

GUIDANCE NOTE ON GUINEA

September 2025

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Introduction

1. After a military-led coup in 2021, the Republic of Guinea has remained largely peaceful, with a growing economy based on its mineral wealth.¹ However, the country faces significant political and economic challenges, with a high rate of poverty.² According to human rights organizations, the country has made limited progress towards a democratic transition with signs of increasing restrictions on political and civic space.³

¹ Bertelsmann Stiftung, *Guinea Country Report 2024*, 19 March 2024, <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/GIN>.

² World Bank, *The World Bank in Guinea*, accessed 25 September 2025, www.worldbank.org/en/country/guinea/overview; Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Guinea: Despite Protests, Military Junta Angles to Perpetuate Its Hold on Power*, 13 January 2025, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/2025-elections/guinea/>.

³ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: Guinea 2024*, 29 April 2025, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2124720.html; Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Guinea: Despite Protests, Military Junta Angles to Perpetuate Its Hold on Power*, 13 January 2025, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/2025-elections/guinea/>; Human Rights Watch (HRW), *Guinea: Rights at Risk as Promised Transition Derails*, 2 December 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2118571.html.

2. Individuals originating from Guinea continue to seek international protection in asylum systems around the world.⁴ UNHCR considers that persons in need of international protection currently constitute a minority of the total number of people seeking asylum originating from Guinea. Global recognition rates in the past few years reflect this assessment.⁵
3. UNHCR issues this document to support the fair and efficient processing of asylum applications by persons from Guinea by identifying groups of individuals who may have international protection needs. Differentiated case processing modalities should be applied whenever appropriate. Such modalities may include simplified and/or accelerated asylum procedures.⁶ All applications from Guinea should be assessed on their own merits, with reference to updated relevant and reliable country of origin information.
4. This document is based on information available up until 25 September 2025, unless otherwise stated.

Country Overview

5. In September 2021, Mamady Doumbouya, a colonel in the Guinean army, overthrew the government led by President Alpha Condé in a coup following elections the previous year in which Condé ran for a controversial third term.⁷ The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) condemned the coup and imposed sanctions, the lifting of which was made contingent upon a return to civilian rule.⁸ These sanctions were lifted, along with sanctions on other countries in the region, in February 2024.⁹ However, the military-led government failed to hold elections as promised in December 2024, instead announcing in May 2025 that elections would take place in December of the same year.¹⁰ A referendum to approve a new constitution, developed during 2023 and 2024, was held on 21 September 2025, with provisional results showing a large majority in favour of the new constitution.¹¹
6. While the country has remained relatively peaceful after the 2021 coup, the military-led government has restricted civic space, revoked media licenses, restricted internet access and dissolved opposition parties.¹² Protests against the government have been met with force, and security forces have beaten,

⁴ According to the Refugee Data Finder, Guineans lodged an estimated 22,739 asylum applications globally during 2023 and 37,253 asylum applications during 2024. UNHCR, *Refugee Data Finder*, accessed 25 September 2025, www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download. During 2024, 17,309 Guineans lodged applications within the European Union, down from 21,238 in 2023. European Union for Asylum Agency (EAAA), *Latest Asylum Trends - Annual Analysis*, accessed 25 September 2025, <https://euaa.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends-annual-analysis>.

⁵ During 2023, applicants from Guinea were recognized in 31.28% of cases and rejected in 68.72% of cases. For 2024, the rejection rate rose to 73.74%, with 26.25% of cases being recognized. UNHCR, *Refugee Data Finder*, accessed 25 September 2025, www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download.

⁶ UNHCR, *Implementing Differentiated Asylum Case Processing Modalities*, August 2024, www.refworld.org/policy/legalguidance/unhcr/2024/en/148370.

⁷ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), *Guinea: The Causes and Consequences of West Africa's Latest Coup*, 8 September 2021, www.csis.org/analysis/guinea-causes-and-consequences-west-africas-latest-coup.

⁸ Aljazeera, *ECOWAS Sanctions Guinea, Condemns Mali over Ivorian Troops*, 23 September 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/23/ecowas-sanctions-guinea-condemns-mali-over-ivorian-troops.

⁹ Le Monde, *From Niger to Guinea, ECOWAS Sanctions Against Juntas Have Failed*, 28 February 2024, www.lemonde.fr/en/le-monde-africa/article/2024/02/28/from-niger-to-guinea-ecowas-sanctions-against-juntas-have-failed_6566933_124.html.

¹⁰ TRT Global, *Guinea's Military Government Sets New Election Date*, 13 May 2025, www.trt.global/afrika-english/article/29b820e6ed0a; Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Guinea: Despite Protests, Military Junta Angles to Perpetuate Its Hold on Power*, 13 January 2025, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/2025-elections/guinea/>. While the transitional charter did not allow members of the military, including Doumbouya, to run in elections, the new constitution abolishes that condition.

¹¹ The final result was set to be announced by the Supreme Court at a date that was yet to be announced. Le Monde, *Référendum constitutionnel en Guinée : plus de 91 % de participation, selon des résultats partiels*, 23 September 2025, www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2025/09/23/referendum-constitutionnel-en-guinee-plus-de-91-de-participation-selon-des-resultats-partiels_6642604_3212.html. The constitution, if adopted, lifts a restriction on members of the military government or other State institutions standing in elections, which had been introduced in the "transition charter" adopted by the junta shortly after the 2021 coup. Radio France International (RFI), *Guinea's Junta Sets September Vote on New Constitution after Missed Deadline*, 2 April 2025, www.rfi.fr/en/afrika/20250402-guinea-junta-sets-september-vote-on-new-constitution-after-missed-deadline. See also, Reuters, *Guinea's New Draft Constitution Will Reduce and Limit Presidential Term*, 30 July 2024, www.reuters.com/world/africa/guineas-new-draft-constitution-will-reduce-limit-presidential-term-2024-07-30/; Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.econet.net/en/document/2115525.html.

¹² Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, paras 11-19; Voice of America (VOA), *"Respect Rights, Guinea!" – UN*, 22 August 2022, www.voaafrica.com/a/respect-rights-guinea--un/6711488.html. "Access to social media and news websites has been restricted or blocked, the signal of several radio stations has been interrupted or disrupted, and the country's main media groups have been removed from broadcasting platforms". Amnesty International, *Guinea: Wounded Youth: Care and Justice Urgently Needed for the Victims of Unlawful Use of Force in Guinea*, 15 May 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr29/7953/2024/en/, p. 14.

harassed and killed protestors.¹³ In May 2022, the government banned demonstrations, which has led to an increase in the arbitrary arrest and detention of peaceful protestors, including members of opposition groups, and journalists covering the protests.¹⁴ Journalists have been questioned and arbitrarily arrested in retaliation for their reporting, and the government has shuttered media outlets and blocked others from broadcasting.¹⁵ According to Amnesty International, two opposition members who had organized protests were “forcibly disappeared” by the government in 2024.¹⁶

7. Impunity remains prevalent for abuses by security forces or the police.¹⁷ A delegation from the National Transition Council (CNT) concluded in a report published in April 2024 that conditions in detention are “alarming” and “illegal”.¹⁸ Prisons are reported to be characterized by “severe overcrowding, malnutrition, and poor medical care and sanitation”.¹⁹ Prisons in Guinea host between 200 and 600 per cent of their intended capacity, with the *Maison centrale* prison in Conakry holding over 1,900 detainees in a facility designed for 300.²⁰ Individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions (SOGIE) are targeted for physical and sexual abuse in prisons.²¹ Same-sex sexual activity is prohibited by law, and individuals of diverse SOGIE face discrimination, harassment, abuse.²²
8. While female genital mutilation has been prohibited by law since 2016, and its practice criminalized since 2019, an estimated 95 per cent of women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone the procedure.²³ Reportedly, there has been an increase in the number of girls who are

¹³ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: Guinea 2024*, 29 April 2025, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2124720.html. “Of the at least 47 people killed during protests under the [Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD)] as of 22 April 2024 according to an Amnesty International count, more than 75% were under the age of 25, and 40% were under the age of 18.” Amnesty International, *Guinea: Victims of Unlawful Use of Force Still Waiting for Healthcare and Justice*, 15 May 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/guinea-victims-of-unlawful-use-of-force-still-waiting-for-healthcare-and-justice/.

¹⁴ Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 11; Amnesty International, *Guinea: Wounded Youth: Care and Justice Urgently Needed for the Victims of Unlawful Use of Force in Guinea*, 15 May 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr29/7953/2024/en/, pp. 12-13.

¹⁵ The country is ranked 103rd out of 180 countries on press freedom by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). RSF, *2025 World Press Freedom Index: Guinea*, 2025, <https://rsf.org/en/country/guinea>. See also, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), *Guinean regulator bans news site Dépêche Guinée*, 30 January 2025, <https://cpj.org/2025/01/guinean-regulator-bans-news-site-depeche-guinee/>; CPJ, *Guinean Journalist Habib Marouane Camara Attacked, Abducted by Uniformed Men*, 6 December 2024, <https://cpj.org/2024/12/guinean-journalist-habib-marouane-camara-attacked-abducted-by-uniformed-men/>.

¹⁶ Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights: Guinea 2024*, 29 April 2025, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2124720.html. See also, Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Guinea: Growing Concern for the Health and Well-Being of Disappeared Human Rights Defenders*, 10 October 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2116654.html. See also, UN Security Council, *Activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel*, 26 March 2025, S/2025/187, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123865/n2506305.pdf, para. 39.

¹⁷ “[...] authorities have consistently failed to investigate deaths and other abuses during political protests and prosecute those allegedly responsible.” HRW, *Guinea: Rights at Risk as Promised Transition Derails*, 2 December 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2118571.html. However, Amnesty International reports that in 2023 a court found a Chief Warrant Officer in the police force guilty for the 2022 death of a protestor. Amnesty International, *Wounded Youth: Care and Justice Urgently Needed for the Victims of Unlawful Use of Force in Guinea*, 15 May 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr29/7953/2024/en/. See also, RFI, *Guinée: un gendarme condamné à dix ans de prison pour la mort d'un manifestant*, 28 March 2023, www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20230328-guinee-un-gendarme-condamne-a-dix-ans-de-prison-pour-la-mort-d-un-manifestant; Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 22; Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html.

¹⁸ Conseil National de la Transition, Commission Réconciliation, Justice, Droits humains, Communication et Information, *Rapport de la mission d'information parlementaire sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans les lieux de privation de liberté en Guinée, (Grand Conakry, Kindia et Mamou)*, April 2024, https://guineematin.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Rapport_Presentation_Prison.pdf, p. 4. See also, Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 20.

¹⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html. “The United Nations country team also noted that conditions of detention for women and children were of particular concern when it came to non-compliance with international standards on the separation of detainees by age and gender. This lack of separation exposed women and children to increased risks of violence, abuse and harassment. Women prisoners were held in alarming hygiene conditions.” UN General Assembly, *Guinea Compilation of Information Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 4 February 2025, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GIN/2, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123616/g2500713.pdf, para. 19.

²⁰ “À la maison centrale de Conakry, 95 mineurs détenus étaient placés dans une cellule d'environ 36m2, soit 0,37 m2 comme espace d'occupation par mineur.” OHCHR, “Ne nous oubliez pas”: *La situation des enfants en conflit avec la loi en milieu carcéral en République de Guinée*, August 2024, www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/guinea/Rapport-situation-mineurs-detention-2024-guinee.pdf, p. 11.

²¹ The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: LGBT+ Rights*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/2024%20UPR%20Guinea_LGBT%20Final.pdf, para. 22; Belgium, Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons – Cedoca, *Guinée; Minorités sexuelles et de genre*, 30 October 2023, www.cgra.be/sites/default/files/rapporten/coi_focus_guinee_minorites_sexuelles_et_de_genre_20231030.pdf, p. 11.

²² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html; The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: LGBT+ Rights*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/2024%20UPR%20Guinea_LGBT%20Final.pdf.

²³ The prevalence varies only slightly by geographic area or ethnic group. Swiss Refugee Council, *Guinée : mutilations génitales féminines (MGF)*, 10 December 2024, www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Herkunftslanderberichte/Afrika/Guinea/241210_GUI_MGF.pdf, pp. 6-7.

subjected to the most severe form of FGM.²⁴ Gender-based violence (GBV) is also widespread, with the most recent data from 2017 indicating that some 63 per cent of women and girls between the ages of 15 and 64 had experienced domestic violence.²⁵ Perception surveys from 2022 confirm that domestic violence remains an issue, and that survivors who report domestic violence likely face harassment, criticism and humiliation from their communities.²⁶ Survivors of GBV reportedly face “insurmountable obstacles” to access justice, often not reporting incidents to the authorities for fear of stigmatization or reprisal from within their family, as well as a lack of professionalism and even corruption on the part of the police.²⁷ An estimated 46.5 per cent of girls are married before the age of 18, and 17 per cent before the age of 15.²⁸

9. According to the US Department of State, the groups of people who are vulnerable to domestic and international human trafficking include “individuals in commercial sex, including those from ECOWAS and other nations, adults and children working in the informal labor sector, children experiencing homelessness and orphaned children, artisanal miners, children and adults with albinism, and persons with mental disabilities.”²⁹
10. The economy of Guinea grew an average of 5.2 per cent per year between 2019 and 2024, mostly due to growth in the mining sector but also because of increased agricultural production.³⁰ The economy is expected to grow in the next several years, dependent on developments within the mining sector; however, as noted by the World Bank, the economic growth of Guinea’s mining sector does not translate to improved living conditions for those living in poverty.³¹ During 2024, an estimated 51.9 per cent of

²⁴ “[...] there is what appears as a ‘defensive’ attitude, to preserve traditional culture against the assault of ‘decadent’ Western influences. This ‘backlash’ trend is reflected, for instance, in the sharp increase between 2012 and 2018 in the proportion of girls under 14 subjected to infibulation, the most extreme form of FGM: from 6% to 16% in just six years, representing fully one third of all girls under 14 admitted by their mothers to have undergone FGM”. In addition, reportedly operations are now happening earlier, when a girl is between ages 5-7. Health Focus, *Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea: A Never-Ending Story?*, March 2024, https://health.bmz.de/wp-content/uploads/dlm_download/Study_FGM-Guinea_March2024_V2-1.pdf, p. 20. See also, El Pais, *The Guinean Nurse Who Stopped Performing Genital Mutilation on Girls: ‘In an Environment Where Everyone Does One Thing, It Is Very Difficult Not to Do the Same’*, 27 December 2023, <https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-12-27/the-guinean-nurse-who-stopped-performing-genital-mutilation-on-girls-in-an-environment-where-everyone-does-one-thing-it-is-very-difficult-not-to-do-the-same.html>.

²⁵ Afrobarometer, *Violence sexiste en Guinée : Les victimes entre crainte d’humiliation et espoir en la justice*, 8 March 2024, www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AD783-Violence-basee-sur-le-genre-en-Guinee-Victimes-entre-crainte-et-espoir-Afrobarometer-8mars24.pdf, p. 1. See also, ConakryInfos, *Guinée-violences conjugales : des pères de familles s’expriment*, 19 April 2023, <https://conakryinfos.com/2023/04/19/guinee-violences-conjugales-des-peres-de-familles-sexpriment/>.

²⁶ “Trois quarts (76%) des Guinéens considèrent la violence conjugale comme une affaire privée à résoudre en famille et non une affaire pénale. [...] Deux tiers (67%) des Guinéens pensent qu’il est justifié qu’un homme batte sa femme. [...] Trois sur 10 (30%) des citoyens guinéens disent qu’il est courant pour les hommes d’utiliser la violence contre les femmes et les filles dans leur communauté. [...] Trois quarts (76%) des répondants pensent qu’il est probable que la police prenne au sérieux les plaintes des VBG. [...] Mais six sur 10 (60%) des sondés estiment probable que les victimes de VBG qui portent plainte soient critiquées, harcelées ou humiliées par les membres de leur communauté.” Afrobarometer, *Violence sexiste en Guinée : Les victimes entre crainte d’humiliation et espoir en la justice*, 8 March 2024, www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AD783-Violence-basee-sur-le-genre-en-Guinee-Victimes-entre-crainte-et-espoir-Afrobarometer-8mars24.pdf, p. 2.

²⁷ Amnesty International, *Shame Must Change Sides: Ensuring Rights and Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Guinea*, September 2022, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2079024/AFR2954102022ENGLISH.pdf, pp. 9, 52. Amnesty International also reported in September 2022 that survivors face other obstacles in accessing the justice system, particularly in rural areas, such as the requirement of a forensic certificate, lack of training among the police, pressure for out-of-court settlements, court and legal fees and lengthy court procedures.

²⁸ These statistics are drawn from government data from 2018. The rate of child marriage is higher in rural areas than in cities. Republic of Guinea, *Enquête Démographique et de Santé*, July 2019, <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR353/FR353.pdf>, pp. xxxv, 72.

²⁹ US Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guinea*, 24 June 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2111677.html.

³⁰ World Bank, *Guinea: Macro Poverty Outlook*, April 2025, <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f5c5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-gin.pdf>, p. 1; The Guardian, *A ‘Bridge to Prosperity’? Guinea’s Junta Touts Opening of Mining Megaproject*, 18 March 2025, www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/18/a-bridge-to-prosperity-guineas-junta-touts-opening-of-mining-megaproject. See also, The Guardian, *A ‘Bridge to Prosperity’? Guinea’s Junta Touts Opening of Mining Megaproject*, 18 March 2025, www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/18/a-bridge-to-prosperity-guineas-junta-touts-opening-of-mining-megaproject; African Development Bank, *Guinea Economic Outlook*, June 2024, www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/guinea/guinea-economic-outlook; International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), *Guinea: 2024-2025 IFRC Network Country Plan*, 15 May 2024, <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=836640>, p. 3.

³¹ “The poverty rate is projected to fall by an average of 3.5 percentage points per year over the same period. However, this significant projected poverty reduction is linked to the strong projected growth of mining, a sector that offers limited employment opportunities for the poor. As such, without ensuring that the mining boom translates to high growth of agriculture and other non-mining sectors, the expected substantial poverty reduction may not materialize.” World Bank, *Guinea: Macro Poverty Outlook*, April 2025, <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2f5c5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-gin.pdf>, p. 2. “Malgré ses vastes réserves de bauxite, d’or et de fer, la pauvreté progresse, en raison de la mauvaise gestion économique, de la corruption et d’un déficit de gouvernance. Bien que le secteur minier soit crucial pour le développement, ses bénéfices ne profitent pas à la population, notamment dans les zones rurales, où la pauvreté demeure élevée.” Centre Africain de Formation et d’Information sur les Droits Humains et l’Environnement, *Rapport alternatif : 5ème passage de la République de Guinée à l’EPU*, 2025, https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/country-document/2025-02/DESC_EPU.pdf, p. 1.

the population lived below the international poverty line of 3.65 USD per day.³² The Human Development Index 2025 ranks Guinea as 179th out of 193 countries, due to varying factors such as low life expectancy, high levels of poverty, a low level of education and a small gross national income per capita.³³

11. Across the country, as of April 2025 an estimated 1.8 million people were in crisis levels of food insecurity, and a further 110,000 were in emergency levels.³⁴ In addition, Guinea is vulnerable to climate-related shocks, including as a result of significant deforestation.³⁵ Between 24 August and 13 September 2024, an estimated 133,688 persons were impacted by flooding across “Conakry, Coyah, Kankan, Siguiri, Mandiana and Kouroussa [prefectures], as well as other areas such as Dubreka, Forecariah, Téliélé, Yomou and Kissidougou.”³⁶

International Protection Needs

12. All claims for international protection by nationals and stateless persons who were formerly habitual residents of Guinea should be processed in fair and efficient procedures in accordance with international and regional refugee law. While the economic situation in Guinea is likely to be a significant driver of the outmigration from Guinea, certain profiles of people may be in need of international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention, including in particular:

- a. **Survivors and those at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) as well as those who have resisted having FGM performed on them or a family member:** In Guinea, FGM is viewed by the majority of the population as a social and religious necessity, and a prerequisite for marriage and childbearing.³⁷ As of 2018, over half of women in Guinea reported having undergone excision, while 16 per cent of girls under 14 had been subjected to infibulation, the most extreme form of FGM, which often requires additional painful surgical intervention after marriage and before the birth of a child.³⁸ Persons refusing FGM may face social and religious pressure, combined with stigmatization and ostracization, particularly in rural areas where it may be harder to avoid the practice or to keep non-performance of FGM a secret.³⁹
- b. **Survivors and those at risk of GBV, including domestic violence:** Domestic violence is reportedly widespread and survivors face many barriers to access to justice and often do not report

³² “Although GDP per capita increased by 3.1%, the poverty rate (defined as living on less than US\$3.65 per day, 2017 PPP) rose slightly to 51.9%, driven by higher inflation and insufficient job creation in the non-mining sector.” World Bank, *The World Bank in Guinea*, accessed 25 September 2025, www.worldbank.org/en/country/guinea/overview. See also, World Bank, *Guinea: Macro Poverty Outlook*, April 2025, <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae48ff2efc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/mpo-gin.pdf>, p. 2.

³³ UN Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2025*, 6 May 2025, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2025reporten.pdf>, pp. 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 302, 308. “In 2019, 83% of children could not read and understand a simple text, by age 10.” World Bank, *Human Capital Country Brief: Guinea*, October 2024, <https://humancapital.worldbank.org/en/economy/GIN#>.

³⁴ Cadre Harmonisé, *Identification des zones à risque et d'estimation des populations vulnérables au Sahel et en Afrique de l'Ouest (CH3.0)*, April 2025, www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/ch/FICHE_COMMUNICATION_MARS_VF-2025.pdf, pp. 3–4.

³⁵ “Environmental degradation (mainly due to deforestation) is arguably the most significant challenge. [...] In addition to growing vegetation loss, food and nutrition insecurity in the country has been exacerbated by a combination of biophysical and agro-climatic shocks affecting crops and livestock, such as rising prices in domestic markets affecting households dependent on purchases for their access to food. According to the Climate Change Knowledge Portal, drought is expected to be the most significant climate risk for Guinea.” IFRC, *Guinea: 2024-2025 IFRC Network Country Plan*, 15 May 2024, <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=836640>, p. 4.

³⁶ UNICEF, *UNICEF Guinea Flash Update (Floods)*, 4 October 2024, <http://reliefweb.int/report/guinea/unicef-guinea-flash-update-floods-26-september-2024>, p. 1.

³⁷ “Missing any of these steps, the individual and her family will suffer an unbearable punishment, stigmatised and even ostracised from their community.” Health Focus, *Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea: A Never-Ending Story?*, March 2024, https://health.bmz.de/wp-content/uploads/dlm_download/Study_FGM-Guinea_March2024_V2-1.pdf, pp. 4–5, 20. See also, The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: Civil and Political Rights and Gender-Based Violence*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Guinea%20UPR%20CPR%20and%20GBV%20Final.pdf, paras 45–50; Plan International, *Combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Guinea*, 25 May 2022, www.plan.org.au/news/child-protection/combating-female-genital-mutilation-fgm-in-guinea/; M. Doucet, A. Delamou, H. Manet and D. Groleau, *Beyond Will: The Empowerment Conditions Needed to Abandon Female Genital Mutilation in Conakry (Guinea)*, a *Focused Ethnography*, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-020-00910-1>, pp. 10–11.

³⁸ Health Focus, *Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea: A Never-Ending Story?*, March 2024, https://health.bmz.de/wp-content/uploads/dlm_download/Study_FGM-Guinea_March2024_V2-1.pdf, pp. 4, 20.

³⁹ People across the country reportedly see anti-FGM campaigns and the non-performance of FGM as a Western value being pushed against traditional African norms. See, for example, Health Focus, *Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea: A Never-Ending Story?*, March 2024, https://health.bmz.de/wp-content/uploads/dlm_download/Study_FGM-Guinea_March2024_V2-1.pdf, pp. 20–21. An analysis of 2018 data found that the following factors resulted in choosing not to perform FGM: age (with younger women more opposed), whether or not the respondent had undergone the procedure, level of education and wealth bracket. Ethnicity and region also affected the results. A. Diallo, T. Sidibé, R. Diallo, S. Camara, M. Touré, A. O. Sall and M. D. Balde, *Factors Associated with Abandoning the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea: A Secondary Analysis of 2018 Demographic and Health Survey Data*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.23937/2474-1353/1510158>, pp. 3–6.

incidents due to fear of stigmatization or reprisal, onerous evidentiary requirements, and corruption or lack of cooperation by State or customary authorities.⁴⁰ Girls are disproportionately affected.⁴¹ Girls employed as domestic workers, and girls who live in foster homes, are particularly vulnerable to GBV.⁴²

- c. **Survivors of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked:** Men, women and children are trafficked for sex and/or labour in Guinea, with forced labour most prominent in mining, street vending, agricultural and domestic work.⁴³ Children from low-income families, and children who are out-of-school, are often exploited for labour by relatives or others, including in the context of religious schools, with teachers forcing children to beg on the streets.⁴⁴ In 2025, the UN noted “efforts of Guinea to combat human trafficking” but expressed concern over “the extremely high number of women and children involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking” and the fact that “trafficking in children remained a major problem and frequently went unpunished.”⁴⁵
- d. **Individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions (SOGIE):** As of February 2025, “discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was not a prohibited ground of discrimination in Guinea and [...] article 274 of the Criminal Code criminalized sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.”⁴⁶ Persons of diverse SOGIE have been arrested and harassed under other provisions of the law, and experience violence and sexual assault perpetrated by security forces and private actors, including family members.⁴⁷ Transgender persons face harassment, physical and verbal abuse as a result of their identity.⁴⁸
- e. **Journalists whose writing is critical of the government or who cover protests:** According to Freedom House, “critical journalists have faced arbitrary arrests, intimidation, questioning, and censorship by the security forces” since the 2021 coup.⁴⁹ The government has censored media outlets, cracked down on civic space and abducted or arrested journalists.⁵⁰ In particular, as noted

⁴⁰ Amnesty International, *Shame Must Change Sides: Ensuring Rights and Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Guinea*, 27 September 2022, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2079024/AFR2954102022ENGLISH.pdf, pp. 50-57. See also, World Bank, *Unlocking Women's and Girls' Potential: The Status of Women and Girls Relative to Men and Boys in Guinea*, 31 December 2022, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099050423114031169/pdf/P175658041109307c0901803b4a15ca6172.pdf>, pp. 77-79.

⁴¹ “Le viol est devenu le cas le plus préoccupant de ce qu’il est convenu d’appeler les VBG (violences basées sur le genre). Il connaît une croissance exceptionnelle, traverse toutes les couches sociales et sévit particulièrement chez les mineures.” Le Point, *Tiermo Monénembo – Guinée, un enfer pour les femmes*, 8 January 2023, www.lepoint.fr/afrique/tiermo-monembo-un-enfer-pour-les-guineennes-08-01-2023-2504072_3826.php. According to data “provided to Amnesty International by Oprogen on the age and sex of victims and perpetrators”, during 2020 “more than 75% of the victims were minors and nearly 70% of the perpetrators were adults”. Amnesty International, *Shame Must Change Sides: Ensuring Rights and Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Guinea*, 27 September 2022, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2079024/AFR2954102022ENGLISH.pdf, p. 20.

⁴² Amnesty International, *Shame must change sides: Ensuring Rights and Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Guinea*, 27 September 2022, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2079024/AFR2954102022ENGLISH.pdf, p. 22.

⁴³ US Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guinea*, 24 June 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2111677.html; Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach, *Child Trafficking and Child Labor in Guinea*, December 2022, <https://cenhro.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Guinea-Baseline-.pdf>, pp. 10-11.

⁴⁴ “Traffickers, often distant relatives, promise to care for or provide an education to low-income relatives’ children and instead exploit them in domestic servitude or forced begging.” US Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guinea*, 24 June 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2111677.html. “Children whose parents send them to live and work with family members or strangers purportedly in exchange for schooling, in arrangements known as *confiage*, are frequently exploited in forced domestic work and other forced services. Children sent to Koranic schools also face increased vulnerability to forced begging or forced labor in their teachers’ agricultural interests.” US Department of Labor, *2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Guinea*, 5 September 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2116184.html.

⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Guinea Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 4 February 2025, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GIN/2, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123616/g2500713.pdf, paras 26-27.

⁴⁶ Ibid., para. 10. See also, Equaldex, *LGBT Rights in Guinea*, accessed 25 September 2025, www.equaldex.com/region/guinea; Human Dignity Trust, *Guinea*, 17 December 2024, www.humandignitytrust.org/country-profile/guinea/.

⁴⁷ “Although [Article 274] is rarely enforced, LGBT+ people have been arrested on lesser charges in connection with their identity.” Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html; The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: LGBT+ Rights*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/2024%20UPR%20Guinea_LGBT%20Final.pdf, paras 8, 12-15, 18-22; Belgium, Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons – Cedoca, *Guinée: Minorités sexuelles et de genre*, 30 October 2023, www.cgrs.be/sites/default/files/rapporten/coi_focus_guinee_minorites_sexuelles_et_de_genre_20231030.pdf, p. 16.

⁴⁸ According to a national survey of persons living with HIV: “87,5% (28/32) des transgenres ont déjà été harcelé(e) ou blessé(e) physiquement ou ont subi d’autres formes de violences corporelles en raison de leur identité de genre suivies”. Republic of Guinea et al., *2023-Stigma Index 2.0 : Enquête nationale sur l’indice de la stigmatisation envers les personnes vivant avec le VIH en république de guinée*, 2024, www.stigmaindex.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Guinea-SI-2.0-Report-2024_French.pdf, p. 53.

⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html.

⁵⁰ See, for example, RSF, *More than 100 African Journalists and Press Freedom Organisations Join RSF in Calling on Guinea’s Authorities to Shed Light on Fate of Journalist Missing for Six Months*, 2 June 2025, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2126100.html; RSF, *Nearly Half of the World’s Missing Journalists Are Victims of Enforced Disappearance*, 15 January 2025, <https://rsf.org/en/nearly-half-world-s-missing-journalists-are-victims-enforced-disappearance>; RSF, *2025 World Press Freedom Index: Guinea*, 2025, <https://rsf.org/en/country/guinea>; International Federation of Journalists

by Reporters without Borders (RSF), the government has revoked the licenses of “the television and radio stations *Djoma TV*, *Djoma FM*, *Espace FM*, *Espace TV*, *Sweet FM*, and *FIM FM*” in May 2024; the outlets remain closed despite the High Authority for Communication organizing a forum on the future of media in Guinea in May 2025.⁵¹

- f. Political opponents, including active members of political parties opposed to the military-led government, political activists, human rights defenders and, in certain circumstances, political protestors:** Persons in opposition to or critical of the government reportedly fear harassment, arrest, detention or retaliatory prosecution.⁵² Opposition parties have been dissolved and their rallies have been interrupted or attacked by security forces.⁵³ Protests against the government have been met with deadly force, with protestors suffering injuries or being killed.⁵⁴ In October 2024, human rights experts expressed concern that two disappeared human rights activists in Guinea were “at risk of torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial execution for defending democracy and human rights.”⁵⁵ On 21 June 2025, the former president of the Guinea Bar Association, who had resigned from the National Transitional Council over the delays in the transitional process, was assaulted, abducted and tortured by armed men.⁵⁶
- g. Persons with albinism:** As of February 2025, the “United Nations country team noted that persons with albinism in Guinea faced frequent violations of their fundamental rights, including the right to life, health, education and non-discrimination.”⁵⁷ While Guinea has adopted a law specifically concerned with the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with albinism, persons with albinism frequently live in poverty, have to resort to begging to survive and suffer attacks due to incorrect beliefs about what albinism is.⁵⁸ The government has taken measures to educate the population about albinism but persons with albinism reportedly still experience discrimination from their communities.⁵⁹

(IFJ), *Guinea: Journalists Raided and Arrested by Security Forces*, 22 January 2024, www.ifj.org/media-centre/news/detail/article/guinea-journalists-raided-and-arrested-by-security-forces; CPJ, *Guinean Journalists Arrested, Attacked at Protest over Blocking of News Website*, 26 October 2023, <https://cpj.org/2023/10/guinean-journalists-arrested-attacked-at-protest-over-blocking-of-news-website/>.

⁵¹ “Guinea’s media regulator just concluded the ‘Forum on the Future of the Press,’ an event dedicated to rebuilding the country’s media landscape, yet six iconic news outlets remain blocked. Four private radio stations and two private television channels have been banned from broadcasting for a year, drastically restricting the population’s access to diverse sources of information.” RSF, *Is There a Future for Guinea’s Press? Not Without the Country’s Banned Media Outlets*, 22 May 2025, <https://rsf.org/en/there-future-guinea-s-press-not-without-country-s-banned-media-outlets>. While the outlets have brought suit against the government, there has reportedly been no notable progress in the case after one year. RFI, *Guinée: le Forum sur la presse conclut à des avancées, mais reste silencieux sur les médias fermés*, 22 May 2025, www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20250522-guinee-le-forum-sur-la-presse-conclut-a-des-avancees-mais-reste-silencieux-sur-les-medias-fermes. See also, RFI, *Guinée: le gouvernement interdit la diffusion de plusieurs médias privés*, 22 May 2025, www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20240522-guinee-plusieurs-medias-interdits-par-le-pouvoir.

⁵² The Guardian, *‘Each of Us Is Afraid’: Guinea’s Junta Leader Tightens Grip as Opposition Lies Low*, 11 February 2025, www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/11/guinea-junta-mamady-doumbouya-opposition.

⁵³ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, *Guinea: Despite Protests, Military Junta Angles to Perpetuate Its Hold on Power*, 13 January 2025, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/2025-elections/guinea/>; CIVICUS, *Guinea: Democracy Delayed Once More*, 2 February 2025, <https://lens.civicus.org/guinea-democracy-delayed-once-more/>; Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html. Most political parties draw from an ethnic group or regional base of support. Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html.

⁵⁴ “Human Rights Watch research indicates that security forces used lethal force leading to the deaths of at least nine people, including one woman and four children ages 9 to 17, during protests in Conakry between January and September 2024. Only one of them took part in the protests.” HRW, *Guinea: Rights at Risk as Promised Transition Derails*, 2 December 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2118571.html. See also, The Guardian, *‘Each of Us Is Afraid’: Guinea’s Junta Leader Tightens Grip as Opposition Lies Low*, 11 February 2025, www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/11/guinea-junta-mamady-doumbouya-opposition; Amnesty International, *Guinea: Victims of Unlawful Use of Force Still Waiting for Healthcare and Justice*, 15 May 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/guinea-victims-of-unlawful-use-of-force-still-waiting-for-healthcare-and-justice/>; Aljazeera, *Two People Shot Dead as Guinea Protest Turns Bloody*, 27 February 2024, www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/27/two-people-shot-dead-as-guinea-protest-turns-bloody.

⁵⁵ OHCHR, *Guinea: Growing Concern for the Health and Well-Being of Disappeared Human Rights Defenders*, 10 October 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2116654.html.

⁵⁶ “The abduction and assault fit a pattern of government security force attacks on the junta’s critics, dissidents, and political opponents. On [23 June 2024], in response to the attack, the Guinean bar association adopted a series of measures, including a two-week boycott of all court hearings and the withdrawal of all lawyers sitting on the transitional institutions established by the junta since the coup.” HRW, *Prominent Critic of Guinean Junta Abducted, Tortured*, 24 June 2025, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2126657.html.

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Guinea Compilation of Information Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 4 February 2025, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GIN/2, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123616/g2500713.pdf, para. 9.

⁵⁸ UN Guinea, *La mise en œuvre de la feuille de route nationale pour la transformation des systèmes alimentaires pour l’atteinte des ODD en Guinée*, 14 March 2022, <https://guinee.un.org/fr/175770-la-mise-en-%C5%93uvre-de-la-feuille-de-route-nationale-pour-la-transformation-des-syst%C3%A8mes>.

⁵⁹ Africa Albinism Network, *Rapport sur la situation des personnes atteintes d’albinisme en guinée*, September 2022, <https://africaalbinismnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/1532537817040xe3lybh1u8lptqknrz77gb9-1.pdf>, pp. 1-6. See also, Avocats Sans Frontières France, *Personnes en situation de handicap et atteintes d’albinisme en Guinée: des obstacles juridiques et sociétaux à la réalisation des droits fondamentaux*, 24 November 2022, www.avocatsansfrontieresfrance.org/media/data/paragraphes_listes/documents/document_pdf-71.pdf, pp. 5, 39.

13. This list does not presume to be an exhaustive enumeration of all profiles of Guinean applicants who may have a well-founded fear of being persecuted. Each application for international protection should be assessed on its merits, taking into account the evidence provided by the applicant as well as all relevant country of origin information. Family members and others closely associated with persons at risk of persecution may be at risk themselves.⁶⁰
14. UNHCR does not consider that persons from Guinea are likely to be in need of international refugee protection under the broader refugee definition found in UNHCR's mandate or regional instruments, such as Article 1(2) of the 1969 OAU Convention.⁶¹ However, Guinea remains susceptible to further national and regional instability.⁶² In 2024, the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index ranked Guinea as the 17th most fragile State out of 179 countries.⁶³ With this context in mind, UNHCR emphasizes that decision makers must take into account relevant, reliable, accurate and up-to-date country of origin information to assess applicants' international protection needs, including under the broader refugee definitions.

Availability of Protection

15. Guinea ranked 119th out of 142 countries ranked in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, with low scores for criminal and civil justice but higher for fundamental rights and order and security.⁶⁴ The government has taken steps to investigate and prosecute human trafficking.⁶⁵ The criminal justice system is hampered by a lack of qualified judicial personnel, corruption, inefficiency and undue social and political influence on court proceedings.⁶⁶ An Afrobarometer survey from 2024 found that 58.3 per cent of respondents thought that judges and magistrates decided cases frequently or always based on political influence and 55.8 per cent believed that most or all of them are implicated in corruption.⁶⁷ According to Freedom House, "[d]ue process is upheld unevenly in the state justice system, and many disputes are settled informally through traditional justice systems; these systems also apply due process unevenly, and decisions are not subject to appeal procedures."⁶⁸ Persons who are arrested often face long waiting times to be brought before a judge and spend long periods in pretrial detention.⁶⁹ When trials do proceed, they frequently fall short of fair trial guarantees and due process requirements.⁷⁰

⁶⁰ The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: Civil and Political Rights and Gender-Based Violence*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Guinea%20UPR%20CPR%20and%20GBV%20Final.pdf, para. 28.

⁶¹ Organization of African Unity, *Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa* ("OAU Convention"), 10 September 1969, 1001 UN, Treaty Series 45, www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/oau/1969/en/13572.

⁶² Peace News, *Key Challenges Hindering Peace in Guinea*, 24 March 2025, <https://peacenews.com/key-challenges-hindering-peace-in-guinea/>.

⁶³ Fragile States Index, *Global Data*, accessed 25 September 2025, <https://fragilestatesindex.org/global-data/>.

⁶⁴ World Justice Project, *Guinea Ranks 119 out of 142 in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index*, 23 October 2024, https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Guinea_2.pdf, pp. 1-2.

⁶⁵ US Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guinea*, 24 June 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/211677.html.

⁶⁶ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024 - Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html. See also, DT Global, *Untangling Dissatisfaction in Guinea's Justice System*, 3 October 2024, <https://dt-global.com/blog/guineas-justice-system/>.

⁶⁷ Afrobarometer, *Résumé des résultats: Enquête d'Afrobarometer Round 10 en Guinée*, 19 September 2024, www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/GUI_R10_Resumé-des-résultats_Afrobarometer_12Sep24.pdf, pp. 28, 38. See also, Afrobarometer, *Bulletin ODD d'Afrobarometer: Guinea*, May 2021, www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/guinee-bulletin_odd_2021-afrobarometer-20mai21.pdf, p. 5.

⁶⁸ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html. "While a significant majority (84%) of Guineans seek restitution for their legal problems, they tend to seek justice through traditional, informal mechanisms." DT Global, *Untangling Dissatisfaction in Guinea's Justice System*, 3 October 2024, <https://dt-global.com/blog/guineas-justice-system/>.

⁶⁹ Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html. As of September 2023, over half (3,041) of the total prison population (5,517) was in pretrial detention, including 211 children. OHCHR, *"Ne nous oubliez pas": La situation des enfants en conflit avec la loi en milieu carcéral en République de Guinée*, August 2024, www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/guinea/Rapport-situation-mineurs-detention-2024-guinee.pdf, p. 10.

⁷⁰ "In its everyday functioning at municipal levels, most Guineans consider the judiciary to be highly corrupt – consistently ruling in favor of those who offer the biggest bribe or who can use the influence of the state to determine judicial outcomes." Bertelsmann Stiftung, *BTI 2024 Country Report Guinea*, 19 March 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2105871/country_report_2024_GIN.pdf, p. 10. During 2023: "The government did not consistently observe the right to presumption of innocence, the right of the accused to counsel (but only for major crimes), or the right to appeal a judicial decision. Although the government was responsible for funding legal defense costs in serious criminal cases, it rarely disbursed funds for this purpose. The attorney for the defense frequently received no payment. Authorities allowed detainees' attorneys access to their clients, but often on condition that prison guards or gendarmes were present." US Department of State, *2024 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guinea*, 24 June 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/211677.html.

16. Prisoners face abuse by their guards, including sexual violence.⁷¹ Prisoners live in squalid conditions, without adequate medical care, sanitation or drinking water.⁷² In June 2022, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights reported that prison conditions constituted violations of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and highlighted “skeletal, paralyzed, and even dying patients” in detention.⁷³
17. During 2024, human rights observers welcomed a Guinean court verdict which found former President Moussa Dadis Camara and seven others guilty of crimes against humanity in relation to a 2009 massacre of protestors in a football stadium.⁷⁴ However, Camara was pardoned in 2025 by President Doumbouya.⁷⁵
18. Corruption is reported to be a significant problem in Guinea.⁷⁶ The government has established an anti-corruption court to investigate and prosecute cases of financial mismanagement.⁷⁷ While the indictment and prosecution of former politicians and officials on corruption charges has been welcomed by human rights observers as a necessary step to combat impunity, concerns have been expressed about the political motivation behind some of the investigations.⁷⁸
19. In light of the information presented above, UNHCR considers that in situations where the persecution emanates from the State or its agents, protection by the State is generally not available. When the persecution emanates from a non-State actor, the availability of State protection needs to be assessed against the individual circumstances of the case.

Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative

20. For applicants who have a well-founded fear of persecution at the hands of its State or its agents, there is a presumption that no internal flight or relocation alternative is available.⁷⁹ For applicants with a well-founded fear of persecution at the hands of non-State agents, an individual assessment is required of the relevance and reasonableness of any proposed internal flight or relocation alternative.⁸⁰

⁷¹ The Advocates for Human Rights, *Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review: Civil and Political Rights and Gender-Based Violence*, 11 October 2024, www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Guinea%20UPR%20CPR%20and%20GBV%20Final.pdf, paras 15, 25-27, 51; Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 35.

⁷² Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024 - Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html; UN General Assembly, *Guinea Compilation of Information Prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 4 February 2025, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GIN/2, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123616/g2500713.pdf, paras 18-19, 49-50; Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 20. See also, OHCHR, “Ne nous oubliez pas”: La situation des enfants en conflit avec la loi en milieu carcéral en République de Guinée, August 2024, www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/guinea/Rapport-situation-mineurs-detention-2024-guinee.pdf, pp. 12-16.

⁷³ Ministère de la Justice et des Droits de l'homme, *Note de service*, n° 0259/MJDH/CAB/2022, 24 June 2022, cited in: Amnesty International, *Guinea: Ongoing Human Rights Violations*, December 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AFR2986112024ENGLISH.pdf, para. 20.

⁷⁴ “Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, said the verdict sends a powerful message that impunity will not be tolerated and reaffirms commitment to upholding the rights of survivors.” OHCHR, *Guinea: Senior UN Officials Welcome Verdict in 2009 Stadium Massacre Trial*, 1 August 2024, www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/news/2024/08/95981/guinea-senior-un-officials-welcome-verdict-2009-stadium-massacre. HRW, *Guinea: Landmark Verdict in Stadium Mass Killings Trial*, 31 July 2024, www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/31/guinea-landmark-verdict-stadium-mass-killings-trial.

⁷⁵ “The pardon undermines national judicial proceedings and contravenes international human rights principles that emphasize the right of victims to effective remedies and the obligation of States to protect and ensure human rights and combat impunity.” OHCHR, *Guinea: Pardon for Ex-President Raises Serious Concerns*, 1 April 2025, www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/guinea-pardon-ex-president-raises-serious-concerns.

⁷⁶ “Malgré l'existence d'un cadre institutionnel et un cadre légal et réglementaire sur le plan de la lutte contre la corruption et des pratiques assimilées, la Guinée figure parmi les pays les plus corrompus.” Association Guinéenne pour la Transparence, *Rapport de la société civile sur la mise en œuvre du chapitre II (les Mesures Préventives) et V (le Recouvrement des Avoirs) de la CNUCC en Guinée*, December 2023, <https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/Rapport-parallele-AGT-UNCAC-Coalition-December-2023-FR.pdf>, p. 6. See also, Transparency International, *Corruption Perceptions Index 2024: Guinea*, www.transparency.org/en/countries/guinea.

⁷⁷ “The [UN] country team commended the Government's efforts to combat impunity, in particular the establishment and operationalization of the [anti-corruption court]. In this regard, the Public Prosecution Service of the First Instance Court of Dixinn had opened investigations into 26 former officials from the ousted regime of President Alpha Condé, including 11 ministers, including the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly.” UN General Assembly, *Guinea Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 4 February 2025, A/HRC/WG.6/49/GIN/2, www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2123616/g2500713.pdf, para. 16.

⁷⁸ However: “The criminal investigations are viewed as at least partly politically motivated, as they allow Doumbouya to weaken long-standing segments of Guinea's civilian political elite.” Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2024: Guinea*, 2024, www.ecoi.net/en/document/2115525.html.

⁷⁹ UNHCR, *Guidelines on International Protection No. 4: “Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative” Within the Context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 23 July 2003, HCR/GIP/03/04, www.refworld.org/policy/legalguidance/unhcr/2003/en/32047, para. 7.1.b.

⁸⁰ Ibid., Chapter II.