

SADC suspends Madagascar from group

by UPI

EZULWINI, Swaziland -- The Southern African Development Community says it has suspended Madagascar for what it calls an unconstitutional change of government this month.

In suspending Madagascar, SADC leaders, meeting Tuesday in Swaziland, called on its new president, Andry Rajoelina, to step down, the Voice of America reported Tuesday.

The moves came after former President Marc Ravalomanana resigned under pressure and the island-nation's military handed power to opposition leader Rajoelina, who then took over as head of a transitional authority.

Rajoelina's ascension has also been condemned as unconstitutional by the African Union as well as by Western governments, many of whom have suspended non-humanitarian aid to Madagascar, VOA reported.

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