



THE GENERAL STRIKE



In the hangar of the labor exchange, union leaders announce the filing of a strike notice, in Conakry on February 6, 2024. © Matthias Raynal / RFI

"The country of Guinea was largely shut down for three days, ending only after the government yielded to pressure."

- 01 CONTEXT** When and where the method emerged
- 02 STRATEGY** How the method works
- 03 RESULT** Immediate and political effects
- 04 STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS** 3 strengths · 3 limitations



01 · CONTEXT

GUINEA, FEBRUARY 2024

In early 2024, Guinea was governed by a military junta. Rising living costs and political repression created fertile ground for mobilisation. Thirteen national trade unions united around a single demand: the release of imprisoned union leader Sekou Jamal Pendessa.

02 · STRATEGY

HOW A GENERAL STRIKE WORKS

Workers across sectors collectively halt labour to paralyse national life. By targeting the economy, strikers force authorities to negotiate. The method's power lies in its scale: the broader the participation, the greater the disruption and the harder the pressure to resist.

03 · RESULT

THREE DAYS THAT FORCED THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND

The strike brought Guinea to a standstill for three days. Faced with national paralysis, the military government yielded to union pressure. The release of Pendessa demonstrated that collective economic disruption could extract concessions even from a repressive junta.



04 · LESSONS

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

STRENGTHS

- *Rapid national impact: disrupts the economy quickly.*
- *Strong union coordination: demonstrates collective discipline.*
- *Broad public support: amplifies legitimacy of demands.*

LIMITATIONS

- *Short-lived pressure: unsustainable beyond a few days.*
- *Vulnerability to repression: authorities may ban or criminalise action.*
- *Economic hardship for workers: loss of income weakens resolve.*