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EYE ON WEST AFRICA (January 14 - January 20) (ENGLISH)

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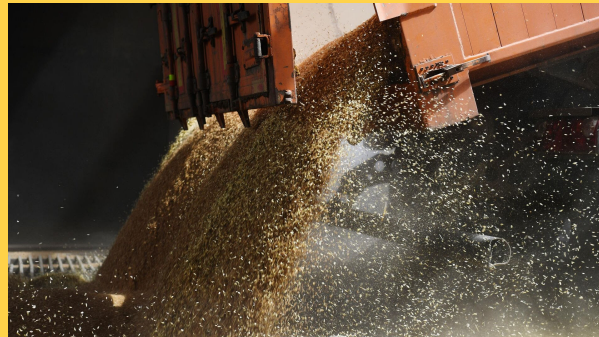
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Eye on West Africa

Countries in Political Transitions



(18/01/24). Russia has sent 25,000 tons of wheat to Mali: Foreign Ministry

The Russian Foreign Ministry has [announced](#) that Moscow has dispatched 25,000 tons of wheat to Mali in its fourth shipment. In total, Russia has delivered 50,000 tons of wheat and 22,000 tons of fertilizers to the West African nation.

During a news conference in Moscow, the Ministry expressed its commitment to actively assisting African countries in overcoming acute socio-economic challenges.



(16/01/24). Niger: Prime Minister in Moscow to deepen military and economic ties

Niger's junta-appointed Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine is in Russia's capital Moscow for [talks](#) aimed at deepening economic and military ties between the two countries.

He is also accompanied by the country's Defence Minister as well as Niger's ministers of petroleum and trade.

Niger's military junta, which is under tough sanctions from the West African regional bloc is seeking to diversify its partnerships.



(19/01/24). Burkina Faso: Military government claims it thwarted another coup attempt

Burkina Faso's military government on Thursday said it thwarted a "[coup attempt](#)" by a network of serving and retired security personnel, and civilians.

In a statement, the government spokesman said that a network of "military personnel, some retired, some active, and civilians conspired to destabilize the institutions of Burkina Faso".

The latest is the fourth coup attempt authorities have claimed to have foiled since Capt. Ibrahim Traore overthrew Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba in September 2022.

Regional Peace and Security



(17/01/24). Nigeria: Mass kidnappings return to Abuja

Kidnappings and killings have returned to Nigeria's federal capital, Abuja, after over 10 months of silence from bandits. Community leaders and witnesses said that bandits attacked travelers on the Abuja–Kaduna highway and abducted over 30 people last week.

This is the first time the security along the road artery was breached in more than ten months.

**(16/01/24) Nigeria: Villagers flee as gunmen overrun Nigerian military camp**

Residents of a village in Nigeria's north-western state of Katsina are fleeing their homes after armed men stormed a nearby military camp before setting vehicles ablaze and ransacking the area.

According to an eyewitness, the armed men overwhelmed the military forces after a three-hour exchange of gunfire. The gunmen further looted shops and homes, stealing goods and livestock worth millions of naira.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC SPACE

**(17/01/24) Sierra Leone: Alleged treason - Former Sierra Leone President seeks medical care in Nigeria**

Sierra Leone's ex-president, Ernest Bai Koroma, is set to undergo medical treatment in Nigeria, despite facing allegations of involvement in a coup attempt last year.

The High Court [granted](#) him a three-month leave, raising widespread speculation about a potential exile arrangement.

On the back of this, the ECOWAS Commission has released a statement to express its "profound gratitude to Sierra Leone authorities for granting permission" to the former president.

ELECTIONS



(16/01/24). Liberia: I won't run again for president - George Weah.

The outgoing President of Liberia, [George Weah](#), has disclosed that he will not be contesting for presidency in 2029. Speaking at a church in Monrovia, he mentioned that he would turn 63 in six years and since his retirement age is 65, he has no plans to engage in politics beyond that age.

ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA



(18/01/24). DR Congo: Opposition leaders call for nationwide protest on Inauguration Day

Two of the main [opposition](#) leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo's recent presidential elections have called for protests on Saturday (Jan. 20) when President Felix Tshikedi will be sworn into office for a second term.

Tshikedi and his party won the elections by a landslide victory, however, there are allegations the electoral process was marred with fraud, logistical shortcomings, and disruptions.



ABOUT EYE ON WEST AFRICA

"Eye on West Africa" is a weekly wrap-up of news-making events and developments affecting democratic governance in the ECOWAS Region.

"Eye on West Africa" is a knowledge product of the Data and Analysis unit of the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS). WADEMOS is a transnational democracy solidarity network that mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West African Region to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democracy and promote democratic norms and reforms in the sub-region.

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