

Guinea - Post Presidential Election Advisory

On 24 October, the Independent National Electoral Commission (Céni) declared President Alpha Condé the winner of the 18 October presidential election, confirming that the incumbent won an absolute majority in the first round of voting. Provisional results indicate that Condé won 59.49 percent of the vote. Meanwhile opposition candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo received 33.50 percent of the vote, according to the electoral commission, with voter turnout standing at almost 80%.

The presidential election has been surrounded by controversy, with concerns over the fairness of the election and Condé standing for a controversial third consecutive term in office. In recent days, protests over Condé's expected victory occurred in Conakry, with security forces responding harshly. Political tensions around the election further increased after Diallo on 19 October claimed victory ahead of the official results and alleged election fraud. Celebrations by his supporters were suppressed when security forces fired tear gas. Between 18 - 23 October, clashes between security forces and protesters resulted in the death of at least 17 people. On 23 October, Internet and international calls were cut off across the country in anticipation of the election results, according to locals and international observers in Conakry. On Saturday 24 October, protesters hit the streets of Conakry again, with residents of some suburbs reporting that police officers were firing teargas canisters to clear them off. Diallo meanwhile has stated that he would mount a legal challenge to the announced election results.

While Guinea's Election Commission declared the provisional tally, the Constitutional Court must still approve the result, which it is expected to do so in about a week. With his win, President Condé is set to govern Guinea for another six years, and could potentially run for another fourth term after that, enabling him to remain in power until 2032. The country is now bracing for more post-election unrest in the wake of the Election Commission's declaration. Opposition activists have warned that they will keep protesting Condé's third term in office. With Guinea's politics mainly being drawn along ethnic lines - the president's base is among the ethnic Malinke community while Diallo has strong backing amongst the Fulani people - there are concerns that the post-election tensions could transform into inter-communal violence.

President Condé, who has been in power since 2010, pushed through a change in the constitution following a referendum in March 2020 that effectively reset the two-term limit in the constitution, enabling him to run as his party's candidate in the presidential election. Widespread unrest has been witnessed across Guinea since the controversial move was carried out by Condé, with opposition groups claiming that at least 90 people have been killed in recent months.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Protests in the wake of the Céni announcement cannot be ruled, and further electoral-related unrest is expected to take place across the country in the coming days.

Anyone currently in Guinea, including Conakry, is advised to monitor the situation, remain vigilant due to the threat of electoral-related violence, avoid the vicinity of political gatherings and electoral commission offices, avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public or on social media, and heed all directives issued by the local authorities.

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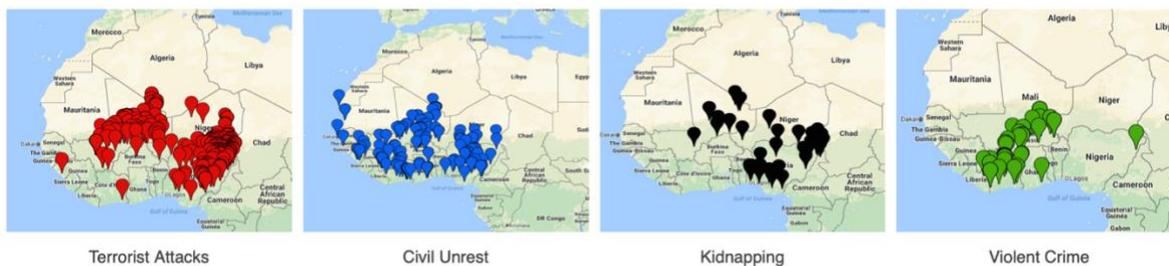
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