

**Agreement between the Peulh and Bozo communities of Kewa for lifting the
blockade on Kouakourou (Mopti region)**

January 2019

Preamble

We, Peulh and Bozo communities in the rural commune of Kewa, in the Mopti region of Mali, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Aware that our respective communities have had strained relations for almost two years due to numerous kidnappings and tensions that have left more than a dozen dead, and that this situation is likely to lead to general conflict;

Remembering that the weekly market that used to supply necessities has not been held since September 2017.

Considering the deep crisis of confidence which has led to the blockade on the village of Kouakourou since August 2017 and that has led to inter-communal mistrust and danger to the population,

Aware that the atmosphere of general insecurity in the Mopti region leads to movement restrictions and impedes key economic activities, as well as degrades the standard of living of the Kouakourou communities,

Aware of the need to prioritize the common interest and to strengthen cohesion for better cohabitation;

Met in Kouakourou as part of the mediation undertaken for two months by the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), on the mandate of the Government of Mali, to agree on the following:

Article 1: Commitments of the Parties

The Parties commit by this Agreement to:

- Taking all the necessary measures to lift the blockade on Kouakourou and to reopen the weekly Kouakourou market as soon as possible;
- Facilitating the non-discriminated access of all communities to the weekly market and the Kouakourou health center,
- Not contributing to the obstruction of free movement of people and their goods;
- Fighting against banditry in all its forms;
- Accepting the return of displaced people and working with the authorities to reintegrate them into working life
- Firmly condemning any act which may call into question the provisions of this Agreement;
- Prioritizing mediation and dialogue to settle amicably any dispute between the Parties.

Article 2: Support for authorities

The Parties request the defense and security forces present in Kouakourou to:

- Support the implementation of this Agreement in order to create conditions favorable to the return of peace between the Parties,
- Carry out all necessary investigations before any arrest,

The Parties also appeal to the Malian state to take all necessary measures for the security and free movement of people and their goods in the commune of Kewa.

Article 3: Agreement monitoring

In order to monitor the implementation of this peace agreement, a monitoring committee is put in place. This will be composed of 10 members, including 5 representatives of the Peulh community and 5 representatives of the Bozo community.

The mission of this monitoring committee is to:

- Monitor the implementation of this Agreement;
- Prevent and resolve any disputes between the Parties;
- Aid the two communities in order to ensure the widest possible adherence to this Agreement;
- Maintain a dialogue with the representatives of the authorities and the defense and security forces in order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement and to strengthen its scope.

Article 4: Timeline

This Agreement comes into force on the date of signature.

Done in Kouakourou, January 19, 2019

Signatory parties:

For the Peulh community

For the Bozo community