



# Weekly Report

NOVEMBER 16-22,  
2013

- 1 Deputy to Islamist Belmokhtar killed
- 2 Rockets fired in Gao
- 3 In search for national unity

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*“Currently the French would not allow Malian troops into these very sensitive areas for fear of retribution against the local population, collectively suspected by the rest of the Malians of supporting the MNLA rebels.” – Acheik Ibn-Oumar (High representative to the UN)*

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## Mali

Alexie Labelle

### *Deputy to Islamist Belmokhtar killed*

- French troops have killed the second-in-command to Mokhtar Belmokhtar in Northern Mali.
- Hacene Ould Khalill was part of Belmokhtar’s “Those Who Sign in Blood” brigade, which was formed as the group split from AQIM.
- Link to the Reuters article (English): <http://news.yahoo.com/french-troops-kill-deputy-veteran-islamist-belmokhtar-134724773.html>

### *Rockets fired in Gao*

- Days before the legislative elections are supposed to be held, rockets were fired on Gao, Northern Mali’s largest city. Fortunately, no one was killed.
- The upcoming legislative elections are increasingly disturbed following the incident; many say the participation rate may be quite low considering the unsafe and unstable situation in Northern Mali.
- Link to AFP article (English): <http://news.yahoo.com/rockets-fired-malis-northern-city-gao-security-sources-101452021.html>

### *In search for national unity*

- Severe security problems in Mali will pose a great challenge for the long-term.
- One challenge will be to distinguish between foreign terrorist groups (AQIM, MUJAO) and secular indigenous movements (MNLA, MAA); however, there is a proliferation of hybrid groups, such as Ansar Dine.
- Mali needs to restore an atmosphere of mutual trust; stability and trust being essential to any type of reconciliation.
- Link to Al-Jazeera article (English): <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/11/mali-electionsin-search-national-unity-20131121125221304691.html>