



NEWS SITUATION TRACKING –TOGO

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF PNP

Vol 1

Location: Kara, Sokodé, Anie and Lome

Issue: Emerging Threats from the political tensions and violence in Togo

Date: 18th- 29th August 2017



COMMUNITY PROFILING	CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS	INCIDENT PROFILING
<p>Basic demography and geography of hotspots</p> <p>Population: Kara : Total population 150,095. Sokode : Total population 125 623 Anie : Total population 68654 Lome : Total population 1477660</p> <p><i>(general census of the population of 2010 and administrative repartition of communes submitted to parliament in 2017)</i></p> <p>Politics:</p> <p>Kara: Kara is the capital of the prefecture of Kozah, in the Kara region, in the north of the country. Its main ethnic group and the dominant language is Kabye while majority of the indigenes are christians. Kozah is the home town of President Faure Gnassingbé. It is also the political stronghold of the ruling party Union for the Republic/Union Pour La Republique (formerly RPT).</p>	<p>Direct Actors: Leaders of National Panafrican/ National Panafrican Party (PNP), Ministry of Security, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Justice, Union for the Republic/Union Pour La Republique</p> <p>Affected persons : Militants of PNP, security forces, demonstrators and residents of areas affected by violence.</p> <p>Interested Actors: Coalition of Opposition Party – CAP2015(Combat pour l’Alternance Politique)¹ & Groupe de 6</p>	<p>The opposition party, National Panafrican/ National Panafrican Party (PNP) organized series of demonstrations in various localities and in the diaspora to clamour for the reinstatement of the 14th October 1992 constitution² that affirms the two (2) term limit for the office of the President as well as the rights of Togolese in the diaspora to vote. Four (4) of the demonstrations (Anie, Sokode, Kara and Lome turned violent following confrontation with the State security who accused them of violating approved routes by the Ministry of Security for the demonstration. The violent confrontation has led to the death of two (2) people while many people were injured which includes security officers and protesters. Also properties were destroyed including the burning of a police station at Sokode. Other damages at the station include the burning of motorbikes and identity cards of security officers.</p>

¹ CAP 2015 comprised ANC (Alliance Nationale pour le Changement), CDPA (Convention Democratique des Peuples Africains), PSR (Pacte socialiste pour le Renouveau), UDS-Togo (Union des Democratres Socialistes Togo), DSA (Les democratrs Socialistes Africains)

² this 4th constitution of Togo has been adopted by referendum in 1992 and revised by law N° 2002-029 of 31 December 2002.with among other changes , the modifications of the term limit.

Sokodé : situated in the centrale region , sokode is located in the center of the country and is the capital of the prefecture of Tchaoudjo. The main ethnic group is Kotokoli and the dominant language is Kotokoli or Tem. Though it is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious city, the major religion is Islam. Sokode is the hometown of Mr Tikpi Atchadam , leader of PNP (Parti National Panafricain/ National Panafrican Party). Though UNIR won the presidential elections in Tchaoudjo with 39612 votes against 21340 from the Coalition for the Fight for Political Change (CAP2015) in the 2015 general elections.

Anié : located in the Plateaux region in the South of Togo. The main ethnic group and the dominant language is Tem or Kotokoli. While Islam is the main religion, it is a political stronghold of UNIR (ex-RPT) as represented in the 2015 elections (27881 votes for UNIR against 6609 votes for CAP2015)

Lomé : Lome is the capital of Togo. It is a cosmopolitan city located in the prefecture of Gulf at the extreme south-west of the country. . Ewe and Mina are dominant Languages. Both orthodox and traditional religion is practiced. Lome is the stronghold of the opposition party CAP2015.

(Source: wikipedia , final report of the European Union election's observation in Togo in 2015)

Some arms were taken away by suspected demonstrators.

In the period under review nine (9) demonstrations have been conducted by supporters of PNP including five (5) on August 19, 2017 (Kara, Anie, Sokode, Lome (Agoe) and Bafilo). Togolese in the diaspora also held demonstrations in Germany and Ghana. One unapproved demonstration was held on August 20th in Lome by the opposition to protest the arrest and detention of their supporters with claims of human rights abuses including their families. Pro government demonstrations were held in Lome on August 29.

In the course of the demonstrations, a total of 66 arrests have been made by the police. 37 of the arrests were in Lome (27 on 19th and 10 on 20th August). On August 29th, 12 of the 27 demonstrators arrested in Lome have been released following their trial, while Dr Sama, the General Secretary of the PNP was sentenced to 18th months in jail with 9 months conditional sentences and 15 other detainees were sentenced to 12 month imprisonment with 7 months conditional sentences. The charges hinged on crimes, infractions, rebellion, degradation and destruction of properties. At Anie, 10 people have been detained and in Sokode and Kara, 21 and 9 persons have been arrested respectively.

There is also an increase in the frequency of reports of human rights violations related to the demonstrations and illegal arrests on the social media.

Series of counter-demonstrations from both opposition parties and ruling parties have been scheduled for the week of 29th to 31st August respectively. While the opposition demonstration is centred on the liberation of detainees and against government human rights violations, the planned pro government demonstration is in support of the government's action and call for peaceful dispute resolution of the crisis. The Opposition with the support of PNP, CAP2015, Togolese in the diaspora and the Group of 6³ had initially planned to stage their demonstrations on August 30th and 31st, 2017 but they rescheduled it to 6th and 7th September 2017 following a call by UNIR to its supporters for a series of demonstrations on 29th, 30th and 31 August.

The scheduling of both demonstrations of opposition and ruling parties has the potential of exacerbating the ongoing political crisis and the delicate peace and security situation. Furthermore, there are adverse socio-economic implications to these demonstrations particularly in the capital Lome- the economic and political centre of the country.

Hate speeches, provocative messages and images through the social media incite widespread violence and undermine existing social cohesion of the population.

The Ministry of Territorial Administration has issued

³ The Group of 6 comprise Alliance des Togolais Pour le Developpement Integral/Togolese Alliance for Integral Development (ADDI), Forces Democratiques Pour La Republique/Democratic Forces for the Republic (FDR), Le Togo Autrement, MCD, Les Democratres and Le Parti des Togolais

a statement on the 29th August 2017 on the implications of the demonstrations on the social and economic stability of the country.

. OPPORTUNITIES/RECOMMANDATIONS

- ECOWAS, African Union, UNOWAS and other organisations to condemn all acts of violence and ensure protection of citizens in line with related regional and international principles and norms.
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to immediately initiate a consultative meeting of government and opposition party representatives to agree and commit to a short to medium term dialogue timeframe which will reduce public tension and anxiety and also restore order in the country;
- The Commission of Constitutional, Institutional and Political Reforms and the High Commission for Reconciliation and Reinforcement of National Unity (HCRRUN) to convene an expert meeting that revisits and concludes on the framework for multi stakeholder dialogue for political, institutional and constitutional reforms with support from ECOWAS, AU, UNOWAS and key Civil Society Organisations;
- The need for targeted messages in formal and social media focusing on social cohesion, non violent political participation by civil society organizations and political parties to mitigate the threat of insecurity and violence across the country;
- The necessity to re-initiate multi stakeholder dialogue between opposition parties and the government, facilitated by ECOWAS with support from the International Community to deliberate on the ongoing crisis in the interest of social order, unity and inclusive political participation.
- As part of longterm strategy, the ECOWAS Commission should revisit the review of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to include term limits for offices of Presidents in West Africa.