

Coup in Niger: Is War Imminent?

August 12, 2023

August 11, 2023: Abuja: As both the ECOWAS and the Military junta of Niger started preparing for war, the Military junta is reported to have **threatened** that any attack on Niger will lead **to execution of the ousted President Mohammed Bazoum**, who is under house arrest in the Presidential Palace, along with his wife and son. The **United States said** the junta that took power in Niger Republic would be held **accountable for the safety of democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, his family, and detained members of the government.**

In a statement, Russia warned against a military intervention in Niger, since it could lead to a **protracted confrontation** in Niger and a **destabilization of the entire Sahara-Sahel region.**

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken applauded the “key role” being played by ECOWAS in restoring the democracy back in Niger. He called for a **non-violent solution to reverse the coup, praising the “determination of ECOWAS to explore all options for the peaceful resolution of the crisis”**



Antony J. Blinken

At its meeting on 10th August 2023, ECOWAS had approved the deployment of a “standby force to restore constitutional order” in Niger.

The **Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara** said that the intervention would take place as soon as possible. Ouattara added that Ivory Coast would provide a battalion of 850 to 1,100 men alongside soldiers from Nigeria, Benin, and other countries. Speaking on behalf of ECOWAS Leaders, he said, " We are determined to restore President Bazoum to his functions."

IMMINENCE of WAR: **Dr. S. Jaishankar, the Foreign Minister of India**, asked any Indians, who might have been left out, after many Indians were evacuated with the help of France, to leave Niger without any delay.

VOICES AGAINST THE WAR from within NIGERIA: **Dr. Bitrus Pogu, the National President of the Middle Belt Forum (MBF)** warned that deploying Nigerian troops to Niger Republic without the approval of the Nigerian Senate, would be a treasonable offence.

He said that Nigerian economy and the people will suffer hardships if the war is initiated.

Dr. Pogu asked why double standards were being employed against Niger, when in similar cases of military take-over in countries of ECOWAS, nothing was done. He pointed out that **more than 50 percent of the people of Niger are Hausas** and that they have their kith and kin in Nigeria. Hence it was natural that the people of Nigeria had sympathies with Niger.

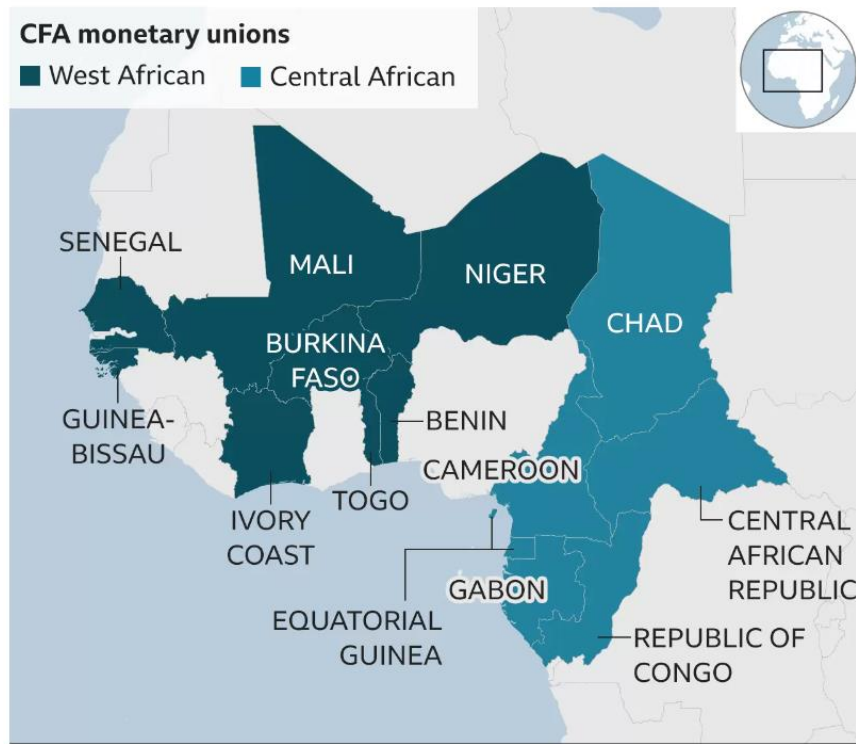
BACKGROUND: In January 2019, **Giorgia Meloni**, who is today **the Prime Minister of Italy**, was an MP of the Right-Wing party- The Brothers of Italy. The Brothers in Italy along with all the right-wingers in other European countries, were opposed to accepting immigrants from Africa. France and Germany were asking all the European countries to accept some of these refugees.

Giorgia Meloni had said that France as the colonizing power should accept the refugees. Italy had not exploited the Africans and was, therefore, under no obligation to accept the refugees. At that time she had mentioned that CFA franc, that France prints for 14 African countries, was used by France to "exploit the resources of these nations".

France has been printing the CFA Francs for its colonies in Africa since mid-1940s. One advantage of having CFA Franc is that it is tied to Euro. Therefore, the inflation

in these 14 countries Africa has been under control. Secondly it is a voluntary decision by a country whether it wants to join or withdraw from CFA Franc.

Where the CFA franc is used in Africa



Ms. Giorgia Meloni had also mentioned that 50% of reserves of each of these countries were required to be put in the Bank of France so that Bank-to-Bank transactions could be managed for CFA Francs.



Jan 2019: **Fake Information** given by **Giorgia Meloni**, the then MP of 'Brothers of Italy' party: France never "demanded 50% of everything Burkina Faso exports"

In 2019, reforms in CFA Franc system were taken up and France has, by March 2023, transferred the reserves kept in France to the respective countries. Now the **Central Bank of West African States (CB-WAS)** (which controls monetary policy for the **eight countries in the CFA West Africa zone**) now manages the reserves. CB-WAS is free to deposit its reserves, where it chooses. The reforms don't yet apply to the **six countries in the Central African CFA zone**.

----*Editorial Notes by www.DiGiNews360.com*----

*Every colonizing power has exploited its colonies. www.DiGiNews360.com notes the study by the renowned economist Utsa Patnaik, published in 2018 by Columbia Univ Press (<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/agrarian-and-other-histories/9789382381952>), which used the nearly two centuries of detailed data on tax and trade, to determine that Britain **drained a total of \$45 Trillion** (<https://tinyurl.com/48hbxz8a>) **from India during the period 1765 to 1938**. Every colony has been looted by every colonizing power.*

However, www.DiGiNews360.com believes that a democratic system, good governance and hard work by the countries, which were colonies till a few decades back, can remove poverty and make the countries of the South prosperous.

Then there will be no migration of people from the South to the North. Instead many countries of the North may welcome and incentivize the people from other countries to come and add to their working population.
