

# Mali declares war on Tuareg separatists

Malian Prime Minister Moussa Mara has said that his country is "at war" with Tuareg rebels after an attack on the northern town of Kidal left dozens dead and around 30 civilians abducted

## MALI CRISIS

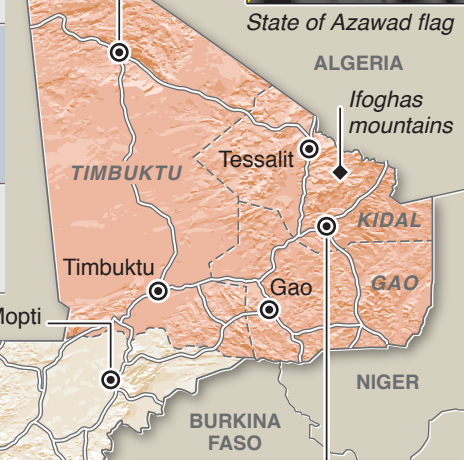
**■ Apr 2012:** Ethnic Tuareg MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad) separatist group gains control of much of northern Mali after army coup topples government. Azawad declares independence

**■ June:** Al-Qaeda-linked fighters hijack invasion and seize control of north

**■ Jan 2013:** French-led military intervention scatters Islamists. Tuareg fighters retain strong presence in Kidal despite government efforts to control city

**■ Jun:** MNLA signs peace deal with government, enabling Malian troops to enter Kidal and paving way for elections. UN takes over peacekeeping duties as French troops withdraw

**■ Nov:** MNLA announces end of ceasefire following clashes between Malian troops and Tuareg protesters in Kidal



**May 18, Kidal:** Troops sent to retake town from Tuareg rebels after eight soldiers killed and 28 civilians abducted. UN says six government officials and two civilians also killed