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PRESS RELEASE

**GUINEA-BISSAU STATEMENT ON
MAJOR GENERAL ANTONIO INDJAI APPOINTMENT**

The Embassy of the United States regrets that the civilian leadership of Guinea-Bissau has chosen to promote Major General Antonio Indjai, the officer primarily responsible for the events of April 1, to lead the country's armed forces. This decision undermines the principle of civilian control of the armed forces, the rule of law, and democracy. By his own admission, on April 1, Major General Indjai ordered the kidnapping and detention of the duly elected Prime Minister and the legally appointed chief of staff of the armed forces. Moreover, Indjai threatened the life of the Prime Minister as well as courageous Bissau-Guinean citizens who demonstrated against the illegal detention. These acts of insubordination, indiscipline and mutiny render Major General Indjai unfit to lead the country's armed forces.

The Embassy of the United States calls upon the Government of Guinea-Bissau to bring an end to the continued unlawful detention of Vice Admiral Jose Zamora Induta as well as other officers and soldiers. If Admiral Induta and others are alleged to have committed any crimes, we urge the Government to ensure their rights to due process are respected.

In light of the promotion of Major General Indjai and the continued detention of Vice Admiral Induta, the United States will not support the security sector reform process.

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