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ECOSOCC Statement against the Military Coup in Burkina Faso


The African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) condemns in strongest terms possible the flagrant violation of the Constitution and the Transitional Charter of the Republic of Burkina Faso after Military junta, including presidential guard, seized power through a coup and arrested transitional President, Prime Minister and other leaders.

While expressing serious concern about the wellbeing and the safety of the Burkinabe civil society and media community, ECOSOCC calls for the immediate & unconditional release of the detained transitional leaders and for the military junta to restore power to the civilian authorities.

ECOSOCC urges the military to set a pathway for a return to democracy and the rule of law as soon as possible, to refrain from arbitrary detentions, to release those detained for political reasons and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

“Seizing power through unconstitutional means or the resolution of political disagreements through the use of force is undemocratic and unacceptable. We urge all involved, including Burkina Faso’s armed forces, to adhere to non-violence, and to debate issues in a peaceful, patriotic and inclusive manner,” said Honourable Joseph Chilengi, ECOSOCC Presiding Officer.

ECOSOCC confirms its steadfast support for the civilian transitional government and national transitional council to continue their work of preparing for free, fair, and credible elections through an inclusive manner.

“We appeal to the people and all political forces in Burkina Faso to desist and denounce from any violent activities that may further undermine peace and stability in the country. The African Union should take urgent actions including suspension of Burkina Faso until the military relinquish power in line with African Democracy charter and the AU Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. Military coup d'état are aberrations of the past that Africa has moved beyond. The junta in Burkina Faso cannot be allowed to set the clock backwards,” added Chilengi. 

ENDs