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Information on the UFDG party including: treatment of; are they peaceful or militaristic

A report issued in November 2015 by the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project* points out that:

“Guinea witnessed a dramatic spike in political unrest in October with levels of political violence surpassing those seen during the depth of the Ebola crisis. The primary cause of this instability is the presidential election, which took place on 11 October, which pitted incumbent Alpha Conde with long-time challenger Cellou Dalein Diallo. Conde and his Rally of the Guinean People party (RPG) won 57.9% while Diallo and the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UDFG) won only 31.4% of the vote...” (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (5 November 2015) *Guinea — November 2015 Update*).

The *Agence France Presse* in October 2015 states:

“At least two people were killed and a score hurt in clashes between rival political parties ahead of Guinea's presidential election Sunday, the head of the gendarmerie told AFP. The clashes near the city's large Madina market Thursday between supporters of incumbent President Alpha Conde, and leading opposition rival Cellou Dalein Diallo, left two dead, General Ibrahima Balde, the gendarmerie chief-of-staff, told AFP” (Agence France Presse (9 October 2015) *At least two dead in Guinea pre-election violence*).

This document also states that:

“At the Madina market, spare parts traders from Conde's Malinke people blocked access to Fulani traders close to Diallo's UFDG party after seeing their wares go up in smoke on Thursday. And overnight Thursday to Friday, a score of shops belonging to Fulani traders were looted by Conde supporters in reprisal for the arson attack at the market”

The *New York Times* states in a report issued in October 2015 that:

“The recent violence has increasingly taken on an ethnic dimension, with the Peul, who make up 40 percent of the population and largely support Mr. Diallo, clashing with supporters of the president, many of whom hail from the Malinke people” (New York Times (15 October 2015) *Guinea President Set to Win Re-election, as Opponents Allege Voter Fraud*).

In October 2015 *Amnesty International* states in a report that:

“At least 35 opposition members were also arrested on 20 September, following clashes between opposition militants, Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée, UFDG) and supporters of the ruling party, Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée, RPG), in the

town of Koundara in northern Guinea” (Amnesty International (14 October 2015) *Four More Trade Unionists Detained*).

A report published by *Human Rights Watch* in October 2015 states:

“Political violence in Guinea is fueled by deep ethnic divisions, with the ruling party, the Rally of the Guinean People Party (Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée, or RPG), dominated by the ethnic Malinke. Supporters of the largest opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée, or UFDG) are largely drawn from the Peuhl ethnic group” (Human Rights Watch (15 October 2015) *Guinea: Parties Should Show Restraint*).

An article issued in December 2015 by *Reuters* states:

“Guinea President Alpha Conde on Thursday pardoned 171 people convicted by the justice system, including a leading opposition figure accused of involvement in a plot to assassinate the West African leader, state-owned television said. Mamadou Oury Bah, known as Bah Oury, was on a list of those whose sentences were partially or totally revoked by a presidential decree. Bah was a founder and the number two in the UFDG party, currently headed by Cellou Dalein Diallo, who came second to Conde in an October presidential election. He was convicted along with five others and given a life sentence for his alleged involvement in a 2011 assassination attempt against Conde. He lives in exile in France. In an act viewed by some as a potential easing of tensions, Conde met with Bah in Paris following his re-election” (Reuters (25 December 2015) *Guinea President Conde pardons 171, including opposition figure*).

Reuters in January 2016 notes that:

“Opposition leader Mamadou Oury Bah returned to Guinea on Sunday from exile following a pardon over charges related to a 2011 attempt on President Alpha Conde's life, in a sign of easing political tensions” (Reuters (24 January 2016) *Guinea opposition leader returns after presidential pardon*).

This document also states that:

“Bah was a founder and vice president of the UFDG party now led by Cellou Dalein Diallo, who came second in last year's presidential elections. Bah had been in exile for four years in Paris, France, the former colonial ruler of Guinea” (ibid).

In October 2015 a report published by *African Arguments Online* notes UFDG strongholds which are the:

“...Futa Djallon region and parts of Conakry...” (African Arguments Online (9 October 2015) *Guinea's elections: A country divided, reliving its past*).

The *International Crisis Group* in December 2015 states in a report that:

“Constitutional Court 1 Nov confirmed victory for incumbent President Alpha Condé in Oct polls, winning 57.84% of vote, followed by opposition Union for Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) candidate Cellou Dalein Diallo with 31.45%. Diallo 4 Nov reiterated rejection of results, called for protests demanding release of his supporters arrested during campaign. Justice Minister Cheick Sako 5 Nov announced release of

nine prisoners for ill health or innocence; 27 still detained. UN SRSG for West Africa Ibn Chambas 3 Nov urged President Condé to form “wide consensus” govt in interest of peace; Diallo mid-Nov stated refusal to join govt. UFDG defeat revived internal tensions between Diallo supporters and supporters of party’s VP Bah Oury” (International Crisis Group (1 December 2015) *Crisis Watch Nr 148*, p.8).

In December 2015 the *United Nations Security Council* states in a report that:

“The presidential election was held on 11 October. Incumbent President Condé was declared the winner, with 57.8 per cent of the vote, while the main opposition leader, Cellou Dalein Diallo of the Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG), garnered 31.4 per cent. The election was observed by more than 500 international and 13,000 national observers, including 2,000 women. Observation missions, which included the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and OIF, commended the high turnout and peaceful conduct of the elections , while noting that there were significant logistical and technical challenges. The majority of the presidential candidates competing against President Condé denounced the logistical and operational challenges observed during the polls. On 14 October, Cellou Diallo announced his withdrawal from the presidential race. Moreover, following the announcement by the National Independent Electoral Commission of the provisional electoral results, three opposition candidates filed complaints with the Constitutional Court. Mr. Diallo’s UFDG party was not among them. On 31 October, the Constitutional Court rejected all complaints and confirmed the re-election of President Condé” (United Nations Security Council (22 December 2015) *Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa*, p.3).

StarAfrica in January 2016 points out in an article that:

“Local elections in Guinea will take place no later than June 30, 2016, Justice Minister, Mr. Cheick Sako announced in Conakry on Wednesday. He was speaking at a meeting as part of follow-up activities to the inter Guinean agreement signed on August 20, 2015 attended by political stakeholders of the ruling majority and the opposition...The Secretary General of the country’s main opposition Union of Democratic Forces in Guinea, (UFDG) Aliou Conde focused on the operation of special delegations, in accordance with the August 20 Agreement” (*StarAfrica* (13 January 2016) *Guinea local polls slated for June 30*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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