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Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

March 1st -8th 2011

Government Owned Media

Gbagbo supporters fire on UN sanctions experts

France 24 International news on March 1st 2011

- Forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo opened fire on the UN peacekeeping forces who were investigating the alleged breaking of the international arms embargo of the country by the Belarusian government, who is accused of sending three attack helicopters and other equipment to Gbagbo.
- Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the UN reported that one Belarus helicopter allegedly arrived in Ivory Coast on Sunday night and two more were expected Monday.
- At the same time, tensions increased as Gbagbo's supporter's temporarily kidnapped two Ukrainian UN workers.
- Gbagbo's government also accuses the United Nation forces of allying with New Forces fighters.
- As a result, tensions have significantly increased in the country as clashes between supporters loyal to Gbagbo and Ouattara continuously break out.

Reactions

- Mr. Ki-Moon warned Belarus and Gbagbo that "appropriate action will be taken in response to the violation."
- Belarus denied the allegations and Ministry spokesman Andrei Savinykh stated that: "Belarus has never violated Security Council sanctions" and has an "efficient system to control weapons exports."
- Gbagbo's government claimed that the UN's allegations were "a lie to justify an attack against the government of President Laurent Gbagbo,"
- More than 10,500 UN peacekeepers now operate in Ivory Coast, protecting Ouattara's headquarters, but still face growing hostility from Gbagbo's supporters.

Cote d'Ivoire: Eight pro-Ouattara papers close in protest

Text of report by French news agency AFP Paris, March 1st 2011

- Due increasing harassment by the police as well as increasing pressures from the Gbagbo government, nine newspapers faithful in support of Alassane Ouattara were forced close their doors and suspend publications until further notice.
- According to one of the newspapers' spokesman, the journalists were "constantly at risk of death."

- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) also expressed their worry about the situation for freedom of the press in Ivory Coast, claiming that the press was "already highly polarised more and more radical."
- The United Nations continuous' criticism of Gbagbo's government increased the breakout of in country as Gbagbo's men opened a fire on UN workers. The fighting forced hundreds to flee the
- Shootings led by pro-Gbagbo youths, was reported in the south of the country.
- Ndolamb Ngokwey, UN humanitarian coordinator demands that "The bodies strewn on the streets [to be] buried, as soon as possible."
- In the meantime, the AU' s panel of states' mission to find a "binding" resolution to the crisis has been postponed to March.

Cote d'Ivoire: Article analyses information outlets through electronic media

Text of report by Christophe Champin and Patricia Blettery: "Ivorian Crisis Exists Also on Facebook and Twitter", from Radio France Internationale website on March 1st 2011

- As a result of the closure of many news broadcasting resources, blogs, and social networks, such as Twitter and Facebook, as well as the cell phone have become the alternate source of information for the Ivorian population, as it allows them to be aware of the latest acts and gestures perpetrated by different the actors in the crisis.
- Those new sources of information, however still reflect the division of the society.
- Gbagbo's supporters, use to it to block the "politico-media plot" against President Laurent Gbagbo, while supporters of Ouattara's camp, does the exact opposite by sharing the most information possible on Alassane Ouattra.

France calls for end to arrests and intimidation of Cote d'Ivoire journalists

Excerpt from report by French news agency AFP on March 3rd 2011

- The French government asked for the "immediate end" to the intimidations and suspensions of Ivorian journalists, by the Gbagbo government, and called for the "unconditional" release of those of them who are currently under arrest.

Ivorian health professionals said to take EU, WHO to court over drugs embargo

Text of report by state-run Ivorian TV on March 3rd 2011

- In response to the embargo on pharmaceutical products imposed by the EU upon Cote d'Ivoire, health professionals gathered in front of the WHO headquarters in order to express their discontent.
- According Cote d'Ivoire's health minister, the embargo has many consequences on the Ivorian population. In a statement made last week, he claimed that "within two months, we will not be in a position to have enough drugs to care for the people."

Ivory Coast: parts of Abidjan resemble war zone

March 4th 2011 from BBC News

- According to Jacques Franquin, head of the UN refugee agency in Cote d'Ivoire, "Certain areas of Abidjan are truly in a situation of war with the population fleeing."

- At least six women protesting in Alassane Ouattara's name, were shot dead by Gbagbo security forces, last thursfay in the northern neighbourhood of Adobo.
- UN spokesman Hamadou Toure made the following statement regarding te situation: "We are overstretched in terms of patrolling. We conducted over 865 patrols last week. You can't be in every corner of the city."
- In the past two weeks violent clashes have been recurrent in the pro-Ouattara region of Abobo. The UN estimates that 200,000 people have left the area because of it.
- The situation is making it difficult for the UN "to reach people who are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance."
- African Union's panel state charged with resolving the crisis, are expected to meet this Friday.

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt March 1st 2011

- Electricity, water, and gas supplies have been cut in the centre, north, and west zone of the country.
- According to a medical officer in Korhogo, this could have a negative effect on the preservation of blood and vaccines in the area.

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo Women Patriots demonstrate at UN peacekeepers base

Text of report by Ivorian TV on March 3rd 2011

- RTI News broadcaster reports that women patriots loyal to Laurent Gbagbo were "brutalized and molested by the Blue Helmets of the ONUCI, mainly members of the contingents from Senegal, Burkina, and Niger", for having organized a sit-in protest in the Cocody commune earlier this week.
- Women patriots supported by the seven woman ministers in the Ivorian government ask for the departure of UN forces: "Yesterday, the ONUCI beat us up. For this reason, they must leave. They have no right beating us up. They have no right beating women up. Therefore, they must go. That is it"

Ivorian army rejects accusations of killing pro-Ouattara demonstrators

Text of statement read by Army Spokesperson Babri Gohourou in Abidjan on March 4th broadcast by Ivorian TV

- Following the alleged killing of six women during a demonstration organized by Ouattra camp, Defence and Security Forces spokesman made the following statement [...] "while we pay a sincere tribute to the victims of this barbarism, the Ivorian army totally rejects these false and baseless accusations."
- Gbagbo' forces claim that similar demonstrations carried by the RHDP women in the districts of Marcory, Adjame, Koumassi, Treichville, Attiecoube, in the city of Bassam and in other cities were peacefully dispersed "with conventional equipment by the Defence and Security Forces without any report of killings or barbarism."

AU high-level panel calls for end to killings, violence in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French Radio France Internationale on March 5th 2011

- The AU panel of states calls for “the immediate cessation of killings, acts of violence that would lead to the loss of human lives as well as demonstrations, mass marches or other activities that could degenerate into unrest and violence.”

Ivory Coast: Clashes and looting amid political crisis

BBC news on March 6th 2011

- A number of Ouattara supporters have had their homes vandalized by Ivorian youth groups in Abidjan.
- After violent clashes between forces of rival presidents, an armed group of rebels loyal to Alassane Ouattara captured the town of Toulepleu, formally controlled by Laurent Gbagbo, preventing the ONUCI troops from accessing the town.

Cote d'Ivoire: Opposition dailies back in newsstands

Text of report by French news agency AFP, on March 7th 2011

- The eight opposition newspapers that closed last week were back on the news-stands on Monday, reconfirming their support for Alassane Ouattara.
- The papers are: Le Patriote, Le Mandat, L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, Le Democrate, L'expression, Le Jour Plus, Nord-Sud and Le Nouveau Reveil
- They stated that they had decided to reappear to "fill the void of real information, to continue the fight to protect democratic gains."

Privately Owned Media

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Ouattara militants said kill pro-Gbagbo newspaper worker

Text of report by Kwame Karikari: "Cote d'Ivoire Alert: Printer Violently Killed, Fire Guts RTI Equipment", from Media Foundation for West Africa website on March 2nd 2011

- Marcel Legre, a machine operator of, a printing press faithful to *Notre Voie*, a pro-Gbagbo newspaper, was violently killed by an alleged pro-Ouattara militant group on Thursday afternoon, during an armed confrontation in Koumassi, town in the centre of the country.
- The interruption of state-owned Ivorian Broadcasting Corporation (RTI) was also noted in the country as a result of the outbreak of clashes between Gbagbo and Ouattara supporters which led to a fire that caused the destruction of the station's equipment.

BBC, RFI "off air" in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by Media Foundation for West Africa website on March 3rd 2011

- French television France 24 and the two radio stations, BBC and RFI, stopped airing since on March 3 and 2, 2011 respectively.
- No explanation has been given by the National Council for Broadcasting (CNCA) responsible for the broadcast media in the country, controlled by Laurent Gbagbo,.

- The Gbagbo's government has been accusing international media organizations of supporting Alassane Ouattara.
- The only source of information left in country is now, the one-sided news reported by the state-owned Ivorian Broadcasting Corporation (RTI).
- All newspapers supporting Ouattara have stopped publication in order to protest against harassment and intimidation by Gbagbo's forces.
- The Gbagbo government condemned such actions by imposing fines on the protesters.

Pro-Ouattara supporters stop distribution of pro-Gbagbo press in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by Media Foundation for West Africa website on March 3rd 2011

- In response to the suspension of nine pro-Ouattara newspapers, some members of the Rally of Houphouetistes for Democracy and Peace (RHDP), a group supporting Alassane Ouattara banned the distribution of pro-Gbagbo newspapers in the eastern and north-eastern part of the country.

Women Said to Be Killed at Ivory Coast Protest

Text of report by Adam Nossiter, Published on March 3rd, 2011 on The New York Times' official website

- According to witness and the United Nations At least six women marching in support of Alassane Ouattara were shot dead by Gbagbo's security forces in an Abobo neighborhood.
- A crowd of hundreds of women was peacefully marching in a protest organised by Ouattara's political alliance (RHDP), when forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo started shooting into the crowd of women, causing six deaths and several wounded. A video taken on the spot appeared to confirm these events.