Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/118 of 27 January 2020 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (CFSP) 2020/118

of 27 January 2020

implementing Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 31(2) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 of 28 September 2017 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali[(1)] and in particular Article 3 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 28 September 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775.

(2) On 14 January 2020, the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee established by paragraph 9 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2374 (2017) amended the listings of seven persons subject to restrictive measures.

(3) The Annex to Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775 is hereby amended as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 27 January 2020.

For the Council

The President

M. VUČKOVIĆ.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/118. (See end of Document for details)*

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/118. (See end of Document for details)*

ANNEX

(1) In the Annex to Decision (CFSP) 2017/1775, Part A ('List of persons referred to in Article 1(1)'), entries 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are replaced by the following:

1. **AHMOUDOU AG ASRIW (alias: a) Amadou Ag Isriwb) Ahmedou c) Ahmadou d) Isrew e) Isereoui f) Isriou**

Date of birth: 1 Jan. 1982

Nationality: Mali

Address: a) Mali b) Amassine, Mali (previous location)

Date of UN designation: 20 Dec. 2018

Other information: Gender: male. Possibly arrested in Niger in October 2016. Listed pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) (Travel Ban). Webpage: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu2efaIUosqEu1HEBs2zJIw

Photo available for inclusion in the INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice. INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice web link:

https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Notices/View-UN-Notices-Individuals click here
Additional information

Ahmoudou Ag Asriw was listed on 20 December 2018 pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 of resolution 2374 (2017) for engaging in hostilities in violation of the Agreement; and acting for or on behalf of or at the direction of or otherwise supporting or financing individuals and entities identified in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 8 of resolution 2374 (2017), including through the proceeds from organised crime, including the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and their precursors originating in or transiting through Mali, the trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, the smuggling and trafficking of arms as well as the trafficking in cultural property.

Ahmoudou Ag Asriw is a senior commander of the Groupe autodéfense touareg Imghad et allies (GATIA) and has in this capacity been involved in leading drug convoys in northern Mali at least since October 2016, as well as ceasefire violations in Kidal region in July 2017 and April 2018.

In April 2018 Asriw led a convoy, together with a member of the Mouvement Arabe de l'Azawad (MAA) Plateforme, trafficking four tons of cannabis resin from Tabankort, via Ammasine, Kidal region, towards Niger. The convoy was attacked by Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad members and unidentified assailants from Niger. Three combatants were killed during clashes that followed.

As such, motivated by competition over drug convoys, Asriw has engaged in hostilities in violation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. In turn, Asriw's involvement in drug trafficking is highly likely to finance his military operations, including ceasefire violations.

3. **MOHAMED OUSMANE AG MOHAMEDOUNE (alias: a) Ousmane Mahamadou b) Mohamed Ousmane)**

Title: Cheikh

Date of birth: 16 Apr. 1972

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/118. (See end of Document for details)

Place of birth: Mali

Nationality: Mali

Address: Mali

Date of UN designation: 20 Dec. 2018

Other information: Gender: male. Physical description: eye colour: brown; hair colour: black. Telephone number: +223 60 36 01 01. Languages spoken: Arabic and French. Distinguishing marks: eyeglasses. Listed pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) (Travel Ban).

Photo available for inclusion in the INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice. INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice web link:

https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Notices/View-UN-Notices-Individuals click here
Additional information

Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune was listed on 20 December 2018 pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 of resolution 2374 (2017) for actions taken that obstruct, or that obstruct by prolonged delay, or that threaten the implementation of the Agreement; and his involvement in planning, directing, sponsoring, or conducting attacks against: (i) the various entities referenced in the Agreement, including local, regional and state institutions, joint patrols and the Malian Security and Defence forces; (ii) MINUSMA peacekeepers and other UN and associated personnel, including members of the Panel of experts; (iii) international security presences, including the FC-G5S, European Union Missions and French forces.

Mohamed Ousmane Ag Mohamedoune (refer to as Mohamed Ousmane) is the secretary general of the Coalition pour le Peuple de l'Azawad (CPA), created in 2014 as a splinter group from the Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA). Mohamed Ousmane took over the leadership of the CPA in June 2015 and has established since 2016 several military bases and check-points in the Timbuktu region, notably in Soumpi and Echel.

In 2017 and 2018, the military chief of staff of Mohamed Ousmane, and other armed elements of the CPA, have been involved in deadly attacks against Malian security and armed forces in the area of Soumpi. Those attacks were claimed by the Jamaat Nosrat al Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), a terrorist group led by Iyad Ag Ghali, listed in the ISIL/Al-Qaida sanctions list established and maintained pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267/1989/2253.

Mohamed Ousmane also founded in 2017 and presided a broader alliance of splinter groups, the Coalition des Mouvements de l'Entente (CME). Mohamed Ousmane organised the first convention of the CME in Tinaouker (Gao region) on 30 April 2018, during which he was appointed as spokesperson of the CME. During its founding convention, the CME openly threatened in an official statement the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

The CME has been also involved in obstructions delaying the implementation of the Agreement, by pressuring the Malian government and the international community with the aim to impose the CME in the different mechanisms established by the Agreement.

4. **AHMED AG ALBACHAR (alias: Intahmado Ag Albachar)**

Designation: President of the Humanitarian Commission of the Bureau Regional d'Administration et Gestion de Kidal

Date of birth: 31 Dec. 1963

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2020/118. (See end of Document for details)*

Place of birth: Tin-Essako, Kidal region, Mali

Nationality: Mali

National identification no: 1 63 08 4 01 001 005E

Address: Quartier Aliou, Kidal, Mali

Date of UN designation: 10 July 2019 (amended on 19 Dec. 2019)

Other information: Ahmed Ag Albachar is a prominent businessman and, since early 2018, a special advisor to the Governor of Kidal region. An influential member of the Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad (HCUA), belonging to the Ifoghas Tuareg community, Ahmed Ag Albachar also mediates relations between the Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) and Ansar Dine (QDe.135). Listed pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Security Council resolution 2374 (2017) (Travel Ban, Asset Freeze).

Photo available for inclusion in the INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice. INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice web link:

https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Notices/View-UN-Notices-Individuals click here
Additional information

Ahmed Ag Albachar is being listed pursuant to paragraph 8 (b) of resolution 2374 (2017) for actions taken that obstruct, or that obstruct by prolonged delay, or that threaten the implementation of the Agreement; and paragraph 8 (e) of resolution 2374 (2017) for obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Mali, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Mali.

In January Ag Albachar uses his influence to control and choose which humanitarian and development projects take place in the Kidal region, who implements them, where and when. No humanitarian action can be undertaken without his knowledge and approval. As self-proclaimed president of the humanitarian commission, Ag Albachar is in charge of granting residence and work permits of aid workers in exchange for money or services. The commission also controls which companies and individuals can participate in bids for projects that NGOs advertise in Kidal, granting Ag Albachar the power to manipulate humanitarian action in the region and choose those who work for NGOs. Aid distributions can only be conducted under his oversight, thereby influencing who benefits from the distributions.

Additionally, Albachar uses unemployed youths to intimidate and extort NGOs, severely hindering their work. The humanitarian community at large works in fear in Kidal, but especially national staff who are more vulnerable.

Ahmed Ag Albachar is also the co-owner of Timitrine Voyage transport company; one of the few transport companies that NGOs are authorised to use in Kidal. Ag Albachar, together with a dozen of other transport companies owned by a small clique of influential Ifoghas Tuareg notables, usurps a significant share of humanitarian aid in Kidal. Moreover, the monopoly position maintained by Ag Albachar, renders aid delivery in certain communities more difficult than others.

Albachar is manipulating humanitarian aid to fulfil his personal interests and the political interests of the HCUA by exercising terror, threatening NGOs and controlling their operations, all of which results in obstruction and hindrance of aid affecting beneficiaries in need in the region of Kidal. Therefore, Ahmed Ag Albachar obstructs the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Mali, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Mali.