



UK Mission to the  
United Nations  
in Geneva

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(49)

## **United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement**

### **Universal Periodic Review – Mali**

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Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom would like to thank the delegation from Mali for this presentation at a critical time for the country. The UK is extremely concerned at the current situation and the impact on human rights. Many severe abuses have been carried out by armed groups who are beyond the control of the Malian transitional government. It is vital that an urgent solution to the crisis is found; that rule of law is re-established and free and fair elections take place.

The UK notes that there have been reports of the Malian army carrying out human rights abuses. All extra-judicial acts are unacceptable. We call upon the Malian authorities to uphold their obligations under international human rights law.

Free and fair elections and an open dialogue between the Malian government and all non-terrorist groups will be of the utmost importance to reduce tension between the north and south of the country, and ensure that all Malians are represented.

During this crisis, Mali must be mindful of its vulnerable citizens, in particular women and children. The UK is concerned about the use of child soldiers by Islamist rebels and urges these groups to immediately release them back to their families. We urge Mali to work closely with the Special Rapporteur for Children and Armed Conflict.

The UK has two recommendations:

1. To investigate and prosecute members of the security forces implicated in recent serious human rights violations, in accordance with international fair trial standards.
2. To take all measures to hold free and fair elections in 2013.