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## *Niger is the fourth Sahel country to have an anti-Western military uprising*



**Sources:** Latin American Summary [Photo: Niger Armed Forces soldiers during the Flintlock Agadez joint military exercise in 2018]

*The country joins Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea in the rebellion against Western rule in the African Sahel.*

At 3am on 26 July 2023, Niger's presidential guard arrested President Mohamed Bazoum in Niamey, the country's capital. The troops, led by Brigadier General Abdourahmane Tchiani, closed the country's borders and declared a curfew. The coup was immediately condemned by the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the European Union. Both France and the United States, which have military bases in Niger, said they were closely monitoring the situation. A clash between the army, which had positioned itself in favor of Bazoum, and the presidential guard threatened the capital,

but was soon resolved. On 27 July, Army General Abdou Sidikou Issa issued a statement saying he accepted the situation in order to "avoid a deadly confrontation between the different forces that [...] It could lead to a bloodbath." On 28 July, Brigadier General Tchiani appeared on television to announce that he was the new president of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Fatherland (Conseil National pour la Sauvegarde de la Patrie or CNSP).

Niger's uprising follows similar ones in Mali (August 2020 and May 2021), Burkina Faso (January 2022 and September 2022) and Guinea (September 2021). Each of these Coups were led by military officers angry about the presence of troops French and American crises and the continuing economic crises inflicted to their countries. This region of Africa - the Sahel - has faced a Cascade of crisis: the desiccation of the earth as a consequence of the climate catastrophe, the rise of Islamist militancy due to the NATO war in Libya in 2011, the rise of smuggling networks To traffic weapons, people and drugs through the desert, the appropriation of natural resources - including uranium and gold - by part of Western companies that simply have not paid what sufficient for these riches, and the entrenchment of forces Western military by building bases and actions unpunished by their armies.

Two days after the uprising, the National Council of Safeguarding the Fatherland (CNSP) announced the names of the ten officers who will direct it. They come from all armed forces, from the Army (General Mohamed Toumba) to the Air Force (Major Colonel Amadou Abouramane), passing through the National Police (Adjutant General Asshaba Ebankawel). It is already clear that one of the The most influential member of the CNSP is General Salifou Mody, a former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and Leader of the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy, which led the coup d'état of February 2010 against President Mamadou Tandja and who ruled Niger until Bazoum's predecessor, Mahamadou Issoufou, won the 2011 presidential election. During Issoufou's tenure, the U.S. government built in Agadez the largest aircraft base not Manned from around the world and French special forces barracked the City of Irlit on behalf of the uranium mining company Orano (formerly part of Areva).

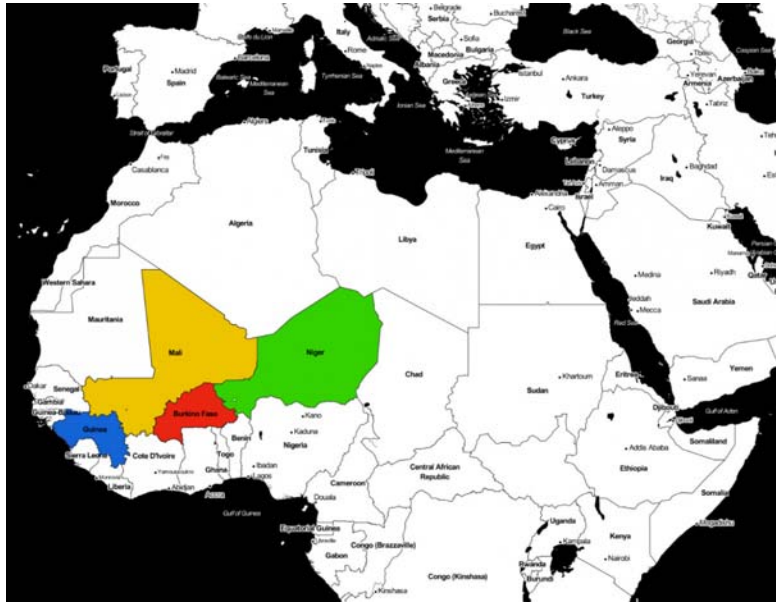
Es importante señalar que el general Salifou Mody es considerado un miembro influyente del CNSP dado su ascendiente sobre el Ejército y sus contactos internacionales. El 28 de febrero de 2023, Mody se reunió con el jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto estadounidense, el general Mark Milley, durante la Conferencia de Jefes de Defensa Africanos, celebrada en Roma, para hablar de "la estabilidad regional, incluida la cooperación antiterrorista y la

lucha continua contra el extremismo violento en la región”. El 9 de marzo, Mody visitó Malí para reunirse con el coronel Assimi Goïta y el Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército maliense, general Oumar Diarra, con el fin de reforzar la cooperación militar entre Níger y Malí. Pocos días después, el 16 de marzo, el Secretario de Estado estadounidense, Antony Blinken, visitó Níger para reunirse con Bazoum. En lo que muchos en Níger percibieron como un alejamiento de Mody, éste fue nombrado el 1 de junio embajador de Níger en Emiratos Árabes Unidos. Se dice que Mody, en Niamey, es la voz que habla al oído del general de brigada Tchiani, jefe de Estado en funciones.

### ***Corrupción y Occidente***

Una fuente muy bien informada en Níger nos dice que la razón por la que los militares actuaron contra Bazoum es que “es un corrupto, un peón de Francia. Los nigerinos estaban hartos de él y de su banda. Están deteniendo a los miembros del sistema derrocado, que malversaron fondos públicos, muchos de los cuales se han refugiado en embajadas extranjeras”. La cuestión de la corrupción planea sobre Níger, un país con uno de los yacimientos de uranio más lucrativos del mundo. La “corrupción” de la que se habla en Níger no se refiere a pequeños sobornos a funcionarios del gobierno, sino a toda una estructura – desarrollada durante la dominación colonial francesa – que impide a Níger establecer la soberanía sobre sus materias primas y su desarrollo.

At the center of the "corruption" is the so-called company joint venture between Niger and France called Société des mines de l'Aïr (Somaïr), which owns and operates the uranium sector in the country. Surprisingly, 85% of Somaïr belongs to the French Commission of Atomic Energy and two other French companies, while only the 15% belong to the government of Niger. Niger produces more than 5% of uranium. But its uranium is of very high quality. Half of revenue Niger's exports come from sales of uranium, petroleum and gold. One in three light bulbs in France runs on uranium from Niger, while 42% of the population of the African country lives below of the poverty line. Nigeriens have been seeing their Wealth slips out of their hands. As a sign of the weakness of the In the last decade Niger has lost more than 906 million dollars in only 10 arbitration cases filed by companies multinationals to the International Centre for Settlement of Disputes Concerning Investments and the International Chamber of Commerce.



Map: African countries that have suffered anti-Western coups in recent years: Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and now Niger. (Image: OperaMundi/maps.stamen)

France stopped using the franc in 2002, when it switched to the euro. However, fourteen former French colonies have followed using the Communauté Financière Africaine (CFA) as currency, which provides France with immense advantages (50% of these reserves). Countries must remain in the French Treasury and devaluations As in 1994, the French CFA has catastrophic effects on the countries that use it). In 2015, Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno, claimed that the CFA "pulls African economies down" and that "the time has come to break the rope that impedes development of Africa". There is now talk throughout the Sahel not only of withdrawing French troops - as has happened in Burkina Faso and Mali - but also to break France's economic control over the region.

### ***The new non-alignment***

At the Russia-Africa Summit 2023, held in July, the President of Burkina Faso, Ibrahim Traoré, wore a red beret reminiscent of the uniform of his country's assassinated socialist leader, Thomas Sankara. Traoré reacted harshly to the condemnation of the military coups in the Sahel, and also to the recent visit of an EU delegation African to her country. "A slave who does not rebel deserves no mercy," Said. "The African Union must stop condemning Africans who they decide to fight their own puppet regimes of the West."

In February, Burkina Faso hosted a meeting involving the Governments of Mali and Guinea. On the agenda is the creation of a new federation of these States. Niger is likely to be invited to these talks.

Original article [Brasil de Fato](#).

Source: <https://www.resumenlatinoamericano.org/2023/08/02/niger-el-cuarto-pais-del-sahel-que-tiene-un-levantamiento-militar-antioccidental/>

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