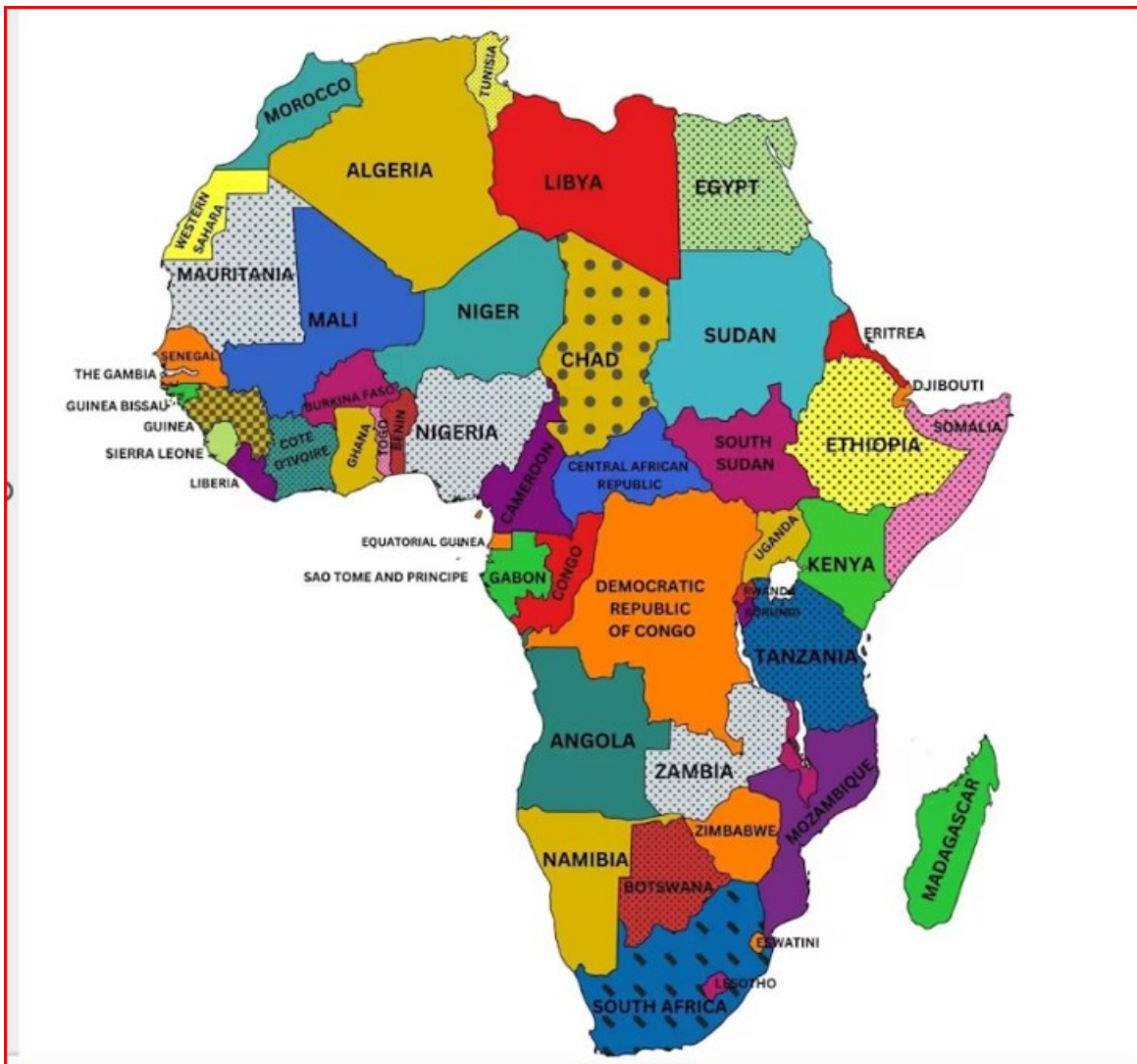


Presidential Elections in Chad, May 6, 2024

May 7, 2024

May 7, 2024: **N'Djamena**, Chad: Ten candidates, approved by the **Constitutional Council**, are competing for Presidency of Chad today. The candidates include **Mahamat Idriss Déby “Kaka”**, 40, the incumbent President and the Prime Minister **Succès Masra**, 40, who was, till a few years back, considered as the most popular leader. He was living in exile till he returned back and assumed Prime Ministership on January 1, 2024, under the **newly adopted 5th Republic Constitution**.



CHAD, a member of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), share a common currency, the Central African CFA franc
Capital and largest city: **N'Djamena**; Other 4 : **Moundou, Abéché, Sarh, Kélo**
Population (2023 Estimate): 18.5 Mn (66th); Area: 1,284,000 Km² (20th); Density: 14.4/Km²
GDP (2023 Estimate): \$12.6 Bn (145th); GDP/ capita \$702 (183rd)

Two key opposition leaders, **Nassour Ibrahim Neguy Coursami** and **Rakhis Ahmat Saleh**, were barred after the country's Constitutional Council said there were "irregularities," including allegations of forgery by Mr. Coursami. The decision to bar the two candidates is unfair and is designed to eliminate popular leaders from the contest.

Yaya Dillo Djerou Betchi, who had been the foremost opposition leader was assassinated on February 28, 2024 by security forces at his party's headquarters.

Lt. General **Mahamat Idriss Déby** had seized power three years ago, as head of a **Military Transitional Council (MTC)**, consisting of 15 Generals of the Army, after his father, **Idriss Déby**, who ruled Chad for 31 years, was killed on April 19, 2021 by rebels. His government had announced that **Idriss Déby died** on the battlefield, fighting rebels who were trying to overthrow his government.



*General MAHAMAT IDRIS DEBY,
a candidate for the Presidential Elections of May 6, 2024*

In 2021, the MTC said that none of the members of the MTC would stand for election, when the election for the next President were organized. But, **on 27 June 2023**, Chad's transitional parliament moved to have a **new constitution**. It adopted with a 96 per cent majority the preliminary **draft constitution of the Republic of Chad**. This draft was approved through a **referendum on 17 December 2023**. The new constitution permitted the Generals to stand for election.

Six countries – Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Sudan) - across 3,500 miles, from coast to coast, form today the longest corridor of military rule on Earth. Though Chad is the first among the six military-ruled countries, which is holding an election to set up a ‘civilian’ government, the military regime has made all the efforts to facilitate the election of Lt. General **Mahamat Idriss Déby** as a ‘civilian’ President.

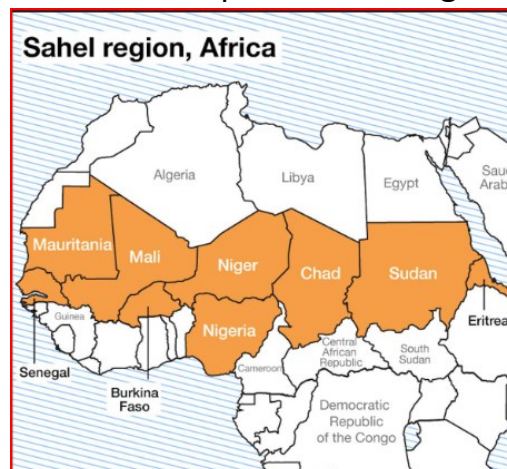
The elections seem to be largely peaceful. There is one report of one voter being killed in **Moundou**, the second-largest city of Chad, when some unidentified gunmen opened fire at a polling station. There were reports of logistical problems due to which Nomads, who make up around 7% of Chad's population, were having difficulties in voting on Sunday. The elections in Chad are being monitored by the **Citizen Alliance for Elections in Chad** (in French: *Alliance Citoyenne pour les Elections au Tchad* (ACET)).

ACET is a project, set up with the help of European Union by the **Electoral Alliance for Sustainable Democracy in Africa** (EISA). EISA is Headquartered in **Johannesburg, South Africa** and **Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**, and supported by field offices across the continent. (Reference: <https://www.eisa.org/>)

About 8.5 Mn citizens are registered to vote for the Chad elections. Provisional results are expected by May 21 and final results by June 5. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the votes, a run-off will be held on June 22.

The vote coincides with a temporary withdrawal of U.S. troops from Chad, an important Western ally in a region of West and Central Africa courted by Russia and racked by jihadism.

Since replacing his father at the helm of the oil-producing nation, Deby has remained close to the former colonial power and longtime ally France.



While other junta-ruled Sahel countries, including Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, have told Paris and other Western powers to withdraw and have turned to Moscow for support, Chad remains the last Sahel state with a substantial western military presence. However just before the elections, Chad Air Force asked US to withdraw its forces in Chad. It is not known whether it is a temporary measure for the election period or whether Chad is also going to follow Niger in asking the Russians to occupy the facility built by the US Army in Chad.

Note 1.: Please read in

“Nigeria: Digital Leadership; Niger: US Military Pact, Back in ECOWAS” dated March 23, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-digital-leader-niger-us-military-pact-in-ecowas/>

the Part on “NEWS about NIGER” on pages 4-8 giving information about the visit of a Russian delegation, led by **Yunus-Bek Yevkurov**, **Russia’s** Deputy Defense Minister, to **Niamey**, the visit of a US delegation to Niger, and, the visits of Nigerien Prime Minister **Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine** to Moscow and Iran.

It also includes a 2-page BACKGROUNDER on NIGER on pages 9-10.

Note 2.: Please read “Chad: delayed elections, constitutional referendum, loss of Yaya Dillo” dated March 5, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/chad-delayed-elections-referendum-loss-of-yaya-dillo/> . has provided for its READERS, who may need it, a BACKGROUNDER on PRESIDENT **Idriss Déby** (President from December 2, 1990 to April 20, 2021) on pages 7-8, a BACKGROUNDER on **President Hissène Habré’s** CONVICTION for HUMAN RIGHT CRIMES (President from June 7, 1982 to December 1, 1990) on pages 8-10.
