name of Islam'.<sup>47</sup> MNLA lost territory in the north.<sup>48</sup> Despite this, MNLA has remained a decisive actor in the conflict and the various negotiations for peace. For example, it was a signatory to an early peace deal between the Malian government and the rebel groups in June 2013.<sup>49</sup> Similarly, it is a member of the CMA<sup>50</sup> that signed the accord for peace and reconciliation in Mali resulting from the Algiers process in May-June 2015.<sup>51</sup>

The MNLA is alleged to have committed crimes during the course of the conflict, including murder,<sup>52</sup> torture,<sup>53</sup> arbitrary detention,<sup>54</sup> and the recruitment and use of children.<sup>55</sup> Other crimes, including the abduction and rape of some 30 women and girls during and immediately following the April 2012 offensive in the north, are attributable to the MNLA and, in Timbuktu, Arab militiamen allied to it.<sup>56</sup>

### **High Council for the unity of Azawad (HCUA) / Haut conseil pour de l'Azawad**

HCUA was created in May 2013. It is a jihadist group that occupied parts of northern Mali in 2012. It is based in Kidali and most of its fighters are Tuareg from the Ifoghas tribes.<sup>57</sup> It resulted from a merger of two dissident movements of HCUA and the Islamic Movement of Azawad (Mouvement Islamique de l'Azawad), aiming for independence.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> ICRtoP Crisis in Mali.

<sup>48</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 29; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), 'War Crimes in North Mali' (December 2012), available <https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/mali592ang.pdf> accessed 31 January 2017 ('FIDH War Crimes Report'), pp. 8-9; Laurence Deschamps-Laporte, 'Understanding the Malian crisis and its actors' (7 April 2013), available <http://democracyinafrica.org/understanding-the-malian-crisis-its-actors/> accessed 31 January 2017 ('Understanding the Malian Crisis').

<sup>49</sup> Amnesty International, 'Mali: All Parties to the Conflict Must Put an End to Ongoing Human Rights Violations' (21 August 2014), available <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53f708234.html> accessed 31 January 2017, p. 6.

<sup>50</sup> Gaudence Nyirabikali, 'Mali Peace Accord: Actors, issues and their representation' (27 August 2015), available <https://www.sipri.org/node/385> accessed 31 January 2017 ('Mali Peace Accord'); 2016 HRC Report on Mali, paras. 8-10.

<sup>51</sup> Mali Peace Accord.

<sup>52</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 90-94; HRW 2013 Mali Summary, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 90-94.

<sup>54</sup> HRW 2013 Mali Summary, p. 3.

<sup>55</sup> HRW 2013 Mali Summary, p. 3; 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 124.

<sup>56</sup> HRW Mali Summary 2013, pp. 2-3; 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 127.

<sup>57</sup> Gregory Chauzal and Thibault van Damme, 'The roots of Mali's conflict: Moving beyond the 2012 crisis' (Clingendael, March 2015), pp. 37-38.

<sup>58</sup> Armed Groups in Mali.



## Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) / Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad

Initially known as the National Liberation Front of Azawad, MAA was formed in March 2012 and is comprised of Arab fighters. They want northern Malians to decide whether they want to be autonomous. They do not insist on strict implementation of Sharia.<sup>59</sup>

## Coalition for the Azawad People (CAP) / Coalition pour le peuple de l'Azawad

The Coalition for the Azawad People, established in 2014, is led by Ibrahim Ag Mohamed Assaleh, the former head of external relations for MNLA. It separated from the MNLA over whether Morocco or Algeria should serve as further mediators in the ongoing attempt to sign a peace deal.<sup>60</sup> It has claimed presence in three regions, with military bases in Tombouctou and Gao.<sup>61</sup> It is reported that on 29 September 2015, in the region of Timbuktu, the women in question were raped at gunpoint by CPA member.<sup>62</sup> In addition, the Human Rights Division of MINUSMA observed at least three children among CPA elements.<sup>63</sup>

## Ansar Dine / Ansar Eddine<sup>64</sup>

Ansar Dine is a Tuareg jihadi Salafist movement under the command of Iyad Aq Ghali.<sup>65</sup> It has been linked only briefly to the MNLA, though it has continuing ties to other Islamist groups, including AQIM and the MOJWA.<sup>66</sup> The group allegedly consists of 300 fighters and is trained in camps in Kidal, Gao, and Mopti.<sup>67</sup> From June to July 2012, Ansar Dine established roots in Timbuktu and other cities in northern Mali through the use of this police force and local councils.<sup>68</sup> It is allegedly capable of transporting and distributing weapons and arms through its branch based in Algeria.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Al-Jazeera, 'Making sense of Mali's armed groups' (17 January 2013), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/01/20131139522812326.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>60</sup> Armed Groups in Mali, p. 5.

<sup>61</sup> Armed Groups in Mali, p. 5.

<sup>62</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 63.

<sup>63</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 68.

<sup>64</sup> Translates as 'movement of defenders of the faith'; see BBC, 'Mali crisis: Key players' (12 March 2013), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-17582909> accessed 28 January 2017.

<sup>65</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 81.

<sup>66</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 31; FIDH War Crimes Report, p. 9; Understanding the Malian Crisis, p. 3.

<sup>67</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 29, 81-82.

<sup>68</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, paras. 81-82.

<sup>69</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 81.



Ansar Dine has been implicated in a wide range of crimes and human rights violations,<sup>70</sup> such as summary and extrajudicial executions, sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of child soldiers, torture and looting of hospitals.<sup>71</sup> Of particular note, the group is also responsible for destroying several protected cultural sites (mausoleums dedicated to Muslim saints) in Timbuktu, for which Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, a member of Ansar Dine, plead guilty and was sentenced by the ICC in 2016.<sup>72</sup> In addition, in October 2016, Ansar Dine claimed responsibility for the attack against a MINUSMA camp in Kidali, damaging three medium utility helicopters.<sup>73</sup> It also claimed responsibility for killing four soldiers and injuring seven in attacks on the Malian armed forces. Similarly, on 6 December, eight assailants attacked the prison in Niono, freeing 93 prisoners who allegedly included members of violent groups, and killing a prison guard.<sup>74</sup>

Ansar Dine, along with other rebel groups, is also documented as having recruited and used child soldiers throughout the conflict.<sup>75</sup> Children have been recruited, trained and used by the hundreds as scouts or security at checkpoints, to punish violators of Sharia law, and to engage in armed combat on the front lines.<sup>76</sup> Additionally, these groups are alleged to have committed myriad incidents of sexual violence, including against girls,<sup>77</sup> such as ‘requisition’,<sup>78</sup> forced marriage and sexual slavery.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> See HRW 2013 Mali Summary.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali’, UN Doc. S/2012/894 (29 November 2012) (‘November 2012 SG Report on Mali’), para. 21.

<sup>72</sup> See e.g. International Criminal Court, ‘Case Information Sheet, Situation in the Republic of Mali: The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi’ (7 October 2016), available <https://www.icc-cpi.int/mali/al-mahdi/documents/almahdieng.pdf> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>73</sup> SC Report December 2016, para. 25.

<sup>74</sup> SC Report December 2016, para. 26.

<sup>75</sup> Human Rights Watch, ‘Mali: Events of 2016’ (2017), available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/mali#b55791> accessed 31 January 2017. See also 2015 SG Report on Children and Armed Conflict, para. 124.

<sup>76</sup> Umberto Bacchi, ‘France’s War in Mali: Child Soldiers on the Frontline’ (International Business Times, 16 January 2013), available <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/mali-child-soldiers-islamists-france-424816> accessed 31 January 2017; Human Rights Watch, ‘Mali: Islamists Should Free Child Soldiers’ (15 January 2013), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/01/15/mali-islamists-should-free-child-soldiers> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>77</sup> Amnesty International, ‘Mali: Five Months of Crisis’ (16 May 2012), available <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR37/001/2012/en/> accessed 31 January 2015, pp. 14-15.

<sup>78</sup> November 2012 SG Report on Mali, para. 23.

<sup>79</sup> November 2012 SG Report on Mali, para. 23.



Moreover, in January 2015, the Macina Liberation Front (MLF) appeared on the scene, linked to Ansar Dine.<sup>80</sup> It is a Salafist movement allegedly active in the south. In 2015, Human Rights Watch reported this group to have executed at least five civilians.<sup>81</sup> Its strength is around 200 and it is allegedly also behind the attack killing 17 soldiers in July 2016.<sup>82</sup>

### **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)**

AQIM is a militant jihadi Salafist group. It is thought to be the successor of the *Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat* (Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, Algeria), itself a successor of the *Groupe Islamique Armé* (Armed Islamic Group), an armed group based in Southern Algeria, with reportedly four military zones, and a comprehensive organisational structure.<sup>83</sup> AQIM reportedly amassed significant wealth by holding kidnapped Westerners for ransom and through involvement in cross-border smuggling operations.<sup>84</sup>

### **Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MOJWA) / *Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest***

MOJWA is a breakaway from AQIM that first asserted its presence in October 2011.<sup>85</sup> Founded and led by Sultan Ould Badi along with several former AQIM members, MOJWA has participated in joint operations with Ansar Dine and was reported to have control over a military camp in Gao, as well as several towns in northern Mali.<sup>86</sup> Though MOJWA, like Ansar Dine, seeks to establish Sharia in northern Mali, it is distinct in its inclusion of both local and foreign fighters and has been known to be the primary antagonist of the MNLA, forcing them out each time MNLA gains a foothold. Little is known about the group's strength,

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<sup>80</sup> Armed Groups in Mali, pp. 7-8. There is also a group of Katiba Khalid Ibn Walid, around the Ivorian border. See Armed Groups in Mali, pp. 8-9.

<sup>81</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Mali: Lawlessness, Abuses Imperil Population' (14 April 2015), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/14/mali-lawlessness-abuses-imperil-population> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>82</sup> Le Point International, 'Mali: 17 soldats tués dans une attaque revendiquée par deux groupes armés' (19 July 2016), available [http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/mali-17-soldats-tues-35-blesses-dans-l-attaque-d-un-camp-militaire-19-07-2016-2055621\\_24.php](http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/mali-17-soldats-tues-35-blesses-dans-l-attaque-d-un-camp-militaire-19-07-2016-2055621_24.php) accessed 31 January 2017; Al-Jazeera, 'Armed groups kill 17 soldiers at Mali base' (20 July 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/armed-groups-kill-17-soldiers-mali-base-160720023710103.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>83</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 79.

<sup>84</sup> Alexis Arieff, Congressional Research Service, 'Crisis in Mali' (14 January 2013), available <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42664.pdf>, accessed 28 January 2017, p. 10.

<sup>85</sup> Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report' (16 January 2013), para. 33.

<sup>86</sup> Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report' (16 January 2013), para. 83.



but it has been estimated at around 300 fighters and is said to be in control of a military camp in Gao, and the towns of Douentza, Menaka, Ansongo and Gourma.<sup>87</sup>

## **Boko Haram**

The Boko Haram is an Islamic extremist group based in Nigeria, affiliated with Al-Qaeda. Their presence is reported in Timbuktu, where they have been sighted at training camps learning how to fire Kalashnikovs and launch shoulder pad grenades.<sup>88</sup>

## **c) Regional and International Actors**

### **African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA)**

In December 2012, the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of an African-led mission to support efforts by national authorities to recover the north.<sup>89</sup> AFISMA's mandate ended with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signing a peace deal in 2015 that led to Amadou Sanogo ceding power to Dioncounda Traore in an interim capacity until the elections are held.

### **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)**

This United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali was established on 25 April 2013 in order to stabilise the country after the Tuareg rebellion.<sup>90</sup> The mission officially took over the responsibility for patrolling the country's north from France and AFISMA after the signing of the agreement on peace and reconciliation in 2015. Its main responsibilities include supporting and monitoring ceasefire agreements, exercising good office and confidence building at national and local levels, and supporting the implementation of political and institutional reforms.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report, para. 83.

<sup>88</sup> ICC Situation in Mali, para. 29. See also David Blair, 'Timbuktu: al-Qaeda's terrorist training academy in the Mali desert' (The Telegraph, 11 February 2013), available <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/mali/9860822/Timbuktu-al-Qaedas-terrorist-training-academy-in-the-Mali-desert.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2100 (2013)', UN Doc. S/RES/2100 (25 April 2013).

<sup>90</sup> MINUSMA Background.

<sup>91</sup> MINUSMA, 'Mandate', available <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minusma/mandate.shtml> accessed 31 January 2017.



The Security Council expanded the mission to include other duties including supporting political dialogue and reconciliation, the protection and stabilisation of the civilian populations, and the promotion of human rights.<sup>92</sup> Since 2013, there have been attacks on peacekeepers. In October 2013, a suicide bomber attacked a soldier, resulting in killing two soldiers and a civilian.<sup>93</sup> In December 2013, two Senegalese peacekeepers were killed in Kidal.<sup>94</sup> Further, in October 2014, another 10 soldiers were killed and dozens were wounded. It is estimated that at least 100 fatalities had been suffered by MINUSMA by the end of November 2016, accounting for 71 malicious acts.<sup>95</sup>

In June 2017, the UN decided to extend the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2017, and also increased the force to 13,289 military and 1,920 police personnel.<sup>96</sup> The strategy priority of MINUSMA is to support the implementation by the government, and other stakeholders. By this action, the UN authorised the mission to take all necessary means to carry out its mandate.<sup>97</sup>

## France

France has played an important role in Mali, in particular regarding the recent ongoing fight with rebel forces. Following upon the UN Security Council Resolution 2085 of 20 December 2012, France launched an intervention aiming to oust out Islamic militants who had begun to push towards the centre of the country ( Operation Serval).<sup>98</sup> The operation ended on 15 July 2014 and was replaced with Operation Barkhane, in the Sahel region.<sup>99</sup> In 2015, the French government continued to play a key role in military matters in Mali.<sup>100</sup> In 2016, Operation Barkhane, the 3,000-strong French regional counter-terrorism operation,

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<sup>92</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2164 (2014)', UN Doc. S/RES/2164 (25 June 2014).

<sup>93</sup> Al-Jazeera, 'UN troops killed in Mali suicide attack' (23 October 2013), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/10/un-troops-killed-mali-suicide-attack-20131023144437588851.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>94</sup> Al-Jazeera, 'Car bomb kills UN peacekeepers in Mali' (14 December 2013), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/12/car-bomb-kills-2-un-peacekeepers-mali-20131214144813908884.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>95</sup> United Nations Peacekeeping, 'Fatalities by Missing and Incident Type: up to 30 November 2016', available [http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/fatalities/documents/stats\\_4nov.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/fatalities/documents/stats_4nov.pdf) accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>96</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2295 (2016)', UN Doc. S/RES/2295 (29 June 2016), paras. 14-15.

<sup>97</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2295 (2016)', UN Doc. S/RES/2295 (29 June 2016), para. 17.

<sup>98</sup> See e.g. Ministère de la Défense, 'Présentation de l'opération' (25 October 2013), available <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/operations/autres-operations/operations-achevees/operation-serval-2013-2014/dossier/presentation-de-l-operation> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>99</sup> Ministère de la Défense, 'Opération Barkhane' (10 January 2017), available <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/operations/sahel/dossier-de-presentation-de-l-operation-barkhane/operation-barkhane> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>100</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2016: Events of 2015' (2016) ('2016 Human Rights Watch Report'), p. 395.



continued in Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. The United States military provided logistical support to Barkhane.<sup>101</sup>

## European Union (EU)

The EU took the lead on training and security reforms, and the EU Training Mission in Mali began its third two-year mandate in 2016 to train the Malian army. The EU Capacity Building Mission continued to train the national guards and police.<sup>102</sup>

# IV. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

## 1. Recruitment and Use of Children

Armed groups in the north, including those allied with the government, have recruited and continue to recruit and use children.<sup>103</sup> In 2015, 127 cases of recruitment and use of children by armed groups were documented.<sup>104</sup> An additional 27 cases of recruitment and use of children by GATIA in March 2016 were verified, with an additional 47 cases received.<sup>105</sup> Children – mostly boys – have been required to carry weapons, staff checkpoints, guard prisoners, and conduct patrols.<sup>106</sup> Others have prepared food for forces and received military training.<sup>107</sup> Girls, on the other hand, have been used predominantly for sexual exploitation, including sex slavery through forced marriages to militia members. While some children have indeed been abducted by armed groups, some armed groups are alleged to have forced families to sell their children. Some children have joined armed forces voluntarily.<sup>108</sup> The recruitment and use of children continued throughout 2016.<sup>109</sup> Children also continued to be detained on security related charges.<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 423.

<sup>102</sup> See 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 423. See also European External Action, ‘About EUTM Mali’, available <http://www.eutmmali.eu/about-eutm-mali/> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>103</sup> See 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 422; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 94. See also 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 124.

<sup>104</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 94.

<sup>105</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 94.

<sup>106</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 68; United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report’ (June 2016) (‘2016 TIP Report’), p. 260.

<sup>107</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 68.

<sup>108</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 68.

<sup>109</sup> See for e.g. SC Report December 2016, paras. 35, 41.

<sup>110</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 94.





## 2. Trafficking and Child Labour

Mali is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.<sup>111</sup> While international trafficking is reportedly more prevalent than transnational trafficking,<sup>112</sup> Malian children are trafficked within the region and abroad. For instance, Malian children are transported through Burkina Faso to be trafficked in Cote d'Ivoire.<sup>113</sup> Alternatively, children from Burkina Faso have been transported into Mali for the purpose of forced labour and sexual exploitation.<sup>114</sup> For example, officials in Burkina Faso intercepted 43 children bound for Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, who were allegedly being transported for forced labour purposes.<sup>115</sup>

In Mali, artisanal gold mines have been rampant with forced labour of boys from both Mali and countries such as Guinea and Burkina Faso.<sup>116</sup> Malian boys trafficked to Cote d'Ivoire are often forced into agricultural labour (*i.e.* on cocoa, coffee, pineapple, and rubber plantations), the mining sector, or in carpentry and construction.<sup>117</sup> Malian women and girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, both internally and transnationally. Further, girls have been exploited through domestic servitude, agricultural labour, and in supporting roles within gold mines.<sup>118</sup>

The government has drafted a plan to address trafficking and has devoted efforts to enforcing its anti-trafficking laws.<sup>119</sup> Despite these steps, the government is not meeting minimum requirements to address trafficking and forced labour and has not prosecuted any traffickers.<sup>120</sup>

## 3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

SGBV greatly impacts children in Mali. The extent of SGBV is unknown due to limited reporting as a result of the prevailing insecurity in the northern part of the country, as well as victims' fear of reprisals, lack of protection and organisational support for victims and witnesses, and lack of confidence in state

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<sup>111</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 259.

<sup>112</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 259.

<sup>113</sup> United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report' (July 2015) ('2015 TIP Report'), p. 103.

<sup>114</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 111.

<sup>115</sup> 2016 TIP Report, pp. 112-113.

<sup>116</sup> 2016 TIP Report, pp. 36, 187, 260-261.

<sup>117</sup> 2015 TIP Report, p. 132.

<sup>118</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 261.

<sup>119</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 261.

<sup>120</sup> 2016 TIP Report, p. 261.



institutions.<sup>121</sup> A hotline was established in March 2014 by UN Women, in partnership with the National Police of Mali, to provide support for women and girls experiencing gender-based violence.

The United Nations verified 22 cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children by the Malian defence and security forces, the Platform, and other unknown perpetrators in 2015.<sup>122</sup> Between March and May 2016 alone, the UN documented 46 incidents of gender-based violence.<sup>123</sup> The risk of sexual violence against children by armed members remains high. In June 2015, the Human Rights Division of MINUSMA recorded a case of rape of a 16-year-old girl by a member of the national guard in Mopti.<sup>124</sup> Facing grave threats when using public transportation which may be operated by ex-combatants, women and girls in Mali have restricted mobility when there is a deterioration in security.<sup>125</sup> Another woman was raped three times by three-armed man in Imbogoutane.<sup>126</sup> The Expert was also informed that there were a number of incidents of sexual violence along the Timbuktu-Goundam road after CPA took Acharane on 24 July 2015.<sup>127</sup>

These are but a few examples of sexual violence that have taken place across Mali. In addition, 15 per cent of children are married by the age of 15; while 55 per cent are married by the age of 18.<sup>128</sup> The legal age of marriage is 16 for girls.<sup>129</sup> Female genital mutilation is also of grave concern in the country, with 75 per cent of girls up to age 14 reported to have been subjected to it.<sup>130</sup>

## 4. Education

Access to education remains a concern in Mali, with schools under attack and use by armed groups. The most up-to-date reports in late 2016 indicate that around 380,000 children in conflict-affected regions in

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<sup>121</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence', UN Doc. S/2015/203 (23 March 2015), para. 35. See also 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 64.

<sup>122</sup> 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict Report, para. 96.

<sup>123</sup> May 2016 SG Report on Mali, para. 25.

<sup>124</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 69.

<sup>125</sup> United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence', UN Doc. S/2016/361 (20 April 2016), para. 15.

<sup>126</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 64.

<sup>127</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 64.

<sup>128</sup> Girls Not Brides, 'Child marriage around the world: Mali', available <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/mali/> accessed 31 January 2017 ('Girls Not Brides Mali').

<sup>129</sup> Girls Not Brides Mali.

<sup>130</sup> Cindy Cao, 'End violence, stop female genital mutilation' (UNICEF Mali), available [http://www.unicef.org/mali/media\\_centre\\_7809.html](http://www.unicef.org/mali/media_centre_7809.html) accessed 31 January 2017 ('UNICEF End violence Mali').



Mali are out of school.<sup>131</sup> In 2015, the UN verified attacks and threats of attacks on schools, including one by CMA and one by the Front de Libération du Macina.<sup>132</sup> While schools continued to be used for military purposes by armed groups, this number decreased from 20 in 2014 to only seven by December 2015.<sup>133</sup> Many teachers and qualified personnel left the region due to the ongoing fighting. Teachers have also been threatened, leading to the closure of 93 schools in 2015.<sup>134</sup> Overall, an estimated total of 282 schools were closed in 2015. The United Nations estimated that from May to December 2015, 109 additional schools were closed, bringing the total number of closed schools in conflict zones to 405 of 2,380 schools.<sup>135</sup> In September 2016, the Secretary General reported that a total of seven schools remained occupied by the signatory armed groups in Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu regions. By the end of the academic year in June 2016, some 296 schools were still closed in 65 regions in the north and centre of the country.<sup>136</sup>

It is estimated that right now still around 380,000 children aged seven to 15 are out of school.<sup>137</sup> Girls are less likely to be enrolled than boys. This is attributed to a series of factors: (i) family concern over safety of girls who face a higher risk of sexual violence; (ii) traditional household responsibilities undertaken by girls; and (iii) girls from rural families being sent to urban centres to work as domestic workers.<sup>138</sup>

## 5. Access to Healthcare

Access to basic services, including health facilities, is a continuous challenge in Mali, and in northern Mali in particular. The operational environment remains extremely volatile in the conflict zones and armed groups have contributed to the disruption of medical assistance.<sup>139</sup> For example, the UN Secretary-General verified an incident where CMA forced an international medical non-governmental organisation supporting two health centres in the Timbuktu region to withdraw in 2015.<sup>140</sup> MINUSMA documented one instance of the military use of a hospital in 2016.<sup>141</sup> Attacks on humanitarian, aid workers and peacekeepers are

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<sup>131</sup> UNICEF End violence Mali.

<sup>132</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 97; 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 128.

<sup>133</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 97.

<sup>134</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 97.

<sup>135</sup> SC Report December 2016, para. 45.

<sup>136</sup> SC Situation in Mali September 2016, para. 48; 2017 HNO, p. 10.

<sup>137</sup> UNICEF, 'More than 380,000 children out of school in northern Mali, three months into school year' (17 December 2015), available [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_86575.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_86575.html) accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>138</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 83.

<sup>139</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 98.

<sup>140</sup> 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 98.

<sup>141</sup> SC Situation in Mali September 2016, para. 41.



commonplace, with health workers having been ambushed, abducted and killed.<sup>142</sup> On 30 March 2016, an International Committee of the Red Cross driver was killed when ambushed while driving a truck, clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem, to bring medical equipment to Gao hospital.<sup>143</sup> Throughout 2015 and early 2016 health facilities were set on fire and/or looted and medical supply vehicles attacked.<sup>144</sup> For instance, in December 2015, two unidentified armed men stole a UN refugee agency vehicle borrowed by the humanitarian group Merci Corps in Timbuktu.<sup>145</sup>

Four main regions (Mopti, Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao) were completely deprived of access to healthcare between August and September 2015 due to security incidents.<sup>146</sup> The main international health assistance providers were forced to suspend their activities in the area, consequently closing all referral health centers in the districts of Tenekou and Youwaro.<sup>147</sup>

Nutrition also remained at crisis levels in Mali. In 2016 it was estimated that approximately 142,000 children aged six to 59 months are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2017.<sup>148</sup> In 2015, it was estimated that 181,000 children under the age of five suffered from severe acute malnutrition.<sup>149</sup> Mali was also impacted by the spread of Ebola across West Africa. In October 2014, Mali recorded its first case after a two-year old child contracted the deadly virus.<sup>150</sup> Eight other cases were reported in Mali before it was declared Ebola-free in January 2015.<sup>151</sup> A new outbreak of polio was confirmed in Mali in September 2015.<sup>152</sup> In addition, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities has added to the spread of life-threatening diseases that affect children in particular.<sup>153</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> Safeguarding Health in Conflict, 'No Protection, No Respect: Health Workers and Health Facilities Under Attack 2015 and Early 2016' (23 May 2016), available <https://www.safeguardinghealth.org/sites/shcc/files/SHCC2016final.pdf> accessed 31 January 2017 ('No Protection, No Respect'), pp. 9, 25-26.

<sup>143</sup> No Protection, No Respect, p. 25.

<sup>144</sup> No Protection, No Respect, p. 8.

<sup>145</sup> No Protection, No Respect, p. 26.

<sup>146</sup> No Protection, No Respect, p. 10.

<sup>147</sup> No Protection, No Respect, pp. 10-11.

<sup>148</sup> UNICEF Mali.

<sup>149</sup> UNICEF, 'Annual Report 2015: Mali' (2015), available [https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Mali\\_2015\\_COAR.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Mali_2015_COAR.pdf) accessed 31 January 2017, p. 1.

<sup>150</sup> Alexandra Sifferlin, 'Mali Minister of Health Confirms First Ebola Case' (Time, 23 October 2014), available <http://time.com/3535363/mali-minister-of-health-confirms-first-ebola-case/> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>151</sup> David Stout, 'Mali Is Now Ebola-Free' (Time, 19 January 2015), available <http://time.com/3673242/mali-ebola-free/> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>152</sup> World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, 'Polio outbreak confirmed in Mali' (7 September 2015), available <http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/7988-polio-outbreak-confirmed-in-mali.html> accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>153</sup> 2016 HRC Report on Mali, para. 70.



## Annex I: List of Abbreviations

AFISMA	African-led International Support Mission in Mali
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AU	African Union
CAP	Coalition for the Azawad People
CMA	Coordination of Azawad Movements
CM-FPR	Coordination of Movements and Patriotic Resistance Front
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
ICC	International Criminal Court
GATIA	Imghad Tuareg and Allies Self-Defence Group ( <i>Groupe autodéfense touareg Imghad et leurs allies</i> )
HCUA	High Council for the Unity of Azawad
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
MAA	Arab Movement of Azawad
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MLF	Macina Liberation Front
MNLA	National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad
MOJWA	Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund



## Annex II: Key Facts<sup>154</sup>

### Mali in a Snapshot

	<b>Mali</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<p><b>Climate:</b> subtropical to arid; hot and dry (February to June); rainy, humid, and mild (June to November); cool and dry (November to February)</p> <p><b>Terrain:</b> mostly flat to rolling northern plains covered by sand; savanna in south, rugged hills in northeast</p> <p><b>Border countries:</b> Algeria (1,359km), Burkina Faso (1,325km) (Cote d'Ivoire (599km), Guinea (1,062km), Mauritania (2,236km), Niger (838km), Senegal (489km)</p> <p><b>Coastline:</b> landlocked (0km)</p>
<b>People</b>	<p><b>Population:</b> 17,467,108 (July 2016 est.)</p> <p><b>Median age:</b> 16.2 years (15.5 male; 16.8 female) (2016 est.)</p> <p><b>Languages:</b> French (official), Bambara, Peul/Foulfoulbe, Dogon, Maraka/Soninke, Malinke, Sonrhai/Djerma, Minianka, Tamacheq, Senoufo, Bobo ( note: Mali has 13 national languages in addition to its official language (2009 est.))</p> <p><b>Ethnic groups:</b> Bambara 34.1%; Fulani (Peul) 14.7%; Sarakole 10.8%; Senufo 10.5%; Dogon 8.9%; Malinke 8.7%; Bobo 2.9%; Songhai 1.6%; Tuareg 0.9%; other Malian 6.1%; from member of Economic Community of West African States 0.3%; other 0.4% (2012-13 est.)</p> <p><b>Religions:</b> Muslim 94.8%, Christian 2.4%, Animist 2%, none 0.5%, unspecified 0.3% (2009 est.)</p>
<b>Economy</b>	<p><b>Capital:</b> Bamako</p> <p><b>Major urban areas:</b> Bamako: 2.515 million (2015)</p> <p><b>GDP:</b> \$38.09 billion (2016 est.)</p> <p><b>GDP per capita:</b> \$2,300 (2016 est.)</p> <p><b>GDP by sector:</b> agriculture: 41%, industry: 18.6%, services: 40.4% (2016 est.)</p>
<b>Children and youth</b>	<p><b>Population under age of 25:</b> 66,46% (2016 est.)</p> <p><b>Unemployment (ages 15-24):</b> 11,1% (2014 est.)</p> <p><b>Child labour (ages 5-14):</b> 1,485,027 (36%) (2010 est.)</p> <p><b>Legal age of conscription:</b> 18; 2-year conscript service obligation (2012)</p>

<sup>154</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, 'Mali' (12 January 2017), available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2096.html> accessed 31 January 2017.



## Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

**On the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) – Resolutions 2100 (25 April 2013); 2164 (25 June 2014); 2227 (29 June 2015); 2295 (29 June 2016).**

**On the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) – Resolutions 2071 (12 October 2012); 2085 (20 December 2012).**

**On the efforts to re-establish constitutionality and territorial integrity - Resolution 2056 (5 July 2012); 2071 (12 October 2012).**

## Malian Child Protection Legislation<sup>155</sup>

	<b>Mali</b>
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<sup>155</sup> For national legislation on children’s rights, see Child Rights International Network, ‘Mali: National laws’, available <https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/mali-national-laws> accessed 31 January 2017. For international treaties, see OHCHR, ‘Dashboard’, available [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=107&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=107&Lang=EN) accessed 31 January 2017.

**National**

- Malian Constitution (1992)
- Labour Code (1992) (Act No. 92-020/AN-RM)
- Child Protection Code (2002) (Order No. 02-062/P-RM)
- Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (2001) (Acts Nos. 01-079 and 01-080,)
- Code on the criminal responsibility of minors and the establishment of juvenile courts (2001) (Act No. 01-081)
- Civil Status (1987) (Act No. 87-27/AN-RM)
- Code concerning reproductive health (2002) (Act No. 02-044)
- Code containing the Health Policy Act (2002) (Act No. 02-049)
- Code containing the Hospital Act (2002) (Act No. 02-050)
- Education Policy Act (1999) (Act No. 99-046)
- Wards of the Republic (2000) (Act No. 00-039)
- Code making birth registration free of cost (2006) (Act No. 06-024)
- Marriage and Guardianship Code (1962) (Act No. 62-17/AN-RM)
- Nationality Code (1962) (Act No. 62-18/AN-RM)
- Social Welfare Code (1999) (Act No. 99-041)
- Decree specifying the kinds of work and categories of enterprise in which children may not be employed (1996) (decree No. 97/178/P-RM)
- Decree providing free antiretroviral therapy (2005) (decree No. 05-147/P-RM)
- Decree establishing the National Guardianship Council (2000) (decree No. 00-388/P-RM)
- Decree setting the conditions for the establishment and operation of private reception, listening, counselling, and accommodation centres for children from 5 to 18 years old (2002) (decree No. 02-067)



<b>International</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1990)</li> <li>▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (ratified 2002)</li> <li>▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (acceded 2002)</li> <li>▪ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 1999) and Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (ratified 2005)</li> <li>▪ Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ratified 2009)</li> <li>▪ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (acceded 2003)</li> <li>▪ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (ratified 1985); Optional Protocol (ratified 2000)</li> <li>▪ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (acceded 1974); Optional Protocol (ratified 2001)</li> <li>▪ International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (acceded 1974)</li> <li>▪ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified 2008); Optional Protocol (ratified 2008)</li> <li>▪ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (ratified 2002)<sup>156</sup></li> <li>▪ International Labour Organization Convention No. 138 on minimum age (1973) (ratified 2002)</li> <li>▪ International Labour Organisation: Convention No 182 (1999) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ratified 2000)</li> </ul>
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## Annex III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS<sup>157</sup>

### 1960

<sup>156</sup> See United Nations Treaty Collection, Status of Treaties: 12a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes (15 November 2000), available [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en) accessed 31 January 2017.

<sup>157</sup> BBC, ‘Mali Country Profile – Timeline’ (20 November 2015) available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13881978> accessed 31 January 2017; for a highly detailed timeline, see TimelinesDB, ‘Timeline Mali’, available <http://www.timelines.ws/countries/MALI.HTML> accessed 31 January 2017; Deutsche Welle, ‘Timeline of the crisis in Mali’, available <http://www.dw.com/en/timeline-of-the-crisis-in-mali/a-18453016> accessed 31 January 2017; Al-Jazeera, ‘Timeline: Mali since independence’ (13 August 2013), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/03/2012322111037483270.html> accessed 31 January 2017; IRIN News, ‘A timeline of the northern conflict’ (6 April 2012) available <http://www.irinnews.org/report/95252/mali-timeline->



Mali becomes independent, with Modibo Keita as president. It withdraws from the Franc zone.

## 1962-1964

The Tuareg people in northern Mali launch the Alfellaga rebellion in desire of an independent state. They are defeated by Malian forces.

## 1968

The Military Committee of National Liberation, led by Moussa Traore, overthrows Keita's regime. Traore takes power, forbidding opposition political parties, and imposes a new fundamental law.

## 1975

May: ECOWAS is formed in Nigeria with fifteen member states: Benin, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Upper Volta (later Burkina Faso).

## 1979

A new constitution is adopted, providing for elections. Traore is re-elected.

## 1991

March: Traore is deposed and replaced by the Transitional Committee for the Salvation of the People (CTSP) in the 'March Revolution', a coup led by Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Touré.

## 1992

February: A new constitution is adopted by referendum.

April: Alpha Konare and his party, Alliance for Democracy in Mali (ADEMA), win multiparty elections. This marks Mali's first democratically elected president.

## 1995

Peace agreement with Tuareg tribes leads to return of thousands of refugees.

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northern-conflict accessed 31 January 2017; The New York Times, 'Timeline on Mali' (24 May 2014), available [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/01/18/world/africa/mali-algeria-timeline.html?\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/01/18/world/africa/mali-algeria-timeline.html?_r=1&) accessed 31 January 2017; European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, 'Factsheet – Mali Crisis' (24 June 2016), available <http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/echo-factsheet-mali-crisis-june-2016> accessed 31 January 2017; Agence France-Presse, 'Mali urges UN to slap sanctions, beef up peace mission' (16 June 2016), available <http://www.globalpost.com/article/6776690/2016/06/16/mali-urges-un-slap-sanctions-beef-peace-mission> accessed 31 January 2017.



## 2001

Manantali dam in southwest produces its first megawatt of hydroelectricity, 13 years after it was completed.

## 2002

May: Touré is elected president.

October: The government resigns without public explanation. A new ‘government of national unity’ is unveiled.

## 2005

June: World Food Programme warns of severe food shortages, the result of drought and locust infestations. 10% of Mali’s population face starvation.

## 2006

July: The government and the Democratic Alliance for Change (ADC), a Tuareg rebel movement, sign the Algiers Accords, a peace deal granting the Tuareg greater autonomy for their northern desert region.

## 2007

April: President Touré is re-elected for a second five-year term.

August: The Niger-Mali Tuareg Alliance (ATNM) rejects the Algiers Accords. A rebellion breaks out.

## 2008

Deadly fighting rages between Tuareg rebels and government forces.

## 2009

February: Several hundred Tuareg rebels surrender, marking a return to the peace process.

May: Algeria begins sending military equipment to Mali in preparation for a joint operation against Islamic militants linked to Al Qaeda.

August: A new law boosting women’s rights is passed, sparking some protests.

## 2010

April: Mali, Algeria, Mauritania, and Niger set up joint command to tackle the threat of terrorism.

## 2011

August: Touré launches the Special Programme for Peace, Security, and Development in the North (PSPDN), backed by the EU, World Bank, UNDP, and others. After the end of the Libya uprising, large



numbers of heavily armed Tuareg, who had fought for Gaddafi in the Libyan civil war, return to Mali. The Tuareg rebellion reignites with the aim of establishing an independent Tuareg state called Azawad.

October: Tuareg National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) is founded.

December: Human Rights Watch reports that between 20,000 and 40,000 children work in gold mines in Mali.

## 2012

January: Fighting breaks out in northern Mali between Tuareg MNLA and the Malian military.

March: In a coup led by Captain Amadou Sanogo, the military depose President Touré, accusing him of failing to deal effectively with the Tuareg rebellion. The military suspends the constitution. The National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State (CNRDR) declares itself the new government. The AU suspends Mali's membership. The ECOWAS cancels its mission in Mali, citing security reasons.

April: The MNLA seizes control of in northern Mali, and declares independence. Military hands over to a civilian interim government, led by President Dioncounda Traore.

May: The military reassert control after an attempted coup by supporters of ousted President Touré. The Tuareg MNLA and Islamist Ansar Dine rebel groups merge and declare northern Mali to be an Islamic state. Al-Qaeda in North Africa endorses the deal.

June-July: Ansar Dine and its Al-Qaeda ally turn on the MNLA and capture northern cities. They begin to destroy many Muslim shrines that offend their puritan views.

August: Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra form a new national unity government to satisfy regional demands for a transition from military rule.

October: The UN Security Council, led by France, passes a resolution declaring its readiness to respond to Malian demands for an international force.

November: ECOWAS agrees to be part of the West African African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA), an AU- and EU-backed military expedition to recapture the north.

December: Soldiers arrest PM Diarra and force his resignation. He is succeeded by Django Sissoko. The UN Security Council unanimously authorises deployment of peacekeepers by ECOWAS.

## 2013

January: Islamist fighters gain momentum, take the town of Konna in central Mali, and plan to march on the capital, Bamako. The Islamic Movement of Azawad (IMA) is formed by a Tuareg leader of Ansar Dine, Alghabass Ag Intalla, with intent to engage in negotiations to settle the country's crisis. France launches Operation Serval, sending 2,500 troops to assist African forces. Through an air campaign and ground offensive, the coalition recaptures Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal.

April: France begins a drawdown to 1,000 troops. The UN Security Council authorises the establishment of a 12,600-member peacekeeping force—United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

June: Mediated by Burkina Faso, Mali's interim government signs a peace deal with Tuareg rebels.

July: The first election since the last coup is held.



August: Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is elected president. France formally hands over responsibility for security in the north to MINUSMA.

September: Tuareg rebels in northern Mali reject the peace accord and clash with Malian forces. Malian and UN forces launch a major offensive.

## 2014

April: Ebola suspected to have arrived in Mali.

September: Mali's government and the rebels start peace negotiations in Algeria. Separatist MNLAs open 'an Azawad embassy' in The Netherlands.

## 2015

January: Mali declared free of the Ebola virus by the health minister. Extremist Islamist group Macina Liberation Movement/Front (MLM/MLF) formed.

March: Mali's government and the rebels reach a peace agreement; however the Tuareg-led Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) does not sign.

May: A peace accord is signed by the government and several militia and rebel factions.

June: Government and Tuareg rebels sign the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, brokered by Algeria. The government gives the Tuareg more regional autonomy.

August: Suspected MLF militants attack a hotel in Sevare, killing 17.

November: Islamist gunmen attack a hotel in Bamako and take 170 hostages. Malian forces storm and retake the hotel. 22 are killed.

## 2016

June: The European Commission on Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection reports that over 200,000 Malians have been displaced, 180,000 children suffer from malnutrition, 1.5 million people depend on international humanitarian assistance, 3 million people are food insecure, and 423,000 need emergency food assistance. Mali's prime minister urges the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against those blocking the peace deal.

August: Several attacks on foreign forces. More than 100 peacekeepers have died since the UN mission's deployment in Mali in 2013, making it one of the deadliest places to serve for the UN.

A Malian jihadist is found guilty of ransacking the fabled desert city of Timbuktu. He expresses regret in an unprecedented trial before the International Criminal Court.



## ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

Amnesty International, ‘Mali: All Parties to the Conflict Must Put an End to Ongoing Human Rights Violations’ (21 August 2014).

Amnesty International, ‘Mali: Five Months of Crisis’ (16 May 2012).

Gregory Chauzal and Thibault van Damme, ‘The roots of Mali’s conflict: Moving beyond the 2012 crisis’ (Clingendael, March 2015).

Human Rights Watch, ‘Mali: Country Summary’ (January 2013).

Human Rights Watch, ‘Mali: Events of 2015’ (2016).

Human Rights Watch, ‘World Report 2017: Events of 2016’ (2017).

Human Rights Watch, ‘World Report 2015: Mali, Events of 2014’ (2015).

International Criminal Court, ‘Situation in Mali: Article 53(1) Report’ (16 January 2013).

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), ‘War Crimes in North Mali’ (December 2012).

Safeguarding Health in Conflict, ‘No Protection, No Respect: Health Workers and Health Facilities Under Attack 2015 and Early 2016’ (23 May 2016).

United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, ‘Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General’ (20 April 2016), UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016).

United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, ‘Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General’, UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015).

United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali’, UN Doc. A/HRC/31/76 (21 January 2016).

United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence’, UN Doc. S/2016/361 (20 April 2016).

United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali’, UN Doc. S/2016/498 (31 May 2016) (‘May 2016 SG Report on Mali’).

United Nations Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali’, UN Doc.



S/2016/819 (29 September 2016).

United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali', UN Doc. S/2016/819 (30 December 2016).

United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali', UN Doc. S/2012/894 (29 November 2012).

UNOCHA, 'Sahel: Overview of humanitarian needs and requirements' (December 2016).