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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **STATEMENT ON SECURITY IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

#### **Security Sector Reform**

Nearly three months after events of April 1 the Embassy of the United States continues to be deeply concerned about the ongoing violations of the constitution, the rule of law, and the democratic principle of civil authority over the armed forces in Guinea-Bissau. The United States shares with its partners in the international donor community a desire to support Guinea-Bissau's security and defense reform process and the country's economic development. However, it will not be possible for Guinea-Bissau's international partners to support the security sector reform process unless it is clear that the armed forces respect the principle of civilian control of the armed forces, the rule of law, and democracy.

The continued unlawful detention of the legally nominated Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Admiral Jose Zamora Induta, as well as other officers and soldiers, by elements of the armed forces acting under orders from the Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Antonio Indjai and the failure of the Government to initiate any process to investigate these acts of insubordination and mutiny and to discipline those responsible calls into question the Government's control of the armed forces. If Admiral Induta and others are alleged to have committed any crimes, we urge the Government to ensure their rights to due process and other human rights are respected.

If the Government of Guinea-Bissau chooses to name someone else as Armed Forces Chief of Staff, it is imperative that the person not be implicated in the events of April 1 and that he be someone who can regain the confidence of the international community by recommitting the armed forces to submitting to civilian control and implementing security sector reform.

In addition, the United States continues to be alarmed by indications that senior members of the armed forces as well as the civilian government are involved in narcotics trafficking. The U.S. Government hopes to work with the Government of Guinea-Bissau to root out the individuals in positions of authority who use their power and influence to facilitate narcotics trafficking. The recent designation by the U.S. Department of Treasury of Ibraima Papa Camará, the Air Force Chief of Staff, and Jose Américo Bubo Na Tchuto, the former Navy chief of Staff, as drug Kingpins is just one example of our efforts to do so; the Treasury Department has targeted these two individuals as kingpins due to their significant roles in international narcotics trafficking. It will be impossible for the United States to contribute to the security and defense reform process

if these or other individuals implicated in narcotics trafficking are appointed to or continue to serve in positions of authority in the armed forces.

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