



Weekly Report

Mali

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**MARCH 9–14,
2014**

- 1** Islamist militant Oumar Ould Hamaha killed by French air strike
- 2** Aid agencies fear that Malian refugees will be forgotten
- 3** President's pledge to build a strong and united Mali will be difficult to meet

"What kind of peace are we talking about exactly? Where is this peace? We need an agreement that will allow the people from the north to really feel Malian. If I'm Malian why is it that each time a Tuareg should choose to take up arms for a battle, I am the one that is expelled from my country? What has it got to do with me?" - Fadimata Walet Oumar, Women's representative in Camp de Saagniogniogo refugee camp

Islamist militant Oumar Ould Hamaha killed by French air strike

- Hamaha was a leader of the Islamist coalition which seized control of northern Mali in April 2012.
- According to the U.S. State Department, Hamaha participated in the kidnapping and ransom of several foreigners, including Canadian Robert Fowler in 2008.
- Hamaha's death comes as France is minimizing its military presence in Mali to make way for a U.N. mission of 12,000 troops.
- Source: Reuters
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/14/us-mali-islamists-idUSBREA2D0QQ20140314>

Aid agencies fear that Malian refugees will be forgotten

- International aid agencies say additional funds are required to care for the Malian refugees, 2000 of whom live in the outskirts of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.
- UNHCR says the ground conditions are not satisfactory for repatriation of the refugees.
- UNHCR also states that due to the number of conflicts around the world, Malian refugees tend to be forgotten but they are still in need of support from the international community.
- Source: BBC News
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26570917>

President's pledge to build a strong and united Mali will be difficult to meet

- Roughly 200,000 people are still displaced within Mali, and 150,000 Malians are living in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.
- France has been forced to delay its withdrawal, with 1,600 troops still in Mali and the U.N. mission to guarantee security in Mali is only operating at half its intended capacity.
- Negotiations with separatists for a peace deal, essential to restoring security, have stalled.
- The need for improved living standards is complicated by the drop in the price of gold, a sector which accounts for one third of national revenues.
- Source: Reuters
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/12/uk-mali-north-analysis-idUKBREA2B0DW20140312>