



May 19, 2026

Most Reverend Monseigneur Hassa Florent KONE
Bishop of San
President, Justice and Peace Commission
Episcopal Conference of Mali
Archevêché, B.P. 298
Bamako
Mali

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, I am writing to express our fraternal solidarity and deep condolences following the coordinated terror attacks that took place in several regions of Mali on April 25th and 26th, and the continued loss of innocent life in Central Mali this month. Be assured of our spiritual closeness with the bishops and faithful of your country as well as our prayers for the many communities mourning the death of military personnel and civilians, and caring for those wounded by these acts of violence.

We are alarmed by the increasing fragility of human security conditions and the growing violence suffered by the people of Mali and in other areas of the Sahel. In the face of these acute and multidimensional crises, we recall the [Address of Pope Francis to the Diplomatic Corps in 2020](#), which implored “the international community to support the efforts made by these countries to eliminate the scourge of terrorism that is causing more and more bloodshed in whole parts of Africa, as in other parts of the world.” We likewise echo the call for “...practical strategies aimed not only at increased security, but at reducing poverty, improving healthcare systems, favouring development and humanitarian assistance, and promoting good governance and civil rights.”

We reiterate that interreligious dialogue and collaboration among all people of goodwill remain crucial to building social cohesion and lasting peace in the Sahel. We thank God for the work of the Catholic bishops in the region to these ends, with the support of Catholic Relief Services, through the Sahel Peace Initiative. We also recognize that supporting education access and fostering economic opportunity for young people are essential elements of building peace and promoting respect for human dignity.

[In union with Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV](#): “I fervently hope that every form of violence may cease, and I encourage all efforts aimed at fostering peace and development in [the Sahel] that beloved land.” In this month of May, I join the bishops of Mali in praying that your country may be guided to truth, unity and lasting peace, through the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Committee on
International Justice
and Peace

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace