

Press Release

Workshop on Implementing the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists



Ambassador Madeira



Ambassador Rezag-Bara

Today, **4 February 2014**, a three day **workshop on Implementing the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists** kicked off at the **African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism in Algiers**. This workshop will leverage training modules developed with the participation of members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other partners. The workshop is aimed at enhancing the capacity of the AU Sahelo-Saharan Member States to counter hostage taking and deny terrorists the benefits of kidnapping for ransom.

The workshop brought together delegates from **11 Sahelo-Saharan countries** and experts from Europe, North and South America and Australia to discuss cases to share experience and to identify the most practical ways officials can implement good practices.

H.E. Ambassador Francisco Madeira, AU Commission Chairperson's Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation/ Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) made a welcome statement followed by the Statement of the US Ambassador to Algeria, **Ambassador Henry Ensher** and the Canadian Chargé d'affaires, **Mr. Tim Gorham**, made a statement in his capacity as a member of the GCTF Sahel Working Group.

The opening ceremony was concluded by a feature address delivered by the Algerian Government Representative Ambassador **Mohamed Kamel Rezag-Bara**, special advisor to H.E. the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.



The Participants

The primary goals of this workshop are to:

- ◆ Introduce relevant officials to existing, widely-accepted authorities, standards, tools, and processes for preventing and denying terrorists the benefits of KFR.
- ◆ Increase the capabilities of states of the Sahelo-Saharan Region to implement the good practices outlined in the Algiers Memorandum.
- ◆ Foster collaboration and cooperation within and among interested states to combat KFR.

By the end of the workshop, participants should be better placed to:

- ◆ Compare and contrast approaches to kidnapping response and crisis management, including methodologies for conducting investigations and prosecutions.
- ◆ Outline the steps necessary to implement or improve coordination and communication mechanisms (inter- and intra-agency, state, region, and internationally) for KFR crisis response.
- ◆ Adapt and implement good practices for denying benefits of KFR within their individual national/regional legal and regulatory contexts.