

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Guinea Monthly Briefing October 2022

Guinea Summary 26 October 2022

*The ruling **Comité national du rassemblement et du développement (CNRD)** agrees to shorten its timeline for return to civilian rule from 36 months to 24 months, bowing to pressure from international and regional organisations. The Conakry court of appeals issues summonses to eight opposition leaders who expressed their support for the opposition coalition **Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution (FNDC)**, which has continued carrying out demonstrations against the CNRD in October. Political coalitions and opposition parties including the **FNDC**, **Convergence pour la renaissance de la démocratie (CORED)**, former ruling **Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée-Arc-en-ciel (RPG-AEC)** and **Alliance nationale pour l'Alternance et la Démocratie (ANAD)**, decide at a meeting on 17 October, that they will not participate in political dialogue launched by prime minister **Bernard Gomou**.*

Transition timeline shortened

The ruling **Comité national du rassemblement et du développement (CNRD)** has agreed to shorten its timeline for return to civilian rule from 36 months to 24 months, bowing to pressure from international and regional organisations.¹ French publication **Jeune Afrique** reports that the president of **Guinea-Bissau** and regional bloc **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, **Umaro Sissoco Embaló** (2020-present), sent a letter to CNRD leader Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya**, urging him to accept the 24-month timeline or face further sanctions.² Embaló reportedly also included **Guinea's** cooperation and trade partners, such as the **European Union (EU)** and the **United States (US)**, in the process of increasing pressure on the CNRD and Doumbouya. The US, through its embassy in Guinea, has since congratulated ECOWAS and the junta on the agreement and confirmed its support for the continued mediation and transition timeline.³

The CNRD has proposed that the 24-month timeline begin in January 2023, but ECOWAS has not commented on this starting point. ECOWAS representatives met with success in their negotiations with the CNRD in Guinea from 17-21 October. In a joint statement with the CNRD, ECOWAS noted it will assist with technical and financial support for the transition. The CNRD said the transition will consist of 10 stages:

- General census of the population;
- Census of civil society;
- Establishment of the electoral register;
- Development of a new constitution;
- Organisation of a referendum on the new constitution;
- Drafting laws;
- Organisation of local and municipal elections;
- Organisation of legislative elections;
- Establishment of new institutions guided by the constitution;
- Organisation of presidential elections.⁴

¹ Vision Guinee, 22 Oct 2022

² Jeune Afrique, 17 Oct 2022

³ Africa Guinee, 25 Oct 2022

⁴ Anadolu Agency, 23 Oct 2022

The CNRD, after seizing power on 5 September 2021, maintained that it needed three years to organise credible elections and carry out reforms for what it termed the “*refoundation*” of Guinea. However, ECOWAS’ assertion that this timeline is too long has caused tensions between Guinea and the regional bloc.⁵ ECOWAS leaders met on 22 September on the sidelines of the **United Nations General Assembly**, resolving that the bloc would implement sanctions against junta members for again refusing to shorten the timeline (*see ARC Briefing Guinea Sep 2022*).⁶ ECOWAS notified the CNRD that if it submitted a “*reasonable and acceptable*” timeline within a month, these sanctions would not be implemented, including a ban on any members of the CNRD and **Conseil national de transition (CNT)** (national transitional council) leaving Guinea.⁷

The agreement to shorten the transition timeline will help to restore positive relations between ECOWAS and Guinea but is unlikely to satisfy civil society, which for months has been demanding a faster transition.⁸ The opposition coalition **Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution (FNDC)** has organised a series of demonstrations against the junta since July, attracting negative international attention following documentation of violent and deadly clashes between protestors and security forces (*see ARC Briefing Guinea Aug & Sep 2022*).

Opposition leaders summoned over support for FNDC as demonstrations continue

The **Conakry** court of appeals has issued summonses to eight opposition leaders who have expressed their support for the opposition FNDC coalition, which has continued demonstrations against the CNRD during October. The move has added to the already high tension between the ruling junta and civil society.

Court of appeals attorney general **Yamoussa Conté** told media on 21 October that the summonses were issued in connection with the protests organised by the FNDC on 19 and 20 October, which resulted in the damage of nine gendarmerie vehicles, six injured officers and two injured civilians.⁹ The FNDC called for the demonstrations as a strategy to demand the release of those who were detained in previous demonstrations and for the rapid return to constitutional order.¹⁰ Opposition parties encouraged their members to support and join the demonstrations. Conté maintains that several opposition leaders supported the demonstrations and accused them of:

*“...destruction of public and private property, intentional assault and battery, infringement of freedom of movement, criminal participation, contempt of agents, a direct provocation to a crowd and complicity”.*¹¹

Political party **Convergence pour la renaissance de la démocratie (CORED)** president **Mamadou Sylla** confirmed to the media on 22 October that he had received a summons.¹² Sylla maintains the summons is a scare tactic and claims that although opposition leaders supported the demonstrations, the FNDC was entirely responsible for organising them. Political party **Union Guinéenne pour la Démocratie et le Développement (UGDD)** president **Francis Haba** also confirmed to the media on 22 October that he had received a summons, but describes it is an effort by the court to muzzle civil society.¹³ Haba stated that he was not present at the demonstrations in question. Other political leaders targeted include **Bano Sow, Dembo Sylla, Bouya Konate, Étienne Soropogui, Fodé Oussou Fofana** and **Cellou Baldé**.¹⁴ Opposition **Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG)** leader

⁵ Africanews, 22 Oct 2022

⁶ Media Guinée, 23 Oct 2022

⁷ Africanews, 22 Oct 2022; Jeune Afrique, 17 Oct 2022

⁸ ARC Guinea analyst

⁹ Vision Guinée, 21 Oct 2022

¹⁰ Anadolu Agency, 20 Oct 2022

¹¹ Africa Guinée, 24 Oct 2022

¹² Vision Guinée, 22 Oct 2022

¹³ Media Guinée, 22 Oct 2022

¹⁴ Africa Guinée, 24 Oct 2022

and former prime minister **Cellou Dalein Diallo** did not receive a summons but expressed outrage at the tactic, calling it a campaign of intimidation and “*judicial harassment*”.¹⁵

Shortly before the summons was issued to opposition leaders, French foreign minister **Catherine Colonna** condemned the arrests of political and civil society figures, excessive use of force and alleged use of lethal weapons by security forces against demonstrators.¹⁶ Colonna asked the junta to continue working with ECOWAS on a transitional timeline, which has since seen success (see above), and to continue engaging in inclusive political dialogue, which has not been successful (see below). The CNRD has been trying to promote political dialogue between opposition parties, civil society organisations and the junta for months. This dialogue has broken down yet again, with opposition parties citing mistrust between them and the junta. The latest move by the courts, which has almost certainly been influenced by the junta, will add to this mistrust.

... as political dialogue breaks down again

Political coalitions and opposition parties including the FNDC, CORED, former ruling party **Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée-Arc-en-ciel (RPG-AEC)** and opposition **Alliance nationale pour l’Alternance et la Démocratie (ANAD)**, held a meeting on 17 October, ahead of the launch of political dialogue by prime minister **Bernard Gomou**, and resolved not to participate in the process. The parties said that the CNRD has still not taken into consideration their conditions and recommendations for the opening and holding of political dialogue, including the facilitation by an international body or ECOWAS and the release of people detained by police forces who participated in recent demonstrations.¹⁷

Gomou confirmed via a press release on 18 October that the dialogue, scheduled to begin on 20 October, would be postponed after consultations were held with dialogue facilitators **Makalé Traoré**, **Hadja Aicha Bah** and **Joséphine Léo**, whom Gomou appointed.¹⁸ The CNRD confirmed via spokesperson **Ousmane Gaoual Diallo** that the facilitators had been working since 7 October to conduct meetings with political coalitions and civil society on an inclusive dialogue framework¹⁹ and had met with 30 out of 34 entities so far.²⁰ Diallo said the facilitators would continue their work despite the decision of the political coalitions and opposition parties not to participate, but had agreed that a postponement is appropriate given the grievances being aired during the consultations. Diallo said the junta is supporting this process, proof that it has the desire to meet with socio-political actors and discuss the return to civilian rule.²¹

Thomas Boni Yayi, the ECOWAS-appointed mediator for Guinea, also met with the facilitators while in Guinea on the ECOWAS mission between 17 and 21 October. Yayi welcomed their appointment and said they would play an important role in the dialogue but did not go as far as encouraging opposition parties to participate.²²

¹⁵ Africa Guinee, 24 Oct 2022

¹⁶ Vision Guinee, 21 Oct 2022

¹⁷ Vision Guinee, 17 Oct 2022

¹⁸ Media Guinee, 18 Oct 2022

¹⁹ Vision Guinee, 19 Oct 2022

²⁰ Media Guinee, 21 Oct 2022

²¹ Vision Guinee, 19 Oct 2022

²² Media Guinee, 21 Oct 2022

Planner

2023 **Conakry (Guinea) Guinea Investment Forum;**

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

Chronology

25 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinea*. **Forum des Forces Sociales de Guinée (FFSG)** announces it is planning a campaign of civil disobedience against the ruling **Comité national du rassemblement et du développement (CNRD)**;

25 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinea*. Leader of the ruling military junta, Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya** confirms he will not be a candidate in the presidential elections when they are organised;

24 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee Matin*. Workers from **Compagnie des Bauxites et d'Alumina de Diandian (COBAD)**, owned by Russia-headquartered **Rusal**, voice concerns over their poor living and working conditions at the **Boké** mine;

24 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Lieutenant **Aboubacar Sidiki Diakite**, a former aid of former military ruler, **Moussa Fafis Camara**, tells a court that Camara planned the 2009 stadium massacre that left 150 people dead;

19 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Afrik21.com*. **Conseil des ministres** approves the resumption of logging after a ban was implemented a year ago to end uncontrolled felling causing massive deforestation;

17 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Opposition coalition **Front National pour la Défense de la Constitution (FNDC)** announces planned peaceful protests on 20 and 26 October, as the coalition continues to defy the ruling military junta;

16 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee News*. A man is arrested at **Conakry** airport with 7 kg of cocaine, ten days after a similar arrest; both individuals were leaving for **Morocco**, raising concerns that Guinea is a new drug trafficking hub;

13 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Agence Ecofin*. Telecommunications minister **Ousmane Gaoual Diallo** announces that **Guinée Télécom** will return to the Guinean telecommunications market in the first half of 2023 after its predecessor, **SOTELGUI**, went bankrupt in 2012;

12 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinea*. Government denies that it has asked **France** for military assistance in securing its borders;

11 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Intelligence*. Conglomerate group subsidiary **Metalcorp** tries to postpone a €70m (\$68m) bonded debt by blaming **West African** sanctions on **Guinea**;

10 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinea*. **European Union** ambassador to **Guinea**, **Romuald Pichard**, asks foreign affairs minister **Morissanda Kouyaté** to support the **United Nations** resolution condemning **Russia's** invasion of **Ukraine**;

7 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Media Guinee*. Opposition group **Front national pour la défense de la constitution (FNDC)** announces demonstrations will be held on 18 October in **Conakry** and on 26 October throughout the country;

8 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. **Guinea's** government reportedly asks **France** for military assistance to secure its border with **Mali** amid fears of a jihadist infiltration;

7 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Foreign affairs minister **Morissanda Kouyaté** meets with **Anne Dudte**, first counsellor for the **United States (US)** embassy in **Guinea**, who reaffirms that the US is a '*strong partner*' for Guinea;

3 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *AFP*. Opposition forces spurn the ruling junta's offer of dialogue, accusing it of authoritarian rule and "unacceptable" violations of fundamental rights;

1 Oct 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. **Guinea** will no longer host the **2025 Africa Cup of Nations** after admitting it is not ready to host the tournament;

30 Sep 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinea*. Leader of the ruling military junta, Colonel **Mamadi Doumbouya**, orders ministers to refrain from commenting on the trial related to the events of 28 September 2009;

29 Sep 2022 **New York (United States)** *Vision Guinea*. **Mali** declares the sanctions imposed on **Guinea** by the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** illegal, illegitimate and inhumane, saying it will support Guinea if it requires it;

28 Sep 2022 **Conakry (Guinea)** *AFP*. Former president **Moussa Dadis Camara** and several other co-defendants are sent to prison after briefly appearing in court for charges related to the 28 September 2009 massacre;

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