



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 17 February 2021 from the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) on Mali addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on Mali established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2374 (2017), whose mandate was extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2541 (2020), I have the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2541 (2020), the midterm report on the Panel's work.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

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Coordinator of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to  
Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) on Mali

*(Signed)* Ruben **de Koning**  
Expert

*(Signed)* Sanaa **Elhakim**  
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*(Signed)* Aurélien **Llorca**  
Expert



## Midterm report of the Panel of Experts on Mali

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\* Circulated in the languages of submission only and without formal editing.

## I. Background

### Mandate, travel and cooperation

1. In its resolution [2541 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council decided to renew until 31 August 2021 the measures set out in paragraphs 1 to 7 of its resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#). The sanctions regime established by resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) consists of a travel ban and an asset freeze that apply to individuals and/or entities designated by the Committee as being responsible for or complicit in, or having engaged in, directly or indirectly, actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of Mali. In its resolution [2541 \(2020\)](#), the Council requested the Secretary-General to re-establish the Panel of Experts and extended its mandate, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 15 of resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#), until 30 September 2021.

2. During the reporting period, the Panel worked under particularly challenging conditions, compounded by political turmoil in Mali and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The coup d'état in August 2020 led to a total change in the Malian political leadership. Subsequently, it was of utmost importance to the Panel to visit the country and engage with the transitional authorities. However, since 6 October 2020, the date of appointment of its members, the Panel has not been able to travel, whether to Mali or elsewhere.

3. Travel to several European capitals planned for October did not happen, owing to the late appointment of the Panel by the Secretary-General. Travel to Mali was initially planned for 26 October to 8 November, then postponed to 16 to 27 November, and then again rescheduled for 30 November to 12 December, because of complex travel arrangements that could not be processed in time.

4. The mission planned for December was eventually abandoned because of a last-minute increase in the mandatory quarantine period from 7 to 14 days, in accordance with information provided by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to the Panel on 23 November. The Panel requested that MINUSMA reconsider its last-minute change, highlighting that, without a change to the quarantine period, the Panel would be prevented from implementing its mandate from the Security Council. MINUSMA refused to revert to a 7-day quarantine or to exempt the Panel from its self-imposed measure, despite precedents of quarantine requirements being waived for New York-based United Nations officials who travelled to Mali in October and November 2020.

5. As a result of the travel constraints mentioned above, the Panel is not able to submit to the Committee a midterm report in line with the Panel's established standards, with detailed findings in each expert's area of expertise. Instead, the Panel is submitting a scaled-down report, providing an update on the implementation of sanctions and highlighting the main political and security developments pertaining to the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and its signatory parties, as well as sanctioned individuals and those singled out in the Panel's previous reports, at both the national and regional levels.

### Methodology

6. The Panel endeavours to ensure compliance with the standards recommended by the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions in its report of December 2006 (see [S/2006/997](#), annex). While it intends to be as transparent as possible, in situations where identifying sources would expose them or others to unacceptable safety risks, the Panel withholds identifying information.

7. The Panel is equally committed to the highest degree of fairness and will endeavour to make available to parties, where appropriate and possible, any information in the report for which those parties may be cited, for their review, comment and response within a specified deadline.<sup>1</sup>

8. The Panel safeguards the independence of its work against any effort to undermine its impartiality or create a perception of bias. The Panel approved the text in the present report based on consensus prior to its transmission to the President of the Security Council.

## II. Sanctions measures

9. The Panel received information indicating that individuals listed on the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali continued to travel throughout the reporting period, in violation of the travel ban.

10. Responding to a request from the Panel for information, Mauritanian authorities confirmed that Mohamed Ould Mataly (MLi.008) had travelled to Nouakchott from 28 to 30 October 2020, along with three members of Plateforme des mouvements du 14 juin 2014 d'Alger. The stated reason for their travel was to meet with Mauritanian authorities, as part of periodic consultations with Plateforme members, in view of Mauritania's contribution to the peace process and monitoring of the Agreement.

11. In a follow-up letter to the Government of Mauritania, the Panel recalled that in paragraph 3 of its resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council emphasized that violations of the travel ban can undermine the peace, stability or security of Mali and observed that individuals who knowingly facilitate the travel of a listed individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria provided for in that resolution. The Panel further recalled paragraph 2 (c) of the same resolution, in which the Security Council stated that the travel ban shall not apply where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that an exemption would further the objectives of peace and national reconciliation in Mali and stability in the region. Hence, Mauritanian authorities are reminded of the obligation to send an exemption request to and await approval by the Committee before allowing entry to individuals inscribed on the sanctions list.

12. Concerning Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri (MLi.007), also known as Rouggy, who, according to information received by the Panel, also travelled to Mauritania in October 2020, as well as in March 2020 (see [S/2020/785/Rev.1](#), para. 128), Mauritanian authorities stated that they had not registered his entry.

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<sup>1</sup> On 12 March 2020, the Panel met with Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri (MLi.007), also known as Rouggy, to discuss the reasons for his designation. Rouggy denied being involved in drug trafficking. In relation to his alleged involvement in trafficking in Guinea-Bissau, he claimed to have travelled there to apply for a diplomatic passport and that he had happened to share a car going there from Dakar on 4 March 2019 with Oumar Ould Mohamed (see [S/2019/636](#), para. 110). On 23 September 2020, Rouggy addressed a letter to the Panel denying again his involvement in drug trafficking (see annex I). In preparation for its final report in 2020, the Panel reached out to Keba Sangaré to solicit his views with regard to events elucidated in that report ([S/2020/785/Rev.1](#), p. 8 and para. 26). He told the Panel that any communication would be officially transmitted by the Malian authorities. The Panel has been made aware of a Government memorandum containing a rebuttal of the Panel's findings presented in its previous final report ([S/2020/785/Rev.1](#)), including those regarding Keba Sangaré, but the Panel did not receive the memorandum from Malian authorities, cannot assess its status and hence refrains from annexing or commenting on it herein. On 16 September 2020, the Government of Morocco addressed a letter to the Panel in response to its final report, affirming its full cooperation with the Panel.

13. Regarding the implementation of the asset freeze, since the first designations on 20 December 2018, the Panel has addressed four letters to the Malian authorities to enquire about possible government payments to all eight sanctioned individuals, which may possibly constitute violations of sanctions criterion 8 (c) of resolution 2374 (2017) and enquire about steps taken to identify and effectively freeze the assets of the five individuals listed under the asset freeze measure. The Panel has not received a response to any of these letters.

14. As was the case with regard to former member of parliament Mohamed Ould Mataly (MLi.0008), there is a risk of violating the sanctions regime through the provision of support and/or financing (any form of material or financial remuneration or compensation) to a designated individual, which may prove to be the case as concerns Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune (MLi.003), who, on 3 December 2020, was appointed as a member of the National Transition Council, the parliament of the Transition (see para. 23 below).

15. The Panel intends to specifically investigate further whether the recent participation of Mohamed Ousmane in workshops, conferences and/or seminars may qualify as such support or financing.<sup>2</sup> The Panel recalls that the Security Council, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 2531 (2020), stressed that individuals or entities placed on the sanctions list shall not benefit from any financial, operational or logistical support from United Nations entities deployed in Mali.

16. In the absence of a response from the Malian authorities, the Panel also directed correspondence to a dozen financial institutions represented in Mali, informing them about five individuals on the sanctions list who are subject to the asset freeze and requesting any banking information they might have in relation to the individuals concerned. Two banks have responded to date, but have not identified any accounts belonging to any of the five individuals.

17. Information concerning the activities of Ahmoudou Ag Asriw (MLi.001) and Houka Houka Ag Alhousseini (MLi.005), and further information regarding Mohamed Ousmane, is given in paragraphs 44, 60 and 24.

### III. Observations at the national level

#### A. Inclusion of armed groups in the transitional Government, with the military holding offices key for the implementation of the Agreement

18. On 12 September 2020, Malian stakeholders adopted a transition charter that recognizes the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. On 5 October 2020,<sup>3</sup> the President of the Transition, Bah N'Daw, appointed a Government of 25 ministers, including, for the first time, representatives of armed groups.<sup>4</sup> Representatives of

<sup>2</sup> For example, on 14 December 2020, Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Coalition du peuple de l'Azawad (CPA), attended a workshop on constitutional reform at the Sheraton hotel in Bamako, reportedly organized by a Swedish-based international organization, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

<sup>3</sup> Decree No. 2020-0074/PT-RM of 5 October 2020 appointing members of the Government.

<sup>4</sup> Four representatives of signatory armed groups were appointed as ministers. They are: Harouna Toureh, former spokesperson of Plateforme, allied with the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA); Alhamdou Ag Ilyene, representing the Groupe d'autodéfense des Touaregs Imghad et leurs allies (GATIA)-Gamou component of Plateforme; and Mossa Ag Attaher and Mohamed Ould Mahmoud, representing CMA.

numerous other armed groups have also been appointed to several non-ministerial government positions, including in the Office of the President.

19. Military officers are in charge of ministries that are central to the implementation of the Agreement. Lieutenant-Colonel Abdoulaye Maïga became Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization on 5 October 2020. His Ministry oversees territorial reforms, elections and, to a certain extent, constitutional reforms. It has also established a national commission for elections in new constituencies, including the regions of Taoudenni and Ménaka as well as the *cercles* of Almoustrat and Achibogho.

20. Colonel-Major Ismaël Wagué, former spokesperson of the Comité national pour le salut du peuple, which led the coup d'état, became Minister of National Reconciliation. The Ministry coordinates the Government's implementation of the Agreement. On 18 December 2020, on behalf of the Government, the Minister of National Reconciliation signed the new road map for the implementation of the Agreement during the 18-month transition period.

21. Of the 20 individuals appointed as governors of regions, 13 are from the military, including Brigadier General Keba Sangaré, who has been mentioned by the Panel in previous reports as having committed violations of the sanctions regime (S/2020/785/Rev.1, para. 26, and S/2020/158/Rev.1, paras. 36 and 37). Previously, there were only three governors from the military, in Mopti, Gao and Koulikoro. Four of the five regions in the north (Timbuktu, Taoudenni, Gao and Kidal), are now governed by military or police officers.<sup>5</sup>

## **B. Disagreement over allocation of seats on the National Transition Council**

22. Although the seats on the National Transition Council were distributed among the military, political movements and civil society organizations through a presidential decree adopted on 9 November 2020, the President of the Transition did not announce the appointments until 3 December 2020. Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) and its allied faction, Plateforme, objected to this distribution of seats, which they said was unilateral and insignificant. Subsequently, on 4 December 2020, CMA suspended its participation in the National Transition Council.<sup>6</sup>

23. Sanctioned individual Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune (MLi.003), Secretary-General of CPA and self-declared spokesperson of the armed groups that are part of the "inclusivité", was appointed as a member of the National Transition Council. Coordination des mouvements de l'inclusivité (CMI) also objected to the distribution of seats, stating that the appointment of Mohamed Ousmane was clearly contrary to the outcome of its negotiations with the Minister of National Reconciliation, Colonel-Major Ismaël Wagué, during which a list of "inclusivité" candidates for the Council had been drawn up. This list, agreed upon by all CMI representatives, including Mohamed Ousmane (see annex II), included eight names ranked by order of preference, with Mohamed Ousmane holding the third position. However, both Younoussa Touré (Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance-2 (CMFPR-2)), ranked first in the list, and Boubacar Sedigh Ould Taleb

<sup>5</sup> The new Governors in the northern regions are as follows: Senior Police Commissioner Bakoun Kanté, for Timbuktu; General Mohamed Ould Meydou, for Taoudenni; General Moussa Traoré, for Gao; and Colonel Fodé Malick Sissoko, for Kidal.

<sup>6</sup> CMA communiqué No. 20/CD/CMA/2020 of 4 December 2020.

(Mouvement populaire pour le salut de l'Azawad (MPSA)), in second position, were not appointed.

24. In accordance with the decision by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali, Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune was listed on 20 December 2018 for "actions taken that obstruct, or that obstruct by prolonged delay, or that threaten the implementation of the Agreement". His designation as a representative of the "inclusivité" within the National Transition Council, in contravention of the signed agreement reached under the auspices of the Minister of National Reconciliation, is reminiscent of the practice of the previous Malian governments of co-opting and manipulating leaders of armed groups, including Mohamed Ousmane, in particular through the state security service. Such practices, as reported in the Panel's previous report (S/2020/785/Rev.1), were part of a government strategy that undermined the implementation of the Agreement, notably by generating mistrust among signatory parties and confusion for the international community.

25. The National Transition Council, which is chaired by Colonel Malick Diaw, one of the leaders of the coup, is expected to pass priority legislation, review the Constitution and endorse other reforms provided for in the Agreement. None of these substantive tasks has started, as the Council is still establishing its internal bodies and operational rules. The non-participation of CMA, combined with the absence of representatives of the Plateforme of Harouna Toureh and CMI, is expected to reduce the Council's legitimacy and its operational capacity with regard to reforms needed for the implementation of the Agreement.

### **C. Preparation for elections in the regions of Taoudenni and Ménaka as well as the *cercles* of Almooustrat and Achibogho**

26. The transitional Government has carried forward the national commission for the preparation of elections in new constituencies, including the regions of Taoudenni and Ménaka as well as the *cercles* of Almooustrat and Achibogho. The commission was established by the previous Government in April 2020, in implementation of resolution No. 1 of the national inclusive dialogue. It resumed its work on 25 November 2020, after a five-month interruption, with its subcommission on claims and disputes expected to submit its findings. As mentioned in the final report of the Panel submitted in 2020, the commission includes representatives of all signatory parties and emerged as a result of protracted negotiations between the Government and signatory armed groups, leading to a detailed, time-bound and budgeted plan of action elaborated by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (S/2020/785/Rev.1, paras.18–21).

27. The transitional Government has not, however, indicated whether the time-bound and budgeted action plan developed for the commission was also to be carried forward. The allocation of specific resources to the commission would be critical for the participation of people in the regions in the north in the 2022 legislative elections. The Panel notes that the new road map for implementation of the Agreement, signed by all parties on 18 December 2020, does not specifically refer to the operationalization of the regions of Taoudenni and Ménaka and the *cercles* of Almooustrat and Achibogho as electoral constituencies.

#### **D. Reactivation of the intra-Malian consultation framework and reinstatement of the Ministry of National Reconciliation as coordinating body of the Government’s implementation of the Agreement**

28. The Panel further takes note of the transitional Government’s reinstatement of the Ministry of National Reconciliation as coordinating body for the Government’s implementation of the Agreement and liaison with other signatories. The transitional Government also reactivated the intra-Malian consultation framework, whose weekly meetings, chaired by the Minister of National Reconciliation, had been suspended and which had seemingly been replaced in October 2019 by two other commissions that, however, never became operational (see [S/2020/158/Rev.1](#), paras. 30–34).

29. In November 2020, the Agreement Monitoring Committee welcomed the reactivation of the consultation framework. Under the framework, the parties held a four-day workshop from 24 to 27 November 2020 to draft a new road map for the implementation of the Agreement, which was signed by all parties on 18 December 2020.

30. In a previous report, the Panel underlined the paralysing effect of the Government’s division of the supervision of the implementation of the Agreement between various ministries and institutions ([S/2020/158/Rev.1](#), para. 34). The Panel echoes the recommendation by the Independent Observer of the Agreement that a unified, strong and adequately resourced government body coordinate the implementation of the Agreement, whether organized around the Ministry of National Reconciliation or attached to the Office of the Prime Minister.<sup>7</sup> The Panel further recommends that the increase, from 3 per cent to 30 per cent, in the quota for the participation of women in the implementation of the mechanisms to be established under the terms of the Agreement be reflected in the work of the reactivated intra-Malian consultation framework.

#### **E. Pitfalls in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process under the Agreement**

31. The Panel also draws attention to potentially re-emerging pitfalls in the accelerated disarmament demobilization and reintegration process, which parties agreed to resume,<sup>8</sup> as reaffirmed at the forty-first session of the Agreement Monitoring Committee, held on 18 November 2020. Intra-Plateforme rivalries and recurrent external interference have significantly delayed the process in the past, with lists of candidates for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration being contested (see [S/2019/636](#), para. 48). Given the de facto separation of and ongoing tensions between the factions (see para. 40 below), the issue is likely to resurface with regard to Plateforme contributions to the second phase of accelerated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Furthermore, continuing disputes and disagreements over whether and how to apply the one-third principle (see [S/2020/785/Rev.1](#), para. 29) – that each reconstituted army unit have an equal number of members of each of the three signatory parties in terms of composition and command – continues

<sup>7</sup> Carter Center, “Report of the Independent Observer: Observations on the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, resulting from the Algiers Process”, December 2020, p. 9.

<sup>8</sup> The second wave would comprise 1,224 elements, so as to reach the objective of integrating 3,000 elements from compliant armed groups by 30 June 2020, as recommended by the Security Council in its resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#).

to hold up the deployment of the third company of the battalion in Kidal.<sup>9</sup> In addition, delays, at times deliberate, in the training, rank attribution and redeployment of integrated elements from armed groups (S/2019/636, para. 45, S/2020/785/Rev.1, para. 28, and S/2020/158/Rev.1, para. 38) continue to weigh on the morale of integrated soldiers and risk demotivating future candidates in the accelerated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

## F. Humanitarian concerns in the implementation of the Agreement

32. With respect to the implementation of the reconciliation, humanitarian and justice component of the Agreement, the Panel notes that one of the priority actions in the road map of 18 December 2020 for the transitional period is to continue to support the return of refugees and displaced persons, effective as from January 2021.<sup>10</sup> In the past, the Panel reported on the lack of progress on the objective, also set out in the road map of March 2018, of accelerating the safe and voluntary return of refugees, as no significant efforts had been made by any of the parties to the Agreement towards creating favourable conditions for their return (S/2019/137, paras. 40–42).<sup>11</sup>

33. Amid growing insecurity and continued displacement (see para. 36 below), the creation of favourable conditions<sup>12</sup> for return as prescribed by the Agreement would, in part, require progress on security and institutional reforms, including judicial reforms. It would also require prioritizing the provision of the basic services necessary for the sustenance of the civilian population (education, water and health care), as recommended by the Independent Observer,<sup>13</sup> while also ensuring safe access to and the independence of humanitarian aid.<sup>14</sup>

## IV. Observations at the subnational level

### A. General humanitarian concerns

34. Political and security developments in northern provinces, discussed hereafter, have taken place in the context of a protracted humanitarian crisis across the country, and most notably in the centre of the country. Civilian populations bear the brunt of intercommunal violence, fighting among armed groups and terrorist threats. The situation has been further exacerbated as communities suffered the added hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Panel notes the following figures and indicators for further investigation.

<sup>9</sup> Joint observation and verification teams screen reconstituted battalions. Members of these teams from armed movements, as well as those sitting on the Technical Commission on Security, are paid by the Ministry of National Reconciliation. Payments were delayed for several months in 2020. The situation appears to have been addressed, judging by a note dated 10 December 2020 from the Force Commander of MINUSMA thanking the transitional Government for resolving the matter of four months' of unpaid wages to members of both bodies.

<sup>10</sup> Item No. 27 of the road map of December 2020 stipulates: « *poursuivre l'accompagnement du retour des déplacés et des réfugiés (visite dans les camps de réfugiés, l'identification et l'aménagement de trois sites de retour, soutien au transport des retours volontaires)* ».

<sup>11</sup> With the exception of Koygouma, where Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA), with MINUSMA, facilitated the return of 500 Malian families from Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania (S/2019/636, para. 162). Since then, HCUA leadership in Koygouma announced on 27 September 2020 that they had joined MNLA.

<sup>12</sup> See article 47 of the Agreement.

<sup>13</sup> Carter Center, "Report of the Independent Observer: Observations on the Implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, Resulting from the Algiers Process", December 2020, p. 13.

<sup>14</sup> See article 49 of the Agreement.

35. According to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2020/1281 paras. 61 and 62, and S/2020/952 paras. 62 and 63), from June to December 2020, MINUSMA documented 575 incidents of attacks against civilians throughout Mali, with Mopti being the most affected. These incidents resulted in 557 civilians killed, 625 injured and 153 kidnapped.<sup>15</sup> Owing to growing insecurity, the number of internally displaced persons has increased, from 250,000 in March 2020 (S/2020/785/Rev.1, para. 148) to some 311,000 in November 2020.<sup>16</sup>

36. Children reportedly constitute 62 per cent of the internally displaced population and remain particularly vulnerable.<sup>17</sup> In November 2020, 1,230 schools were reportedly closed owing to insecurity, and the decision to reopen schools in some cases is dictated by fluctuating intra-armed groups dynamics and the influence of extremist groups, as seen in Timbuktu (see para. 62).<sup>18</sup> According to an inter-agency Global Protection Update report, the crisis is generating new forms of trafficking, including the trafficking of children for labour in the gold mines, particularly in Gao and Kidal, which disproportionately affects boys. The report also noted the trafficking of children for recruitment and use by armed groups, with an upsurge in the number of documented cases of recruitment of children by armed groups (230 cases reported in the first half of 2020). Displacement, the closure of schools and economic hardship have contributed to children's vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking.<sup>19</sup>

37. The number of incidents of gender-based violence remains high, as protection mechanisms recorded 4,411 cases reported between January and September 2020, including 1,443 cases of sexual violence, 187 of which were cases of conflict-related sexual violence. Among the survivors, 99 per cent are female, 61 per cent of whom are below the age of 18.<sup>20</sup> In its previous report, the Panel noted that cases of sexual violence are not properly reported owing to social stigma and insecurity, and identified the prevailing impunity as one of the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence (S/2020/785/Rev.1, para. 139).

38. Humanitarian actors continue to face serious challenges in accessing civilian populations. In Farabougou (Ségou Region), despite several mediation efforts, some 4,000 civilians have been cut off from their livelihood and from humanitarian assistance since October 2020, owing to the blockade imposed by extremist groups.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, over the past year, humanitarian actors and medical facilities and personnel were the target of violence in Gao, Ménaka, Timbuktu and Mopti. Nonetheless, humanitarian actors noted recent improvements in Ménaka town,<sup>22</sup> owing to the "Ménaka without weapons" initiative.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Note that the same reports provide a breakdown of human rights violations in these reports documented by MINUSMA (see S/2020/1281, paras. 67 and 68, and S/2020/952, paras. 66–68).

<sup>16</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Mali, Factsheet October 2020, 31 October 2020; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mali Humanitarian Situation Report No. 11, 1–30 November 2020.

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF, Mali Humanitarian Situation Report No. 11, 1–30 November 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Global Protection Cluster, "Aftershock: Abuse, exploitation & human trafficking in the wake of COVID-19", Global Protection Update, November 2020.

<sup>20</sup> Confidential report, September 2020.

<sup>21</sup> UNHCR, "Rapport mensuel de monitoring de protection, Mali, N° 10 - octobre 2020", published 16 November 2020.

<sup>22</sup> The Panel previously reported that in December 2019, non-governmental organizations suspended their activity in Ménaka and resumed in March 2020 following a decrease in criminality (S/2020/785/Rev.1, para. 131).

<sup>23</sup> UNHCR, "Rapport mensuel de monitoring de protection, Mali, N° 12 - décembre 2020", published 12 January 2021.

## B. Kidal: renewed rivalry between Plateforme factions over Aguelhok

39. In its previous midterm report, the Panel described tensions in and near Aguelhok, a rural commune and village in the Tessalit Cercle of the region of Kidal, following the split of the Plateforme in November 2019 (S/2020/158/Rev.1, annex V, para. 8). Under the leadership of Haballa Ag Hamzatta, a faction of the Groupe d'autodéfense des Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés (GATIA)<sup>24</sup> split from its central command that is in the hands of General Gamou, while maintaining its association with Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad-Plateforme (MAA-Plateforme) and Coordination des mouvements et fronts patriotiques de résistance-1 (CMFPR-1) of Harouna Toureh. The latter came to lead the breakaway Plateforme coalition that sought stronger affiliation with the CMA.

40. The split took effect during a congress held on 2 and 3 November 2019 in Inamzil, just west of Aguelhok, which is the place of origin of Ag Hamzatta. At the same time, Aguelhok is a stronghold of pro-Gamou GATIA forces in Kidal. Tensions in 2019 concerned Gamou's forces removing a newly established GATIA-CMA checkpoint in nearby Achou, on 6 December 2019, and an incident on 15 December 2019 during which the vehicle of Haballa Ag Aghaly, special adviser to the governor of Kidal and a supporter of Ag Hamzatta, was shot at (S/2020/158/Rev.1, annex V, para. 12).

41. Precisely one year later, tensions rose again after the chiefs of staff of CMA and the pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta faction of Plateforme issued a decision on 12 December 2020 that announced the establishment of a new joint checkpoint in Aguelhok.<sup>25</sup> On 15 December, the same Ag Aghaly was wounded in an exchange of fire that supposedly resulted from discontent within his family over him joining the pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta faction of GATIA.<sup>26</sup>

42. The pro-Gamou faction of GATIA considered the establishment of the new checkpoint a provocation, as it went against the freezing of armed group positions agreed as part of the ceasefire signed in Ouagadougou in 2013 and followed up on in the framework of the Technical Commission on Security, presided over by MINUSMA.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore, the display of force in Aguelhok on 1 December and accompanying declaration by CMA and Plateforme,<sup>28</sup> which paved the way for the establishment of the checkpoint, was regarded with great suspicion by representatives of the pro-Gamou faction of GATIA.

43. The gathering on 1 December prominently featured sanctioned individual Ahmoudou Ag Asriw (MLi.001), who was appointed military chief of staff of the breakaway Plateforme coalition in November 2019 (see S/2020/158/Rev.1, para. 79).<sup>29</sup> Yet, instead of Ag Asriw, Mohamed Elbou<sup>30</sup> signed the communiqué

<sup>24</sup> The main component of Plateforme.

<sup>25</sup> See decision in annex III.

<sup>26</sup> Communication with GATIA representative, 11 January 2020.

<sup>27</sup> See Plateforme communiqué, Bamako, 15 December 2020, available at <https://www.facebook.com/GATIA.INFO/photos/a.1761836574040672/3448806895343623/>, accessed on 19 December 2020.

<sup>28</sup> See CMA-Plateforme declaration, Aguelhok, 1 December 2020, available at <https://www.facebook.com/AGUELHOC/photos/a.2178195539071925/2782471228644350/>, accessed on 4 December 2020.

<sup>29</sup> See video snapshots from video footage and photographs in annex IV.

<sup>30</sup> His real name is Mohamed Mahri, not to be confused with Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri (MLi.007). He is a close associate of the latter, and accompanied him during a meeting with the Panel held with both men on 12 March 2020 in Bamako. Mohamed Elbou is also a close associate of Mohamed Ould Mataly (MLi.008), accompanying him during his travel to the Niger in violation of his travel ban in September 2019 (S/2020/158/Rev.1, para. 47), according to information provided by authorities of the Niger, archived at the United Nations.

establishing the checkpoint, as chief of staff of Plateforme.<sup>31</sup> It appears that Ag Asriw is the one in true command of troops, Elbou stepping in for Ag Asriw so as not to appear too visible, being subject to sanctions.

44. It must be noted that Aguelhok is a strategic location in terms of controlling smuggling routes and the movement of convoys containing illicit goods towards the Algerian border. Ag Asriw specializes in organizing such convoys in association with CMA and MAA-Plateforme partners (see S/2019/636, paras. 116 and 117).

45. Although there was fear of a possible confrontation between rival Plateforme factions over Aguelhok, by the end of December an agreement involving both Plateforme factions and CMA was brokered by the MINUSMA Force commander, as president of the Technical Commission on Security, inter alia committing parties to submit any alterations in security arrangements to the Commission for approval.

46. An ensuing tripartite meeting was held in Anéfis on 7 and 8 January 2021, which concluded that a mixed post should be established instead, between Aguelhok and Anéfis. The mixed post involves only the pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta part of Plateforme.<sup>32</sup> As such it appears to be a negotiated compromise, keeping pro-Gamou forces as a dominant force in Aguelhok.<sup>33</sup>

### C. Ménaka: Plateforme reasserting control

47. In its previous midterm report, the Panel described the territorial expansion strategy of CMA at the expense of other signatory armed groups, leading to two shooting incidents in Ménaka Region (S/2020/158/Rev.1, paras. 12–19). In recent months, Plateforme – referring here to pro-Gamou GATIA and Mouvement pour le salut de l’Azawad of the Daoussak (MSA-D) – reasserted its position vis-à-vis CMA in Ménaka town and parts of the region through its active participation in the successful “Ménaka without weapons” initiative,<sup>34</sup> as well as through the defections of several prominent members of the Daoussak community from Haut Conseil pour l’unité de l’Azawad (HCUA) in October 2020.

48. Most importantly, Siguidi Ag Madit, chief of the Idoguiritane fraction of the Daoussak community, resigned his position as HCUA regional coordinator for Ménaka. His son, Mohamed Ag Siguidi, accused of commanding an attack on a GATIA position on 6 January 2018 (see S/2018/581, para. 75), likewise defected from HCUA, to join

<sup>31</sup> On CMA side, the 12 December decision is signed by the chief of staff of HCUA, Achafghi Ag Bohada, rather than the general CMA chief of staff, Mohamed Ag Najim.

<sup>32</sup> In a photograph posted on Twitter representing the new checkpoint, next to the CMA flag can be seen the general Plateforme flag that the pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta Plateforme coalition uses. Image available at <https://twitter.com/Amajagh/status/1348633449586941954/photo/2>, accessed on 12 January 2020.

<sup>33</sup> Prior to the tripartite agreement, on 5 January the pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta Plateforme coalition, represented by Hanoune Ould Ali, unilaterally signed a declaration in Anéfis with CMA entitled “Anéfis 3”, following two previous agreements between CMA and Plateforme in 2015 and 2017, intended to respect each other’s spheres of influence after ceasefire violations. The declaration established, among other matters, a rotating military command structure. The pro-Gamou faction of Plateforme separately held meetings with CMA in Anéfis, concluding a tour by General Gamou in northern Mali meant to reach a common understanding with CMA on political and security matters.

<sup>34</sup> Launched on 24 September, the “Ménaka without weapons” initiative consists of patrols of Ménaka town by national defence and security forces, while CMA and Plateforme patrol the outskirts of the town. The initiative enjoys MINUSMA and Barkhane support. As mentioned above, humanitarian actors reported an improvement in the security situation from November onwards, allowing them to renegotiate access to the town. The security situation beyond the town remains volatile.

MSA-D along with troops drawn from his fraction. Ag Siguidi was released as part of the prisoner exchange for the release of opposition leader Soumaïla Cissé and three international hostages by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin on 8 October 2020.

49. According to a representative of MSA-D, Ag Siguidi repented. At the same time, by joining MSA-D he would be under less scrutiny from international forces because the armed group fully cooperates in their anti-terrorist efforts. It is important to note that on 12 October 2020, Barkhane briefly arrested his father, Siguidi Ag Madit.

50. Aside from the Idoguiritane fraction, the Tabaho fraction, through its leader Oumar Ag Mahmoud, switched sides from HCUA to MSA-D. The realignment of the Daoussak community with MSA-D counterbalances CMA expansion in northern Mali, particularly along the strategic Ménaka-Anderamboukane road axis towards the Niger.

#### **D. Gao: economic interests driving armed group competition and coordination**

51. In the town of Gao, a spiral of violence followed the killing, on 16 August 2020, of a local Arab male, supposedly affiliated with MAA-Plateforme, by an angry mob accusing him of having killed a Ganda Koy element posted near the central market that same day. In an apparent reprisal attack, two people from the Songhai community were killed in the night of 20 to 21 August, after which Songhai youths took to the streets, ransacking some Arab businesses. This, in turn, provoked armed Arab individuals to aggressively patrol neighbourhoods of Gao in pick-up vehicles.

52. As a result of the immediate intervention by Malian Security and Defence Forces, alongside intercommunal consultation, the situation did not degenerate further. Consultations resulted in a memorandum of understanding being signed by representatives from the Songhai, Arab, Tuareg and Fulani communities. On the side of the Arab community, sanctioned individual Mohamed Ould Mataly signed the memorandum, and, in doing so, demonstrated his influence over armed Arab elements.

53. While not implying animosity between armed groups at a political or strategic level, micro-level competition between individual elements, which is often economically motivated, risks igniting intercommunal violence. In Gao, Songhai-dominated Ganda Koy and CMFPR-1 are particularly involved in controlling entry roads and providing security for businesses in town. Skirmishes with other armed elements around control posts are recurrent. Most recently, on 16 December 2020, two CMFPR-1 control posts were attacked, one on the road to Kidal and one in Wabaria. Attackers possibly involve GATIA elements, posing a similar risk of antagonizing Songhai and Tuareg populations.<sup>35</sup>

54. The mining boom and associated influx of people in Gao increased opportunities for robbery and protection schemes run by armed groups. According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of reported migrants arriving in Gao increased from almost zero in April 2020 to 4,000 per month in November 2020.<sup>36</sup> Over half of them indicated they were on their way to the mining sites near

<sup>35</sup> At the same time, alleged CMFPR-1 members have been arrested and accused of being involved in robberies on the Gao-Gossi axis on 28 December 2020. Confidential report, 6 January 2021.

<sup>36</sup> Nationals of the Niger comprise most migrants transiting in Gao according to monitoring by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at Wabaria coach station, suggesting that they are the largest group of foreign nationals working in the mining sector. See IOM, "Flow monitoring: Mali", results snapshot, No. 58 (November 2020), 17 December 2020, available at <https://migration.iom.int/reports/mali-%E2%80%94-flow-monitoring-report-58-november-2020>. Besides the Niger, workers come from all over West Africa but also from the Sudan and Chad, but Malian nationals still comprise the main workforce in the mines.

Intahaka, in Gao *cercle*.<sup>37</sup> The Panel received several reports of newly arrived artisanal miners and merchants being assaulted and robbed by unidentified armed men at the mining sites, on the road and in the town of Gao itself.

55. In its final report (S/2020/785/Rev.1), the Panel mentioned CMA and Plateforme having established a joint commission in June 2020 to secure and supervise mining activities in Gourma-Rharous *cercle* (Timbuktu Region), which also involved tax collection. A similar initiative is currently rolled out for Intahaka, as part of mixed patrols on different road axes out of Gao. According to mining sector operators GATIA, including elements of both factions, is most involved in tax collection on sites near Intahaka, while both GATIA and Mouvement national de libération de l’Azawad (MNLA) levy taxes on vehicles and passengers on the road to the mines.<sup>38</sup>

56. Historically a stronghold of pro-Gamou GATIA forces, the presence of MNLA and pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta GATIA forces in Intahaka,<sup>39</sup> shows it is part of a CMA expansion strategy in the wider Gourma area, as the Panel remarked in its previous final report (S/2020/785/Rev.1, paras. 123 and 124).

57. A representative of GATIA admitted to the Panel that CMA and Plateforme cooperation has not brought the desired level of security to Intahaka mine sites, those forces being preoccupied with tax levying.<sup>40</sup> Besides robberies and potential terrorist armed group infiltration at mine sites,<sup>41</sup> other concerns regard safety and child labour. Children are reportedly used for hazardous work in the mines of Intahaka, manually crushing stones. The closure of schools in Gao, since March 2020, contributed to children being drawn to the mines.

## **E. Timbuktu: flare-up of violence in Lerneb and attempts by CPA and Houka Houka Ag Alhousseini to extend influence**

58. On 23 July and 2 August 2020, violence erupted again, at two locations near the strategic border town of Lerneb, between MAA-Plateforme elements, supporting the Oulad Ich tribe, and Tormouz militia, backed by MAA-CMA. The incidents constituted violations of the ceasefire similar to those that occurred in 2019 (see S/2019/636, para. 72, S/2020/158/Rev.1, para. 9 and S/2020/785/Rev.1, paras. 97 and 98), with the confrontations claiming about 16 lives.<sup>42</sup> In August, the Governor of Timbuktu initiated a mediation process with the support of MINUSMA, which appears to have calmed the situation, as no further incidents were reported thereafter.

59. On 2 July 2020, Coalition du peuple de l’Azawad (CPA), still headed by National Transition Council member Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune (MLi.003), launched operation “Taflist” with the aim of conducting security patrols in Goundam and Niafunké *cercles* from its main operational base in Soumpi, under the command of his Colonel Alkassoum Ag Abdoulaye.<sup>43</sup> CPA announced that it had

<sup>37</sup> Intahaka is located 50 km west of Gao on the main road to Gossi, while the main mine site, I-n-Bigtane, is located about 22 km north-west of Intahaka, where between 2,000 and 4,000 miners work.

<sup>38</sup> Mine site pits are taxed at 2,000–5,000 CFA per week, jackhammers 20,000 CFA per month. Vehicles are taxed at 10,000 CFA and passengers at 2,000 CFA per passage. Communication with mine site operator, 9 December 2020; confidential report, 23 July 2020.

<sup>39</sup> Images circulate on social media of a vehicle near mine sites in Intakaha carrying the general Plateforme flag that the breakaway faction of the Plateforme des mouvements du 14 juin 2014 uses (see images in annex V).

<sup>40</sup> Telephone interview with GATIA representative, 11 January 2021.

<sup>41</sup> Operators have alluded to possible Islamic State in the Greater Sahara members or supporters active in mining in Intahaka, but no conclusive information is available to the Panel.

<sup>42</sup> Confidential report, 14 August 2020.

<sup>43</sup> Alternative spelling Alkassim Ag Abdallah. In its final report submitted in 2018, the Panel provided information about his involvement in two attacks against the Malian armed forces camp on 24 October 2017 and 27 January 2018 (S/2018/581, paras. 111–113).

recovered a stolen vehicle and some motorcycles that had also been stolen, but the capability to conduct or sustain an operation in a large geographical area is questionable, considering the limited number of combatants.<sup>44</sup> Yet, on 3 January, Colonel Alkassoum announced the establishment of security posts near Tonka, in a video showing about 25 armed combatants pretending to act in coordination with Malian defence and security forces.<sup>45</sup> Nevertheless, the two checkpoints were removed the same day by the Malian armed forces, and CPA elements were instructed to immediately return to Soumpi.<sup>46</sup>

60. Tonka is also the commune in which, during October and November 2020, schools reopened after negotiation with and mediation between terrorist armed groups under the auspices of Houka Houka Ag Alhousseini (MLi.005),<sup>47</sup> with such groups now imposing conditions on the education system to the detriment of the responsible state institutions. An attack on one reopened school, on 27 November, that was attributed to radical Fulani elements,<sup>48</sup> may however indicate discord between Tuareg and Fulani components of Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, putting the reopening of schools in jeopardy.

61. The Panel further notes that the announcement of the reopening of schools in Tonka on 14 November 2020 coincided with a meeting of the Idnane community held in Acharane from 14 to 16 November, which, inter alia, was in support of negotiations with radical groups led by Iyad Ag Ghaly and Amadou Kouffa, and during which Houka Houka Ag Alhousseini was designated supreme Cadi for the Timbuktu Region.<sup>49</sup> The meeting was organized by Hama Ag Mohamed, a senior manager of a Malian state-owned company, *Electricité du Mali*,<sup>50</sup> and Abdoullaye Ag Mohamed, a long-time suspected member of Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin.<sup>51</sup> It followed a series of controversial initiatives aimed at positioning Hama Ag Mohamed as a key player in the Timbuktu Region and Bamako, acting as self-proclaimed coordinator of a self-declared platform of Malian traditional authorities.<sup>52</sup> The Panel will further investigate such initiatives and assess whether his activities may, or were intended to, delay or obstruct the implementation of the Agreement.

62. The Panel finally notes the return since October 2020 of about 100 Malian refugee families from Burkina Faso and Algeria to the Tamdjaret site, 10 km south-east of Timbuktu town.<sup>53</sup> No information was available to the Panel regarding the conditions of these returns.

<sup>44</sup> Confidential report, 20 July 2020.

<sup>45</sup> Video available at <https://www.facebook.com/azawad.cpa/>, accessed on 12 January 2021 – screenshot in annex VI.

<sup>46</sup> Confidential report, 11 January 2021.

<sup>47</sup> Houka Houka has a well-established relationship of mutual support with CPA Secretary-General Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune (see S/2018/581, para. 99 and S/2020/158/Rev.1, annex V, para. 15).

<sup>48</sup> Confidential report, 4 December 2020.

<sup>49</sup> Declaration obtained from a confidential source on 19 November 2020, see annex VII.

<sup>50</sup> Hama Ag Mohamed is also involved in the installation of dysfunctional generators in Kidal by SIBAT, as reported in paragraph 58 of S/2019/636.

<sup>51</sup> For background information on Abdoullaye Ag Mohamed, alias Abdoul Haye Ag Mohamedoune, see paragraph 58 of S/2019/137 and paragraph 15 of annex V to S/2020/158/Rev.1.

<sup>52</sup> See annex VIII.

<sup>53</sup> Confidential report, 2 December 2020.

**Annex I**

**Letter from Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri to the Panel, received on 23 September 2020**

**Monsieur Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri**

Commerçant de nationalité malienne

Domicilié à Gao.

Tel :.....

Email :.....

Bamako, le 23 SEPTEMBRE 2020.

À

**Monsieur le Point Focal du Conseil  
De Sécurité de l'ONU.**

**Objet : Contestation des accusations tenues dans le rapport final du Groupe d'expert créé par la résolution 2374 (2017) du Conseil de sécurité sur le Mali et renouvelé en application de la résolution 2484 (2019)**

**Monsieur le Point Focal,**

Il m'est revenu de constater que j'aie été accusé à tort par le rapport final du groupe d'experts créé en application de la résolution 2374(2017) du Conseil de sécurité sur le renouvelé en application de la résolution 2484 (2019).

Ce rapport en *sa page numéro 23, titre intitulé : Saisies de drogues : mises à jour et cas récents* », m'associe à un réseau de trafiquant de drogues sur la base des simples affirmations venant des sources dites confidentielles, tel qu'il ressort dudit rapport.

Je tiens à vous préciser que les propos tenus dans le rapport sont sans fondements, en ce qu'ils ne sont étayés d'aucun élément de preuve. Cela est qu'autant plus vrai que le rapport fait des suppositions à la susvisée à mon égard, toute chose qui démontre que le rapport n'est pas certains de ce qu'il avance.

Je n'appartiens à aucun réseau de trafic de drogue encore moins à un mouvement ou groupes armées sévissant au nord du Mali.

Je suis un simple citoyen malien (opérateur économique) qui se conforme au respect strict des lois de la nation.

Mon nom a été cité dans cette affaire par des individus mal intentionnés qui n'ont d'autre but que de me nuire.

Ledit rapport a cité des personnes qui auraient été poursuivies et condamnées par des juridictions pour les faits de trafic de drogues, parmi lesquelles je ne fais pas partie.

Mon domicile est connu au Mali et jusqu'à preuve du contraire, aucune poursuite n'est engagée en mon encontre relativement aux faits évoqués dans le rapport qui constituent des infractions, encore moins qu'un jugement me condamnant soit rendu concernant lesdits faits.

Les accusations tenues à mon égard dans le rapport, constituent une atteinte grave à mes droits fondamentaux, notamment la présomption d'innocence consacrée par la constitution malienne ainsi que la déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme.

Lesdites accusations portent également une atteinte à ma réputation, toute chose qui me cause un énorme préjudice.

Par conséquent, je conteste farouchement les propos tenus dans le rapport en cause à mon égard et vous demande humblement de prendre des dispositions idoines afin que mes droits ne subissent d'aucune atteinte.

Comptant sur votre compression habituelle, je vous prie de croire Monsieur, à l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Monsieur Mohamed Ben Ahmed Mahri

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**Annex II**  
**List of candidates for the National Transition Council representing the “Inclusivité”**

**PROPOSITIONS DE MEMBRES DU CONSEIL NATIONAL DE TRANSITION (CNT)**

Au titre des mouvements de l'Inclusivité

(Par ordre de priorité)

1. Monsieur Younoussa TOURE, CMEPR2 ; 66 80 70 17 / 76 41 91 34
2. Monsieur Boubacar Sidigh TALEB, CMI ; 73 56 24 80
3. Monsieur Mohamed Ousmane AG MOHAMEDOUNE, CPA ; 60 36 01 01
4. Monsieur Hamma AG MAHMOUD, CMI ; 73 56 24 80
5. Monsieur Moussa AG INTAZOUME, CMEPR2 ; 74 74 52 04
6. Monsieur Attay AG ABDALLAH, CPA ; 60 36 01 01
7. Monsieur Hamadi AG IBRAHIM, CMI ; 73 56 24 80
8. Monsieur Ahmadedou IBRAHIM, CMI ; 73 56 24 80

Bamako, le 11 novembre 2020

Pour l'Inclusivité

  
Pour la CMEPR2,  
  
**Younoussa TOURE**  
Vice Président  
Membre du CSA

Pour la CPA,

  
**Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune**  
Membre du CSA



Pour la CMI,

  
**Monsieur Boubacar Sidigh TALEB**  
Le Coordinateur



## Annex III

CMA-Plateforme (Pro-Haballa) decision to erect a checkpoint in Aguelhok<sup>54</sup>

COORDINATION DES MOUVEMENTS DE L'AZAWAD ( CMA) et  
LA PLATEFORME DES MOUVEMENTS DU 14 JUIN 2014 D'ALGER

Conformément à la déclaration dite d'Adjelhoc en date du 1<sup>er</sup> Décembre 2020 et sur la demande des populations, les deux entités décident de la création d'un poste mixte à Adjelhoc

Ledit poste est chargé de la sécurisation et la libre circulation des personnes ainsi que de leurs biens sans distinction de leur obédience politique.

Il est tenu au respect des engagements pris par les deux parties.

Les autorités civiles et militaires signataires de l'Accord pour la Paix et la Réconciliation au Mali issu du processus d'Alger, de la MINUSMA et de Barkhane sont priées à faciliter, apporter concours et assistance en cas de besoin au dit poste.

Cette décision prend effet à compter de sa date de signature et sera publiée partout où besoin sera.

Kidal, le 12 Décembre 2020

**POUR LA CMA**  
  
**ACHAFGUI AG BOUHADA**  
Chef d'Etat Major Général

**POUR LA PLATEFORME**  
  
**MOHAMED ELBOU**  
Chef d'Etat Major

<sup>54</sup> Obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 15 December 2020.

**Annex IV**

**Presence of Ahmoudou Ag Asriw in Aguelhok on and around the date of 1 December 2020**



*Ahmoudou Ag Asriw on a photograph posted on 5 December 2020 standing next to Haballa Ag Hamzatta on the right side of the photograph.<sup>55</sup>*



*Still image from video footage of troop inspection in Aguelhok on 1 December 2020 showing Ag Asriw wearing the same black turban and jacket<sup>56</sup>*

<sup>55</sup> Photograph and explanatory text available at <https://www.facebook.com/AGUELHOC/photos/a.2178195539071925/2785069975051142/>, accessed on 11 January 2020.

<sup>56</sup> Video obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 18 December 2020.

**Annex V**  
**Snapshot from a video showing vehicle with the (pro-Haballa Ag Hamzatta) Plateforme flag at mine sites near Intahaka<sup>57</sup>**



<sup>57</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1308785582512930816>, accessed on 14 January 2021.

**Annex VI**  
**Snapshot from a video announcing the establishment of security posts near Tonka<sup>58</sup>**



<sup>58</sup> Available at <https://www.facebook.com/azawad.cpa/>, accessed on 12 January 2021

## Annex VII

Declaration following the Idnane community meeting in Acharane, 14-16 November 2020<sup>59</sup>

COORDINATION DE LA COMMUNAUTE IDNANE  
ET ALLIES DE LA REGION DE TOMBOUCTOU

République du Mali  
Un Peuple-Un But-Une Foi

CONTACTS : 66 74 99 80/73 41 97 98  
Email : agmohamedhamma@gmail.com

Les 14-15 et 16 Novembre 2020 s'est tenue à Acharane II, la rencontre des communautés Idnanes et Alliés de la région de Tombouctou sur la Paix, la cohésion sociale et le vivre ensemble, 2<sup>ème</sup> édition.

Plus de 1500 participants venus des quatre coins du pays et des pays limitrophes, des chefs de tribus, de fractions et de villages, des élus et conseillers municipaux d'Alafia, de Douekiré, de Gargando, de Razelma, d'Essakane, d' Alzounoub de Goundam et d'Aglal, ont fait des déclarations sous la présidence du coordinateur des communautés Idnanes et Alliés de la région de Tombouctou et secrétaire général de la plate-forme des chefs traditionnels et coutumiers touareg du Mali, Mr **HAMA AG MOHAMED**.

#### **RESOLUTIONS ET RECOMMANDATIONS:**

**-La rencontre des communautés Idnanes et Alliés de la région de Tombouctou a reconduit Mr Hamma Ag MOHAMED dans ses fonctions de coordinateur, titre équivalent au grand**

<sup>59</sup> Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 19 November 2020

**AMENOCAL** et le désigne comme seul représentant de nos communautés auprès des pouvoirs publics pour la région de Tombouctou.

-La communauté des Idnanes et Alliés de la région réitère leur confiance à Monsieur Houka-Houka Ag **ALHOUSSEINI** et le désigne comme CADI suprême de la région de Tombouctou et demande aux autorités nationales et locales et aux partenaires au développement de l'apporter assistance pour exercer pleinement ses fonctions.

1-Les participants s'engagent dans une union sacrée autour du coordinateur **Hamma Ag MOHAMED** pour l'atteinte des objectifs visés et mission assignées à la coordination ;

2-la rencontre a décidé l'implication des communautés Idnanes dans la sécurisation des axes routiers avec l'ensemble des autres acteurs impliqués dans le domaine.

3-soutient la relance sans délai des négociations avec les groupes radicaux Maliens dont les chefs de files sont **Iyad Ag GHALY** et **Amadou KOUFA**

4- la Communauté des Idnanes de la région de Tombouctou ainsi que le Conseil suprême des Idnanes ne ménageront aucun effort pour soutenir les autorités de la transition afin de réussir la mission qui leur a été confiée par le peuple Malien.

5-La rencontre demande l'accélération du processus de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réinsertion des combattants de tous les mouvements armés ;

6-La rencontre demande l'amélioration de la desserte en eau en vue d'un accès facile aux populations déshéritées ;

7- La rencontre demande aux autorités l'opérationnalisation de la région de Taoudéni sous réserve qu'aucune communauté ne se sente exclue ;

8-La rencontre demande l'organisation d'un retour soutenu de populations réfugiées en Mauritanie, au Burkina fasso au Niger et en Algérie ;

9-La rencontre demande aux autorités et aux partenaires au développement la réinsertion socio-économique des populations déplacées et réfugiées ;

10-La Communauté des Idnanes et Alliés s'inscrivent dans une dynamique de soutien aux forces armées et de sécurité pour la sécurisation de la région de Tombouctou ;

11-La rencontre recommande la résolution des conflits liés aux problèmes fonciers en priorisant la justice traditionnelle sous le sceau du **CADI** ;

12-La Communauté des Idnanes et Alliés de la région de Tombouctou remercient vivement les Famas (Forces armées Maliennes et de sécurité)

et la CMA (Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad) pour leur appui à la réussite de l'événement.



Acharane II le 15 Novembre 2020

ONT SIGNE

Hamma Ag MOHAMED

Houka Houka Ag ALHOUSSEINI

Abdoul Haye Ag MOUHAMEDOUNE

Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamed dit IMBOUKE

Efad Ag MOUHAMEDOUNE

Amgar Ag EHIYA

Mohamed Ali Ag MAOULOU

Abougour Ag ALMOULOU

Mohamed Mahmoud Ag BAIDADJI

Abdou Salam Ag TWAF

**Annex VIII**

**Screenshot of video interview of Hamma Ag Mohamed posted on 23 August 2020<sup>60</sup>**



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<sup>60</sup> Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SPhh4S733o>, accessed on 18 January 2021.