



Africa Information & Monitoring Services

Mali: Reporting on Major News Developments 14 March 2022

The following report highlights major news developments in politics and security in Mali on 14 March. In this report, Mali and Mauritania have set up a joint committee to look into the issue of Mauritians killed in Mali, a newspaper has purported that a new transition could last 20 months while an editorial says transitional leader Colonel Assimi Goita is about to disappoint Malians. On the economic front, 200,000 farmers receive more than \$6.6 million relief fund. Security wise, a hundred civilians were killed over the weekend in clashes between terrorist groups in the Menaka region, Mali has banned movements of civilians along border amid tensions with Mauritania, and an article has urged the resumption of talks with armed groups. The report includes background information to add context where needed.

POLITICS

Mali, Mauritania Set Up Joint Committee on Murder Case

Privately owned news website Maliweb.net on 13 March reported that at the end of a two-day visit to Nouakchott by a high-level Malian delegation, Mali and Mauritania agreed to set up a "joint ad hoc fact-finding mission to shed light on the latest events in El Ataye (El Ghattaye).". They stressed the need "to organize joint patrols along the border, to share, as soon as possible, the results of the investigation carried out by the Malian Government relating to the events of 17 January in Akor to punish, as severely as Malian legislation authorizes, the perpetrators of heinous crimes."¹



Newspaper Hints New Transition To Last 20 Months

In a 14 March series of highlights culled from *L'Inter de Bamako*, news site aBamako hinted that the new period of transition may last 20 months starting 27 February 2022. The newspaper said that it got the scoop from a source within the "inter-African community." If this calendar is approved, then the ECOWAS will lift the sanctions against Mali and along with partners, it will sponsor the presidential election that would take place on October 2023.²



Abamako.com

¹ <https://www.maliweb.net/politique/le-mali-et-la-mauritanie-creent-une-mission-conjointe-pour-statuer-sur-lassassinat-de-mauritaniens-2968480.html>

² <http://news.abamako.com/h/267503.html>

Editorial Says Transitional Leader About To Disappoint Malians

A 14 March editorial by Youssouf Sissoko of *L'Alternance*, reprinted in Maliweb highlighted what the writer perceives as failures of transition president Colonel Assimi Goita. Among others, Sissoko said that although Goita pledged not to run for president, one observes an increase in the number of associations to promote his image, several government actions including drilling of water wells are put to Goita's personal credit, and Mali continues to suffer from the impact of the ECOWAS sanctions while Goita seems to walk in the steps of his radical prime minister, Choguel Maiga. Sissoko then suggested that Goita forms a small-sized government that will focus on Malians' problems and dissolves all the clubs and groups that are chanting his name daily.³

ECONOMY

More Than 200,000 Farmers Get \$6.6 Million Relief Fund



Maliactu.net

Mali, who suffers under the plight of growing insecurity, droughts, and COVID-19, just received approximately \$6.6 million from the African Risk Capacity (ARC), an African Union agency aimed at improving governments' capacities to plan better and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters.

Background: In 2021, Mali experienced the most severe lack of rains in five years due to periodic dry spells and low rainfall, putting 1.9 million people across the country at risk of severe food insecurity mainly in rural areas in the regions of Kayes, Gao, Mopti, Ségou, and Timbuktu.⁴

SECURITY

Hundred Civilians Killed in Clashes Between Terrorist Groups in Menaka Region

In a 14 March report culled from newspaper *22 Septembre*, news website Maliweb.net reported that deadly clashes that pitted the Movement for the Salvation of Azawad (MSA,) the Islamic State in the Greater Sahel (EIGS,) and the GATIA on 12 March week in the localities of Tamalat and Inchinanane in the Menaka region, north, caused the "massacre" of a hundred civilians. Residents of the areas have criticized the Malian authorities for purely turning their back on the security situation and the fate of the populations living in the north. An official of the MSA said that these clashes are just opportunities for their adversaries to conduct an ethnic cleansing against the Tuareg.⁵



Maliweb.net

³ <https://www.maliweb.net/editorial/edito-le-colonel-assimi-goita-va-t-il-decevoir-2968539.html>

⁴ https://maliactu.net/secheresse-une-indemnite-de-4-milliards-fcfa-pour-plus-de-200-000-paysans/?fbclid=IwAR3kyD458UfHirXo1Sj5xtMQsw6Gw40ZKq7GK0ly_9bJ-7w18bkONmPXFBU#.Yi7iBU46_SE.facebook

⁵ <https://www.maliweb.net/insecurite/affrontements-entre-le-msa-gatia-et-leigs-a-tamalat-et-insinanane-une-centaine-de-civils-massacres-2968533.html>

Mali Bans Movements of Civilians Along Border Amid Tensions With Mauritania

Malian authorities on 12 March decided to ban movement of civilians in the border area with Mauritania, where a number of Mauritanian nationals were killed and burned in early March. Mauritanian authorities immediately accused Malian soldiers before receiving a high-level delegation to discuss the issue and agree on the way forward.⁶

Article Urges Resumption of Talks With Armed Groups

A 14 March article on news website Maliweb.net urged the transitional authorities to immediately resume discussions with the leaders of the armed groups and terrorist groups operating in the north and the center of the country. The article insisted that in the context of the departure of France's military force Barkhane and the sudden burst of deadly violence in areas controlled by terrorist groups, it is about time that talks resume between the government and the militant groups to obtain and foster peace throughout the country. The article warned that Mali should not be deceived by the recent victories of the Army, especially after observing deadly reactions from jihadist groups over the last days.⁷

⁶ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/tensions-avec-la-mauritanie-le-mali-interdit-les-mouvements-de-civils-en-zone-frontaliere-20220313>

⁷ <https://www.maliweb.net/insecurite/degradation-de-la-situation-securitaire-au-centre-et-au-nord-du-mali-qui-empeche-les-discussions-avec-les-chefs-terroristes-2968513.html>