



## ORGANIZATION OF EMERGING AFRICAN STATES

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For Immediate Release



### Azawad Joins the OEAS

Washington DC: The Independent State of Azawad has become a member of the Organization of Emerging African States - OEAS, a governmental organization established in 2010 that promotes self determination and the end to colonial era boundaries in Africa. Azawad joins OEAS member states like Cabinda, Southern Cameroons, and Biafra in seeking self determination for its people. Azawad is represented at the OEAS by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA).

The Independent State of Azawad was declared in April 2012 by the MNLA with control over Timbuktu, Kidal, Gao, and part of Mopti region with the intentions of establishing a secular government and freeing the region from corrupt and ineffective Malian rule. The Economic Community of West African States refused to recognize Azawad or come to the aid of the MNLA which was under attack by foreign influenced extremists.

Belatedly the international community heeded the MNLA call for assistance as Azawad was plundered and terrorized by extremists. The MNLA and a French led coalition freed the country from tyranny while the MNLA tried to resolve its territorial differences with government of Mali.

The MNLA continues to seek international recognition for Azawad. Despite the peaceful intentions of the MNLA it has had to defend itself from aggressive actions by the Malian Army and human rights violations against citizens of Touareg origin.



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The OEAS which includes a North African block of Rif, Kabylia and the Canary Islands will be working closely with Azawad on a legal and economic offensive in favor of the total independence of Azawad, peaceful coexistence with Mali and recognition of the MNLA government.

**For more information on Azawad and the MNLA**

**<http://www.mnlamov.net/>**

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