

Abuja, 9th February 2005

**WACSOFF CONDEMNS THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL USURPATION
OF POWER IN TOGO AND CALLS FOR PEACEFUL CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE.**

The West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF) acknowledges and continues to monitor, with grave concern, the rapidly evolving political and military situation in the Republic of Togo after the sudden death of President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

In line with the positions expressed by the current Chairman of the African Union and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo; the President of the African Union Commission, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare and the current Chairman of ECOWAS and President of the Republic of Niger, Mr. Mamadou Tandja, WACSOFF vehemently condemns the state of affairs that has culminated in unconstitutional usurpation of power in Togo and calls for an immediate and unconditional return to legality and constitutional order in that impoverished nation. The provisions of the constitution regarding succession must be respected and strictly adhered to. In consonance with the appeal by ECOWAS, WACSOFF is of the view that immediate transition to power through constitutional means is the surest way to preserving the integrity of the nation.

The unfortunate and unraveling events that have led to the swearing in of the son of the late president as the new head of state and manipulation of sections of the Togolese constitution to reinforce illegality constitute a flagrant abuse of the dignity and integrity of the Togolese people and cannot and should not be tolerated. These acts are also in contravention of the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles of 1991, the 2001 Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the Algiers Declaration of 1999 and Articles 4 (p) and 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union of 2002. As we continue our struggle to spread democracy and civil liberties, and promote peace and security in the ECOWAS sub-region, it is incumbent upon the entire membership of WACSOFF to fight for the immediate restoration of democratic freedom and constitutionality in the Republic of Togo.

Accordingly, WACSOFF demands the following:

1. Categorical condemnation of the current state of political affairs in Togo during the Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government scheduled for Wednesday 9th February 2005, and

- reaffirmation of use of political, diplomatic and, if necessary, sanctions to restore constitutional rule and order in Togo, and to avert a situation that could constitute a threat to regional peace and security in West Africa.
2. The Extraordinary ECOWAS Summit must claim the nullification of all steps undertaken since the death of Eyadema to legalise illegality and to demand the immediate return to the constitutional rule.
 3. Non-violent civil action throughout the sub-region aimed at restoring the rule of law, human rights, constitutionality, democratic freedom and governance in Togo.
 4. Staging of non-violent civil demonstrations in front of all Togolese diplomatic and consular offices throughout the sub-region on Monday 14th February 2005 at 10.00 am prompt. A press conference should be summoned after each of these demonstrations.

WACSOF shall continue to monitor developments in Togo closely, and as the situation unfolds, we shall be communicating with you accordingly.