

(Courtesy translation)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

THE MINISTER

REPUBLIC OF MALI
One People – One Goal – One Faith

Koulouba, on August 15th, 2022

Nº 00444 / MAECI

Your Excellency President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali, I wish to draw your attention to serious acts that are likely to undermine international peace and security.

Indeed, for several months now, national authorities have been witnessing repeated and frequent violations of Malian airspace by French forces, flying airborne vehicles such as drones, military helicopters and fighter jets, without authorization from the Malian authorities.

Since the beginning of the year 2022, the Malian Armed Forces (FAMAs), equipped with new capacities, have recorded more than 50 deliberate cases of violation of Malian airspace by foreign aircrafts, particularly those operated by French forces, in various forms. In addition to acts of indiscipline characterized by refusal to comply with the instructions of the air traffic control services, there were cases of transponders being switched off in order to evade control.

There are also cases of tampering with flight documents, as well as cases of helicopters landing outside dedicated airfields zones, without prior authorization. Numerous flights of intelligence aircraft and drones flying at high altitudes have been recorded, which were engaged in activities considered as espionage, intimidation or even subversion. The table listing the aerial incidents since the announcement of the withdrawal of the Barkhane force is herewith attached.

**His Excellency ZHANG Jun, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations
President of the United Nations Security Council
New York
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One of the most recent cases was the illegal presence of a drone of the French forces, on April 20th, 2022, over the Gossi base, whose control had been transferred to the FAMa on April 19th, 2022. The said drone was present from 11:45 a.m., evolving at medium altitude, to spy on our valiant FAMa. In addition to spying, the French forces were guilty of subversion by publishing images collected by their drone, showing killed civilians. From the results of the judicial investigation conducted by the competent Malian services, it has been found that the bodies had been placed there prior to the arrival of Malian forces in Gossi. This unfortunate communication was intended to tarnish the image of and to accuse the Malian Armed Forces, which are committed to the liberation of their territory and to the protection and safeguarding of their population, which has been suffering from a long-lasting crisis.

On April 21st, 2022, a Mirage 2000 patrol flew over a FAMa convoy on its way to reinforce the Gossi military basis on several occasions without prior coordination. This maneuver was part of a plot to intimidate our forces.

On June 15th, 2022, the Malian Air Force Casa 295 tactical transport aircraft was harassed by a combat aircraft belonging to the Barkhane force, while the Malian aircraft was performing rotations between airfields located in Malian territory. The unknown French aircraft, which never announced itself on the radio, made dangerous maneuvers around the Malian aircraft, perceived as intimidation attempts.

In addition, on August 6th, 2022, the Barkhane force confirmed in an official statement that it conducted air operations against suspected terrorists in the Talataye area. However, these unilateral operations were not coordinated with the FAMAs.

In addition, in the Lerneb area, in the night of August 6th, to 7th, 2022, around 3:30 a.m., a helicopter landed near the Ougrich forest, south of Lerneb and Aratene, sub-district of Goundam, region of Tombouctou. Two elements of Ibrahim Ag Baba, lieutenant of Abou Talha, leader of the Timbuktu Emirate, boarded the helicopter to an unknown destination.

On August 08th, 2022, 37 km from Tessit, a Chinook helicopter flew over FAMAs reinforcements from Gao moving toward Tessit in the opposite direction of movement. The Chinook, surprised in its activities, suddenly gained altitude. Cross-checks with partners from the East Joint Theater Command Post (PCIAT) could not confirm the origin of the aircraft.

On August 8th, 2022, at 12:55 p.m., a FAMa patrol left Labbezanga to search in vain for a package dropped by Barkhane three kilometers east of the post.

Throughout the process of transferring the Gao airfields and the northern airspace to the Malian authorities, since the announcement of Barkhane's withdrawal, Malian military aircraft have been regularly hindered by delaying maneuvers aimed at reducing their effectiveness and lengthening their reaction times.

Faced with the multiplication of these acts of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State of the United Nations, the Government of Mali issued statements № 009 and 028 dated January 12th and April 26th, 2022, respectively, copies of which are

attached, in order to draw the attention of national and international opinion. The Security Council has also been informed.

The Government of Mali has several elements of evidence that these flagrant violations of Malian airspace were used by France to collect information for terrorist groups operating in the Sahel and to drop arms and ammunition to them.

It should also be recalled that it was because of suspicions of destabilization maneuvers by France that the Government of Mali firmly opposed France's request for air support to MINUSMA, so that France would not use the UN mission as a pretext to carry out subversive operations aiming at further weakening Mali and the Sahel region.

Under international law, the Government of Mali believes that these actions by France constitute aggression, which is defined, under the United Nations General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) dated December 14th, 1974, as "the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations..."

Thus, the Government of Mali invites the United Nations Security Council, in its capacity of guarantor of international peace and security, to work to ensure that the French Republic immediately ceases its acts of aggression against Mali. Furthermore, France, a permanent Member of the Security Council, should comply with international legality by respecting the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter.

In the event of persistence in this posture, which undermines the stability and security of our country, the Government of Mali reserves the right to use self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

I request that you bring this letter to the attention of the Members of the Security Council for an emergency meeting on these matters and that it be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, **Your Excellency President**, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Signed:

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Abdoulaye DIOP

Officer of the National Order

(Courtesy translation)

**MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL
ADMINISTRATION
AND DECENTRALIZATION**



REPUBLIC OF MALI
One People – One Goal – One Faith

STATEMENT N°028 BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

The rise in strength of the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa), a source of pride for the Malian people, is reflected in the tremendous victories against our enemies, as well as in their increasingly effective control of the national territory and the airspace.

To this end, since the beginning of the operation “Keletigui”, a temporary no-fly zone has been established over part of the national territory in order to secure the airspace, protect the corridors for authorized aircraft and guarantee the freedom of action of the FAMas in operations. Any overflight of Malian airspace shall be subject to an express authorization issued by the Air Force of Mali.

The Government of the Republic of Mali has noted, since the beginning of the year, more than 50 deliberate cases of violation of Malian airspace by foreign aircraft, particularly those operated by French forces, in various forms, including

- refusal to comply with instructions from air traffic control services;
- flight documents falsification;
- landing of helicopters in localities outside airfields without prior authorization;
- flights of intelligence aircraft and drones operating at high altitude to carry out activities considered as espionage, intimidation or even subversion.

One of the latest cases was the illegal presence of a French Forces Drone on April 20th, 2022 over the base camp of Gossi, whose control was transferred to the FAMa on April 19th, 2022. The said drone was present from 11:45 a.m., to spy on our valiant FAMa.

In addition to spying, French forces have been guilty of subversion by publishing false images created to accuse the FAMa of being the perpetrators of civilians killing, aiming at tarnishing the image of the Malian Armed Forces engaged in the liberation of the territory, protection and safeguarding of the populations affected by the long crisis.

Furthermore, on April 21st, 2022, a mirage 2000 patrol flew several times, without prior coordination, over the FAMa convoy going to reinforce the unit of Gossi camp. This maneuver was part of a dynamic to intimidate our forces.

Faced with this umpteenth provocation by the French forces, which have been ordered to leave Malian territory without delay since 18 February 2022, the Government of the Republic of Mali, while taking both the national and international public as witness, strongly condemns this attitude of the French authorities and invites them once again to respect the sovereignty of Mali.

The Government of the Republic of Mali reaffirms its willingness to promote and maintain cooperation with all States in the world, in mutual respect and on the basis of the cardinal principle of non-interference, in accordance with the aspirations of the Malian people.

May God bless Mali !

Bamako, April 26th, 2022

Signed:
The Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization,
Spokesman for the Government.

Colonel Abdoulaye MAIGA
Knight of National Order



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

(Courtesy translation)

**MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL
ADMINISTRATION
AND DECENTRALIZATION**



REPUBLIC OF MALI
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STATEMENT N°009 BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of the Republic of Mali informs the national and international public opinion that a French army aircraft of type A 400 with registration number FRBAN made a flight on the Abidjan-Gao-Abidjan route on Tuesday, January 11th, 2022.

The said aircraft, which was in obvious violation of Malian airspace, had both switched off its transponder so as not to be identified and cut off communication with Malian air traffic control services.

Despite this fraudulent maneuver, the recently acquired national Defence capacities enabled the identification and tracing of the aircraft's trajectory.

Therefore, the Government denounced this violation of Mali's airspace to the French authorities, who decided to support the ECOWAS sanctions, which include the closure of the land and air borders of its member countries with Mali.

As a reminder, the Government of Mali has also, in application of the principle of reciprocity, following the sanctions imposed by ECOWAS, closed its borders with ECOWAS countries, except Guinea.

The Government, while drawing the attention of the national and international public opinion, declines all responsibility for the risks to which the perpetrators of these practices could be exposed in the event of a new violation of our airspace.

In conclusion, the Government of Mali invites the population to increase its vigilance and to remain mobilized.

May God bless Mali !

Bamako, January 12th, 2022

Signed:
**The Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization,
Spokesman for the Government.**

Colonel Abdoulaye MAIGA
Knight of National Order



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

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Table of air incidents since the announcement of the withdrawal of the Barkhane Force

N°	Date	Incidents
01	January 11th, 2022	A French aircraft of type A400M, A400 registered under the number FRBAN, code CTM2010, on route ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast) - GAO (Mali) attempted to penetrate Mali's airspace without authorization. The air traffic controller notified the pilot that he/she was not in compliance with the law and consequently he/she was not allowed to enter the airspace of Mali. Despite the controller's insistence, the French pilot did not obey the instructions, continued his flight and announced to the controller that he was switching to OPERATIONAL FLIGHT , then followed a total radio silence (to escape the control of the civil structures). The pilot continued his flight and landed at GAO.
02	January 12th, 2022	A surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, namely CESSNA 2088 registered under the number N943AC -, code UN0058P, carried out a vertical surveillance and reconnaissance flight over the FAMa positions in the areas of TOMBOUCTOU, NIAFUNKE and GOUNDAM.
03	January 18th, 2022 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.	A French aircraft of type A332, registered under the number FUJCG, code CTM1056, flying from ISTRE (France) to NIAMEY (Niger) attempted to enter Mali's airspace with a false authorization number, namely N°0107/ANAC/DG. The Air Operations Coordination Centre (CCOA), alerted by the Malian air traffic control services while the aircraft was in Mauritanian territory, 30 minutes from Mali's airspace, proceeded to authenticate the said number. It resulted from this verification that the above-mentioned number had been officially issued the day before to another French aircraft of the Barkhane operation to serve as an overflight authorization. Having received this information from the CCOA, the controller notified the pilot that he was not in compliance with the regulations and was therefore prohibited from flying over Malian territory. The pilot of the aforementioned aircraft announced to the controller that he was in possession of another permanent authorization number, namely 221225, which, after cross-checking, is not issued by the CCOA or ANAC. After a thorough check of the overflight authorization request form, the CCOA quickly discovered that it was counterfeited with the addition of an extra heading (heading 11) whereas the authentic form only has 10 headings. Despite the controller's insistence, the French pilot did not obey to the instructions and continued his flight, announcing to the controller that he was switching to OPERATIONAL FLIGHT (to avoid the control of civil structures). The flight then changed course and headed to GAO instead of NIAMEY. It flew over the city of Gao and then headed back to Niger.
04	January 18th, 2022 between 01:00 and 02:00 p.m.	Another military aircraft (probably for Barkhane Operation), namely an IL 76, registered under the number 4QAZ100 made an unauthorized flight on the route GERMANY - GAO with the authorization number 21/007198/1/ANAC/DG/DTA/STA/BCI communicated to the controller by the pilot. This flight was reported to the Malian controller via the NIAMEY control service in charge of the Gao area and surroundings.

		Despite the notification to the pilot not to land due to lack of clearance, he/she continued his maneuver and landed in Gao.
05	January 18th, 2022	An A330-MR aircraft registered under the number FUJCG, operated by Barkhane, was detected on the radar screen with code CTM 1056, heading to Bamako ATU via the MTI point, without any coordination with the control service. Bamako air traffic control made a call to Niamey to find out more about this aircraft. They informed that the aircraft had cut off all contact with them after the takeoff. It passed the MTI point at 06:16 a.m. with the transponder code 7222 and made contact with Bamako at 06:22 a.m. When he/she was asked by Control service if he had an overflight clearance, he/she provided the N°107ANAC/DG 221225 which was not in the national registers. The aircraft was notified to leave the national airspace. Then the pilot cut off all contact with air traffic control until it left Bamako airspace at 07:01 p.m. Later, Niamey air traffic control called Bamako to notify them that the aircraft had changed its code to HALIDA Y-63.
06	January 20th, 2022	An aircraft C 130J, registered under the number B538, code DAF.2284 coming from Niamey and bound for Gao flew over national airspace without authorization. After notifying him that he/she did not have authorization to fly over Mali's airspace, he/she cut off all contact with the control services and continued his flight.
07	January 20th, 2022	Two Mirage aircraft, registered under the number COMET 15, coming from Niamey and bound for Gao, flew over Malian airspace in operational flight without authorization. After notifying him/her that he/she did not have authorization to fly over Malian airspace, they cut off all contact with the control structures and continued their flight.
08	January 20th, 2022	An A400 aircraft, registered under the number FRBAC, code ADES64 in military operational flight from Niamey to Gao flew over national airspace without authorization.
09	January 20th, 2022	An A400 aircraft, registered under the number FRBAJ, code AERMES63, coming from Niamey and bound for Gao in a military operational flight, flew over the national airspace without authorization.
10	February to June 2022	Several cases of unknown aircrafts have been reported by GATA near the FAMa bases camp of Guire, Nara, Mondoro, Gossi and Boulkessi without it being possible to establish radio contact with these aircraft.
11	June 15th, 2022	The Casa 295 tactical transport aircraft of the Malian Air Force was harassed by combat aircraft belonging to Barkhane, while the Malian aircraft was on rotation between airfields on Malian territory. The unknown French aircraft, which never announced itself on the radio, carried out dangerous maneuvers around the Malian aircraft, which were perceived as intimidation attempts.
12	August 06th, 2022	Barkhane confirms in an official statement that it has conducted air operations against suspected terrorists in the Talataye area. These

		unilateral operations were not coordinated with the FAMa.
13	The night of August 06th to 07th, 2022 around 03:30 a.m.	In the Lerneb area, a helicopter landed in the vicinity of the Ougrich forest south of Lerneb and Aratene, sub-district of Goundam, region of Tombouctou. The helicopter took on board 02 elements of Ibrahim Ag Baba, lieutenant of Abou Talha, leader of the of the Tombouctou Emirate, for an unknown destination. The helicopter which left Nema in Mauritania and would turn back to Nema.
14	August 08th, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.	At 37 Km from Tessit a Chinook helicopter flew over, going FAMa reinforcements, from Gao moving towards Tessit, in the opposite direction. The Chinook, surprised in its activities, suddenly regained altitude. PCIAT's cross-checking with partners did not confirm the origin of the aircraft.
15	August 8th 2022 at 12:55 p.m.	A FAMa patrol from Labbezanga went out to search in vain for a package that had been dropped by Barkhane three kilometers to the east of the post.
16	January to August 2022	Throughout the process of transferring the Gao airfields and the northern airspace to the Malian authorities, since the announcement of Barkhane's withdrawal, Malian military aircraft have been regularly hindered by delaying maneuvers aimed at reducing their effectiveness and lengthening their reaction times.