

Dafina Savic

Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting

January 10th –January 17th 2011

Government owned media

Ivorian media meets in Ghanaian capital to discuss crisis, promote peace

Text of report by Musah Yahaya Jafaru entitled "Ivorian journalists discuss crisis" published by state-owned Ghanaian newspaper Daily Graphic on January 10th 2011

- As a result of the ongoing post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, Ivorian journalists loyal to Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara are meeting in Ghana in order to assess the national and international role of the media in the current post-election crisis challenges of media rights and freedom in Cote d'Ivoire, and to find ways to rationalize their reportage in an attempt to promote peace and ease the tensions in the country.
- Media biases have been an important determinant of the ongoing political crisis the country currently faces. For example, several reports show that state-owned television and radio stations were available to only the people from the Gbagbo camp and not accessible to those from Ouattara's.
- Similarly, the United Nations who recognizes Alassane Ouattara as the legitimate President, made The UN Radio virtually accessible only to supporters.
- Kwame Karikari executive secretary of the MFWAS, and co-chair of the meeting said "it was through a common platform of Ivorian journalists that peace and security could be achieved in Cote d'Ivoire".

Kenyan premier to resume Ivorian mediation "this week"

Text of report by Kenyan Prime Minister Press Service entitled "Raila to travel back to Cote d'Ivoire" published by Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) website on January 10th 2011

Source: KBC Online text website, Nairobi, in English 10 Jan 11

- Kenyan Prime Minister, Raila Odinga appointed mediator of the African Union for the Ivorian crisis, met with other African leaders to discuss the post-election crisis currently occurring in Cote d'Ivoire. Odinga is urging African mediators to pressure Gbagbo, to step down from power.
- According to the Kenyan leader, power-sharing is not an option for Cote d'Ivoire. The fear of many leaders is that, such an option would be a catalyst for military coups in the country. There are currently talks about imposing international sanctions on Cote d'Ivoire in order to push for a peaceful resolution to this conflict. However Odinga insists that "Force should be the last resort in Ivory Coast".

Pro-Ouattara messages posted on Ivorian state broadcaster's website

Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring Jan 10th 2011

- Ouattara is praised as president by Ivoirians.

- "Last minute news: Welcome to our new president, Mr Ouattara" are messages of congratulations posted on Alassane Dramane Ouattara's official website (www.ado.ci)".
- "Radiodiffusion Television Ivoirienne (RTI) live television and RTI live radio will be established soon. In the meantime you may listen to your president on 98 MHz and 107 MHz". This is presumably a reference to "Radio Cote d'Ivoire, la voix du rassemblement", which was set up by Ouattara's government on December 12th 2011.

UN condemns Cote d'Ivoire media hate speech

Text of press release by the United Nations Security Council on January 10th 2011

- "The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern over continued violence and human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire".
- Security Council member states strongly condemned and demanded an immediate cessation to the use of media, especially via state-owned Ivorian Radio and Television RTI to broadcast "false information to incite hatred and violence, including against the United Nations".
- The members of the Security Council urged the Ivorian population not to engage in any violent or provocative actions, but rather to collaborate with the International Community in order to restore and maintain peace and order in the country.

Programme summary of Ivorian La Voix du Rassemblement radio news 1945 gmt January 12th 2011

- The pro-Gbagbo Defence and Security forces continue to cause violence and massacre throughout the country. As a result of a rally organized by supporters of presidential candidate Alassane Ouattara, a violent armed clash which led to the death of at least 5 security forces, broke out in the northern suburb of Abidjan earlier this morning.

Reactions:

→ Kenyan Prime Minister wants to return to Cote d'Ivoire to meet with African Union (AU) chairman this week to discuss possible solutions to the crisis.

→ Sarkozy and Obama meet and discuss the Cote d'Ivoire dossier

→ The UN Security Council renewed its support to the internationally recognized president, Alassane Ouattara,

Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo launches self-appointed panel to probe post-poll abuses

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 11th 2011

- Today, *President Gbadao*, by receiving today the seven national and international independent experts making up the international investigation commission set up to shed light on attempts against human rights allegations.

Ivorian army head says not to work with UN forces

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 13th 2011

- President Laurent Gbagbo and the armed forces blame the UN for ignoring the armed attacks against units of the Defense and Security Forces of Cote d'Ivoire On Tuesday 11 January 2011, which, left two people dead and nine others wounded.

Spokesman for Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo condemns attack on UN vehicles

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on January 14th 2011

- According to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, three UN mission vehicles were set on fire in Abidjan.

Privately Owned

Media body holds conference on post-electoral crises in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by Media Foundation for West Africa website on January 11th 2011

- The following recommendations were made at the media consensus conference held in Ghana in order to discuss how to put an end to the battle between rival camps for control of news:
 - The regulation of bodies, organizations of Ivorian media professionals, African and international institutions, The adoption of messages of peace by the media community in Cote d'Ivoire, the establishment of mechanisms for the protection and safety of journalists and the media, support to community radio, regulatory and self-regulatory bodies and other media stakeholders to ensure that they follow-up and implement these recommendations.

Many Guineans said return from Cote d'Ivoire fearing being victims of revenge

Text of report by Guineenews, website, January 10th 2011

- Post-election crisis has caused economic stagnation for Ivorian citizens.
- In order not to feel the full impact of the economic crisis caused by the post-electoral situation several Guineans fearing being victims of revenge are leaving Cote d'Ivoire

Plan to use "force" against Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo reportedly depends on Nigeria

Text of report by The Guardian website on January 15th 2011

- Plans for the use of military force to remove Ivory Coast controversial President, Laurent Gbagbo, now depends on Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan who recently asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations for more time in order for him to send his Special Envoy to the troubled West African nation.
- Kenyan premier insists that military option be used as last resort

(Text of report by Kenyan radio station Capital FM on January 16th 2011)

Ghanaian authorities build centre to accommodate Ivorian refugees

Text of report by Joy FM Corporation on January 17th 2011

- A refugee centre is under construction at Obiramu in the Elemebele district of the western region in anticipation of an influx of refugees from the Cote d'Ivoire.

- “The western regional coordinating council says the construction of the centers is an indication that it is taking proactive measures in anticipation of possible violence as the Ivorian political crisis drags on.”
- Western regional minister Paul Evans Adu says there is an increasing number of Ivoirians fleeing to Ghana and affirms measures to ensure a comfortable and safe life to anyone who might register as a refugee, will be taken. A committee has already been set up to make sure the application of those measures.