



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

# MALI

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3 APRIL 2008

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## Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on Mali has been produced by COI Service, UK Border Agency, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 3 April 2008.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any UK Border Agency opinion or policy.
- iii For UK Border Agency users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Mali is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

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## ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- vii The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) was established in 2003 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the UK Border Agency's country of origin information material. The APCI welcomes all feedback on the UK Border Agency's Key Documents, COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at [www.apci.org.uk](http://www.apci.org.uk)

- viii In the course of its work, the APCI reviews the content of selected UK Border Agency COI documents and makes recommendations specific to those documents and of a more general nature. The APCI may or may not have reviewed this particular document. At the following link is a list of the COI Key Documents, COI Reports and other documents which have, to date, been reviewed by the APCI: [www.apci.org.uk/reviewed-documents.html](http://www.apci.org.uk/reviewed-documents.html)
- ix Please note: It is not the function of the APCI to endorse any UK Border Agency material or procedures. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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## 2. Background information on Mali

### MALI IN BRIEF

**Full Country Name:** Republic of Mali (*République du Mali*)

**Area:** Total area 1.2 million sq. km

**Population:** 13.5 million (2005) (Of which an estimated 4 million are living abroad) (Laurence LALANNE-DEVLIN) [41]

**Capital city:** Bamako

**People:** The principle ethnic groups are Mande (including Bambara, Malinke, Soninke), Peul, Voltaic, Songhai, Tuareg and Moor.

**Languages:** French (official), and numerous African languages are spoken of which Bambara is most common.

**Religion(s):** The vast majority of Malians are Muslim. Christianity and indigenous beliefs are also practiced.

**Currency:** CFA Franc

**Major political parties:** There are over 70 political parties in Mali, many of which have little geographical reach or organisation. The important ones include ADEMA (Alliance pour la Démocratie au Mali (Laurence LALANNE-DEVLIN) [41]) (which led the pro-democracy movement in the early 1990s), the MRP (Mouvement Patriotique por le Renouveau), CNID (Congres National d'Initiative Democratique), the Union pour la Republique et la Democratie (URD, a breakaway from ADEMA) and PARENA (Parti pour la renaissance nationale).

**Head of State:** President Amadou Toumani Toure (elected 2002 and re-elected 2007)

**Prime Minister:** Mr Modibo Sidibe

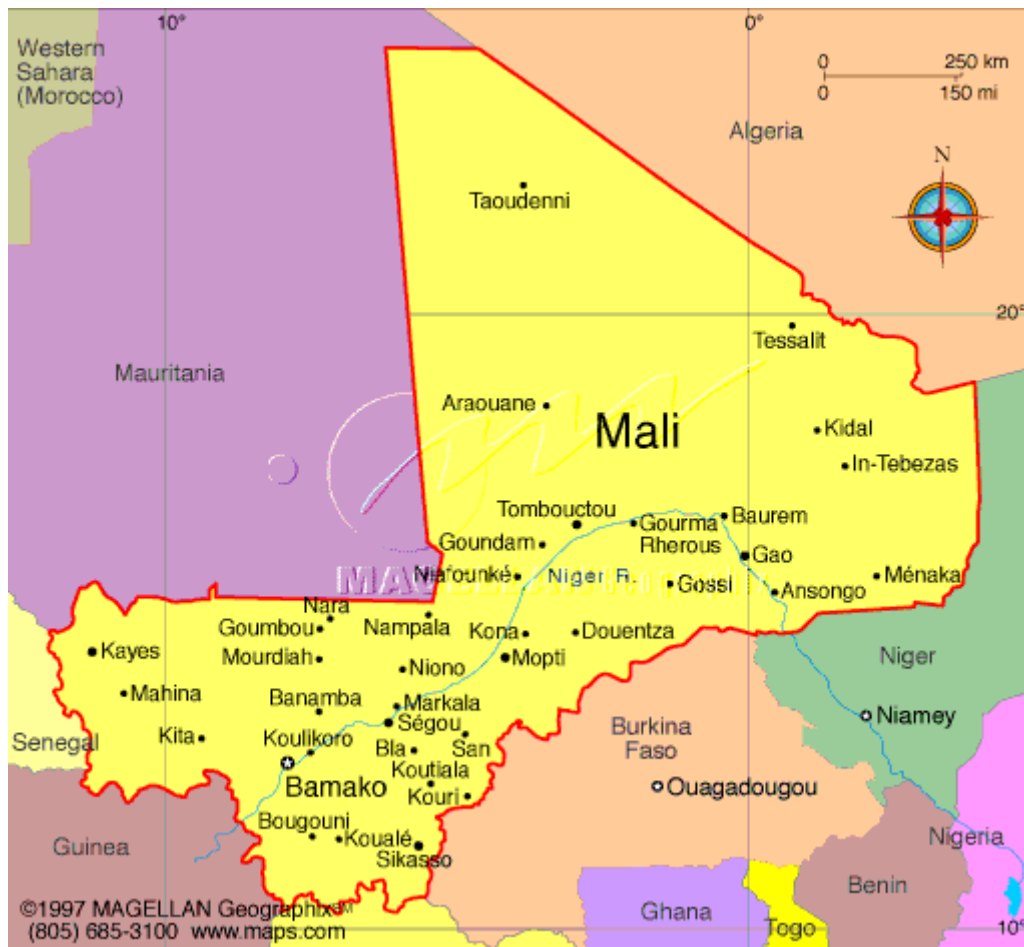
**Membership of international groupings/organisations:** African Development Bank (AFDB), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p1)

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### **GEOGRAPHY**

“Mali is a vast landlocked country and has a subtropical to arid climate. It is mostly flat plains covered by sand in the North, with savanna around the Niger River in the south. But there are some hills in the extreme North and in the Dogon Plateau in the northeast. Most of the country lies in the Sahara Desert, which produces a hot, dust-laden ‘harmattan’ wind and haze common during the dry season”. (Laurence LALANNE-DEVLIN) [41]

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## RECENT HISTORY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

“In its current form Mali is a creation of the French Empire (called French Soudan under colonial rule)...The country became an independent republic in 1960 after having briefly joined with Senegal in 1959 in the Federation of Mali.

“The first head of State, President Modibo Keita immediately declared a single party state and pursued Marxist Socialist policies supported by alliances with the Soviet Bloc. Keita's regime was overthrown by a military coup in 1968. The coup leader Moussa Traore promised a return to civilian rule, but in the event continued the oppressive single party rule of his predecessor until his overthrow in early 1991.

“On 26 March 1991, Lt Col Amadou Toumani Toure (popularly known as ATT), led the coup which overthrew Traore. Toure kept his promise of overseeing a return to civilian rule.

“In 1992 the main opposition party to have emerged, ADEMA, won legislative elections, and the Presidential elections were won by its leader Alpha Oumar Konare. He was re-elected for a second term in May 1997. Legislative elections in the same year were beset with technical problems, and opposition parties boycotted the re-run elections of August. As a result, ADEMA and their allies took almost all the seats in the national assembly”. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p1)

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## CONSTITUTION

“Under a new Constitution adopted in 1992, Mali has a presidential system of government, with the President serving a maximum of two terms of five years. After two terms in power, Konare stood down in 2002. Amadou Toumani Toure, the coup leader who handed over power in 1991, won the presidential election in that year”. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p2)

“Mali's constitution provides for a multiparty democracy, with the only restriction being a prohibition against parties based on ethnic, religious, regional, or gender lines. In addition to those political parties represented in the National Assembly, others are active in municipal councils”. (United States State Department Background Note – Mali, February 2008) [4b] (p4)

## ELECTIONS

“The legislative elections which followed the 2002 presidential election marked the end of ADEMA's dominance over the political scene - no one party came out on top, and opposition parties have since been represented in the National Assembly. The 2002 elections were marred by difficulties, and one third of the results were initially annulled by the constitutional court. Ibrahim Boubacar Kieta (the leader of the RPM, popularly known as IBK), a losing presidential candidate and former prime minister, became head of the National Assembly. With no party political base, Toure formed coalition governments by bringing in people from a range of parties and technocrats from international organisations”. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p2)

“Presidential elections were held on April 29th 2007. Toure stood for re-election and won with 70% of the vote. Kieta again came second. The turnout was low, and the opposition contested the result, although observers from the regional organisation ECOWAS considered the poll credible. Legislative elections were held on 22 July 2007. The ruling coalition, the Alliance for Development and Progress (ADP), won 113 of the 147 seats, after the constitutional court had considered petitions from opposition parties contesting the validity of the results. The turn-out was low at around 32%. Following this electoral victory President Toure formed a new government headed by Modibo Sidibe, an experienced former official and minister”. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p2)

“In 1999, a programme of decentralisation was agreed, largely in response to the long-running Tuareg rebellions in the north of the country. 703 Communes, each with an elected mayor, were created with powers of both revenue collection and service delivery, although their ability to function has been hampered by lack of resources and capacity. In the first months of 2006 a small-scale Tuareg rebellion again broke out. This was initially resolved later in the year with the help of Algerian mediation. But a Tuareg faction, calling themselves the Democratic Alliance for Change (ADC) continues an anti-government insurrection in the north. Renewed fighting broke out in August and September 2007, in which a number of Malian troops were killed and around 30 taken hostage. Ten of these soldiers were released at the end of December”. (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a] (p2) On 8 March 2008 it was reported that the last of the 22 soldiers held hostage had been released. (Reuters, 8 March 2008) [39b]



According to AFP, fighting broke out again on 20 March 2008. Four soldiers were captured on 20 March 2008; and 29 captured and five civilians killed on 21 March 2008. (AFP, 22 March 2008) [52a] Further fighting was reported on 26 March in Agelok, north of Kidal, when government troops fought off attacks by rebels on the army and Republican Guard camps. (BBC Monitoring, 26 March 2008) [53] On 27 March the International Red Cross reported that they had visited the 33 Malian soldiers and two police officers held by the rebels, and that four soldiers in need of medical care had been evacuated to Kidal. (ICRC, 27 March 2008) [54] On 28 March AFP reported that a Malian government team had gone to Libya for peace talks with the Tuareg rebels whose leader is Ibrahim Ag Bahanga. (AFP, 28 March 2008) [52b]

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## ECONOMY

**GDP: US\$ 5.9 millions (2006)**

**GDP Growth: 5.3% (2006 estimated)**

**Inflation: 1.5% (2006)**

**Major sectors: Food processing, construction, phosphate, gold mining, cotton, corn, vegetables, livestock**

**Main Exports: Cotton, gold, livestock**

**Major trading partners: China, Pakistan, France, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire.**

**(Exchange rate: £1 = 1000 CFA Francs (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a]**

"The majority of Malians survive on animal husbandry or the production of subsistence crops or cereals. The country's main exports are gold, which provides 60% of exports by value and cotton, which provides 24% of export value. Gold production is set to rise with the opening of new mines. The cotton sector is adversely affected by falling international prices, but the government is attempting to expand the cotton processing and textile sectors, to ensure the maximum benefits of cotton production for the country. Mali imports some of its food requirements and its economy is adversely affected by the rising price of oil. Mali has a good record on economic reform and compliance with IMF programmes. The government is engaged in a privatisation programme, covering the cotton sector and telecommunications". (Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile, 3 January 2008) [1a]

### Cotton in Mali

"Mali is one of the world's biggest cotton producers. Approximately three million people - or a quarter of the Malian population - live directly from cotton production... However, the livelihoods of Mali's cotton farmers and a further seven million others across West Africa are being destroyed by the large subsidies that the United States and other rich countries provide to their cotton farmers. Subsidies lead to the overproduction of cotton. This surplus is then dumped onto world markets at rock bottom prices forcing down world cotton market prices. US cotton dumping is estimated to have reduced world cotton prices by 15 per cent. For the Malian cotton industry, this translates as a \$43m loss in cotton revenues in 2001 - 02, and \$14.7m in 2002 - 03. These losses completely wipe out the benefits of US development aid to Mali over these 2 years." (Oxfam - Mali overview) [42]

## Gold mining in Mali

“Mali has an estimated 500 tons of gold reserves and has followed the trail of several countries like Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo that have yielded to the economic advice of the Bretton Woods institutions to concentrate on extractive industries as the key to development, and thus reviewing their mining codes to attract and facilitate investment in the mining sector. By 1991, both legislative and institutional reforms were introduced in the mining sector in Mali. A new mining code was introduced to boost foreign direct investment in the sector whilst institutional reforms were introduced to facilitate the efficient functioning of companies. The mining code also introduced major fiscal reforms, which deny the state and its citizens the maximum returns of mineral wealth”. (Mines and Communities Website) [43]

“Mining is still a growing industry in Mali, with gold accounting for some 80% of mining activity. There are considerable proven reserves of other minerals not currently exploited. In 2002, gold briefly became Mali's number one export, before cotton and livestock. There are two large private investments in gold mining: Anglo-American (\$250 million) and Randgold (\$140 million), both multinational South African companies located respectively in the western and southern part of the country”. (United States State Department Background Note – Mali, February 2008) [4b] (p6)

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## THE IMF EVALUATION OF MALI

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its sixth and final review in October 2007 noted that: “Mali's economic program supported by the IMF through its Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility has broadly succeeded in maintaining macroeconomic stability. As a result of the authorities' efforts and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, the public debt is well within sustainable levels. However, economic growth per capita remains below the level required to significantly reduce poverty or achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the economy remains highly vulnerable to external shocks.

The IMF goes on to say:

“Mali needs to accelerate growth and poverty reduction through vigorous implementation of structural reform. Important reforms are under way, although implementation of some measures under the program has remained incomplete. A key reform would be to disengage the government from commercial activities, including those in the cotton, banking, and telecommunications sectors. In this context, the authorities' renewed commitment to restructure the state-owned housing bank and improve governance at the loss-making state-owned cotton ginning and energy companies is welcome.

“Fiscal policy should maintain its focus on macroeconomic stability. The authorities are committed to closing the 2008 budget financing gap through spending measures, if necessary, while protecting social outlays. It will be important that legislation to reform the civil service pension fund be submitted to the national assembly soon, as it remains essential to longer-term fiscal sustainability.

“It is important to keep strengthening debt management and increasing the transparency of borrowing. The recent nonconcessional financing for the electricity

sector was an exceptional stop-gap measure in response to urgent needs for power generation. Going forward, it will be important to avoid recourse to high-cost financing to maintain debt sustainability.

"With a renewed political mandate, the authorities have an opportunity to reinvigorate the reform agenda. Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy through a detailed action plan could give a renewed impetus to reforms and accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs," (International Monetary Fund Press release 07/244) [3a]

On 26 October 2006, it was announced that the Board of Directors of the US Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) had approved a five year, \$460.8 million compact to fund poverty reduction projects in the Republic of Mali. (allAfrica.com) [13]

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

The US Department of State report on Human Rights Practices dated 11 March 2008 noted that the government generally respected its citizens' human rights. However there were some problems, including:

- Poor prison conditions
- Arbitrary arrest and detention
- Lengthy pre-trial detention and prolonged trial delays
- Restrictions on speech, press and assembly
- Domestic violence and discrimination against women
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Trafficking in children
- Hereditary servitude relationships between ethnic groups
- Child labour and forced labour, including by children

[4a] (p1)

## MEDIA

According to Freedom House, "Mali's broadcast and print media are considered among the freest in Africa. Over a dozen different newspapers are regularly published in Bamako, some appearing daily or weekly. The government controls the only television station and one of the more than 125 radio stations. State-controlled and private broadcast media present a wide range of views, including those critical of the government. In addition to commercial radio stations, private or community radio outlets provide a critical link for isolated rural populations. Libel is considered a criminal offence, and press laws include punitive presumption-of-guilt standards, but these laws are rarely invoked. In 2005, unidentified persons kidnapped a private radio talk-show host as he left his radio station. He was severely beaten but released several hours later. Despite a government investigation, no charges were ever filed". (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5A] (p3)

However, according to the US State Department, "the constitution and law provide for freedom of speech and of the press; however, the government limited press freedom during the year and intimidated journalists or publishers into practicing self-censorship. Individuals criticized the government publicly and privately, generally without reprisal; however, on occasion the government attempted to impede such criticism. The independent media were active and expressed a wide variety of views. Journalists were subject to harassment and arrest. The government harassed media outlets during

the year. There were no government restrictions on access to the Internet or reports that the government monitored e-mail or Internet chat rooms. Individuals and groups could engage in the peaceful expression of views via the Internet, including by electronic mail". (Human Rights Practices -2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p3)

"Mali has one of the strongest community radio networks in Africa. After the fall of the last one-party regime in 1991 and the end to an outright state monopoly of the means of communications, the information media blossomed. Today, Mali has more than 110 private radio stations; 86 of them are community radios, mostly rurally based". (United Nations – Africa Renewal) [44]

## JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The US Department of State (USSD) 2007 report on human rights stated that "The constitution and law provide for an independent judiciary; however, the executive branch continued to exert influence over the judicial system, and corruption and limited resources affected the fairness of some trials. Domestic human rights groups alleged that there were instances of bribery and influence peddling in the courts. The minister of justice appoints and may suspend judges, and the Justice Ministry supervises both law enforcement and judicial functions. The president heads the Council of Magistrates, which oversees judicial activity". (Human Rights Practices -2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p2) Freedom House concurs with the USSD view, but states that "although the judiciary is not independent of the executive, it has shown considerable autonomy in rendering anti-administration decisions that have been respected by the government." (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5a] (p3)

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

"The constitution and law provide for freedom of assembly and freedom of association and the government generally respected these rights in practice; however, on June 21, police used tear gas and batons to disrupt a march of approximately 100 journalists who were protesting the arrests of five colleagues and a high school teacher. At least one demonstrator - Ibrahim Coulibaly, the president of the Union of Journalists - was injured by police and required hospitalization. Trials were still pending for five medical students, who were arrested in November 2006 for damaging property. The students' union claimed that the five, including one woman, were physically and sexually abused while in police custody". (USSD Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p4)

"The constitution and law provide for freedom of association, and the government generally respected this right; however, the law prohibits association deemed immoral. In June 2005 the governor of the District of Bamako cited this law to refuse official recognition of a gay rights association". (USSD Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p4)

"Academic freedom and freedoms of assembly and association are respected. Many civic groups and nongovernmental organisations, including human rights groups, operate without interference. Workers are guaranteed the right to join unions and nearly all salaried employees are unionised". (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5a]

## FREEDOM OF RELIGION

“The constitution and law provide for freedom of religion and the government generally respected this right. The government required that all public associations, including religious associations, register; the process was routine and not burdensome. Traditional indigenous religious groups were not required to register”. (USSD Report on Human Rights Practices - 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p4) “Mali’s population is predominantly Muslim, though the state is secular, and minority and religious rights are protected by law. Sectarian violence occasionally flares between Muslim groups”. (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5a]

## POLICE

“The law prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, and the government generally observes these prohibitions; however on occasions police arrested and detained persons arbitrarily. The national police force is organised into various districts. Each district has a commissioner who reports to the regional director at national headquarters. The police force was moderately effective but lacked resources and training. Corruption was a problem, and some police and gendarmes extorted bribes. Impunity was not a problem, and individual police were charged and convicted of abuses. The gendarmerie conducts investigations of police officers”. (USSD Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (P2)

## PRISONS

“Overall prison conditions remained poor. Prisons continued to be overcrowded, medical facilities and access were inadequate, and food supplies were insufficient.

“Men and women were separated in Bamako prisons; however, outside the capital, men and women were held in the same building but in separate cells. In Bamako juvenile offenders usually were held in the same prison as adult offenders, but they were kept in separate cells. Pre-trial detainees were held with convicted prisoners.

“The government permitted prison visits by human rights monitors; however, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other monitors were required to submit a request to the prison director, who then forwarded it to the Ministry of Justice. Approvals, which took up to one week, were routinely granted, but the week delay hindered the ability of monitors to ascertain if there were human rights violations. Several NGOs, including the Malian Association of Human Rights and the Malian Association of Women Lawyers, visited prisoners and worked with female and juvenile prisoners to improve their conditions”. (USSD Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p1)

## TRAFFICKING

“Although the constitution prohibits forced labour, Mali is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced domestic, agricultural, and commercial labour. Mali now requires all children under 18 to carry travel documents. A law that made child trafficking punishable by up to 20 years in prison was enacted in 2001, though there have been no prosecutions under the statute”. (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5a] (p4)

“Mali is a source, transit and destination country for children and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. Victims are trafficked from rural to urban areas within Mali and between Mali and other West African countries, most notably Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, and Mauritania. Women and girls are trafficked primarily for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Boys are trafficked primarily for forced labour in agriculture and gold mines and for forced begging. Mali has also acknowledged that slavery-related practices, rooted in ancestral master-slave relationships, exist in sparsely populated and remote areas of northern Mali.

“The Government of Mali does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so, despite limited resources”. (USSD Trafficking in Persons Report 2007) [4c]

A report from IRIN claims that Malians have a culture of migration, and that the sums remitted from abroad is more than half of all Mali's export earnings. The report quotes migration expert Sally Findlay as saying “With the additional pressures of conflicts on their borders, the impetus to go farther to Europe and the US is likely to increase. The pressure is likely to come both from individual families benefiting from these moves, and from the government, which sees the enormous value added from the remittances”. (IRINNews.org, 1 April 2008) [16c]

## WOMEN

“Domestic violence against women, including spousal abuse, was tolerated and common. Women have limited access to legal services, and family law favours men, leaving women at a disadvantage in cases involving divorce, child custody, and inheritance rights. Despite legislation giving women equal property rights, traditional practice and ignorance of the law prevent women from benefiting. Female genital mutilation is common despite being banned in publicly financed health centres. The practice has been carried out on an estimated 95 percent of adult women but is reportedly declining in urban areas. The government is pursuing measures, such as a countrywide educational campaign, to eliminate the practice by 2008. Abortion is prohibited except in cases of rape or incest. A number of women's rights groups are active in highlighting and advocating solutions for the legal and socioeconomic problems facing women in Malian society”. (Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2007) [5a] (p3,4)

There are other harmful traditional practices affecting women in Mali. These include force-feeding, early or forced marriage, the traditional practice of “*lévirat*” (where a recently widowed woman becomes the property of the dead man's brother or cousin) and nutritional taboos. (Laurence LALANNE-DEVLIN) [41]

## FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR

“The law prohibits forced or compulsory labour, including by children; however, there were reports that such practices occurred. The law prohibits the contractual use of persons without their consent, and penalties include a fine and hard labour. Penalties increase significantly if a minor, defined as someone less than 15 years of age, is involved.

“Hereditary servitude relationships continued to informally link different ethnic groups, particularly in the north.

“There was evidence that members of the black Tamachek community continued to live in forced servitude and were deprived of civil liberties by members of other ethnic groups. During the year members of the black Tamachek community, reported on the continued existence of feudal slave-related practices in the country. Black Tamachek residents in Anderamboukane reported that they were regularly forced to work as domestics or day labourers for Tuareg notables. On August 22, several black Tamachek groups urged the government to adopt a law criminalizing slavery. No action had been taken on the request by year's end. On September 4, a three-year-old Tamachek child named Moumou ag Tamou was taken from his family in Kidal by a man claiming traditional ownership rights over the child. Family members in Kidal immediately notified local authorities, and black Tamachek leaders in Bamako met with the minister of justice to discuss the case. An investigation was ongoing at year's end”. (USSD Country Report on Human Rights practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p8)

### CHILD LABOUR

“The labour code has specific policies that pertain to child labour; however, these regulations often were ignored in practice, and child labour was a problem. The labour code permits children between the ages of 12 and 14 to work up to two hours per day during school vacations with parental approval. Children 14 to 16 may work up to 4½ hours per day with the permission of a labour inspector, but not during nights, on Sundays, or on holidays. Children 16 to 18 could work in jobs that were not physically demanding; boys could work up to eight hours per day, and girls up to six hours per day.

Child labour predominated in the agricultural, mining, and domestic help sectors and, to a lesser degree, in craft and trade apprenticeships and cottage industries”. (USSD Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008) [4a] (p9)

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## 4. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY	[1a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008. <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a>
	[2]	Jane's Sentinel Security Assessments 21 November 2007 <a href="http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/WAFR_country.jsp?Prod_Name=WAFR&amp;Sent_Country=Mali&amp;">http://sentinel.janes.com/docs/sentinel/WAFR_country.jsp?Prod_Name=WAFR&amp;Sent_Country=Mali&amp;</a>
	[3]	International Monetary Fund updated 2 January 2008 <a href="http://www.imf.org/external/country/MLI/index.htm">http://www.imf.org/external/country/MLI/index.htm</a>
	[4a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a>
	[4b]	United States Department of State (USDOS), Background Note: Mali, last updated February 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm</a>
	[5a]	Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007) <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a>
	[6]	Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005 <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a>
	[7a]	Europa Publications Ltd. Regional Surveys of the World: Africa: South of the Sahara 2005 (34th Edition), Mali, p. 696 – 718
	[7b]	Europa World Online, Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml?&amp;authstatuscode=200">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml?&amp;authstatuscode=200</a>
	[7b]	Europa World Online, Country Statistics <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a>
	[8a]	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Mali, last updated on 29 February 2008. <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm</a>
	[10]	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook : Mali (last updated on 28 February 2008) <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html</a>
	[11]	UNDP - Mali Country Profile. <a href="http://www.un.org.ml/gb/maligb.htm">http://www.un.org.ml/gb/maligb.htm</a>
[15]	Africabiz Online, The Republic of Mali - Briefs <a href="http://businessafrica.net/africabiz/countries/mali.php">http://businessafrica.net/africabiz/countries/mali.php</a>	



<b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY CONTINUED</b>	<b>[40]</b>	Ethnologue Languages of Mali <a href="http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Mali">http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Mali</a>
	<b>[45]</b>	Index Mundi Geography, Demographics, Economy, Constitution <a href="http://www.indexmundi.com/mali/">http://www.indexmundi.com/mali/</a>
<b>MAP</b>	<b>[9]</b>	United Nations Cartographic Section, Map on Mali, October 2004 <a href="http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/mali.pdf">http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/mali.pdf</a>
<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>[1a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008. <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a>
	<b>[4b]</b>	United States Department of State (USDOS), Background Note: Mali, last updated February 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm</a>
	<b>[5a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007) <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a>
	<b>[6]</b>	Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005 <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a>
	<b>[7b]</b>	Europa World Online, Recent History <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a>
	<b>[8a]</b>	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Mali, last updated on 29 February 2008. <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm</a>
	<b>[8b]</b>	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Timeline: Mali (last updated on 29 February 2008) <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1022844.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1022844.stm</a>
<b>POLITICS AND RECENT EVENTS</b>	<b>[1a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008. <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a>
	<b>[4b]</b>	United States Department of State (USDOS), Background Note: Mali, last updated February 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm</a>

<p><b>POLITICS AND RECENT EVENTS CONTINUED</b></p>	<p>[5a]  [6]  [7b]  [8a]  [8b]  [10]  [11]  [13]  [14]  [45]</p>	<p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007) <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a></p> <p>Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005 <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a></p> <p>Europa World Online, Recent History <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a></p> <p>British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Mali, last updated on 29 February 2008. <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm</a></p> <p>British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Timeline: Mali (last updated on 29 February 2008) <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1022844.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1022844.stm</a></p> <p>Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook : Mali (last updated on 28 February 2008) <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html</a></p> <p>UNDP - Mali Country Profile, <a href="http://www.un.org.ml/gb/maligb.htm">http://www.un.org.ml/gb/maligb.htm</a></p> <p>America.gov Millennium Challenge Corporation Approves \$461 Million for Mali <a href="http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/October/20061026170224WCyeroC0.9784815.html">http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2006/October/20061026170224WCyeroC0.9784815.html</a></p> <p>Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Tokyo <a href="http://www.ambamali-jp.org/en/index.html">http://www.ambamali-jp.org/en/index.html</a></p> <p>Index Mundi Government <a href="http://www.indexmundi.com/mali/">http://www.indexmundi.com/mali/</a></p>
<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL:</b></p>	<p>[1a]  [4a]  [5a]  [12a]</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008. <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountrypProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a></p> <p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007) <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a></p> <p>University of Minnesota Human Rights Library Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties - Mali <a href="http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/ratification-mali.html">http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/research/ratification-mali.html</a></p>

<b>HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL: CONTINUED</b>	<b>[12b]</b>	University of Minnesota Human Rights Library The Status of Human Rights Organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa - Mali <a href="http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/mali.htm">http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/mali.htm</a>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b>  <b>(IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)</b>		
<b>ARREST AND DETENTION</b>	<b>[4a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a>
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>[4a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a>
	<b>[4c]</b>	United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 12 June 2007 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82804.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82804.htm</a>
	<b>[5a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007) <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a>
	<b>[6]</b>	Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005 <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a>
	<b>[7b]</b>	Europa World Online, Recent History <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a>
	<b>[16a]</b>	IRIN news, MALI: Children hardest hit by crisis that leaves 1.1 million hungry, 10 August 2005 <a href="http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=48528">http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=48528</a>
	<b>[17]</b>	The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) <a href="http://www.unicef.org/search.php?q=Mali">http://www.unicef.org/search.php?q=Mali</a>
	<b>[18a]</b>	Save the Children Mali <a href="http://www.savethechildren.org/countries/africa/mali.asp">http://www.savethechildren.org/countries/africa/mali.asp</a>
	<b>[18b]</b>	Save the Children International Save the Children Alliance <a href="http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/where_we_work/AW/mapML.html#c8e88">http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/where_we_work/AW/mapML.html#c8e88</a>
	<b>[19]</b>	Street Children – Mali <a href="http://www.gvnet.com/streetchildren/Mali.htm">http://www.gvnet.com/streetchildren/Mali.htm</a>
	<b>[20]</b>	Population Council (September 2005) Child marriage briefing <a href="http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/briefingsheets/MALI2005.pdf">http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/briefingsheets/MALI2005.pdf</a>
	<b>[21]</b>	Right to Education At What Age <a href="http://www.right-to-education.org/search/index.html">http://www.right-to-education.org/search/index.html</a>

<b>CHILDREN CONTINUED</b>	[22]	Cat.Inst.FR Child fostering and Children's nutritional outcomes in rural Mali (Copyright 2007) <a href="http://cat.inist.fr/?aModele=afficheN&amp;cpsid=3398284">http://cat.inist.fr/?aModele=afficheN&amp;cpsid=3398284</a>
	[50]	Africa Recovery , United Nations Mali posts modest gains in child health <a href="http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol16no1/161chi2.htm">http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol16no1/161chi2.htm</a>
<b>DEATH PENALTY</b>	[34a]	Amnesty International Report 2007 – Mali <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/africa/west-africa/mali">http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/africa/west-africa/mali</a>
	[34b]	Amnesty International Death Penalty: Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries (19 September 2007 version) <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty/abolitionist-and-retentionist-countries">http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty/abolitionist-and-retentionist-countries</a>
	[51]	Hands off Cain Database for each country. Politics and laws for Death Penalty <a href="http://english.nessunotocchicaino.it/bancadati/schedastato.php?idcontinente=25&amp;nome=mali">http://english.nessunotocchicaino.it/bancadati/schedastato.php?idcontinente=25&amp;nome=mali</a>
<b>ETHNIC GROUPS</b>	[1a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008. <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a>
	[4a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a>
	[4b]	United States Department of State (USDOS), Background Note: Mali, last updated February 2008 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2828.htm</a>
	[10]	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook : Mali (last updated on 28 February 2008) <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html</a>
	[23a]	Encyclopaedia of the Nations (2007) Mali Ethnic Groups <a href="http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Mali-ETHNIC-GROUPS.html">http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Mali-ETHNIC-GROUPS.html</a>
<b>FORCED EVICTION</b>	[24]	Habitat International Coalition <a href="http://www.hlrn.org/violation.php?vio=VioEviction">http://www.hlrn.org/violation.php?vio=VioEviction</a>
	[25]	United Nations High commission for Human Rights (UNHCHR) <a href="http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs25.htm">http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs25.htm</a>

<b>FOREIGN REBELS</b>	<p>[37]</p> <p>[38]</p> <p>[39]</p>	<p>Gulfnews.com (4 November 2006)  <a href="http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/06/11/04/10079795.html">http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/06/11/04/10079795.html</a></p> <p>Counterterrorism Blog (4 October 2006)  <a href="http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/10/gspc_suffering_losses_in_mali_1.php">http://counterterrorismblog.org/2006/10/gspc_suffering_losses_in_mali_1.php</a></p> <p>Reuters AlertNet (24 October 2006)  <a href="http://mobile.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24313095.htm">http://mobile.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24313095.htm</a></p>
<b>FREEDOM OF RELIGION</b>	<p>[4a]</p> <p>[4d]</p> <p>[5a]</p> <p>[6]</p> <p>[7b]</p>	<p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008  <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a></p> <p>United States Department of State, International Religious Freedom Report 2007, 14 September 2007  <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90108.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90108.htm</a></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007)  <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a></p> <p>Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005  <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a></p> <p>Europa World Online, Recent History  <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a></p>
<b>FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA</b>	<p>[4a]</p> <p>[5a]</p> <p>[5b]</p> <p>[6]</p> <p>[7b]</p> <p>[8a]</p>	<p>United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2007, 11 March 2008  <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100492.htm</a></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom in the World - Mali (2007)  <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2007&amp;country=7225</a></p> <p>Freedom House, Freedom of the Press - Mali (2007)  <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&amp;year=2007">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=251&amp;year=2007</a></p> <p>Library of Congress, Country Profile: Mali, January 2005  <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mali.pdf</a></p> <p>Europa World Online, Recent History  <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ml.ss.1</a></p> <p>British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Mali, last updated on 29 February 2008.  <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1021454.stm</a></p>
<b>JUDICIARY</b>	<p>[1a]</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Mali, last reviewed 3 January 2008.  <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835">http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&amp;c=Page&amp;cid=1007029394365&amp;a=KCountryProfile&amp;aid=1019744971835</a></p>

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