



Bureau des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel

UNOWAS

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

Ensemble pour la paix

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THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF SEVEN CENI OFFICERS IN NIGER, CONDEMNS THE USE OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Dakar, 22 February 2021 - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, is deeply saddened to learn the death of seven electoral officers of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) following the explosion of their vehicle which ran yesterday over a mine or improvised explosive device (IED) in the Tillabéri region, causing also three injured.

The Special Representative condemns the indiscriminate use of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). He calls on the Government and humanitarian organizations to intensify their efforts to combat mines and IEDs to protect human lives.

The Special Representative extends his sincere condolences to the bereaved families, the Government and the people of Niger, and wishes a speedy recovery to the three persons injured.

The Special Representative pays tribute to the seven deceased and their contribution to the consolidation of peace and democracy in the Niger. He commends the security forces for their commitment to the fight against violent extremism and terrorism, and for their professionalism, which facilitate the holding of the second round of the presidential election.

The Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel reiterates the solidarity and support of the United Nations to the Government and the people of Niger, who, despite this painful moment, was able to exercise its right to vote in safety.

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