



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Guinea – July to December 2023

31 December 2023

10 July 2023

Continuation of court proceedings on the stadium massacre

On 10.07.23, the trial on the Conakry stadium massacre of 28.09.09 (cf. BN of 10.10.22), which has been ongoing since September 2022, is to be continued after a long delay. The trial had been interrupted since 24.05.23 by two strikes. As reported, first the defendants' defence lawyers had successfully demanded better working conditions, including legal aid, from the Ministry of Justice. Subsequently, a strike by prison staff prevented the defendants from being brought before the court. In June 2023, HRW had expressed concern about the trial's budgetary problems and called on Guinea's international partners, in particular the UN, the EU and the USA, to provide support.

11 September 2023

Deaths during protests mark the second anniversary of the military coup

The association of opposition groups and civil society groups calling itself "Forces vives" had called for peaceful protests on 05.09.23, two years after the ruling military junta had seized power. According to media reports, the first clashes with the security forces took place in Conakry on the evening of 04.09.23. More followed on 05.09.23. According to Forces vives, four young men between the ages of 15 and 18 were killed; numerous others suffered gunshot wounds at the hands of security forces. Since June 2022, security forces had killed a total of 30 people during protests, 108 had been injured by firearms and hundreds had been arrested, Forces vives reported afterwards. On 13.05.22, the junta had pronounced a general ban for protests in public spaces (cf. BN of 16.05.22).

23 October 2023

Protest against censorship: Media representatives detained

13 media representatives were detained in Kaloum/Conakry on 16.10.23 after following a call to protest by the Private Press Union of Guinea (SPPG). The protest was directed in particular against the blocking of access to the Guinée Matin news site, which has been in force since August 2023. The security forces reportedly used tear gas to break up the protest. While all 13 detainees were released again on the same evening, criminal investigations have been initiated against them for taking part in an illegal demonstration.

ECOWAS court calls for release of former prime minister

It was reported in the media on 16.10.23 that the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is calling for the release of Ibrahima Kassory Fofana, the last prime minister from the rule of ex-president Alpha Condé. The court's decision also applies to the former defence minister and the former environment minister, according to the lawyers of the parties concerned. The court apparently deems the principle

of the presumption of innocence to have been breached. Fofana and other former members of the government were taken into custody on charges such as unlawful enrichment and embezzlement. Their conditional release was subsequently made possible by a corresponding court order, but this was not acted upon (cf. BN of 11.04., 25.04., 07.11. and 06.12.22).

06 November 2023

Alleged escape attempt by ex-junta chief Camara

According to reports in the media, ex-junta chief Moussa Dadis Camara, who faces charges relating to the stadium massacre in 2009, attempted to escape from prison in the capital, Conakry, on 04.11.23. Heavily armed men reportedly stormed the prison in the morning and freed Camara along with three other inmates. It is claimed that the alleged escape attempt actually failed, however. According to information from the army, all the individuals involved are back in prison in Conakry. Camara's lawyers are referring the incident as a suspected case of abduction, however. The trial of Camara and nine other defendants began in September 2022 (cf. BN of 10.10.22). Camara has been held in custody ever since.

13 November 2023

Several people killed in prison breakout

It has been reported in the media that at least nine people were killed in the prison breakout on 04.11.23 in which ex-junta chief Moussa Dadis Camara allegedly attempted to escape together with Moussa Tiegboro, Blaise Goumou and Claude Pivi (cf. BN of 06.11.23). There are unconfirmed reports that many more people were killed when fighting broke out between two rival army units in the course of the attempt to free the prisoners.

Of the four individuals who were freed in the violent attack, all except Claude Pivi are said to have been recaptured and returned to prison. Tiegboro, Goumou and Pivi were formerly members of the military when Camara was in power from 2008 to 2009. All four face charges in the trial over the stadium massacre of 2009 (cf. BN of 10.10.22 and 10.07.23) and are said to have been held in a joint prison cell.

According to the present military government, Verni Pivi, the son of Claude Pivi, is allegedly responsible for the prison breakout. 58 officers, soldiers and prison wardens were dismissed on 06.11.23. After knowledge of the prison breakout spread, road blocks were set up in Guinea's capital, Conakry, and security measures were stepped up. Members of the military have been accused of violence, intimidation and making unlawful arrests in the search for Pivi. On 08.11.23 the Guinean authorities offered a reward for Pivi's capture.