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Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

March 22nd -28th 2011

Government Owned Media

Pro-Gbagbo forces mulling use of heavy weapons - UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on March 22nd 2011

- The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) issued a communiqué in Abidjan today, expressing its concern about the increasing use of heavy weapons, such as machine guns, rocket launchers, and mortars against civilians, by forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo.
- The ONUCI claims that the movement of these heavy weapons which seriously threatens the civilian population of Abidjan is closely scrutinised, and warns Gbagbo's forces that that necessary action will be taken against those who threaten the mission's mandate.

Gbagbo authorities rap foreign media reporting on Ivorian violence

Text of report by Ivorian TV on March 22nd 2011

- Laurent Gbagbo's government accuses the international media of misinforming the general population about the violence that is currently affecting the country.
- Ahoua Don Mello, minister and spokesman of Gbagbo's government, claims that news reports accusing Gbagbo's security forces of launching an attack against Abobo civilians, killing more than 27 people consist of false allegations made by foreign media
- After verification of the facts, the Gbagbo's administration concludes that "no damage by shelling was observed in any Abobo Commune markets on Thursday 17 March 2011 [and] no bodies, as a result of shelling, were recorded at the Abobo and Anyama mortuaries on Thursday 17 March 2011."
- Don Mello asserts that "the same journalists remain unjustifiably silent when crimes of an outrageous atrocity are committed by the rebels".

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt March 23rd 2011

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met with representatives of the United Nations and the AU in order to avoid the use of force and find a peaceful solution to the post-election crisis.
- In the meantime, the people of Cote d'Ivoire call for a stronger reaction by the international community to solve the post-election crisis.
- For example, the people of Bouake demonstrated at the UN Operation town, asking the AU as well as the republican forces to take the country out of the crisis.
- Angola supports the position of the AU on this issue, recognizing Alassane Ouattara as the Ivorian president.

UN Allocates Funds for Humanitarian Emergency

From UN News Service on March 23rd 2011

- In response to the pressing humanitarian needs caused by the recent eruption violence in Cote d'Ivoire, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) gave \$10.4 million to seven agencies working in Cote d'Ivoire.
- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 45,000 people have been internally displaced (IDPs) in the western part of the country, 300,00 in Abidjan, and more than 90,000 Ivoirians have found refuge in Liberia. This internal displacement, could compromise food security for thousands of households according to the UN.
- In the west, both sectors of health and education have been seriously affected by the crisis. Nearly 90 % of the medical staff and the majority of teaching staff are currently not working.
- As well, according to OCHA the "shortage of essential medicines, the breakdown of the cold storage chain and the absence of disease surveillance have raised the spectre of a serious health crisis for thousands living in the area."
- The CERF funds will be used for the improvement of health care, non-food items, food, water and sanitation, and educational support.

France rules out intervening in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French broadcaster, Radio France Internationale on March 24th 2011

- In a public statement, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe affirms that France will not intervene in Cote d'Ivoire. Juppe says that "France is not the one which should be on the ground and therefore I would like to once more appeal to the United Nations to play its role"[...]. We wish [that] the United Nations and the African Union take up their responsibilities. It is not the former colonial power which should come in between the combatants".

Ivorian state TV accuses EU of "holocaust" by imposing ban on drug imports

Excerpt from report by Ivorian TV on March 24th 2011

- Olivier Konan, presenter of *Television Ivoirienne* condemns EU sanctions against Cote d'Ivoire and accuses France of being "really serious about exterminating Ivoirians".
- Konan claims that the ban imposed on the importation of drugs into Cote d'Ivoire by the EU, has had a negative effect on the Ivorian population.
- 90 %of medicines consumed in Cote d'Ivoire come from EU member countries, and therefore the EU drug embargo imposed on the country has led many people to pass away, while thousands more are still facing death, according to the Ivorian reporter.
- Konan concludes that "like Nazi Germany during World War II, the EU is implementing the Final Solution by carrying out an holocaust in Cote d'Ivoire, at the expense of patients, victims of a silent genocide".

President Obama Speaks to the People of Cote d'Ivoire

Published by The White House on March 25th, 2011 on <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

- American President Barack Obama addressed in a videotaped message rival Presidents Alassane Ouattara and Laurent Gbagbo, as well as the people of Cote d'Ivoire.
- President Obama called upon incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo to act in the best interests of Ivoirians and cede power to Alassane Ouattara, internationally recognised as the winner of the previous presidential elections.

Programme summary of Radio France Internationale news 0730 gmt March 27th 2011

- The AU has charged former foreign minister of Cape Verde, Jose Brito, with the responsibility of organizing negotiations between Ivorian rival camps in order to put an end to the Ivorian political crisis.
- Alassane Ouattara however, has rejected the appointment of Brito, as its representative in the crisis due to his personal ties with Laurent Gbagbo.

Privately Owned Media

Cote d'Ivoire: Ecowas Urges UN to Remove Gbagbo by Force George Agba and Innocent Odoh

From allafrika.com on March 25th 2011

- ECOWAS president, Victor James Gbeho, urges the United Nations to strengthen its mandate to protect the life and property of Ivorian citizens and therefore asks the UN Security Council reinforce sanctions against Gbagbo and to use force to oust him out of power.