

Coup in Niger: Muslim Religious Leaders Mediate

August 13, 2023

August 13, 2023: Abuja: As both the ECOWAS and the Military junta of Niger seemed to be at the brink of war, a Muslim Leader of Nigeria seemed to be successfully mediating to avert the war. The leader of the Niger military junta, General Abdourahmane Tchiani, the President of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, had not met

-**President Joe Biden's** Ambassador **Victoria Nuland** and

-the delegation sent by **President Bola Tinubu** and led by former Head of State, **Gen Abdulsalam Abubakar** (retd).

But, on August 9, 2023, he had met **Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II**, the Khalifa of Tijjaniya sect.

Note: Please refer to "Coup in Niger: The Response of ECOWAS and the World " at <https://diginews360.com/coup-in-niger-the-response-of-ecowas-and-the-world/> for detailed information about the above.

Then on August 12-13, 2023, the coup leadership met with the Islamic Ulama, led by **Sheikh Balalau** of **Izala Society**. According to Niger Republic's **Prime Minister, Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine**, during the long meeting of **General Tchiani**, lasting for many hours on August 13, with the **Islamic Ulama**, General Tchiani had given the green light for talks with ECOWAS. The **PM Zeine** was optimistic that the talks with ECOWAS would take place in the next few days. *(Note: Please read the BACKGROUND for information about **Izala Society** at the last page.)*

Nigeria's **Intervention Team**, which included notable Islamic scholars from the country, said, after their meetings with the coup leaders in Niamey over the weekend, that all 'parties' in Niger have decided to strengthen the option of dialogue in resolving the country's political problem. They discussed all the issues including the demand by ECOWAS leaders that former President Bazoum be reinstated.

Sheikh Balalau, the Leader of the Intervention Team, said that the religious leaders were in Niger on behalf of **President Bola Tinubu**, who had accepted their request to intervene. **Sheikh Balalau** said the team had informed President Tinubu that the

religious leaders believe that the political impasse in Niger should be resolved through dialogue.

Similarly, in Niger also, the religious leaders had impressed upon all the coup leaders to toe the path of peace instead of war to resolve the crisis. **Sheikh Balalau** said **that General Tchiani had accorded the Intervention Team a warm reception and** had welcomed their intervention. According to Sheikh Balalau, General Tchiani had said that the coup leaders were open to explore diplomacy and peace for resolving the matter.

www.DiGiNews360.com found it interesting that, according to **Sheikh Balalau**, **General Tchiani** had apologized for not according the team, sent by **President Bola Tinubu** and headed by **Gen Abdulsalam Abubakar** (retd), the required attention because the coup leaders were angry about the ECOWAS ultimatum.

----BACKGROUND----

of ***Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah*** (JIBWIS) and
of the Sufi sects - the **Qadiriyya** and the **Tijjaniyya**

Izala Society or (***Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah*** (Society of Removal of Innovation and Re-establishment of the Sunnah), also called JIBWIS, is a Salafi movement, originally established in Northern Nigeria to fight what it sees as the innovations (bid'ah) practiced by the Sufi brotherhoods. Izala is one of the largest Sunni societies in Nigeria, Chad, Ghana, Niger, and Cameroon.



Sheikh

Abdullahi Bala Lau

National Chairman IZALA Religious Aid Group

Abdullahi Bala Lau, popularly known as **Sheikh Balalau** is the **National President** of the **Izala Society**, since December 2011.

Two Sufi brotherhoods", specifically the **Qadiriyya** and **Tijjaniyya**, are more popular in Nigeria as well as in Niger.



*Baghdad, Iraq: Tomb of **Abdul Qadir Gilani**, founder-Qadiriyya*



*Kiota, Niger: Grand Mosque, Centre of **Tijjaniyyah** order*



*Kiota, Niger: Interior of the Grand Mosque of **Tijjaniyyahs***

The Leader of Tijjaniyya sect in Nigeria is the former **Emir of Kano, Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II**. He has been accorded the status of the **Khalifa of Tijjaniya sect**. Hence he is respected by Tijjaniyyas all over the world. Tijjaniya sect has a large following in Niger also. Sanusi is a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

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

www.DiGiNews360.com notes President Bola Tinubu's efforts to resolve the crisis, created by the coup in Niger, peacefully, by using all the conventional political as well as non-conventional societal resources of Nigeria.

We wish him success.

If he succeeds in stemming the tide of coups in Africa by military, by restoring back democracy in Niger without a war, it would be a great achievement to his credit.
