



Africa Information & Monitoring Services

Mali: Reporting on Major News Developments 22 February 2022

The following report highlights major news developments in politics and security in Mali on 22 February. The report focuses on West African leaders reacting to Mali's five-year transition decision and France calling UNSC meeting on Mali. On the security front, Chad said that it will boost its military presence within the MINUSMA. In the interior of the country, gunmen killed two police officers in Timbuktu, while the gendarmerie is helping restore security in the Mopti region. This report includes background information to add context where needed.

POLITICS

West Africa's Mediator Calls for 'Short' Transition

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, the mediator in the Malian crisis for the Economic



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Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on 22 February called for a democratic transfer of power "in the shortest time frame" in Mali. Jonathan added that he was "afraid the ECOWAS will not accept the five-year transition" that the Malian transitional parliament adopted on 21 February because "a five-year period is too long for a transition." He promised to continue discussions with the Malian authorities to obtain a "reduction of the five years." Jonathan is expected in Mali on 24 February.¹

Background: After failing to organize election as planned since 2021, the Malian transitional authorities via the National Transitional Council on 21 February adopted a new transition charter setting five years as the new transitional period.

Ghanaian President Says Another 12-Month Transition 'Acceptable'

In an interview with French television France24, Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, who also chairs the ECOWAS, said that along with his peers of the region, they are "preparing to accept an extra year of transition in Mali." In reaction to the suggestion, Malian Prime Choguel Kokalla Maiga said that President Akufo-Addo should feel free to directly address his proposal to transition leader Assimi Goita.²

France Calls UN Security Council Meeting Over Mali

After announcing the withdrawal of its troops from Mali, France has called a behind the door

¹ <http://news.abamako.com/h/266640.html>

² http://malijet.com/a_la_une_du_mali/267129-transition-au-mali-%C2%AB-une-dur%C3%A9e-de-12-mois-suppl%C3%A9mentaire-est-acc.html

meeting of the United Nations Security Council in a bid to expose the reasons behind its quite sudden decision. The session will also look into the future of the UN Mission in Mali in the event that other European forces decide to walk in the steps of France, thus ever weakening the mission.³

SECURITY

Chad To Beef Up Military Presence Within UN Force in Mali

In an interview on Chad's public television, General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the President of the Chadian transition, said that "it is not the moment leave Mali. As long as terrorism persists, we should stay and assist our Malian brothers." He also said that Chad will reinforce his troops within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).⁴

Background: France has decided to remove its military forces from Mali. Chad, that also faces sporadic acts of terrorism and dormant rebel groups, has long been a provider of troops to the MINUSMA in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel.

Gunmed Men Kill Two Police Officers in Timbuktu

Unidentified gunmen killed two police officers in Hamabougou, east of Timbuktu, on 21 February, Baba Moulaye, chairman of the local civil society told newsmen. However, there are confusing reports on what really happened. While Moulaye said that the policemen were killed by two attackers "on a motorbike," security sources rather said that the attackers were aboard a utility vehicle and shot the officers as they were going home from their duty station in the Bariz ward of Timbuktu, a place of insecurity, residents added. The attackers made away with the guns of the police officers.⁵

Background: The north of Mali has fallen into insecurity since 2012 and several murders have been recorded in Timbuktu.

Report Says Gendarmerie at Forefront of Fight Against Terrorism in Mopti Region

A 22 February report in L'Essor daily published by aBamako.com said that traders and businessmen in the Mopti region have resumed using the National Road 15 known as RN15 or the "the road of fish" thanks to the gendarmerie platoons that patrol the area day in and day out. That road section had become infamous because of the activities of terrorists and other highway bandits in the Mopti region. In their attempt to harm the population, terrorists destroyed most of the bridges in the area between Sevare and Bandiagara on the RN 15. Today, the residents of the Mopti area are happy and feel safer with the presence of the gendarmes. Traffic has also resumed between Mali and Burkina Faso.⁶



³ <https://mali24.info/la-conseil-de-securite-de-lonu-va-se-reunir-a-la-demande-de-la-france/>

⁴ <https://atlasinfo.fr/le-tchad-va-renforcer-son-contingent-militaire-au-mali-mahamat-deby.html>

⁵ <http://news.abamako.com/h/266632.html>

⁶ <http://news.abamako.com/h/266628.html>