

# Mali – Sahel: June 2017 Violent Incidents Related to Al-Qaeda Affiliate JNIM, Ansaroul Islam, and Other Security Incidents

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 By Rida Lyammouri

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#### June 2017 by the Numbers and Takeaways

- JNIM claimed 8 attacks against French, MINUSMA, and Malian forces in June 2017.
- In June 4 MINUSMA peacekeepers killed and 9 injured, 4 French soldiers injured, 7 Malian soldiers killed and 12 wounded, 2 civilians executed and 2 injured.
- Sahel MeMo noted number of inter-community violence. Deadly clashes were recorded between Fulani herders and Dogon farmers over land management. Clashes started as early as <u>25 May</u> and went on and off through June, and took place on the borders between Mali and Burkina Faso, and included members from both countries. Casualties were estimated by Kisal NGO to be around 100.
- Sahel MeMo recorded armed robberies against civilians and NGOs in central and northern regions.
- French forces <u>conducted from May 28 to June 1st</u> joint operation at Serma forest, 200km SW of Gao with Malian and Burkinabe forces. Barkhane said successfully dismantled networks and camps used by JNIM affiliates in the area, <u>neutralized around 20 militants</u>, and seized arms and ammunition.
- <u>Sahelien.com</u> reported that since early June 2017 assassinations and acts of exaction of civilians have been <u>recorded</u> in Kidal Region between Imghad Tuareg and Idnan Tuareg.
- Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui <u>released</u> a letter threatening MSA and GATIA groups.
- In a short Facebook post, Ansaroul Islam announced change in leadership of the group. New leader identified as Jaafar Dicko supposedly to replace Maalam Ibrahim Dicko. Until now there is no confirmation if Ibrahim Dicko is dead.
- Swedish hostage, Johan Gustafsson released on 27 June after being held by AQIM since November 25, 2011.
- JNIM: Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen
- **AQIM**: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
- MINUSMA: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
- CMA: Coordination for the Movement of Azawad
- GATIA: Self-Defense Imphad Tuareg Group and Allies
- MNLA: National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad
- MAA: Arab Movement of Azawad
- CJA: Congress of Justice in Azawad
- CMPFR1: Coordination of Movements and Fronts of Patriotic Resistance (Platform)



#### Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and JNIM

01 JUN 17: Four rockets launched on MINUSMA/Barkhane camp in Timbuktu. 4 French soldiers injured. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: JNIM statement #22)

01 JUN 17: Reportedly, Barkhane forces arrested 2 CMA members in Timbuktu Region suspected to collaborate with jihadist groups. One suspect was identified as Jamal Ould Sidi, MAA military figure.

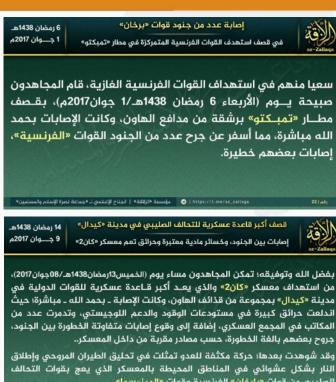
08 JUN 17: More than 10 rockets targeted MINUSMA camp in Kidal. <u>5 peacekeepers injured</u>. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: JNIM statement #23)

08 JUN 17: MINUSMA forces ambushed outside its camp in Kidal. 4 Guinean peacekeepers killed and 3 injured. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: JNIM statement #24 and image of UN vehicle seized)



Right: Smoke from MINUSMA camp after rockets attack. Source: @issalan





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14 رمضان 1438هـ

هجوم خاطف على تمركز للقوات الدولية شرق «كيدال» قتلى وجرحى من القوات «الغينية» المشاركة في التحالف الصليبي «المينيسما»



في لبلة الجمعة 13 رمضان 1438هـ، وبعد ساعات من استهداف القاعدة العسكرية «كان2» بقذائف الهاون، مكنّ الله عباده المجاهدين من هجوم خاطف على تمركز للقوات الدولية «المينيسما» يقع 10كم شرق مدينة «كيدال»، مما أسفر عن مقتل وجرح عدد من العسكريين «الغينيين» المشاركين في هذا الحلف الصليبي الغازي لهذه الأرض الطيبة، كما منّ الله على عباده المجاهدين بغنيمة سيارة بسلاح12.7، وانحازوا سالمين غانمين والحمد لله رب العالمين.

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## Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and JNIM

12 JUN 17: MINUSMA logistical truck struck an IED 75km from Ansongo toward Ménaka. 1 passenger injured and important materiel damage. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: statement #26)

<u>15 JUN 17</u>: Malian National Guard vehicle struck an IED in Ansongo, Gao Region. 1 National Guard killed and at least 2 others injured. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: statement #26)

15 JUN 17: Malian gendarmerie post in Hombori attacked by suspected JNIM militants though did not claim it. Offices burned while equipment seized.

26 رمضان 1438هـ 21جــــوان 2017م قتلى وجرحى وغنائم.. في عمليات متفرقة للمجاهدين

حراق ثكنة وعدد من العربات العسكرية، وتدمير شاحنين لقوات «المينيسما»



في صبيـحة يوم (السبت 22 رمضان 1438 هـ/71جوان2017م)، وفَق الله عبـــاده المجاهدين من السيطرة على ثكنة عسكرية للجيش «المالي» بمنطقة «بيتا غنغو» 80كم غرب «تمبكتو»، وقد تمكنوا بفضل الله وقوته، من غنيمة عربة عسكرية ومعها عدد من الأسلحة والذخائر المختلفة، منها سلاح مضاد للطيران وصواريخ «غراد»، بعدما قتلوا وأصابوا قرابة العشرين جنديا، وفرّ الباقون يجرّون أذيال الخزي والهزيمة، كما قاموا بإحراق سبع عربات وتدمير الثكنة بشكل كامل، وانحازوا بفضل الله غانمين، والحمد لله رب العالمين. واستشهد في هذه الغزوة أخونا البطل «ناصر الفلانى» نسال الله أن يرزقه الفردوس الأعلى.

جاءت هذه الغزوة في أعقاب عمليات متفرقة شهدتها منطقة «منكا» بحر الأسبوع المنصرم، منها تدمير شاحنتين عسكريتين للقوات الدولية «المينيسما» إثر استهدافهما بعبوات ناسفة، وكذلك تفجير شاحنة عسكرية للجيش المالى وهلاك وإصابة من فيها بين منطقتى «انسنغو» و«منكا»

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<u>17 JUN 17</u>: Malian Army attacked by JNIM militants in Bintagoungou, Timbuktu Region. Malian government reported 5 soldiers killed and 8 injured. JNIM claimed responsibility. (Right: statement #26)





Photos of arms seized and Malian Army trucks burned during Bintagoungou attack June 17th released by JNIM.



### Attacks Related to Violent Extremist Organizations: AQIM, Ansar al-Din, and JNIM

18 JUN 17: JNIM militants carried an attack on tourist camp Kangaba, 15km east of Bamako. 5 civilians and 1 Malian soldier killed, and dozens injured, and 3 militants that carried the attack. (Right: statement #25)

18 JUN 17: Rockets launched on MINUSMA camp in Timbuktu.

19 JUN 17: Malian Army attacked by 9 unidentified militants at Bamba, Gao Region. 1 soldier killed and 2 wounded, and one attacker killed.

23 JUN 17: Malian gendarmerie repelled an attempt attack by suspected militants at Boni, Mopti Region. 2 militants killed and 6 others arrested.

29 JUN 17: JNIM claimed an IED attack on Barkhane vehicle near In-Delimane, between Ansongo and Ménaka. (Right: JNIM statement #27)

29 JUN 17: NGO Kisal <u>reported</u> Ansaroul Islam executed a Burkinabe young man at Mougnoukana, Commune of Mondoro, Mopti Region.

29 JUN 17: Truck transporting school equipment struck an IED 82km from Ansongo toward Ménaka. Driver and his assistant injured.









Images of Kangaba camp after the attack.

Source: Anthony Fouchard.



### **Armed Banditry and Clashes Between non-Jihadist Armed Groups**

- <u>01 JUN 17</u>: Unidentified gunmen kidnapped head of Tuareg Idnan clan at Tafadist camp, 20km east of Ersane of Tarkint Commune, Gao Region. Clan chief identified as M. Sidi Mohamed Ag Eghfal.
- 01 JUN 17: Civilians attacked and robbed by two armed bandits at Monzonga, 10km from Ansongo, Gao Region.
- <u>02 JUN 17</u>: Four armed bandits attacked and seized vehicle belonging to handicap international NGO. During the attack two drivers injured when gunmen fired their guns at the vehicle.
- <u>03 JUN 17</u>: GATIA released statement accusing CMA members of abuse act against a civilian taken then tortured at Djouhane locality, 30km from Kidal.
- <u>06 JUN 17</u>: Armed bandits attacked and robbed NGO IEDA office in Kidal. This act of burglary came after similar incident against humanitarian NGOs, ICRC and MSF in May and April.
- <u>07 JUN 17</u>: One fisherman killed and another injured when attacked by unidentified gunmen at Barbon near Ansongo, Gao Region. Attackers arrested on <u>08 JUN</u> at Lellehoye and believed to be members of unidentified armed group.
- 07 JUN 17: Water and forest agent killed by unknown gunmen in Attara village, near Niafunké, Timbuktu Region.
- <u>10 JUN 17</u>: Unidentified gunmen attacked and robbed four passengers [civilians] vehciles at Tondibi, Bourem Circle, Gao Region.
- <u>11 JUN 17</u>: Reportedly, inter-community clashes between Idnan Tuareg and Imghad Tuareg were recorded in Kidal Region. Local sources interviewed by Studio Tamani claimed around 30 people killed. Circumstances remain unclear while CMA and GATIA accuse each other of abuses and human rights violations to slowdown the peace accord implementation.



#### **Armed Banditry and Clashes Between non-Jihadist Armed Groups**

- 12 JUN 17: According to GATIA statement, CMA brigade attacked nomad camp at Anou-Malen, 70km south of Aguelhoc, Kidal Region. Statement also stated that 5 civilians allegedly executed by CMA.
- 12 JUN 17: Two unknown gunmen attempted to take a vehicle belonging to UN contractor in Gao. Driver injured.
- 14 JUN 17: Unidentified gunmen on motorcycles killed one farmer and kidnapped one herder at Woulango, Circle of Macina, Ségou Region. Locals stated to have previously received threats from the same assailants.
- <u>16 JUN 17</u>: Gunmen on motorcycles stopped a merchandise truck and killed the driver at Talhandak, Kidal Region near borders with Algeria.
- <u>17 JUN 17</u>: Nomad camp attacked and burned under unclear circumstances at Tamkoutat, Ménaka Region. 1 young man killed and 2 others taken according to local sources.
- 18 JUN 17: Fulani and Idarfane members engaged in violent clashes at Intahgla, 45km of Ansongo. 1 killed and 2 Idarfane individuals taken, and one vehicle burned. Unclear if this incident is the same as the previous one of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Simultaneously, Fulanis seized livestock belonging to Idarfane families in village Gounga, Ansongo Circle, Commune of Bourra, Gao Region.
- 18 JUN 17: Armed bandits attacked and robbed truck transporting civilians returning from weekly market between Tessit and Ansongo, Gao Region.
- <u>17 19 JUN 17</u>: Local NGO Kisal reported on its Facebook page clashes between Fulani herders and Dogon farmers in Dioungani, Koro Circle, Mopti Region. While difficult to confirm, Kisal reported the casualties to be close to 90.
- 18 JUN 17: Local NGO Kisal reported on its Facebook page killing of 9 farmers in Ké-Macina, Ségou Region.



### **Armed Banditry and Clashes Between non-Jihadist Armed Groups**

- 18 JUN 17: Unknown gunmen attempted to seize a vehicle belonging to local health center in Timbuktu. Vehicle driver injured.
- 20 JUN 17: Unknown gunmen fired at two young men under unclear circumstances in Gao. 1 injured and 1 killed.
- 22 JUN 17: Two trucks attacked and robbed by armed bandits 15km from Lellehoye, Ansongo Circle by three armed bandits.
- 23 JUN 17: Unidentified gunmen attacked 4x4 vehicle at Horodaki while traveling to Gao. 1 civilian injured and goods taken by gunmen.
- 23 JUN 17: Two unknown gunmen fired at Luxemburg NGO in Kidal injuring one employee.
- 27 JUN 17: Five unidentified gunmen attacked and robbed Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) office in Kidal. This is third attack on MSF office within two months.
- 28 JUN 17: MSA reported on its Facebook page that a local market at Infoukaretane, Ménaka Region attacked and robbed by armed bandits.
- 28 JUN 17: Local merchant, Mohamed Lamine Salah Mounir, assassinated under unclear circumstances in Tinzawaten, Kidal Region.
- <u>28 JUN 17</u>: Armed bandits attacked and robbed civilians after seizing their vehicle at Hamakouladji village near Gao, Commune of Sonny Ali Ber .
- 30 JUN 17: Gunman fired at two young men in Gao under unclear circumstances. 1 injured.



#### Niger and Burkina Faso Incidents and Migration

<u>02 - 03 JUN 17</u>: Unidentified gunmen assassinated 5 civilians in three different localities in Soum Province, Sahel Region, Burkina Faso.

<u>08 - 09 JUN 17</u>: Unknown gunmen attacked Woba-Tila village, Soum Province, Burkina Faso. Gunmen then fired at village chief house at the nearby village Béléhédé.

09 JUN 17: Reportedly, Burkinabe forces arrested at least 50 suspects at Kobou and Seno villages on the Malian territory.

11 JUN 17: Unidentified gunmen assassinated village councilman and a farmer at unidentified village, Soum province, Burkina Faso.

11 JUN 17: Two people killed in an attack by unknown gunmen at Basnéré, 10km from Inata mining site, Soum province, Burkina Faso.

<u>12 JUN 17</u>: Nigerien security forces found 80 abandoned migrants near Bilma, Niger. Migrants found in degraded physical condition due to thirst but also to alleged torture by their smugglers.

13 JUN 17: Unidentified gunmen assassinated 5 civilians in three different localities in Soum Province, Burkina Faso.

13 JUN 17: Two groups of migrants found abandoned in the Nigerien desert near Dirkou, Agadez Region, Niger. There were 92 migrants, including 77 Nigeriens, 9 Ghanaians, 3 Burkinabe, 2 Senegalese, and 1 Ivorian.

