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Cote d' Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

January 24th –February 1st 2011

Highlights from last week

Privately Owned Media

UN: Violence, rape spread across Ivory Coast

Text by Marco Chown Oved, Associated Press on January 20th 2011 from http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110120/ap_on_re_af/af_ivory_coast

- The United Nations warned against the violence that is spreading across Ivory Coast. Nearly two dozen cases of rapes were found in the country's west along with one case of sexual torture of a political opponent was.
- Local U.N. human rights chief Simon Munzu said since the November 28th elections, 23 women have been raped in the last week in western Ivory Coast, 16,000 people have taken refuge and 29,000 have fled across the border to Liberia.
- Munzu added that Gbagbo's security had used sexual torture techniques on at least one Ouattara supporter, following an attack on Ouattara's party headquarters two weeks ago in which 63 people were arrested.
- As a result, The U.N. sent 2,000 additional troops, bringing the total to almost 13,000.

Government Owned Media

Cote d'Ivoire pro-Gbagbo minister said indignant at directive on cocoa exports

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 24th 2011

- As a result of Guillaume Soro's letter to the Coffee and Cocoa Trading Federation [FCC], requesting this body to reject all trading transactions with Cote d'Ivoire's exporters, the minister of agriculture this morning held a meeting with coffee and cocoa exporters urging them to remain calm and, especially, "not to give in to the blackmail of some speculators who are playing against the interests of Cote d'Ivoire".
- Gilbert Ano, chairman of the FCC management committee accepted this request and urged his operators "against any cooperation with the officials of the coffee and cocoa sector put in place by the government of the former president, Laurent Gbagbo. I will punish your association members that would have any dealings with those illegal authorities".

Reactions:

→Agriculture Minister Issa Malick Coulibaly and Minister Delegate for Budget Justin Katina criticized the step taken by Guillaume Soro claiming that this demonstrates his willingness to suffocate Cote d'Ivoire economically.

→ Gervais Coulibaly, spokesman for Laurent Gbagbo, made the following statement regarding the issue: “We should not lose sight of the fact that we 7,000 farmers in Cote d'Ivoire. We should not lose sight of the fact that 7 million people live on coffee and cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire. These people send their children to school. They receive medical care. [...] We have no right, for whatever reason, let alone for political or commercial reasons, to sacrifice these 7 million people.

Cote d'Ivoire army chief Mangou defiant over threat of military action

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 24th 2011

- At a rally hosted at the Champroux Stadium, the youths and the army used the opportunity to express their unity. While the youths said they would continue the resistance, the Defence and Security Forces said they were prepared to fight if necessary.
- General Philippe Mangou, chief of defence staff of the Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire: “If we did not understand ourselves and people want to impose war on us, we will wage this war! We will wage the war! They want to frighten us. They cannot frighten us!”
- “Cote d'Ivoire is functioning [...] Maybe it is not functioning very well, like what we see in all countries that are going through crisis. But Cote d'Ivoire is functioning. Every morning, Ivorians are going to their workplaces and the country is calm”. (Minister Charles Ble Goude one of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo's most fervent supporters)

Ghana slams two Ivorian newspapers over false publications

Excerpt from report by Ghanaian newspaper Daily Graphic on January 25th 2011

- Two Ivorian newspapers, *Le Patriote* and *Le Nouveau Reveil*, both belonging to the Ouattara camp falsely alleged that war planes from Angola had launched surveillance flights into Abidjan from a base in Ghana on December 27th, last year.
- The newspapers, claimed to have quoted their sources from French paper *La Lettre du Continent*. The government assured that it would take up the allegation with the French newspaper to stem further publication of that lie.
- A government source told the Daily Graphic that the repeated publication of that falsehood was a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of Ghana's neutral stance on the Ivorian political crisis.
- Ghana's President, John Evans Atta Mills has on several occasions, made clear that Ghana is bound by the decision of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and as a member of the sub-regional body it was obliged to join other members to coactively find lasting solutions to the Ivorian crisis.
- The president, however, noted that if the military intervention was employed, Ghana would not be able to provide troops to ECOWAS since its troops are currently committed to a number of overseas operations.

Cote d'Ivoire: Teachers close to pro Ouattara RHDP faction said face harassment

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on January 25th 2011

- There is some disruption in the school system in the Nzi-Comoe region. Teachers who are members of the Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP: opposition coalition) in

M'Bahiakro held a meeting with the prefect yesterday, to denounce the presence of militiamen within the Defence and Security Forces (FDS).

- The same meeting took place in the neighboring town of Daoukro where the salaries of about 50 teachers were suspended. They therefore met to adopt the following common position in order to have their salaries paid to them.
- “We recognize Alassane Dramane Ouattara as the new president of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and Kandia Camara as our minister of national education. If we do not receive any word asking us to resume classes, we will continue to observe the stoppage of classes”.

EU observer mission validates Ouattara's win in Ivorian poll run off

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on January 25th 2011

- In a report presented to the European Parliament Christian Preda, leader of the EU Electoral Observation Mission in Cote d'Ivoire concludes that the elections were held in good conditions and that the irregularities noticed have not in any way affected the quality of the polls.
- Preda therefore concludes that the results awarding Alassane Ouattara presidency are legitimate.
- The decision of the constitutional court to cancel the 664,405 votes was essential in overturning Ouattara's victory of 54.1%. This is considered by the commission an illegal act, since the cancellation of part of the electoral results is prohibited by the law of Cote d'Ivoire's constitutional court.

Maliens opposed to forceful intervention in Cote d'Ivoire - pro-Gbagbo TV

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 25th 2011

- While the military is beginning to gain widespread support among ECOWAS member states, some Malians citizens decided to sign a petition to protest any military intervention to solve the Ivorian crisis.
- Protesters express their disagreement: “We think that the election of a president of the republic in a country is not worth a foreign military intervention in that country. [...] It is not the role of the international community to send an army to Cote d'Ivoire to wage war, provoke destruction and misery in that country over an electoral disagreement.”

Ivorian pro-Gbagbo minister announces seizure of branches of West African bank

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 25th 2011

- Ivory Coast's incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo has ordered the seizure of all local branches of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO).
- Ivory Coast is part of the eight-country West African CFA monetary zone, with a single central bank based in Dakar, Senegal, but with national headquarters in each country.
- The bank has recognised Mr. Gbagbo's rival Alassane Ouattara as president and forced Gbagbo's ally to resign from his position as governor of the bank last week which gave control of state accounts to Mr. Ouattara, who ordered two offices of the bank to close.
- Without access to government funds, Gbagbo's ability to financially maintain the country's military and security forces is unlikely.
- In response to this, Laurent Gbagbo's finance minister said BCEAO employees should only answer to local officials in Ivory Coast rather than to those in Dakar for a period of three months.

- Mr Ouattara condemned the move, which led to a meeting of the African Union to negotiate an end to the crisis.

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt January 26TH 2011

- Report on the negative effects of the post-electoral crisis on the town of Dabakala. Students are no longer going to school while trade is not moving as it used to.
- Report on the outbreak of cholera in the Adjame neighborhood of Abidjan. 23 cases were declared in the area.
- Report on the creation of a youth parliament at Daoukro. The members of the institution say the press has been taken over by the presidential camp whereby false information is being brought to the people.

Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo orders power cut in north, west

Text of report by Ivorian opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) newspaper Le Patriote website on January 27th 2011

- In response to a declaration last week by the unions of the Ivorian Electricity Company, (CIE), who rose against an eventual cut in power supply in the north in an attempt to target the population "that voted for Ouattara", Laurent Gbagbo ordered the piracy of the entire distribution network at the national level. Thus leaving the entire population of the Centre, North, and West zones (CNO) deprived of electricity supply until further notice.
- Gbagbo's actions have already led to unfortunate events in northern hospitals as doctors, taken by surprise, watched patients die without being able to do anything about it.
- Laurent Gbagbo, who has confided his intention "to nationalize" water and electricity sectors, also seeks to deprive Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ghana of electricity for having recognized Ouattara as the legal and legitimate president of Cote d'Ivoire.

Cote d'Ivoire's Ouattara orders closure of central bank branches

Text of report by Ivorian opposition Rally of Republicans (RDR) newspaper Le Patriote website on January 27th 2011

- In response to Laurent Gbagbo's seizure of the West African central bank's offices, his rival Alassane Ouattara announced the closure of Ivorian branches.

Rights body slams violence against Ouattara supporters in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French broadcaster Radio France Internationale on January 27th 2011

- Human Rights Watch has denounced a campaign of violence organized by pro-Gbagbo security forces and militias.
- An investigation led by the human rights organization in Abidjan in January, accused the Republican guard, young patriots and also members of trade union FESCI, the Student Federation of Cote d'Ivoire, of violence targeted at actual or alleged supporters of Alassane Ouattara.
- Extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, gang rape and acts of torture committed in different neighbourhoods of Abidjan, figure among the list of crimes investigated by Human Rights' Watch.

- Despite the success of peacekeeping forces in protecting civilians, crime and violence continue to be perpetrated regularly.

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

- Humanitarian organizations say there are some 20,000 internationally displaced persons in east and 30,000 Ivorian refugees in Liberia.
- According to the UN 7 people died from cholera in Abidjan.

UN peacekeeping troops reportedly launch defensive grenade on Ivorian gendarmes

Text of report by Ivorian TV on January 28th 2011

- The peacekeeping force of The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) launched a defensive grenade on gendarmes who came to deliver them from angry inhabitants opposed to the passage of the ONUCI convoy coming from Bouake.
- After the gendarmes of Yopougon (Abijan neighbourhood) had successfully dispersed the crowd to facilitate the passage of the ONUCI convoy, a defensive grenade was thrown by an ONUCI division and landed close to the Ivorian gendarmes 'vehicle.
- Four gendarmes were injured and one of them is in a critical state.

Ivorian official says clashes in eastern town leave one dead, seven injured

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on February 1st 2011

- Clashes between students of two different associations in Bondoukou left one dead and seven injured.

Privately Owned Media

Gbagbo's camp welcomes AU's response to Ivorian crisis

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

- The government of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo welcomed the creation of a panel of heads of state by the African Union, which "goes in the direction of a peaceful resolution" of the Ivorian crisis.
- The panel will be chaired by Mauritania's Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz , Chad's Idriss Deby, South African leader Jacob Zuma , Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete.
- The African heads of state will have a mandate of one month to find a solution based on the acceptance of the results of the November 28th, granting Alassane Ouattara the presidency of Cote d'Ivoire.
- Alassane Ouattara expressed his agreement with the AU's decisions and supports the steps taken by the African leaders to arrive at a peaceful solution to the crisis. His spokeswoman, Anne Ouloto, said that she hoped the five heads of state "will show full responsibility in their conduct and place themselves above any affinity with" Mr Gbagbo.

TV reporters arrested as "rebels" on arrival in Abidjan

Text of report in English by Paris-based media freedom organization Reporters Sans Frontieres on January 31st 2011

- Journalists Sanogo Aboubakar and Kangbe Yayoro Charles Lopez , representing a TV station supporting Alassane Ouattara (Television Notre Patrie) reporting on the Golf Hotel, where presidential contender Alassane Ouattara is holed up., were accused of being rebels and are being held at the gendarmerie's criminal investigation department in the Abidjan district of Plateau.
- Reporters Without Borders condemns the false accusations being made against them and calls for their immediate release.
- The press freedom organization also deplores state-owned Radio-Television Ivoirienne and the pro-Gbagbo newspaper for describing the two journalists as rebels who had come to Abidjan to participate in an armed attack.

Côte d'Ivoire: Violence Campaign by Security Forces, Militias

Gbagbo Should Rein in Supporters; Rampant Killings Require Robust UN Response

Human Rights Watch Report January 26th, 2011

- According to Human Rights Watch's in depth investigation into violations in the commercial capital, Abidjan, revealed the common occurrence of violence targeting members of opposition political parties, ethnic groups from northern Côte d'Ivoire, Muslims, and immigrants from neighboring West African countries.
- Daniel Bekele, Human Rights Watch director explains tha "The security forces and militias supporting Laurent Gbagbo are imposing a reign of terror against his real or perceived opponents in Abidjan,"
- Human Rights Watch researchers report "more than 100 victims of, and witnesses to, killings by militiamen with bricks and clubs, and sexual assaults in front of family members. Witnesses described seeing family members or neighbors dragged from their homes, mosques, restaurants, or the street into waiting vehicles. Many were "disappeared," including some victims who were later found dead".