

Our ref: GLOSARGG/TOGO /3006/2025

Your ref: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2025

GLOSARGG P.O. BOX : MD 1601 MADINA ACCRA-EAST TEL-0248759048

PRESS RELEASE -GLOSARGG

## TOGO'S POLITICAL UNREST – A DANGEROUS FLASHPOINT IN WEST AFRICA

*By Francis Ahovi, Executive Secretary, Global Security for Africa Research and Good Governance[GLOSARGG];  
Security Expert and Humanitarianist*

Togo is once again facing mass protests after the adoption of a controversial constitutional reform that shifts the country from a presidential to a parliamentary system. While the ruling government presents this as a democratic evolution, many Togolese see it as a calculated attempt by President Faure Gnassingbé to extend his rule beyond the limits of public consent.

The heavy-handed response by security forces, marked by arrests, injuries, and the silencing of media, has intensified public anger. This crisis is not isolated; it fits into a broader regional pattern of shrinking democratic space in West Africa.

### **Security and Humanitarian Risks**

The situation threatens to evolve into a full-scale internal conflict. Militarised repression, particularly when directed at largely peaceful demonstrators, creates an environment ripe for radicalisation. Trust in state institutions is weakening, especially among young people who feel excluded from national decision-making.

Regionally, the instability could spill over into neighbouring Ghana, Benin, and Burkina Faso. Togo's crisis risks becoming a corridor for arms trafficking, population displacement, and insurgent exploitation.

On the humanitarian front, disruptions to basic services such as healthcare, food access, and education are already evident. Civil liberties, including freedom of expression and association, are under attack.

### **Solutions for Sustainable Peace :**

As a security expert and humanitarianist, I propose the following urgent measures to de-escalate tensions and restore stability:

- **Inclusive National Dialogue** : A transitional dialogue involving all key political actors, civil society, religious leaders, and youth groups must be initiated immediately. ECOWAS and the African Union should serve as neutral facilitators. The goal is to establish consensus on the country's constitutional direction and electoral calendar.
- **Regional Security Monitoring** : An ECOWAS peace and governance monitoring mission should be deployed to prevent further violence and support democratic mediation efforts.
- **Constitutional Review with Public Participation** : The current reforms should be suspended and reviewed by an independent, inclusive committee. This process must involve broad national consultation and, if necessary, a referendum.
- **Media Freedom and Humanitarian Access** : Restrictions on media and civil society must be lifted. Humanitarian organisations should be guaranteed safe and unhindered access to affected communities.
- **Early, Transparent Elections** : If no political consensus is achieved, early parliamentary elections should be organised under the watch of credible international observers to restore legitimacy.

### **Conclusion**

Togo's crisis represents more than a national challenge; it is a test of regional stability and democratic integrity in West Africa. The time to act is now. Delay or indifference may deepen the crisis and invite long-term insecurity.

**NB: Togo's stability is West Africa's stability !!!**

Francis Ahovi  
Executive Secretary, Global Security for Africa Research and Good Governance (GLOSARGG)  
Security Expert & Humanitarianist



**PHONE**  
+233 (0) 200 769 650  
+233 (0) 248 759 048  
+491 521 0549 856



**EMAIL**  
glosargg@gmail.com



**ADDRESS**  
Comp. Reg. No: CG182220521  
Digital: GM-118-6210