

Mali: January 2017 Violence Related to AQIM, Ansar al-Din, MUJWA, and Other Security Incidents

February 17, 2017 By Rida Lyammouri

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January 2017 by Numbers and Analysis

Analysis and Comments

- Sahel MeMo recorded at least 106 casualties and 138 injuries, making January 2017 one of the deadliest month in Mali's history. AQIM Gao attack on 18 JAN 17 is the deadliest by a jihadist group in Mali and the region.
- Gao attack on *Mécanisme Opérationnel de Coordination* (MOC in French) the victims were mostly fighters from armed groups.
- Besides victims of Gao attack most of casualties were recorded among Malian forces, Sahel MeMo recorded at least 15 killed and 14 wounded in January 2017.
- Sahel MeMo recorded 1 MINUSMA peacekeeper killed and at least 2 injured in January 2017.
- Sahel MeMo recorded at least 3 assassination attempts against elected officials in central Mali in January 2017.
- AQIM released video of Beatrice Stockly kidnapped in Timbuktu one year ago, on 07 January 2016.
- January 2017 witnessed at least 3 attacks on Non-government organizations (NGOs) complicating further any efforts to assist disadvantaged and unprotected population in remote areas, notably northern and central regions.
- Sahel MeMo recorded at least 18 violent incidents related to violent extremist organizations (VEOs).
- Sahel MeMo recorded at least 10 armed robberies in northern and central Mali
- January 2017 witnessed decline in the number of attacks claimed by Ansar al-Din through its media outlet, al-Rimah.
- Following the Gao attack number of suspects were arrested, including well-known locals in Gao Region. This indicates further possible murky ties between these individuals and militant groups despite differences in ideology.
- 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)



Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and MUJWA in Mali

01 JAN 17: Gunmen attacked and burned Malian gendarmerie post at Gossi, Gao Region.

<u>05 JAN 17</u>: Malian authorities released between 20 – 30 detainees suspected to be members of a jihadist group. All detainees reportedly were from Mopti Region of Fulani decent.

06 JAN 17: Malian forces checkpoint in Ansongo exit toward Ménaka attacked by al-Murabitun. 1 killed and 4 injured. Al-Murabitun brigade of AQIM claimed responsibility. (Right: AQIM statement)



11 JAN 17: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Ké-Macina and Diafarabé, Mopti Region. 4 Malian soldiers killed and 3 injured.

13 JAN 17: Two civilians on a motorcycle struck an IED north of the city of Kidal. 2 civilians killed. Right: image of the motorcycle; *source: Facebook*.

13 JAN 17: Two rockets fired on Timbuktu airport, Timbuktu, Timbuktu Region. AQIM claimed responsibility.

14 JAN 17: Rockets fired on the city of Gao, Gao Region.

15 JAN 17: French Barkhane vehicle struck an IED 8km northeast of Amachach base in Tessalit, Kidal Region.





Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and MUJWA in Mali

18 JAN 17: Malian Army checkpoint attacked between Tonka and Goundam, Timbuktu Region. 3 killed and 3 injured.

18 JAN 17: Unknown gunmen abducted employee of Mayor's office in Salem north of Timbuktu. Employee was identified as Hama Ould Bombo. AQIM brigade, al-Furgan, have been in the past two years targeting local officials and individuals suspected of collaborating with Malian and foreign forces.

18 JAN 17: Unknown gunmen carried an attack on Agora village near Gossi, Timbuktu Region.

18 JAN 17: SVBIED entered and detonated inside the MOC base. Reportedly 77 fighters of the joint forces killed and at least 120 injured. Al-Mourabitoun brigade of AQIM claimed responsibility and released photo of suicide bomber, who was identified as Abd el-Hadi al-Fulani. AQIM claimed Abd el-Hadi participated and survived previous Gao attack in November 2016 (Source: @menastream). (Right: AQIM statement)

عشرات القتلى والجرحي من الجيش المالي والميليشيات التابعة له فارس من كتيبة المرابطون يدك مقرا تسيره القوّات الفرنسية فى مدينة «غاو»

بفضل من الله وتوفيقه، تمكن صباح اليوم، البطل الاستشهادى «عبد الهادى الفلاني» أحد فرسان كتيبة «المرابطون» التابعة لـ«قاعدة الجهاد ببلاد المغرب الإسلامي» من دك مقر ترعاه «قوات فرنسية» بمعية «المينوسما» ويضم قوات من «الجيش المالي» وتنسيقية الحركات الأزوادية، حيث باغتهم بسيارته المفخخة، مخلفاً حوالي 80 قتيلا، وعشرات الجرحي منّ الجيش المالي والميليشيات الموالية له، حسب مصادر من عين

وبهذه العملية، فإننا نحذر كل من أغرته «فرنسا» بالسير في حلفها، ونؤكد له: أننا لن نسمح بإنشاء الثكنات والمقرات أو تسيير الدوريات والأرتال التابعين للمحتل الفرنسي، لمحاربة المجاهدين أو التضييق على المسلمين، وقد أعذر من أنذر..

كما أننا نبشر القوات الصليبية الغازية وأعوانها، بمزيد من الضربات بإذن الله تعالى، حتى تخرجوا من ديارنا وتكفوا عن إيذاء أهلنا.. والأمر ما ترون لا ما تسمعون.

20 ربيع الآخر 1438هـ/ 18 جانفي 2017م



بعد أيام من زيارة الرئيس الفرنسي لقواته المحتلة لمالي

تنظيم القاعدة يضرب مجدداً في شمال مالي ويستبق الحملات الفرنسية ويكبد العملاء خسائر كبيرة

70 قتيلاً و115 جريحاً من الجيش المالي في عملية استشهادية استهدفت معسكرا للجيش المالي والمرابطون تتبنى الاستشهادي «الفلاني» شارك في عملية انغماسية سابقة ولم يكتب له النجاح فعاد مرة أخرى لينفذ عمليته الاستشهادية



جثث الجنود الماليين القتلى، وفي الإطار صورة الاستشهادي «عبد الهادي الفلاني»

قاعدة الجهاد في بلاد المغرب الإسلامي

مصدر من قادة المجاهدين في تنظيم القاعدة في بلاد المغرب الإسلامي و بكر كيتا «عبد الهادي الفلاني» الأسا نفذ هذه العملية، كان أحد الإنغماسيين الأربعة الذين هاجموا مطار «غاو» منذ وذكرت أنه استشهد، ولكن تدين فيما المَّائي سقوط ستين قتيلاً على الأقل بعد أن الله كتب له النجاة بعد أن قطع الخميس لـ «رويترز» إن أحدث بيانات و١١٥ جريحا، قبل أن ترتفع الحصيلة مسافة ١٠٠ كيلومتر على قدميه ليلتحق بإخوانه بعد خمسة أيام

تنظيم قاعدة الجهاد في بلاد المغرب

وفي كلمة بثها التلفزيون أعلن الرئيس

شير إلى ارتفاع عدد القتلى في هجوم إلى ٧٧ قتيلا.



Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and MUJWA in Mali

<u>19 JAN 17</u>: Malian Army patrol vehicles ambushed by unknown gunmen between Dogofri and Diabaly, Segou Region. One vehicle struck an IED while two others seized by gunmen. 3 soldiers killed and 3 injured. Also schools and local shops were closed in Diabaly per order from Malian security forces.

<u>21 JAN 17</u>: GATIA reported CMA attacked its forces at Tin-Essako, Kidal Region. 14 GATIA fighters killed. CMA denied GATIA's accusations and to have attacked GATIA forces. Ansar al-Din sympathizer account <u>claimed</u> responsibility of the attack.

22 JAN 17: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Gao and Gossi. 3 Malian soldiers killed and 1 injured.

23 JAN 17: Rockets launched on MINUSMA camp in Aguelhoc. 1 Chadian peacekeeper killed and 2 injured. Pro-Ansar al-Din account <u>claimed</u> responsibility.

24 JAN 17: Malian Army vehicle struck an IED between Hombori and Douentza. 1 Malian soldier killed and others wounded.

24 JAN 17: Truck loaded of materials to make explosives seized by Malian forces at a checkpoint outside Gao city.

<u>25 JAN 17</u>: Barkhane forces seized around 200,000 USD at a store in Gao market while conducting random search for arms caches and hostage Sophie Petronin.

28 JAN 17: Unknown gunmen assassinated Mondoro Mayor, Souleymane Ongioba, in Douentza, Mopti Region.

30 JAN 17: Elected official assassinated by gunmen at Dinangourou, Mopti Region.

30 JAN 17: Malian forces checkpoint of Somadougou in Segou Region attacked. 2 civilians injured.

30 JAN 17: One military and one customs officer arrested for small arms trafficking affair.



Armed Banditry and Clashes Between non-Jihadist Armed Groups

- <u>02 JAN 17</u>: Gunmen entered Karssani village, 55km from Douentza, fired and injured individual present at village chief house. Appears to be an assassination attempt of the village Chief and this was second attempt in two weeks.
- 03 JAN 17: Malian forces arrested animal thieves at Wabaria checkpoint, Gao, Gao Region.
- <u>04 JAN 17</u>: Humanitarian worker assassinated by two unknown gunmen on a motorcycle in Gao, Gao Region. Victim identified as Moctar Kounta and was working as a guard for the International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC).
- <u>05 JAN 17</u>: Two vehicles attacked by unknown gunmen between Timbuktu and Bambara-Maoudé. One vehicle taken and one escaped, while driver and his companion left on the side of the road unharmed.
- <u>08 JAN 17</u>: 5 year old child killed by another kid while playing with a gun belonging to a Ganda Izo fighter at Ouatagouna Gourma, Ansongo Circle, Gao Region.
- 10 JAN 17: NGO robbed by unknown men in Kidal. Guard was found safe but tied up, four satellite phones taken.
- 10 JAN 17: Three Imghad Tuareg supposedly taken north of Ménaka, Ménaka Region.
- 10 JAN 17: Unknown gunmen assassinated civilian accused of being livestock thief.
- <u>18 JAN 17</u>: Unknown gunmen assassinated Amadou Issa Dicko, Mayor of village Boni, Mopti Region. Assassination is supposedly result of community rivalries. His brother was also reportedly taken at unknown date.
- 20 JAN 17: Fulani and Bambara communities reportedly clashed at Mamadata, Central Mali. 3 killed and 1 injured.
- 22 JAN 17: 3 women attacked at Forgho, village 20km north of Gao toward Bourem. 2 women taken and 1 escaped.
- 29 JAN 17: Civilian vehicle attacked by unknown gunmen near Douentza, at Sinda village, Mopti Region.