

Bamako, Mali, October 26 (Infosplusgabon) - Heavily armed individuals suspected to be jihadists Friday attacked first and second cycle schools in Korientzé in the Mopti region of central Mali.

The attackers held teachers and their students hostage for a while and burned all school supplies before withdrawing with five teachers, a Malian government statement reaching Infosplusgabon.

The Malian government "strongly condemns this terrorist attack on these schools, which has resulted in free abuses on staff and burning of school materials that nothing can justify," the statement said.

The government also expressed its solidarity and support to teachers, parents and students whose only crime is the desire to learn and serve their country in the future.

"These obscure attacks, as cowardly as they are barbaric, will in no way undermine the will and determination of the school world to pursue its exciting mission of learning and education in the service of the Malian people of the future," the government assured the authorities.

According to the statement, the Malian government has taken appropriate action to release the kidnapped teachers, search and find their abductors and bring them to justice.

It said it would continue to take all necessary measures to ensure and guarantee the safety of teachers and students in the school environment throughout the country.

It appealed to all school partners and populations to condemn "with one voice these terrorist attacks and to remain united and in solidarity until total victory".

Jihadists, who frequently operate in central Mali, are opposed to the French-language language classical school and require children to enroll in Koranic school.

According to statistics, more than 900 schools remain closed in central and northern Mali due to jihadist threats.

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