



Joint Press Statement by ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations on the situation in Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou, September 16, 2015- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN), which jointly chair the International Follow up Group in Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF) have learned with dismay the hostage taking by the Presidential Security Regiment against the President of Burkina Faso, Michel Kafando, Prime Minister Yacouba Isaac Zida, and ministers of the transition, during a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Kossyam Palace.

The three organizations condemn in the strongest terms the flagrant violation of the Constitution and the Transitional Charter. They demand that the defense and security forces submit themselves to the political authority and in the current context, to the transitional authorities.

ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations are demanding the immediate release of the hostages. They emphasize strongly that the perpetrators of this unacceptable abduction answer for their actions and be held accountable for any violation of the physical integrity of the President of Burkina Faso, the Prime Minister and other personalities they detain.

The three organizations reiterate their full support to the transition in this crucial period which is to culminate with the elections scheduled on 11 October 2015. They reaffirmed their determination to support the national authorities to make every effort to ensure the successful completion of the Transition in Burkina Faso.

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