

Security alert – coup attempt in Guinea

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Following reports of an attempted military coup in Guinea, marine insurer Gard has advised shipowners and operators to exercise caution if their vessels are planning on calling at any port in the country. Gard's local correspondent, Budd Guinea, said that the outcome of the coup currently remained somewhat unclear.

Budd Guinea said that after shooting was heard in the vicinity of the presidential palace in Conakry, Guinea's Special Forces announced on social media that they had captured the country's President and were taking control of the country.

This was quickly followed by a statement from the Ministry of Defence indicating that the coup had failed.

The correspondent said that the situation remained very unclear. Budd Guinea suggested that vessels currently in the port of Conakry might not be in immediate danger. Nevertheless, delays in cargo operations could be expected. So far, no disruptions have been reported in the port of Kamsar. Crew changes in all ports are suspended for the time being.

According to Risk Intelligence, security threats such as cargo theft, smuggling, stowaways, activism, piracy, insurgency and military operations are still high in Guinea. Given the current political situation, these security risks are likely to remain.

Gard said that the situation remained fluid. It advised shipowners and operators to stay in close contact with local agents to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable information prior to calling ports in Guinea. "Crew members should be made aware of the local situation and take the necessary protective measures in accordance with the vessel's Ship Security Plan (SSP)", the insurer said.

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