

# Mali: October 2016 Violence Related to AQIM, Ansar al-Din, MUJWA, and Islamic State Branch in the Sahel

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# October 2016 by Numbers and Analysis

- Ansar al-Din remains the main threat to French, Malian, and MINUSMA forces. Ansar al-Din threat is high and most likely to continue in Kidal Region and in Mopti Region through Macina brigade.
- At least 18 attacks related to VEOs operating in Mali in October 2016. Ansar al-Din officially claimed 7 out of the 18 attacks through its media arm al-Rimah, AQIM claimed 1 attack, and 10 attacks were unclaimed.
- Out of 18 attacks MINUSMA forces were targeted 5 times, Malian Army 8 times, Barkhane forces 3 times, 1 civilian vehicle [ambulance at Malian Army checkpoint], and 1 attack rockets were fired on the city of Gao.
- There were at least 16 casualties and 21 injuries in violent attacks related to VEOs in Mali in October 2016.
  - ❑ At least 11 Malian security forces members killed and at least 8 injured.
  - ❑ 2 MINUSMA peacekeepers killed and at least 7 injured.
  - ❑ 6 French soldiers injured and 3 civilians killed.
- Number of attacks per region:
  - ❑ Kidal Region: 5
  - ❑ Timbuktu Region: 6
  - ❑ Gao Region: 4
  - ❑ Central Mali: 3
- October 2016 witnessed worrying development, MUJWA splinter that pledged allegiance to so-called Islamic State in May 2015 claimed two attacks through Mauritania's news outlet al-Akhbar.info. Attacks claimed took place in Niger and Burkina Faso.
- Niger and Burkina Faso borders area with Mali witnessed at least 4 violent attacks related to VEOs.

- **AQIM:** Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
- **MUJWA:** The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa
- **MINUSMA:** United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
- **CMA:** Coordination for the Movement of Azawad
- **GATIA:** Self-Defense Imghad Tuareg Group and Allies
- **HCUA:** High Council for the Unity of Azwad (HCUA)

03 OCT 16: Ansar al-Din carried rockets attack on MINUSMA camp in Aguelhoc, Kidal Region. In response to the attack two response vehicles of Chadian contingent struck IEDs. 2 peacekeepers killed and 7 injured. 1 civilian also killed. Ansar al-Din claimed responsibility. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

**قصف وتفجير على قوّات «المنيسما» في «أجلهوك»**

يوم 2 محرم 1438 هجرية الموافق لـ 3 أكتوبر 2016 م قام المجاهدون ولله الحمد والمنّة بقصف معسكر قوّات «الأمم المتحدة» المسماة بـ «المنيسما» في مدينة «أجلهوك» بعدة قذائف هاون وبعد القصف خرج المجرمون «التشاديون» ففجّر عليهم المجاهدون لغما على إحدى سياراتهم، وبعد عودتهم للثكنة قام المجاهدون مجدداً بقصفهم مرة أخرى بعدة قذائف هاون، وأسفرت هذه العمليات المباركة عن عدّة قتلى وجرحى في صفوف الأعداء وتدمير سيارتين إحداهما سيارة إسعاف العدو وحرق مولد الكهرباء،  
والله أكبر والحمد لله رب العالمين.

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04 OCT 16: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED 15km from Bambara Maoudé toward Douentza, Timbuktu Region. 3 soldiers killed and 5 injured. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

**تفجير لغمر على سيارة للجيش المالي بين «أدوينزا» و «بمبرا مودي»**

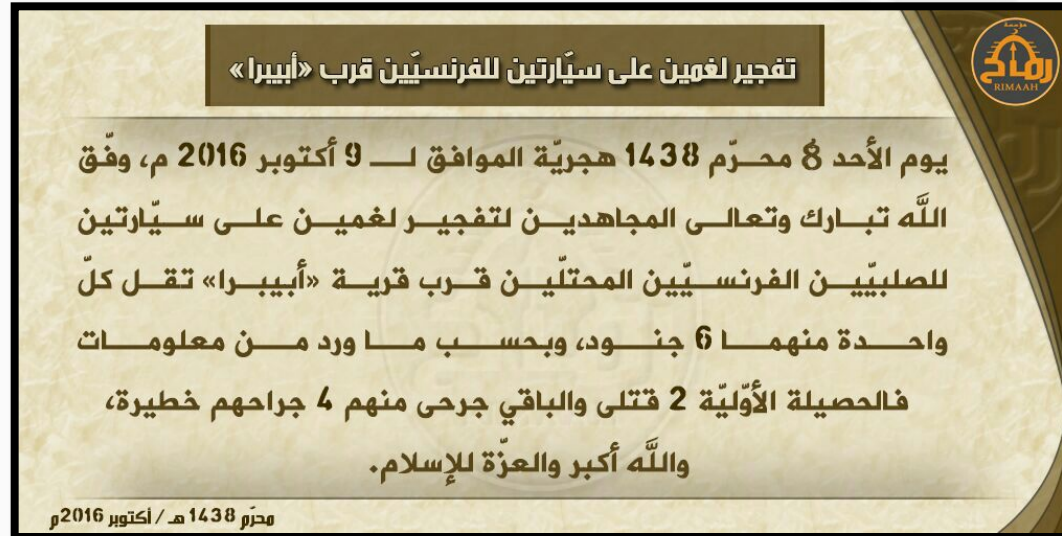
يوم 3 محرم 1438 هجرية الموافق لـ 4 أكتوبر 2016 م، وبين «أدوينزا» و «بمبرا مودي»، فجّر المجاهدون لغما على ناقلة جنود للجيش المالي تُقَلُّ 8 جنود ومنصوب عليها سلاح «دوشكا» (12,7مم) ممّا أدّى إلى تدمير الناقلة تدميراً كاملاً،  
والله أكبر والحمد لله رب العالمين.

محرم 1438 هـ / أكتوبر 2016 م

[04 OCT 16](#): Malian Army convoy ambushed near In-Tellout between Goundam and Timbuktu. 1 soldier killed and 1 injured, also 1 civilian injured identified as Goundam president council deputy.

[05 OCT 16](#): MINUSMA camp at Ber was targeted by four mortars shells according to local sources. No damages recorded.

09 OCT 16: Two Barkhane vehicles struck 2 IEDs near Abeibera, extreme north of Kidal Region. 6 French soldiers injured. Ansar al-Din claimed the attack (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)



10 OCT 16: A suicide bomber targeted Swedish unit of MINUSMA while patrolling streets of Timbuktu. However, the attacker was killed before detonating its suicide vest.

[12 OCT 16](#): Unknown gunmen attacked gendarmerie post at weekly market of Matomo, Ke-Macina Circle, Mopti Region. No casualties recorded, station burned and motorcycle seized.

13 OCT 16: Macina brigade of Ansar al-Din ambushed Malian Army convoy between Nampala and Diabali in Central Mali. According to infographic released by Ansar al-Din [right], Macina brigade burned 2 vehicles, killed 4 soldiers, seized 2 vehicles, 1 BK, 6 RPG, 12 AKs, 11 hand grenades, 8 armored vests, and different types of ammunition.

كمين للجيش المالي بين مدينتي «نامبالا» و «جابلي»



وَفَّقَ اللهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى الْمَجَاهِدِينَ فِي مَاسِينَا صَبَاحَ يَوْمِ الْخَمِيسِ 12 مُحَرَّم 1438 هـ الْمَوَافِقَ لـ 13 أَكْتُوبَر 2016 م عِنْدَ السَّاعَةِ 11:50 بِتَوَقُّيتِ مَكَّةَ الْمُكْرَمَةِ (8:50 غَرِينْتَش) لِنَصَبِ كَمِينٍ لِلجَيْشِ الْمَالِي بَيْنَ مَدِينَةِ «نَامْبَالَا» وَ مَدِينَةِ «جَابَلِي» فِي قَرْيَةِ «يَسْمَا مَدِينَةِ» لَتَسْتَمِرَّ الْمَعْرَكَةُ 50 دَقِيقَةً وَأُسْفِرَتْ عَنْ نَصْرٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لِلْمَجَاهِدِينَ، وَارْتَقَى أَحَدُ الْإِخْوَةِ الْمَجَاهِدِينَ - تَقْبَلَهُ اللهُ، وَلَمْ يَصِبْ أَيُّ مُجَاهِدٍ بِجُرُوحٍ وَ لَهِىَ الْحَمْدُ وَالْمُنَّةُ وَفِيهَا يَلِي بَعْضُ التَّفَاصِيلِ :

13 OCT 16: Ansar al-Din claimed an IED attack on French forces 25km east of Amachach base, Tessalit, Kidal Region. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

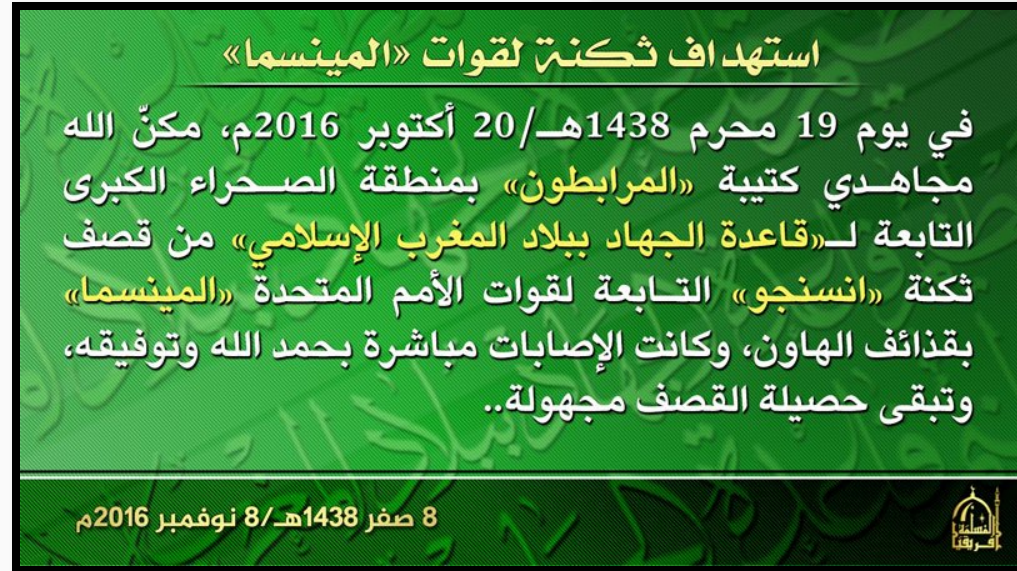
[13 OCT 16](#): Malian Forest officer, Théodore Somboro, assassinated by unknown gunmen in Bankass Circle, Central Mali. He served as a guide to Malian Army during counterterrorism operation Seno.



18 OCT 16: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Bourem and Temera. 2 soldiers injured.

18 OCT 16: Gunmen attacked vehicle delivering medical supplies at a checkpoint 7km from Gossi, central Mali. One nurse reportedly killed.

[20 OCT 16](#): Two rockets launched on MINUSMA camp in Ansongo. 2 civilians injured. AQIM brigade al-Murabitun claimed responsibility, though the statement [right] was released through Ifriqya al-Muslima, one of AQIM media outlets, on 08 NOV 16.



20 OCT 16: Malian Army ambushed by gunmen on 4 vehicles and motorcycles between Goundam and Timbuktu. Reportedly 3 soldiers killed, unknown number of wounded soldiers, and vehicle seized by attackers.

24 OCT 16: Rockets launched by unknown gunmen on the city of Gao, however no casualties or damages reported.

[30 OCT 16](#): Suspected members of Macina brigade of Ansar al-Din engaged in armed assault with Malian Army near In-Tellit, 30km from Timbuktu. Allegedly, Malian forces made several arrests in nearby villages in response to the attack.

26 OCT 16: Ansar al-Din released short statement through its media arm, al-Rimah, claiming an IED attack on French armored vehicle near Abeibera, north Kidal Region.

30 OCT 16: Ansar al-Din claimed launching rockets on French and MINUSMA base in Kidal damaging 2 helicopters. Photos of damaged helicopters circulated later in social media.

### تفجير لغم على عربة للفرنسيين قرب «أبيبرا»

ليلة الأربعاء 25 محرم 1438 هجري الموافق لـ 26 أكتوبر 2016م، وفق الله تبارك وتعالى المجاهدين لتفجير لغم على عربة للفرنسيين ضمن دورية غرب قرية «أبيبرا» وفي صباح اليوم التالي شوهد رتل يعود إلى الثكنة وهو يجر إحدى عرباته ...

والله أكبر والحمد لله رب العالمين .

محرم 1438 هـ / أكتوبر 2016م

### هجوم على ثكنة للفرنسيين في مدينة «كيدال»

وفق الله عز وجل المجاهدين ليلة 29 محرم 1438 هـ الموافق لـ 30 أكتوبر 2016م لقصف ثكنة الصليبيين الفرنسيين المعروفة بكاندي في مدينة «كيدال» بعدة قذائف وصواريخ وكانت الإصابة مباشرة والله الحمد، وتسببت في خسائر الثكنة منها إعطاب مروحتين للصليبيين الفرنسيين.

والحمد لله والله أكبر...

محرم 1438 هـ / أكتوبر 2016م



MINUSMA Helicopter damaged by rockets launched by Ansar al-Din.

06 OCT 16: Unknown gunmen attacked Nigerien security forces based at the refugee camp Tazalit, Tahoua Region, Niger. 22 members of security forces were killed: 14 National Guards, 5 gendarmes, and 3 soldiers. No group claimed responsibility. For more on the incident see [here](#).

14 OCT 16: Gunmen kidnapped missionary worker at Abalak, Niger. The hostage was identified as Jeffrey Woodke, an American citizen who has been working in the country for 20 years, reportedly. No group officially claimed the kidnapping.

17 OCT 16: Jihadists attempted a prison break at Koutoukalé, Niger to free fellow detained jihadists. [Unconfirmed reporting](#) said Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui men claimed responsibility of the attack. Al-Sahraoui men pledged allegiance to so-called Islamic State in May 2015.

17 OCT 16: Unconfirmed reporting and local witnesses said violent clashes between Tebu and Tuareg gunmen took place at Tchibarakaten [near illicit gold mining], Agadez Region, Niger. Circumstances about the clashes remain unclear and allegedly former Tuareg rebel, Amoumoune Kalakouwa, was involved.

29 OCT 16: Amoumoune Kalakouwa escaped an assassination attempt by unknown gunmen near Telwa valley, Agadez Region. Amoumoune is a former military leader of Tuareg group, Niger Movement for Justice (MNJ). Several arrests made later. *Source: Aïr Agadez Info.*

12 OCT 16: Gunmen attacked Burkina Faso security post in Intangom near the borders with Mali and Niger. [Unconfirmed reporting](#) said Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui men, that pledged allegiance to so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in May 2015, claimed responsibility. 4 soldiers and 2 civilians killed, while attackers seized vehicles and weapons.

22 – 23 OCT 16: Burkina Faso security forces reportedly clashed with suspected militants in Ouagadougou. The suspects were [supposedly](#) conducting recruitment efforts of local youth to join unknown jihadist group and to carry attacks against Burkina Faso forces. 1 suspect killed during a pursuit operation while others managed to escape and remain at large.



*Source: La-croix.com*

[01 OCT 16](#): Unknown militants kidnapped two sons of CPA Secretary General Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune. Kidnappers reportedly demanded ransom of 8 Million CFA ( ~ \$13,700.00) for their release. Both sons were reportedly released on [21 OCT 16](#) for a ransom of 1 Million CFA (~ \$1700.00).

[03 OCT 16](#): Four unknown gunmen attacked small village, Bougoumeira, 10km from Goundam. 1 civilian killed and several others injured.

[05 OCT 16](#): Unknown gunmen robbed passengers traveling on Sikasso – Hérémakono route near Burkina Faso borders.

[09 OCT 16](#): Vehicle belonging to NGO Action Against Famine was taken by armed men around Ouatagouna, near city of Gao.

[10 OCT 16](#): One person killed and others injured in clashes between Fulani and Bambara families at Diaka, Segou Region, Central Mali.

[11 OCT 16](#): One kid killed and another injured while playing with an IED found in Diengo near Niafunké.

[13 OCT 16](#): Armed bandits robbed civilians from their goods at Tonka, village located 15km from Niafunké. Civilians were traveling to local market to sell their goods. Forest agent and off duty Malian soldiers were also victims of an attack by same armed bandits hours earlier.

[14 OCT 16](#): School delegation attacked by unknown gunmen in Sambani near Niafunké. Armed bandits seized delegation belongings and 6 motorcycles.

[18 OCT 16](#): Armed bandits robbed livestock merchants by taking their money, approximately 10,000 USD, at the local market of Kati.

19 OCT 16: 2 Unknown gunmen on motorcycle attempted to seize a vehicle in Timbuktu but failed, however; 1 civilian injured.

[24 OCT 16](#): Unidentified gunmen carried an attack on toll station 15km from Dialakoroba and 30km from Bamako. [3 civilians killed](#). Bandits suspected to be behind the attack and seized the money at the station.

[28 OCT 16](#): Armed bandits attacked and robbed a civilian bus at Boré, near Douentza. No human casualties reported while travelers' goods were taken.

04 OCT 16: CMA military post was attacked late at night by suspected members of CM-FPR. Attackers were supposedly captured.

08 OCT 16: Cheick Ag Aoussa, military commander of the HCUA killed when his vehicle exploded shortly after leaving MINUSMA camp. Still unclear who is behind the assassination and no group claimed responsibility. Achafgui Ag Bohada was nominated to be the new HCUA military chief.

16 OCT 16: Unidentified gunmen assassinated member of CMA identified as Dahmane Ag Alhader at In-Lamawane, Gao Region. Supposedly subsequent clashes took place near In-Tillit on 17 OCT 16.

[11 OCT 16](#): Notable of Kel Ansar Tuareg clan kidnapped then released by unknown gunmen. Notable was identified as Habadi Ag Mohamed and was taken at Zouera, Timbuktu Region market before being released under unclear circumstances.