



Statement of Dep. Boubacar Diarra, President of PGA-Mali, regarding the opening of an investigation by the Prosecutor of the ICC for war crimes committed in Mali since January 2012.

16 January 2013, Bamako.-The opening today by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) of an investigation on the crimes committed in Mali since January 17, 2012 is certainly justified and demanded by a successful preliminary examination of the Mali referral and in light of the situation on the ground, where the civilian population has been suffering from the ongoing violence. .

The ICC investigation will help prevent war crimes or crimes against humanity committed by the different parties in both the North and South, such as the recruitment of children to participate in hostilities, mutilation, torture, extra-judicial killings, and rape. The opening of the investigation by the ICC will also ensure that human rights and international humanitarian law are respected by all parties to the conflict.

We welcome also the international military assistance led by France in order to help Mali to eradicate armed groups and rebel terrorists, jihadists and drug traffickers on the Malian territory.. But the people of Mali wishes to see a the further implementation of Resolution 2085 (20 December 2012) of the United Nations Security Council, through broad military and logistical participation of the international community. In addition, as a broader strategy to uphold and reinstate the Rule of Law in Mali, all UN Members should be called upon by the Security Council to cooperate with the ICC. . In this vein, I therefore appeal to the Malian government to fully cooperate with the ICC. Also, in the Parliament we must adopt as soon as possible a comprehensive cooperation bill, as I pledged on the occasion of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law held in the Parliament of Italy in Rome on 10 and 11 December 2012.

Hon. DIARRA Boubacar
President of PGA- Mali

Background of the situation in Mali since January 2012

Since January 2012, Civilians have been under attack in Mali by Tuareg rebel groups and AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb). The situation was worsened when President Amadou Toumani Toure (ATT) was deposed in March 2012 by a military junta for failing to deal with the rebel groups. Throughout the seizing by rebels of the North of Mali, declaring the independence of Azawad, and the transfer to civilian power in May 2012, under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the civilian population has been continuously suffering atrocities such as murder, mutilations, torture and rape. On 18 July 2012, the Malian

State referred the situation in Mali since January 2012 to the ICC. The Office of the Prosecutor declared the opening of a preliminary examination of the situation in order to assess whether the Rome Statute criteria for opening an investigation are fulfilled.

Given the worsening of the situation, on 20 December 2012, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2085 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter authorizing ECOWAS's African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) composed of more than 3000 troops. Further, upon request of the Malian government, on 11 January 2013, France launched operation Serval.

On 16 January 2013, the ICC Prosecutor announced her decision to open an investigation for war crimes committed in Mali since January 2012. Mali has implemented the Rome Statute of the ICC in its national legislation, but does not have a bill on cooperation which could facilitate investigations and prosecutions as well as cooperation with the ICC.

For more information see the [website of the ICC on Mali](#):

On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign:

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