



EYE ON WEST AFRICA (April 22 - May 03)

1 message

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Eye on West Africa

Countries in Political Transitions



(03/05/24). Niger: Russian troops deployed to US military airbase in Niger

Russian troops have been [deployed](#) at an airbase in Niger where U.S. soldiers are also present. This action follows a decision from Niger's military leaders for the U.S. to withdraw its nearly 1,000 troops and military personnel from the country. Before the coup last year, Niger had been a key partner for the U.S. in combating insurgents who have caused thousands of deaths and displaced millions.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has assured that the Russians posed no "risk" to U.S. forces.

"The Russians are in a separate compound and don't have access to U.S. forces or equipment," Mr. Austin stated to journalists in Honolulu, Hawaii.



(29/04/24). Mali: Coalition petitions Supreme Court to overturn Junta's suspension of political activities

A coalition of Malian political parties and civil society organizations has [petitioned](#) the country's Supreme Court to overturn the military junta's ban on political activities, labeling it as oppressive.

The junta suspended all political parties and activities on April 10, following demands from numerous political parties and civil society groups for presidential elections to restore constitutional order.

Regional Peace and Security



(30/04/24). Mali: Army announces killing of top terrorist leader in Sahel region

Mali authorities on Monday [announced](#) that it had killed a high-value Islamist commander, Abu Huzeifa, known for his role in a 2017 attack in Niger, where four American and four Nigerien soldiers were killed.

The U.S. State Department had placed a \$5 million bounty on Huzeifa's head due to his participation in the attack on American Green Berets and their Nigerien comrades, which marked the largest loss of American troops in Africa since 1993.

Officials at the U.S. State and Defense Departments said on Tuesday that they were aware of the report of Abu Huzeifa's death, but were seeking more information.



(22/04/24). Nigeria: Gunmen kill six Nigerian soldiers in ambush, army says

Six Nigerian army soldiers are **ambushed** and killed by gunmen while patrolling in the northern Niger state, according to the army.

Nigerian Army spokesperson Major General Onyema Nwachukwu stated that the troops were pursuing bandits who had escaped after other members of the gang were killed by soldiers and their equipment captured.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC SPACE



(03/05/24): WADEMOS Calls on West African Leaders to Demonstrate Stronger Commitment to Press Freedom and Free Speech

The WADEMOS Network has marked World Press Freedom Day by joining the global community in expressing serious concern about the threats to freedom and civil liberties, particularly in countries where democracy is facing extreme forms of vulnerabilities.

It urges leaders in the West African region to commit more strongly to safeguarding the rights of journalists and civic actors.

Read the full statement [here](#)



(28/04/24): Burkina Faso: Government Rejects Human Rights Watch Report, Suspends International Media Outlets

Burkina Faso's military **government** in a statement said a Human Rights Watch report alleging that soldiers killed at least 223 villagers including at least 56 children in two attacks on February 25 made "baseless accusations".

The junta has **suspended** several international media outlets, including the BBC, Deutsche Welle, The Guardian, Voice of America, Le Monde, and others, due to their coverage of the report accusing the army of attacks on civilians in the battle against rebels.

ELECTIONS



(01/05/24). Togo: Observers Praise Togo's Legislative Elections Amid Concerns Over Constitutional Reforms

Regional election observers reported on Tuesday that Togo's legislative elections were "free, fair, and transparent." The electoral commission is yet to release initial results from Monday's poll, which followed the passage of a contentious constitutional amendment that analysts argue will strengthen President Faure Gnassingbe's hold on power.

This election marked the first since the adoption of the new constitution, which established a prime ministerial role that opposition parties contend will help Gnassingbe bypass term limits.

Observers from regional organizations such as the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the election.

Read WADEMOS's statement on Togo's Constitutional Reforms [here](#)



(25/04/24). Togo: Opposition asks the ECOWAS Court to overturn constitutional reform.

Togo opposition parties have [filed](#) a lawsuit with the ECOWAS court, challenging a constitutional reform that they argue allows President Faure Gnassingbe to maintain his hold on power.

ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA



(22/04/24). Gabon: **Opposition divided over dialogue proposal to suspend political parties**

Gabon's opposition is [divided](#) over a measure proposed at the country's national dialogue to suspend close to 200 political parties until further notice and bar members of ousted President Ali Bongo's Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG) from taking part in elections for three years.



(03/05/24). **Chad prepares to vote in coup-hit region**

Chad will hold presidential elections on Monday, May 6, making it the first in a string of coup-hit states [across](#) Central and West Africa. Opposition groups have raised objections and called for boycotts, saying the poll will be rigged.

The candidate widely expected to win is General Mahamat Idriss Deby, who seized power after a 2021 coup following his father's death.



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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