



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group Geneva, 21 January to 1 February 2013

Statement by Norway:

UPR - Mali

Thank you Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of Mali and the presentation of the national report.

Norway welcomes and supports the current military efforts made by France and the West African states to assist Malian authorities in bringing security and state authority back to Northern Mali after a year under harsh Islamist rebel rule. The ongoing fighting will likely create more displacements and put further strain on an already weary population. Norway emphasizes the need for complete humanitarian access to the Northern regions of Mali and to the population affected by the crisis.

Norway has been deeply disturbed and concerned by the numerous reports of violations, abuses and acts of violence committed by rebels and armed groups in the northern parts of Mali. Perpetrators must be brought to justice. Norway therefore welcomes the decision by the International Criminal Court to investigate crimes committed in the Northern regions of the country. However, Norway recommends an investigation of all crimes committed in relation to the crisis in Mali, anywhere in the country.

Norway acknowledges/recognizes the difficult circumstances that Mali finds itself in at the present, in the wake of an armed rebellion in the northern regions and a military coup in Bamako. However, Norway recommends the Malian transitional authorities to seize this opportunity to do its utmost to safeguard the fundamental rights of all citizens, regardless of gender and ethnicity, in all of its territory, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.

Postal address:
Post Office Box 264
CH-1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

Office address:
35 bis, Avenue de Budé
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone:
+41 (0)22 918 0400
Telefax:
+41 (0)22 918 0410

Enquiries to:
mission.geneva@mfa.no
www.norway-geneva.org