



#16

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY STATEMENT ON 2010 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

The United States stands by our 2010 Human Rights Report for Guinea Bissau

The United States Government recently released the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The United States compiles the human rights report because we believe it is imperative for all countries, including our own, to ensure respect for human rights. The 2010 report documents the status of internationally recognized human rights in Guinea Bissau and 190 other countries. In both the 2009 and 2010 reports, we documented that “there were no developments in the cases of the 2009 killings of former president Vieira and former armed forces chief of staff General Jose Batista Tagme Na Waie” and that “soldiers under the command of Colonel Antonio Indjai tortured and then hacked Vieira to death.”

The statement concerning the role that soldiers under then-Colonel Indjai’s command played in the death of President Vieira is based on eyewitness accounts of his assassination. In the absence of a credible investigation of these killings by civilian authorities in Guinea-Bissau, we will continue to rely on these eyewitness accounts. We note that the investigation can be credible only if it is completed by Guinea-Bissau's civilian authorities. We stand with Guinea-Bissau, all its citizens, and other governments around the world who peacefully work to advance the causes of democracy and respect the rule of law.

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