

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Guinea Monthly Briefing April 2021

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#### Guinea Summary 23 April 2021

*The United States Department of State and 32 European Union members of parliament, in separate reports, accuse the Guinean government of carrying out human rights violations against civil society and opposition activists, allegations that Guinean authorities deny. Prime minister Ibrahima Kassory Fofana delivers Guinea's general policy speech outlining the country's economic, political and social agenda for 2021. The government prioritises economic transformation, agricultural reform and human capital development through the improvement of the education sector. Guinea signs a \$100m financing agreement with the World Bank which aims to support agricultural development through the *Projet de Développement de l'Agriculture Commerciale en Guinée (PDACG)* (commercial agriculture development project in Guinea). President Alpha Condé (2010-present) announces Guinea will embark on the production of 25 million tonnes of chicken per year as part of efforts to diversify economic activity, create jobs and improve food security. The government states it has administered 109,296 vaccines in the month since its Covid-19 vaccination campaign began.*

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#### Guinea faces human rights complaints from several quarters

Guinea is increasingly facing pressure from international actors about its human rights record with **European Union (EU)** lawmakers<sup>1</sup> and the **United States (US) Department of State**<sup>2</sup> accusing the government of carrying out human rights violations. In its annual report, released on 30 March, the State Department's **Bureau of Democracy, Human rights and Labor** alleges that Guinean authorities have carried out various forms of abuse against detainees who were mostly arrested in connection with protests against the 2020 March constitutional referendum and October presidential elections.<sup>3</sup> The report accuses security forces of torturing arrested individuals in order to extract confessions,<sup>4</sup> despite the prohibition against torture in Guinea's new constitution. The report alleges prison overcrowding and denial of access to judicial assistance to detained individuals, and accuses Guinean security officials of sexually abusing women and children in detention.<sup>5</sup> Other allegations of civil liberty abuse include assassinations and extra-judicial killings by the government.<sup>6</sup> The judiciary is accused of not being independent amid claims that freedom of expression and the press are under threat.<sup>7</sup> The Department of State called on the Guinean government to investigate the claims of rights abuses and ensure free and fair trials for those arrested.<sup>8</sup>

In response to the allegations, foreign minister **Khalil Kaba** met with US Embassy chargé d'affaires **Steve Koutis** in a closed-door meeting in **Conakry** on 2 April.<sup>9</sup> Local media reports suggest that Kaba described the report as "*biased*".<sup>10</sup> Prime minister **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** also expressed reservations about the content of the report, claiming it was an unfair assessment of the state of

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<sup>1</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>2</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>3</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>4</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>5</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>6</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>7</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>8</sup> US Department of State, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>9</sup> Africa Guinée, 3 Apr 2021

<sup>10</sup> Africa Guinée, 3 Apr 2021

democracy in Guinea.<sup>11</sup> Responding to the accusations that prisoners do not have sufficient access to judicial assistance, a justice ministry statement assured that “*rights of defendants are scrupulously defended*”.<sup>12</sup> During a 5 April interview with France-based **Radio France Internationale (RFI)**, information and communication minister **Amara Somparé** similarly refuted the US allegations. Somparé questioned whether the US authorities had the necessary information to formulate an assessment of Guinea’s human rights situation.<sup>13</sup> Somparé defended the independence of Guinea’s judiciary and asked that the justice system be allowed to do its job:

*“We have read the report. Unfortunately, it contains a lot of inaccuracies.”*<sup>14</sup>

In contrast to the opinions of government officials, **Abdourahmane Soro**, coordinator of the civil society and opposition consortium **Front National Pour La Défense De La Constitution (FNDC)**, whose members make up a large proportion of arrested individuals, welcomed the State Department’s report.<sup>15</sup> Soro described the publication as “*objective*” and called on the US government to impose targeted sanctions on government officials accused of human rights violations, such as visa bans, as well as economic and financial sanctions.<sup>16</sup>

European Union officials soon followed suit in criticising Guinea’s human rights situation. In a letter to EU High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy **Josep Borrel** dated 15 April, 32 EU MPs asked Borrel to review EU aid to Guinea due to the deterioration of its human rights situation.<sup>17</sup> The MPs alleged that an estimated 250 individuals have been killed in politically related violence since President **Alpha Condé** (2010-present) assumed the presidency in 2010.<sup>18</sup> This includes 99 deaths that occurred in the wake of the 22 March constitutional referendum and legislative elections as well as 51 deaths the EU MPs claim occurred during the 18 October presidential elections.<sup>19</sup> The MPs suggested that Condé lost both elections, even though the **Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI)** (independent electoral commission) and the **Cour Constitutionnelle** (constitutional court) validated the results. The EU MPs allege that the government detained 400 individuals in regard to the presidential elections and subjected them to unacceptable conditions during their detention.<sup>20</sup> The MPs decried the fact that high-ranking officials in public administration and the military who were directly or indirectly implicated in the human rights violations still occupy strategic functions within the state apparatus.<sup>21</sup> The government also received criticism for not adhering to calls by the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, **African Union (AU)**, France, the US and local religious bodies, amongst others, to undertake dialogue with civil society and opposition in order to reduce socio-political tensions.<sup>22</sup> Global advocacy organisations including France-based **International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR)**, **United Kingdom-based non-governmental organisation Amnesty International** and US-based **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** have regularly made similar accusations.<sup>23</sup>

Guinea’s deteriorating state of democracy and the noteworthy increase in the violation of human rights have been palpable since October 2019, when protests against the possibility of Condé pursuing a third presidential term began.<sup>24</sup> While the protests have stopped because of anti-demonstration laws imposed in line with **Covid-19** restrictive measures, hundreds of opposition

<sup>11</sup> Africa Guinée, 9 Apr 2021

<sup>12</sup> RFI, 2 Apr 2021

<sup>13</sup> RFI, 5 Apr 2021

<sup>14</sup> RFI, 5 Apr 2021

<sup>15</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 2 Apr 2021

<sup>16</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 2 Apr 2021

<sup>17</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>18</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>19</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>20</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>21</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>22</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>23</sup> Vision Guinée, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>24</sup> ARC Guinea analyst

supporters have been arrested from March 2020, following the controversial constitutional referendum, until the October-November electoral period, and remain in detention.<sup>25</sup> Opposition **Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG)** president **Cellou Dalein Diallo** has twice been refused permission to travel outside of Guinea since the start of 2020 and Guinean authorities have confiscated his passport.<sup>26</sup> His wife, **Halimatou Diallo**, has been subjected to similar treatment, while the government has closed the UFDG headquarters in Conakry since 19 October, after the party prematurely declared itself winner of presidential elections.<sup>27</sup> In March, a team of French lawyers representing imprisoned leaders of the FNDC lodged a complaint against the state of Guinea at the **ECOWAS Court of Justice in Abuja (Nigeria)** for the alleged violation of their clients' rights (see *ARC Briefing Guinea March 2021*).<sup>28</sup>

Following his re-election in October, Condé pledged to de-escalate the socio-political climate and “govern differently”, raising hopes that he would establish rapprochement with the opposition (see *ARC Briefing Guinea December 2020*). Recent developments suggest otherwise. Nevertheless, the international community appears to be taking greater cognisance of the current state of affairs in Guinea. The EU announced on 25 March the suspension of its support for the **Réforme du Secteur de Sécurité (PARSS)** (security sector reform programme) after discovering that one of the state security units that was a beneficiary of the programme, the **Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention (BRI)**, had committed human rights violations against Guinean citizens.<sup>29</sup> During a 15 April council of ministers meeting, investment and public-private partnership (PPP) minister **Gabriel Curtis** confirmed that the US-based **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** had declared Guinea ineligible to be a beneficiary in 2021.<sup>30</sup> The MCC is a bilateral aid programme from which countries may benefit if they have made progress in regard to various domains of governance.<sup>31</sup> Curtis said Guinea met nine of the 20 MCC indicators, but failed to make the grade due to shortcomings in the area of promoting democratic rights.<sup>32</sup>

### Kassory Fofana presents Guinea's national policy agenda

Prime minister **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** delivered Guinea's general policy speech on 7 April, outlining Guinea's economic, political and social agenda for the year.<sup>33</sup> Kassory Fofana said the government's priorities in 2021 are economic transformation, agricultural reform and human capital development through the improvement of the education sector. Kassory Fofana highlighted the resilience of Guinea's economy, citing the 5.2% gross domestic product (GDP) economic growth attained in 2020, despite the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>34</sup> Growth performance was in line with Guinea's trajectory since 2016, with 10.4% average growth from 2016-2017, and 6% until 2019.<sup>35</sup>

Kassory outlined the government's efforts to improve Guinean livelihoods. Access to electricity improved from 18.5% of the population to 42% in 2019, while primary school enrolment increased from 58% in 2012 to 65% 2019.<sup>36</sup> Kassory Fofana credited Guinea's national development agenda, the **Plan National de Développement Economique et Social (PNDES)** (2016-2020) (national economic and social development plan), with the results achieved, adding that the government was in the process of formulating the next PNDES.<sup>37</sup> Kassory Fofana said the government aimed to lift 6 million

<sup>25</sup> Human Rights Watch, 17 Mar 2021

<sup>26</sup> Jeune Afrique, 21 Apr 2021

<sup>27</sup> Jeune Afrique, 21 Apr 2021

<sup>28</sup> Africa Guinée, 13 Mar 2021

<sup>29</sup> Africa Guinée, 25 Mar 2021

<sup>30</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>31</sup> MCC.gov

<sup>32</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 15 Apr 2021

<sup>33</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>34</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>35</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>36</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>37</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

Guineans out of extreme poverty by 2025 through the establishment of a cash transfer coordinated by the **Agence Nationale d'Inclusion Economique et Sociale (ANIES)** (national agency for economic and social inclusion).<sup>38</sup>

Turning to mining, Kassory Fofana said Guinea had received \$6 billion in mining investment over the last decade and expected to raise an additional \$25 billion by 2026.<sup>39</sup> Bauxite and gold production will be key to mining sector development but Kassory Fofana acknowledged the lack of mineral transformation is a challenge.<sup>40</sup> To address this, Guinea is in the process of setting up industrial transformation activities in order to produce alumina and aluminum, with 10 refinery projects being studied, including three at an advanced stage of development.<sup>41</sup> Kassory Fofana asked mining firms to strike a balance between promoting company activities and ensuring their operations have a positive economic impact on mining companies.<sup>42</sup>

Kassory Fofana also announced the launch of an agricultural reform programme, which aims to promote agro-industrial activities and reduce food imports.<sup>43</sup> The programme will see the creation of 50 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) involved in food and timber transformation activities, while the government will provide inputs, technical support and access to funding to small-scale farmers in order to reduce food imports.<sup>44</sup> Kassory Fofana noted that the enactment of the **African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** will allow Guinea to improve its trade balance by embarking upon industrialisation.<sup>45</sup>

Kassory Fofana outlined plans to improve the education sector, with universal access to education from preschool to secondary level a government priority.<sup>46</sup> The government will establish teacher training programmes and new educational infrastructure while revising and strengthening the technical education curriculum.<sup>47</sup> More science and innovation topics will be taught at university level and in the medium term, 20% of Guinea's national budget will be allocated towards education.<sup>48</sup> Kassory Fofana said the improvement of Guinea's education and training system will improve its human capital base and significantly transform the country.<sup>49</sup>

MPs voted on the agenda at the conclusion of the general policy speech.<sup>50</sup> A strong majority of MPs – 108 out of 114 – validated the policy, while only opposition **Union des Forces Démocratiques (UFD)** MP **Mamadou Bah** argued that the plan as presented would not improve Guineans' livelihoods due to the current level of government corruption.<sup>51</sup> However, ruling **Rassemblement des Peuples Guinéens Arc-en-Ciel (RPG arc-en-ciel)** MP **Semouka Bérété** said the prime minister had "succeeded in convincing us".<sup>52</sup>

The national policy agenda is in line with the priorities that President Condé said would be the pillars of his six-year mandate and addresses both short and medium-term goals (see *ARC Briefing Guinea February 2021*). These include emphasis on improving access to education and job creation opportunities. The government has also acknowledged the need for greater efforts to tackle poverty but will have to work hard to allay opposition misgivings about its ability to effectively carry out the policies.

<sup>38</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>39</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>40</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>41</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>42</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>43</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>44</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>45</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>46</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>47</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>48</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>49</sup> GuinéeNews.org, 7 Apr 2021

<sup>50</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>51</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

<sup>52</sup> Jeune Afrique, 8 Apr 2021

## World Bank offers \$100m to promote commercial agriculture

Economy and finance minister **Mamadi Camara** signed a \$100m loan agreement with the **World Bank** on 29 March, which aims to support agricultural development through the **Projet de Développement de l'Agriculture Commerciale en Guinée (PDACG)** (commercial agriculture development project in Guinea).<sup>53</sup> Camara said the objective of the project is to increase the number of farmers and rural households having jobs or benefitting from the value chains of commercial agriculture.<sup>54</sup> World Bank Guinea representative **Nestor Koffi** said the PDACG intends to support the diversification of Guinea's economy, which is still highly dependent on the mining sector.<sup>55</sup> Koffi noted that diversification of Guinea's economy is largely contingent on the development of the agriculture sector, as well as its ability to evolve from being predominantly subsistence in nature to commercial.<sup>56</sup>

The PDACG will entail the construction of agro-industrial infrastructure, rural roads, wholesale markets, logistics platforms, laboratories and warehouses, as well as the establishment of commercial partnerships, diversifying export markets and improving the business climate for agriculture related activities.<sup>57</sup> The programme will be carried out in two phases over the course of four years. Phase one will see the development of value chains for products such as cashew nuts, *fonio*, fruit and vegetables, as well as livestock. The PDACG aims to create 24,000 jobs.<sup>58</sup>

In line with the PDACG's goals, President Condé announced on 13 April that Guinea will embark on the production of 25 million tonnes of chicken per year as part of its efforts to diversify economic activity, create jobs and improve food security.<sup>59</sup> Condé said he hoped that Guineans will consume what the country produces in order to become less reliant on imports, noting that Guinea imports 25 million tonnes of chicken annually.<sup>60</sup> Condé said the government will partner with the **Economic Community of West African States Investment and Development Bank (EIDB)** to undertake the project, with the EIDB contributing 70% of the funds and Guinea the remaining 30%. The estimated cost of the project was not stipulated.<sup>61</sup> The first phase of the initiative will be carried out in Conakry and entail supporting chicken production and distribution as well as the creation of slaughterhouses.<sup>62</sup>

Condé outlined the potential advantages of the project, suggesting it will create jobs, especially for women and the youth, and encourage entrepreneurship.<sup>63</sup> Condé said he hoped the initiative will lead to a drop in chicken prices from the current figure of GNF40,000 (\$4) to GNF20,000 (\$2) per unit.<sup>64</sup> Condé also noted the possibility of the government introducing a ban on chicken imports, similar to that which **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Senegal** have implemented, in order to promote chicken production.<sup>65</sup>

Although Guinea's economy derives most of its exports and revenue from mining activities, the agriculture sector employs the largest number of people and has recently attracted interest from private sector investors and multilateral development partners.<sup>66</sup> During the first edition of the **Guinea Investment Forum (GUIF)** from 24-26 February, investors committed \$20.2m to 10 agribusiness projects (see *ARC Briefing Guinea March 2021*).<sup>67</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Financial Afrik, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>54</sup> Commodafrica, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>55</sup> Financial Afrik, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>56</sup> Financial Afrik, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>57</sup> Commodafrica, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>58</sup> Financial Afrik, 30 Mar 2021

<sup>59</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>60</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>61</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>62</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>63</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>64</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>65</sup> Vision Guinée, 14 Apr 2021

<sup>66</sup> ARC Guinea analyst

<sup>67</sup> Agence Ecofin, 28 Feb 2021

## Guinea continues Covid-19 vaccine rollout

The first phase of Guinea's Covid-19 vaccine rollout is currently underway. The government reports that 109,296 vaccine doses have been administered in the month since the rollout began.<sup>68</sup> Guinea has received various doses of the vaccine, including a consignment of 194,400 doses of the UK-manufactured **AstraZeneca/Oxford** vaccine on 11 April and 300,000 doses of the **China**-manufactured **Sinovac** vaccine on 18 April.<sup>69</sup> Through the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**-coordinated **Covax** vaccine procurement initiative, Guinea received 156,000 syringes, donated by the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** on 12 March.<sup>70</sup> Guinea received 200,000 doses of the **China**-manufactured **Sinopharm** vaccine in early March as a donation that **China** pledged in February.<sup>71</sup> Guinea also received a batch of 20,000 doses of **Russia's Sputnik V** vaccine on 6 March.<sup>72</sup>

Agence Nationale d'Inclusion Economique et Sociale (ANIES) (national agency for economic and social inclusion) director **Sakoba Keita** said the government aims to vaccinate 20% of its population of 12.7 million, which will require 2.4 million doses.<sup>73</sup> The first phase targets frontline healthcare workers, people above 60 years of age and those with underlying health conditions.<sup>74</sup> Health minister **Rémy Lemah** has called on Guineans to get vaccinated, with assurances that the vaccines are safe.<sup>75</sup>

Guinea is currently averaging 93 Covid-19 infections per day.<sup>76</sup> Since confirming its first Covid-19 case on 12 March 2020, at the time of writing Guinea had recorded 21,803 positive cases, 19,107 recoveries, and 139 Covid-19 deaths.<sup>77</sup> The national health state of emergency is still in place.<sup>78</sup>

## Planner

Jul 2021 **Montpellier (France)** France-Afrique Summit

(Date TBA due to Covid-19) **Conakry (Guinea)** Transform Africa Conference;

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

2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** Start of exploitation at the **Simandou** iron ore project;

## Chronology

22 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. Newly appointed Turkish ambassador to Guinea, Volkan Türk Vural, has promised to improve economic cooperation between the two countries;

22 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. Guinea has just benefited from a donation of a financial envelope of €30m (\$36.2m), from **The Netherlands**, within the framework of the conventions of the DRIVE program (Development Related Infrastructure Investment Vehicle);

19 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Guinea has received 300,000 doses of the **China**-manufactured **Sinovac** vaccine;

16 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. Investment and public-private partnerships (PPP) minister **Gabriel Curtis** confirms the **United States** government has declared Guinea ineligible for the **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** programme as a result of the country's ongoing violation of human rights;

<sup>68</sup> Reuters, 19 Apr 2021

<sup>69</sup> UNICEF, 11 Apr 2021; Reuters, 19 Apr 2021

<sup>70</sup> UNICEF, 11 Apr 2021

<sup>71</sup> AA, 3 Mar 2021; Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>72</sup> Russian Embassy in Guinea, 6 Mar 2021

<sup>73</sup> AA, 3 Mar 2021

<sup>74</sup> UNICEF, 11 Apr 2021

<sup>75</sup> UNICEF, 11 Apr 2021

<sup>76</sup> Reuters, 19 Apr 2021

<sup>77</sup> Worldmeter, 21 Apr 2021

<sup>78</sup> Reuters, 19 Apr 2021

15 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. Thirty **European Parliament** MPs call on **Josep Borrel**, the **European Union (EU)** high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, to review EU aid to Guinea due to the deterioration of the human rights situation in Guinea since the controversial March 2020 referendum;

14 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. President **Alpha Condé** says Guinea will launch a project to produce 25 million tonnes of chicken per year, which will receive financial support from the **Banque d'Investissement et du Développement de la Cedeao (BIDC)**;

11 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. Guinea has received a consignment of 194,400 doses of the **United Kingdom**-manufactured **Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19** vaccine, through the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**-facilitated **Covax** vaccine procurement initiative;

7 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. **Franco**-Guinean business tycoon **Fadi Wazni**, chairman of **United Mining Supply (UMS)** and bauxite producer **Société Minière de Boké (SMB)**, says there will be no delays in the mining projects he is undertaking in Guinea;

7 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. Prime minister **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** declared that, the commencement of operations for **Guinea Airlines**, which was created in 2017 and in which the government holds 20% shares, has been postponed till further;

7 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. Prime minister **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** presents the government's general policy agenda to members of the **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly);

6 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. Guinea has received €22m (\$26.1m) in debt relief following a payment from the **European Union** to the **International Monetary Fund's** Disaster Assistance and Response Trust Fund (ARC Trust Fund);

2 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** commission president **Jean-Claude Brou** encourages President **Alpha Condé** to reopen the **Guinea-Senegal** border, which has been closed since November;

1 Apr 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *GuinéeNews.org*. The **United States (US) Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor** accuses Guinean judicial police officers of torturing detainees in order to extract confessions;

31 Mar 2021 **Washington D.C (United States)** *World Bank*. The **World Bank's** bi-annual report, *Africa Pulse*, identifies **Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea** and **Niger** as the three **African** countries that will attain economic growth above 6% in 2021;

30 Mar 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Financial Afrik*. **World Bank** signs \$100m agreement to finance the **Projet de Développement de l'Agriculture Commerciale en Guinée (PDACG)** (commercial agriculture development project in Guinea);

25 Mar 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa Guinée*. The **European Union (EU)** has suspended security sector reform to the Guinean government in the wake of alleged human rights abuses against opposition supporters by agents trained by EU-sponsored programmes;

25 Mar 2021 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinée*. President **Alpha Condé** instructs cabinet ministers to cease awarding over-the-counter contracts, referred to as "*gré à gré*";

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