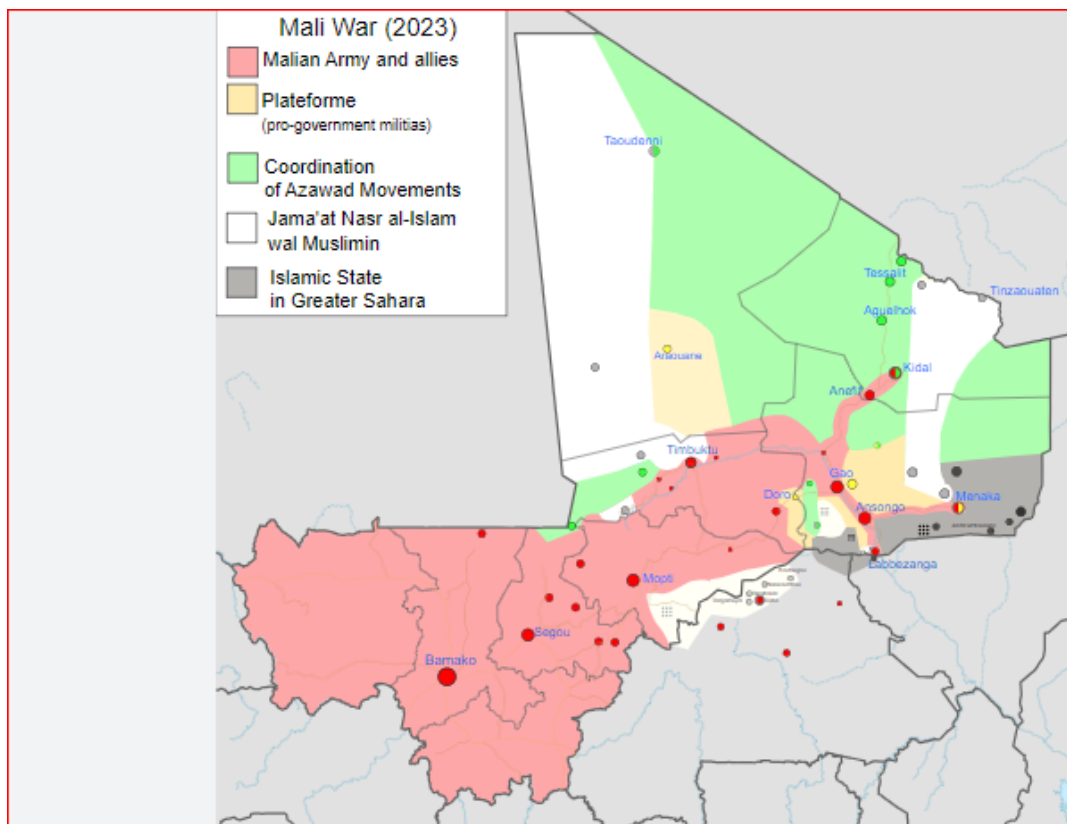


Mali: Withdrawal of UN Forces, Capture of Kidal by Military

November 21, 2023

November 21, 2023: **Ansongo**, (located in the NorthEastern Gao region), **Mali: United Nations (UN)** has commenced the second phase of withdrawal of its peacekeeping forces from Mali by closing its **base in Ansongo**. The base is being transferred to **Gao regional civil authorities**. This marks the transfer of the 9th of the 12 camps of the **Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA)**, which had housed 15,000 troops. MINUSMA is scheduled to close on **December 31, 2023**.



*2023: Mali Army's successful foray into Kidal (North tip of red area);
Capital: BAMA KO, located on Niger river: Population: 4.23 Mn;
Bamako's river port: **Koulikoro**, 59 Km downstream from Bamako;
Koulikoro, capital of the Koulikoro Region: Population: 43, 174;
Koulikoro is one of the 8 Regions of Mali.*

Mali has been embroiled in jihadist violence since 2012, prompting the deployment of MINUSMA a decade ago to support the **National Armed Forces** (FAMa) in their fight against Islamist insurgency.

The Military rulers had asked MINUSMA to withdraw from Mali , in June, 2023. The separatist groups in Mali, who have opposed the United Nation's handover of military camps to the Malian authorities, argue that such actions violate a 2014 Algiers ceasefire agreement, which ended the Tuareg uprisings.

Mali's military rulers assumed power in a coup d'état after ousting the President and the Prime Minister in 2020. The country's military rulers and regional powers had said that a referendum would be held in June 2021 and that it would lead to elections in February 2022 and the return to civilian rule. However, the plans for a return to civilian rule suffered a setback after another coup in May 2021.



Mali: Population: 21.36 Mn (61st); GDP: \$21.31 Bn (123rd); GDP/capita: \$912 (175th)

November 17, 2023: **Kidal, Mali:** Mali's military on Tuesday took the town of Kidal from predominantly **Tuareg rebel groups**.

The strategically important northern crossroads town has long been a hotbed of insurrection. It had been under the control of the rebels since they chased out the army in 2014.

November 17, 2023: **Bamako, Mali:** The World Cup qualification Africa match between Mali and Chad was held on November 17, 2023, at the Stade du 26 Mars. Mali won the match 3-1, with goals from **Sidi Keita, Frédéric Kanouté, and Hillaire Kédigui**.



November 17, 2023: **Bamako, Mali:** The World Cup qualifier match against Chad: Mali's Eagles won 3-1 against the Chadian team.

The next match for Mali is against Ghana on November 21, 2023.

Mali's ruling junta has called on citizens to **celebrate the military victory** in the rebel stronghold **Kidal** by attending the World Cup qualifier matches, with ticket prices slashed. The price of general admission tickets against Chad on Friday and the Central African Republic on Monday was cut in half to 1,000 CFA francs (\$1.65), by the Sports Ministry.
