

AMNESTY

INTERNATIONAL

REPORT 2022/23

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
HUMAN RIGHTS



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RIGHT TO TRUTH, JUSTICE AND REPARATION

On 4 May the General Prosecutor of the Conakry Court of Appeal announced legal proceedings against former president Alpha Condé and 26 other people who held power during his presidency, for various alleged acts including “wilful attacks on human life, in particular murder, assassination and complicity in murder and assassination”, committed in the context of the referendum and presidential elections in 2020.

On 28 September, the trial of those accused of the 28 September 2009 massacre, during which more than 150 demonstrators were killed and more than 100 women were victims of sexual violence, finally opened. As a consequence, the Prosecutor of the ICC closed its 13-year preliminary examination into Guinea.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Victims of rape continued to experience lack of protection, access to and availability of medical care, sexual and reproductive health services, psychological support and legal and social support. Despite frequent awareness-raising campaigns, the government failed to prevent the crime, while “socio-cultural pressures” continued to weigh heavily on victims and their families, who were often forced into silence, extrajudicial settlements in cases of rape or stigmatization.²

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The Guinean authorities and NGOs reported serious pollution and risks of environmental damage and human rights violations as a result of mining activities in several regions.

On 31 January, Prime Minister Béavogui visited the town of Fria, Kindia region, to assess the socio-economic situation of workers and the reported pollution in the town, where the Russian bauxite mining company Rusal was operating. Following the visit, the prime minister instructed Rusal’s management to comply with international pollution control standards by 1 May.

1. “Guinea: Ban on demonstrations ‘until election campaign periods’”, 18 May (French only)
2. *Guinea: Shame Must Change Sides: Ensuring Rights and Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Guinea*, 27 September

HAITI

Republic of Haiti

Head of state and government: **Ariel Henry (acting)**

Some 4.5 million Haitians did not have enough to eat as fuel prices rose, and gang violence displaced thousands. Impunity remained entrenched for massacres, kidnappings and sexual violence. Haitians continued to flee to countries in Latin America and the USA in search of safety but received limited access to international protection and faced anti-Black discrimination, in some cases amounting to race-based torture.

BACKGROUND

Gang violence caused widespread insecurity, led to a kidnapping crisis and left thousands internally displaced.

In September, the UN ordered the evacuation of non-essential staff from Haiti.

In October, after gangs were reported to be blocking access to fuel, the UN Security Council approved sanctions targeting gang leaders, including an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against those deemed to be engaging in or supporting criminal activity and violence.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Thousands of people protested over food scarcity and fuel shortages throughout the year, with protests escalating in September after the prime minister announced fuel price hikes.

By September, 4.5 million people, more than 40% of the population, were facing crisis or emergency hunger levels, according to the World Food Programme.

By late October, after several years with no reported cases, 1,700 suspected cases of

cholera, a disease which killed many thousands of Haitians following the 2010 earthquake, were detected, half among children, according to UNICEF.

IMPUNITY AND VIOLENCE

Impunity for massacres, kidnappings and sexual violence remained chronic.

From January to the end of June, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, documented 934 killings, 684 injuries and 680 kidnappings across the capital, Port-au-Prince. In just five days in July, at least 234 people were killed or injured in gang-related violence in the city's Cité Soleil area, also according to OHCHR.

In late April, a territorial dispute between gangs left 188 people dead in Port-au-Prince. According to OHCHR, the battle involved extreme forms of violence including "beheadings, chopping and burning of bodies, [and] the killing of minors accused of being informants for a rival gang", as well as the use of sexual violence, including gang rape of children as young as 10, to "terrorize and punish people living in areas controlled by rival gangs."

Human rights defenders and journalists also remained at risk. In early September, two journalists reporting in Cité Soleil were killed and their bodies burned, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

In October, OHCHR issued a report on the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as a weapon by gangs to instil fear and expand their area of influence. It concluded: "Women, girls, boys, and men have been affected. LGBTI+ persons, traditionally marginalized and rejected within the Haitian society, have also been particularly targeted".

REFUGEES' AND MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

As the human rights and humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate rapidly, Haitian asylum seekers resorted to fleeing the island by boat, leading to drownings at sea.

Between September 2021 and May 2022, the USA expelled more than 25,000 Haitians, making significant use of Title 42, an order

that allows authorities to summarily expel migrants and asylum seekers to their home country or most recent transit country, in violation of national and international law.

The US authorities subjected Haitian asylum seekers to arbitrary detention and discriminatory and humiliating ill-treatment that amounted to race-based torture.¹

The ill-treatment Haitians experienced in US detention facilities included lack of access to sufficient food, healthcare, information, interpreters and lawyers. Haitian asylum seekers also reported that they were returned to Haiti by plane in handcuffs and shackles, causing severe psychological pain and suffering due to its association with slavery and criminality, in violation of international human rights law which absolutely prohibits torture and other ill-treatment.

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1. USA: "They Did Not Treat Us Like People": Race and Migration-related Torture and Other Ill-treatment of Haitians Seeking Safety in the USA, 22 September

HONDURAS

Republic of Honduras

Head of state and government: **Xiomara Castro**
(replaced **Juan Orlando Hernández** in January)

Human rights defenders faced high levels of violence. Authorities failed to provide sufficient funding for public health. Illegal logging continued to threaten the environment. Authorities failed to bring to justice members of the security forces suspected of criminal responsibility for excessive use of force against protesters in 2017.

BACKGROUND

Thousands left the country due to violence, impunity, climate change, poverty and inequality. Former president Juan Orlando Hernández was extradited to the USA on drug trafficking charges in April.

Congress derogated the law on Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE),