



## Summary (Current as of 11:00 BST)

On the evening of Friday 30 September, a statement signed by army captain Ibrahim Traoré and read out on national TV announced the ouster of military leader Lt Col Paul-Henri Damiba. Burkina Faso has now effectively suffered two coup d'états in less than a year. Before dawn on Friday 30 September, shots and explosions were heard in the capital Ouagadougou, with some coming from near the presidential palace and the main military barracks, Baba Sy. After sunrise, the city streets were largely deserted, with soldiers blocking some roads and guarding key strategic points. State television stopped broadcasting and gunfire was again heard during the afternoon hours on Friday. As concerns about a possible coup grew, Lt Col Damiba said that there was a “confused situation” created by “mood swings” amongst some soldiers. While he urged people to remain calm, he also stated that “negotiations were under way to bring back calm and serenity.”

### *Events over the past 24 hrs*

Shortly before 20:00 local time on Friday evening, Traoré's statement announced Lt Col Damiba ouster, citing his inability to deal with the ongoing Islamist insurgency as the reason for his removal. He disclosed that “faced with the deteriorating situation, we tried several times to get Damiba to refocus the transition on the security question,” adding that “Damiba's actions gradually convinced us that his ambitions were diverting away from what we set out to do. We decided this day to remove Damiba.” The statement further indicated that Damiba had rejected proposals by the officers to reorganize the army and instead continued with the military structure that had led to the fall of the previous regime. Back in January, Lt Col Damiba's junta overthrew the elected government, citing at the time a failure to halt Islamist attacks. His administration however has been unable to quell the ongoing violence. In recent weeks, citizens, increasingly growing frustrated with the ongoing insecurity, protested in different parts of the country. On 29 September protesters took to the streets of Bobo Dioulasso, calling for Damiba's administration to resign. On Friday afternoon, protesters took to the streets of Ouagadougou, calling for the removal of Lt Col Damiba.

There has been quick reaction from both regional and international partners. The United States has called for “...a return to calm and restraint by all actors,” with the State Department saying that it was “deeply concerned” by events in the country, as it encouraged its citizens to limit their movements in Burkina Faso. Meanwhile the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has condemned the move, stating that it “reaffirms its unreserved opposition to any taking or maintaining of the power by unconstitutional means.”

### *Traoré and new junta*

The junta now in power in Burkina Faso is led by Captain Ibrahim Traoré, a 30-year-old officer who is minimally known to the population. He is now the president of the Mouvement patriotique pour la sauvegarde et la restauration (MPSR) – the name of the new junta. A Burkinabé security source has reported that the skirmishes that erupted in Ouagadougou on Friday morning were between the Groupement de sécurité et de protection républicaine (GSPR), the loyal presidential guard, and several rebel contingents including the Cobra Unit which is an elite regiment. The latter had already been involved in the 24 January 2022 coup d'état. There are also unconfirmed reports that Lieutenant-Colonel Emmanuel Zoungrana may have somehow been involved in this latest putsch. Back in January, he was arrested just days before the coup for a “project to destabilize institutions.” He remained in prison, with a source reporting that Damiba saw him as a rival. It remains unclear if he was in prison on Friday. However, Colonel Zoungrana has gained popularity amongst Burkinabé troops and with a part of the population. On Friday afternoon, a few hundred people gathered at Place de la Nation in Ouagadougou, where they demanded his release as well as the departure of Damiba. Some were also hostile to France and its government. A similar protest in Bobo Dioulasso on Thursday also saw demonstrators be hostile towards France. A Burkinabé source has reported to French journal *Le Figaro* that “these movements are not spontaneous,” further claiming that “...we can only see



a Russian hand in it.” Colonel Zoungrana is known to be close with former Minister of Defence Chérif Sy, whose ideology is similar to that of the military junta currently in power in neighboring Mali.

## Security Advisory

A 21:00 to 05:00 curfew has been announced. The country’s borders have been closed indefinitely, the Constitution and all political activities have been suspended. Internet and telecommunications are functioning at this time. There has been no official word from the government of Lt Col Damiba and his current whereabouts remain unknown. According to Captain Traoré, national stakeholders will soon be invited to adopt a new transitional charter and designate a new civilian or military president.

### *Terrorism*

While attention is on the military tensions and internal turmoil of a fresh coup d’état, it should not be forgotten that Burkina Faso has a terrorist insurgency underway. This is underscored by the ambush on 28 September which saw a large number of people killed in a convoy of supplies approximately 20 km from Djibo. Given the fluid security situation and political confusion, terrorist attacks will likely have little government security force opposition or response, especially in rural areas. Therefore, all people should adopt a high alert posture and restrict activities that may otherwise present as targets for ambush, kidnap, murder and similar wherever possible, and not lose sight of the ongoing militant risks.

### *Advisory*

The situation in Burkina Faso is likely to remain fluid in the coming days and tensions are likely to remain heightened. Clashes could erupt in the coming days and business and transportation disruptions are likely, particularly in Ouagadougou. **Anyone currently in the capital Ouagadougou is advised to remain extra vigilant, to remain indoors where possible and to follow the advice of the local authorities. Monitor local media to remain abreast of the ongoing situation. Avoid the vicinity of Camp Baba Sy, as well as governmental buildings. In the event that violence does break out, leave the area immediately, if it is safe to do so, and take shelter in a secure, non-governmental building. Abide by all official directives.**

**MS RISK is closely monitoring the developing situation in Burkina Faso and will issue further advisories as more information becomes available.**



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