

Military intervention in Mali: Human rights and humanitarian law compliance is crucial to fighting terrorism International Federation for Human Rights 16 January 2013 **FIDH and its member organisation in Mali, AMDH, note the legality of French and Malian military intervention against Jihadist groups in central Mali launched at the request of the country's President. FIDH and AMDH call upon all belligerents to respect international humanitarian law and protect the civilian population. (...)**

"A military intervention is always a failure. However, in Mali's current circumstances, the Malian authorities themselves have asked the international community, especially France and ECOWAS, for help, and, the UN Security Council has authorized such intervention in two resolutions"

said Souhayr Belhassen, FIDH President. (...)

"The observance of human rights and humanitarian law is even more important now than in the past to restore the rights of all Malians" **according to Mr Moctar Mariko, AMDH President.**

"The ability of the States engaged in this conflict to guarantee civilians' physical integrity is a crucial condition of success"

, he added. (...)

In this context, FIDH and AMDH remind parties that, on 18 July 2012, Mali referred the situation in the country since January 2012 to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor. The Court has thus opened a preliminary investigation. These crimes, committed by Northern armed groups since the beginning of their offensive, are outlined in FIDH report, War Crimes in North Mali.

Our member organisations remind all concerned that if the ICC finds jurisdiction over crimes committed during the current conflict, any belligerent could be brought before the Court. (...)

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