

Summary

Guinea finds itself in a troubling time as mass protests take place throughout the country. The military junta has dissolved the government without explanation, and media censorship, high food prices, and a demonstration ban have prompted The National Confederation of Workers of Guinea (CNTG) to announce a strike. Clashes between protestors and law enforcement have taken place and several protestors have died in the ensuing chaos. Roads are being blocked and the situation is further exacerbated by blackouts and an internet outage.

Recent events and developments

The past couple of weeks have been a turbulent time for Guinea. On the 19th of February, the military junta dissolved the transitional government which was in place since July 2022. No justification was provided for this action. Media censorship and a general ban on protests and demonstrations are also in effect in the country since the junta took power in 2021. Nevertheless, mass protests are taking place throughout the country, including the capital Conakry, and cities such as Kindia since February 26 as The National Confederation of Workers of Guinea (CNTG) has announced a general indefinite strike. The protestors demanded the lifting of media restrictions, cost reduction of basic goods, and the release of a prominent media activist who was arrested in January. Although the media activist was released, the strike has paralyzed the country, as many businesses, organizations, and banks were closed down and hospital services were reduced. In Conakry, 2 youths were killed and 12 wounded during protests, and roads were blocked on February 27. Further clashes were reported on March 7. More protests and riots are ongoing in towns further inland and at mining sites near the border with Mali. The country also suffers from power outages which fuel the ongoing protests. Additionally, Guinea has been impacted by widespread internet blackouts across West and Central Africa as subsea internet cables suffered technical failures since March 14.

Impact assessment

The current situation in Guinea is very unstable and the situation might deteriorate further. As long as some of the demands of the protestors are not met, strikes are likely to continue. The protests have the potential to escalate further, resulting in more casualties, injuries, and destruction of property, with security forces almost certainly using teargas and live ammunition against protestors. Such a situation has precedence, as anti-governmental riots have previously broken out on May 11, 2023, resulting in the deaths of 7 people and 32 being injured. Additionally, the protestors have also blocked roads in several neighborhoods in Conakry on March 14, mainly in Dixinn, Hamdallaye, Lambadji, Sonfonia, and Taouyah. Road barricades have also been reported in other towns further inland such as Dubréka, Mamou, and Pita. It is expected that, although some roads will be cleared by law enforcement, the roads will mostly remain blocked by protestors through various barricades as part of the protest, thereby hampering further movement mainly inside larger towns. Furthermore, the current power outages will likely fuel ongoing protests as discontent about the current situation rises. Additionally, blackouts, telecommunication restrictions, and technical internet failure will likely result in further communication being curtailed. With the current protests and parts of government organs being paralyzed as a result, it is expected that the means of communication will be reactivated slowly.

Advice from Forth Global

- Ensure that all employees travelling to Guinea receive a three-day HEAT training prior to deployment.
- Employees should avoid all protests and other public gatherings and plan their movements accordingly.
- Employees should refrain from sharing their opinions on the political situation in Guinea.
- Closely monitor the local and international media for updates on the political situation and potential protests.
- Ensure that employees have different means of long-distance communication.

Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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