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T U A R E G S , A T H R E A T E N E D P E O P L E

The Tuaregs occupied the Central Sahara area which by the process of colonisation has been divided up amongst Algeria, Lybia, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

By the absence of reliable statistics, we estimate at the present day the population of the Tuaregs at 3,000,000 individuals out of which 1.5 million in Niger, 1 million in Mali and 500,000 in the 3 other countries and including the diasporas.

The partition of the territory provoked the falling apart of families and Tuareg confederations; the limitations of the borders destroyed completely the Tuareg society. Forced to live in countries where they are not accepted, the Tuareg became marginalised on the cultural, social and political level. The present situation of the Tuareg is the direct result of this marginalisation. For the last years, the Tuareg People went through the most dramatic period of its history; it is threatened in its very existence by political factors strengthening the already hard living conditions due to the climate, the dry periods and the progress of the desert.

Since the independence, the governments of Mali and Niger marginalised even more the Tuareg culture and population. Already in 1963, this marginalisation incited the Tuareg People to an uprising which ended up in savage blood shedding (several hundreds of deaths), to the total indifference of the international community.

Since then, inexorably, the Tuareg regions are deprived from all hope on social and cultural development. Moreover, the two states took advantage of the several periods of dryness to go even more into a real genocide; refusing in informing the international opinion on the gravity of the situation, hi-jacking of the humanitarian aid,...

This policy of extermination reached its severest points with the massacres of Tchín-Tabaraden in Niger and Gao, Goundam, L,r,, Tombouctou, Kidal, Menaka, in Mali which caused the death of thousands of persons. Very recently, twelve persons have been extrajudicially executed at Gossi, by the authorities of Mali, one month only after signing of a national pact intended to establish peace and in order to put an end to the torture and the massacres perpetrated by the army against the Tuareg population... These

Project Archive and/or the authors.

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