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[Test] EYE ON WEST AFRICA (February 07 -February 17) (ENGLISH)

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Eye on West Africa

WADEMOS MONITOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SENEGAL



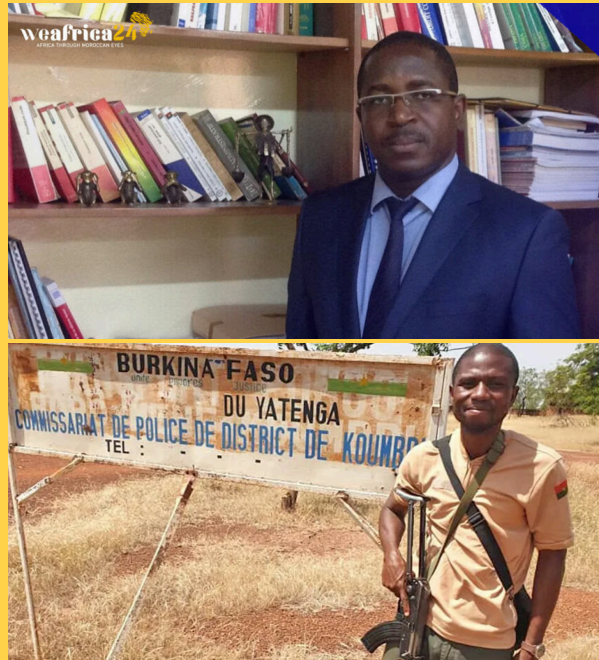
Senegal's Constitutional Council has overturned the postponement of this month's presidential election, a move that plunged the country into its worst crisis in decades.

The Council ruled this week that the law adopted by parliament on 5 February to delay the election for 10 months was unconstitutional. Sall's term of office ends on 2 April and the postponement would in effect have kept him in office beyond that date.

Following this decision, a statement released on 'X' by the presidency indicates that Macky Sall is committed to carrying out "without delay the necessary consultations for the organization of the presidential election as soon as possible. The ECOWAS Commission also in a statement urges all stakeholders in the electoral process to comply with the decision of the Council and calls on authorities to set a date for the presidential election.

WADEMOS will intensify its monitoring and backdoor advocacy efforts with all stakeholders and will stand in solidarity with civil society to ensure full compliance with the court's ruling.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK



BURKINA FASO LAWYERS STRIKE OVER ARREST OF COLLEAGUE /WADEMOS MEMBER GUY-HERVE KAM

Lawyers in Burkina Faso are currently on strike to protest the arrest of their colleague, Guy-Hervé Kam, a founding member of Balai Citoyen (*member of WADEMOS*) and a prominent figure within the Burkinabe legal community. Kam has been abducted and held in secret since January 24th without any apparent reason. His arbitrary arrest adds to a series of similar incidents in the country.

Earlier this month, an anesthetist named Arouna Louré was forced to the front lines of the battle against jihadists, widely viewed as punishment for his strident criticism of Burkina Faso's military rulers.

Despite efforts by Kam's colleagues to seek explanations from the Attorney General, they have been met with claims of ignorance regarding both his whereabouts and the rationale behind his arrest.

Countries in Political Transitions



(08/02/24). Alliance of Sahelian States: Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso to quit ECOWAS without respecting the one-year notice period

Mali has reaffirmed its exit from ECOWAS with immediate effect, without following the one-year time-frame withdrawal. In a letter written to ECOWAS last week, the Mali foreign ministry said the country was "no longer bound" by the time constraints.

The letter said that ECOWAS had rendered the treaty "inoperative" when it failed to meet its obligations by closing member states' borders with Mali in 2022 and denying it access to the sea. Burkina Faso and Niger said they too intended to leave immediately, despite the bloc's one-year rule.

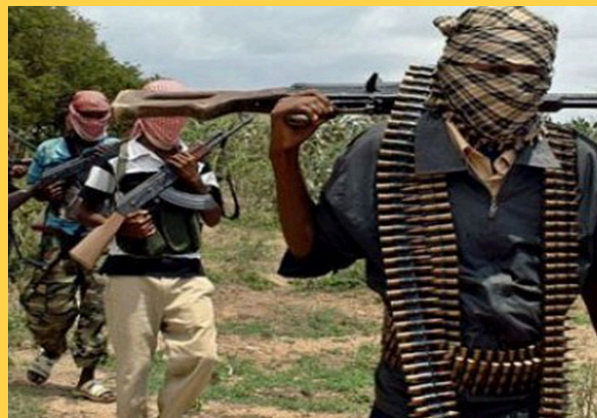


(10/02/24). ECOWAS Calls on Alliance of Sahel States to Engage in Dialogue After Countries Notice to Leave Bloc

Alliance of Sahel States (AES) members Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali announced their withdrawal from ECOWAS in a joint communiqué in late January, citing a number of [concerns](#).

ECOWAS has urged Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to prioritize dialogue and reconciliation amid concerns of their withdrawal from the bloc, according to an ECOWAS [press release](#) following an extraordinary meeting of its Mediation and Security Council (MSC).

Regional Peace and Security



(13/02/24): Nigeria: Gunmen kill four, abduct at least 40 in northwest Nigeria

This week, armed men killed four civilians, including two policemen, and kidnapped at least 40 others in an attack on Kaura Namoda, in Nigeria's northwest Zamfara [state](#).

Africa's largest economy is grappling with a multifaceted security crisis, including kidnappings for ransom in the northwest, which has reached alarming proportions.

GENDER AND INCLUSION



(15/02/24): Ghana: Parliament to retake LGBTQ+ bill through another second consideration stage

Ghana's Parliament has [adopted](#) a new motion for the House to revisit the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2021, through another second consideration stage.

Under this new motion, the House will review 14 clauses, all aimed at replacing community service with incarceration for individuals involved in and advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT+) activities in Ghana.

ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA



(15/02/24): African Union Leader Calls for Palestinian Statehood, Condemns Israeli Actions

African Union's Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat condemned Israeli attacks on Gaza as a "war of extermination" and called for a Palestinian statehood.

The chairperson lauded the recent decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and commended South Africa's commitment to addressing the [conflict](#).

The Chairperson also drew attention to the various armed conflicts plaguing the African continent, from Sudan to Somalia, emphasizing the urgent need for collective action to address these pressing challenges. He made this call at the opening of this year's AU's Heads of States summit.



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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