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Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

February 22-28th 2011

Government Owned Media

UN Mission Deplores Excess Use of Force against Demonstrators

Source: UN News Service, February 22nd 2011 from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102230066.html>

- In response to the recent outbreak of violence which has left dozens of people dead or wounded The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) condemns the excessive use of force against protesters in Abidjan as well neighbouring regions.
- In a press release, the "UNOCI called "on all parties to exercise restraint at a time when political and diplomatic efforts are under way at the highest level to find a peaceful solution to the Ivorian post-electoral crisis."
- According to the head of UNOCI's police, "Gbagbo loyalist militias may be preparing for civil war [...] everything leads us to believe that we are seeing preparations for a civil war."
- Gbagbo government's query for the withdrawal of the UNOCI, has not only been denied, but it has also led to the deployment of an additional 2,000 UN troops and three armed helicopters.

Ivorian forces say killed seven "rebels" in clashes on February 22nd 2011

Text of report by Ivorian TV on February 23rd 2011

- In a communiqué Col Hilaire Babri Gohourou, spokesman of the Defence and Security Forces reports casualties that resulted out of a clash between the Armed Forces and a group of rebels.
- A trap set by a group of more than 50 armed rebels in which two gendarmes were captured in the region of Abobo, leads to a 30 minutes combat.
- The clashes led to the report of two missing, seven wounded, and eight deaths: seven rebels and one security forces member.
- In response to the events, the Defence and Security Forces of Cote d'Ivoire ask the Ivorian population, mainly to collaborate with the military forces in order to allow them "carry out their mission in a much more efficient manner in the fight engaged against that type of urban guerrilla that finds its salvation only in perfidy."

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

- The panel of states charged with finding a solution to the Ivorian crisis, left the country with plans to issue their recommendations in the coming days.
- Some private schools threat to close down if the government does not pay them back the 19 billion CFA francs that it owes them.
- The Ivorian post-electoral crisis has left the people of Kani, northern region of the country in great difficulties. According to transport sector official, fuel is very rare and transport tariffs have been increased.

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo defence group vows "to smash rebellion"

Text of report by ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) newspaper Notre Voie on February 24th 2011

- In response to the assassination of the civilian population by Alassane Ouattara's rebels, never condemned by the international community, soldiers of the Marine and Land Intervention Force, (FIRMAT) express their determination to “smash the rebellion [...] If a rebel kills a civilian our reaction would be forceful and violent, because we can no longer accept that the International Criminal Court closes its eyes on the atrocities committed by the armed rebellion.”

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt February 24th 2011

- Clashes between the Defense and Security Forces and unidentified people led to the stoppage of electricity in the Abobo district.
- Alassane Ouattara was named new chairman of The Economic Community of West African States earlier today.

UN spokesperson says 315 killed in Cote d'Ivoire since mid-December 2010

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on February 24th 2011

- According to a UN representative, an estimated 315 people were killed since the middle of December 2010.

Rival forces clash in western Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French state-funded public broadcaster Radio France Internationale on February 25th 2011

- Rivalry between Ouattara's New Forces, and Gbagbo's Defence and Security Forces result in clashes in a western region near the border with Liberia.
- 100 Abidjan inhabitants are forced to flee the region as a result of the clashes. According to the ONUCI, the continuous eruption of violence in the country has led to 15 deaths since the beginning of the week.
- The UN mission warns against the risk of civil war

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo youth to attack "rebel" hotel "within one week"

Text of report by Ivorian TV on February 25th 2011

- While the AU is trying to find a peaceful solution to the Ivorian crisis, the ONUCI is acting to destabilize the government of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo.
- In response to ONUCI' decisions, determined to protect President Laurent Gbagbo youth leader, Charles Ble Goude, asked the Ivorian population gather and create a human shield that would stop the movement of ONUCI soldiers throughout Abidjan.

Programme summary of Radio France Internationale news 0730 gmt February 28th 2011

- Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo TV reports "rebel attack" against transmitting station.

Ban Calls for Compliance With Arms Embargo As Attack Helicopters Delivered February 28th 2011

Source: UN News Service from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102281566.html>

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon expressed his concern over Belarus' violation of the arms embargo imposed on Cote d'Ivoire.
- The Belarusian government is accused of having sent three attack helicopters and related material from to Gbagbo's forces. However, spokesperson for Belarus' foreign ministry has publically denied such allegations.
- UN Secretary-General "demands full compliance with the arms embargo and warns both appropriate actions will be taken in response to the violation."

Thousands of Ivorian students said form human shield around Gbagbo's residence

Text of report by Ivorian TV on 28th of February 2011

- Thousands of Ivoirians determined to defend Laurent Gbagbo against UN threat of destabilization, have gathered around President Laurent Gbagbo's residence.

Pro-Gbagbo TV commentary slams UN bias in Ivorian conflict

Text of report by Ivorian TV on February 28th 2011

- A television station faithful to Gbagbo accuses Ban Ki-moon of adopting a "double standard posture in the Ivorian crisis. While he is calling for sanctions against the Ivorian government, [he] ignores the rearmament of the rebellion that is plunging into the state".

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo women group stage sit in at UN military base

Text of report by state-run Ivorian TV on 28 February 2011

- Women patriots of Cote d' Ivoire led by Genevieve Bro-Grebe, held a sit-in in front of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire headquarters, "to reiterate their condemnation of the destabilizing manoeuvres of the UN and French forces in Cote d'Ivoire."
- The women expressed their support of Gbagbo's victory and the peacekeeping forces to leave claiming that "atrocities are committed by a certain invisible commando unit that wants to impose, at all costs, Alassane Ouattara as president."

Privately Owned Media

Sexual Violence and Other Human Rights Abuses Must Stop February 22nd 2011

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102230889.html>

- Amnesty Internationale condemns the acts of sexual violence and unlawful killings perpetrated by forces loyal to Côte d'Ivoire's opposing Presidents Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara.

- The Amnesty International investigation exposes that the ethnic tensions which resulted out of the post-electoral crisis have forced an estimated 70,000 out of the country.
- Testimonies reveal that attacks on people are based on ethnicity and alleged political affiliations.
- In the town of Duékoué , Amnesty International's researchers found that in January, a number of people were killed, several women raped and hundreds of homes burned and robbed.
- Amnesty International urges both the security forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara to respect human rights and assures that there will consequences for those committing abuses:
- “The eyes of the world may have shifted from the political stalemate in Côte d'Ivoire, but the abuses are clearly continuing. Both the security forces and the Forces Nouvelles are committing these horrific acts and their victims have no recourse to justice.”

Côte d'Ivoire: African Union Urged to Press Gbagbo to Halt Abuses

Source: International Freedom of Expression Exchange Clearing House (Toronto) on 23 February 2011 from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201102281524.html>

- An in depth Human Rights Watch investigation reports the killing of at least 11 people by Gbagbo's security forces since February 19th. Gbagbo's forces are also accused of several killings in pro-Ouattara neighborhoods.
- Human Rights Watch research shows new violations in recent weeks, with reports of the security forces firing lethal weapons - including live ammunition, fragmentation grenades, and rocket-propelled grenades - into crowds of people who continue to call on Gbagbo to concede his loss to Ouattara.
- On February 21 Gbagbo's forces fired at least two rocket-propelled grenades directly into a crowd of over 100 protesters, leaving four people dead and several wounded.
- Human Rights Watch has warned Gbagbo's forces that “they could be held responsible for war crimes and any other grave violations of human rights if hostilities resume.”

France condemns attacks on UN peacekeepers by forces of Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo

Excerpt from report by French news agency AFP on February 28th 2011

- France strongly condemns the recent attacks on the UN in Cote d'Ivoire and warns perpetrators of sanctions.
- Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero made the following statement: “We condemn as strongly as possible any attack on UNOCI, the United Nations Force in Cote d'Ivoire. These attacks by forces in the pay of Laurent Gbagbo are unacceptable.”
- The UNOCI announced that an ambush in the Abobo district left three peacekeepers injured earlier this week.