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EYE ON WEST AFRICA (January 21 - January 27) (ENGLISH)

1 message

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Eye on West Africa

Countries in Political Transitions



(26/01/24). Mali: Junta ends 2015 peace deal with separatist rebels

Mali's junta has "ended with immediate effect" a peace deal with Tuareg separatist rebels, brokered by the UN in 2015.

A statement read on state television by the government spokesman said Mali decided to terminate the deal due to other signatories not sticking to their commitments and "hostile acts" by chief mediator Algeria.



(26/01/24). ECOWAS Postpones Niger Negotiation Mission

ECOWAS has generated discontent in Niger, as the bloc postponed its negotiation mission to the country. Niger's military-appointed Prime Minister criticized the bloc, citing 'bad faith,' especially considering that only Togo attended the scheduled meeting.

In response, ECOWAS has issued a statement clarifying that their absence was not intended as a snub to the junta. Instead, it was due to 'technical problems with the aircraft the Commission had chartered from Abuja to Niamey.'

The West African bloc underscored its commitment to rescheduling the mission at the earliest convenience.

Regional Peace and Security



(25/01/24). Human Rights Watch Report: Burkina Faso military drone strikes killed dozens of civilians

A new Human Rights Watch (HRW) [report](#) discloses that three military drone strikes in Burkina Faso, purportedly aimed at Islamist fighters according to the government, have resulted in the deaths of at least 60 civilians in two crowded markets and during a funeral since August 2023.



(23/01/24). Blinken pledges \$45 million to boost coastal West Africa security

This week, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [committed](#) an additional \$45 million in funding to support efforts in combating conflict and promoting stability in coastal West Africa, where insecurity associated with jihadist insurgencies has escalated in recent years.

Blinken ended his four-nation tour yesterday. He visited Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Angola. The purpose of the trip was to discuss U.S.-African partnerships over trade, climate, infrastructure, health, security, and other issues.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC SPACE



(25/01/24) Ghana coup plot: Soldiers among six sentenced to death by hanging

A high court in Ghana has [sentenced](#) to death six people, including three soldiers, after convicting them of plotting to carry out a coup against the country's government in 2019. This was the first treason trial in Ghana since 1966 when post-independence leader Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown.

The sentencing has renewed calls from rights activists for the death penalty to be abolished.

ELECTIONS



(22/01/24). Liberia: Joseph Boakai sworn in as Liberia's president, promises to work for all citizens

Joseph Boakai, 79, was sworn in as Liberia's president on January 22 for a six-year term at a ceremony in parliament in the capital of Monrovia following his narrow win in last year's [election](#).

The former vice president in his inauguration speech, promised to work for all citizens of the country and called for "inclusivity and reconciliation".



(20/01/24). Senegal: Final presidential candidate list excludes opposition leader Sonko

The Constitutional Council on January 20, 2024, [released](#) the final list of 20 candidates out of 93 candidates who had put their names forward for February's presidential election. The list excludes opposition leaders Ousmane Sonko and Karim Wade, the son of former president Abdoulaye Wade.

The council's list of approved candidates includes Sall's hand-picked successor, Prime Minister Amadou Ba, former Dakar mayor Khalifa Sall, and former prime minister Idrissa Seck.

ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA

(18/01/24). Chad: Putin meets Chad junta leader as Russia competes with France in Africa

President Vladimir Putin this week met Chadian leader Mahamat Idriss Deby in the [Kremlin](#).

Deby has led Chad (*the former French colony*) since 2021, when he took power in a coup shortly after his father, long-serving president Idriss Deby, was killed in battle fighting anti-government rebels.

The junta initially promised an 18-month transition to elections, but later delayed it until October this year.





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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