

Mali intervention plan gathers pace

The UN Security Council has authorized military action to wrest northern Mali from the control of Al Qaeda-linked extremists – but not before the Malian army is rebuilt and elections are held to reunify the country



Belgium
to scale



ALGERIA

Islamist-controlled territory

MAURITANIA

Timbuktu

Kidal

Gao

MALI

Mopti

Bamako

NIGER

BURKINA
FASO

GUINEA

320km

200 miles



ECOWAS
*Economic
Community of
West African
States*

Group of 15 nations. Has been pushing for intervention in Mali for months. 3,300 troops ready to go to Mali – not expected to be deployed before September 2013



Mali: Rebuilding of collapsed Malian army has been tasked to EU and other UN members



France: Moving surveillance drones to West Africa. Also reported to have deployed special forces in region around Mali



U.S. and Britain
Offering logistical support to African-led mission



Algeria: Key player in region. Shares 1,400km border with Mali. Has given tacit approval for operation despite concerns that Al Qaeda forces in Mali could cross into Algeria

MALI CRISIS

► **Jan 2012:** Ethnic Tuareg revolt in Mali sparked by armed fighters returning from Libya

► **Mar-Apr:** Rebel Malian troops stage coup. Power vacuum allows Tuaregs and Islamist allies to seize north of country

► **June:** Islamists expel Tuaregs. Begin turning north into austere Islamic state

Al Qaeda-linked Ansar Dine

Is armed with weaponry from Libya conflict and funded by kidnappings and drug trafficking. Has imposed strict Sharia law in northern Mali, including public executions, stonings and amputations of hands