

*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°052 BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT**

The Transitional Government has consulted with great attention the report on "the events of Moura from 27 to 31 March 2022» published on 12 May 2023, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Transitional Government vehemently denounces this biased report, which is based on a fictitious story and does not meet established international standards. That is why the Government did not even comment on it during its preparation.

After the successful airborne operation of our valiant armed forces in Moura, at the request of the Transitional Government, the military justice system decided to carry out a judicial investigation to clarify possible cases of human rights violations. This is precisely the same measure recommended by the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In light of the situation, it is useful to question the appropriateness of this publication, which recommends to the Transitional Government a decision it made over a year ago, unless it is to disturb the peace of Malians in the run-up to a referendum poll which is of a great importance for the ongoing rebuilding process.

Following the events in Moura, in accordance with procedures in force in Mali, an investigation was opened to shed light on the allegations of human rights violations. On 09 April 2022, a judicial investigation was carried out by the Mopti Public Prosecutor's Office. The first elements of the investigation point to the hypothesis of



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

a confrontation that caused deaths by projectiles, and the finding that the great majority of the bodies are adult males.

In terms of security, it is clear to everyone that the military intervention of the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) was beneficial and brought a great deal of peace to the population, a sign that the defeat inflicted on KATIBA MACINA and its foreign state sponsors has made it possible to disrupt them permanently. No civilians from Moura were killed during the military operation. Among the dead, there were only terrorist fighters and all those arrested were put at the disposal of the Gendarmerie of Sevare. After an investigation, those arrested were transferred to the Gendarmerie's Judicial Investigation Service in Bamako and then brought to justice.

The investigation is ongoing and the Government of Mali is committed to bringing this process to a successful conclusion, with full respect for human rights and independence.

However, it is important to note that the investigation has required more in-depth actions that are currently being carried out. The time limits necessary to establish the truth must be respected in order, on the one hand, to protect the investigation from media influence and manipulation and, on the other hand, to give the independent investigators time to conduct their analyses and formulate conclusions at the appropriate rhythm.

In addition to the investigation conducted by the Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs, a judicial investigation has been opened under the authority of the specialized judicial unit. The results of these investigations will be made available to the national opinion in due course.

The Transitional Government considered the methodology that guided the drafting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' report and was shocked to learn that the fact-finding mission had used satellites over Moura to obtain images.

The Transitional Government informs the national and international public opinion that MINUSMA or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights did not at any time request authorization to take satellite images of Moura.



By using satellites to obtain images, without authorization and without the awareness of Malian authorities, the fact-finding mission carried out a clandestine maneuver against Mali's national security.

Consequently, the Transitional Government decides to immediately open a judicial investigation against the fact-finding mission and its accomplices for espionage, undermining the external security of the state, crimes punishable by the criminal code (Art 33 and 35), as well as military conspiracy, a crime punishable by the code of military justice (Art 130), without prejudging the qualification of the judicial authorities.

The Transitional Government recalls that this attitude of the fact-finding mission is similar to a case of espionage by the French junta, which illegally placed a drone over the Gossi base on 20 April 2022, to film human bodies, meticulously prepared, in order to accuse the FAMa.

Conscious of the need to respect human life and dignity, the Transitional Government has repeatedly warned against the instrumentalization of MINUSMA and human rights in order to break the dynamics of the rise of Mali's Defense and Security Forces and to oppose Mali's strategic choices.

In this context, it is contradictory and paradoxical to note the celerity with which the fact-finding mission was set up at the time when Mali was complaining to the United Nations Security Council on 15 August 2022 about acts of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member state of the United Nations by the French junta, with evidence of blatant and repeated violations of its airspace and espionage, for having collected information for terrorist groups operating in the Sahel, while dropping weapons and ammunition to them. It should be recalled that these groups are the main actors of serious and massive human rights violations.

Following Mali's complaint, no fact-finding commission has been set up. To date, the special meeting requested by Mali to present evidence of the duplicity of the French junta has not been held. Therefore, for the sake of consistency and to avoid double standards, the Government of Mali believes that the follow-up to this report



of the fact-finding mission cannot be examined separately from the complaint brought by Mali before the Security Council against the French junta.

The Transitional Government, under the leadership of His Excellency Colonel Assimi GOÏTA, President of the Transition, Head of State, reiterates its commitment to respect and protection of human rights throughout the national territory and for the benefit of all citizens. Furthermore, it expresses its commitment to continue its work of rebuilding the country for the restoration of a peaceful and secure constitutional order.

The Transitional Government calls on the Malian people to remain vigilant and calm with respect to desperate attempts at disinformation, denigration and destabilization under the guise of human rights and for inhumane interests.

May God bless Mali and protect Malians!

Bamako, 13 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

