

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

January 31, 2017
By Rida Lyammouri

November 2016 by the numbers:

- At least 28 attacks conducted by violent extremist organizations (VEOs) recorded in November 2016. However only 11 were officially claimed by jihadist groups. 6 claimed by Ansar al-Din through its media arm al-Rimah and 5 claimed by AQIM through al-Andalus or al-Ribat media outlets.
- Out of 28 attacks Malian forces were targeted 11 times, Barkhane forces 5 times, MINUSMA 5 times, armed groups 3 times, and civilians 4 times.
- Out of 28 attacks 9 took place in Kidal Region, 8 in Gao Region, 4 in Timbuktu Region, 5 in Mopti Region, and 2 in Koulikouro Region.
- Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were used in 10 attacks out of 28. November also witnessed the use of a suicide vehicle borne IED (SVBIED) in one attack and rockets used twice. MINUSMA, Malian Forces, and Armed Groups all were subject to ambush attacks.
- **Total of casualties: 28; the wounded: 27.** At least 13 Malian soldiers, 1 French soldier, 1 peacekeeper, 5 civilians, and 8 members of armed groups killed. 12 Malian soldiers, 1 French soldier, 7 peacekeepers, 4 civilians, and 3 members of armed groups injured.
- At least 10 armed robberies registered during the month of November 2016, mostly in Central Mali.

- **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)

04 NOV 16: French vehicle of Barkhane struck an IED 60km from Kidal. 1 French soldier killed. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement). Since French intervention in Mali on January 2013, 18 French soldiers [reportedly](#) killed.

04 NOV 16: Ansar al-Din claimed to have destroyed 2 French Barkhane vehicles 40km northeast of Kidal. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

04 NOV 16: AQIM brigade al-Murabitun claimed (below) an IED attack on Malian Army between Gao and In-Tahag.

تفجير لغم على آليّة للفرنسيّين على طريق «وزين - كيدال»

وَفَّقَ اللهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى لَيْلَةَ 5 صَفَر 1438 هَجْرِي الْمَوَافِقَ لـ
4 نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م لِتَفْجِيرِ لَغْمٍ عَلَى سَيَّارَةِ لِلصَّليْبِيِّينَ
الْفَرَنْسِيِّينَ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ الْمَوْدِي إِلَى «كِيدَال» حَوَالِي
60 كَلَمٍ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ.

وَاللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ...

صَفَر 1438 هـ / نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م

تدمير سيارتين للصليبيين الفرنسيين قرب «كيدال»

يَوْمَ 5 صَفَر 1438 هَجْرِي الْمَوَافِقَ لـ 4 نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م تَمَّ
تَدْمِيرُ سَيَّارَتَيْنِ لِلصَّليْبِيِّينَ الْفَرَنْسِيِّينَ بِلُغْمَيْنِ فِي
«وَادِي هَجُوس» حَوَالِي 40 شَمَالِ شَرْقِ «كِيدَال»
وَاللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ...

صَفَر 1438 هـ / نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م

تفجير عبوة على سيارة للجيش المالي «جنوب النهر»

بِتَوْفِيقٍ مِنَ اللهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَجَّرَ مُجَاهِدُو كَتَيْبَةِ «الْمُرَابِطُونَ»
عَبْوَةً نَاسِفَةً عَلَى عَرَبَةٍ عَسْكَرِيَّةٍ يَسْتَقْلُهَا 6 جُنُودٍ مِنَ
الْجَيْشِ «الْمَالِي»، وَذَلِكَ صَبِيحَةَ يَوْمِ السَّبْتِ 4 صَفَر 1438
هـ/ 4 نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م، فِي مَنَاطِقِ «جَنُوبِ النُّهْرِ» بَيْنَ
مَدِينَتَيْ «غَاو» وَ«نْتَهَاق»..

8 صَفَر 1438 هـ / 8 نَوْفَمْبَر 2016م



06 NOV 16: Gunmen stormed and briefly seized control of town Gourma-Rharous, Timbuktu Region. Gunmen attacked and chased Malian Army out of its base before seizing 5 vehicles, burning 6 others, and capturing other military equipment. See Ansar al-Din statement officially claiming the attack and images (below) released by its media arm al-Rimah showing spoils of the attack. At least 1 Malian soldier injured.

06 NOV 16: MINUSMA convoy struck an IED before being ambushed north of Douentza, Mopti Region. 1 peacekeeper killed and 7 injured.

السيطرة على ثكنة للجيش المالي في «تغاروست»

يوم 7 صفر 1438 هجري الموافق لـ 6 نوفمبر 2016م وعند الساعة 2 فجرا شنت سرية من مجاهدينا «جنوب النهر» هجوما كاسحا على ثكنة الجيش المالي في مدينة «تغاروست» مما أسفر عن السيطرة الكاملة على الثكنة وغنيمة ما فيها ومقتل وفرار الجيش المالي العميل وعند الساعة 3:30 كان المجاهدون قد أكملوا مهمتهم بنجاح وانسحبوا حاملين معهم غنائم ضخمة منها: 5 سيارات أحداها ناصبة لسلاح «دوشكا» (12.7مم) وكثير من الذخيرة والمعدات المختلفة. وتم حرق 3 شاحنات عسكرية و 3 سيارات «تويوتا» واستشهد أحد الإخوة المجاهدين نسأل الله أن يتقبله في عليين والله أكبر والحمد لله رب العالمين

صفر 1438 هـ / نوفمبر 2016م



جانب من غنائم ثكنة تغاروست التي سيطر عليها المجاهدون يوم 7 صفر 1438هـ / 6 نوفمبر 2016م



جانب من غنائم ثكنة تغاروست التي سيطر عليها المجاهدون يوم 7 صفر 1438هـ / 6 نوفمبر 2016م

Images of weapons, vehicles, and other military equipment seized by Ansar al-Din south after Gourma-Rharous attack on 06 NOV 16.

07 NOV 16: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Bambara-Maoudé and Douentza.

07 NOV 16: Gunmen stormed the town of Banamba, Koulikoro Region, just 140km north of Bamako. Reportedly the attack targeted three locations: a prison, a bank, and a gendarmerie post. No clashes reportedly took place after Malian security forces abandoned their posts, 3 vehicles and 4 motorcycles were seized according to Ministry of Security. Also 21 prisoners were released by attackers. 1 gendarme and 1 prison guard [reported](#) missing. 1 suspect [reportedly](#) arrested on 11 NOV at Boron village.

11 NOV 16: Ansar al-Din claimed an IED attack on Barkhane armored vehicle near Abeibera, Kidal Region. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

12 NOV 16: 2 vehicles belonging to French construction company SATOM taken near Dofana and Niafunké. Local sources also stated seeing 2 Malian Army vehicles damaged by bullets.

السيطرة على مدينة «بانامبا» وتحرير جميع السجناء

يوم 8 صفر 1438 هجري الموافق لـ 7 نوفمبر 2016م اقتحم الأبطال في كتيبة «ماسينا» مدينة «بانامبا» الواقعة 150 كلم جنوب العاصمة «باماكو» حيث اشتبكوا مع جنود الطواغيت اشتباكا يسيرا قُتِلَ بسببه واحد منهم وأسر آخر وفرّ الباقون وتمت السيطرة على المدينة سيطرة تامة وتم تحرير جميع السجناء ثم انسحب المجاهدون بسلام بعد أن أحرقوا 3 بوابات للطواغيت وغنموا 3 سيارات و 7 دراجات و 3 أسلحة خفيفة ومتاعا كثيرا،
والله أكبر والعزة للإسلام.

صفر 1438 هـ / نوفمبر 2016م

تدمير عربة للفرنسيين قرب «أبيبرا»

وفق الله عز وجل عباده المجاهدين لتفجير لغم على عربة للمحتلين الفرنسيين يوم 12 صفر 1438 هجري الموافق لـ 11 نوفمبر 2016م في «وادي أسريوال» قرب «أبيبرا» مما أدى إلى تدميرها.
والله أكبر والحمد لله رب العالمين...

صفر 1438 هـ / نوفمبر 2016م

12 NOV 16: Malian Army checkpoint between Gao and Gossi attacked by unknown gunmen. 2 soldiers injured. Al-Murabitun of AQIM claimed it. (Right: AQIM statement)

12 NOV 16: MINUSMA fuel supply truck and Malian Army vehicle struck two IEDs near Gossi. Al-Murabitun brigade of AQIM claimed the attack. (Right: AQIM statement)

13 NOV 16: 5 rockets fired on MINUSMA camp in Aguelhoc, Kidal Region.

15 NOV 16: MINUSMA vehicle struck an IED between Ménaka and Afoud.

15 NOV 16: Barkhane forces destroyed 3 vehicles of unknown armed group NW of Anéfis, Kidal Region.

15 NOV 16: Civilian vehicle struck an IED at Inaridjan, 50km south of Tinzwaten, Kidal Region. 3 civilians killed and 4 injured.

[15 NOV 16](#): Unknown gunmen fired at Malian Army position near Tessit and Ansongo. 1 soldier injured.

[15 NOV 16](#): Unknown gunmen assassinated village chief of Wouro Allaye Tèmè, Mopti Region. This comes after the assassination of Youwarou and Diaba chief villages.



[16 NOV 16](#): Reportedly, Ansar al-Din carried an ambush attack on GATIA forces at Tisawached, Kidal Region. 3 GATIA fighters reportedly killed and Ansar al-Din did not officially claim the attack.

[17 NOV 16](#): Reportedly, GATIA convoy ambushed by Ansar al-Din at the extreme north of Kidal Region. According to the article 3 GATIA members were missing. However Ansar al-Din did not release official statement claiming the attack like other incidents in the region.

[20 NOV 16](#): Malian Army convoy transporting elections ballot boxes heading to Douentza attacked by unknown gunmen. 5 soldiers killed.

[20 NOV 16](#): Malian Army convoy attacked by unknown gunmen near Bambara-Maoudé. 4 soldiers killed.

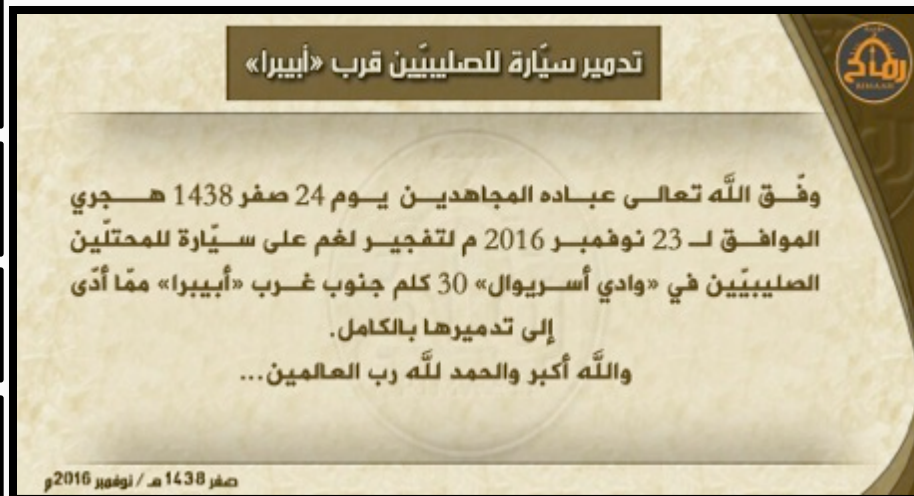
[21 NOV 16](#): Suspected jihadists attacked village Dilli in southwest Mali. They attacked a council building before taking off with 2 ambulances and 1 vehicle. 1 civilian killed.

23 NOV 16: Ansar al-Din claimed to have destroyed Barkhane vehicle 30km south of Abeibera, Kidal Region. [Reportedly](#) 1 French soldier injured. (Right: Ansar al-Din statement)

[23 NOV 16](#): Suspected jihadist arrested at Kayes, south of Mali, in possession of a machine-gun and ammunition.

[23 NOV 16](#): Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Gao and Bourem at Tondibi. 2 killed and 7 injured.

[24 NOV 16](#): Reportedly an important figure of Ansar al-Din, identified as Attaher Ag Ihadou, was arrested in Gao.



27 NOV 16: Reportedly, unidentified gunmen on motorcycles entered the village of Mondoro, Mopti Region after Malian Army left the village 24 hours earlier to reinforce their counterpart in Hombori. No violence reported and gunmen left the village after spending hours circulating on the streets.

28 NOV 16: Malian Army vehicles attacked by unknown gunmen in Tagoudou, Gao Region. 2 Malian soldiers killed and 1 injured.

29 NOV 16: SVBIED targeted MINUSMA and foreign forces base in Gao airport. Only suicide bomber killed and no casualties among MINUSMA and Malian soldiers stationed at the nearest base from the attack but the explosion caused major damages to the site and to a [helicopter and an airplane](#). Al-Murabitun brigade of AQIM claimed responsibility and released images of the 4 attackers participated in the attack (see next slide). Originally there were two VEBIED but one suicide bomber abandoned his vehicle. (Right: AQIM statement; Below: Images after the attack)

- Vehicles used during the attack could be seen in the image to the right.

30 NOV 16: Vehicle of GATIA struck an IED 110km southeast of Kidal near Ajlal. 5 killed and 3 wounded.



Attackers Preparing for the Attack on Gao Airport on 29 NOV 16 Claimed by Al-Murabitun of AQIM.



Abdelhadi al-Ansari



Ayman al-Ansari



Abou Khalid al-Ansari



Aakrama al-Ansari



Military training,
explosives, and
ammunition during
preparation for Gao
airport attack. Images
released by AQIM.



29 NOV 16: Barkhane base in Timbuktu was targeted by rockets. AQIM branch of Grand Sahara released statement and claimed responsibility.

(Right: AQIM statement; Below: Images launching the rockets released by AQIM)



قصف مطار للقوات الفرنسية بمدينة «تيمبكتو» بمالي

في سياق استهداف القوات الفرنسية الغازية لبلاد المسلمين، تمكن بفضل الله وتوفيقه، مجاهدو «قاعدة الجهاد ببلاد المغرب الإسلامي» بمنطقة «الصحراء الكبرى» من قصف مطار للقوات «الفرنسية» بمدينة «تيمبكتو»، بمجموعة من صواريخ «غراد». وهذا بالرغم من الإجراءات الأمنية المشددة..

وتأتي هذه العملية، في أعقاب عملية أخرى مماثلة، تمت بداية هذا الشهر، حيث تم استهداف نفس المطار بمجموعة من صواريخ «غراد»..

هذا.. وإننا نبشر القوات الصليبية الغازية وأعوانها، بمزيد من الضربات بإذن الله تعالى، والأمر ما ترون لا ما تسمعون.. والقادم أدهى وأمر.

29 صفر 1438هـ / 29 نوفمبر 2016م



[07 NOV 16](#): 3 civilians killed and 1 injured when two vehicles near Niafunké were attacked by unknown gunmen.

[07 NOV 16](#): Village chief of Diaba, Djénne Circle, Mopti Region, assassinated by 3 unknown gunmen. The 3 suspects managed to escape.

[16 NOV 16](#): Campaign manager of Kerena Mayor was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen near Douentza.

[18 NOV 16](#): Unknown gunmen intercepted a vehicle transporting elections materiel near Douékiré between Goundam and Timbuktu. Gunmen set elections documents on fire and passengers were not harmed.

[19 NOV 16](#): Transportation bus attacked by unknown 3 gunmen. Gendarme among passengers reacted and injured 1 attackers while few passengers were robbed near Ansongo.

[21-22 NOV 16](#): Tassiga village chief attacked by unknown 6 gunmen. 1 civilian injured.

[27 NOV 16](#): 4 Orange Mali workers and their guide taken at Serma, Douentza Commune, Central Mali. They were in a mission to install network tower.

[28 NOV 16](#): Unknown gunmen entered the village and carried acts of abuses against civilians at village Mondoro near Douentza. Gunmen according to locals took advantage of Malian forces abandoning their post after the end of elections.

[28 NOV 16](#): Unknown gunmen attacked and seized vehicle of Bourra Commune's Mayor. Driver was injured while gunmen managed to escape with the vehicle.

[29 NOV 16](#): Armed bandits attacked civilian transportation vehicle 5km from Ouatagouna village. 2 members of Platform forces injured while attempting to arrest armed bandits.

Notable Security Incidents in Niger (Diffa Region not included)

[01 NOV 16](#): Violent clashes erupted between Fulani cattle herders and Hausa farmers near the village of Bangui. Nigerien government led by Interior Minister Mohamed Bazoum, held urgent meetings in the village between different communities.

[01 NOV 16](#): Urgent meetings were held in Agadez following assassination attempt against Amoumane Kalakouwa, former leader of National Movement for Justice (MNJ) rebel group and currently serving within the ranks of Nigerien Army in Agadez Region.

[07 NOV 16](#): Heavily armed gunmen attacked Nigerien security post at Banibangou, Tillabery Region. 5 soldiers killed and 4 injured. Interior Ministry said two assailants killed and 26 others armed arrested.

24 NOV 16: Unidentified gunmen attacked security post at Dolbel, Tillabéry Region. 2 gendarmes killed.