



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Guinea – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 14 June 2010

Any information on the human rights situation in Guinea following an attempted assassination on President Camara in December 2009.

In a paragraph headed “Attempted assassination of Dadis Camara” a report published by the *Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales* states:

“Following the attempted assassination, the Presidential Guard and others carried out punitive operations in several parts of the capital, seeking members of the opposition, human rights defenders, trades unionists, journalists, victims of the 28th September massacre as well as eye witnesses to the events. It is feared that those arrested are at risk of torture and could face summary execution.” (Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC) (10 April 2010) *Up-Date on the Human Rights Situation in Francophone West Africa*)

In a section headed “Guinea's Security Forces: Key Challenges” a *US Congressional Research Service* document states:

“Following the CNDD takeover and throughout 2009, abuses by security forces escalated, including looting, extrajudicial arrests, detentions, torture, extortion, the targeting of political opponents, and other abuses of power. Concurrently, military hierarchy and the chain of command were seen as deteriorating. While many credit Konaté with improving military discipline since early January, the potential for abuses remains high.” (US Congressional Research Service (23rd Apr 2010) *Guinea's New Transitional Government: Emerging Issues for U.S. Policy*)

In a section headed “Outlook” this document states:

“Guinea's current outlook has improved significantly from early January 2010, when the country was beset by deep political uncertainty and fears of imminent civil conflict. However, the formation of a transitional government has not altered the underlying causes of Guinea's recent instability, and the months leading up to planned elections could prove decisive to Guinea's future trajectory and that of the sub-region. Inter-ethnic relations—historically perceived as relatively harmonious in Guinea though subject to political manipulation and occasional violent confrontation—are perceived as having deteriorated under the CNDD, particularly in Conakry and the southeastern Forest Region.” (ibid)

In a section titled “A coup resulting in brutal repression” an *Amnesty International* report states:

“On 3 December 2009, after an attempt to assassinate the head of state, ‘Dadis’ Camara was transferred to Morocco for medical treatment. Negotiations with ECOWAS were immediately suspended and the Minister of Defence, General Sékouba Konaté, was appointed interim President. General Konaté promised to return the country to peace, and called on the army to be more disciplined. He quickly gained support from the international community, which continued to pressure the authorities to bring the crisis to an end. Negotiations resumed in Burkina Faso’s capital Ouagadougou in January 2010. On 13 January 2010, President Camara was able to travel from Morocco to Burkina Faso, and two days later, an agreement was signed in Ouagadougou by Camara, General Konaté and mediator Blaise Compaoré. It provides that President Camara would stay in Burkina Faso for the rest of his convalescence while General Konaté and a new Prime Minister chosen by the opposition would lead a transition with the objective to organise presidential elections in the next six months. According to the agreement, no-one from the transitional government or the CNDD will be allowed to take part in the upcoming elections. Jean-Marie Doré, spokesperson of the Forces Vives, was officially appointed Prime Minister on 21 January 2010. The new government was appointed on 15 February, and includes members of the military junta who served in the former government. Moreover two former ministers, suspected by the UN Commission of criminal responsibility in connection with the events of 28 September 2009 and the days that followed, were appointed to the presidential cabinet.” (Amnesty International (24 February 2010) *Guinea: “You Did Not Want The Military, So Now We Are Going to Teach You a Lesson” – The Events of 28 September 2009 and their Aftermath*, p.9)

A *Le Monde Diplomatique* article on the current situation in Guinea states:

“Now, the civilians are in charge - but at the whim of the military. The interim president, General Konaté, is at the head of around 15,000 soldiers, but only nominally so. Some elements of the army have been acting with impunity, especially over the last year under Dadis - and some continue to do so. Dadis' supporters within the military have not melted away, and want him to return, as many of them will lose out if the country changes to civilian rule. Most recently, Konaté felt it necessary to address the army at a well-publicised meeting in the hope that ‘all rumours and dreams about an imminent military putsch should be buried’, and also claimed that ‘the present Guinean army is now one and indivisible’. In a reference to the complicated rivalries at work beneath Guinean society and in the military, the general said he would not hesitate to wipe out anyone who would use ethnicity to disrupt Guinea's democratisation process. Meanwhile, a local inquiry into the massacre blamed only the soldier who shot Dadis and the ICC is still considering whether it can try junta members. In the capital at night, it is easy to see that you are in a military dictatorship: there are checkpoints, with bribes demanded by aggressive soldiers, although last year things were worse, with soldiers hijacking cars and abusing people.” (Le Monde Diplomatique (April 2010) *Guinea waits for change*)

A *News24* report on the recent arrest of Guinean army officers states:

“The leader of Guinea's army, Colonel Nouhou Thiam, has stated that about a dozen army officers arrested since Friday must account for their use of funds and

clarify 'opaque management'. Thiam, the chief of general staff, told AFP and Radio France Internationale (RFI), in an interview late on Sunday that the wave of 'arrests has nothing to do with politics' in the west African country. He said that the senior officers arrested in recent days, who are all close to absent junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara, need to 'clarify a certain number of money management issues we find opaque.'" (News24 (14 June 2010) *Abuse of funds a link to Guinea arrests*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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