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Domestic broadcasting report: cote d' Ivoire

March 8th -15th 2011

Government Owned Media

Clashes between Gbagbo, Ouattara camps continue in western Cote d'Ivoire

Text of report by French broadcaster Radio France Internationale on March 8th 2011

- After last week's takeover of Toulepleu by the New Forces, allied to Alassane , violence broke out in near Bolekin.
- As a result of clashes in the pro-Alassane Ouattara neighbourhood of Abobo on the night of March 6th three people were killed and several were injured.
- According to Gbagbo, a village supporting his government in the region of Abobo was attacked.
- The UN reports that the violence has led 200,000 people to escape the city, while 75 000 crossed the border to Liberia.

Crossing a Line - Killings And Fear in Abidjan

From Humanitarian News and analysis on AllAfrica.com on March 8th 2011

- According to the UN Human Rights Commission decry the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire, is worsening. Ivorian citizens speak about horrific violent acts witnessed in the past few days.
- A human rights activist describes the magnitude the violence has taken in the past few days: "people are being burned alive and hacked to bits with machetes", he says.
- In the Abobo neighbourhood, a citizen reports having seen youths "brandishing the burned bodies of two gendarmes like trophies".
- In the same region, a 33-year bus driver saw his nephew being brutally murdered by a group of youths. "They pulled him out of a bus and slit his throat. When I saw his body my legs gave out on me. This human slaughter is inexplicable."
- The problem according to human rights activists is that because there is no neutral mediator, the process towards peace is difficult. Indeed, because Ouattara has the support of the international community, he does not think he should back down, while on the other, Gbagbo refuses to cede power as the electorate spilt is about 50-50. In addition, the occurrence of violence is not always reported as there is a strong bias within the media.

Unidentified persons said attack Cote d'Ivoire's state-owned media body

Text of report by Media Foundation for West Africa website on March 8th 2011

- The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) reports that the unidentified persons launched missile on the headquarters building of the state-owned *Fraternité Matin* newspaper on the night of March 5th 2011.
- No casualties or material damages were reported.

- Director of the National Press Council (CNP), a pro-Gbagbo media regulatory body, received death threats from an unidentified man believed to be a supporter of Alassane Ouattara.
- In response to this, the National Union of Ivorian Journalists (UNJCI).UNJCI made the following statement: "freedom of expression and press freedom must be protected at all cost and any attempt to intimidate or muzzle the media as is being done on both sides of the conflict is unacceptable".

Cote d'Ivoire: Pro-Gbagbo activists destroy pro-Ouattara newspapers in Abidjan

Text of report by Media Foundation for West Africa website on March 9th 2011

- A group of Laurent Gbagbo's supporters destroyed copies of pro-Ouattara newspapers in a Cocody, village in Abidjan suburb.
- After a week of protest against "intimidation" and "harassment" by pro-Gbagbo authorities, the pro-Ouattara newspapers came back on the newsstands.
- The MFWA reported that supporters also voiced their determination "to ban all the pro-Ouattara newspapers from circulation in the area".

Cote d'Ivoire: France Protests Gbagbo Cocoa Grab

Radio France International on March 9th 2011

- The French Government is protesting against Laurent Gbagbo's decision to take control the cocoa industry, which is dominated by a number of multinational companies.
- Bernard Valero, French foreign ministry claimed that Gbagbo's decision is a "plundering of private operators which will further deepen the economic crisis into which Gbagbo - who has already attacked the central bank - has plunged the country."
- Cote d'Ivoire is the world's third producer of cocoa beans. According Valero, this decision could further rise the prices of cocoa to 1,000 dollars or more since US and EU sanctions will remain in place for longer

Gbagbo bans UN, French forces overflights, landings in Cote d'Ivoire

Source: Television Ivoirienne, Abidjan, 2000 gmt on March 9th 20 11

- State-owned TV, *Television Ivoirienne Chaine Une*, controlled by former President Laurent announces the interdiction of all "overflights" and "landings" of UN and French Operation Unicorn aircrafts "throughout the national territory."

Ivorian post-election violence investigation commission said releases report

Text of report by Ivorian TV on March 10th 2011

- According to the report released by the international investigation commission on the post-election, the Independent Election Commission [CEI] as well as the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire have been found guilty of acts of violence perpetrated in the declaration of the results of the presidential elections.
- The commission also reproached the CEI of not accomplishing its mission and therefore recommended its dissolution.

Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo's camp terms AU move to recognize rival as "untenable"

Text of report by French broadcaster Radio France Internationale Paris, 1230 gmt on Mar 11th 2011

- The meeting putting an end to the African Union's panel states mission in Cote d'Ivoire concluded Laurent Gbagbo, lost the presidential election held in November of last year, and must therefore cede power his rival, Alassane Ouattara. A special AU envoy will be sent to Cote d'Ivoire, to ensure that these decisions are implemented within a period of two weeks.
- The the African Union, estimates this decision permanently resolves the issue.

Reactions

- ➔ Gbagbo's representative Pascal Affi N'Guessan: "We will not heed the AU proposals. President Laurent Gbagbo took an oath of office as the president of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and we will continue to fight for the recognition of this election and [his] legitimacy".

Youths burn UN vehicle in Ivorian economic capital

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on 12 March

- A UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) civilian vehicle was set on fire by a group of young men in Abidjan today. The incident has caused injuries to the driver of the vehicle.

Ivorian press council says newspapers distribution to resume on March 14th

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

- The CNP, an independent regulating body in charge of ensuring press freedom, as well objectivity of the media professionals, says that the distribution of newspapers in the country can resume.
- The CNP assured that it will continue discussions with the "government authorities in order to avoid that, in future, such measures penalize all the national newspapers"

Ivorian papers back in newsstands

Source: Media observation by BBC Monitoring in English March 14th 2011

- Ivorian newspapers are back on the newsstands after being unavailable from the 11th to 13th of March.

Privately Owned Media

No newspapers on sale in Cote d'Ivoire after raid on distributor

Text of report by Paris-based media freedom organization Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) on March 11th 2011

- The post-election crisis situation in Cote d'Ivoire become so dangerous for the news media as well as the journalists, that it resulted in the stoppage of newspapers distribution in country on March 11.
- According to RSF Violence and casualties are reported every day and "journalists are being exposed to threats, arrests and reprisals, and often have to risk lives to report in some neighbourhoods".

- In an attempted to force employees of the offices of country's only newspaper distributor to stop the distribution of the pro- Ouattara, newspapers, forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo launched an attack on the Edipresse building earlier today.
- In order to protest against these acts violence, the French company Presstalis, along with its retailers not to sell any newspapers at all today.
- Two journalists are currently detained in Cote d'Ivoire, while one media worker has been killed in the past two weeks.

Cote d'Ivoire: Radio station suspends normal programmes due to fear of attack

Text of report, "Cote d'Ivoire Alert: Radio station suspends programmes for fear of attacks by Gbagbo's forces" by Media Foundation from West Africa website on March 2011

- MFWA reports that following acts of vandalism by Gabbro's armed forces, Islamic radio station based in Cocody, has "Al-Bayane" suspended its normal programming and now airs only religious songs and Koranic recitations.
- According to the Media Foundation of West African Nations, Gbagbo's security forces also allegedly burnt down . two mosques in Youpougon, a Abidjan neighbourhood on February 25th,
- In another development, the house of photographer Karidioula David, of pro-Gbagbo newspaper, *Le Quotidien*, was burnt down by unidentified arsonists.
- No arrests have been made.

Civilians flee Cote d'Ivoire after fresh clashes

Text of report: "Tension in Abidjan, Thousands Fleeing Clashes" by Italian-based Missionary Service New+s Agency (Misna) website

- Clashes between forces loyal to Laurent Gbagbo and supporters of Alassane Ouattara, caused 8 deaths, numerous injures and thousands to flee their homes in Abidjan.
- The economic consequences of the crisis are worsening on a daily basis: "The majority of banks are closed for various reasons: lack of cash due to massive withdrawals, fear of insecurity and because Gbagbo in the past days announced a nationalization of banks, creating confusion".

Pro-Gbagbo Ivorian army official's residence in Abidjan attacked

Text of report by Ivorian TV on 14 March 2011

- The residence of Cote d'Ivoire's Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Philip Mangou was attacked, by a group of terrorists in Yopougon.
- No damages were reported and calm has been by the Security Forces.

Humanitarian situation said deteriorating in Ivorian economic capital district

Text of report by UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire radio ONUCI FM on March 14th 2011

- According to the ONUCI, the humanitarian situation –in Abidjan is worsening every day.
- Due to the blocking of supply routes as well as the closure of all shops and stores in the country , the population is living without money or food.

Ivorian Young Patriots leader to make "historic call" to liberate country

Text of report by Ivorian TV on March 14th 2011

- The Ivorian population has been called upon by chairman of the Alliance of Young Patriots Charles Ble Goude to remain calm and adhere to acts of violence provoked by the Ouattrra camp.
- He stated: "Mr. Ouattara and his camp want to push us into making the error and the mistake of launching a civil war. We must not make this mistake. We must not fall into this trap."

Programme summary of Radio France Internationale news 0730 gmt March 15th 2011

- Gun shots were heard in Abidjan's Abobo neighbourhood as most foreigners seek refuge in respective embassies. Interview with Mauritanian national.