

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Guinea Monthly Briefing November 2023

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#### Guinea Summary 24 November 2023

*Justice minister Charles Alphonse Wright tells a local radio station on 4 November that armed men had taken control of the Maison Centrale de Conakry federal prison and helped free former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara and several others facing charges related to the 2009 stadium massacre. Wright on 20 November orders the public prosecutor to launch an investigation into former president Alpha Condé (2010-2021), who remains in exile in Turkey, for charges of treason, criminal conspiracy and complicity in the illicit possession of arms and ammunition. Société Nationale des Pétroles (SONAP) on 11 November issues a tender for bids from companies to conduct a survey to establish onshore oil reserves.*

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#### Prison break

Justice minister **Charles Alphonse Wright** told a local radio station on 4 November that armed men had taken control of the **Maison Centrale de Conakry** federal prison and helped free former junta leader **Moussa Dadis Camara** and several others facing charges related to the 2009 stadium massacre. Others who were freed include former minister and head of presidential security Colonel **Moussa Tiégboro Camara** and Camara ally **Blaise Goumou**.<sup>1</sup> Wright said that at around 5am, several vehicles and motorcycles arrived outside the prison before the armed men entered and opened fire.<sup>2</sup> A few hours later, Moussa Tiégboro Camara was rearrested in the **Yimbaya** district while Dadis Camara and Gomou were found in a motel in **Kagbélen** later that afternoon.<sup>3</sup> Between the jailbreak and subsequent recaptures, at least nine people were killed, including three of the suspected jailbreakers, four members of the security forces and two innocent bystanders.

Colonel **Claude Pivi** remains free, with **French** publication **Jeune Afrique** reporting that his son, **Verny Pivi** – a former soldier – was involved in the escape and drove the vehicle that took Claude Pivi away from the prison.<sup>4</sup> On 9 November, authorities announced a reward of GNF 500m (\$58,140) for the capture of Claude Pivi.

Dadis Camara's lawyer, **Pepe Antoine Lamah**, wrote on **Facebook** on 4 November that heavily armed individuals had actually kidnapped Camara, and it was not an escape. His other lawyer, **Jean-Baptiste Jacomey Haba**, also claimed that Dadis Camara even shared his location via a cell phone with the police so they could fetch him and return him to prison.<sup>5</sup> Conakry court of appeal attorney general **Yamoussa Conté** disputed this, arguing that Dadis Camara realised his jailbreak had failed and that with no favourable outcome, he should hand himself back to authorities. **Forces armées guinéennes** (armed forces) chief of general staff General **Ibrahima Sory Bangoura** called the jailbreak an attempt to "sabotage" reforms that had been instituted under the ruling **Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD)**.<sup>6</sup>

The stadium massacre trial resumed on 13 November, with the defendant's lawyers maintaining that their clients were forcefully removed and did not escape.<sup>7</sup> **Elise Keppler**, who is monitoring the trial

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<sup>1</sup> Financial Times, 4 Nov 2023

<sup>2</sup> Jeune Afrique, 7 Nov 2023

<sup>3</sup> Jeune Afrique, 7 Nov 2023

<sup>4</sup> Jeune Afrique, 7 Nov 2023

<sup>5</sup> Jeune Afrique, 7 Nov 2023

<sup>6</sup> Al Jazeera, 4 Nov 2023

<sup>7</sup> Africanews, 14 Nov 2023

for the **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch (HRW)**, noted that Privi's absence from the trial would be a "major loss", adding:

*"The authorities must ensure that he is returned to custody safely, in accordance with international standards, so that justice can be served."*<sup>8</sup>

CNRD leader Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya** (2021-present), defence minister **Aboubacar Sidiki Camara** and Wright, in the days following the jailbreak, dismissed 58 officers, soldiers and prison guards for gross misconduct and appointed armed gendarmes to protect the prison. Additional rules were also put in place in terms of prison visitors and time spent outside a cell, with lawyers claiming they no longer had access to their clients. Dadis Camara has been moved to another prison.<sup>9</sup>

### New charges against Condé

Wright on 20 November ordered the public prosecutor to launch an investigation into former president **Alpha Condé** (2010-2021), who remains in exile in **Turkey**, for charges of treason, criminal conspiracy and complicity in the illicit possession of arms and ammunition.<sup>10</sup> The letter from Wright to the public prosecutor states that Condé had acquired weapons and ammunition, with the help of **Fodé Moussa Mara**, without providing details. Mara is the coordinator of the **Front pour le retour d'Alpha Condé (Frac)** (front for the return of Alpha Condé) and was arrested on 18 November.<sup>11</sup> Condé has denied the charges, with his former **Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée (RPG)** party issuing a press release on 19 November denouncing Mara's arrest.

Wright launched legal proceedings against Condé on 4 May 2022 on charges including murder, assassination, complicity in murder and assassination, manslaughter, intentional assault and battery, arrest, kidnapping, torture, destruction and damage to public and private property, looting, theft, sexual assault, and rape (see *ARC Briefing Guinea May 2022*). Wright also initiated legal proceedings on 3 November at the Conakry court of appeal against Condé and 187 of his former senior executives and ministers for alleged crimes of corruption, illicit enrichment, money laundering, forgery and embezzlement of public funds (see *ARC Briefing Guinea Nov 2022*). These cases have strongly increased the likelihood that Condé would be arrested and imprisoned if he returned to Conakry, and he will endeavour to remain in exile to avoid this outcome. The various criminal cases also align with the junta's promises of cracking down on corruption and various other crimes that occurred under the former regime.

### Junta looking to explore oil opportunities

The **Société Nationale des Pétroles (SONAP)** on 11 November issued a tender for bids from companies to conduct a survey to establish onshore oil reserves. The tender notes that companies will need to identify potential areas and produce basic data that would help attract investors, essentially setting the basis for implementing oil and gas activities in the country.<sup>12</sup> The onshore surveys would be conducted in the **Kindia, Boke, Labe** and **Kankan** regions, covering approximately 119,200 km<sup>2</sup>. Guinea is located near **Senegal, Mauritania** and **Côte d'Ivoire** where there have been several hydrocarbon discoveries in recent years, and Guinea has a demarcated 27 offshore and seven onshore blocks.

Guinea's offshore potential was previously explored in September 2017 by a now-defunct **United States** firm, but it found no commercially exploitable quantities of oil.<sup>13</sup> The US international trade

<sup>8</sup> Jeune Afrique, 7 Nov 2023

<sup>9</sup> Jeune Afrique, 16 Nov 2023

<sup>10</sup> Al Jazeera, 21 Nov 2023

<sup>11</sup> Jeune Afrique, 22 Nov 2023

<sup>12</sup> Guinee News, 11 Nov 2023

<sup>13</sup> Trade.gov, accessed 24 Nov 2023

administration notes on its website that companies still believe there is commercially viable oil to be found in Guinea, but no companies are actively searching.<sup>14</sup>

SONAP head of petroleum promotion **Aida Souaré** told **South Africa**-headquartered **Energy Capital & Power** in a September interview that Guinea, by establishing the **Agence de Promotion des Investissements Privés (APIP)** (private investment promotion agency) and ensuring there is an up-to-date petroleum code, has created an environment that is conducive for investors in the energy sector.<sup>15</sup> Souaré also confirmed that the government's goal is to intensify its seismic measures to identify potential areas for investment and then issue tender offers across all blocks. SONAP will attend the 4<sup>th</sup> **MSGBC Oil, Gas & Power 2023 in Dakar (Senegal)** between 3 and 4 December where it will reportedly promote its untapped oil and gas potential.<sup>16</sup>

SONAP is also seeking to take advantage of the regional hydrocarbon potential. In June, SONAP signed a memorandum of understanding with the **Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC)** and **Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** as part of the **Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project**. The project will span 11 countries and help transport gas through the region, with the ambition of benefiting over 400 million households.

### Planner

3-4 Dec 2023 **Dakar (Senegal)** **Société Nationale des Pétroles (SONAP)** to participate in 4<sup>th</sup> **MSGBC Oil, Gas & Power 2023**

Dec 2024 - Jan 2025 **Guinea** Presidential elections

31 Mar 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** Start of exploitation at the **Simandou** iron ore project;

### Chronology

23 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. A **South Korean** delegation meets with prime minister **Bernard Gomou** and confirms construction on its embassy in Conakry has begun;

23 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. **European Union (EU)** delegation in Guinea assesses the progress of the transition, reminding the junta that the ultimate goal of the transition is to hold credible, free and transparent elections;

21 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya** dismisses health minister **Mamadou Phété Diallo** for unknown reasons; however, it is subsequently reported that Diallo has been arrested on charges of corruption and illicit enrichment;

20 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Alwihda Info*. Justice minister **Charles Alphonse Wright** instructs the attorney general to initiate legal proceedings against former president **Alpha Condé** on charges of treason, criminal conspiracy and illegal possession of weapons and ammunition;

20 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Mosaique Guinee*. Foreign affairs minister **Morissada Kouyaté** receives a government delegation from **Italy** to discuss improving relations between the two countries;

14 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Government and trade unions agree on a 35% wage increase along with several other increases to items such as a travel and housing allowance;

13 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Finacial Afrik*. Finance minister **Moussa Cissé** signs several loan agreements worth \$169m which Guinea obtained during the **Africa-Saudi Arabia Summit**;

<sup>14</sup> Trade.gov, accessed 24 Nov 2023

<sup>15</sup> Energy Capital & Power, 29 Sep 2023

<sup>16</sup> Africa.com, 24 Nov 2023

13 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Le Monde*. The 2009 massacre trial involving former junta leader **Moussa Dadis Camara** and his co-defendants resumes following the 4 November prison break in which several of the men temporarily escaped;

9 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. Junta leader Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya** arrives in **Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)** for the **Saudi Arabia-Africa Summit**;

5 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *RFI*. Former armed forces chief of staff Colonel **Oumar Sanoh** gives key testimony in the 2009 stadium massacre trial;

2 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *RFI*. Nongovernmental organisation **Action Mines** denounces a lack of transparency concerning railway projects linked to the **Simandou** iron-ore deposit, stating that no recent environmental impact study has been made public regarding the planned **Transguinée**;

1 Nov 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. Victims of the **Zogota** massacre, committed in 2012, open a case with the **French** judiciary in connection with the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** court of justice November 2020 ruling ordering the state to pay victims GNF 4.56 billion (\$534,892), which has still not been executed;

29 Oct 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Prime minister **Bernard Gomou** and junta leader Colonel **Mamady Doumbouya** renew their confidence in the current government amid rumours of a ministerial shuffle;

27 Oct 2023 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinee*. **Australia**-headquartered **Rio Tinto** CEO **Jakob Stausholm** completes a high-level mission to Guinea to assess the progress of the **Simandou** project, saying he is “*impressed*” with the progress;

### About Africa Risk Consulting:

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