
PRESS RELEASE

Dakar, 10 August 2012 - The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa, Said Djinnit, concluded today a visit to Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Bamako (Mali) to discuss the situation in Mali.

In Ouagadougou, he met on Thursday with President Blaise Compaore in his capacity as ECOWAS Mediator in the Malian crisis, and with Foreign Minister Djibril Bassole, who has been leading the ECOWAS Mediation efforts on behalf of President Compaore.

The discussions in Ouagadougou focused on the ongoing ECOWAS mediation efforts in support of return to constitutional order and restoration of territorial integrity in Mali including the establishment of a Government of National Unity, the creation of conditions for dialogue on the situation in the North and the ongoing consultations on the proposed deployment of the ECOWAS Standby Force, the MICEMA. The Special Representative also discussed with Minister Bassole ways and means of strengthening consultations and coordination between the UN and the ECOWAS Mediation.

In Bamako, the Special Representative met on Thursday with interim President Dioncounda Traore and encouraged him to pursue his efforts towards establishing an inclusive Government and developing a road map setting out the tasks to be carried out during the transition. This includes ensuring the consolidation of the institutions of the Republic of Mali, especially the reorganization and restructuring of the Malian defense and security forces, the restoration of State authority throughout the territory of Mali, and the organization of free, transparent and fair presidential elections, as specified in Security Council resolution 2056 of 5 July 2012. SRSG Djinnit expressed the readiness of the United Nations to continue to support peace and stabilization efforts in Mali.

During his discussions with various interlocutors in Ouagadougou and Bamako, the Special Representative echoed the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General and members of the Security Council during the 8 August deliberations on the situation in Mali, in particular the need to act urgently, given the precariousness of the situation. He emphasized in particular the dire humanitarian situation and serious human rights violations, as well as the risk of terrorist and other radical groups consolidating their positions in Northern Mali.

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