

Guinea Police News

17 June 2008 (IRIN)

Soldiers have surrounded a police camp and two policemen have been killed in the second day of police strikes over back-pay in the Guinean capital Conakry. An IRIN correspondent in Conakry said soldiers are currently looting the police camp, piling furniture and fridges into their military trucks. On 16 June policemen started firing shots in the air outside the police camp prompting military officers to surround it and join in the shooting in a bid to quell the protests. These protests come just two weeks after military officers rioted at three military camps across the capital demanding their own pay-offs from the government. Following emergency talks, the government agreed to pay each soldier US\$1,140 in back pay. Over 100 people were injured in the protests. Police started their protest on 16 June, calling on the government to pay salary arrears, asking for a bigger monthly rice subsidy and for pay to be improved. Policemen also took several police chiefs hostage on 16 June, releasing them later that night. Prime Minister Ahmed Tidiane Soare and representatives from the police force are currently meeting in emergency talks to discuss the problem, according to policeman Alpha Kabine Kaba, though the government has not confirmed this. Some observers say the police are copying the military's actions, as they proved to have beneficial results.