



International Institute for Justice and DevelopmentSM

2343 Washington Street, 2nd Floor Boston, MA 02119 – 3216
Tel: 617-541-9500 Fax: 617-541-9501
www.ijjd.org

IIJD Call for Action

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Contact: Ken Kitchin
Media Coordinator
International Institute for Justice and Development
Phone: 617-541-9500, Facsimile: 617-541-9501
communication@ijjd.org

Prevent destabilization in West Africa

The International Institute for Justice and Development (IIJD), Inc. calls upon the international community to help resolve the situation in Guinea before it escalates into a humanitarian crisis for which the only outcome is carnage. The conflict, which began more than five weeks ago when labor unions took to the streets to demand change, has seen the paralysis of the economy and the death of scores of men, women, and children. The IIJD believes peace can be restored only through outside involvement; inaction will surrender the fate of Guinea to the whims of a regime with a history of human rights abuses and a demonstrated contempt for the rule of law.

The IIJD fears that the window of opportunity for decisive action in Guinea is rapidly coming to a close. Though many, including the United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, have expressed concern for the welfare and safety of the people of Guinea, Guinean president Lansana Conte has shown no desire to work toward peace, and instead has consistently demonstrated his will to retain power at all costs. However well-intended, simple statements of unease over the actions of the government and its security forces are little more than empty rhetoric unless they are supported by a will to act.

The need for resolute action on the part of the international community is palpable, but its resolution to act is decidedly lacking. The importance of securing a lasting peace in Guinea cannot be overstated; if the violence escalates into wholesale massacres – as the IIJD believes is possible – Guineans will be forced to flee to neighboring countries ill-prepared to deal with hundreds of thousands of refugees. The world community must be ready to handle the massive displacement of persons which inevitably follows the slip into chaos Guinea is now beginning to experience. Furthermore, the potential for violence to spill over into neighboring states is a risk the world cannot afford; the repercussions of a destabilized west-Africa are incalculable.

For too long the government of Guinea has enjoyed unlimited power over the law and the people of Guinea. The IIJD believes that the international community must work to ensure the rule of law is imposed, the government is held to account, and the people of Guinea have access to the rights of security and liberty to which they are entitled.

If a government refuses to recognize the rights of its citizens, the IIJD believes it is the responsibility of the international community to see that those rights are protected. As an organization committed to providing justice and development solutions for long-lasting positive change, the IIJD has been closely monitoring the situation in Guinea. The IIJD has condemned the actions of the Guinean government in its attempt to prevent demonstrators from achieving their goals of democratic governance. Only once the people of Guinea have the right to demonstrate will they lack the need to do so.



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The IIJD hopes that its call for international involvement is answered. The people of Guinea deserve a government that is receptive to their wants and needs, not one that leaves them wanting and needy. The death toll reached an unacceptable level after the first body was tallied, and each one subsequently serves only to underscore the need for drastic change. History is already saturated with avoidable atrocities; the IIJD encourages the international community to work for peace in Guinea so it will not be forced once again to reflect upon what should have been done for the people of Africa. The examples of Rwanda, Liberia, and Congo prove that inaction is inexcusable; we must act now to ensure that Guinea does not become another such example.