



# No U.S./French-backed invasion of Niger!

**WW STATEMENT**

*“When Africa becomes economically free and politically united, the monopolists will come face to face with their own working class in their own countries, and a new struggle will arise within which the liquidation and collapse of imperialism will be complete.”*

– Kwame Nkrumah  
Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of imperialism

August 6 was the deadline issued by the Economic Community Of West African States for the current government of Niger, headed by Abdourahamane Tchiani, to abdicate power or face a possible military intervention by ECOWAS forces. That deadline has come and gone, but the danger of military intervention, orchestrated by U.S. and French imperialism, is still a real threat.

The Biden administration recently sent an envoy to Niger to apply “diplomatic” pressure on the new government to restore former President Mohammed Bazoum to power. The regime in France, the former colonial power in most of the Sahel region, is unwilling to even engage Niger’s current leaders.

Tchiani came to power through a military coup, which has been condemned by imperialist powers, especially the United States and France, who which have a vested interest in maintaining a foothold in Niger.

Demonstrations in Niger and elsewhere support the new government, along with targeting the French Embassy, a symbol of brutal French colonialism and exploitation of Nigerien people. (Nigerien refers to the people of Niger; Nigerian refers to the people of Nigeria, formerly a colony of Britain.)



**Thousands of Nigeriens demand the withdrawal of French and other foreign troops in Niamey, Niger, Aug. 3.**

PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY

Niger is a target of imperialism for many reasons. Its natural resources include uranium, which supplies up to one-third of France’s entire electrical grid. Yet Niger remains one of the poorest countries in the world with the majority of its over 27 million people lacking access to their own electricity.

Niger also holds strategic importance to the U.S. military as a hub for its drone operations in Central Africa, used to maintain U.S. influence in the region as well as assist in French military interventions. The U.S. government says it is considering relocating its two drone bases from Niger to elsewhere in the region.

In addition to 1,500 French troops, there are over 1,000 U.S. troops stationed in Niger, which the U.S. government now refuses to withdraw, despite the suspension of security agreements between the U.S. and Niger being suspended and multiple European countries evacuating their

citizens. The U.S. military machine is digging in, hoping to restore the pro-imperialist government by whatever means necessary.

Sanctions against Niger were implemented immediately after the overthrow of Bazoum. The U.S. and French governments are attempting to use ECOWAS security forces as a proxy, although many African countries have been hesitant to participate. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali — all former French colonies — are among the countries that have come out in support of the new Niger government against imperialist threats. In Nigeria — a former British colony which shares a long border with Niger — popular protests have opposed an ECOWAS intervention.

## **African opposition to invasion of Niger**

The governments of Burkina Faso and Mali issued a joint statement Aug. 1, asserting that any attempt at military

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*Continued from other side*

intervention to remove Tchiani would be taken as a declaration of war against both their countries.

On Aug. 19, these two countries sent planes from their air forces to Niger as a show of solidarity against a possible invasion.

Other neighboring countries have refused to participate in the U.S.- and French-backed ECOWAS invasion. People living within countries whose leaders advocated intervention have shown hesitancy and even resistance to such an action. Together these add up to major fractures in the imperialist grip over West Africa and the Sahel.

Niger was one of the last remaining governments friendly to the U.S. empire in the Sahel region. Put into power by a series of earlier coups, the governments of Mali and Burkina Faso cut ties with French colonialism and expelled French troops. Since then, ECOWAS has established its own military presence to attempt to prevent anti-colonial coups from taking place within ECOWAS member states, without U.S. or French troops having to intervene directly.



**Workers World Party affirms the right of Niger’s people to take the fate of their country into their own hands. We oppose any U.S.- or French-backed military invasions, sanctions or meddling in African politics. We support the expulsion of all U.S. and French troops and the dismantling of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).**

**We support the right of African nations to make economic and security relationships on their own**

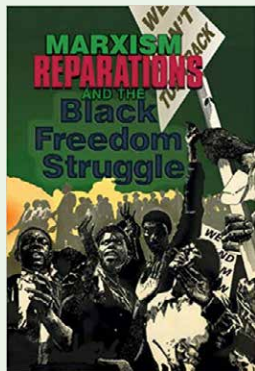
**terms with other countries, including with Russia and China, rather than being forced into a position of subjugation as a neocolony of imperialist powers like the U.S. or France.**

**We oppose any U.S., French or NATO plans to launch yet another major proxy war. Such a war would spread havoc in the region in its attempt to maintain economic dominance over and perpetual superexploitation of the African people. □**

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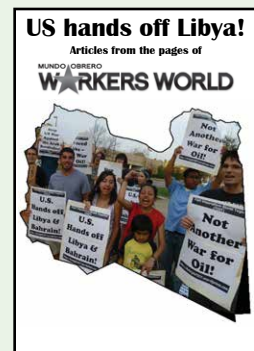


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