

*Translation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

**MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND DECENTRALIZATION**



**REPUBLIC OF MALI**  
One People – One Goal – One Faith

## **STATEMENT N° 053 BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT**

The Transitional Government was stunned to learn of the unilateral decision by the Government of the United States of America, on 25 May 2023, to impose visa restrictions on two valiant officers of the Malian Army, for alleged acts, on the sole basis of the United Nations Report on "the events of Moura" without waiting for the conclusion of the judicial investigations conducted by the Malian authorities.

In its statement no. 052 dated 13 May 2023, the Transitional Government challenged the report, which was biased in both approach and content, and decided to open a judicial enquiry against the fact-finding mission for criminal acts.

Beyond the measure itself, which is unfounded and unjust, the message conveyed by the Government of the United States of America, as well as the public form of its announcement, undermine the presumption of innocence of those concerned and discredit the entire military establishment.

This situation is in addition to the one created a few days earlier, on 22 May 2023, through an accusation made by the US State Department Spokesperson at a press briefing concerning an alleged role played by Mali in facilitating the supply of arms in a crisis in which Mali observed strict neutrality when substantive aspects were being examined.



<https://m.facebook.com/matdmali/posts>

In response to this accusation by the State Department, on 25 May 2023, a few hours before the announcement of sanctions against the two Malian officers, Mali's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation took a constructive approach and invited the Ambassador of the United States of America to Mali, to notify her, among other things, of the extreme seriousness of the false accusations made against the Republic of Mali. In addition to the unfounded nature of the allegations, the Transitional Government denounced their lightness, which was confirmed by the US State Department Spokesperson. As a reminder, the latter himself admitted that: "to date, we have no indication that these acquisitions have been finalized or carried out".

Through such attitude by the United States of America, preceded by their refusal to deliver a Malian air force aircraft, "le casa", in 2021, the Transitional Government is upset by these actions, which are having a negative impact on bilateral cooperation, at a time when Mali is obstinately fighting against the French junta, the promoter of terrorism in the Sahel.

Taking this opportunity, the Government of Mali strongly rejects the instrumentalization and politicization of human rights for geopolitical aims, and denounces the "double standards" policy. In this regard, the Transitional Government reminds the Government of the United States of America of its disturbing silence following the bombing by France on 3 January 2021 of peaceful Malian citizens who were celebrating a wedding in Bounti, despite the fact that France's responsibility had been established by MINUSMA.

Given the complexity of the security crisis in Mali and the region, reckless unilateral measures are counter-productive, even dangerous, and will only strengthen terrorist groups and obscurantist forces that have grown stronger since the military intervention in Libya and against which our valiant FAMa are fighting.



The Government of the Transition calls on the Government of the United States of America to stop disinformation campaign against Mali and urges it to respect the three principles defined by HE Colonel Assimi GOÏTA, President of the Transition, Head of State, which guide public action in Mali, namely:

1. Respect for Malian sovereignty;
2. Respect for the strategic choices and choices of partners made by Mali;
3. Taking into account the interests of the Malian people in all decisions.

The Transitional Government reassures the national opinion that no maneuver could prompt it to adopt a partisan position, against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions, nor compromise the Rebuilding work underway in Mali, as well as the rise in power of the FAMA.

Finally, Mali reiterates its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights within the framework of dialogue and mutual respect.

May God bless Mali and protect Malians!

Bamako, 27 May 2023

*Signed by:*

**The Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Spokesperson for the Government,**

**Colonel Abdoulaye MAIGA**

Chevalier of National Order

