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EYE ON WEST AFRICA (February 24 - March 2) (ENGLISH)

1 message

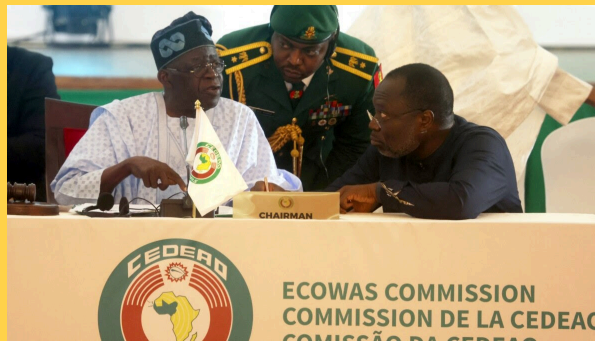
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Sat, Mar 2, 2024 at 10:07 PM



Eye on West Africa

Countries in Political Transitions



(29/02/24): ECOWAS lifts sanctions against coup-affected countries: WADEMOS calls on military governments to reciprocate gesture.

[ECOWAS](#) has announced its intention to lift sanctions imposed on coup-affected countries in West Africa as it seeks a new strategy to dissuade the 3 junta-led states from withdrawing from the political and economic union.

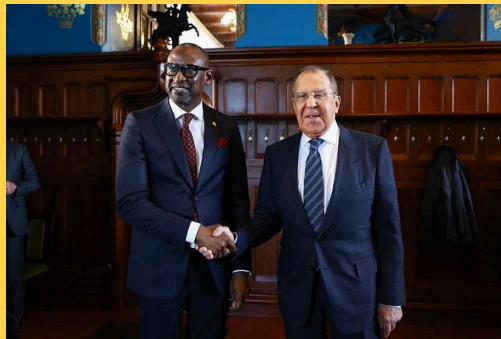
WADEMOS in a press [statement](#) welcomed the decision taken by the bloc and has called upon the military-led governments to reciprocate this gesture by demonstrating a greater willingness to engage in dialogue and realign with the transition process rather than resorting to actions that will lead to fragmentation and isolation.



(28/02/24): Guinea: Junta appoints former opposition leader Mamadou Oury Bah as prime minister

Guinea's junta has [appointed](#) one-time opposition leader and economist Mamadou Oury Bah to the role of prime minister, according to a decree read on national television this week.

The appointment comes at a critical time, with Bah tasked to set up a government amidst ongoing socio-political challenges. These include a recent general strike led by traders' unions [protesting](#) deep economic hardships and the shrinking civic space.



(28/02/24): Mali, Russia foreign ministers hold talks in Moscow

This week, Mali's [foreign](#) minister, Abdoulaye Diop, was in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. Addressing a press conference, the two leaders vowed to strengthen their bilateral security partnership.

Lavrov also highlighted Russia's humanitarian aid to Mali, which comprised 25,000 tons of wheat and 17,000 tons of fuel supplied in January alone.

Regional Peace and Security



(26/02/24): Burkina Faso: At least 15 killed in Church Massacre, 14 worshippers slain in mosque attack

Earlier this week, a tragic incident unfolded in the village of Essakane in the northern region of Burkina Faso, where gunmen [attacked](#) a congregation gathered for mass at a Catholic church, resulting in the death of fifteen with two others wounded.

On the same day, [another](#) devastating incident unfolded in Natiaboani town, situated in Eastern Burkina Faso. Suspected terrorists attacked a mosque, claiming the lives of fourteen people.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC SPACE



(24/02/24): Cote d'Ivoire: Former Prime Minister Seeks Security Guarantee

A member of the party of exiled Ivorian politician Guillaume Soro says the former prime minister is ready to return home if the government can ensure his safety. Soro was convicted in absentia and sentenced to 20 years for allegedly destabilizing the Ivorian government.

Currently residing in Niger under asylum, the Ivorian [government](#) has declared Soro free to return. This comes after President Alassane Ouattara pardoned and ordered the release of 51 people convicted of treason and other crimes this week.



(28/02/24): Ghana: Ghana's parliament passes anti-LGBTQ+ bill.

According to the new legislation, advocating for the rights of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, or with other non-conventional sexual or gender identities in Ghana can result in a prison sentence of up to five years.

The bill has faced extensive criticism from rights activists, including [CDD-Ghana](#), a member of WADEMOS, who view it as a violation of human rights. It awaits validation by the president before it can be enacted into law.

ELECTIONS



(26/02/24). Senegal: Opposition candidates vote in mock election to protest poll delay

Sunday, February 24, 2024, was supposed to be the day of the presidential election in Senegal. Instead, the weekend was marked by a series of protests in Dakar.

Presidential candidates participated in a symbolic vote organized by a civil society group to protest the postponement of the presidential election. On the other hand, President Macky Sall's supporters also staged a big event in another part of the city.



(27/02/24). Senegal: National dialogue suggests delayed polls be held in June

In the midst of a political crisis, Senegal's National Dialogue Commission has proposed postponing the presidential election until June 2. According to the proposal, President Macky Sall would continue to hold office until his successor is sworn in.

The country, set to become an oil and gas producer by the end of the year, has been thrown into an unprecedented political crisis after Sall postponed the election initially scheduled for February. 25.



(29/02/24): Senegal: Amnesty law passed by cabinet

The Senegalese cabinet has approved an amnesty law following President Macky Sall's

proposal during a national dialogue aimed at addressing the country's ongoing crisis.

The law, focused on incidents related to political protests dating back to 2021, seeks to foster reconciliation amidst widespread unrest.

ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA



(29/02/24): Chad opposition leader Yaya Dillo killed in gun clash

According to state prosecutor, Oumar Mahamat, the opposition leader along with several others, was killed during an exchange of fire this week with security forces near the headquarters of Dillo's opposition party in the capital, N'Djamena.

The [escalation](#) in violence occurred amidst rising tensions ahead of a presidential election scheduled for May and June.



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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