

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AFR 37/005/2013  
6 June 2013

### **Amnesty International welcomes investigation into human rights violations by Malian soldiers**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Mali***

Amnesty International has documented extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances committed by the Malian army since the beginning of the joint French and Malian military intervention in the North in January 2013.

The authorities have opened investigations into some of these abuses in recognition of the fact that Malian soldiers may have committed human rights violations. During the review, several states recommended that Mali prosecute those responsible<sup>1</sup> and it is critical that Mali take all necessary measures to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations, whether members of the Malian army or of the armed groups, in order to end impunity and to discourage further abuses.

In May, Amnesty International interviewed a large number of persons detained in Bamako who had been arrested in the north of the country for alleged links with the armed groups. Many of them reported having been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the Malian security forces. Amnesty International's information also indicates that conditions in detention are dire, with overcrowding, insufficient medical care and lack of drinking water. At least five persons are known to have died in detention. Many states raised concerns about torture and other ill-treatment by the security forces and the government must act swiftly to implement these recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

Some children recruited as child soldiers by the armed groups remain unaccounted for following the departure of those groups from the main cities in northern Mali. Amnesty International calls on the government to give urgent effect to the recommendations made during the review to ensure the full reintegration of demobilized children.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review Mali on 6 June 2013 during its 23<sup>rd</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Mali: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR37/008/2012/en/d1dd82af-29c9-45c0-8197-6737328f326d/afr370082012en.pdf>

#### **Public Document**

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK  
[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.46 (Italy), 111.55 (Spain), 112.13 (Germany).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.21 (Tunisia), 111.23 (Ireland), 111.24 (France), 111.48 (Lithuania), 111.52 (Spain), 111.62 (Austria).

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.39 (France), 111.40 (Italy), 111.41 (Belgium), 111.42 (Belgium), 112.21 (Ireland), 112.22 (Slovakia).

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