

## Could Mali be the Next Afghanistan?

### A Roundtable Discussion Featuring Robert Fowler and Robert Rotberg

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Senate Room, 608 Robertson Hall (6th floor)  
Carleton University, Ottawa

Following an army coup in March against the Mali government, a combination of Tuareg rebels and jihadists with links to al-Qaeda have taken over the northern half of the country. After a recent Security Council resolution, the international community is considering intervention to support the Malian army as it tries to re-establish government control of its vast and sparsely populated regions in the Maghreb.

France, as the former colonial power, has taken the Western lead in dealing with the conflict and is looking for assistance from ECOWAS. Might Canadian troops end up in a UN training mission in Mali? While the media has pointed out parallels to Afghanistan, this crisis has its own unique characteristics which should inform any intervention.

Join us as two renowned Africa experts discuss the perils of such an effort and suggest which approaches might work best.

Attendance is free, but registration is requested at: <http://cicottawadec122012.eventbrite.ca/>



**Robert R. Fowler** was Deputy Minister of National Defence and Canada's longest serving Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, included Canada's sixth, and most recent term as a member of the United Nations Security Council. During his distinguished 38-year Public Service career, Fowler was the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Ministers Trudeau, Turner and Mulroney. Fowler was Ambassador to Italy, Sherpa for the Kananaskis G8 Summit (for which he chaired the creation of the Africa Action Plan), and served as the Canadian Prime Minister's Personal Representative for Africa from 2001 to 2006. Ambassador Fowler has first hand experience in the region, having been UN Special Envoy to Niger in 2008 where he and Louis Guay spent 130 days as captives of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.



**Robert I. Rotberg** is currently Fulbright Research Chair in the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA). He was the Founding Director of the Program on Intrastate Conflict, Conflict Prevention, and Conflict Resolution at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Dr. Rotberg was president of the World Peace Foundation from 1993-2010. In 2007 he directed the establishment of the Index for African Governance, to help evaluate leaders for the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership. In 2003-2004, he served as a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Panel on Africa. Dr. Rotberg is the author of many books, the most recent being *Transformative Political Leadership: Making a Difference in the Developing World* (Chicago, 2012) and *Mass Atrocity Crimes: Preventing Future Outrages* (Brookings, 2010). His *Africa Emerges: Consummate Challenges, Abundant Opportunities* appears next year.