

The United Nations Security Council: Topic B Primary Sources

The Situation in Mali

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Human Rights Watch Report on Mali from 2019

This source provides a very good overview of the recent developments in the conflict, along with some of the specifics in terms of how deadly it has been. It points out the stakes different nations and international groups have in the conflict. Human Rights Watch is an organization dedicated to investigating and reporting on human rights abuses throughout the world and is known for exposing violations of human rights in different nations. Also, each aspect of the human rights abuses that are covered are broken down into individual sections, including abuses by the government during counter-terrorism operations and specific cases of children being killed in the conflicts, making it easier to focus research on different areas.

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/mali>

Source #2: UN News Article from February 21, 2020

Being a quite recent source at the time of this being written (within the last 3 months), the source provides a good look at some of the recent improvements in Mali, along with the aspects of the conflict that have persisted or gotten worse. Specifically, the article mentions the successes of the 2015 Algiers Agreement in northern Mali and the continued communal violence that is becoming more difficult to control. Also, though it is a news source, it is directly from the United Nations, not a third-party news organization who may have certain biases or agendas in the coverage of the situation.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057911>

Source #3: UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner Update on the Situation in Mali from December 2, 2019

The source recounts a speech directly from one of the experts that the United Nations has commissioned to assist the government of Mali in attempting to protect human rights during the ongoing conflict. Being a speech from someone who is very involved in the situation in Mali and has witnessed aspects of the conflict firsthand, the source provides a very different look into the conflict, along with some of the more personal aspects of the situation. For example, the source points out that many who are affected by violence in the region never retaliate or take action against it, as they worry about worsening the situation or inciting more violence.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25377&LangID=E>

Source #4: Security Council Report's Monthly Forecast on the Situation in Mali from December 23, 2019

The source provides a very detailed overview of recent updates to the situation in Mali, along with the projected progress that The Security Council hopes to make in 2020, and just the month of January. The source is broken down by sections and has a large focus on what the United Nations has been doing to attempt to end the conflict, including explaining the specifics of the

different sanctions that have been levied. While there have been more sanctions on different members and groups involved in the conflict, the source specifically mentions the asset freeze that was placed on five individuals; on who the sanctions committee had previously placed a travel ban. The source also links to all relevant United Nations resolutions, with a very brief explanation of what the resolution does.

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-01/mali-7.php>

Source #5: The Guardian's Guide to and Overview of the Conflict in Mali from January 16, 2013

Though this source is quite old, it does a very good job at addressing the history of the conflict, along with the stakes that the different groups involved in the conflict have. While the situation has in no way been stagnant for the last 7 years, there have not been many drastic changes in the nature of the situation or what each involved group is fighting for. The source argues that the current situation has been created by many individual factors, including French claims in the region, the supply of Uranium in the territory, government failures in fighting Islamic terrorist cells, and even the downfall of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya in 2011.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jan/16/mali-guide-to-the-conflict>

Source #6: List of All Reports from MINUSMA, dating from March 26, 2013 to March 27, 2020

This source is a collection of all of the reports that have been put out by The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), which is essentially the United Nations body and task force that is meant to handle the situation in Mali. Each update is a report from the office of the Secretary General, or an Executive Summary of progress in addressing the situation. The reports themselves are very detailed with specific progress that has been made between any given time frame, and as reports are done by the Secretary General once every 3-4 months, this source will stay updated with new reports as we move closer to MedMUN and delegates are actually conducting research.

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/en/reports?page=2>