

For immediate release

Control Risks and International SOS provide on-the-ground assistance to clients in wake of political and civil unrest in Mali

London, March 29, 2012 – Control Risks, the world's leading global risk consultancy firm, and its joint venture partner International SOS, the world's leading medical and security services company, are providing advice, evacuation planning and assistance to clients who have travellers, expatriates and employee family members in Mali.

Following a March 21 coup against President Amadou Toumani Toure's government, widespread looting and opportunistic crime has led to a breakdown in the security situation in Mali's capital city of Bamako. A crisis management team established last weekend - supported by backup teams in London, Philadelphia, Germany and Singapore - has been working to identify and communicate with 55 affected client organisations with more than 350 individuals in Mali to provide advice and direction, align support resources and plan for evacuations via commercial flights or charter during this critical time.

This global team, which includes Control Risks and International SOS security experts on the ground in Mali, also includes aviation and logistics personnel. Working with secured assets and specialist providers, the team has assisted five companies with evacuations and are working with others on current planning.

Simultaneously, the team in Mali is providing the companies' global network of alarm centers with up-to-the-minute reports to help their locally based members who may be seeking information on colleagues in Mali or conditions on the ground.

"We are always prepared for an event like this and are able to tap into our pre-established network in Mali to provide advice, evacuation planning and assistance to our clients," said Michael Hancock, Group General Manager, Assistance Worldwide for International SOS. "Many of the organisations we support also had their own emergency plans in place before the unrest. This is something we always advise – by preparing the organisation and its employees in advance of an incident like what we are seeing in Mali, these companies have provided excellent duty of care and helped to ensure the safety of their employees."

Our alarm centre in Paris has received more than 220 calls for assistance related to events in Mali since the incident began, whilst we saw an eight-fold increase in security-related activity during the period of airspace closure.

We have utilised our proprietary travel tracker system to identify client's employees who are currently located in the affected areas and the crisis management team is currently working with 55 unique clients whose various employees, students, faculty and relief workers have been affected by the unrest. These clients include private corporations, non-profit organisations and universities.

Control Risks and International SOS have issued, and continue to push out, Travel Security Alerts to clients around the world. These alerts advise of the developing unrest and include timely analysis and advice on emerging security issues.

The security situation in Mali remains fluid. Clients and members who are affected or need evacuation support are encouraged to call one of our alarm centres for assistance. Up-to-date information, advice, and analysis are available via the Travel Security Online and Country Risk Forecast subscription websites.

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Information for journalists

The joint venture between Control Risks and International SOS provides travel security services for international travellers and expatriates.

About Control Risks

Control Risks (www.controlrisks.com) is a global risk consultancy specialising in political, security and integrity risk. The company helps its clients to understand and manage the risks of operating in complex or hostile environments.

Through a unique combination of services and a broad geographical reach and a partnership approach with clients, Control Risks helps organisations effectively solve their problems and realise new opportunities across the world.

About International SOS

International SOS (www.internationalsos.com) is the world's leading medical and security services company operating from over 700 sites in 76 countries with 10,000 employees, led by 1,100 physicians and 200 security specialists. Their global services include medical and risk planning, preventative programs, in-country expertise and emergency response for travellers, expatriates and their dependents on behalf of over 70 percent of the Fortune 500 companies.