

GUINEA

SOCIAL PROTEST

STARTING DATE: 14 OCTOBER 2019

TRIGGER • Draft constitutional revision introduced by President Alpha Condé, which would allow him to run for a third term in the 2020 presidential election.

GOALS

- Renunciation by President Alpha Condé of his candidacy.
- Release of opposition leaders sentenced to prison for calling for demonstrations against the bill.
- Justice for the deceased during demonstrations.

STATE OF PLAY

- President Alpha Condé has refused to reconsider his plan; instead he is attempting to curb the protest movement by banning demonstrations in Conakry in the name of public order. His efforts have unsuccessfully prevented the opposition from marching.
- Demonstrations take place at regular intervals, mainly in Conakry. They bring together tens of thousands of people, often responding to the call of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), a broad-based opposition movement.
- Clashes regularly occur between demonstrators and police forces. The police do not hesitate to use their firearms in addition to tear gas grenades to disperse the crowds.

IMPACTS: MODERATE



- 20 people killed by the police and 1 officer dead since 14 October.
- Several dozens injured.



- "Ghost Town" operation on 15 October : temporary shutdown of economic activities.
- Willingness of part of the opposition to paralyse the country in order to obtain Alpha Condé's resignation.



- Traffic disruption in the vicinity of rallies, often staged on the Fidel Castro highway, on the road leading to the airport, or on the esplanade of the People's Palace, among others. Roadblocks are also reported.



POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR ESCALATION

- Alpha Condé's decision to carry out his draft revision.
- Continuation of violent repression by law enforcement officers.
- Persistent refusal to release political prisoners.



POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR DE-ESCALATION

- Abandonment of the draft constitutional amendment by the President.
- Independent investigations into the deaths of demonstrators following the disproportionate use of force by the police.