

EKIN COLLEGE

JUNIOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 2019

**“REACH FOR JUSTICE”**



**UN Security Council**

*AGENDA ITEM: The question of Mali*

**RESEARCH REPORT**

CHAIR: EFE BABUŞÇU

Co-CHAIR: Ali Berk Özkan



EKINJMUN CONFERENCE JANUARY 2019

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### Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

**Esteemed participants,**

It is with my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 3rd annual session of EKIN Junior Model United Nations. My name is Isabella Yazici and I will be serving as your Secretary General. Our conference will take place in Izmir, Turkey between the 11th and the 13th of January, 2019. In alliance with our annual slogan imagine, innovate, inspire we are aiming for younger generations to comprehend that they have the capability of changing the world.

As Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." This year in EKIN JMUN we will simulate 12 extraordinary committees. In light of these words, these committees will focus on finding the spark of light within all of the darkness and try to solve the crises both our world and the conference presents. I fully believe that every participant will do their best to make the world a better place. Both the academic and organizational team have worked many hours to bring you the best version of EKIN JMUN and an overall inspiring, unforgettable experience that will stay with you your whole life.

To come to a conclusion, on behalf of our academic and organizational team I would like to invite you to the third annual session of the biggest JMUN organization in the region. I cannot wait to meet you in January.

Sincerely,

Isabella YAZICI

Secretary General of EKINJMUN 2019

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## Introduction

### **A: Introduction to the committee:**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations with its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security and defining the existence of any threats in that matter alongside accepting any new member states to United Nations (UN) and deciding upon changes to the UN Charter. Its powers also include establishing peacekeeping missions, imposing international sanctions and authorizing military actions through resolutions.

It consists of 15, members, each having one vote in the decision making processes. The great powers of World War II- Russia, China, France, United States of America and United Kingdom- serve as permanent five (P5) members while the other 10 member states occupy seats for only 3 year terms. P5 members are able to veto any substantial resolution of UNSC.

### **B: Introduction to the topic:**

Since the West African country's first democratic elections in the 1990s, insurgents in the northern region have conducted several separatist actions. Driven largely by the Tuareg people, an ethnic minority residing in Mali who stated feeling excluded by the central government.

Following the post-Arab Spring downfall of Muammar Gaddafi, their cause was bolstered by soldiers fleeing Libya, and in 2012 rebels declared the north an independent Islamic state, imposing strict Sharia law. At the same time, a military coup dismissed the sitting government in the capital Bamako.

Most Malian residents in the southwest and along the Niger River are African natives. The northern country has always been more diverse throughout history, mainly populated by Tuaregs. The Tuaregs in Mali have long fought for an autonomous region including an unsuccessful uprising in 1990. They tried yet again in 2012,

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partially succeeding declaring that northern Mali is now an autonomous state called Azawad. This was the start of the huge crisis still going on to this day.

### Definition of Key Terms

#### **Nomadic:**

A group of people who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all of the time.

#### **Tuareg People:**

The Tuareg are nearly 2 million nomadic people living across the Saharan Desert including countries of Mali, Niger, Libya, Algeria and Chad. The vast majority of Tuareg people- around 950,000- resides in Mali. They are largely Muslim. They're an ethnic population that crosses the boundaries of several countries, but have no majority in any one country. As a result, many Tuaregs are rebelling for better representation or for their own territory.

#### **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb:**

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is a Salafi-jihadist militant organization and U.S. recognized foreign terrorist organizations. (FTO) operating inside the Sahara and Sahel countries. The group's roots trace back to Algeria's civil war which took place in the 1990s and has inside the past decade ended up as an al-Qaeda associate with nearby objectives. AQIM and its offshoots pose the number one terror threat in North and West Africa. Hundreds of Moroccan and Tunisian residents have joined the terrorist organization.

#### **Sharia Law:**

Sharia is a religious law from the perspective of Islam; formulated from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith.

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### **Ansar Dine:**

Ansar Dine is a militant Islamist group led by Iyad Ag Ghaly, one of the most prominent leaders of the Tuareg Rebellion (1990–1995) who is suspected of having ties to Al-Qaeda. It seeks to establish the Sharia law across Mali, it does not seek independence.

### **Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa:**

The MUJAO is a splinter group of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb intending to spread Jihad across West Africa.

### **Provisional Government:**

Provisional governments are emergency authorities set up to handle political transition periods, in cases of new nations or collapse of previous administrations.

### **Sanction:**

An economic or military compelling measure adopted usually by several nations, usually blocking trade in that means, for forcing a nation violating international law to desist or yield to adjudication.

### **Cease-fire:**

A cease fire is suspension of hostile actions between conflicting parties.

### **UN Peacekeeping:**

UN Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace maintenance and measures in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements signed. UN peacekeepers may include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.

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### General Overview

After gaining independence in 1960, Mali endured decades of instability until Alpha Oumar Konaré was the first elected president by democratic elections in the cin 1992. In 2002, he was replaced by Amadou Toumani Touré, who is a former army lieutenant that filled his duty until a coup was launched in 2012 by the Malian military angry at the lack of support for the fight against rebels.

### *France's Involvement*

The western world and neighbors of Mali (especially France) are afraid of the separatist movement -which took over northern Mali- will use the rebellion to destabilize west Africa including neighboring Niger. Niger is of great political significance to France as it's their main source of uranium for the nuclear industry. Nigeria's hands are already full with the growing Islamist extremist threat Boko Haram.

French forces intervened in 2013 with the initiatives of the former president François Hollande, to help drive back the rebellion alliance in northern Mali. The United Nations also deployed a peacekeeping mission with resolution numbered 2432. Two of the groups that had been engaged in warfare — one a coalition largely composed of separatists, the second considered pro-government — signed a peace deal with the then authority provisional government in 2015 .

### *UN Peacekeepers*

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was authorized by UNSC resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013 to support the transitional authorities of Mali in the stabilization of the country and carry out important tasks related to security.

However speaking in accordance with the current UN documents, process of the agreement's implementation “remains slow and unpredictable.” And insecurity is

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keeps growing in northern and central Mali, “where there is a strong and expanding presence of violent extremist armed groups that frequently carry out asymmetrical attacks.” -UN

Currently the UN has more than 15,000 personnel as of November 2018 gathered from 28 countries in Mali soil. 4,000 French troops — as well as the G5 Sahel, comprised of troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger — are also contributing in stabilization acts in the region. However in recent news current president of Canada, Justin Trudeau is resisting UN’s request to extend Mali mission, which was supposed to end on July 2019. Canada currently has eight helicopters and 122 soldiers in the region. Canada is also one of the biggest contributors in means of financial aid.

The Mali mission remains the most dangerous UN Peacekeeping mission in the world, with 22 Peacekeepers killed in 2018 and overall 177 killed since its beginning in 2013.

### *Libya’s Involvement*

Former Libyan leader (pre Arab Spring) Muammar Qaddafi had close ties with the Tuareg, whom he used both to harass his neighbors and landsknecht. In the 2011 uprising, Qaddafi deployed Tuaregs against his own people. Later on that year, as his regime started to fall, Tuaregs went back to Mali. They returned home trained, equipped, experienced and with a Qaddafi refined hatred of the West and the Mali authorities; which fueled further rebellious acts.

With the coup in 2012 toppling the government, the rebels took advantage of the lack of authority to spread even wider across the north of Mali.

### *Key Actors in the Conflict*

Not long after Tuareg people announced their independence with the nation of Azawad, new extremists started to emerge. MNLA has been marginalized within its own existence, later on being succeeded by two Islamist Extremist groups: The Ansar Dine and Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa. Today the MNLA is very much weakened.

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### *Humanitarian Crises of the Conflict*

According to UNHCR reports, more than 475,000 people out of the 15 million population has been forced to flee their homes, about 175,000 of them flee to neighboring countries. The number of people killed in the conflict so far since 2012 however is unclear. But resources report that the Islamist extremist groups have recruited children as soldiers and used many forms of torture, including amputation and strong death against individuals who “oppose their interpret of Islam”

### *Stabilization Models*

Two nation models are on the table for Mali’s stabilization: Afghanistan and Cote d’Ivoire.

For the Afghanistan Model, this can end a costly, open-ended conflict that eventually fails to fix the failed government. It’s also feared that the invasion could rally sympathetic Islamists to the rebels’ means, causing further unrest.

The other model, Cote d’Ivoire; suggests that with France’s deep experience in West Africa, could help stabilize Mali as it did in Cote d’Ivoire twice.(first in 2002 to calm down a civil war and again in 2011 to preempt another war by toppling the president)

### **Timeline of Events**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| January 17, 2012 | Fighting bursts in northern Mali between Tuareg rebels of the new northern National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the Mali military. Azawad is a name for northern Mali. The Islamist Ansar Dine group also joins in the conflict. Malians start to flee their homes. |
| March 22, 2012   | The military led by Captain Amadou Sanogo performs a coup in order to end the duties of President Amadou Toumani Toure – about one month before the scheduled presidential elections. Captain Sanogo explains a lack   |



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|                                 | of support for the military in the fight against MNLA rebels as the reason for the coup. Malian constitution gets suspended.   |
| March 30 – April 1, 2012        | Tuareg rebels strike and capture Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu, the major towns of northern Mali, taking almost 2/3 of the country under their control. Within days, hints of a division in the rebel alliance become clear.   |
| April 6th, 2012                 | The state of Azawad, declared by the MNLA Tuareg rebels, does not receive international recognition. The Islamist Ansar Dine extremists and their allies, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), are not in favour of an independent state. What they want instead is for Sharia law to be implemented in Mali. They soon get the upper hand and commit atrocious acts in the name of Islamic law again and again . |
| April 12, 2012:                 | Provisional President Dioncounda Traore is sworn in so that the country has a leader after the coup.   |
| April 24, 2012                  | Traore creates a provisional government which has members from the military and technocrats.   |
| May-July, 2012<br>May-July,2012 | Islamists destroy a monument in Timbuktu, an identified UNESCO World Heritage site. Doing so, they launch an attack on the moderate islam of northern Mali. Further acts of monstrosity follow, robbing Timbuktu of valuable historical treasures. This creates further unrest in the international community and creates the question of whether it is a logical strategy of war to ruin one country's cultural heritage.   |
| December,2012                   | The UNSC authorized the deployment of peacekeepers by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The bloc had agreed in mid-November to deploy 3,300 soldiers as an act of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) mission.  |
| January, 2013                   | With the support of french troops, the former colonial power in the region, the Malian army succeeds in driving the Islamists out of large parts of northern Mali. The French Operation Serval is authorized retroactively by the UNSC.  |

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| April,2013     | The EU starts a training mission in Mali, in which German soldiers also partake in. On April 25, the UNSC authorized the establishment of the stabilization mission for Mali (MINUSMA), which is to take over from the West African AFISMA mission. The mission is planned to start in July.                                       |
| June 18,2013   | Mediated by Burkina Faso, Mali's provisional government and the Tuareg rebels sign a cease-fire.   |
| August 11,2013 | Ibrahim Boubacar Keita gets elected president by a clear majority in run-off elections and sworn in. However Voter turnout is below 50 percent; many people are afraid to go to polling stations. Keita's party also wins the parliamentary elections in December.   |
| September,2013 | Cease-fire between rebels and military is now out of the equation. Shortly after, UN Peacekeepers launch a major offensive attack with Malian soldiers.  |
| May 22, 2014   | At the end of May renewed fighting breaks out again in northern Mali. The MNLA quickly retakes Kidal and many smaller towns in the region bordering Algeria and Niger, but the MNLA then signs a cease-fire agreement with the provisional government in Bamako.   |
| July, 2014     | Representatives of the Malian provisional government and the rebels start peace negotiations in Algeria. The French Operation Serval becomes Operation Barkhane, aimed at fighting Islamist Extremists in five countries of the Sahel region. (Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania)  |
| March 2015     | After five rounds of peace talks, the negotiations in Algiers lead to a peace agreement. But the Tuareg-led alliance taking part in the negotiations, the CMA (Coordination of Azawad Movements), does not sign the deal, evidently since the groups involved want to consult their base. Only days more civilians die in attacks. |
| May 13, 2015   | After severe conflict, the CMA representatives initial an accord in Algeria but demand further discussions as a term for their final signature.  |
| 2016           | Several attacks on foreign forces have been carried out by rebels. More than 100 peacekeepers have died since the UNSC's deployment in Mali in 2013, making it one of the deadliest places to serve for the UN.  |

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| February, 2017 | President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita forms a new government, appointing close ally Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga as prime minister.   |
| June, 2017     | Al-Qaeda-aligned group Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen claims responsibility for an attack on an hotel popular with Westerners east of Bamako, killing two civilians. |
| August, 2018   | UNSC renews sanctions on parties creating obstacles for the stabilization of mali (Resolution 2432) for one year, passed unanimously by 15 members.                 |

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