

## Summary

In late 2023, Conakry witnessed a surge in civil unrest marked by protests, clashes, and a crackdown on the press. Recurrent power outages and the killing of students fueled public frustration, leading to violent demonstrations. The recent escalation poses significant risks for travelers and residents, with potential disruptions to transportation and businesses, and a heightened likelihood of civil unrest. Coupled with the ongoing clashes, the government's repression on the press raises further concerns about growing opposition and the overall stability of the country.

## Recent events and developments

In late November, Conakry residents expressed their frustration over recurrent power outages with protests escalating into violence on November 27 at the T8 axis of Matoto, Conakry. Demonstrators targeted a school and clashed with the police, resulting in a student's fatal shooting. On November 29, subsequent protests in Wanindara neighborhood saw road blockades and clashes with the riot police following the death of a student by law enforcement. The unrest continued into the Kaporo Rails district on November 30, where clashes with the gendarmerie broke out during an eviction operation. Transitioning into December, a student was killed by the police on December 1, leading to clashes in various districts. On December 4, confrontations persisted in Nassouroulaye, Bomboly and Koloma, while December 5 and 6 witnessed student protests in Hamadallaye and Cosa, resulting in one fatality and another injury amid clashes with police and gendarmes. On another note, on December 10, the Union of Press Professionals of Guinea announced on social media that it would observe a "press-free day" on the following day due to HAC's (High Authority for Communication) ban of four popular radio and television channels, citing "national security" concerns. However, other press associations opted to discuss the matter with the authorities.

## Impact assessment

The recent surge in civil unrest in Conakry poses potential risks for travelers and residents alike. With demonstrations and clashes unfolding in the capital throughout late November and early December 2023, an increase in hostility between the public and authorities is expected due to several factors. Firstly, power outages are recurrent, and it is very unlikely that the issue will be resolved on the short-term. Secondly, the public has strongly condemned the police's harsh response against demonstrators. Lastly, the recent crackdown by authorities on the press indicates a likelihood of growing opposition. Consequently, this raises concerns regarding the government's ability to guarantee public welfare amidst increased confrontations. Disruptions to transportation and business activities, especially in areas prone to protests such as the Wanindara suburbs are likely to happen. Authorities often respond by closing roads and suspending public routes to deter the assembly of demonstrators. Moreover, the dynamic nature of protests and authorities' responses could contribute to disruptions in Bambeto area, as well as flight disruptions at Conakry International Airport, further impacting travel plans and accessibility to and from the region.

## Advice from Forth Global

- Advise staff to avoid all politically related rallies and demonstrations.
- Continuously monitor local news and liaise with local partners to stay up to date with any developments in the region of operations.
- Ensure all employees travelling to Guinea undertake several-days HEAT training prior to deployment.

## Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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