



[President and Prime Minister of Mali are Detained and Forced to Resign in a Military Coup](#)

The president and prime minister of Mali were detained and forced to resign in the early stages of a military coup in the West African nation. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Boubou Cisse are accused of stealing a recent parliamentary election, which resulted in months of protests in Mali. A coalition of politicians and civil society leaders have urged Keita and Cisse to resign in recent weeks, as protests across Mali escalated. Now, a cadre of military officials dubbing themselves the “National Commission for the People’s Salvation” have detained Keita and Cisse, and forced them to resign. The military leaders behind the coup have called for immediate elections to replace Keita and Cisse, who originally came to power when democratically elected in 2013. Since then however, Mali has been plagued by intercommunal and religious violence, in addition to governmental corruption which has led to this week’s events.

Around the region, the coup in Mali has been met with skepticism and condemnation. The African Union suspended Mali’s membership, saying military coups were no longer something the body could sit idly by and accept. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also denounced the change in power, and sealed off Mali’s external borders. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States strongly condemned the coup in Mali, and French President Emmanuel Macron urged the military junta to return power in Mali to a civilian government. The leader of the National Commission for the People’s Salvation, Colonel Assimi Goita, called for elections to be held as soon as Friday, August 21st, and local media reported he had met with civil society leaders to reassure them the military was not seeking to rule the country.