Ending Slavery in Mali

Thank you very much, my name is Ibrahim Ag Idbaltanat, and i am the president of TEMEDT.

So, TEMEDT, which means placenta in the language of the Tameshuk people, was created in 2006 in Mali.

TEMEDT's purpose is the eradication of intergenerational slavery in Mali.

The fight against intergenerational slavery in Mali is very important.

It's important because the practice of slavery leads to a huge waste of human resources - it's a deficit of democracy. and it prevents full participation of all citizens in the construction, and the building, of their community, of their society, of their nation.

Persistence of slavery in Mali means that we are not able to have peace, and we are not able to have healthy relationships between people. This is why it is important to fight against slavery and that we restore the dignity to people who are currently considered to be goods to be purchased.

So, yes, I have a message for the Canadian public, particularly in this time of crisis in Mali: begin by understanding that the population in Mali, with this crisis, is extremely fragile. In particular, people who are part of the slave class in the north of Mali but also people who live in precarious circumstances. And I make the analogy that these people - these fragile people, marginalized people - are like the straw under the feet of the elephants who are fighting and they are being trampled.

So I'm launching an appeal for humanitarian assistance. And more importantly, I'm appealing for support for Mali, to develop strategies that will allow our country to return to peace; that's the appeal that I launch.