

REFLECTIONS – MALI 2024

The recent or old wounds from which our country, Mali, suffers are war and terrorism.

Mali has been going through a multidimensional crisis since 2012. The north and center of the country provide a refuge for terrorist groups, they carry out attacks against the armed forces and civilian populations.

Since 2012 the war has taken on a greater scale. It is not only limited to the north, but to the center precisely in the regions of Mopti, Ségou and Sikasso. Entire villages are burned. Populations are massacred. Thousands of internally displaced people who have lost everything.

The impact on individuals and communities is very great. The consequences are multiple: forced displacement of the population, insecurity, poverty, high cost of living.

The war was between the rebels and the armies. But today this is no longer the case, especially in agricultural areas like Ségou, farmers are victims of all kinds of attacks, they can neither cultivate nor harvest. In some areas crops were burned by terrorists.

In this crisis we have all lost a loved one (parent, friend, colleague, neighborhood neighbour).

Testimonies:

1 – A young lady: I come from Mopti, I came to Ségou, it's not for pleasure, it's war. The terrorists destroyed all our property, they raped me in front of my family and my eldest daughter. Afterwards they killed my husband and left with our moving animals. After this tragedy, I am in Ségou looking for work. This phenomenon has inflicted enormous damage on me, my morale is low, I have lost my dignity. It's very difficult to explain what I have experienced.

2 – A shopkeeper: I run a drinks store, seeing milk and juices. Since 2022, following Mali's suspension from ECOWAS, social and financial conditions have deteriorated. We can go 24 hours without electricity, a shopkeeper has no means of buying a generator and loses customers with these perishable products. So things are certainly not going well because I no longer have customers as I used to.