

Statement of the African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC-ICC) about series of “coups d’Etat” in the Sahel and West Africa

February 21st, 2022

Abidjan, Bangui, Bamako, Bujumbura, Conakry, Kinshasa, N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, Rabat.

In less than two years, there have been four “coups d’Etat” in West Africa and the Sahel, in Chad, Mali, Guinea-Conakry and Burkina Faso respectively, not to mention another one that was foiled in Guinea-Bissau.

Yet, West Africa and the Sahel was a region where civil and constitutional rule had become the mode of governance for several years.

Almost all of these countries were on the road to democracy although some elected presidents, once they reached the end of their terms, changed their country's constitution to keep themselves in power longer.

The African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC-ICC) believe that popular linked to these manipulations of constitutional texts, the lack of independence of the judiciary, poor governance and the absence of effective counter-terrorism strategies, as well as inter-communal tensions, are the main factors that provide the military with the opportunity to take power by force.

This series of regime overthrows by force, as well as the changes to constitutions that we condemn, are becoming major challenges and are setting back the development of the African continent over several years.

This situation is aggravated by the economic, political and jurisdictional sanctions imposed by ECOWAS. **These sanctions, which the AFC-ICC finds excessive and**



severe, especially as they affect the civilian population much more than the military who have taken power.

The hope of seeing the fight against impunity for crimes committed in the past is therefore drowned out by this particular context and **the victims become doubly affected** without forgetting that the reparation of the prejudices suffered is also delayed for several more years.

For all these reasons, AFC-ICC launches a vibrant appeal to:

ECOWAS :

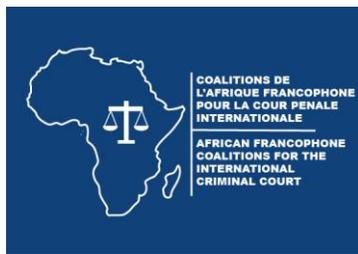
To lift the economic and jurisdictional sanctions taken against the Malian people because they affect the civilian population, which is already facing difficulties linked to conflicts, insecurity, the impacts of COVID 19 and the closure of borders with the cessation of trade activities in the sub-region.

To the new authorities of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Chad:

To take measures to combat impunity for crimes under international law committed in these respective countries and to render justice to the victims who are still waiting for truth, justice and reparation, and to take the necessary measures for a return to constitutional order within a reasonable time.

To the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

To demand the opening of the trial in the 28 September 2009 case in Conakry and to monitor the situation in Burkina, Guinea, Mali and Chad.



For the African Francophone Coalitions for the ICC

The Coordinator

Mr. Ali OUATTARA

Signatory organisations

1. The Burundian Coalition for the ICC
2. The Central African Coalition for the ICC
3. The Guinean Coalition for the ICC
4. The Ivorian Coalition for the ICC
5. The Malian Coalition for the ICC
6. The Moroccan Coalition for the ICC
7. The Chadian Coalition for the ICC
8. DRC: BERCO and CAD ngos
9. Burkina Faso: Nurukyor Association for Peace and Human Rights