

**NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL**

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**REPUBLIC OF MALI**

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**One People-One Goal-One Faith**

**DECLARATION BY THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL  
FOLLOWING THE REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE  
EVENTS IN MOURA FROM 27 TO 31 MARCH 2022**

**The National Transitional Council, meeting in plenary session on Thursday 18 May 2023, adopted the following declaration in response to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the events in Moura from 27 to 31 March 2022.**

**The National Transitional Council,**

- **Having taken note** of the report published by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presenting the results of a fact-finding mission by the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA);
- **Considering** that in this report, the FAMa are the subject of unfounded allegations of abuses against the civilian population and that the bearers of this unfounded information have no other objective than to tarnish the image of the Malian defense and security forces, which are firmly committed to the struggle for freedom, security and protection of the population

- **Considering** that the security challenges faced by Mali since 2012 are known to all Mali's sincere partners;
- **Considering** that the locality of Moura, a sanctuary for terrorists in the Mopti region for more than ten years, was virtually inaccessible to the forces present in Mali (FAMa, Tacouba, Barkhane and even MINUSMA);
- **Considering** that to enable Mali to establish peace and assert its presence throughout the national territory, the Transitional authorities are making tremendous efforts on a daily basis in the area of security to equip the Armed and Security Forces;
- **Considering** that the report came after Mr. Guillaume GUEFF A was declared persona non grata and that the team of investigators from the Human Rights Division of the MINUSMA never carried out a field mission in Moura;
- **Considering** that the satellite records as mentioned in the report all refer to the geographical position of a province of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- **Considering** that the Malian Association for Human Rights (AMDH) has declared that it was not associated with the various stages of the investigation missions, and that it has also clearly disassociated itself from this report because of the serious breaches of the principles of impartiality, objectivity and loyalty;
- **Considering** that the events that occurred in Moura between 27 and 31 March 2022 are instrumentalized for the purpose of constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity, given that throughout the document, the conditional tense is used;

- **Considering** that on April 6, 2022, the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Mopti announced that, following allegations of alleged abuses committed against civilians, investigations had been opened by the national gendarmerie as instructed by the Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs to carry out in-depth investigations in order to fully clarify the said events;
- **Considering** that the report of the United Nations investigators was made public unexpectedly in violation of the partnership methodology;
- **Considering** that this report published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is likely to hinder Mali in recovering from the crisis and in the successful conduct of the transition which the Malian people is yearning for;
- **Considering** that the so-called United Nations investigation team, as part of the analysis and processing of documentary sources, allegedly collected, examined and verified 35 audiovisual and digital media related to the incidents and broadcast in the public domain, including only two (2) from Mali, namely ORTM and Djoliba TV, as well as some fifty tweets, highlighting the vague and summary nature of the investigation;
- **Considering** the inconsistencies related to the number of civilians allegedly killed, the number of neutralized terrorists that the investigators allegedly counted without having carried out the slightest field visit, the number of families and imaginary displaced persons;
- **Considering** that the constant commitment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces in their fight against terrorism and insecurity throughout the

national territory strictly complies with human rights and international humanitarian law;

- **Considering** that on April 9, 2022, the Presidents of the Commission in charge of Laws and the Defense Commission of the National Transitional Council (CNT) and a government delegation made up of the Minister for Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion responsible for the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation resulting from the Algiers process, and the Minister Delegate in charge of Humanitarian Action, Solidarity, Refugees and Displaced Persons went to the village of Moura to bring the support, comfort and assistance of the State to the populations of Moura;

#### **THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL,**

- **Denounces** the approach and procedure adopted by the UN investigators, whose only objectives are to discredit and isolate Mali and to undermine the morale of the armed forces and the peaceful Malian people, who are only yearning for peace, security and prosperity after more than a decade of multifaceted crisis;
- **Regrets** that this report, which is contrary to the rigorous standards of investigative procedures, is in reality only a reflection of the desire of some imperialist powers to subjugate Mali;
- **Totally rejects** the conclusions of the "Report on the Moura events" and questions this variable geometric approach to human rights by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations;

- **Welcomes** the diligent reaction of the Transitional Government through its statement n° 0052 dated 13 May 2023;
- **Encourages** the Transitional Government to curb the terror and violence of lawless terrorist hordes on the national territory;
- **Supports** the Government in its willingness to prosecute the perpetrators and accomplices behind this biased UN report;
- **Congratulates** the Malian Armed Forces for all the victories and initiatives underway, and urges them to be vigilant and to continue their efforts in the fight against terrorism, the securing of the national territory and the protection of people and their property, all in strict compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law as usual;
- **Calls on** the Malian population, the diaspora and all active forces of the country to be serene, vigilant, cohesive, and patriotic, and to remain always mobilized behind the Transitional authorities at this critical, juncture for the life of the nation;
- **Expresses** its solidarity with the President of the Transition, Head of State, His Excellency Colonel Assimi GOITA, the Government and the Defense and Security Forces engaged in the fight against obscurantist forces and all forms of violence against the Malian population;
- **Lends** its unwavering support to His Excellency, Colonel Assimi GOTTA, President of the Transition, Head of State and encourages him to undertake all useful steps for the success of the transition and the assertion of Mali's sovereignty;

- **Calls on** friendly countries and institutions to support and assist Mali in its fight against terrorism and for the completion of the transition process.

Bamako, 18 May 2023

**Chairman of the meeting**

**Assarid Ag IMBARCAOUANE**

*Grand Officer of National Order*