

Niger Coup: 28th August: Response of ECOWAS and the World

August 28, 2023

August 28, 2023: Niamey: President **Emmanuel Macron** reiterated his support for the ousted President Mohammed Bazoum and refused to comply with the demands of the military junta of Niger, made on Friday, that the French Ambassador should leave Niger within 48 hours. As the time-limit expired, *dw channel* has reported that the junta has disconnected both the power and water supply to the embassy and that a blockade of food supply is being done.

www.DiGiNews360.com asks the military junta of Niger to keep in mind that, except **Mali and Burkina Faso**, no other regime has recognized its government. **General Abdourahmane Tchiani**, the (self-appointed) President of 'National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (set up by the military junta)' and **Dr. Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine**, the Prime Minister, appointed by the military junta on August 7, 2023 should understand the collective commitment of **ECOWAS, the African Union, and the global community** to safeguard democratic values and maintain stability in the region.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com calls upon President Tchiani and Prime Minister Dr. Zeine to ensure that the facilities to the French Embassy are not choked and the embassy should be permitted to function in the normal way.

The military coup of July 26, 2023 in Niger was the fifth military coup d'état since the country gained independence from France in 1960, and the first since 2010. The coup has weakened regional fight against Boko Haram and Jihadis because the west had been using Niger as the base to help the region by training African armies for the fight.

The Nigerean army is whipping up a campaign against France by saying that France was responsible for the poverty of Niger.

If after 63 years of independence, Niger remains the 3rd poorest country of the world, the reasons are as follows:

- 1. continuous military coups,*
- 2. poor governance and lack of understanding of how to build a modern economy.*

Russia is a very large country with huge natural resources. China has grown by providing unprecedented infrastructural facilities and non-unionized cheap labor to the greedy western industrialists and incompetent managers.

Today, the “South” has to find its own way for development and removal of poverty. It can be done in the next couple of decades through democracy and good governance.

www.DiGiNews360.com is designed to help the intelligentsia of the “South” to develop self-confidence and to help develop their countries through bootstrapping.

August 26-28, 2023: **Molly Phee**, the U.S. Presidential envoy and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, is currently travelling to three countries in Africa: **Chad, Nigeria** and **Ghana**. Ms. Phee is expected to review ongoing developments in **Niger** and **Sudan**.

“In all her conversations, she will raise the shared goals of preserving Niger’s hard-earned democracy and achieving the immediate release of President Bazoum, his family, and those members of his government unjustly detained,” said the State Department. The US stated that “Assistant Secretary Phee is also consulting with senior officials in **Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Senegal**, and **Togo**, emphasizing US support for the principled stand taken by ECOWAS in defense of democracy and constitutional order.”

August 26, 2023: Abuja: While welcoming **Molly Phee, President Bola Tinubu** said, “War is not ideal for my economic reforms, nor for the region, but **the defense of democracy is sacrosanct**. The ECOWAS consensus is that we will not allow anyone to insincerely buy time.” The President was referring to the coup in Niger of July 26, 2023.

Asiwaju Tinubu asked the U.S. to collaborate with African countries in defending their democracies against anti-democratic forces within and outside the continent in order to improve its people’s living standards.

President Tinubu said that the American-backed development finance and multilateral institutions required comprehensive reforms to meet the developmental requirements of younger **democracies in Africa, which operate in authoritarian-crowded environments**. He asked for a Marshal Plan-like system for meeting the legitimate yearnings of Africans for using local solutions for meeting the challenges before their respective countries.



*Aug 26, 2023: Abuja, Nigeria: **President Bola Tinubu** received **Molly Phee**, the U.S. Presidential envoy and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs*

The President said, " While Nigeria will have to create an enabling environment for private investments, the U.S. Government must be innovative in its thinking and systematically create incentives for U.S. industrial investment in Nigeria."

Miss Molly Phee **extended an exclusive invitation from U.S. President Joe Biden to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City** in late September.

Molly Phee said, " *You are the only African leader he has requested to meet. It is a mark of his high regard for your leadership.*"

August 26, 2023: Niamey: On 19 August, the US had sent a new ambassador to Niger, **Kathleen FitzGibbon**. "She has arrived in Niamey to lead and bolster efforts to help resolve the political crisis. She will lead US government efforts in support of the American community and the preservation of Niger's hard-earned democracy.," said the State Department.



Kathleen FitzGibbon, Ambassador of USA to Niger

Due to the current political crisis in Niger, Ambassador FitzGibbon has not formally presented credentials. Her focus is to advocate for a diplomatic solution that preserves constitutional order in Niger and for the immediate release of President Bazoum, his family, and all those unlawfully detained.

When **US Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland** had travelled to Niger in the last month, she was not given permission to meet with the ex-President Bazoum. But on 19 August, the ECOWAS delegation was able to meet Mr. Bazoum.

www.DiGiNews360.com hopes Kathleen will be able to meet ex-President Mohammed Bazoum and to visit the French embassy regularly.

August 26, 2023: Abuja: At the ECOWAS Secretariat, **Dr. Omar Touray**, the President of the Commission, said that ECOWAS had not declared war on Niger Republic. But he made it clear that military force remained an option for restoring democracy and possibly the ousted democratically elected President, **Mohamed Bazoum** to power.



***Omar Alieu Touray, President of ECOWAS commission
A Gambian Diplomat***

President Touray added that ECOWAS was not spoiling for war. But it must now take up the task of stemming the tide of militaries, trying to subvert democracies in West Africa. He assured the people of Niger that ECOWAS was concerned about their welfare as it works towards restoring civilian rule and political stability in Niger.

August 25, 2023: Abuja: The President approved the **second** visit of a delegation of Islamic leaders to the Niger Republic for a discussion for a solution without the use of force.



President **Bola Tinubu** with a delegation of Islamic leaders, led by **Sheikh Bala Liu Mohammed Idris**, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, agreed with the religious leaders that all peaceful options should be explored, though all options remained on the table.

Earlier, the intervention by the Islamic leaders, approved on August 9 by President Tinubu, had led to an agreement by **General Abdourahamane Tchiani** to receive the ECOWAS delegation, led by former Nigerian military Head of State, **General Abdulsalami Abubakar**.

ACCRETION of SUPPORT to the COUP LEADERS by **Mamady Doumbouya**, the **interim President of Guinea**: General Tchiani sent a delegation, led by his defense chief **General Moussa Salaou Barmou**, to the Guinean capital Conakry to thank leaders there for their support. However, President Doumbouya – who led a coup in Guinea in September 2021 – did not come forward with a clear promise of support, if ECOWAS were to use military force.

www.DiGiNews.com had reported earlier that Mali and Burkina Faso had declared that they would fight jointly with Niger, if ECOWAS were to attack Niger.
