

Ten UN peacekeepers killed in a terrorist attack in northern Mali

Ten 'blue helmets' from the United Nations Stabilization Mission In Mali ([MINUSMA](#)) were killed on Sunday following a complex terrorist attack against the mission's camp in Aguelhok, in the Kidal region, northern Mali.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, strongly condemned the deadly attack which killed ten peacekeepers from Chad and injured at least 25 others.

"MINUSMA forces responded robustly and a number of assailants were killed," a [statement](#) issued by his Spokesperson read.

The Secretary-General conveyed his "heartfelt condolences to the Government of Chad, and the families and loved ones of the deceased", and wished a swift recovery to the injured, paying tribute to the dedication and courage of the men and women serving in MINUSMA "at great personal risk and sacrifice".

A proliferation of armed groups fighting government forces and their allies in the centre and northern areas of Mali following a failed coup six years ago, have made MINUSMA the most dangerous mission to serve in as a UN 'blue helmet'.

Mr. Guterres called on the Malian authorities, as well as the signatory armed groups to the peace agreement, to "spare no effort" in identifying the perpetrators of this attack so that they can be brought to justice as swiftly as possible.

Recalling that attacks targeting UN peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, he reaffirmed that "such acts will not diminish the resolve of the United Nations to continue supporting the people and Government of Mali in their efforts to build peace and stability in the country."

The head of the mission, Mahamat Saleh Annadif, [strongly condemned](#) the attack as well. "This complex and cowardly attack shows how determined terrorists are to sow chaos," he said. "This requires a robust, immediate and coordinated response from all the forces to destroy the threat of terrorism in the Sahel."

"Working closely with its partners, MINUSMA will remain proactive and will not let this barbaric act go unpunished," he stated.

Mexico: UN chief saddened by pipeline blast in which dozens were killed

The United Nations' Secretary-General, António Guterres, learned with sadness of the deadly explosion of an oil pipeline on Friday in Hidalgo State, Mexico, and extended the UN's assistance to the national authorities, his Spokesman said on Saturday.

According to news reports, the explosion was caused by fuel thieves who punctured the gas pipeline north of Mexico City. Fuel theft has become a growing occurrence in the country over the past few years, adding to other security issues.

UN Spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said in his [statement](#) that Mr. Guterres learned with sadness of the deadly blast which killed over 60 people and injured dozens. The UN chief expressed his condolences to the families of those killed in this tragic event and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The Secretary-General also expressed his solidarity with the people and Government of Mexico and said the United Nations system in Mexico stands ready to offer assistance to the national authorities.

Another 170 migrants disappear in shipwrecks, UN agency reiterates call for an end to Mediterranean tragedy

The United Nations refugee agency, [UNHCR](#), [stated](#) on Saturday that "no effort should be spared" in saving lives at sea, following reports of two new shipwrecks on the Mediterranean Sea, in which some 170 people either died or went missing.

"The tragedy of the Mediterranean cannot be allowed to continue," said Filippo Grandi, the [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#).

According to various NGOs, about 53 people died on the Alborán Sea, in the western part of the Mediterranean. One survivor is understood to have been rescued by a passing fishing boat after being stranded for more than 24 hours at sea and is receiving medical treatment in Morocco.

According to UNHCR, Moroccan and Spanish rescue vessels have been searching

for the boat and survivors for several days to no avail.

The Italian Navy are also reporting another shipwreck on the central Mediterranean. Three survivors, who were taken for treatment on the island of Lampedusa, reported that another 117 people, currently dead or missing, had boarded the ship with them in Libya.

UNHCR has been unable to independently verify the death tolls for these two shipwrecks, but in 2018, 2,262 people lost their lives attempting to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

“We cannot turn a blind eye to the high numbers of people dying on Europe’s doorstep,” said Mr. Grandi. “No effort should be spared, or prevented, from saving lives in distress at sea.”

UNHCR’s statement said it is “concerned that actions by States are increasingly deterring NGOs from conducting search and rescue operations”, and is calling for these to be lifted immediately”.

At the same time, “greater efforts are needed to prevent refugees and migrants from taking these desperate journeys in the first place”, UNHCR stressed, calling for “more safe and legal pathways to access asylum in Europe... for those fleeing war and persecution so that no one feels they have no other choice than to put their lives in the hands of unscrupulous traffickers and smugglers”.