

Women, Peace and Security/SDG #5-G.E.

My fieldwork experience with the United Nations Mission in Mali

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5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



About me



My interests

travelling and discovering new cultures and volunteering/helping women, protection girls, advocating for people rights...And disliking any form of injustice and wrong doing



My experience

humanitarian work/field missions with field and online assignments for countries such as Senegal, Nigeria, Laos, Mali and Cameroon

Been offered to teach about my research and field experience by postsecondary institutions in Qc and Bc



about Mali

West African country

French speaking
and Arabic

muslim dominant culture
national Bambara language

pop: 22 Millions

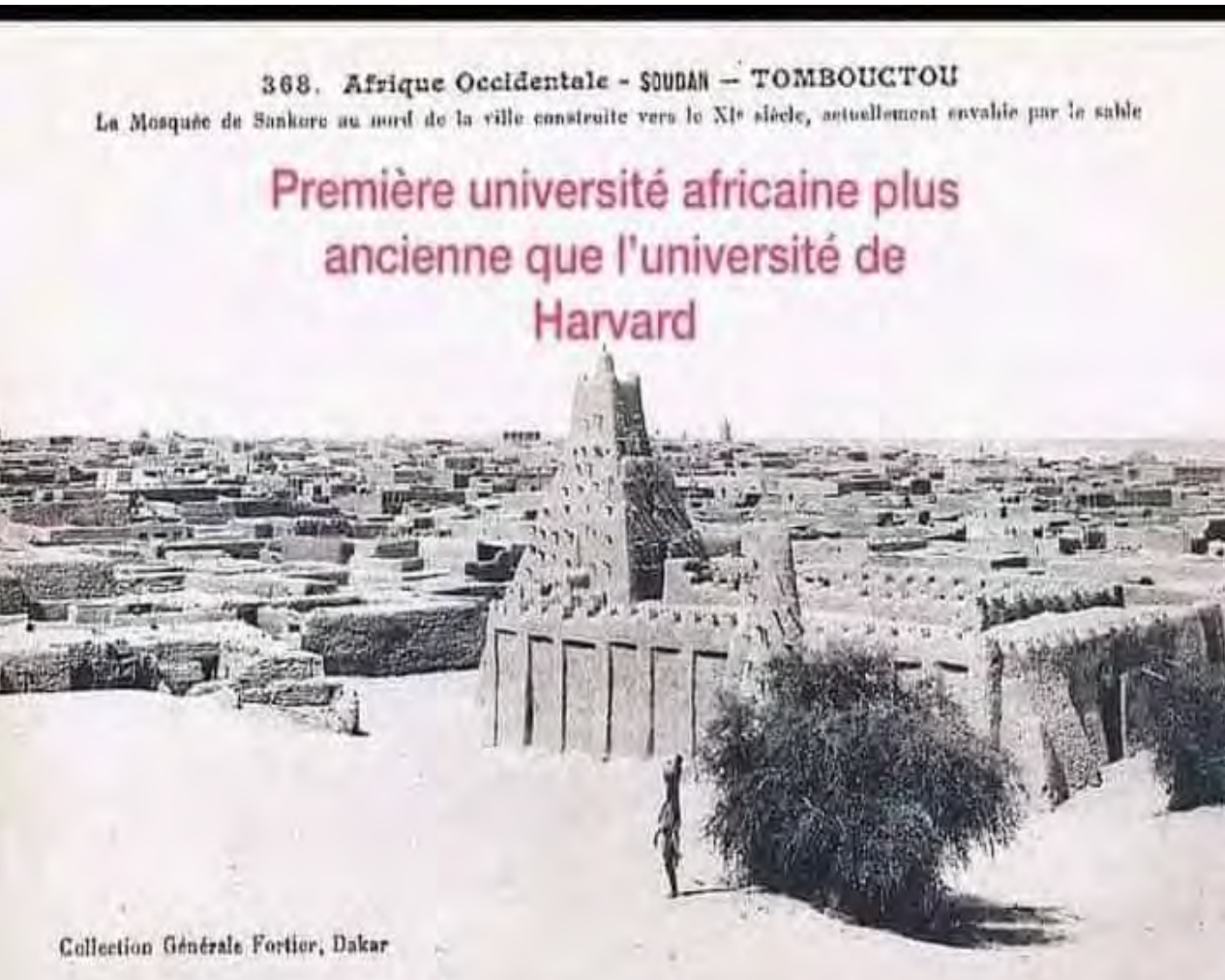
main cities: Bamako, Mopti
Gao, Timbuktu



- ❖ **SOCIOPOLITICAL ASPECTS:** armed groups in the North (coming from Libya and Algeria)+Stabilization of security by MINUSMA and Barkhane
- ❖ **ECONOMICAL...** Mostly agricultural output since 2014 although classified as 3rd global producer of gold
- ❖ **CULTURAL...**Very diversified/classified music, cultures and traditions/knowledge (Dogon astronomy) and historical sites

about Mali

- ❖ **THE FIRST AFRICAN (AND ISLAMIC) UNIVERSITY IS IN TIMBUKTU IN NORTH MALI (NOW THE SANKORE MOSQUE) WITH MORE THAN 700, 000 MANUSCRIPTS IN ARABIC, SONGHAI AND TAMASHEK ...the university is now relocated in the Ahmed Babha Center (institute of higher studies and Islamic research) IN TIMBUKTU**



A manuscript with astronomy information from the Islamic University of Timbuktu (from 12th c.)



← picture 1 UN mission/ activity with young Malian women film makers at the Ahmed Babha Center/Islamic University

picture 2: my visit of Sangore mosque (first Univ. in Mali) ↓





Negative aspects in Mali

-established terrorist groups in the north and center of Mali

--fallen state +military government with multiple coups

-economical embargos+poverty

-pandemics

-use of Islam for military and Cultural domination (including gender inequity)

What the UN Mission's Gender Unit do in Mali



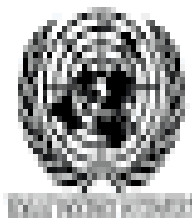
16 days of Activism event against GBV at UN Mission HQ in Bamako (dec-Jan.2022)

Application of Resolution 1325

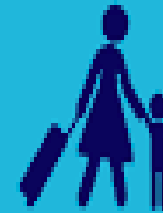


RESOLUTION 1325

Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts.

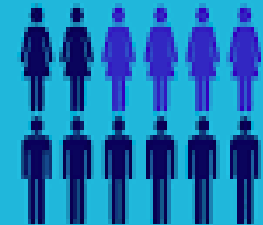


UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace & security



In 2000,
UN Security Council resolution 1325
recognised that
war impacts women differently

It stressed the need to
increase women's participation
in peace talks



9% of negotiators
at peace talks were women
from 1992 to 2011

Resolution 1325 translate WPS agenda in 5 pillars: **women political participation; women protection, women empowerment in peace processes, WPS reporting, partnerships/building strong WPS networks**

My assignment in the Gender Unit/ UN Mission in Mali (2020-22)

Appointed in Mali as a Canadian reporting and communication officer in the MINusma Gender Unit, I had to investigate and report on the situation of Malian Women in relationship with WPS (Women Peace and Security) agenda as well organize outreach/awareness events promoting GE and the en of GBV



raise awareness



Investigate and report



Outreach

FIELDWORK : CAN BE FUN AND REWARDING

FIELDWORK

My colleague Diakite and me cheering up after completion of investigation (here in Gao in March 2021)



FIELDWORK : CAN BE RISKY AND DANGEROUS



- Field missions are performed with high level of (in)security:
- military planes/helicop. are provided by the UN Mission
- armored cars
- security by UNPOL for all UN risk level 5 Missions



FIELDWORK IN GENDER ISSUES...CAN HELP TRACING DISPLACED WOMEN FLEEING WAR AND DEFYING SEVERAL CONFLICTS AND GBV

- ❖ INTERVIEWING COMMUNITY LEADERS HELP TO IDENTIFY CAUSES AND SITUATIONS OF ABUSE AND HAVING ACCESS TO VULNERABLE WOMEN GROUPS



My colleague Diakite and me in an investigation mission in Feb-March 2021 (here interviewing Malian Woman leader Tata Toure) in Mopti about the previous terrorist attack that led to displaced populations including female refugees facing GBV/CRSV in the center of Mali

FIELDWORK

Meetings with displaced women: can be overwhelming shocking!



Testimony of Ms Maiga, president of Displaced and Refugees Women of Gao coming from Damba:

" When the 2012 security crisis started, we were invaded by terrorists coming from the North. We had to run away to Burkina Faso. Our sons got killed. I ran away with my 2 daughters. I was driving my car. Crossing the 3 Frontieres zone was risky and I was lucky I was already a public figure in Gao and that I had some contacts at UNHR. They were telling me which road was safe, when I should leave, when I shouldn't. But most of my sisters got raped, sold, and sometimes killed. Some women who succeeded to arrive at the Refugee camp of Damba faced several GBV including hunger, abuse of weakness, forced marriages, disguised prostitution, lack of privacy, etc inside the camp"

(March 5, 2021)

ONE OF THE END RESULT OF THIS INVESTIGATION WAS ...A DOCUMENTARY





Ending my UN assignment in
Mali/returning to Canada

Hybrid and remote ending + mixed
feelings + ongoing updates +
potential field UN mission?

THANK YOU/ MERCI !

