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P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: (251-11) 5517700 Website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE AU STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE ATTACK ON A MINUSMA CONVOY  
IN THE GAO REGION, MALI**

**Addis Ababa, 25 September 2017.** The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat strongly condemns the attack perpetrated on 24 September 2017 against a convoy of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), in the Gao region, killing three peacekeepers and seriously injuring five others.

The Chairperson expresses the AU heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured. He further expresses solidarity with the United Nations family in these difficult times and reiterates that MINUSMA's presence in Mali is supporting national and international efforts towards peace and stability for the country and the region at large.

The Chairperson reiterates AU's solidarity with the Government and people of Mali and its continued commitment to support the country in combating terrorism and to further consolidate security in line with the national peace agreement and with United Nations' resolution 2374 (5 September 2017) that provides for the imposition of sanctions against entities or individuals obstructing the implementation of the peace agreement.

The Chairperson of the Commission calls, once again, on the international community to provide its support to the efforts of the countries in the region to prevent and combat terrorist groups operating in the Sahel region.