

Clashes on Malian border kill dozens as France announces gradual withdrawal



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Meanwhile, witnesses say about 40 civilians were killed in the area during recent fighting between rival armed groups. Earlier, French President Emmanuel Macron said French troops would gradually withdraw from Mali over the next six months.

Mali's military rulers have called on France to withdraw "without delay." France deployed more than 2,000 troops to its former colony in 2013 after Tuareg rebels and groups with ties to al-Qaeda seized control of two-thirds of Mali's territory.

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