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Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

March 28th - April 4th 2011

Government Owned Media

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo reports posted on rival's web site

Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring on March 29th 2011

- Forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo seem to have taken over news broadcasting website (www.premierministre.ci) run by internationally recognized president Alassane Ouattara,
- The site which usually carries reports on activities carried by the Ouattara administration was observed on March 29th to carry reports favourable to Laurent Gbagbo.

Programme summary of Eritrean TV 1800 gmt March 29th 2011

- Clashes between supporters of rival camps caused the death of 17 people.
- After the battle Alassane Ouattara Republican Forces took control of more strategic cities.

Ivorian telecom agency bans access to several pro-Ouattara websites

Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring on March 30th 2011

- The access to websites reporting on Alassane Ouattara's activities and statements has been blocked by the Ivorian Telecommunication Agency (ATCI).
- The pro-Ouattara "official website of the republic of Cote d'Ivoire," *La Voix du Golf*, published the ATCI's official announcement of the decision, effective since March 24th 2011: "Internet operators and service providers shall prevent access, from the Ivorian territory, to the following websites: www.abidjan.net, www.lavoixdugolf.net, www.connectionivoirienne.net, www.primaturecoted'ivoire.net, www.koaci.com, www.lebanco.net, www.informateur.net".
- ATCI's general director explains that "this decision was taken within the framework of national defence and public security, in accordance with prevailing rules and regulations."
- However, on March 30th, BBC Monitoring observed that the mentioned websites were accessible from Cote d'Ivoire and that *La Voix du Golf* changed its address to *lavoixdugolf.org* or *lavoixdugolf.tv* a few days before ATCI decision.

Ten Ivorian towns seized by pro-Ouattara forces in March 2011

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on March 30th 2011

- Ouattara's Republican Forces have taken control of 10 strategic towns and are continuing to move towards the south.

UN official urges restraint as Ouattara forces approach Ivorian economic capital

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on March 31st 2011

- In a press conference held this morning, Hamadou Toure, ONUCI denounced recent the acts of human rights violations committed over the past week.
- Toure reports the discovery of 32 new cases of people killed, including one woman and two children, as well as two Defence and Security Forces members.
- The UN mission asks rival forces to “exercise restraint, respect human rights, and protect the civilians in order to facilitate the reconciliation and peace process that have suffered several setbacks since December 2010.”

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt on March 31st 2011

- Prime Minister Guillaume Soro has given Gbagbo “a few hours to leave Abidjan” and asserts that if this is not respected he will march on Abidjan with his forces. He said that “Gbagbo is finished and that it is not ECOMOG that has liberated Cote d'Ivoire.”
- According to Human Rights Watch, 41 Ivoirians were killed by pro-Gbagbo militiamen in the west of the country on March 22nd.

AU urges President Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire to hand over power

Text of report Ethiopian news agency ENA website on April 1st 2011

- Jean Ping, chairman of the African Union demands that Laurent Gbagbo immediately cedes power to Alassane Ouattara in order to put an end to the violence that has been affecting the country since November of last year.

Newspapers unavailable from newsstands in Cote d'Ivoire as from 31 March

Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring on April 1st 2011

- As a result of the deteriorating situation in Abidjan since March 31st, several Ivorian newspapers have been removed from newsstands until further notice.

Red Cross says 800 people killed in western Cote d'Ivoire clashes

Text of report by French broadcaster Radio France Internationale on April 2nd 2010

- According to The International Committee of the Red Cross, (ICRC) inter-community clashes in the western region of Duekoue caused the death of 800 people earlier this week.
- While both sides blame the other for the violence, the UN is currently investigating the matter.

Pro-Gbagbo forces appear on Ivorian state TV, claim seizing broadcaster

Source: Television Ivoirienne, Abidjan, 0920 gmt on April 2nd 2011

- Laurent Gbagbo's military forces confirmed on state-owned television RTI that they had recaptured the media house.

Official calls on Ivoirians to form "human shield" at Gbagbo's residence

Text of report by Ivorian TV on April 2nd 2011

- Damana Pickas, pro-Gbagbo member of the Independent Election Commission urges Ivoirians to form a "human shield" at Gbagbo's residence and to come out and fight to "protect" the President.
- Pickas accuses Ouattara's supporters of entering "into people's residences and homes and [slaughtering] them [...] looting and raping people with impunity. He therefore asks the population to "take the streets to support our defence and security forces."

Ivorian TV calls on people, military to "support" republic

Source: Television Ivoirienne, Abidjan, 0920 gmt April 3rd 2011

- Ivorian television, RTI has been increasingly broadcasting pro-Gbagbo messages. Most recently, along with airing patriotic songs, the network has been calling the Ivoirian population to "come out massively to support the republic."

Ivorian pro-Ouattara forces launch assault on presidential palace

Source: Radio France Internationale, Paris, 1700 gmt April 4th 2011

- Hundreds of armed forces loyal to internationally recognized President Alassane Ouattara have entered the city of Cocody, and allegedly surrounded Laurent Gbagbo's residence as well as the presidential palace.

Privately Owned Media

French diplomat attacked in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French news agency AFP, on March 29th 2011

- Two French gendarmes working for French embassy in Abidjan were attacked by a group of Gbagbo's forces earlier today.
- Laurent Gbagbo's Special Forces fired a car escorting the French ambassador and threw rocks at the diplomat's vehicle causing him a "very slight" arm injury.
- In response to this event, France assures the maintenance of the Unicorn military force in the country, and its task is in particular to ensure the safety of French nationals.

UNSC said "formally" demands resignation of Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo

Text of report entitled "UN demands Gbagbo's departure, pro-Ouattara forces in the port of San Pedro" published by Italian Missionary Service News Agency (Misna) website on March 31st 2011

- Under Resolution 1975, the UN Security Council has officially asked for the resignation of incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo.
- Sanctions against Gbagbo and those supporting him are also imposed by the ONUCI, giving way to the use of military force in order to protect civilians.

- According to ONUCI experts, “intervention should include aerial bombardments to destroy rocket launchers and mortars pointed on the cities and urban areas.”

Pro-Ouattara forces said encircle Ivorian economic capital

Source: AFP news agency, Paris, on March 31st 2011

- Forces loyal to Alassane Ouattara have "encircled" Abidjan and called upon Laurent Gbagbo to "leave now".
- Guillaume Soro, Ouattara's defence minister confirms the presence of troops in Abidjan and claims that “ this position until soldiers rally to our side and power is transferred to President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, who was democratically elected”.
- In response to Gbagbo's chief of army Philippe Mangou, reported escape to South African ambassador's residence in Cote d'Ivoire, Soro stated:"We are trying to get in touch with him to negotiate. I want us to talk, I want peace for Cote d'Ivoire, I want to avoid a bloodbath in Abidjan".

UN official says blockade lifted on Ouattara HQ in Ivorian economic capital

Text of report by French news agency AFP on March 31st 2011

- Young-jin, UN chief in Cote d'Ivoire, claims that the blockade on Golf Hotel in Abidjan, where Alassane Ouattara has been kept since the eruption of the post-election crisis, has been lifted last Thursday.
- Choi added that “fifty thousand police officers and armed gendarmes have all left Gbagbo. He only has Special Forces of the Republican Guard and the Cecos left.”

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Ouattara forces reportedly release detained journalists

Text of report "Cote d' Ivoire Update: Two Detained TV Journalists Freed" by Media Foundation for West Africa website on April 1st 2011

- Ladji Aboubacar Sanogo and Kangbe Yayoro, the two journalists reporting for a pro-Ouattara tv station accused of terrorist activities and detained and tortured by Gbagbo's forces since January 28th 2011 were liberated today.
- According to the MFWA the reporters were apparently freed when forces loyal to Alassane Ouattara took control of the town Youpogon.

Gbagbo won't resign, won't survive, says French friend

Text of report by French news agency AFP, Paris, 1142 gmt on April 1st 2011

- Despite international pressures, Laurent Gbagbo insists that he “won't resign”.
- According to Guy Labertit, former Africa official for the French Socialist Party and close friend of the outgoing president “Laurent Gbagbo continues to think that he did not lose the elections, has no reason to resign, to step down.”
- Both the residence of Laurent Gbagbo as well as the presidential palace are currently surrounded by Alassane Ouattara troops.
- Libretit is convinced that because of it, “whatever the place, [Gbagbo] won't get out of it alive”

USA tells Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo to step down "immediately"

Text of report by French news agency AFP on April 3rd 2011

- US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton towards urges Laurent Gbagbo step down “immediately” saying that “Gbagbo is pushing Cote d'Ivoire towards anarchy,”

France to deploy 300 more troops to Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French news agency AFP on April 3rd 2011

- French Forces (Licorne) currently in control of the Abidjan international airport have deployed an additional 300 soldiers in Cote d'Ivoire.

UN troops have begun to act against Gbagbo forces - Paris

Text of report by French news agency AFP Paris, 1802 gmt; France 2 TV, Paris 1811 gmt on April 4th 2011

- The United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French force began military operations against forces loyal to the incumbent Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo in Abidjan today.
- In an attempt to ousting Gbagbo out of power, helicopters of the French army fired the military camp occupied by Gbagbo’s soldiers.