



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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GUINEA FIRES ON CORONAVIRUS PROTESTORS

At least six people have been killed in Guinea during protests against the coronavirus restrictions. Citizens have been demanding liberty and freedom of movement.

In an attempt to contain the outbreak, the Guinean government has enacted curfews, made wearing masks mandatory, and closed the country's borders. The government has also erected several checkpoints in an out of the capital, Conakry, to restrict movement.

Protesters are frustrated at this restriction of movement, as many Guinean citizens need to travel to other parts of the country for work. For the protesters, no travel means no livelihood. There are also allegations of corruption among the Guinean police force: protesters claim that police are demanding bribes before letting citizens through checkpoints.

Frustration with police and the government has resulted in violence. Protesters have blocked roads, set fire to police vehicles and checkpoints. Police have used force in response, which has resulted in at least six protesters being killed.

With almost 3,000 cases Guinea has so far been the worst-hit African country. Guinea was also one of the hardest hit countries during the Ebola outbreak in 2014.



Guinean President Alpha Condé –European Parliament (flickr.com)

GOVERNOR KILLED IN SOMALIA

The armed group al-Shabab has killed a Somali governor and three of his bodyguards in a car bombing. The suicide car bomb hit the governor's car and killed all people inside the car. Other casualties as a consequence of the bomb are still being investigated.

The official, Ahmed Muse Nur, governed over the Mudug region in central Somalia. Another Somali governor was killed in late March under similar circumstances.

The armed Islamist group al-Shabab, also known as the Muhajideen Youth Movement, has been active in Somalia for more than a decade. The group has pledged allegiance to the Islamist group al-Qaeda.

In 2012 the group was driven out of the Somali capital, Mogadishu, but still maintains significant strongholds in the countryside. The armed group

is attempting to overthrow the internationally recognised government situated in Mogadishu, and install a government with strict adherence to international law. Al-Shabab has been designated a terrorist organisation by Australia, Canada, the US, UK and United Arab Emirates.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Lesotho: The southern African country has become the last country on the continent to detect a case of coronavirus.

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe has extended its coronavirus lockdown indefinitely. The restrictions will be reviewed every two weeks. All people entering Zimbabwe, including citizens who travelled to South Africa or Botswana, are forced to quarantine for two weeks.

South Africa: The South African court has enacted orders to prevent the death of citizens protesting the coronavirus lockdown. The decision comes after a South African man in early April, Collins Khosa, who was beaten by security forces and later died of his injuries. Human rights groups have welcomed the orders which prevent security forces from using excessive force to enact lockdown restrictions.