

*Courtesy translation*

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRANSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
MALI

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The Government of the Republic of Mali takes note of the "Joint Statement" made by certain partners published on social networks on December 23, 2021 relating to the alleged deployment of elements of a private security company in Mali.

The Government of Mali regrets the content of this press release, which comes at a time where the Malian Authorities are making enormous efforts on a daily basis to ~~meet~~ address the multifaceted challenges that the country is facing. The Government of Mali hereby formally denies these baseless allegations and demands evidence to be provided by independent sources.

The Government of Mali would like to point out that, similarly to the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM), Russian trainers are present in Mali as part of the efforts aiming at strengthening the operational capacities of the National Defense and Security Forces of Mali.

The Government expects that any assessment or appreciation be based only on facts rather than on rumors and wishes to recall that Malian State Mali is only engaged in a state-to-state partnership with the Russian Federation, its historical partner.

The Government of the Republic of Mali reiterates its desire to continue the dialogue and cooperation with all of its partners in full respect of its sovereignty and for lasting stability for the sole benefit of the Malian populations. Mali's priority is to give itself all the means to restore security, relieve the Malian populations and create the conditions for a rapid return to a normal situation.

Bamako, December 24, 2021

The Minister of Territorial Administration and  
Decentralization, Government spokesperson,

Colonel Abdoulaye MAIGA