

MSF Calls for Respect of Civilians in Northern Mali Médecins Sans Frontières 13 January 2013 All

parties to the conflict in Mali must avoid harming civilians and health structures, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced today.

Civilians have been affected by armed conflict over the last few days in Konna and by bombardments in Lere and Douentza, a town in the northeast of Mali's Mopti region. An MSF medical team is supporting medical activities in a hospital in Douentza.(...)

On January 10 and 11 MSF received reports of numerous deaths and injuries from armed conflict in Konna, including civilians, according to Dr. Mego Terzian, MSF's manager for the emergency response in Mali.(...)

Following the bombardments in Lere, to the north of Mopti, several hundred people have crossed the border into Mauritania. MSF teams in Mauritania have initiated their emergency response plan and are currently on site providing assistance to these refugees.(...)

In addition to medical activities around Mopti and Douentza, MSF teams are working in the regions of Timbuktu and Gao. Twelve people wounded in the conflict are being treated by an MSF team at a regional hospital in Timbuktu, a roughly seven-hour journey from the conflict zone. Other MSF teams are working in nine community health centers around Timbuktu.

Bombardments also took place over the weekend in the towns of Gao and Ansongo, in Gao region. MSF is providing emergency and primary health care in a hospital in Ansongo and is supporting health centers, one on the outskirts of Gao town. It also operating a mobile clinic in the region.

MSF is continuing other efforts to provide medical supplies, drugs and other medical and surgical support in areas close to the conflict zones.

For several months MSF teams have been working in Mali in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Douentza, concentrating on surgery and medical and nutritional activities. MSF is also working in the south of the country, running nutrition programs around Koutiala and providing assistance for Malian refugees in the neighboring countries of Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso.

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