

Guinea Holds Presidential Election

Polls closed and vote counting began in Guinea on Sunday evening following a largely peaceful day, with voters deciding whether to give 82-year-old President Alpha Condé a controversial third term in office, which was made possible by a constitutional change in March 2020. Late on Sunday, a spokesman for the national election commission disclosed that the vote was “calm, serene, and done with enthusiasm,” though reports have indicated that a number of people, including one of the candidates, had been turned away at polling stations as there were problems with their voter cards. In the Kolomo Soloprime neighborhood of the capital Conakry, an opposition stronghold, several voters reported that they were unable to vote due to voter-card problems, with some being told that their cards were not valid. One of the candidates in the election, former Foreign Minister Makale Camara, reported that she herself had not received a voter card and thus was unable to vote.

Security was heightened across the country on Sunday. Authorities closed Conakry International Airport until Sunday evening, due to concerns over possible protest activity in the area. Additionally, the Kaloum District in Conakry was closed to traffic while travel to and from Kindia, Kindia prefecture was restricted due to an incident earlier in the week. During the early hours of Friday 16 October, armed men killed the commander of a military base, Col Mamady Condé, in the city of Kindia, located 130 km (80 miles) east of Conakry. Residents of the nearby neighborhood reported hearing gunshots at 0200 local time, with heavy shooting continuing for five hours. Reports later emerged of an attempted army mutiny, and that soldiers had seized weapons to free some of their colleagues who had been detained. Officials however have confirmed that the situation is now under control and that a search is currently underway to locate the soldiers involved in the incident. Authorities have not indicated when the restrictions in Kaloum and Kindia will be lifted. All roads in Guinea were also closed to non-essential traffic on Sunday due to the election.

Incumbent Condé faces 11 challengers, including long-time rival Cellou Dalein Diallo, a former prime minister who came in second to Condé in the 2010 and 2015 elections. After voting on Sunday, Diallo, who is the leader of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) party, disclosed that he was worried that Condé would steal the election with “cunning and violence,” adding “we will not accept (that).” Though no reliable opinion polls have been available, analysts believe that Condé will secure a controversial third term in office after having won overwhelming approval for the new constitution in a referendum back in March. That vote however was boycotted by the opposition. Condé, who has described the constitutional reform which allowed him to run for office again as fair and democratic, has indicated that he needs additional time in order to finish major mining and infrastructure projects in the country.

The electoral commission is due to announce provisional results within the next 72 hours. The Constitutional Court will then have eight days to declare a winner. Presidential candidates need more than 50% of the vote for an outright victory, or there will be a second round on 24 November.

The months leading up to election day have been tense, with Amnesty International reporting that at least fifty people have been killed over the past year, with a further 200 injured, during demonstrations against the new constitution. During the campaigning period, violence erupted numerous times. In the days leading up to the election, thousands of opposition supporters caused heavy traffic disruption across Conakry and clashed with police. In Kankan city, a ruling party stronghold, hundreds of residents were also reported to have fled their homes following clashes with opposition. The vote in Guinea also comes amidst democratic concerns across the wider West African region. On 18 August, the Malian government was overthrown by the army in a move that saw President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta forced out of office. A transitional government has now been put in place, with elections due to take place in 18 months. Ivory Coast is also due to hold its presidential election on 31 October, with months of protests against President Alassane Ouattara’s bid for a third term in office having turned violent.

MS RISK ADVISORY: While Sunday's election was carried out during a tense atmosphere, no major incidents of violence were reported. However there are growing concerns that if Condé wins, which is highly likely, violence will erupt, with opposition leader Diallo already stating that he would not recognize the results if he does not win the vote. Guinea's Security Minister Damantang Camara has urged all candidates to refrain from making irresponsible statements. The electoral commission is due to announce provisional results within the next 72 hours. Depending on the election results, demonstrations could occur in the coming days and weeks and may turn violent with little warning. Protests and rallies could occur in urban centres across Guinea and are likely to be accompanied by a heightened security presence and localized disruptions to transport. Clashes between rival political groups and between demonstrators and security forces are also likely to take place. Anyone currently in Guinea is advised to closely monitor the situation; monitor local media for information on any ongoing demonstrations; remain vigilant due to the threat of electoral-related violence; avoid the vicinity of public gatherings, polling stations and electoral commission offices; refrain from discussing politically sensitive topics in public or on social media; and adhere to all directives issued by the local authorities.

ABOUT MS RISK

MS Risk is a privately-owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

SECURITY CONSULTING

- Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
- Planning and management
- Due diligence and investigations

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Interim security
- Training
- Special assignments

CRISIS RESPONSE

- Crisis management
- Business continuity management
- Hostile operations support to commercial interests

VIRTUAL SECURITY DIRECTOR SERVICE

- For clients lacking a full-time security executive

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

24 HR CONTACT INFORMATION:

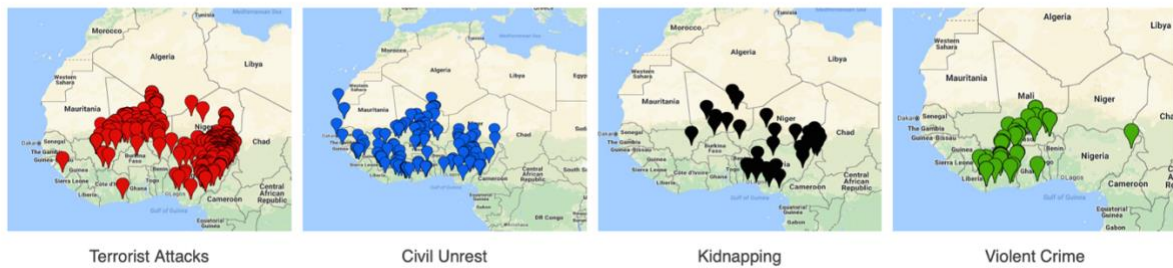
Email: operations@msrisk.com

ABOUT D-RISK LIVE SECURITY ALERTS

The D-Risk Live Security Alert is an African-focused security intelligence service that provides live alerts to your smartphone and computer as they occur.

Alerts are accurately located on an interactive map and are classified as either Terrorist Attacks, Civil Unrest, Kidnappings or Violent Crime.

D-Risk covers...



Intelligence data comes from D-Risk extensive partners including high-level intelligence combined with on the ground information. This database is the most expansive and detailed network available in West Africa and is expanding across Africa daily.

D-risk enables companies and travellers to accurately assess the risks and dangers associated with their businesses, investments and travel plans.

Current Countries of Operation



CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about D-Risk as well as monthly subscription packages

Contact: sales@d-riskalert.com

Website: <https://www.d-riskalert.com>



South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555

www.msrisk.com

Directors

S.J. Bingham, P.A. Crompton, P.O.J. Tracy

Registered in the Isle of Man No. 007435V