

UN report: Guinea-Bissau forces abducted and tortured opposition leaders after coup attempt
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Guinea-Bissau's military and intelligence forces abducted and tortured two opposition leaders after a failed attempt to overthrow the ruling junta last month, according to a United Nations report released Wednesday.

The report to the Security Council by U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said that after the failure of the Oct. 21 counter-coup, Guinea-Bissau's military and intelligence services ran house-to-house searches for suspects and "abducted and tortured" opposition leaders lancuba Djola N'djai and Sivestre Alves.

Guinea-Bissau's military government subsequently denounced the beatings and denied any involvement, Ban noted.

The report also said the small West African nation has become even more entrenched as a cocaine trans-shipment point since the army seized power on April 12.

"Allegedly, this happens with the support of members of the defence and security forces, as well as members of the political elite," Ban's report said. "This has led to the unabated spread of cocaine trafficking in Guinea-Bissau."

Ban cited unspecified "international intelligence" reports saying that hundreds of kilograms of cocaine are brought in on a weekly or bi-weekly basis through boats offshore or at small landing strips. Analysts believe that much of the country's recent turmoil is the result of turf wars over the control of cocaine trafficking.

The U.N. report described a worsening human rights problem especially since the latest counter-coup attempt, "including torture and summary executions."

Troubled Guinea-Bissau has had so many coups and counter-coups that no elected leader has been able to complete his term in the 38 years since Guinea-Bissau won its independence from Portugal.

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