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## Niger, the currency in the air



**Sources:** Rebellion

While ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) continues to delay its decision on Niger after the coup of July 26, the new Government of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland (CLSP) continues to settle into power and expand its base of support, despite the economic measures taken against it.

Not only has it strengthened its alliance with Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali, but it is showing signs of charting a roadmap for the nation's future. In an open challenge to the West and ECOWAS, which are demanding the reinstatement of ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, in a televised speech on Saturday evening, Jan. 20, junta leader Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani said the army has been given three years to hand over power to civil society.

We should not reproach chance that the message of Tchiani came almost at the same time as the former de facto president and general of Nigeria's Abdulsalami Abubakar, leading an ECOWAS delegation, has met with the Bazoum in a last-ditch effort to achieve a way out diplomatically.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Niamey, the Nigerien capital, and other cities of the country the demonstrations in favor of the soldiers holding anti-French signs and chants and waving Russian flags. Almost the *leitmotiv* that has been installed at from the blows of the same aspect that have occurred since 2020 in the Sahel. (See Niger: A ghost haunts the Sahel.)

If someone is interested in knowing the reasons for this hatred visceral, not only of the Nigerien people but of the vast majority of the ancient African colonies of France, perhaps with a single scope. Given the magnitude of the French economic plunder centered on the natural resources of Niger, particularly uranium, the Nigerien gross domestic product (GDP) *per capita* today is significantly lower than at the time of its independence in 1960.

Although there would be no major differences with the rest of its African colonies, beyond Algeria, whose exploitation has bogged them down in absolute backwardness. Nigerien uranium covers between sixty and seventy percent of France's electricity requirements, while in Niger electricity does not reach more than fifteen percent of the 27 million nationals.

No doubt General Tchiani's late-night message will not be let many ECOWAS members sleep, since this latest resolution of The Nigerien military is putting further pressure on the Community, whose repeated The military intervention in the first hours after the coup seemed to lead to the continent to an unprecedented conflict, fails to set foot in the dilated meetings that ECOWAS has had since the coup.

After that first meeting in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria where ECOWAS is based, and where practically hours after the coup They had even imposed a deadline for the military to reverse its decision. This location expired twenty days ago and nothing has changed. (See: Niger: Waiting for War)

Beyond the procrastination the threat has become a Ghost that continues to stir and that, over the course of weeks, has been losing the volume of the early days, where it was practically a fact that the armies from Benin, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Senegal would intervene in Niger, not only to liberate Bazoum, but also to restore constitutional order reinstating him in office.

With the manifest support for the intervention United Nations (UN) military the *European Union* (EU) and obviously the two countries most affected by Niger's change of direction: France and the United States, the project has met strong opposition from part of the Senate in Nigeria, whose army is central to an assault. And also in Benin, where opposition to the government of President Patrice Talon has criticized that possibility. On the other hand, the internal situation of Senega makes Quite unlikely that he could get involved in a war that would certainly leave All those involved in a quagmire from which it will be very difficult to get out.

In addition, the *African Union* (AU) has openly expressed against during the meeting of last Monday 14 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of the AU *Peace and Security Council*, where rejected the military intervention proposed by ECOWAS.

While ECOWAS does not require AU approval for carry out any of their decisions, historically both organizations They have accompanied each other in the different proposals that they have had to endure.

### **The dark side of ECOWAS**

Since its creation in 1975, ECOWAS has been involved in militarily on seven occasions, the last in 2017 in Gambia, and its leaders They are far from demanding respect for democracy from anyone. For example, the Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara, the highest paid president of the world World, he failed to comply with the Constitution exceeding the term limit. The year Last he assumed his third consecutive term, which is totally forbidden by The Magna Carta.

In July of last year a strange event was recorded in the airport in Bamako, capital of Mali, with the arrival of 50 Ivorian soldiers armed, without any authorization. The fact caused a serious friction between the President Ouattara and the head of Mali's military junta, Colonel Assimi Goita. The Ivorian military, after a trial for "plot against the Government", Among other charges, many were sentenced to 20 years in prison and some cases to death, although they ended up being pardoned in the month of December. While it was never confirmed, it is believed that Costa de Janeiro's soldiers Ivory was to be part of a coup against the Malian junta.

Another of the great stokers of the intervention in Niger to restore democracy is the Senegalese president, Macky Sall, who in July of this year fiercely suppressed the large protests that ensued. In his country when his willingness to run for a fourth term became known, repression which caused dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. In addition to

banning the The main opposition party *African Patriots of Senegal for Labour, the Ethics and Fraternity* (PASTEF) and imprison its maximum reference Ousmane Sonko.

The current president of ECOWAS and at the same time president of Nigeria, Bola Tinue, who took both positions just two months ago, needs show himself to the West as a strong man eager for leadership, for That has been the main driver of the armed option to resolve the issue. of Niger. The Nigerian Democrat has a service sheet, prior to become president, in his time in Chicago, if he had become rich thanks to the laundering of assets from the activities of its two Powerful nationals Abiodun Olasuyi Agbele and Adegboyega Mueez Akande heroin traffickers. Tinue would later become a collaborator of the *Department. of the US state* when it comes to pointing out who's who in the context of West Africa.

In the context of the beleaguered Nigerien reality, We must forget the origin of this critical situation, while the Army To concentrate their efforts for the possible onslaught of ECOWAS, the fundamentalist *khatibas* increased their actions. Since the coup they have already recorded six attacks.

The most important was recorded on Wednesday of the last week near the border with Mali, causing the death of 17 soldiers and 20 wounded, when the column was traveling between Boni and Torodi in the region of Tillabery, epicentre of terrorist activity in Niger. In response to the Army located a unit of *mujahideen* managing to neutralize 100 militiamen and destroy more than 50 motorcycles, preferred means of locomotion by the terrorists of the Sahel.

At least 28 civilians were killed earlier this week in four departments in the Tillabery area in what would have been an action by the *Islamic State in the Greater Sahara* (EIGS), which is taking advantage of the coverage provided by ECOWAS while waiting for the currency to finish falling.

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