



Africa Information & Monitoring Services

Mali: Reporting on Major News Developments 4 February 2022

The following report highlights the recent ECOWAS meeting in Ghana on Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana, a Danish delegation meeting with Malian authorities in Bamako, Mali's difficulties to honor external financial commitments, and the Army's attacks against jihadist positions in Nara. The report includes background information to add context to the news items where needed.

POLITICS

ECOWAS Wants 'Acceptable Election Schedule' Before 'Gradual' Lifting of Sanctions

Several media outlets reported that the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met in extraordinary session on 3 February in Accra, Ghana, to examine recent political developments in Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali, and work towards the restoration of constitutional order in these countries. Concerning Mali, "the Conference decides to maintain in place all the sanctions and invites the Malian authorities to quickly propose a timetable acceptable to ECOWAS in order to allow the gradual lifting of the sanctions."¹

Background: ECOWAS on 9 January imposed economic and diplomatic sanctions on Mali in reaction to the junta's decision to lead a five-year transition.



Defense Minister Hosts Danish Delegation

Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Colonel Sadio Camara, on 3 February granted an audience to a Danish delegation led by the ambassador to Mali, H.E Rolf Holmboe. The meeting aimed to provide more clarification and explanation with regards to cooperation, including culture and security between the two countries.²

Background: The meeting holds in the aftermaths of Malian authorities' demand Danish special forces deployed in the framework of the Operation Takuba should leave the country.

¹ <https://maliactu.net/pour-la-levee-progressive-des-sanctions-la-cedeao-invite-les-autorites-maliennes-a-proposer-rapidement-un-chronogramme-acceptable/>

² <https://www.facebook.com/malinouveau/posts/1797394440451402>

ECONOMY

Mali Says Failure To Honor External Financial Commitments Due to Sanctions

The Malian government announced on 3 February that although it has sufficient funds, it had been unable to make a payment of \$4.5 billion on the regional financial market. The government said it cannot access the markets because of the sanctions adopted by ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union in January.³

Background: The sanctions taken by the ECOWAS against Mali prevent the country from holding exchanges with financial institutions in the West African region.

SECURITY

Jihadists Flee to Mauritania as Army Launches Attack on Nara

News aggregator aBamako.com on 4 February reprinted an article from Nouvel Horizon saying that the Malian Armed Forces on 3 February launched an attack that helped flush out jihadist groups from their hideouts in the locality of Nara, northwest, on the border with Mauritania. As a result, the alleged jihadist combatants fled to nearby villages and into Mauritania. No toll was provided.⁴



Background: Malian Army has been battling a number of jihadist groups for years now and lost several of its soldiers in its counterterrorism operations.

Commentary Urges Authorities Not To Open Too Many Military Fronts

Maliweb on 3 February reprinted a commentary culled from Le Challenger commending the recent military successes the army made against jihadist groups. The writer, however, urged the authorities to exert caution in these times of diplomatic and economic strife with bilateral and multilateral partners. A period, the writer says, that is not favorable to the opening of new military fronts since the economy is under tension and the support of neighboring countries is not guaranteed. The writer concluded that the authorities should rather prepare for a long fight with those unidentifiable groups that quickly morph and adopt their strategies as situations change on the ground.⁵

Background: The Malian Army recently said that it "neutralized 43 terrorists" and retrieved notable quantities of military equipment. The prime minister also promise that 80 percent of the territory would be freed "within months."

³ https://maliactu.net/sanctions-de-la-cedeao-le-mali-ne-peut-pas-payer-ce-quil-doit-sur-le-marche-financier-regional/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR37DVUdEUrWtrO02JL8znAqWNzz0QA9ZMDg7FKcQJgqSEQmXJTAH04_-K8

⁴⁴ <http://bamada.net/offenseive-des-fama-a-nara-des-presumes-djihadistes-ont-fui-vers-la-mauritanie>

⁵ <https://www.maliweb.net/politique/chroniques/entre-nous-des-succes-mais-2963281.html>