

SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

BLACK MONDAY IN GUINEA



On September 28, 2009 the Guinean population, in response to a call from the opposition political parties to a peaceful rally, gathered at Conakry Stadium, where they were made victims of a bloody attack by the nation's military.



Captain Moussa Dadis Camara had initially committed to the following conditions:

- The head of the junta would not run for presidential elections.
- Restoration of state authority and establishment of a true democracy.
- Elections on January 31, 2010 which would put an end to the transition period.
- National Council for Development and Democracy (CNDD after its name in French) assumes power in order to restore constitutional order and activate legal republican institutions.

Exactly one week after the end of the month-long Holy Ramadan, the opposition political parties decided to organize a mass demonstration at Conakry on September 28 to protest that **the head of the junta had not respected these commitments**; for example:

- He had suspended republican institutions and the Fundamental Law, leading the country into **a dead-end constitutional situation**.
- He had also proceeded to **replace all the civilian law enforcement officers and regional governors with military members**, practically nationwide.
- And lastly, they wanted to say « **NO** » to Captain Dadis Camara's **possible candidacy**.

September 28 turned into GUINEA'S Black Monday at Conakry Stadium.













September 28, 2009:
Democracy's Black Monday,
Women and young girls' Black Monday



**Men's Black Monday,
Elders and youngsters's Black Monday**





The crackdown was **out of proportion, bloody, and ghastly**. The military fired point-blank at protesters, stabbed demonstrators who ran away from the bullets. And they started a slaughter.



Also, women and young girls were frequently raped in the middle of the street.



Once more women are used as weapons of war:

- In this way, and without any intention, women and young girls saved men and young boys who were trying to escape and yet helplessly watching these crimes be committed, a despicable act for any human being.
- Not only were there widespread rapes, but also violent sexual acts performed with sharp weapons.

In this way, Guinea's history was tarnished with one of the **worst forms of violence against women and girls.**

These rapes reverberate deeply for women in Guinea, Africa, and the rest of world.

We have the right to condemn, with no reservations, these perverted and inhumane acts. The sheer interests of power have prevailed over our social, cultural and religious values.

The crimes committed by the armed forces mark a deep break from our traditions.

The military is alledgedly responsible for citizens' protection in general, and especially vulnerable people. But it has become the executioner of those vulnerable members of Guinean society: women and especially girls.

Young girls, women, and little girls from Guinea have paid once more too high a penalty in Africa. Our leaders' inconsistency plunges us today into an unprecedented situation.

Guinea has adhered to all international, regional, and subregional regulations that protect women's human rights; specifically among others:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on women, peace and security;
- UN Security Council Resolution 1820, on violence against women and girls in conflict periods.

- Considering the desolation and havoc caused to women during the September 28, 2009 suppression;
- Considering that no people can expect to evolve towards development if they humiliate those who give birth;
- Considering that resorting to rape as a suppression weapon to terrify and humiliate women and girls is an increasingly more frequent act that goes unpunished;
- Considering that those frightful and inhumane acts constitute a true regression for African democracy in general and shames Guinea in particular as a source of deterioration of people's fundamental rights and freedoms;

We strongly recommend through a solemn call to UNI:

- Unconditional support to the International Commission of Inquiry created to establish responsibility so that the guilty do not remain unpunished, according to point 1.1 of UN Resolution 1325.
- For commitment from all unions in supporting Guinean women and girls in their struggle against all forms of violence exercised against them. This will be done through instantaneous and effective mobilisation. Thus, the actors of this suppression will be identified and taken to court.

- National and international cooperation for medical and psychological aid of the women and girls who have been victims of these events; not forgetting the other wounded people and the relatives of missing people.
- Everybody's effective involvement with a higher degree of solidarity and commitment so that such acts do not repeat ever again in Guinea, Africa or anywhere else around the globe.

Carrying out strategies that will allow women to effectively fight against these atrocities, in which they are always the first victims, we recommend UNI Global Union's participation in view of:

- UNI giving an African Women's Regional Conference in Dakar in December 2009.
- UNI giving a Women's World Conference on this issue in 2010.
- A Guinea Day of Action in Madrid with maximum embassy representative participation, held as a side event at the of UNI Women World Committee in March, 2010.

Never again...

Long live women so that long live men!

Long live women so that long lives
humanity!

Thank you for all the actions each of
you will take.

Because **indifference**
would be worse than the acts that took
place in Guinea on September 28,
2009.