

French warplanes attack rebels in N. Mali

5th February, 2013



French warplanes are continuing their attacks on rebels in Mali. France's air force is now targeting the last place that the rebels hold. A total of 30 jet fighters hit rebel positions in and near the northern town of Kidal. French soldiers took over Kidal airport on Wednesday, but rebel Tuareg soldiers still control the town, which is close to the border with Algeria. French President Francois Hollande said he was pleased with the progress France has made so far. However, he warned that the fight was not yet over. He told reporters: "There is still a whole part of the north that remains unconquered. There are terrorist groups concentrated in some areas of the country. There are still risks of terrorism."

Mr Hollande spent one day in Mali last week. He was warmly welcomed by large crowds in the desert town of Timbuktu. He also visited the capital Bamako, where he told people that the rebel fighters had suffered big losses in France's three-week campaign. The French president also promised he would help Mali rebuild after the conflict is over. Mr Hollande said France would provide Mali with aid for buildings and roads. He also said Mali would get help to restore cultural and historical sites that the rebels damaged. Hollande added that French troops would leave Mali after the government regains control of all its land. Once France leaves, a UN-backed African force will help keep the peace in Mali.

Sources: Qwerty / Qwerty

Writing

France, other European countries and America should never go into another country to attack rebels or governments. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

warplanes / rebel positions / close to the border / progress / unconquered / terrorism / warmly welcomed / large crowds / the capital / big losses / historical sites / peace

True / False

- The French are hitting the last place held by rebels in Mali. T / F
- Thirty French fighter jets took part in the latest attack. T / F
- The French president said we wasn't happy with France's progress. T / F
- The president said there is still a chance of terrorist strikes in Mali. T / F
- People in Timbuktu weren't happy the French president visited them. T / F
- The president only visited Timbuktu during his one-day visit to Mali. T / F
- He promised to help rebuild Mali's tourist sites damaged by rebels. T / F
- European peacekeepers will arrive in Mali after the French leave. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. continuing | a. strikes |
| 2. attacks | b. gets back |
| 3. positions | c. entire |
| 4. pleased | d. greeted |
| 5. whole | e. carrying on with |
| 6. welcomed | f. vowed |
| 7. suffered | g. supported |
| 8. promised | h. experienced |
| 9. regains | i. locations |
| 10. backed | j. happy |

Discussion – Student A

- Why did the French president spend just one day in Mali?
- Do you think the French president is a hero?
- What do you think Mali will be like in five years from now?
- Where do you think the next conflict in Africa will be?
- What do you think of the rebels for destroying historical sites?
- Do you think the African peacekeepers will keep the peace?
- When will the war on terror be over?
- What questions would you like to ask the French president?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. warplanes are continuing their attacks | a. remains unconquered |
| 2. in and near the | b. Mali rebuild |
| 3. close to the border | c. on rebels in Mali |
| 4. a whole part of the north that | d. by large crowds |
| 5. There are still risks | e. big losses |
| 6. He was warmly welcomed | f. northern town of Kidal |
| 7. rebel fighters had suffered | g. historical sites |
| 8. promised he would help | h. of terrorism |
| 9. cultural and | i. the peace |
| 10. help keep | j. with Algeria |

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Mali'?
- What do you know about the conflict in Mali?
- Do you think it's good the French are in Mali fighting?
- Do the rebels have any hope of beating the French military?
- How much longer do you think France will be in Mali?
- Do you think Mali will be safe after the French leave?
- Do you think Al Qaeda is worried about the French military action?
- What are the rebels fighting for?

Spelling

- rebel itopoins
- French esdorisl
- close to the erbrod
- the north that remains deunoecnqr
- deatercnnctco in some areas
- There are still risks of rrmstiero
- He was warmly cwlemdeo
- in the sdtere
- fighters had ffeursed big losses
- three-week apcgmnia
- chaiotrlsi sites
- the vmngeneotr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. a	3. i	4. j	5. c
6. d	7. h	8. f	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Malian - You are very happy the French are fighting the rebels in your country. Tell the others three reasons why. You think the French are heroes and the rebels are living in the past. You want Mali to be rich. You want all rebel fighters put in prison for a long time. You disagree with the U.N envoy.

French President - You think it is very important for world security to keep the rebels out of Mali. Tell the others three reasons why. You will do everything you can to rebuild Mali. You want to stay in Mali for many years. There are many good opportunities in Mali for French businesses.

Rebel leader - You think the French should leave your country. Tell the others three reasons why. You think France is continuing with its colonial history of controlling Mali. France knows nothing about Mali. The French president is a war criminal for killing so many Malians. You hate him and the Malian.

U.N. envoy - You are happy with what is happening in Mali. Tell the others three reasons why. You want the world to help Mali once the conflict is over. You don't think the rebels should go to prison. Part of the peace is to forgive them. France should also leave Mali because people remember when Mali was a colony.

Speaking - Dangers

What are the biggest dangers in the world? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest at the top.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| • terrorism | • disease |
| • natural disasters | • water wars |
| • nuclear weapons | • cybercrime |
| • global warming | • other _____ |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.