

# AIP

## Voices from the Sahel

vivian · Tuesday, May 27th, 2025

## Voices from the Sahel

**A series to understand resistance, sovereignty, and the future**

[#Anti-Imperialism](#)

We invite you to meet **“Voices from the Sahel,”** a special series of materials aimed at bringing the stories, struggles, and hopes of the peoples of the Sahel closer to the world. This series presents, through videos, articles, and interviews, the voices of leaders, activists, peasants, youth, and women who today raise the banner of a united and free Africa.

Why the Sahel? The Sahel is much more than a strip of land stretching between the Sahara and sub-Saharan Africa. It is a region shaped by a deep history of resistance, from the anti-colonial struggles of the 19th century to today’s efforts to break the chains of neocolonialism. Countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger not only face severe crises — mass displacement, violence, and extreme climate change — but are also leading unprecedented processes to reclaim their sovereignty.

This series shows how centuries of systematic plunder, European-imposed borders, unequal economic treaties, and foreign military bases have prioritized the interests of powers like France and the United States.

But the story doesn't end there. The materials in “**Voices from the Sahel**” also take us into the current processes challenging this situation: the formation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), the expulsion of foreign troops, the nationalization of mines and resources, and the creation of sovereign development policies.

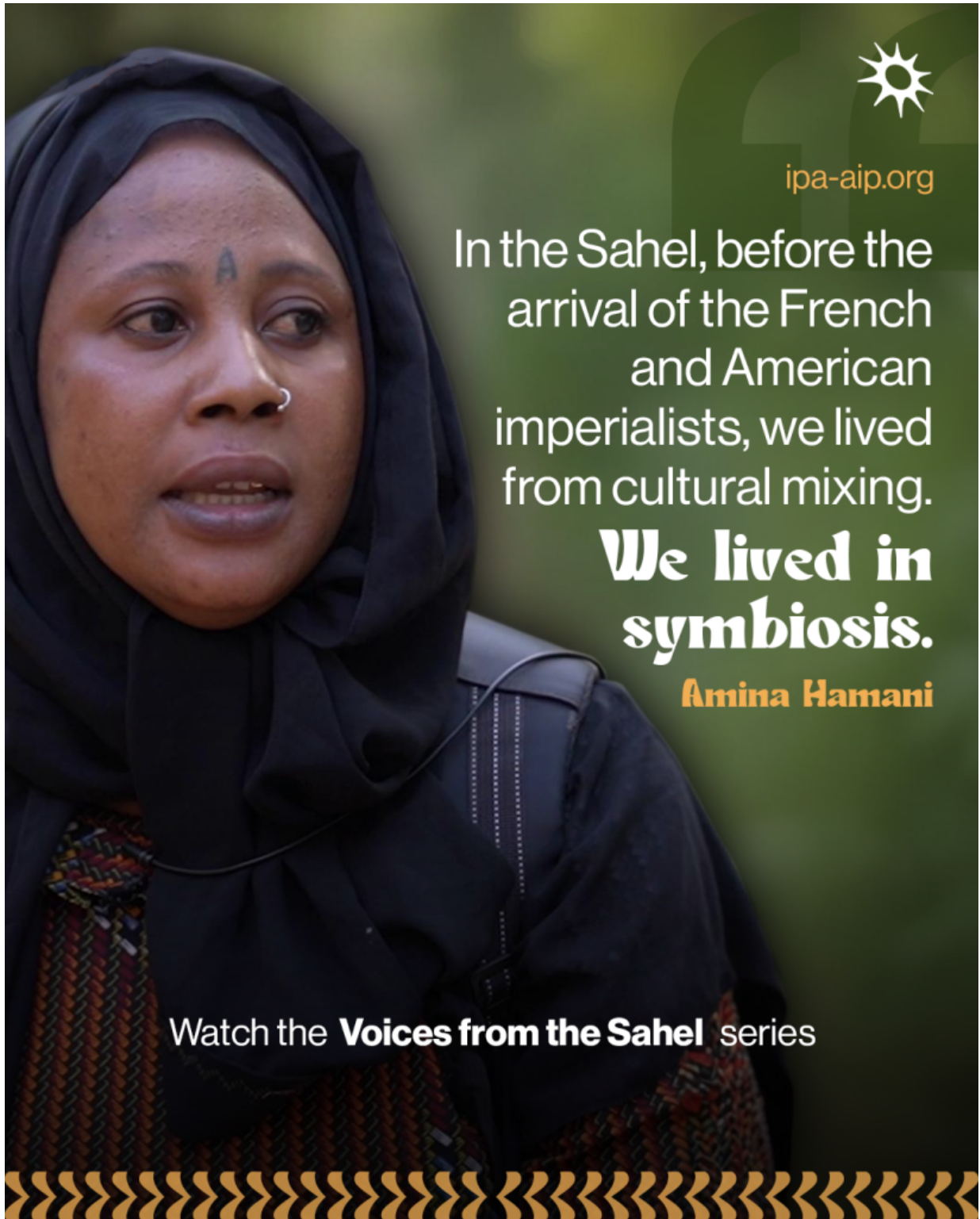
**At the International Peoples' Assembly, we believe that to understand the Sahel is also to understand ourselves: to grasp how imperialist power networks operate, how the peoples of the Global South resist, and how we can weave alliances of international solidarity.**



**Tricontinental Institute**

## **THE SAHEL SEEKS SOVEREIGNTY**

*On the heels of popular military coups, how are Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger returning to a path of sovereignty while navigating a legacy of dependency and internal-external security challenges?*



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In the Sahel, before the arrival of the French and American imperialists, we lived from cultural mixing.

**We lived in symbiosis.**

**Amina Hamani**

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**There can be  
no revolution  
without the  
emancipation  
of women,** who  
represents more  
than half of our  
population.

**Inem Richardson**

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**“The West  
planned & created  
‘international  
terrorism.’**

They launched it  
in the Sahel and  
arrived under the  
guise of 'helping'  
us militarily,  
only to take  
possession  
of our lands.”

**Sawadogo  
Pasmamde Ocean**

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## **Brasil de Fato**

**‘Ibrahim Traoré is the continuation of Burkina Faso’s revolution’, says brother of pan-Africanist leader Thomas Sankara**

*42 years after the 1983 revolution, Burkina Faso takes bold steps toward sovereignty.*

## **Brasil de Fato**

**Eto’o, Okosha, Adebayor: African soccer legends join Traoré to inaugurate stadium in Burkina Faso**

*The presence of some of the biggest names in the sport signals support for the country’s revolution.*

## **Peoples Dispatch**

### **Sankara's revolution rises again**

*On the anniversary of Thomas Sankara coming to power in Burkina Faso, Jonis Ghedi Alasow reflects on how his legacy lives on in new Sahelian revolutions today.*

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“The peoples joined hands to set up the AES to make this a zone of truly free and dignified men and women to **make our continent the tomb of imperialism forever.**”

**Ibrahima Kebe**

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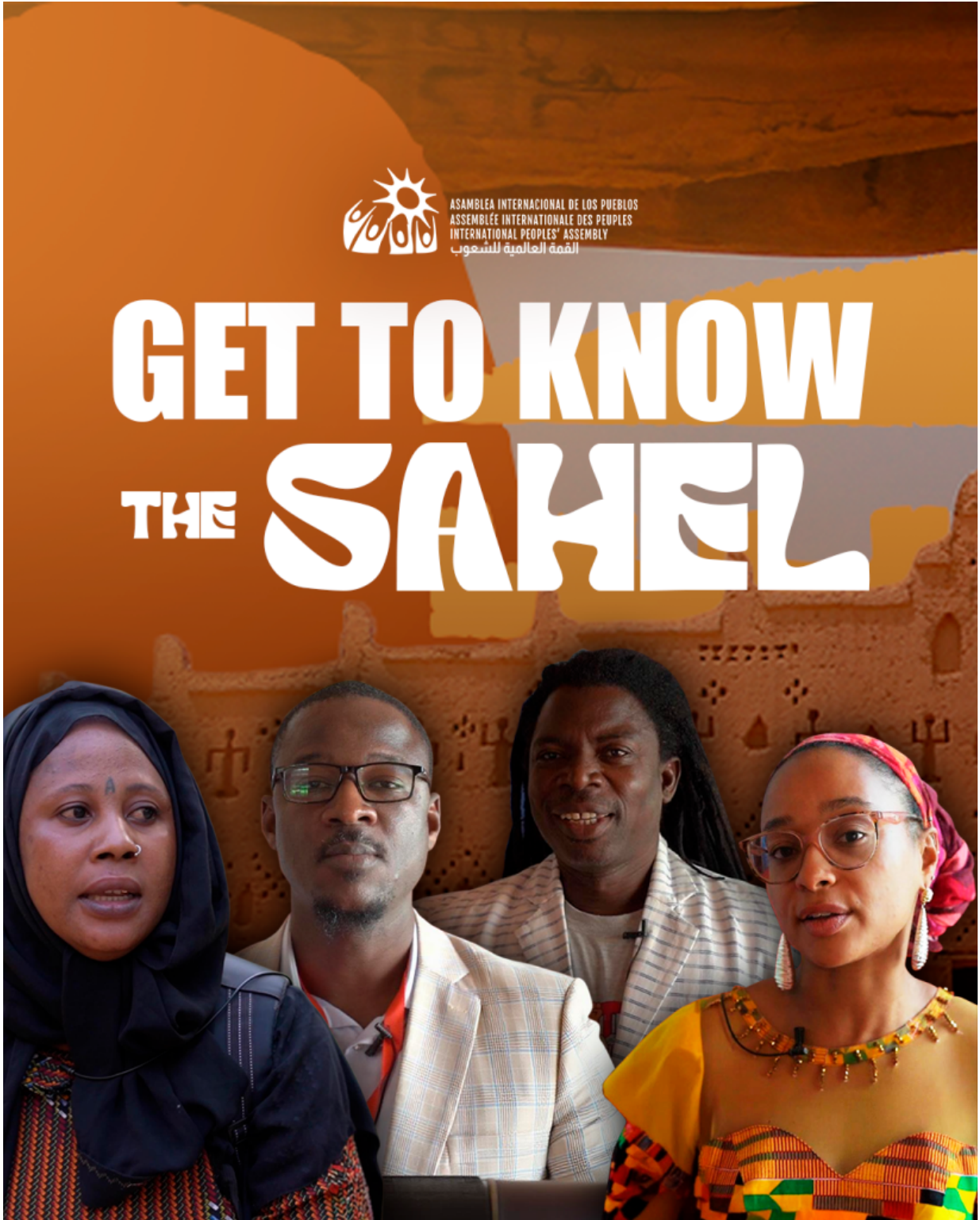


The CFA franc  
and economy of our  
continent have been  
hijacked by neoliberal  
economic policies.

**The popular  
uprising  
and demand  
for national  
sovereignty is  
the great feeling  
of our people.'**

**Blaise Tulo**

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**Brasil de Fato**

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**In the fight against desertification, Burkina Faso mobilizes to plant 5 million trees in one hour**

*The seventh edition of the National Tree Day in Burkina Faso is inspired by Thomas Sankara's legacy of environmentalism.*

**Brasil de Fato****Mali takes control of one of Africa's largest gold mines and launches its own refinery**

*Mali's mining code change in 2024 puts pressure on foreign companies in the country.*

**Brasil de Fato****The impact of the nationalization of the electricity sector and uranium production in Niger**

*The measures mark another step in the Sahel country's move away from French colonial rule and towards sovereign energy.*

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## **Pan Africanism Today Secretariat**

### **Forging a new Pan-African path: Burkina Faso, Ibrahim Traoré, and the Land of the Upright People**

*As coup attempts against the anti-imperialist government of Burkina Faso increase, Pan Africanism Today calls on progressive forces to demonstrate solidarity with the revolutions across the Sahel.*

## **Peoples Dispatch**

### **The Pan-African path to full liberation**

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*African Liberation Day was established to honor the anti-colonial struggles of the African peoples and nations for independence, a fight which continues today with different contours.*

## **Peoples Dispatch**

### **Sahel alliance unveils new flag as regional bloc moves toward greater integration**

*The Alliance of Sahel States (AES) withdraws from ECOWAS and continues initiatives for independence, regional integration, and defensive cooperation.*

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## **Tricontinental Institute**

### **France Must Go from Africa Is the Slogan of the Hour**

*The Forty-Ninth Tricontinental Newsletter (2024) talks about how Chad and Senegal joined Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger in demanding the withdrawal of the French military from their countries.*

### **Brasil de Fato / Peoples Dispatch**

#### **What's happening in Niger: inside the struggle for independence from French and Western neocolonialism**

*After expelling the French military, the people of Niger are fighting to overthrow the remaining colonial structures.*

### **Brasil de Fato / Peoples Dispatch**

#### **“There is no terrorism, there is [only] France,” says president of the West African Peoples’ Organization**

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*Philippe Noudjènoumè blames France for terrorist presence in the Sahel and criticizes the Benin government's collusion with Macron.*

## **Tricontinental Institute**

### **The Sahel Is the Shore of the Desert: The Fifth Pan-Africa Newsletter (2024)**

*Mikaela Erskog discusses the Sahel's fight against Western interference, the character of hyper-imperialism, and calls for Global South unity to propel regional sovereignty.*

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## Tricontinental Institute

### **In Africa They Say, ‘France, Get Out!’: The Nineteenth Newsletter (2024)**

*This newsletter seeks to better understand the wave of coups in the Sahel and the fervour for African sovereignty in the region.*

## Tricontinental Institute

### **The People of Niger Want to Shatter Resignation: The Thirty-Fourth Newsletter (2023)**

*Military coups in Niger and other Sahel countries represent broad, discarded sections of the population.*

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