

Operation MINUSMA: Saving Mali

Essay

created for the

European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum's (EUMSSF's)

Writing Competition

Author:

Student-Lance corporal Vlad ILIE

Age: 16 years

E-mail: vlad.ilie@cnmtv.ro

Student of *Tudor Vladimirescu* National Military College

Romania

Postal Address:

Vasile Alecsandri St., n° 91, Craiova, Romania

Craiova, January 2022

Abstract

The mission of every coalition is that of providing cooperation between military and civilian forces to ensure the protection and security of every nation involved in the respective coalition. Nowadays, nations face a global disorder that has increased during the past few years and which is characterized by a notable decline concerning the rules related to the international order. To create a secure environment that is not subject to volatile conflicts and situations it is necessary to promote inter-state strategic cooperation and to prioritize military/civilian cooperation.

The existing challenges in the economic, military, technological domains have an impact on the current surrounding environment that has to be protected by collective activities and alliances that safeguard global peace.

All nations that are part of military coalitions must provide the capabilities required to ensure a favourable balance of power that will allow them to

Keywords:

peace, security, cooperation, coalition, MINUSMA

1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents	1
2. Introduction	2
3. MINUSMA- A contemporary multidimensional UN peace operation	3
3.1. The MINUSMA Operation	3
3.2. Romania in MINUSMA	5
3.3. Agreement of peace in Mali.....	5
4. Conclusions	7
5. Annexes	
5.1. List of abbreviations.....	8
5.2. List of figures.....	8
5.3. List of literature.....	8
5.3.1. Books	8
5.3.2. Magazines.....	8
5.3.3. Online sources.....	9
6. Affidavit	10

2. Introduction

The backbone of post-WWII international order is represented by a network of alliances and coalitions that have as their main purpose safeguarding the liberty of those nations involved and the construction of an international system of global security.

Regional armed conflicts are one of the main sources of destabilization because they are based on the exploitation of ambiguity and the violation of the principles of sovereignty. But most importantly they usually lead to the blurring of lines between civil and military goals.

In order to maintain global peace, not only states as political, economic, and military entities should be involved but also non-state actors, such as non-governmental organizations, strategic influencers, or even corporations.

I chose as a topic of discussion the mission of UN troops in Mali, a mission called MINUSMA (The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali). This mission was established by the Security Council to support political processes in that country and carry out several security-related tasks.

3. MINUSMA- A contemporary multidimensional UN peace operation

3.1. The MINUSMA Operation

The United Nations was created as a result of material and human losses caused by World War II and its main purpose is to maintain international peace and security by preventing wars of any kind.

MINUSMA is funded by a separate account approved by the general meeting and has a budget of \$1,262,194,200. The mission was established on April 25, 2013, by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2100, to stabilize the country, fight terrorism and defend human rights. The way in which the United Nations provides these facilities is through diplomacy, the presence of peacekeeping troops, and with which a war can be prevented and catastrophes can be removed. This is the most effective way to reduce human losses and the massive economic costs of conflicts and their aftermath.

The peacekeeping mission in Mali is one of the most important recent events in which United Nations troops have been involved to rehabilitate this country and avoid war. On July 1, 2013, 6,000 UN troops took over the task of defending civilians and fighting terrorism in this country. This number of armed troops reached 15,209 people in November 2021, of which 13,289 were military and the rest of 1,920 were police officers belonging to different countries present in the organization of the United Nations, as the figures below show.

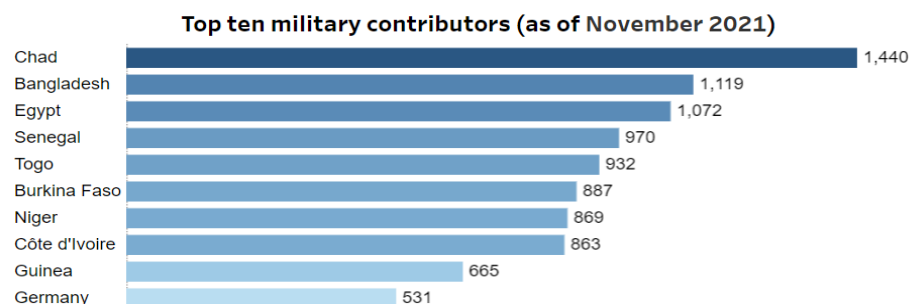


Figure 1: *Top ten military contributors in MINUSMA¹*

¹ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma> [12-01-22]

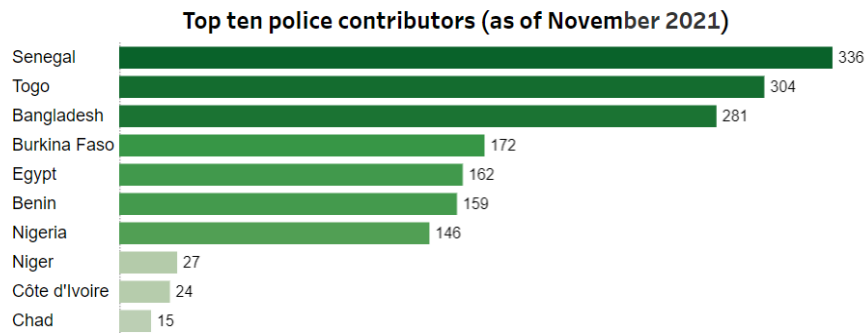


Figure 2: *Top ten police contributors in MINUSMA*²

The force is the third largest UN peacekeeping force in operation in the world. Although the purpose of this mission is to maintain peace, the organization also deals with facilitating political and constitutional processes, but also with organizing elections in order to restore the rule of law, and improve and modernize the legitimate authority of the state.

Thus, the cooperation between the military and civilians is central to the success of this operation. According to the report of the UN Secretary-General on the situation of Mali, published on January 4th, 2022, 93% of the civilian personnel involved in the operation were deployed, including 10% of UN volunteers and 43% of international staff.

Following the tragic events in which the convoys were ambushed, the bombings, and the shootings in which 209 people lost their lives following a report on March 31, 2020, the number of dead and injured is still rising. In addition to these casualties among the peacekeeping troops, the casualties among civilians are between 1,500 and 3,500 dead. UN troops used long-range convoy patrols to interact with civilians and gain their trust. They interacted with them and tried their best to protect them from terrorists and criminals. They also help the people of Mali by offering free medicines and medical care.

² Cf.: Ibid. [12-01-22]

3.2. Romania in MINUSMA

Nearly 60 countries around the world have contributed to this mission, including Romania, which replaced Canadian troops with transport helicopters used to carry out missions to extract the wounded or transport troops. These helicopters formed the "Carpathian Eagles" helicopter detachment, coming from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base to Camp Castor Base in Mali, in October 2019.

During this mission, the IAR-330 PUMA helicopters together with the pilots and the auxiliary crew performed a total of 1,250 flight hours, of which 200 were at night. During these flights, they covered an area equivalent to the Romanian territory and in which they conducted training activities in support of multinational contingents and air evacuation exercises. The commander of the MINUSMA mission, Lieutenant General Dennis Gyllensporre, appreciated the effort made by the Romanian troops and underlined the fact that the helicopters had an important effect in the process of rehabilitating the country.

3.3. Agreement on Peace in Mali

As stated in official EU documents, “It is no longer a novelty to say that the world is leaving a period of relative stability to enter a time of profound transformation of the global order. The past decade has been characterized by volatility and disruption, leading to continual adaptation and transformation at local, regional, and global levels alike. For some analysts, global instability is 'the new normal', where disorder and tension have gradually replaced two decades of relative stability across the world.”³

The importance of maintaining peace in this region was once more reaffirmed in the Communiqué that was a result of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting that took place in London, on May 5th, 2021. This states the concerns related to the instability in the Sahel region, where there has been noted an increase in violence. Therefore, cooperation between local governments and international partners is needed

³ European Parliament. *Peace and Security in 2020. Overview of EU Action and Outlook for the Future*, p. 3

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652041/EPRS_STU\(2020\)652041_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652041/EPRS_STU(2020)652041_EN.pdf)

to ensure stability and security in the region, with a focus on “the rule of law, anti-corruption, and inclusive governance.”⁴ This document asserts the importance of respecting human rights calling for “the continued implementation of the Peace Agreement in Mali and credible and inclusive elections to achieve a timely return to a democratically-elected government that meets the needs of all Malians.”⁵

⁴<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021> [12-01-22]

⁵ Cf.: Ibid.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, Operation MINUSMA was a relative success as it managed to stabilize the northern part of Mali, reduce civilian casualties and help people return home to conflict-affected areas and thus create a sense of security.

In my opinion, this operation is one of the most representative missions in which international security and respect for human rights intermingled harmoniously. Although the struggle has been hard and long and it is still going on, the people of Mali deserve this help as well as the rehabilitation of their country and the provision of a chance for life.

I am sure that without the United Nations taking a stand in this matter, a large-scale war would have ensued and civilian casualties would have been very high. In conclusion, I would like to state that this mission had a noble purpose and that I support its continuation to complete the regeneration of the country.

5. Annexes

5.1. List of abbreviations

EU	European Union
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
WW II	World War the Second

5.2. List of figures

Figure number	Description	Page
1	<i>Top ten military contributors in MINUSMA</i>	3
2	<i>Top ten police contributors in MINUSMA</i>	4

5.3. Literature

5.3.1. Books

Huntley Hayes, C.J. & Moon, P.T. (1941). *Modern History*. Macmillan.

5.3.2. Magazines

Schipor, I. (1999). Sub sceptrul lui Marte. *Dosarele istoriei*. Nr. 2(30) pp. 63-64

5.3.3. Online sources

European Parliament. *Peace and Security in 2020. Overview of EU Action and Outlook for the Future*

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652041/EPRS_STU\(2020\)652041_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652041/EPRS_STU(2020)652041_EN.pdf)

<https://minusma.unmissions.org/en>

Charts URL.: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma> [12-01-22]

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021> [12-01-22]

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2021_1117.pdf

6. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

Signature



.....
Vlad Ilie

Craiova, Romania in January 2022

I hereby confirm that the author is a student of *Tudor Vladimirescu* National Military College, in the class mentioned and that the essay is the entrant's original, unaided work.

Commandant's Signature

.....
(Colonel CHEORGHE BOBOC)

