



Africa Information & Monitoring Services

Mali: Reporting on Major News Developments 11 March 2022

The following report highlights major news developments in politics, economy, and security in Mali on 11 March. The Foreign Minister leads a strong delegation to Mauritania after accusations of "crime" against Mauritanian nationals, Italy donates \$3.3 million to help with humanitarian crisis, Mali retakes position as African cotton top producer, while Minister of Trade announces arrest of fraudulent cattle exporters. On the security side, terrorists have published a video displaying the military equipment they took from the army after the Mondoro attack. An army patrol hit a makeshift landmine and the chief of staff visited the soldiers in Mondoro to comfort them. The report includes background information to add context where needed.

POLITICS

Foreign Minister To Lead Goodwill Delegation to Mauritania To Defuse Tension

Transition leader Assimi Goita decided to send Foreign Affairs Minister Abdoulaye Diop at the head of a strong delegation to Mauritania on 11 and 12 March to "initiate vigorous actions to further strengthen brotherhood and cooperation between Mali and Mauritania in the field of common border management, defense, and the security of persons and property." Earlier, Mauritanian authorities had summoned Mali's ambassador to Nouakchott and accused Mali of "repeated crimes" against their citizens in Mali after the discovery, last week, of 35 charred bodies -- believed to be those of civilian Mauritians -- in Diabaly. The Army rejected any responsibility in the killings.¹



FM Abdoulaye Diop (Malijet.com)

Italy Donates \$3.3 Million To Help With Humanitarian Crisis

Italy decided to donate funds to rescue Malian people hit by severe humanitarian crisis especially in terms of security and food. It is composed of a donation of \$2.2 million to the European Union's humanitarian organization in Mali, ECHO, and \$112,000 intended for the Red Cross which will address the victims of explosives and the territorial clearance of mines and explosive devices.²

Background: Terrorism has caused severe multilayer crises in Mali since 2012.

ECONOMY

¹ https://malijet.com/a_la_une_du_mali/267640-tensions_entre_mali_mauritanie_assassinat_civils_mauritaniens_.html

² <https://www.maliweb.net/economie/cooperation/litalie-contribue-a-hauteur-de-2-milliards-de-f-cfa-dassistance-au-peuple-malien-pour-la-crise-humanitaire-en-cours-au-mali-2968010.html>

Mali Becomes Africa's Leading Cotton Producer Again

A report by the American Department of Agriculture stated that Mali has regained its position of leading cotton producer in Africa after a fall of 75 percent due to the armed crises that have hit the country. According to the confederation of Malian cotton producers, Mali's rise at the top of the cotton producing countries is the result of an increase in the pieces of land set aside for the culture. As an example, cotton developers plan to use 800 thousand hectares of land instead of the previous 170 thousand.³

Ministry of Trade Catches Fraudulent Cattle Exporters

The General Directorate for Trade and Competition of the Ministry of Commerce posted on its Facebook page that many of its decentralized branches have caught people attempting to fraudulently get out of the country with cattle in violation of the sanctions that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took against Mali on 9 January. Part of the sanctions includes bans of commercial exchanges between Mali and member countries. The directorate urged all Malians to stop the practice to avoid an increase in the price of meat, especially as the month of Ramadan is approaching.

Background: ECOWAS sanctions include closure of borders, which impacts the flux of cattle between Mali and neighboring countries.

SECURITY

Terrorists Display Military Equipment Retrieved From Army After Mondoro Attack

In a video published on 9 March on the video sharing platform Youtube, terrorists showcased the vehicles and weapons they took from the Malian Army during the attack they carried out on 4 March in Mondoro. A man speaking Bambara gives the details of the military equipment retrieved from the soldiers after the deadly attack that claimed the lives of 27 Malian soldiers. The equipment includes eight trucks and dozens of machine guns.⁴



Army Patrol Hits Explosive Improvised Device; No Casualty

On the morning of 10 March, a patrol of the Malian Armed Forces on a mission in sector 3 hit an improvised explosive device. The incident took place around 10 a.m. on the Timbuktu-Acharane road. Sources on the ground said that there is no loss of human life or material damage.⁵

Chief of Staff Morally Rearms Troops After Deadly Attack in Mondoro

³ <https://www.maliweb.net/economie/cmdt-textile/production-de-coton-le-mali-redevient-premier-en-afrique-2968008.html>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MebnF3ckrZ0>

⁵ <https://malijet.com/actualite-politique-au-mali/flash-info/267628-tombouctou-une-mission-fama-du-secteur-3-saute-sur-un-eei.html>

The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Major General Oumar Diarra, on 8 March led a strong delegation in Mondoro to pay tribute to the soldiers who died on 4 March in the attack on the security post of the locality. To the populations who came out en masse to warmly welcome him, General Diarra addressed praises for their bravery because, despite the threats of terrorists, they support the Armed Forces of Mali (FAMA). He also gave directives to maintain the Mondoro security post to always secure the populations who refused to sign a pact with the terrorists. Special Forces were deployed to reinforce the FAMA barrack.⁶



Maliweb.net

Background: A terrorist attack on 4 March on a military outpost in Mondoro, center, left 27 soldiers dead.

⁶ <https://www.maliweb.net/armee/mondoro-le-chef-detat-major-general-rearme-moralement-la-troupe-2968145.html>