

News Release

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Maliens Seek Accountability, National Trial for Wrongdoers in Conflict

A majority of Malians prefer punishing human rights violations during the conflict, rather than compensating victims, an Afrobarometer survey of 2400 citizens shows.

The findings, published today (16 May 2014) in the report "Maliens Want a United Country, Post-Conflict Justice" also suggest that nine in ten people would like to see the country reunited. At the same time, however tolerance for differences has declined. Asked whether 'the conflict in the north has changed your perception of other ethnic groups', a majority of citizens said they view other ethnic groups less favorably.

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Key Findings

National Reconciliation

- More than nine out of ten adult Malian citizens (92%) want Mali to endure as one undivided country. This nationalist sentiment is held especially strongly in the northern regions that were most directly affected by politically motivated violence.
- Conflict and occupation in Mali's northern regions has undermined inter-ethnic trust. People are twice as likely to say that they now have a "less favorable" view of "other" ethnic groups rather than a "more favorable" view (56 versus 28%).
- While larger ethnic groups such as the Bambara reveal a lack of social and political tolerance for members of minority groups such as the Tuareg, the reverse does not hold true; Tuareg respondents in fact reveal a high degree of openness towards Bambara.

Transitional Justice

- When asked to choose, Malians prefer retributive justice – meaning that offenders will be punished – rather than restorative justice – meaning that victims will be compensated (64 versus 35%).
- For example, people see the main role of the proposed Commission on Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (CVJR) as referring rights violators to the courts (90%). This role for the commission takes priority over promoting community dialogue (79%) or giving voice to victims (74%), though these approaches to justice also attract popular support.
- More Malians prefer to prosecute human rights trials in national courts (47%) than to refer cases to international courts (25%). They do not see the customary justice system as equal to this task (2%).
- Most Malians (58%) have not heard of the CVJR. Thus only one third of all Malians (36%) express informed confidence that the Commission can successfully combine a quest for peace and the delivery of justice.

Charts

Table 1: **Popular Attitudes to Transitional Justice**

With reference to the “recent conflict in the North” (Choose A or B):	Formerly Occupied North	Non-Occupied South	Mali
A. It is necessary to reveal the truth about what happened	82	71	73
B. It is better to forget about what happened in the recent past	17	27	26
A. Those responsible for past political crimes should be granted amnesty	7	9	9
B. Those responsible for past political crimes should be held accountable	90	90	90
A. To obtain justice, perpetrators must face criminal prosecution in a court of law	77	63	64
B. To obtain justice it is most important for victims of violence to be compensated for their losses	22	37	35
A. Only those who planned or supervised violence should be held accountable	20	30	30
B. Every person suspected of involvement in violence should be held to account, regardless of status	77	67	69
A. Persons implicated in human rights violations should be allowed to remain in elected office	8	11	10
B. Persons implicated in human rights violations should be banned from holding elected positions	89	87	87

N= 2267, weighted. Figures may not add to 100 due to “don’t know” responses (not shown).

Table 2: **Retributive Justice: Preferred Venue of Human Rights Trials**

	Formerly Occupied North	Non-Occupied South	Bambara	Tuareg	Maliens
National court	50	47	52	43	47
International court	33	24	24	40	25
Special tribunal	12	16	14	8	15
Expulsion of foreign suspects	3	11	9	8	10
Customary justice system	2	2	0	0	2
No trials	1	1	0	3	1

Table 1: **Popular Attitudes to a United or Divided Country**
| by region |

	Bamako	Kayes	Koulikoro	Sikasso	Segou	Mopti	Timbuktu	Gao	Kidal	Mali
Prefer unified country	95	86	91	90	91	97	98	100	92	92
Favor northern secession	4	13	6	10	4	3	2	0	8	6

N= 2267, weighted. Figures may not add to 100 due to "don't know" responses (not shown).

Table 4: **Interpersonal Trust**
| by region |

Participants were asked 'if the conflict in the north has "changed your perception of other ethnic groups" (% choosing each option)

	Bamako	Kayes	Koulikoro	Sikasso	Segou	Mopti	Timbuktu	Gao	Kidal	Mali
More favorable	29	21	42	30	10	37	28	25	33	28
No change/ Don't know	34	23	7	19	9	9	19	4	25	16
Less favorable	37	56	51	51	81	54	52	71	42	56

Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an independent, nonpartisan research project that measures the social, political, and economic atmosphere in 35 countries Africa. The Afrobarometer network consists

of scientists throughout the continent, and during round 5 has been managed by the Center for Democratic Development in Accra, the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi and the Institute for Empirical research in Political Economy Afrobarometer's Mali partner, Groupe de Recherche en Economie Appliquee et Theorique (GREAT) surveyed 2400 people, face to face, with samples in every part of the country. The margin of error is +/- 2%.