

**THE WEST AFRICA ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK (WAEON)**

***WAEON condemns the disruption of constitutional order in Burkina Faso; calls for restoration of constitutional order***

The West African Election Observers Network (WAEON), a coalition of non-partisan citizen observation groups in 11 West African countries, deeply regrets Blaise Campaore’s attempts to change the Burkina Faso Constitution to extend his rule, and expresses its strong disapproval of this illegal constitutional amendment.

WAEON, in a communiqué issued in 2013, hailed the democratic progress of the West African countries, of which Burkina Faso was part, that have ratified the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). This was seen as a step in a right direction because Article 47 (1) encourages states to sign and ratify the Charter in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. Additionally, Article 23 (5) clearly condemns any amendment or revision of the constitution or legal instruments, which is an infringement on the principles of democratic change of government. Unfortunately, Burkina Faso leadership, under Blaise Campaore, sought to undermine this express provision in the Charter.

Faced with this situation of rupture of the legal democracy, the West African Election Observers Network (WAEON),

1. Insists the restoration of constitutional order and the establishment of a transition for the organization of free, democratic and transparent elections in the shortest possible time;
2. Calls for the adherence to the laid down rules and provisions in the Constitution of Burkina Faso in the restoration of the constitutional order
3. Lauds the resilience of civil society/ citizens for resisting such attempt and ensuring that democratic principles prevail.
4. Demands the preservation of the security of individuals and properties within its territory.
5. Calls on ECOWAS, African Union and the International Community to provide support to Burkina Faso for the return of constitutional order;

 Accra November 04, 2014

James Lahai

The Chair (WAEON)