



# WEST AFRICAN DEMOCRACY AND RESILIENCE DIGEST

*week 07*



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# West African Democracy and Resilience Digest



To support good governance, democracy and sustainable development in West Africa, The Abuja School of social and Political Thought takes a look at the activities in the region...

**Here is a round up of your bi-weekly Democracy Digest, a quick summary of some important events from West African countries to note today**

## INTRO

# NIGERIA



## National Assembly Withdraws Counter Subversion Bill

Though it has been withdrawn, however, the controversial bill includes several provisions with significant penalties for various offenses:

1. **National Anthem Violations:** Failure to recite the national anthem or pledge can result in a fine of up to N5 million, a prison sentence of five to ten years, or both.
2. **Destruction of National Symbols:** Destroying national symbols or defacing places of worship with intent to incite violence carries a fine of N5 million, a 10-year prison sentence, or both.
3. **Unauthorized Activities:** Engaging in activities like setting up illegal roadblocks or organizing unlawful processions can lead to a fine of N2 million, five years in prison, or both.
4. **Insulting Leadership:** Insulting or defaming leaders may result in a fine of N4 million or a two-year prison sentence.
5. **Threatening National Security:** Activities that threaten Nigeria's peace and security can result in a fine of N5 million, a 10-year prison term, or both.
6. **Illegal Occupation of Spaces:** Forcefully taking over public or private spaces can lead to a fine of N5 million or up to 10 years in prison.
7. **Disregarding Nigerian Sovereignty:** Supporting organizations that disregard Nigeria's sovereignty may result in a fine of N3 million or a four-year prison sentence.
8. **Foreign Interference:** Receiving support from foreign entities against Nigeria's interests can lead to a fine of N15 million or a 20-year prison term.
9. **Undermining National Security:** Activities disrupting community harmony or national security can result in a fine of N3 million, five years in prison, or both.
10. **Disobedience to Authority:** Persistent disobedience to authority can lead to a three-year prison sentence for the first offense and seven years for subsequent offenses, or a fine of N5 million.

# NIGER



## Niger Cuts Diplomatic Ties With Ukraine

Following Mali and Niger's diplomatic break with Kiev, Russia accused Ukraine of creating a "second front" in their fight in Africa by supporting "terrorist groups."

Moscow's assertion came after the military administration of Niger declared on Tuesday that it was severing its connections with Ukraine. Recently, a number of West African states have severed long-standing ties with the West in favour of Russia.

Spokesman for Niger's military government, Amadou Abdramane, stated, "The government of the Republic of Niger learnt with great amazement and deep indignation, the subversive and unacceptable remarks of Mr. Andriy Yusov." Abdramane also declared the diplomatic split. (Source: Aljazeera)



# MALI



## Mali orders Swedish ambassador to leave within 72 hours

Mali's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that due to a "hostile" statement made by a Swedish minister, Sweden's ambassador to Bamako has been called and told to leave the nation within 72 hours.

Mali's action on Friday occurred a few days after Johan Forsell, Sweden's minister for commerce, international development, and cooperation, announced that the country has chosen to gradually stop providing help to Mali.

According to a representative for Forsell, the decision to stop and phase off development aid was made in December, but humanitarian relief will still be provided on Friday.

The diplomatic dispute highlights the larger geopolitical change taking place in the Sahel as three military-led nations—Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger—move away from their long-standing Western allies and towards Russia. (Aljazeera)

# SIERRA LEONE



## Sierra Leone court sentences soldiers to long jail terms for failed coup

24 soldiers were sentenced to long prison terms by a military court in Sierra Leone on Friday for their roles in the unsuccessful attempt to topple President Julius Maada Bio's administration in November 2023.

The judge read down the punishments in court, giving the convicted parties prison terms ranging from 50 to 120 years.

They were among the 27 individuals who were court-martialed for their roles in the attempted coup on November 26, during which gunmen stormed two jails, a military barrack, and other facilities, liberating over 2,200 prisoners and killing over 20.

Following the July incarceration of 11 people, police, and prison officials for their involvement in the uprising, came the sentencing. (Voice of America)

# NIGER



## US hands over major military base

The United States and Niger announced jointly that the Americans have handed over their last West African military base to local authorities. Airbase 201 was in Agadez, the huge province in Niger's north which borders Mali, Algeria, Libya and Chad. It has been an important hub for US counterterrorism activities in the Sahel. A smaller drone base in Niger's capital of Niamey was handed over earlier this month and US army personnel have until 15 September to leave the country.

(Source: The Continental)

# SENEGAL



## Why sail Suez when you can take Dakar

The Grande Dakar, the first ship ever to travel directly from China to Senegal, docked in Dakar on 3 August, opening a new global maritime line that will now operate monthly. Aboard the cargo ship from Shanghai were 5,000 vehicles, 1,300 of which it offloaded in Dakar before continuing to Italy via the Strait of Gibraltar two days later. Dakar port managers who have been working for years to improve port services hailed the journey as "confirming the role of Dakar as a regional hub".

(Source: The Continental)

# WEST AFRICAN DIGEST



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