
MACRON: BARKHANE MISSION ENDING, FRENCH PRESENCE TO STAY IN SAHEL

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French president says 5,100-strong Operation Barkhane to be replaced by new mission supported by other partners.

President Emmanuel Macron has said France's military operation in the violence-hit Sahel region of West Africa will no longer exist in its current form, adding that it will be replaced by another mission of French troops that will further rely on other partners.

The time has come; the continuation of our commitment in the Sahel will not be in the same way, Macron told a wide-ranging news conference on Thursday, announcing a profound transformation of his country's military presence in the region – but providing few details.

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