

Report –Mali: Civilians bear the brunt of the conflict Amnesty International 20 September 2012 Amput

ations and other corporal punishments, sexual violence, daily harassment with the aim of imposing new moral codes, child soldiers, extra-judicial executions: these are the violations against civilians observed by an Amnesty International delegation returning from a two-week mission in Mali. (...)

(...) Civilians, on either side of the line are subject to serious human rights violations and human rights abuses. Almost 436,000 people have fled the North to seek refuge in the government-controlled area, in the central south of the country, or in neighbouring states, and those who have stayed at home are subject to the abuses of armed groups. (...)

As the leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are studying the application of the Malian authorities for aviation and logistical support for a future offensive by government forces in the north of the country, it is essential that all parties involved meet the standards of international humanitarian and human rights law so that civilians will no longer bear the brunt of this conflict.

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