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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-third session, 27 May – 14 June 2013**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**MALI**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International has documented extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances committed by the Malian army since the beginning of the joint French and Malian military intervention in the North in January 2013.

We welcome that the authorities have opened investigations into some of these abuses in recognition of the fact that Malian soldiers may have committed human rights violations. During the review, several states recommended that Mali prosecute those responsible.<sup>1</sup> Indeed it is critical that Mali take all necessary measures to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations, whether members of the Malian army or of the armed groups, in order to end impunity and to discourage further abuses.

Mr President,

In May, Amnesty International interviewed a large number of persons detained in Bamako who had been arrested in the north of the country for alleged links with the armed groups. Many of them reported having been subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the Malian security forces. Our information also indicates that conditions in detention are dire, with overcrowding, insufficient medical care and lack of drinking water. At least five persons are known to have died in detention. Many states raised concerns about torture and other ill-treatment by

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.46 (Italy), 111.55 (Spain), 112.13 (Germany).

the security forces; we urge the government to act swiftly to implement these recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, Mr President,

We are concerned that some children recruited as child soldiers by the armed groups remain unaccounted for following the departure of those groups from the main cities in northern Mali. We call on the government to give urgent effect to the recommendations made during the review to ensure the full reintegration of demobilized children.<sup>3</sup>

Thank you, Mr. President.

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<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.21 (Tunisia), 111.23 (Ireland), 111.24 (France), 111.48 (Lithuania), 111.52 (Spain), 111.62 (Austria).

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/23/6, recommendations 111.39 (France), 111.40 (Italy), 111.41 (Belgium), 111.42 (Belgium), 112.21 (Ireland), 112.22 (Slovakia).