

Joint letter on the Human rights situation in Guinea

To the attention of
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrel

Brussels, 8th April 2021

Dear High Representative Borrel,

On March 22, 2020, Guinea experienced one of the most contested, violent and least democratic elections in its history. The double legislative and referendum ballots took place with a very strong involvement of the military and paramilitary forces, in a context of sharp political tensions and a health crisis.

No argument of legality, legitimacy, expediency, morality - not even those inherent to public health - could bend the Guinean President in his determination to organize his constitutional referendum in order to grant himself an illegal third term.

And yet, there was no lack of goodwill to dissuade him from doing so. Unfortunately, Mr. Alpha Condé has remained deaf to all the calls for dialogue launched, from the inside, by the Union of the Guinean Clergy (UCG), the Interfaith Council, the regional coordinations, and, from the outside, by the ECOWAS, AU, OIF, EU, UN, France, US and UK.

The double referendum and legislative ballot wanted by Mr. Alpha Condé was organized, in violation of the Constitution and electoral laws, with a tailor-made file, in a context of unprecedented violence that resulted in the death of 99 people, including about thirty buried overnight in the forest in mass graves in Nzérékoré, hundreds of wounded, thousands of arrests and massive destruction of property.

It was practically under the same conditions of violence and violations of the Electoral Code that the presidential election of October 18, 2020 was organized. Although Mr. Alpha Condé lost this election, he will be proclaimed winner by the CENI and the Constitutional Court completely committed to his cause.

Today, the internal situation is still characterized by a breakdown in democracy and massive human rights abuses.

Since the publication of the results, there has been a bloody crackdown resulting in the deaths of 51 people, a wave of arrests in the country and at least 400 Opposition activists and members of civil society are now detained. In deplorable conditions, all the more so during the Covid-19 period. Mamadou Oury Barry, Roger Bamba, Mamadou Lamarana Diallo and Thierno Ibrahima Sow all lost their lives at the Coronthie Remand Center for lack of care received. All had been arbitrarily arrested.

It should be recalled that the alleged perpetrators of the September 28, 2009 massacre, identified by the International Commission of Inquiry set up by the United Nations, still hold high positions in the civil and military administration and actively participate in the repression of peaceful demonstrations by the Opposition.

Since the arrival of Mr. Alpha Condé to power in 2010, we have recorded the loss of 250 people, often killed at close range by agents of the defense and security forces, hundreds of gunshot wounds and the Guinean President never accepted that an investigation be carried out to identify and punish the perpetrators of these crimes, in accordance with the law.

This impunity, granted to the perpetrators of past and recent crimes by Mr. Alpha Condé, has been regularly denounced by human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, HRW and FIDH.

Even today, figures directly or indirectly responsible for serious human rights violations continue to hold senior positions in the civil and military administration. Very often, these personalities who hold real estate and bank accounts in Europe make regular trips there.

How does the EU intend to put into action its new sanction instrument to sanction these personalities responsible for serious human rights violations in Guinea? For convenience, a list of personalities who have demonstrated zeal in suppressing the Opposition and violating human rights is attached in copy of this email.

In addition, given the gravity of the situation, it is also important to ask questions about European aid to countries where there is a real lack of democracy. How does the EU ensure that these funds do not flow into law enforcement institutions that do not meet the minimum standards required?

Thank you,

Best regards,

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