

# Renegade troops seize power in Niger

A military junta has seized power in the West African nation of Niger, suspended the constitution and captured the president following a gun battle in the capital, Niamey. The junta, calling itself the *Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy*, said it was being led by *Salou Djibo*



<b>Population</b>	15.3 million
<b>Life expectancy</b>	52 years
<b>Ethnicity</b>	56% Hausa, 21% Djerma-Songhai
<b>Major languages</b>	French, Hausa, Djerma
<b>Religion</b>	80% Muslim
<b>GDP per capita</b>	\$700
<b>Main exports</b>	Uranium, livestock products

Source:  
CIA World  
Factbook



**President Mamadou Tandja, 71**  
*Triggered political crisis in August 2009 by passing new constitution that removed limits on his term in office and gave him near-totalitarian powers*

