

## Niger: Soldiers announce coup

A group of soldiers appear on national television and announce the overthrow of the Bazoum government, while the US demands the "immediate release" of the president. They declared that they had dissolved the constitution, suspended all institutions and closed the country's borders. Mr Bazoum, democratically elected in 2021, is a key Western ally in the fight against Islamist militancy in West Africa. The West African economic bloc Ecowas has said it "strongly condemns" any attempt to seize power by force in Niger. The military takeover, which is the seventh coup d'état in the West and Central Africa region since 2020, could further complicate Western efforts to support Sahelian countries in the fight against armed groups linked to Al-Qaeda and ISIS (ISIL).

## New heart of the global bell trade

The Italian bell foundry Marinelli has been casting bronze bells for centuries, which hang in famous places, including the Vatican. But today, Africa is at the centre of the trade in church bells. Orders come from Tanzania, Nigeria and DR Congo, a sign that faith is flourishing in Africa while it is waning in Western Europe. Clergy in Nigeria believe that a new evangelisation of Europe will come from sub-Saharan Africa.

26.07.2023

## Kenya: Vigils instead of protests

The main opposition group says it will take a break from protests against the cost of living this week and instead hold public vigils in honour of those killed in previous demonstrations. According to the Azimio coalition, there have been at least 50 deaths so far; hundreds of injured have been taken to hospitals. It accuses the police of using excessive force and brutality against civilians.

25.07

## Top 10: The richest countries in Africa

Africa, with its strong contrasts, rich natural resources and growing population, also has a wide range of wealth. The list of the 10 richest countries is based on 2022 gross domestic product (GDP), which is the sum of goods and services produced. Since the ranking is not based on per capita GDP, there may be widespread poverty in some of these countries due to unequal distribution, despite their economic wealth. These countries are also characterised by impressive economic growth. Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, with large oil and entertainment industries, is the top performer, followed by: Egypt, South Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana.

25.07.2023

## Mali: Sanctions against high-ranking officials

The US has imposed sanctions on the Malian defence minister and two military officers. They accuse the trio of supporting the rise of the Russian mercenary group Wagner in the West African country. The US government justified the sanctions, saying civilian deaths in the West African country had risen by 278% since the Malian government began cooperating with Wagner. Wagner has around 1,000 troops in the Sahel state, which has been the epicentre of jihadist and political unrest for years. The UK has sanctioned 13 people with links to Wagner in the Central African Republic, Mali and Sudan.

## Guinea: Ban on Food Exports

Guinea's ruling junta has suspended the export of several agricultural products for six months, on penalty of fines or

even criminal prosecution. The aim is to preserve "food sovereignty" and "social peace". The suspension of exports affects some fifteen staple foods: rice, onions, potatoes, dried chillies, fresh chillies, aubergines, okra, fresh tomatoes, taro, cassava, maize, cassava and maize flour, yams, sweet potatoes and palm oil. Guinea, which is one of the poorest countries in the world despite its rich mineral resources (especially iron, bauxite, and gold), usually exports these agricultural products to many West African countries.

25.07.2023

## Russia delivers grain

President Putin says Russia is in a position to replace grain exports from Ukraine to Africa. In the year to June 2022, Russia was one of Africa's largest wheat suppliers, with 10.8 million tonnes. In the same period, Ukraine exported 6.3 million tonnes to the continent. Russia expects a record harvest this year. The grain can be supplied on a commercial and free basis. The country will host the second Russia-Africa summit later this week.

## BRICS - Summit

"Twenty-two countries have formally approached the BRICS countries to become full members of the group and an equal number of countries have informally approached to become BRICS members," said South Africa's Ambassador for Asia and the BRICS, Anil Sooklal. He continued, "The BRICS are not only the driving force of global strength in trying to change the fault lines in world politics, but they are also changing what is happening in the global economic space." The next summit will be held in Johannesburg from 22 to 24 August. 69 countries have been invited, including African countries. French President Emmanuel Macron has asked to attend the summit, but no decision has been made yet. [See also BRICS countries challenge the West](#)

## Algeria: Forest fires and heat waves

97 forest fires were reported in 16 provinces. Around 7 500 firefighters were deployed to bring the fires under control. In Fenaia, Bejaia, Zbarbar and Bouira, 26 people were also injured and 1 500 evacuated from their homes. The most extensive fires in the mountainous region of Kabylie, east of Algiers, spread to residential areas in the coastal towns of Bejaia and Jijel, fuelled by strong winds. Northern Algeria has experienced a heat wave in recent days, with record temperatures of up to 48°C. In several regions of North Africa, temperatures are up to 7°C above normal for this time of year.

24.07.2023

## Guinea-Bissau: Teachers' salaries stopped

The government has ordered the suspension of teachers' salaries to put a stop to fraudulent claims by bogus employees on the payroll. The country is largely dependent on external help to pay salaries in the education sector. It has declared war on ghost civil servants to reduce its wage bill. The decision affects about 8 000 teachers in primary and secondary schools, who earn on average about 50 000 CFA francs (\$85) per month.

24.07.2023

**More Info:** <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

[Nigeria: Doctors on strike](#)

[Gabon: 19 candidates for the presidency](#)

[Zambia: Embarrassing Facebook Hack](#)

**[SECOND SUMMIT: RUSSIA -AFRICA](#)**