



**STATEMENT N°035 BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT**

The Transitional Government has learned with deep concern the remarks made by the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron, during his visit to Guinea Bissau on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Indeed, during his press conference, the French Head of State repeated erroneous accusations by claiming that the Malian Authorities maintain relations with a paramilitary group, without ever providing evidence, despite denials by the Transitional Authorities. Worse, in these remarks, he referred to the use of violence by the Malian Authorities, targeting a specific ethnic group in our nation.

The Transitional Government condemns in the strongest terms these hateful and defamatory remarks by the French President and wishes to draw the national and international communities to these serious accusations, which are likely to stir up ethnic hatred and undermine living together, cohesion and harmony among Malians.

It is important that President Macron constantly remind himself of the negative role and responsibility of France in the Genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, an event that still saddens humanity.

In this regard, in a premonitory manner and after having detected the intention of the French Authorities to give rise to ethnic hatred in Mali, the Transitional Government requested, on the one hand, the French Ambassador to leave the Malian territory and, on the other hand, suspended media France 24 and Radio France Internationale medias, behaving as the "Radio des milles collines" in the Republic of Mali.

Thus, these subversive remarks by the French President vindicate the Transitional Government, which rightly terminated defense cooperation with France for its unsatisfactory performance in the fight against terrorism in Mali.

Furthermore, France, which has always worked for the division and partition of our country, is ill-positioned to teach Mali a lesson.

The Transitional Government demands that President Macron definitely give up his neo-colonial, paternalistic and condescending posture in order to understand that no one can love Mali better than the Malians themselves.

The Transitional Government recalls that Mali, the home of great empires in West Africa, the cradle of a multi-secular civilization and a country of tolerance, is based on its ethno-cultural diversity and good social cohesion among all the ethnic groups and communities that make it up.

It must be recognized that in recent years the social fabric has been deteriorated, due to community conflicts which are instrumentalized by terrorist groups and their foreign state sponsors.

The Transitional Government recalls that strengthening social cohesion remains one of its non-negotiable priority objectives and will spare no effort to achieve this mission.

Finally, it should be strongly recalled that our valiant Defense and Security Forces which are multiethnic, professional, republican and firmly committed, remain a solid bulwark for the defense of the homeland, the preservation and protection of all our fellow citizens in their religious and ethnical diversity.

May God bless Mali and protect Malians!

**Bamako, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

**Signed by:**  
**The Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization,**  
**Spokesperson for the Government,**

**Colonel Abdoulave MAIGA**  
*Chevalier of National Order*