



PRESS RELEASE

MALI ELECTIONS: ADDRESS SECURITY CONCERNS TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE ELECTORATES – WAEON

As the people of Mali head to the polls on Sunday, August 12, 2018 to elect a president in a run-off election, the West Africa Election Observers Network (WAEON) has taken cognizance of increasing security concerns within the country.

The Network is concerned with [media reports](#) of widespread violence that occurred during the first round and strongly condemns the attacks by jihadists and armed groups which forced 3 percent of all polling stations to be shut down and about 20 percent to be affected by violence mostly in the Northern and Central regions of the country.

While WAEON commends the authorities and people of Mali for following due constitutional processes in resolving allegations of ballot box stuffing, violations of electoral laws and other irregularities filed by opposition leader Soumaila Cisse and other contenders in the aftermath of the first round of election on July 29, 2018, the Network urges the government and state agencies particularly the security forces to step up security efforts to facilitate a smooth polling processes, while ensuring professional conduct. The Network believes this would inspire confidence in the electorates.

Ahead of the run-off polls, WAEON reiterates its call for the contesting candidates and their supporters to abide by the rules governing the conduct of the elections and promote peace at all times. The candidates and their respective parties must take recourse in the law for redress should they be aggrieved by the process. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MATD) and the General Electoral Office (DGE) must be independent, neutral, transparent and professional in their conduct.

Finally, the Network reminds the good people of Mali to work towards a smooth and credible elections.

Signed

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'James Lahai'.

James Lahai

Acting Chairman of WAEON and

National Coordinator, National Election Watch (NEW) - Sierra Leone



(For and on behalf of WAEON)

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Dated: August 10, 2018

For follow up information on the statement, please contact James Lahai on +232-76-962-233 and/or Dr. Franklin Oduro of the WAEON Secretariat on (+233 – 0302) 784293/4; 777214.

About WAEON

WAEON is an independent, non-partisan and non-religious organization of citizen observer groups from 13 West African Countries that aims at strengthening and supporting Citizens' Election Observation Groups (CEOGs) in the sub-region. It was formed in 2010, and has its secretariat based at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) in Accra, Ghana.

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