

The rate of drug trafficking in West Africa has assumed an alarming proportion. Almost each day, a major seizure of narcotics is reported in one of the member states of the Economic Community of West African States, despite protocols signed to deal with this criminal, yet highly lucrative trade. On September 4th 2007 the chief of army staff in Guinea Bissau gave orders for the army to shoot any plane that lands in its uncontrolled coastal islands, which have become a transit point for Latin American cocaine destined for European and American markets. On June 29, 2007, Senegalese authorities arrested Latin Americans who are using West African ports as transit routes and seized 1.2 metric tons of cocaine.

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