



NANHRI STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN NIGER

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a membership umbrella body of 46 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa. Since 2007, NANHRI has been supporting the establishment and strengthening of Paris Principle-compliant National Human Rights Institutions in order to enable them to effectively discharge their mandate to advocate for human rights promotion and protection.

NANHRI is deeply concerned about the coup d'état in Niger by the junta who announced the ousting of the democratically elected president Mohamed Bazoum.

NANHRI vehemently condemns the military coup d'état which undermines democracy, peace and security and threatens the stability of Niger. The current president was democratically elected and the coup rolls back the constitutional and democratic efforts that the country has put in place to entrench democracy, constitutionalism and the rule of law.

With this development, Niger joins the long list of mutinies and military uprisings in the Sahel region which has been bereft of peace and stability for quite a while now. The putschists, who call themselves National Council for the Safeguarding of the Fatherland, justified the uprising to redress **the "continuous deterioration of the security situation" and the "poor economic and social governance"**.

NANHRI recalls the obligations of states to respect democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance and to refrain from unconstitutional changes of government in line with Articles 4(m, p) of the AU Constitutive Act.

NANHRI therefore urges the junta to consider a return to constitutional order without delay while guaranteeing the protection of the rights of all those who live in Niger.

Further, NANHRI calls for the release of the president, his family and "refrain from any act of violence". In addition, the junta should allow the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du Niger* to continue to operate in order to watch over human rights in the country especially under the current circumstances.

Finally, NANHRI urges the Junta to provide its unwavering support to the Human Rights Commissioners of the CNDH-Niger, as the dissolution of this 'A' status NHRI will constitute a serious setback for Niger in the context of the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

Done at Nairobi, 29th July 2023

Dr. Elasto H. Mugwadi

Chairperson, NANHRI