

9/05/21 Sunday

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Live Updates: Rebels Allegedly Detain Guinea's President Amid Reports of Attempted Mutiny by [Sofia Chegodaeva](#)

Conakry, the capital of the west African nation, is home to the presidential office, as well as many other institutions and businesses.

A coup was attempted in Guinea on Sunday, "Jeune Afrique" magazine reported, citing sources. It added that the coup was organised by the special task forces led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, who previously served in the French Foreign Legion.

This information has not been officially confirmed.

Forces loyal to Guinean President Alpha Conde have detained 25 soldiers who participated in the military coup attempt, a local source said.

The military blocked the routes 50 kilometres from the city, the Guinee News portal said.

Earlier, Reuters reported that heavy gunfire was heard near the presidential palace in Conakry, while many soldiers and convoys of military vehicles were patrolling the streets.

The agency also quoted a military source who said that the only bridge connecting the mainland to the Kaloum neighbourhood, where the presidential palace and ministries are located, has been sealed off, and that heavily armed soldiers were standing around the palace.

According to AFP, some residents who were reached by telephone in Kaloum reported sustained gunfire and said they had seen many soldiers telling residents to return home and remain inside.

Videos, reportedly of the incident, have emerged online, showing a residential area and shots and voices heard in the background.

Reuters has quoted a senior government official who said that President Alpha Conde was unharmed. The official, however, did not provide further details.

Another video shared online shows armed men in military uniforms standing near their vehicles.

New messages

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- 01:52

- Guinea-Morocco World Cup Qualifier Postponed in Light of Weekend Coup

A [release](#) issued by the Confederation of African Football states that as a result of the "current political and security situation in Guinea" the World Cup qualifier between the West African nation and Morocco would be postponed.

"The current political and security situation in Guinea is quite volatile and is being closely monitored by FIFA and CAF," the release reads.

"To ensure the safety and security of all players and to protect all match officials, FIFA and CAF have decided to postpone the FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifying match Guinea

vs. Morocco, which had scheduled to be hosted in Conakry, Guinea, on Monday 6 September."

- 01:02
- Rebels Reveal Guinean Citizens Will Be Safe in Light of Weekend Coup



Safety of Guinea Citizens Will Be Ensured Following Coup, Rebels Say

- 01:00 GMT 06.09.2021
- MOSCOW (Sputnik) - The rebels in Guinea have pledged to ensure local residents' safety following the Sunday coup, the junta, which now calls itself the National Rally and Development Committee (CNRD), said.

[READ MORE](#)

- 00:48
- US Blasts Rebel Takeover in Guinea, Urges Parties to Forego Violence
The US State Department condemned the weekend events that unfolded in Guinea on Sunday, saying in a [release](#) that rebels must "forego violence and any efforts not support by the constitution and stand by the rule of law."

The department further noted that actions in the West African nation "could limit the ability of the United States and Guinea's other international partners to support the country as it navigates a path toward national unity and a brighter future for the Guinean people."

- 21:23
- Nationwide Curfew Declared by Rebels in Guinea - Reports
MOSCOW (Sputnik) - The rebels in Guinea have declared a nationwide curfew in the country after announcing that they had captured President Alpha Conde, French media report.

The curfew is being established throughout the country "until further notice," the Ouest-France daily newspaper reported late on Sunday, adding that the rebels said they were also replacing local governors and prefects with soldiers.

The rebels also said they would convene a meeting of Guinean cabinet ministers and other top officials on Monday morning, according to Ouest-France and Le Figaro.

- 20:16
- ECOWAS Calls for Restoration of Constitutional Order in Guinea
MOSCOW (Sputnik) - The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) condemned on Sunday the coup in Guinea, called for restoration of the constitutional order and threatened the rebels with sanctions.
"ECOWAS decidedly condemns this attempted coup d'etat that happened on Sunday, September 5, 2021," the community said in a statement. "ECOWAS also demands restoration of the constitutional order in Guinea in order to avoid using sanctions."
The organization also demanded the rebels to respect the bodily integrity of President Alpha Conde and immediately release him and other detained people.

- 20:12
- **Rebels Say President Conde Has Not Been Harmed, His Well-Being is Guaranteed**
MOSCOW (Sputnik) - Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the leader of the rebels in Guinea, said on Sunday that the country's president, Alpha Conde, is staying with them in a secure location.
"We have the president. He is in a safe place. There are no problems. He was already examined by a doctor. There are no reasons for concern," Doumbouya told the France 24 broadcaster.
- 18:53
- **African Union Condemns Coup in Guinea, Demands Immediate Release of President Conde**
- 17:09
- **People in Guinean Capital Welcome Mutinous Military, Reports Say**
Supporters of Guinea's rebellious military took to the streets of the capital of Conakry after the coup d'etat, the Guinee News portal said on Sunday.
People in the streets are chanting slogans praising the army, according to Guinee News. The rebels were reported to capture President Alpha Conde, dissolve the government and close the borders. But the official authorities only stated that the attack on the presidential palace had been successfully repelled, and called for social order.
The coup is led by the special security forces with Col. Mamady Doumbouya, a former French legionnaire.
- 16:25
- **UN Secretary General Condemns Coup in Guinea, Calls For Immediate Release of President**
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned on Sunday the coup in Guinea and demanded that the rebels release the country's president.
Earlier in the day, the Guinee News website reported that the rebels had detained President Alpha Conde. Meanwhile, the coup leader, Mamady Doumbouya, announced the dissolution of the government as well as abrogation of the constitution and closure of the border.
- 16:00
- **Situation in Guinea's Capital Conakry After Military Coup**
- 14:09
- **Guinea Defence Ministry Says Security Forces are Restoring Order**
- 13:48
- **Guinean Authorities Confirm Rebels Attacked Presidential Residence, Say President's Guards Repelled Attack**
The Guinean authorities confirmed on Sunday that the presidential palace had been attacked by rebels and added that they were repelled.
According to the statement by the country's defence ministry, the rebels did move toward the presidential palace.
"The presidential security with the help of the defence and security forces ... has contained the threat and repelled [the assault] by a group of attackers," the ministry said

in a statement posted on Facebook.

The authorities also called the citizenry to order amid the crisis.

- 13:33
- Guinea's Coup Leader Announces Dismissal of Gov't, Suspension of Constitution, Closure of Borders
Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the leader of the rebels in Guinea, announced dissolution of the country's government.
"We have decided to dissolve the government," Doumbouya said in a video address, posted on Facebook by the Africa Guinea news outlet.
The rebel leader also announced abrogation of the country's constitution as well as closure of Guinea's land and air borders.
- 13:24
- Renegade Special Forces Reportedly Detain Guinean President
Guinean President Alpha Conde has been detained by the country's mutinous special forces, the Guinea News website reported on Sunday, citing sources.
According to the news outlet, the president is captured by the special forces led by Col. Mamady Doumbouya.
The rebels are said to have detained a number of high-ranking officials.
- 13:22
- Video Appearing to Show Guinea's President Surrounded by 'Military Rebels' Emerges Online
- 13:12 GMT 05.09.2021
- A military coup was attempted in Guinea on Sunday, according to local reports. The reported coup is said to be led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.
[READ MORE](#)
- 13:11
- Photo Emerges Online Showing Guinea's President Surrounded by Militants
- 13:01
- Rebels Allegedly Detain Guinea's President Amid Reports of Attempted Mutiny

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Live Updates: Panjshir Resistance Leader Says Ready for Talks If Taliban Leave Province

The US completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this week, ending a 20-year military presence in the country, with the Taliban* re-taking control of the nation after ousting the Western-backed government.

The Taliban took full control of Kabul after the withdrawal of the US and its allies was completed this week. However, Panjshir, with prominent resistance leader Ahmad Massoud at the helm, was reported to remain the only province in the country to have refused to surrender to the Islamist group.

On Friday, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi said that Panjshir was fully controlled by the terrorist group, while the resistance leaders had allegedly fled the country. However, later in the day, self-proclaimed interim president Amrullah Saleh denied the capture of Panjshir and said that he remained in the province.

The group's swift takeover of the country and especially Kabul in mid-August has led Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country for the United Arab Emirates and forced thousands of Afghans to seek escape for fear of reprisals from the militants. The panic among locals caused deadly chaos at Kabul's airport as the US and its allies were evacuating foreigners, diplomatic staff and war-time Afghan allies.

Follow Sputnik's feed to find out more.

*A terrorist group outlawed in Russia and many other countries.

New messages

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- 23:21
- United Nations Vows to Provide Humanitarian Assistance to Afghans
UN Promises Continued Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan - Spokesman
- 23:20 GMT 05.09.2021
- MOSCOW (Sputnik) - The UN delegation that met with representatives of the Taliban (terrorist organization, banned in Russia) in Kabul on Sunday has agreed to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.
[READ MORE](#)
- 20:24
- Panjshir Resistance Leader Says Ready for Talks If Taliban Leave Province
KABUL (Sputnik) - Ahmad Massoud, the leader of the resistance forces in Afghanistan's northeastern province of Panjshir, stated on Sunday his readiness to cease fighting and start negotiations if the Taliban (terrorist group, outlawed in Russia) leaves the province. "The national resistance forces are ready to immediately stop the war to achieve a lasting peace if the Taliban cease their attacks and military operations in Panjshir and Andarab, and hope to hold a large meeting with scholars and reformers, and continue discussions and talks," Massoud said in a statement posted on Facebook.
- 18:14
- National Resistance Front of Afghanistan's Press Secretary Fahim Dashti Dead
According to our sources in Panjshir, press secretary for the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, Fahim Dashti, has died.
The Khaama Press news agency reported that Dashti was killed during a fight in Panjshir but no details about his death were immediately available.
- 16:23
- Merkel: Germany Should Engage in Talks With Taliban to Keep Helping Afghans
Germany should negotiate with the Taliban (a terrorist organization, banned in Russia) to be able to evacuate people from Afghanistan and render humanitarian aid to locals, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday.

"Of course, we need to talk to them [the Taliban], because they are now those who are to be addressed. We want to fly people fearing for their lives out of the country, especially, the employees of organizations supporting economic development. We also want international humanitarian organizations, which Germany actively supports, to be able to work on improvement of the situation in the country. There is water shortage, hunger," Merkel told a press conference.

The chancellor saw the resumed operations of the Kabul airport as a good signal, primarily, from the viewpoint of medical equipment and drugs supplies.

"And we need to discuss with the Taliban how we can take people who have worked for Germany to safe places," Merkel added.

The Islamist group, on its part, also hopes to establish good relations with Berlin, the spokesman of the Taliban said in an interview.

"We want strong and official diplomatic relations with Germany," Zabihullah Mujahid told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper, adding that Germany had made some "good contributions" in Afghanistan.

"Unfortunately, then they joined the Americans [in the international troops]. But now it is forgiven," Mujahid said.

The Taliban expect financial and humanitarian aid from Germany, as well as support in the healthcare, agricultural, and education sectors, the outlet added.

On Thursday, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that Germany was ready to resume diplomatic operations in Kabul which were suspended after the Taliban took control of the capital last month. But respect for human rights, inclusive government, and security are mandatory before the mission can return, Maas added.

- 15:52
- Massoud 'Ready to Stop Fighting' if Taliban Withdraws From Panjshir
Ahmad Massoud, head of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRFA), said on Sunday he welcomed proposals from religious scholars for a negotiated settlement with the Taliban.
"The NRF in principle agree to solve the current problems and put an immediate end to the fighting and continue negotiations...To reach a lasting peace, the NRF is ready to stop fighting on condition that Taliban also stop their attacks and military movements on Panjshir and Andarab," Massoud said in the Facebook post.
- 15:38
- Sales of Hijabs and Burqas Increase in Afghanistan
Afghan Women Stocking Up on Hijabs, Burqas to Have Access to Education, Work Under Taliban
- 13:53 GMT 05.09.2021
- KABUL (Sputnik) - The sales of hijabs and burqas have increased in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban* announcing that only women wearing hijab would have access to education and work, a Sputnik correspondent reported on Sunday.
[READ MORE](#)
- 11:47
- Six Afghan Neighbours Discuss Latest Developments Via Conference Call
Six countries neighbouring Afghanistan — Pakistan, China, Iran, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — have discussed the situation in the Central Asian nation during a video conference, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his newly appointed Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, discussed the recent developments in Afghanistan on Saturday and agreed to hold a virtual conference on the matter along with other neighbours.

"Pakistan hosted a virtual meeting of Special Representatives/Envoys of neighbours of Afghanistan, today. Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, chaired the session. China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated," the ministry said in a statement.

The participants exchanged views on the latest developments and pointed to the need to develop "a regional approach to address common challenges and to realise the new opportunities arising from a stable Afghanistan," the ministry added.

The Pakistani ambassador noted that "a prosperous and peaceful" Afghanistan would contribute to the integration of regional economies, as well as enhance trade and regional connectivity.

The participants in the virtual meeting agreed to remain in close contact, the ministry added.

- 10:35
- Pope Hopes Many Countries Will Welcome Afghan Refugees and Young People in Afghanistan Receive Education
- 08:58
- Resistance Forces Say They Have Regained Control of Area in Panjshir
Resistance Forces in Afghanistan Regain Control of Highlands in Panjshir
- 11:00 GMT 05.09.2021
- KABUL (Sputnik) - The Spokesman for the Panjshir Resistance in Afghanistan, Fahim Dashti, said that the resistance forces had regained control of the Paryan highlands in the eastern part of the province.
[READ MORE](#)
- 05:09
- Stoltenberg in Favor of Russian Participation in Anti-Terrorism Efforts in Afghanistan
Stoltenberg in Favor of Russian Participation in Anti-Terrorism Efforts in Afghanistan
- 03:19 GMT 05.09.2021
- LONDON (Sputnik) - Russia and China should play a role in preventing terrorism from spreading in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of foreign troops, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told The Telegraph on Sunday.
[READ MORE](#)
- 05:03
- Around 200 Evacuated Afghans Come Under Suspicion of US Intelligence, Pentagon Says
Ramstein Base Has 200 Afghan Refugees Marked 'Red', Subject to Further Checks, Pentagon Says
- 05:08 GMT 05.09.2021

- WASHINGTON (Sputnik) - About 200 of the 30,000 Afghan refugees processed at the US Ramstein base in Germany are now under further background checks, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Fox News.
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Videos: Brazil-Argentina World Cup Qualifier Abruptly Suspended After Four Players Break Quarantine
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Preventative COVID-19 measures imposed in Brazil indicate that any travelers who visited the UK at anytime 14 days prior to their arrival in the South American country must undergo a 14-day quarantine on arrival.

A World Cup qualifier match between Brazil and Argentina was abruptly suspended on Sunday after officials determined that four players had broken quarantine rules that had been implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Brazilian officials had singled out four Premier League players from the Argentine team who had reportedly broken preventative COVID-19 protocols. The offending players - identified as Emiliano Buendia, Emiliano Martinez, Cristiano Romero and Giovanni Lo Celso - had all traveled from the UK.

Video of the incident shows players gathering around a group of Brazilian health officials who had invaded the pitch to single out the players. Coverage from the game revealed that authorities were attempting to round up the group and have them deported.

Argentina's players subsequently walked off the grounds once the game was stopped. The event took place just a few minutes into the match.

The incident unfolded a few hours after ANVISA, the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency, informed football officials that the four Argentine player needed to isolate and would not be able to play in the match. The regulatory body came forward in the case after it was determined the players had given "false" information upon entering the country.

It remains unclear whether the game will be resumed.

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Iraq Inks \$27 Billion Investment Deal With TotalEnergies - Baghdad

Washington (Sputnik) - The Iraqi government and French oil and gas company TotalEnergies have signed a \$27 billion investment deal to develop the country's oil and gas fields, the office of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhimi said on Sunday.

In July, Baghdad signed an initial agreement with the French energy giant that involved four major projects.

"Today, in the presence of the prime minister of Iraq, a signing ceremony was held for the first agreement to draw investments for implementation of associated gas and oil field development projects. The agreement consists of three contracts between the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and French company Total, and one contract for a solar energy project between the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity and company Total," the office said in a statement.

The aforementioned projects include an increase of oil production at the Ratawi oil field from 85,000 to 210,000 barrels per day, as well as creation of facilities for processing associated petroleum gas and construction of solar power plants.

TotalEnergies, previously known as Total, is one of the biggest oil and gas companies in the world with about 100,000 employees across more than 130 countries.

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Live Updates: No Decision on COVID-19 Vaccines for Healthy Children, UK Minister Says

The global death toll from COVID-19 has topped 4.560 million, while over 220.2 million cases of the virus have been detected, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The United States has the highest death toll and overall coronavirus tally, with 39.9 million infected and 648,000 fatalities. It is followed by India (32.9 million cases, 440,000 deaths) and Brazil (20.8 million cases and a death toll of over 583,000).

Next week the White House will unveil its latest strategy to manage the Delta variant of coronavirus, President Joe Biden said, as the United States experiences a fresh spike in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations despite the vaccination of more than half its population.

Meanwhile, the European Union and UK-Swedish pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca have agreed to end litigation over the execution of the advance purchase agreement, reaching a deal on the delivery of the remaining COVID-19 vaccine doses to the bloc.

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New messages

- -
 - 02:38
 - Germany Reports Nearly 5,000 New COVID-19 Cases - Robert Koch Institute
 - 02:29
 - Moderna Booster Shots Likely Delayed Past Week of September 20 - Fauci
- The US' top COVID-19 doctor revealed on Sunday that booster shots of Moderna's novel coronavirus vaccine may not be publicly available until after the week of September 20. According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, Biden administration officials had been hoping to release both booster doses of Moderna and Pfizer at the same time. However, with the

delay in mind, Fauci speculated that Moderna would be able to get out its booster supplies a week or two afterwards.

- 02:27
- New Zealand Reports 20 New COVID-19 Cases Third Day in a Row
- 18:29
- Crowds Seen in Amsterdam Streets Participating in Protest Against Health Passports
Thousands of People Protest COVID-19 Restrictions in Amsterdam - Videos
- 18:11 GMT 05.09.2021
- AMSTERDAM (Sputnik) - Thousands of people took to the streets of Amsterdam on Sunday to protest COVID-19 restrictions in the Netherlands, a Sputnik correspondent reported.
[READ MORE](#)
- 12:23
- Vietnam Detects 13,137 New COVID-19 Cases
- 11:58
- Italy's Health Ministry Not Ruling Out Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination
Italy's Health Ministry Not Ruling Out Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination
- 11:57 GMT 05.09.2021
- ROME (Sputnik) - Italy's Minister of Health Roberto Speranza said that the government does not rule out the possibility of introducing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination.
[READ MORE](#)
- 11:39
- Malaysia Reports 20,396 New COVID-19 Cases
- 10:47
- No Decision on COVID-19 Vaccines for Healthy Children, UK Minister Says
"No decision will be made until we hear back from the chief medical officers," British vaccines minister Nadhim Zahawi said.
- 10:39
- Philippines Logs 20,019 New Coronavirus Cases
- 10:27
- Indonesia Detects 5,403 New COVID-19 Cases
- 08:16
- Russia Records 18,645 New Coronavirus Cases in Last 24 Hours
Russia recorded 18,645 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, down from 18,780 cases the day before, bringing cumulative total to 7,012,599, the federal response centre said Sunday.
"Over the past day, 18,645 COVID-19 cases were confirmed across 85 Russian regions, including 1,397 cases (7.5%) without clinical symptoms," the centre said, adding that the rate of increase stands at 0.27%.
Moscow has the highest number of new cases with 1,542 daily infections, down from 1,549 the day before. The Russian capital was followed by St. Petersburg with 1,357 new cases, down from 1,494, and the Moscow region with 826 new cases, up from 756. The response centre reported 793 new deaths linked to the coronavirus, down from 796 the day before, raising the country's death toll to 187,200.

In the same 24 hours, 15,256 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals across the country, down from 18,737 the day before, bringing the total to 6,270,731.

- 07:44
- **Hong Kong Reports 8 New Imported COVID-19 Cases**
- 06:39
- **Belarus Receives 1.5Mln Doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine**
A plane carrying 1.5 million doses of China's Sinopharm coronavirus vaccine has arrived in Minsk, the Belarusian Ministry of Health said on Sunday.
"A plane with 1.5 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine has arrived from Beijing to Belarus. The cargo included 500,000 doses that the Chinese side provided Belarus in friendly humanitarian aid, as well as 1 million doses as part of the purchase," the ministry said in a statement on Telegram.
Apart from the Sinopharm vaccine, Belarus is currently immunizing its citizens with Russia's Sputnik V vaccine. Earlier this week, Minsk received a batch of the Sputnik Light vaccine.
- 06:39
- **Pakistan Reports 3,747 New COVID-19 Cases**
- 05:39
- **Ukraine Registers 1,379 New COVID-19 Cases**
- 04:45
- **India Detects 42,766 New Coronavirus Cases**
- 04:45
- **Australia Reports 1,684 New COVID-19 Cases**
- 04:44
- **Brazil's Health Regulator Bans Distribution of Millions of CoronaVac Doses**
The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency, Anvisa, has prohibited the distribution of millions of Chinese Sinovac vaccines against COVID-19, delivered from a facility not approved by the regulator.
"Anvisa prohibited as of this Saturday the distribution of the CoronaVac vaccine batches packaged in a plant [in China] that did not receive the Emergency Use Authorization (AUE)," Anvisa said in a Saturday statement.
The ban came after 12.13 million CoronaVac doses already entered the country in 25 batches. Another 17 batches containing a total of 9 million doses of the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine are being prepared for shipment.
At the end of August, Anvisa prohibited the use of the CoronaVac shots in children aged 3-17, for lack of sufficient efficacy and safety data for this age group.
- 04:44
- **Germany's COVID-19 Caseload Exceeds 4 Million**

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EU Foreign Policy Chief Condemns Seizure of Power in Guinea, Calls For President's Release

Washington (Sputnik) - EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell has condemned the coup in Guinea calling on the rebels to release President Alpha Conde.

"I condemn the seizure of power by force in Guinea and call for the immediate release of President Alpha Conde. I invite all actors to act with respect for the rule of law, the interests of peace and for the well-being of the Guinean population," Borrell wrote on Twitter.

On Sunday, the Guinean authorities said that the presidential palace had been attacked by rebels, who said that they had captured the country's president, Alpha Conde. The coup leader, Mamady Doumbouya, announced the dissolution of the government as well as the abrogation of the constitution and the closure of the border.

Later, Doumbouya said that the president was staying with the rebels in a safe location and had been examined by a doctor.

The rebels also declared a nationwide curfew in the country and said they were replacing local governors and prefects with soldiers. A meeting of Guinean cabinet ministers and other top officials will reportedly be convened by the rebels on Monday morning.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) condemned the coup in Guinea on Sunday and demanded that the rebels release the country's president. ECOWAS has called for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea and threatened the rebels with sanctions.

Incumbent President Alpha Conde won his controversial third term in office in last year's election in Guinea, following his decision to amend the constitution to allow himself the third consecutive presidential term. This sparked unrest in the country even though the constitution was changed through a national referendum.

Supporters of Guinea's rebellious military took to the streets of the capital of Conakry after the coup d'etat on Sunday, according to local media reports. People in the streets were chanting slogans praising the military.

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Florida 'Survivalist' Kills 4 in Shooting Rampage, Leaves 11-Year-Old Hospitalized
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Local law enforcement officials revealed that the shooting suspect had earlier scoped out the area late Saturday, and had even spoken to one of the victims. Although police had been called to the scene, the suspect had already left the grounds.

A shooting rampage claimed the lives of four individuals, including an infant, early Sunday after a self-described "survivalist" began discharging his firearm in a neighborhood in Lakeland, Florida.

Florida's Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd revealed during a [briefing](#) that the shooting unfolded at about 4:30 a.m. local time in two separate homes that were located on the same property, and that a shootout with police had occurred shortly after the first shooting took place.

The suspected shooter was identified as Bryan Riley, a 33-year-old from Brandon, Florida, who was a Marine sharpshooter. Riley had done tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, spending four years with the service before being honorably discharged. He later spent another three years in the reserves.

Investigators have indicated that Riley, who had recently been working as security detail for a local church, initially arrived at the Lakeland neighborhood Saturday afternoon. His arrival to the community quickly prompted a call to the authorities after he had pulled alongside a woman in his car and stated that God had instructed him to talk with one of her daughters.

Incidentally, neighbors concerned with Riley's presence in the community had also told Riley to leave the area. While cops had been dispatched to the scene, Riley had already left.

However, he didn't stay away for long. Riley returned to the scene sometime after 4 a.m. local time on Sunday. Cops were alerted to the scene once again after a local officer heard two volleys of gunfire emanating from the area. It was at that same time that 911 calls began to trickle in to police.

Upon arrival at the scene, officers saw a truck on fire and a popping noise coming from the home's front yard, where they later spotted Riley "outfitted in body armor and looked as though he was ready to engage us in an active shooter situation," according to Judd.

Moments later, Riley ran back into the home, with deputies subsequently hearing another gunshot and hearing another woman and baby "scream" and "whimper." With officers attempting to enter the home, fire was exchanged between the two parties as Riley held officials off. The exchanges came to an end once Riley surrendered after suffering a single gunshot wound.

Examining the scene, officials determined that four individuals had been shot - a man and two women, one of whom was holding an infant in her arms. The three-month old boy had died from a gunshot wound as well. An 11-year-old girl was also shot multiple times, however, police were able to transport her to a local area hospital.

Judd told reporters that after being taken into custody, Riley had been transported to a hospital, where he had attempted to "jump" an officer for his firearm. Riley allegedly told officers that he was a "survivalist," and that "they begged for their lives, but I shot them anyway."

The sheriff described Riley as being "evil in the flesh." The sharpshooter is said to also have killed the family's dog.

Riley presently faces at least four counts of first-degree murder, [according](#) to the Tampa Bay Times, which also noted that offenses of attempted murder and animal cruelty are also due. He is expected to appear in court on Monday.

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UN Promises Continued Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan - Spokesman

Washington (Sputnik) - The UN delegation that met with representatives of the Taliban (terrorist organization, banned in Russia) in Kabul on Sunday has agreed to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.

"The UN delegation promised continuation of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, saying he would call for further assistance to Afghanistan during the coming meeting of donor

countries. The IEA [Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan] delegation thanked the UN delegation, assuring them of cooperation and provision of needed facilities," Shaheen wrote on Twitter. Spokesman for the Taliban political office Mohammad Naeem said on Twitter on Sunday that UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths met with Taliban political office chief Abdul Ghani Baradar in the Afghan capital on Sunday.

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said on Sunday that during the meeting, the Afghan authorities "pledged that the safety and security of humanitarian staff, and humanitarian access to people in need, will be guaranteed and that humanitarian workers – both men and women – will be guaranteed freedom of movement."

Dujarric said that more meetings on humanitarian issues are expected in the coming days and that the Afghan authorities are committed to cooperate with the humanitarian community to ensure that assistance is delivered to people across Afghanistan.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, said on Friday that the European Union plans to coordinate contacts with the Taliban through a joint EU presence in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Borrell stressed that the bloc's openness to developing relations with a Taliban-led government in Afghanistan will depend on five criteria, including uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to the country that is mired in uncertainty following the August takeover of Kabul by the Taliban and the completion of foreign troops' withdrawal.

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Bitcoin Price Surpasses \$51,000 for First Time Since Mid-May

Washington (Sputnik) - The price of the Bitcoin cryptocurrency surpassed the \$51,000 mark in the early hours of Monday, for the first time since May 13.

Data from the Binance cryptocurrency exchange showed that Bitcoin was trading up a little over three percent at 0:12 Moscow time on Monday (21:12 GMT on Sunday), with its price standing at \$51,596.

Meanwhile, the CoinMarketCap portal showed that Bitcoin's value was going up 2.96 percent, to \$51,612.

At the start of August, the price of Bitcoin was on the rise, hitting the highest level since mid-May at over \$44,000 on August 8. At the end of last month, the Bitcoin price surpassed the \$50,000 mark, demonstrating stable recovery after the sharp fall in May.

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Safety of Guinea Citizens Will Be Ensured Following Coup, Rebels Say

Washington (Sputnik) - The rebels in Guinea have pledged to ensure local residents' safety following the Sunday coup, the junta, which now calls itself the National Rally and Development Committee (CNRD), said.

On Sunday, the Guinean authorities said that the presidential palace had been attacked by rebels, who announced that they had captured the country's president, Alpha Conde. The coup leader, Mamady Doumbouya, announced the dissolution of the government and the rebels declared a nationwide curfew in the country, saying that they were replacing local governors and prefects with members of the military.

"All arrangements will be made to ensure the safety of peaceful citizens as well as their property. All units of the interior are asked to keep calm and avoid movements towards [the capital] Conakry," the CNRD said in a statement, quoted by Guinee News on Sunday.

According to the release, the nationwide curfew is being enforced in Guinea starting from 8 p.m. (20:00 GMT) on Sunday, until further notice.

Outgoing ministers, members of Conde's cabinet and other top officials are invited to a meeting that will be convened by the rebels on Monday morning, at 11 a.m., the CNRD said.

"Any refusal to attend will be considered a rebellion against the CNRD," the rebels emphasized in their statement, calling on all Guinean officials to return to work on Monday.

Earlier on Sunday, the coup leader, Mamady Doumbouya, announced the dissolution of the government as well as the abrogation of the constitution and the closure of the border.

Doumbouya said that the president was staying with the rebels in a safe location and had been examined by a doctor.

"We have taken all measures to ensure that he [the president] has access to healthcare and that he is also in contact with his doctors," the CNRD said in its Sunday statement.

Incumbent President Alpha Conde won his controversial third term in office in last year's election in Guinea, following his decision to amend the constitution to allow himself the third consecutive presidential term. This sparked unrest in the country even though the constitution was changed through a national referendum.

Supporters of Guinea's rebellious military took to the streets of the capital of Conakry after the coup d'etat on Sunday, according to local media reports. People in the streets were chanting slogans praising the military.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) all condemned the coup in Guinea on Sunday and demanded that the rebels release the country's president. ECOWAS has called for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea and threatened the rebels with sanctions.

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Nord Stream 2 Construction to Wrap Up 'Next Week' - OMV Head

Washington (Sputnik) - The Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project will likely be completed this month, Rainer Seele, the head of the Austrian oil giant OMV, told the Russian Vedomosti newspaper.

Asked when construction will be finished, Seele said "next week," adding that gas could start flowing before the end of 2021.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday that the Nord Stream 2 project was nearing completion, and that it was going to play a very important role in ensuring European energy security.

Russian gas giant Gazprom said in mid-August that it could deliver 5.6 billion cubic meters of gas through the Nord Stream 2 pipeline already this year.

Nord Stream 2 is a joint venture of Gazprom and five European partners. The pipeline aims to carry Russian natural gas to Germany across the Baltic Sea. It consists of two 1,230-kilometer (764-mile) long lines with a combined annual capacity of 55 billion cubic meters of gas.

Seele told Vedomosti that the project's costs were cut down from the initial estimated sum of 950 million euros (\$1.1 billion) to 729 million euros, thanks to speedier construction.

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France Ready to Start New Chapter in Bilateral Relations With Iran, Macron Says

Washington (Sputnik) - French President Emmanuel Macron pointed to the need to review relations between France and Iran during phone talks with Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian presidential office said.

Macron talked with Raisi over the phone on Sunday.

"We should start a new movement with new axes in the relations between the two countries and start relations in various political, economic, cultural and regional cooperation areas," Macron said, as quoted by the Iranian presidential office.

In his turn, Raisi said that Iran welcomed Macron's proposal to review relations between the two countries and start a new chapter in bilateral relations and Tehran-Paris regional cooperation.

"The Iranian government welcomes the development of relations with France, especially in the economic and trade fields, and we are ready to start comprehensive cooperation with Europe from France," Raisi said as quoted by the Iranian presidential office.

The Iranian president reiterated his call for the lifting of sanctions, saying that "negotiation for negotiation is useless."

The two leaders also discussed the recent developments in Afghanistan, agreeing that the future government in the country should reflect the will of the Afghan people.

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Head of Human Rights Campaign Refuses to Resign, Says Org Wants Him Out Over Cuomo Ties

An independent probe into sexual harassment claims filed against former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo determined the state official had a history of sexual misconduct, having crossed the line and forced himself onto office aides. Although the findings eventually prompted his decision to resign, it also namechecked several others and raised alarms.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Alphonso David issued a release on Sunday indicating that he would not be resigning from his post, even as organization officials want him to step aside in light of his ties to the Cuomo scandal.

The organization had previously launched an internal investigation after David had been named in the Cuomo probe as being consulted over an unpublished letter drafted by Cuomo staffers. The letter had attacked the credibility of Lindsey Boylan, one of the former staffers who voiced sexual harassment against Cuomo.

Although David had not signed off on the draft, he and Roberta Kaplan, the former leader of Time's Up, had been named in the independent probe as having been consulted in the matter. David's [weekend statement](#) addressed the internal investigation that had been launched by HRC, and revealed that the probe determined the president had not committed any wrongdoing. However, with that said, David indicated that organization officials still wanted him out.

"I have now been privately contacted by the two co-chairs of the HRC board and their representatives, who informed me verbally that the review period has been completed, and that there is no indication of wrongdoing on my part," David wrote.

"Despite this, they told me that the results of the independent review will not be shared with anyone - not me, and not the HRC community. It isn't even clear from our conversations that a formal report actually exists."

"Despite the lack of any findings, the board co-chairs have now asked me to consider resigning, not because of any wrongdoing, but because they feel the incident has been a 'distraction' for the organization," he added.

David went on to explain that the push for him to be booted emerged after "two funders and a small handful of employees" had "expressed concern via email over the last several weeks." Preferably, according to David, officials wanted his resignation submitted over Labor Day weekend in the hope of attracting "less media interest."

"I have the support of too many of our employees, board members, and stakeholders to walk away quietly into the night. I am not resigning," David emphasized. "The idea that this is a distraction is simply not right ... the distraction would be calling for my resignation without providing the results of the review."

Since the release of the damning Cuomo report, David was one of many individuals who [backed calls](#) for the disgraced governor to be booted from office. Although Cuomo eventually resigned, he never admitted to any wrongdoing, and only stated that many of his alleged offenses were a result of "generational" and "cultural" differences.

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US Condemns Houthi Missile Attack That Injured Children in Saudi Arabia - Blinken

WASHINGTON (Sputnik) - The United States condemns the recent cross-border attacks carried out by the Houthis in Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Eastern Region, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

"The United States condemns the latest Houthi missile attack against Saudi Arabia that struck the Eastern Province on September 4, injuring two children and damaging several homes. ...These attacks threaten the lives of the Kingdom's residents, including more than 70,000 U.S. citizens," Blinken said in a Sunday statement.

He urged the Houthis to stop cross-border attacks, as well as attacks inside of Yemen, and strive to find a peaceful diplomatic solution to end the conflict.

Houthis have [claimed responsibility](#) for firing armed drones and rockets at several sites of the Saudi Aramco oil company in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. According to Saudi Arabia's ministry of defense, at least two children were injured by the resulting shrapnel.

The ministry said that its air forces [intercepted and destroyed](#) three ballistic missiles and three bomb-laden drones launched by the Houthis towards the Eastern Province, as well as the provinces of Jizan and Najran.

Yemen has been gripped by an internal conflict between the government forces and the Houthi movement for over six years. Since 2015, the Saudi-led coalition fighting on the government's side has been conducting air, land and sea operations against the rebels. The Houthis often retaliate by firing projectiles and bomber drones on Saudi territory. The United Nations has described the situation in Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

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German Ambassador to China Jan Hecker Pronounced Dead Days After Taking on Role by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Prior to moving to the ambassador post, Hecker had served as the foreign policy adviser to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. He was just days into his new position.

Germany's Federal Foreign Office has [revealed](#) that Jan Hecker, who serves as the European nation's ambassador to China, has died, just days after taking on the role.

The office detailed in a statement that the development was unexpected as Hecker had only recently taken on the position.

"It is with deep sadness and dismay that we learned of the sudden death of the German Ambassador to China," the office said. "Our thoughts at this moment are with his family and the people who were close to him."

Officials did not specify the cause of death.

The 54-year-old ambassador had previously served as a foreign policy adviser for German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Hecker had taken on the ambassadorship at the end of August.