

Tuaregs of Azawad victims of exactions

DECLARATION

For several months now, the civilian population of Azawad (Tuaregs, Moors and Peuls) have been subjected daily to extrajudicial executions, abductions, disappearances, torture, theft, looting of property and destruction. These cruel acts are committed by the Russian *Wagner* group militia with the soldiers of the *Malian Armed Forces* (FAMa) as well as by jihadist groups. Nomadic camps are bombed by aircraft, come under artillery fire or are targeted by Turkish-made drones at the disposal of the Malian junta. FAMa soldiers and *Wagner* group mercenaries are killing indiscriminately, beheading civilians and booby trapping their corpses. Even women and children are brutally murdered, often mutilated or beheaded. It should be recalled that it was in the early 1960s, on the eve of the creation from scratch of several states by colonial France that the Tuareg territory was split by five borders, and that Mali bloodily repressed the Tuareg uprising by attacking civilians. The Tuaregs, since then, have never stopped fighting for their fundamental rights, sometimes having been forced to take up arms.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the region to seek refuge in neighboring countries, which do not always reserve them a decent welcome.

The Malian army and its partners of the Russian *Wagner* group are committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing, targeting their victims, without the slightest reaction from neighboring countries or the international community. This complete silence and indifference must stop.

The NGO *Tamazgha*, outraged by the horrific situation the people of Azawad find themselves in, strongly condemns these atrocities and deplores the silence of the neighboring states and the international community as well as the indifference of public opinion. It calls on human rights organizations to take charge of this untenable situation and act to stop this criminal and murderous plan orchestrated by the Malian junta and its partners in the Russian *Wagner* group. The world can no longer remain indifferent and silent in the face of crimes committed against unarmed civilians. We also call on independent international jurisdictions, especially the United Nations, to act to put an end to these crimes and prosecute the perpetrators who must not go unpunished.

We wish to assure our Tuaregs compatriots of our full solidarity. We call for international solidarity with the peoples of Azawad who have been subjected to a horrific cruelty. We call on the Amazighs to mobilize where they are and by whatever means at their disposal not to abandon the populations of Azawad who are facing the murderous practices of the Malian army, the *Wagner*'s Russian mercenaries and the jihadists. Azawad, an integral part of the Amazigh country, deserves our support and mobilization.

Tamazgha wishes to express its support and solidarity to the Tuaregs of Azawad in their struggle to defend their homeland and peoples, for their sovereignty and dignity. This struggle is that of the liberation of Tenere from those criminal states whose genocidal plan is the extermination of the Tuaregs. *Tamazgha* stands with the defenders of Freedom and *Timmujgha*, and against any obscurantist project that is at odds with the values we defend. Especially those of the liberation of Tamazgha from macabre ideologies that have no other objective than the eradication of Amazighity through physical elimination or forced assimilation of the Amazighs.

Tamazgha,
Paris, August 15, 2024.