

Mali: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and Other Related Security Incidents for September 2016

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By Rida Lyammouri

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This is a monthly report tracking of security incidents related to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar al-Din, and allies. This report also includes violent incidents related to clashes between armed groups signatories to the peace agreement signed June 2015. These groups include those opposed to the Malian government falling under the coalition called the Coordination for the Movements of Azawad (CMA), and those in favor of Bamako referred to as the Platform, led by the Self-Defense Imghad Tuareg Group and Allies (GATIA).

Violence by violent extremist organizations (VEOs) continued in September 2016 and Ansar al-Din remained the most active in Mali. Most of the attacks conducted in northern and central Mali were claimed by the group through its media arm al-Rimah. Ansar al-Din also stepped up its media campaign and released two high quality videos of an attack on Malian Army convoy and showing spoils of a previous attack. Suspected VEO [though can't be confirmed] members attacked and seized control of Boni village in Mopti Region led to the firing of Malian defense minister and demonstrated inability of local forces to prevent and stop VEO attacks. Attacks by Ansar al-Din, AQIM, and allies included the use of improvised explosive device (IED), assassinations, and ambush against Malian and foreign forces. In Mali's neighbor Burkina Faso, September witnessed first attack by Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui's men who pledged allegiance to the so-called Islamic State.

Ongoing violence in September between armed groups in northern Mali further complicated implementation of the peace process. Deadly clashes between CMA and GATIA in Kidal Region is slowing any attempt of running joint patrols as agreed in September 15th. As a result of this violence United States Ambassador for the first time have called the Malian government to cut ties with GATIA, a group that has been suspected to be created and backed by Malian authorities in August 2015.

Armed banditry against non-government organizations (NGOs) in Ménaka and civilian transportation also remains a main threat to stability in central and northern Mali. For instance drivers protested against insecurity between Gao and Ménaka and complained about lack of permanent security presence on one of the most dangerous transit routes in northern Mali.

Part I: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and Allies Related Security Incidents

01 September 2016: MINUSMA vehicle struck an IED 60km from Ansongo. 1 injured in addition to damages to the vehicle.

01 September 2016: Gunmen attacked security post at Markoye, Burkina Faso near the borders with Mali. 1 customs officer and 3 others injured, and 1 civilian also killed. Adnane Abu Walid al-Sahraoui men claimed responsibility.

02 September 2016: Gunmen attacked and briefly seized control of the town Boni, Mopti Region. Attackers abandoned the town the same day after burning government buildings and seizing weapons abandoned by Malian forces. Also, 1 official and 1 notable were taken.

02 September 2016: Ansar al-Din carried an attack on Malian Army post at the town San, Mopti Region. Ansar al-Din officially claimed the attack through its media arm al-Rimah. According to the same claim, the group seized 2 AK47, 2 motorcycles, and 2 guns. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

هجوم على بؤابة في مدينة «سان»

وَقَّعَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عِبَادَهُ الْمَجَاهِدِينَ لَيْلَةَ 30 ذُو الْقَعْدَةِ 1437 هـ الْمَوَاقِفَ لـ 2 سِبْتَمْبَر 2016م، لِلْهَجُومِ عَلَى بؤَابَةِ الْجَيْشِ الْمَالِي الْخَائِنِ فِي مَدِينَةِ «سان» بِوَلَايَةِ «مُوبُتِي» وَمَعَ زَغَرْدَةِ الرِّصَاصِ فَرَّ الْجُنُودُ وَدَخَلُوا فِي التَّهَرُّ الْقَرِيبِ وَاقْتَحَمَ الْمَجَاهِدُونَ الْبؤَابَةَ وَغَنَمُوا 2 رَشَاشَ مِنْ نَوْعِ كَلَّاشِيْنِكُوفَ وَ2 دَرَّاجَاتَ وَ2 مَسَدَّسَاتَ وَتَمَّ حَرْقُ الْبؤَابَةِ بِالْكَامِلِ وَانْسَحَبَ الْمَجَاهِدُونَ سَالِمِينَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

مؤسسة رملح ذو القعدة 1437

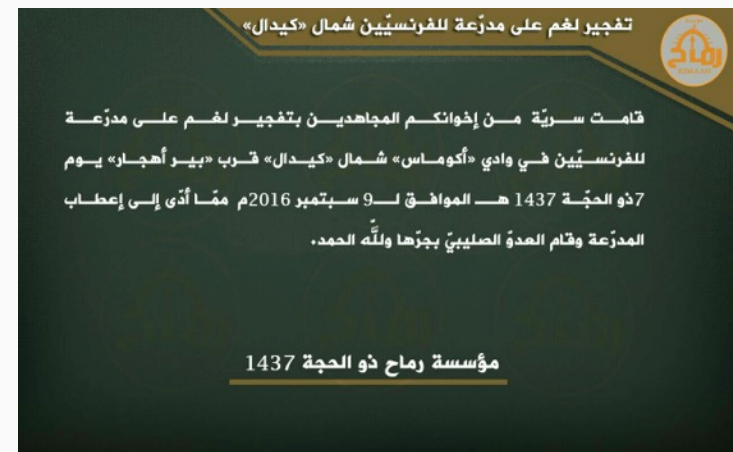
[03 September 2016](#): MNLA fighter assassinated by unknown gunmen on a motorcycle in front of his house in Kidal.

[06 September 2016](#): Important arms cache discovered by Malian security forces in Timbuktu. Weapons recovered included AK47s, grenades, ammunition, rockets, mortars, military uniforms, and bulletproofs vests.

[06 September 2016](#): Villages Kiro and Gnimignama near Douentza attacked by unknown gunmen. 3 unidentified individuals reportedly injured.

[08 September 2016](#): MINUSMA supply truck was attacked and burned by unknown gunmen 35km from Gao. Personnel members were not harmed.

09 September 2016: Ansar al-Din carried an IED attack on Barkhane vehicle at Akomas valley, Kidal Region. Ansar al-Din officially claimed the attack through its media arm al-Rimah, although French authorities did not confirm the incident.



06 September 2016: Villages Kiro and Gnimignama near Douentza attacked by unknown gunmen. 3 unidentified individuals reportedly injured.

09 September 2016: Malian forces clashed with unidentified gunmen at Foutoundé, 15km from Boni, Mopti Region. 3 soldiers killed, 2 injured, and 3 reported missing.

09 September 2016: AQIM released a local notable kidnapped a week before under unclear circumstances. The hostage was identified as Hani Ould Jarallah, village chief of Ticheft, Timbuktu Region.

11 September 2016: Nigerien forces guarding Tabarey Barey refugee camp attacked by unknown gunmen. 2 civilians killed and 4 injured.

19 September 2016: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED while traveling between Gossi and Doro, then ambushed. Ansar al-Din claimed the attack and to have burned 1 military vehicle, fuel supply truck, killing 1 soldier and injuring 4, and seizing 4 AK47. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

كمين للجيش المالي جنوب النهر

يوم الاثنين 17 ذي الحجة 1437 هجرية الموافق 19 سبتمبر 2016م نصب المجاهدون كمينا لدورية للجيش المالي بين مدينة «قوسي» ومدينة «دورو» وعند مرور دورية الجيش حوالي الساعة 11 صباحا بتوقيت غرينتش افتتح المجاهدون معركتهم بتفجير لغم على إحدى السيارات ثم الاشتباك مع العدو بالرصاص وقد أسفرت المعركة عن خسائر في العدو متعددة منها:

- حرق سيارة عسكرية من نوع تويوتا ناصبة ل سلاح ثقيل.
- حرق شاحنة حاملة للوقود.
- قتل عسكري واحد و جرح أربعة.
- غنم أربع كلاشنيكوف.

والله أكبر والعزة لله ولرسوله وللمؤمنين ولكن المنافقين لا يعلمون.

ذو الحجة 1437 هـ / سبتمبر 2016م

29 September 2016: Ansar al-Din Macina brigade released a 2mn14s video through its media arm al-Rimah showing an IED attack on Malian Army convoy that was supposedly followed by an ambush. The incident took place September 19th when 1 soldier killed and 4 injured.



21 September 2016: MINUSMA forces discovered and destroyed an arms cache at In-Tachdayt, 80km NE of Kidal, Kidal Region. Arms discovered included 107mm and 122mm rockets, launch rockets, and materials to build IEDs rockets.

Images of weapons
discovered and
destroyed by
MINUSMA at In-
Tachdayt
September 21st.
Source: MINUSMA.



20 September 2016: Civilian truck struck an IED near Abeibera where French forces have an ongoing counterterrorism operation. 6 civilians injured.

26 September 2016: Unknown gunmen on a 4x4 vehicle assassinated Malian National guard and a civilian at Timbuktu city. Although no group claimed responsibility, AQIM is strongly the main suspect. However since the group has yet to claim it many believe this is a retaliation act between armed groups. [Sahara Media](#) claimed a third person was also assassinated same day in Timbuktu at a different location.

26 September 2016: Ansar al-Din launched 5 rockets on a remote base in Abeibera, Kidal Region. Ansar al-Din claimed the attack through its media arm al-Rimah while no open source reporting or French authorities confirmed the incident. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)



25 September 2016: Ansar al-Din Macina brigade released a 3mn52s [video](#) through its media arm al-Rimah showing arms seized from [07-08 August](#) ambush on Malian forces near Ténénkou, Mopti Region. Below are screenshots from the video.



Part II: Inter-Armed Groups Related Incidents

[14 September 2016](#): Local young man identified as Houken Ag Barka taken by unknown gunmen 30km east of Aguelhoc, Kidal Region.

[16 September 2016](#): Reportedly clashes between CMA and GATIA forces resumed at In-Tachdayt, Kidal Region. [At least 10 people killed.](#)

[24 September 2016](#): Member of MAA-Platform escaped an assassination attempt in Bamako. He was identified as Moulaye Ahmed Reggani.

[28 September 2016](#): Reportedly, violent clashes erupted at Diré, Timbuktu Region between fighters of CMA under unclear circumstances. 1 killed and 2 missing.

[29 September 2016](#): Allegedly members of GATIA executed master of a traditional school [aka Madrassa] at Tin-Ezzé, Kidal Region. Victim was identified as Abdelhadi Ag Hamadou.

Part III: Violence Related to Armed Bandits and Robberies

[04 September 2016](#): Livestock merchants robbed by unknown gunmen 25km from Ansongo.

[05 September 2016](#): Four vehicles traveling between Gao and Bourem and the passengers were robbed by unknown gunmen.

[05 September 2016](#): Gunmen seized ambulance belonging to Niafunké health center between Acharane and Timbuktu. Gunmen briefly captured then released 6 employees.

[06 September 2016](#): Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) attacked by unknown gunmen and 3 motorcycles Sanily were taken.

[09 September 2016](#): Unidentified NGO office robbed by unknown gunmen in Ménaka.

[20 September 2016](#): Ambulance of local health center at Léré taken at Tiringa, 17km from Niafunké by unknown gunmen.

[21 September 2016](#): Two gunmen on motorcycles intercepted and robbed civilian transportation bus between Echelle and Bintagoungou, 60km from Goundam.

[21 September 2016](#): Unknown thieves stole livestock of a local in town while the owner was at the mosque according to him.

[27 September 2016](#): Armed bandits fired at two civilians traveling on a motorcycle near Soumpi, Niafunké Circle. Both civilians injured.

Images of Transportation Trucks Gao-Ménaka on Strike. *Source: Sahel MeMo.*

