

10.1.08:

Zusammenfassung der gestrigen Vereinbarungen zwischen Gewerkschaften, Institutionen der Zivilgesellschaft, Arbeitgebern, religiösen Führern u.ä. in Guinea bzgl. des Streikaufrufs zum 10.1.08.:

Es werden Forderungen gestellt bzgl. Vereinbarungen zur Umstrukturierung der Ministerien, eines permanenten Dialogs mit der Regierung und den genannten Organisationen bzgl. der Abkommen von 2006 und 2007, Untersuchungen über die Tötungen und andere im Juni 2006 und Februar 2007 begangenen Übergriffe sowie die Gewährleistung der Sicherheit von GewerkschafterInnen. Ein Zeitplan für Treffen soll aufgestellt und als Stichtag soll der 31. März 2008 gesetzt werden. Bis dahin wird der Aufruf zum Streik ausgesetzt, d.h. es wird bis Ende März abgewartet, was rauskommt.

L'inter centrale CNTG-USTG, élargie à l'ONSLG et à l'UDTG, les institutions républicaines, le conseil national du patronat guinéen, les confessions religieuses, la société civile, suite à la crise au sommet de l'Etat et à l'avis de grève illimitée du 4 janvier 2008 lancé par l'inter centrale CNTG-USTG, élargie à l'ONSLG et à l'UDTG, une concertation a été ouverte à la demande des institutions républicaines entre l'inter centrale, les institutions républicaines, le conseil national du patronat guinéen, les confessions religieuses et la société civile.

Les concertations ont porté essentiellement sur l'application des accords de 2006 et 2007 et de la suspension de l'avis de grève. Après plusieurs rencontres et l'examen de plusieurs positions faites par les différentes parties en présences; prenant en compte la nécessité du maintien de la paix dans notre pays; de l'engagement de la Guinée en général et de la jeunesse en particulier à la CAN 2008; le retour des pèlerins; de l'implication des organisations syndicales internationales, sous régionales et régionales; de l'élection de la Guinée qui vient d'obtenir le programme formel avec le FMI et la banque mondiale; de l'implication du conseil des sages des coordinations des quatre régions naturelles; les parties s'accordent de ce qui suit :

D'oeuvrer sans délais à la modification du décret de restructuration des Départements ministériels, n°049 du 5 décembre 2007.

De la mise en place d'un cadre permanent de concertation et de dialogue pour permettre l'évaluation et le suivi de l'application des accords de 2006 et 2007 à travers un comité de suivi composé des représentants du gouvernement, des institutions républicaines, de l'inter centrale, du conseil national du patronat, de la société civile, du conseil des sages des coordinations des quatre régions naturelles

De procéder rapidement à l'enquête sur les tueries et autres exactions commises lors des événements de juin 2006, de janvier et février 2007. De mettre en place un chronogramme de rencontre et de fixer la date butoir de mise en oeuvre jusqu'au 31 mars 2008.

De garantir la sécurité des responsables syndicaux et d'éviter toute poursuite de tous les syndicalistes de l'inter centrale CNTG-USTG, élargie à l'ONSLG et à l'UDTG pour fait de grève.

En conséquence, l'inter centrale CNTG-USTG, élargie à l'ONSLG et à l'UDTG décide de la suspension du mot d'ordre de la grève.

Pour l'inter centrale, ont signé:
Hadja Rabiadou Sérah Diallo, secrétaire général de la CNTG
Dr. Ibrahima Fofana, secrétaire général de l'USTG
El hadj Yamodou Touré, secrétaire général de l'ONSLG
El hadj Abdoulaye Baldé, secrétaire général de l'UDTG.

Décrypté par Nouhou Baldé

Conakry, Guinée
224.60.34.26.26

taz 11.01.2008

Rohstoff-Boom in Guinea
Im Rausch des Erzes
Wachsende Rohstoff-Nachfrage bringt Milliardeninvestitionen nach Guinea.
Bisher profitiert die Bevölkerung nicht vom Boom. Mit neuen Regeln will die
Regierung das ändern. VON HAKEEM JIMO

CONAKRY taz Wer etwas mit Bodenschätzen in Guinea zu tun hat, kommt an dieser Villa nicht vorbei. Die "Chambre des Mines de Guinée" hat im Viertel "Cité des Nations" in der Hauptstadt Conakry die Nummer 36 bezogen, einen von gut 50 identischen weißen Bungalows, die einst für einen afrikanischen Gipfel gebaut wurden. Oumar Babara Touré, Chef der Bergbaukammer von Guinea, empfängt im holzverzierten Hinterzimmer. Die Holzfenster sind mittlerweile ausgetauscht - gegen Fenster aus einem Material, das Guinea weltweit bekannt machte: Aluminium.

Mit rund 17 Millionen Tonnen im Jahr ist Guinea nach Australien der zweitgrößte Produzent von Bauxit, dem Erz, aus dem Aluminium gefertigt wird. Auf rund zehn Milliarden Tonnen Bauxit werden die Vorräte geschätzt - rund die Hälfte der weltweiten Vorkommen. Und das, meint Touré, ist erst der Anfang. "Das Bauxit ist bereits aufgeteilt", sagt er. "Aber nicht das Eisenerz."

Auf der Landkarte sieht Guinea aus wie ein Croissant: an der einen Spitze die Hauptstadt Conakry an der Atlantikküste, am anderen Ende in Richtung des Länderdreiecks mit der Elfenbeinküste und Liberia die reichsten Bergbauggebiete. Dieser Landstrich, genannt "Waldregion", ist voll dichtem Tropenwald Und unter den Nimba-Bergen an der Grenze zu Liberia liegt hochwertiges Eisenerz, mit einem Metallanteil von bis zu 70 Prozent, viel mehr als jenseits der Grenze in den einst deutschen Bong-Minen Liberias. In Guinea hat es nie größeren Eisenerzabbau gegeben, erklärt Oumar Babara Touré: "Unsere Nachbarländer waren politisch zu instabil." Denn was in den Nimba-Bergen aus dem Boden geholt wird, muss zum Export an die Küste gelangen. Bis in Guineas Hauptstadt Conakry sind es fast 1.000 Kilometer schlechte Straßen. Viel näher wäre der Weg nach Süden durch Liberia. In den letzten Jahrzehnten machte der dortige Bürgerkrieg das unmöglich. Und heute will Guinea seine Erze lieber selbst vermarkten. Die neue Idee: eine Eisenbahnlinie.

Es wäre eins der größten Bauprojekte in ganz Afrika, mit Kosten von 3,5

Milliarden Dollar, sagt Bergbaukammerchef Touré. Die "Transguinéen" ist schon in Planung. Auf einer Investorenkonferenz im Oktober 2006 in Düsseldorf erklärten sich Firmen unter anderem aus Großbritannien, den USA, Russland, China, Iran, Griechenland und Brasilien bereit, bis zu 15 Milliarden Euro in Guinea zu investieren. Die Eisenbahn soll schon 2013 in Betrieb genommen werden, eine reine Güterbahnlinie aus der "Waldregion" an einen Tiefseekai 15 Kilometer vor der Atlantikküste am anderen Ende Guineas. Unterwegs sollen Ableger in die nördlichen Gold- und Diamantenregionen des Landes gebaut werden.

Touré gerät ins Schwärmen, wenn er davon erzählt: Mit Eisen und Eisenbahn geht ein neuer Rausch durchs Land, besser als jeder Goldrausch. 1,5 Milliarden Tonnen Eisenerz sollen in den Nimba-Bergen schlummern, sagt er - dreimal mehr als bisher angenommen. Seit einem Jahr können sich Firmen um die Konzessionen bewerben. Rio Tinto, der Bergbaumulti, der über seine Tochter Alcan bereits den Bauxitabbau Guineas beherrscht, könnte das Rennen machen.

Für die Zukunft will Guineas Regierung Bergbaukonzerne darauf verpflichten, anders als bisher Rohstoffe im Land zu verarbeiten und nur noch in veredelter Form zu exportieren. Seit 30 Jahren versprechen die Aluminium-Multis, das Bauxit im Land zu raffinieren. Nun müssen sie Taten folgen lassen. Die kanadische "Global Alumina" eine Konzession für eine Mine zusammen mit dem Bau einer Raffinerie und einer Hafenanlage, alles für drei Milliarden US-Dollar. Die russische Firma "RusAl" will für 2,5 Milliarden Dollar eine weitere Raffinerie errichten. Die größten der Branche "Alcoa" und "Alcan" bauen eine weitere für 1,8 Milliarden US-Dollars. Früher redeten sich die Aluminium-Konzerne mit der unzureichenden Stromversorgung heraus, keine Raffinerien im Land zu bauen. Die Chinesen haben nun ein Wasserkraftwerk versprochen.

Eile ist geboten. Guineas Bevölkerung sieht noch nichts vom Boom. Die Einnahmen des Landes aus dem Rohstoffexport belaufen sich auf magere 83 Millionen Euro letztes Jahr - rund neun Euro pro Kopf. Denn die Konzerne wissen ihre Bilanzen in roten Zahlen zu halten. Und danach zahlen sie ihre Steuern, also so gut wie keine. Die Bevölkerung kommt indes immer schlechter über die Runden. Der Unmut wächst. Beim letzten großen Aufstand vor einem Jahr, angeführt von den Gewerkschaften, töteten Sicherheitskräfte über 130 Menschen. Der Protest richtete sich gegen den Präsidenten, Lansana Conte, der seit einem Putsch im Jahr 1984, eisern und immer tyrannischer an der Macht festhält. Zumindest erzwang die Zivilgesellschaft einen Wechsel des Premierministers, und der setzte Reformen im Bergbau im Gang. Doch es rumort weiter im Volk und im Militär. Marktfrauen in Guinea rufen "Loru loru" ("abgelaufen"), wenn der Präsident mal wieder in seinem Konvoi vorbeifährt.

7.1.08

Zusammenfassung von Berichten von www.guineenews.org: Heute sollte eine Art "Konzertierte Aktion"-Treffen sein, zu dem die Regierungspartei die Gewerkschaften und die andern Organisationen der "veille" (= Wachzustand = sowas wie Überwachung der Abkommen) eingeladen haben. Der CNOSCG = Nationaler Rat der zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen ruft auch zu Vermittlungsgesprächen (u.a. mit G8 und ECOWAS) auf und befürchtet, dass ein neuer Streik den Frieden und die Stabilität gefährdet. Auch 7 Oppositionsparteien (außer der RPG) rufen zur Ruhe auf. Es ist auch der Aufruf der Gewerkschaften vom 4.1. zum unbefristeten Streik ab 10.1. drauf,

begründet u.a. mit der Entlassung eines Ministers und der Nichteinhaltung der Abkommen von 2007.

Auf www.aminata.com steht: Heute haben die Gewerkschaften das Treffen ("Konzertierte Aktion") boykottiert, wodurch es weitgehend sinnlos wurde. Es geht hauptsächlich um die Nichteinhaltung der Vereinbarungen mit der Regierung nach der Streik-"Suspendierung" (das betonen die Gewerkschaften: es war kein Abbruch) im Februar 2007.

gefunden auf www.allafrica.com:

State Regulators Suspend Two Newspapers, Ban Journalists After Publication of Articles Critical of Top Officials

Committee to Protect Journalists (New York)

NEWS

4 January 2008

Posted to the web 7 January 2008

tate regulators in the Guinean capital, Conakry, summarily suspended two private newspapers on Monday and barred their journalists from practice for three months. Local journalists and news reports say the bans were connected to December articles critical of top government officials.

The state-run National Communications Council accused private weeklies La Vérité and L'Observateur of "continually publishing insulting, contemptuous, and defamatory articles" of a nature to "manipulate public opinion," according to the same sources. The ruling did not identify the incriminating articles beyond their dates, but threatened to withdraw employees' press cards should they practice journalism in defiance of the ban.

"CPJ calls on the council to lift these arbitrary suspensions immediately," said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon. "There is a worrying trend in Guinea of punishing newspapers who dare uncover political wrongdoing."

According to La Vérité editor Baïla Ba, the ruling concerned stories published last week accusing presidential aide Sam Mamadi Soumah of falsifying a decree intended to restructure the government. The decree awarded his own office sweeping powers on government affairs, triggering public controversy after ailing President Lansana Conté signed it on December 5, according to news reports. Soumah did not publicly comment on the allegations, but the government said an "error" with respect to the powers attributed to Soumah had "slipped in" the decree, according to an official statement released on Tuesday.

L'Observateur's editorial director, Mouctar Diallo, told CPJ that the ruling was political retaliation for the paper's critical coverage of the administration of Prime Minister Lansana Kouyaté, including a December 17 editorial trumpeting a high-profile scandal involving Conakry Gov. Malick Sankhon.

The council has used summary suspensions to silence critical coverage of the government in recent years, according to CPJ research. In October, it suspended the bi-monthly La Nouvelle for a month over a story titled "National Army heading towards another mutiny," according to Ghana-based press freedom group the Media Foundation of West Africa. In 2006 alone, the council slapped four private newspapers with two-month suspensions.

The private press in the world's top bauxite exporter remains weakened by political and financial pressures, including crippling printing costs, ethnic divisions, and low levels of training, according to CPJ research. Authorities did not allow the first private broadcasters on the air until 2006.

CPJ is a New York-based, independent, nonprofit organization that works to safeguard press freedom worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.cpj.org>

Weitere Berichte auf Englisch:

Guinea PM meets unions in bid to avert strike

Mon 7 Jan 2008, 19:12 GMT

(Recasts with comment from prime minister)

By Saliou Samb

CONAKRY, Jan 7 (Reuters) - Guinea's prime minister held talks with leaders of the country's powerful unions on Monday in a bid to avert a general strike called for later this week, almost a year after anti-government protests killed 130 people.

Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate, who earlier met President Lansana Conte, told union leaders he hoped to resolve the stand-off "amicably", a government source close to the negotiations told Reuters.

Union leaders on Friday called a general strike from Jan. 10 in response to Conte's dismissal of a member of a consensus government, a move which they said violated a power-sharing deal to end the disturbances in January and February 2007.

"Efforts are being made to defuse the crisis, besides all the efforts made by state institutions, religious leaders and union leaders,"

Kouyate told a private radio station in Conakry.

"I met the head of state today and we had a very conciliatory exchange. I hope all of that will bring some results."

Guinea is the world's top exporter of bauxite, the ore used to make aluminium, and last year's unrest caused major disruption to shipments and hurt an economy already prone to high inflation and sporadic food and fuel shortages.

Human rights groups have accused the police and military of grave abuses during a crackdown last year on the protests against Conte, who has exerted tight control over the former French colony since seizing power in 1984.

At least one person was killed on Friday when youths burned tyres, erected barricades and pelted vehicles with stones in poor parts of Conakry, scenes reminiscent of last year's unrest.

Former diplomat Kouyate was selected by Conte in February from a list of candidates for the premiership drafted by the unions -- the key condition for ending the protests sparked by high inflation, rampant

unemployment and widespread graft.

TENTATIVE TALKS

Union negotiator Boubacar Biro Barry said there was hope of resolving the latest crisis, prompted by the sacking on Thursday of Communications Minister Justin Morel Junior, an ally of the prime minister.

"If the current rhythm of talks continues, it is possible we will have a happy outcome, but you never know," he said.

Morel's dismissal followed a Dec. 5 presidential decree handing control of government business to the presidency secretary-general, a Conte ally, and a New Year's message from the president criticising Kouyate's administration.

Guinea's ruling Progress and Unity Party (PUP) has appealed to citizens to boycott this week's strike, saying it would plunge the West African country back into chaos.

With a weak and divided opposition in Guinea, unions have been at the forefront of forcing democratic change on Conte.

The unions on Monday demanded progress in an inquiry into the killing of more than 130 people during last year's unrest.

The government appointed a commission to investigate the killings, which were mostly of unarmed civilians, as well as reports of rape, extortion and beatings by security forces.

"This commission has been in place for a year and we have still not seen any results and that's not normal," Barry said.

"The main thing is not just to set up a commission, but to investigate people and judge the criminals." (Writing by Daniel Flynn and Nick Tattersall; Editing by Keith Weir)

Guinea riots calm, residents batten down for strike

Sat 5 Jan 2008, 15:51 GMT

CONAKRY (Reuters) - Calm returned to Guinea on Saturday after a day of political rioting that killed at least one person, but residents stocked up on essentials, fearing violence during a general strike next week. Youths burned tyres, erected barricades and pelted vehicles with stones on Friday in poor parts of the capital Conakry to protest President Lansana Conte's sacking of a member of a consensus government formed after bloody riots last year.

Powerful unions threatened to bring the world's top bauxite exporter to a standstill with a general strike from January 10, accusing Conte of violating a power-sharing deal that ended a general strike last year in which over 130 people were killed.

That strike caused major disruption to exports of bauxite, the ore used to make aluminium, and hurt an economy already prone to high inflation and sporadic food and fuel shortages.

A medical student was killed on Friday when a rock thrown by protesters hit him in the head as he got out of a taxi in the Hamdallaye area of Conakry, police and hospital officials said.

Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate's government has tried to reduce tensions by seeking a series of top-level meetings between Conte's presidency and the unions, and the conciliatory tone appeared to have helped calm the violence in Conakry.

"We haven't heard a single gun shot since 8 p.m. last night," said Souleymane Diallo, a student in Bambeto district.

In the Mafanco district, where Friday's violence prompted traders in Madina Market -- the city's biggest -- to shut early, some stores opened their shutters on Saturday morning.

"People are preparing for January 10. They are going to the market to buy the essentials," said Mafanco resident Mamadou Sy.

Union leaders said Conte's decision to sack Communication Minister Justin Morel Junior late on Thursday violated last year's agreement and challenged the authority of Kouyate, who was appointed as a consensus prime minister last year.

Morel Junior's dismissal was the latest escalation of a power struggle between Kouyate's reform-minded allies and a clique of Conte's associates who had tighter control on the strings of power before last year's power-sharing deal.

The sacking followed a December 5 presidential decree handing control of government business to the presidency secretary-general, a Conte ally, and a New Year's message from Conte criticising Kouyate's administration. Morel Junior read a statement from Kouyate on state media late on Thursday insisting the decree was a mistake and the New Year's message a hoax, but Conte sacked him shortly afterwards.

Many commentators had expected Kouyate to tender his resignation after the dismissal of his ally, but the street protests and strike call appeared to strengthen his hand.

"We are going to stage an unlimited general strike to force the government to respect these agreements," Rabiadou Serah Diallo, secretary-general of the National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG), told a news conference on Friday.

"One would say that there are some people who want Guinean blood to be spilled again," he said.

Strike call, violent protests in Guinea as minister sacked

by Mouctar Bah /Fri Jan 4, 4:59 PM ET/

CONAKRY (AFP) - Unions in Guinea called a general strike Friday to protest President Lansana Conte's sacking of his communications minister, as violent demonstrations against the sudden move broke out across the country.

Clashes occurred in Conakry and other towns between police and demonstrators who saw the unexplained dismissal of minister and government spokesman Justin Morel Junior late Thursday as a move against Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate.

"No to a return to the old ways. We don't want corruption back," youthful protesters shouted in parts of the west African country's capital, where they burned tyres, barricaded suburbs and fought police who used tear-gas, an AFP journalist reported.

The unrest was provoked by the announcement -- as a decree read on national television -- that Conte had sacked Morel and replaced him with a close aide, Issa Conde, head of the official Guinea News Agency (AGP). Kouyate told AFP he had not been consulted over the dismissal, but said "we shall handle this problem with lucidity."

The renowned career diplomat was given the post of prime minister after mass protests against Conte's rule in January and February last year led to brutal repression in which at least 186 people were killed.

Conte, a onetime military ruler who has ruled Guinea since 1984, came under domestic and international pressure to create the position, handing over responsibilities he had previously taken himself as head of

state.

Kouyate was chosen by the trades unions for the job and formed a new government in March. He pledged to put a country notorious for authoritarian rule and corruption back on the path of good governance. In a statement Friday, several key trades unions condemned the president's sacking of Morel "without consulting the prime minister, which constitutes a violation of the prime minister's roadmap" for governing.

They called for "an unlimited strike across the whole country from January 10, 2008 until all the agreements (with unions) are correctly implemented and until the communications minister is restored to his position".

Earlier, Rabiadou Serah Diallo, secretary general of the National Confederation of Workers of Guinea (CNGT), asked for "clarification ... since our people need to know what's going on, why a decree for no purpose".

Several officials who asked not to be named said Morel's dismissal was linked to the publication of a text by AGP presented as the president's New Year message.

This was drafted in Conte's entourage, but the president on Monday apparently rejected it and refused to read it himself. After being leaked to the news agency, the text was published by several websites and read on local radios.

In it, Conte allegedly said "any situation likely to threaten the peace, stability and balance of the nation is above all my responsibility. (...) I will not negotiate the prerogatives the constitution gives me." After the broadcast, Kouyate asked Conte for an explanation, but the head of state replied that the text did not involve him, the sources told AFP.

The government then issued a communique saying it "denounced a paper going round the Net attributed to the head of state."

Read on national television by Morel, the statement also criticised the "behaviour of those nostalgic for a forever finished past".

Conte then summoned the prime minister, along with several of his own aides and senior military officers, and Morel, but the communications minister failed to reply and was sacked, the sources said.

"It's unacceptable for President Conte to sack the communications minister just because the old guard of the regime wanted it," said an opposition official who asked not to be named.

Unions Call for Strike in Guinea

By ABOU BAKR

The Associated Press

<http://www.topix.net/redirect/loc=off-hosted-page/http=3A=2F=2Fwww.ap.org>

January 04, 2008

Young men stormed the streets of Guinea

<http://www.topix.net/world/guinea>, hurling rocks and setting tires ablaze as labor unions called for a strike Friday, threatening to throw the African nation into gridlock.

Police used tear gas to fight back the hundreds of protesters who rioted in suburbs of the capital following a report that the president had fired one of his ministers, said Bakary Drame, the commander of a security force unit in Conakry <http://www.topix.net/gn/conakry>.

President Lansana Conte grabbed power in a 1984 coup and has refused to

let go despite repeated demonstrations that have become increasingly violent. One year ago, a series of strikes spiraled into mass protests. Conte ordered martial law. Tanks rolled into the capital and security forces opened fire on protesters, killing dozens.

Although the unions have not succeeded in forcing Conte to step down, last year's strike brought key concessions, including the naming of a new prime minister from a list approved by the unions. It is that prime minister that has power over appointments and firings _ not Conte. That is why many were incensed when they learned Thursday night of the removal of Information Minister Justin Morel, whose firing was made public in a radio announcement.

'Morel is not Conte's minister ... He can't just remove him like that. We won't accept it,' said Mamadou Bory Bah, a student who had gone outside to protest.

Young men ran outside on Thursday night and set fire to tires in the neighborhood of Hamdallaye. They hurled large stones.

By Friday morning, hundreds of protesters had amassed in several key suburbs, prompting security forces to open fire with tear gas.

The mood of insurrection was mirrored in the words of union leaders, who have become emboldened by their success last year in partially curbing Conte's power.

'We're not going to sit back with our arms crossed in the face of these violations,' said Ibrahima Fofanah, the secretary-general of the Union of the Guinean Worker, known by its French acronym of USTG.

'We are calling on all Guineans to follow to the letter our order for a strike,' he said. The strike, which will be unlimited in its duration will begin Jan. 10.

The majority of Guinea's 10 million people live in poverty, even though the country is the world's largest producer of bauxite, the raw material used to make aluminum.

The country is seen as potential trigger point for violence in a region recovering from a series of devastating conflicts in neighboring Sierra Leone <http://www.topix.net/world/sierra-leone> and Liberia, and continued instability in Ivory Coast.