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Cote d'Ivoire: Domestic Broadcasting Report

February 8th –February 15th 2011

Government Owned Media

Human rights official discusses resurgence of violence in Abidjan neighbourhood

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on February 8th 2011

- Violent clashes between protesters and security forces in an Abidjan neighbourhood, February, caused deaths among the civilian population.
- Traore Idrissa, chairman of The Ivorian Human Rights Movement (MIDH) condemned the loss of human lives and urged the population for social cohesion, and the security forces to “hold weapons and use them according to the law and avoid attacking the population which, for the most part, is unarmed.”

Fire put out at Treasury building in Ivorian city

Text of report Replacing "Ivorian capital" with "Ivorian city" on February 8th 2011

Source: Television Ivoirienne, Abidjan, in French 2000 gmt February 8th 2011

- In the midst of a battle for the control of state finances between incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, who still controls the administration, and his rival Alassane Ouattara, internationally recognized as Cote d' Ivoire's elected president, a significant fire broke out at the Public Treasury building in Abidjan.
- No information on possible victims or the origin of the disaster was given and the fire was extinguished by local firefighters.
- According to witnesses, the fire broke out on the floor where the automobile taxes are paid. Perhaps related to Alassane Ouattara's recent call the Ivorians not to pay that tax this year, in an effort to cut Gbagbo's financial resources.

Programme summary of Radio France Internationale news 0430 gmt on February 11th 2011

- Three people died during clashes in Pro-Ouattara Abobo suburb in north of Abidjan.

Ivorian coffee, cocoa sector said hit hard by unemployment in San Pedro

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on February 9th 2011

- As a result of sanctions imposed on the Ivorian cocoa sector due post-election crisis, several factories in San Pedro were forced to close their doors for several days, causing the dismissal of numerous workers.

- A witness discusses the situation: “We suffer much. You have to work to get paid. If you do not work you do not get paid [...] but if you do not work, how will you pay your house rent? Things are not fine. It is because we have voted? If we hadn't voted we would not have been in this mess”

Gbagbo government takes UN radio off air in Cote D'Ivoire

Text of report in English by French news agency AFP Paris, 2205 gmt Feb 9th 2011

- Laurent Gbagbo officially banned the United Nations radio broadcasts via ONOCI-FM radio, most widely listened to radio station in the country.
- Gbagbo blamed UNOCI for supporting his rival Alassane Ouattara internationally recognized as president of Cote d' Ivoire.

Programme summary of Ivorian ONUCI FM radio news 1800 gmt February 10th 2011

- Spokesman of UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, (ONUCI) announced that 22 new deaths were recorded this week in Abobo, Duekoue, and other towns.

Africom said not to support armed intervention in Cote d'Ivoire - Ghanaian paper

Excerpt from report by Seth J Bokpe entitled "No plans to intervene in Cote d'Ivoire: US" published by Ghanaian newspaper Daily Graphic on February 11th 2011

- The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) affirms that it will not support military intervention in Cote d'Ivoire if the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) decide to use military force to resolve the Ivorian crisis.

UN radio station defies Cote D'Ivoire ban

Text of press release by US-based United Nations news portal UN Dispatch on February 11th 2011

- Despite Gbagbo's efforts to take the United Nations' radio off the air, the UNOCI (United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire) reported that, ONUCI-FM is still on the air.
- Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees called for the end of the political crisis in the country, as it is “becoming more deeply entrenched causing the humanitarian situation to get worse and worse.”

Writer outlines how Cote d'Ivoire' Gbagbo plans to bypass "financial asphyxia"

Text of report by Ivorian newspaper L'Inter website on February 12th 2011

Commentary by J.M.K. Ahoussou: "Post-Election Crisis: How Gbagbo Intends To Work Around Financial Asphyxia"

- As a result of the Ivorian crisis, The European Union (EU) has ordered economic sanctions against Cote d'Ivoire's primary export in order to freeze the financial assets of President Gbagbo in an attempt to force the incumbent president out of power.
- However, it seems that the president has found ways to withstand these efforts, as he was able to negotiate a loan with Angolan ally, for over "\$200 million," nearly 100 billion CFA francs, to pay Cote d'Ivoire's civil servants for the month of February.”

- In addition, South Africa is "looking into the possibility of opening an account for the foreign operations of the Ivorian Government via the South African Reserve Bank." This would essentially allow Gbagbo to run Cote d'Ivoire's foreign economic and financial operations.

Cote d'Ivoire: Security situation under control in Abidjan districts

Text of report by state-run Ivorian TV on February 12th 2011

- According to Chief Superintendent Joachim Robe, commander of operations at the Cecos, the situation in the district of Abidjan, has deteriorated due to the killing of several members of the Defence and Security Forces since the eruption of the political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.
- Commander Robe ensures the population that the situation is under control, as 8,000 men have been dispatched protect the security of the Abidjan population.

West African body says no decision yet to use military force in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by Nigerian newspaper Daily Trust website on February 14th 2011

Report by Romoke W. Ahmad: "ECOWAS: No Decision To Invade Cote d'Ivoire"

- James Victor Gbeho, President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, announced that no decision regarding the use of force in Cote d'Ivoire has been made.
- Such an option should be resorted to only when to other means, including the use of legitimate force, have been exhausted.

Privately Owned Media

Ecowas said accuses some African states of backing Cote d'Ivoire's Gbagbo

Text of report by Madu Onuorah entitled "ECOWAS chief accuses African nations of backing Gbagbo" published by private Nigerian newspaper The Guardian website on February 8th 2011

- Amb James Victor Gbeho, President of the ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States) Commission, accused several unnamed African countries of supporting Laurent Gbagbo and refusing to let Allassane Ouattara run the country.

Media body concerned by death threats against three reporters in Cote d'Ivoire

Text of unattributed report entitled: "Cote d'Ivoire ALERT: Three Journalists Received Death Threats " published by Media Foundation for West Africa website on February 11th 2011

- The Media Foundation for West Africa's (MFWA) reported that Madeleine Tanou, reporter for *Soir Info*, an independent daily newspaper, received death threats from persons believed to be members of a pro-Gbagbo militias, *Groupement Patriotique pour la Paix* (GPP) , for supposedly saying negative things about Laurent Gbagbo.
- The threats send via SMS, read the following message among others:

"We thought that you were neutral, now you are supporting ADO (Alassane Dramane Ouattara) and Bedie (Henri Konan). If you do not take care, you will see what will happen to you. Do you remember your colleague who was killed last week and you, you must think".

- Similarly, two other journalists have also received death threats due to their support for Gbagbo. Director of community radio Bia FM, Assomon Anoh, was threatened by individuals suspected to be militants of Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy Peace (RHDP) for airing his radio programme at the same time as that of the Ivorian Broadcasting Corporation (RTI), controlled by Gbagbo.
- As well, Kesy B Jacobs, editor-in-chief of a pro RHDP newspaper, the *Nord-Sud Quotidien*, was also victim of insults and threats on the telephone, after reporting the alleged defection of 12 officers of Gbagbo's Defence and Security Forces to Ouattara camp