



UNOCI

Volume 1 • N°025

ONUClweekly • 12 to 19 August 2011 ••

## CONTENTS

### Editorial

- 1** UNOCI in action
- 2** UNOCI meets the press
- 3** Sensitization
- 4** Messages of peace
- 5** Postelectoral situation
- 6** Portrait
- 7** Image of the week
- 8** What's new on ONUCI FM...

## *Editorial*

Côte d'Ivoire just celebrated its 51st Independence Day on August 7 in somber mood and meditation over the fate of victims of a traffic accident that occurred on Friday 5th August on 2011 on the Houphouet Boigny Bridge in Abidjan. A commuter bus of the Abidjan Transport company SOTRA fell into the Ebrie Lagoon causing the loss of 51 lives. Three days of national mourning were observed in memory of the departed.

Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara in his nation-wide address naturally expressed his heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families and also reviewed the state of affairs in the country. While he welcomed the return of confidence of the nation's partners and the interest manifested in Côte d'Ivoire by investors, he reiterated that there were still major challenges. This confidence of investors and the international community requires a firm and resolute commitment of the Ivorian government to put in place an effective road map which remains a challenge in view of questions related to security, employment, health, education, and the return of Ivorian refugees.

The Charter of Government Ethics signed on August 9 by members of government is thus

to be welcomed and would permit the Ivorian Executive to follow the evolution of new projects and to take appropriate measures when the need arises.

Concerning national reconciliation and social cohesion, the Ivorian Head of State reiterated his call for the return of refugees and /or those on exile for the inclusive reconstruction of their country. On this aspect, expectations are many but once more, the international community has confirmed its availability to accompany Côte d'Ivoire on its final return to normalcy. Initiatives to this end have been undertaken and the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is pursuing its programme by reaching out to the grassroots.

Besides, its commitment to stand by Côte d'Ivoire was hailed on August 7 through the knighting of the Chief of the UN mission, Y.J. Choi with the medal of Grand Officer of National Orders in recognition for having made it possible for democracy to triumph and for preserving the result of the November 28, 2010 presidential election. Beyond the honour bestowed on Y.J. Choi, the decoration is reflected on the entire staff of UNOCI, Ivorians and non Ivorians alike, who worked to achieve this goal even

at the risk of losing their lives.

Another sign of encouragement in the normalization process is the return on the air of Radio Television Ivorienne RTI, the Ivorian public broadcaster which resumed broadcast on Tuesday 9 August under the sign of national reconciliation. A new logo, new décor, new theme songs and new presenters have rekindled not only hope but also the expectations of the population with regard to social cohesion. According to the Minister of Communication, Souleymane Coto, RTI must accompany Côte d'Ivoire on the path of national reconciliation. Informed observers still recall the preponderant role played by this state-owned media in its propaganda against the international community and in the break out of the post-electoral crisis. It is thus a step towards peace in this key nation of the sub region, a step that must pass through the sensitive domains of respect for human rights, the reestablishment of the rule of law, setting up of a single state treasury and security for all. The move taken by UNOCI to visit personalities of the former regime held in detention or house arrest in Bouna, Boundiali, Korhogo and Odienne falls within this context.

# 1 *UNOCI in action*

## • **Y.J. CHOI KNIGHTED GRAND OFFICER OF NATIONAL ORDERS**

Mr. Choi, in the name of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, we pronounce you Grand Officer of National Orders of Côte d'Ivoire. » Visibly excited and amidst applause from personalities attending the 51st Independence Day celebration, Mr. Choi was personally awarded the medal of honour by Ivorian President Alasane Ouattara. The medal is a sign of state recognition which, for UNOCI and beyond the honour shown to its Chief, commits the UN mission to forge ahead and overcome future obstacles for the good of the Ivorian people. Other personalities of the international community were also awarded medals of honour during the celebration.



## • **UNOCI CHIEF CONTINUES CONTACTS, MEETS OFFICIALS OF WEST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION**



The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi met with an inter-parliamentary delegation of the West African Economic and Monetary Union led by its President Dama Dramani on August 9 2011. Mr. Dramani said his visit was a follow up to the observer mission he led to Côte

d'Ivoire during the 2010 presidential election, indicating that he had come to thank Mr. Choi and UNOCI for their decisive role in the conduct of the electoral process and in the management of the post-electoral crisis. He said his team appreciated working with him in the context of international election observation, adding that his current tour has been marked by meetings with Ivorian political actors including the Head of State. Mr. Dramani disclosed that his visit was aimed at pledging the support of his committee to the reconstruction and national reconciliation process. It would be recalled that on August 5, Mr. Choi held discussions with Bedouma Korje, Vice President in charge of institutions who was at the head of an African Development Bank (ADB) delegation. He said during ADB's last General Assembly meeting in Lisbon, directives were given by the Bank's Governors for the rehabilitation of the ADB headquarters in Abidjan adding "it was therefore in our interest to get the views and advice of Mr. Choi concerning the situation in the country which is changing favourably." It would be recalled that ADB had to leave Côte d'Ivoire, seat of the bank's HQ in 2003 following the crisis which hit the country.

## • UNOCI'S NO. 2 MEETS IEC CHAIRMAN



The Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Arnauld Akodjenou met on Tuesday August 9 with the Chairman of the

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Youssouf Bakayoko. Mr. Akodjenou said as a newcomer to UNOCI, he had come to introduce himself to the IEC Chairman and to obtain clarification on the IEC's action plan and what it expected of UNOCI with regard to the electoral process. "UNOCI reaffirmed its willingness to continue to work hand in hand with the electoral body, consolidate achievements and remove obstacles on the way to future elections. He assured Mr. Bakayoko that UNOCI's support in kind and in logistics should be considered a foregone conclusion. The Deputy SRSG also met with the Ivorian Minister of Justice, Ahoussou Jeannot on August 5 and the Foreign Affairs Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan on Saturday August 6, 2011. These contacts were to allow Mr. Akodjenou to acquaint himself with the realities of Cote d'Ivoire in order to be able to bring his expertise to bear on the post crisis situation.

## • UNOCI JOINS HANDS IN RESCUING VICTIMS OF BUS ACCIDENT OVER ABIDJAN LAGOON

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on Friday Aug. 5 2011 assisted Ivorian authorities in the search and rescue operation mounted after an accident in which a public commuter bus fell over the Houphouet Boigny Bridge into the Ebrie Lagoon in Abidjan causing the loss of 51 lives, according to provisional figures published on August 9. UNOCI's medical team comprising three ambulances, two patrol boats of the Bangladeshi battalion, two detachments of the Jordanian Special Forces and a patrol of UN Police were dispatched to the scene of the accident to assist the Ivorian Fire Brigade, gendarmes and police in the rescue effort. Reports say the bus belonging to the Transport Company SOTRA was packed full at the time of the accident. President Alassane Outtara who visited the scene of the accident ordered three days of national mourning for the



victims. An investigation into the cause of the accident has been ordered.

# Visit our website : [www.onuci.org](http://www.onuci.org)

### FRÉQUENCES ONUCI FM

ABENGOUROU 94.7 • ABIDJAN 96.0 • ADZOPE 96.0 • BANGOLO 91.1 • BONDOUKOU 100.1 • BOUAKÉ 95.3 • BOUNA 102.8 • BOUNDIALI 90.0 • DABAKALA 93.9 • DALOA 91.4 • DANANÉ 97.6 DAOUKRO 94.7 • DUEKOUÉ 91.1 • FERKESSEDOUGOU • 104.4 • GUIGLO 93.7 • KORHOGO 95.3 • MAN 95.3 • ODIENNÉ 101.1 • SAN-PEDRO 106.3 • SEGUELA 101.8 • TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93.7 • YAMOUSSOUKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

## • UNOCI COLLECTS ARMS FROM THE OUREMI AMADE GROUP IN DUEKOUÉ

UNOCI assisted the Ivorian government on Wednesday 10 August to collect arms surrendered by the Ouremi Amade militia group occupying the Mont Peko Park in Bagohouo sub prefecture, 35 km north of Duekoué. Eighty-seven combatants including a young woman voluntarily decided to give up their weapons and received a disarmament card in return. The weapons included locally made firearms, Kalashnikov rifles, mortars, grenades and other ammunition that were received by UNOCI's Moroccan battalion. The disarmament exercise took place in the presence of UNOCI's Sector West Commander General Mohammed Mahbubul Haq, the Prefect of the division, Effoly Benjamin, the Republican Forces (FRCI) Commander Loseni Fofana, the Technical adviser to the Prime Minister, Colonel Akako Gomis as well as representatives of the UN Development Programme, the European Union, the embassies of the USA and Germany and the National Commission for the Fight against Light Arms.



## • UNPOL DONATE MATERIALS TO ADJAME DISTRICT

UN Police have donated office and computer equipment worth CFA 450 million (\$100,000) to the Ivorian National Police College, the Department of Territorial Surveillance, the Adjame District and the First District Police stations. The global package drawn from UNOCI's Quick Impact Project QIPs include 41 computers and accessories as well as other stationery. The materials carry a one-year guarantee and UNPOL has placed computer trainers at the disposal of the

beneficiaries. The donation falls within the framework of UNOCI's readiness to assist the Ivorian government to resume normal function and to increase the operational capacity of government and the quality of services rendered to the public. This kind of assistance has had a positive effect on the rapidity of judicial procedures with regard to the protection of human rights. Similar gestures are in the pipeline



## 2 UNOCI meets the press:



The customary UNOCI weekly press conference took place on Thursday 11 August as usual with the mission's spokesman Hamadoun Toure and the interim Chief of Human Rights Office Guillaume Nguefa holding brief. The activities of the Special Representative, Y.J. Choi, and humanitarian and human rights issues were top on the agenda. Excerpts:

- The Special Representative met on Thursday with the Special Representative of the Facilitator of the inter- Ivorian dialogue, Boureima Badini to discuss the latest developments of the peace process and the remaining tasks to be accomplished in order to ensure the return of a lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire.
- UN Force conducted 1216 land and air patrols during the week just ended.

- On the humanitarian front, UN troops provided free medical consultation and treatment to 1125 patients and distributed 36500 litres of drinking water to the needy. The Force also continued to provide 10,000 litres of drinking water to a displaced persons camp 10 km from Abidjan on the road to Dabou.
- Eight mass graves were discovered in the premises of three schools in the Abidjan district of Yopougon.
- Between July 11 and 10 August, UNOCI's Human Rights office recorded 26 cases of extra judiciary, summary and arbitrary execution.
- In a positive development concerning the protection of the rights of the child, the Human Rights Office welcomes the ratification by Cote d'Ivoire of an optional Protocol on the Convention related to the rights of the child, with regard to the selling of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- Human Rights welcomes the appointment of a focal point (Ombudsman) on human rights in the Ivorian Ministry of Defence.
- UNOCI organised a seminar for members of the Youth Parliament within the framework of its programme of capacity building for its national partners on Friday August 12, 2011.

## 3 Sensitization :

### • UNOCI Takes Part in National Day Festivities

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire participated in celebrations in certain towns of the country to mark the 51st Ivorian Independence Day on August 7 2011. In Bondoukou (416 km from Abidjan), festivities were conducted in soberness with the salute of the national colours and the inspection of the guard of honour by the Prefect of the region, Germain Francois Goun and mounted under the command of Lt. Marc Leger Nguessan. The Prefect ordered a minute of silence in memory of victims of the August 5 accident which plunged Cote d'Ivoire into mourning. The Prefect in his address expressed the wish to share his faith in a bright future for Cote d'Ivoire and called for renewing links with the international community on the economic aspect. Several personalities including the Secretaries-General of the Prefecture, the sub prefect, the Chief of the province Pinango Nana Bibi II, village chiefs, community and religious leaders, UNOCI section heads, local administrative service heads and other dignitaries attended the occasion.



A march pass led by deputy commander Nguessan Bekoin rounded up the ceremony with the Prefect giving out gifts to children born on Independence Day at the Bondoukou Regional Hospital Centre CHR. In Seguela the celebration were placed under the sign of meditation and was marked by a march pass, guard of honour

and a speech by the interim Prefect of the region, Blaise Kouassi Cyril. In the presence of representatives of UNOCI's Electoral Assistance office, Public Information office, Military observers and UN Police, the Prefect hailed the saving action of UNOCI in promoting democracy in Côte d'Ivoire.

### • UNOCI supports feast of neighbours in Adjin-Bingerville

UNOCI took part in festivities to mark the first edition of the Feast of Neighbors held in the Ebrie village of Adjin a dozen km from Bingerville. The event was organized by the NGO Voiz Côte d'Ivoire led by Mr. Bogu Sakre and brought together some 300 guests including religious and traditional authorities from neighboring villages. The ceremony was marked by speeches, artistic performances and the award of the Prize for good neighborliness to the Chief of Adjin, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Ahouadja in recognition for his remarkable efforts to promote good neighborliness and spread the values of fraternity.

Speaking on behalf of UNOCI Chief of Public Information, Marie-Irene Richmond urged the population to be committed to the notion of peace after the painful experience of the post-electoral crisis. She launched an urgent call for the villagers to become the apostles of the message of peace and social cohesion throughout the



villages and hamlets so as to spread the spirit of good neighborliness.

### • Bahouaka inhabitants say 'yes' to reconciliation and pledge to respect the rights of women

Reconciliation and respect for human rights were the themes at the center of a sensitization campaign conducted by UNOCI for the inhabitants of Bahouaka in the sub prefecture of Sinemantiali, 615 km north of Abidjan. Based on messages contained in a film produced by UNOCI, Boite Salif of the Human Rights Office said "our presence here is explained by the importance of the subject that has brought us together. I am referring to female genital excision which is a real scourge in our region causing numerous illnesses, infections and deaths. Consider abandoning this practice or run the risk of being pursued by the law which bans it." On his part, the Civil Affairs representative of UNOCI, Ebah Kouakou Tanoh stressed on the benefits of social cohesion and peace to achieve development. Desire Dago of the Public Information Office stressed on the culture of peace by advocating the respect of established social rules including respect for the wish of the majority and the respect of the environment. He earlier reiterated the mandate of the UN mission and its sensitization activities. Another speaker, Fofana Kone, president of the NGO Wobeh and co-organizer of the campaign, expressed her gratitude to the UN mission and told the participants made up of religious and traditional leaders, administrative chiefs of service, youth



and women's leaders that "you are lucky to be sensitized by UNOCI experts on the damage caused by the tension among you and negative acts which destroy the lives of thousands of women. Listen to them and consider their advice as a challenge you should face for your own good."

- **Multiple grassroots activities for peace in Duekoue**

For some time now, UNOCI has been conducting a number of community sensitization meetings in Duekoue such as the one held at College Guidy in Petit Duekoue and the Lycee Moderne in Antenne quarter aimed at mobilizing students to embrace national reconciliation and promote non violence in schools. UNOCI officials of the Public Information Office, Electoral Assistance, Human Rights and Civil Affairs sec-

tions explained the mandate of the UN with regard to the forthcoming parliamentary election and advised the students to avoid violence and focus on their studies. They also provided answers to the students' queries on the promotion and protection of human rights. The meeting which ended with the distribution of UNOCI newsletter went a long way to establish a close relationship between the UN mission and the grassroots.



- **Bouafle women and unoci uphold peace and social cohesion**

Women of the residential quarter of Bouafle have pledged to contribute to the consolidation of peace in the town. They made the pledge at a meeting on Saturday August 6 to which they invited women from other parts of the town to discuss their role in promoting social cohesion and peace. UNOCI was invited to the meeting and its delegation was led by Mrs. Fatoumata Ouattara of the Public Information Office

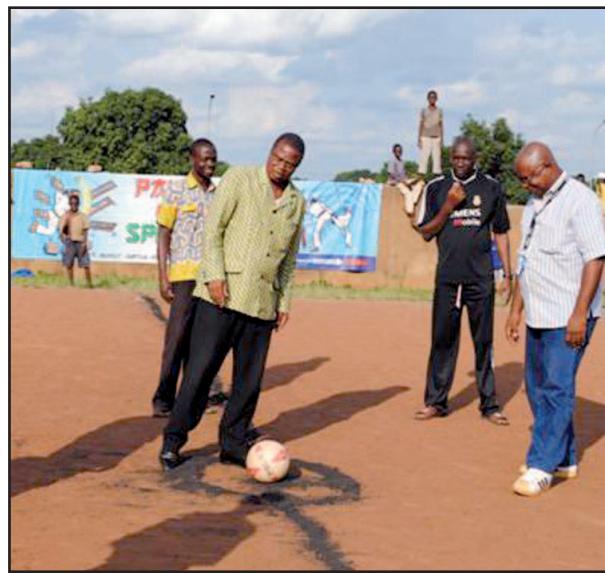
in Daloa who congratulated the women of Bouafle for choosing a topic of discussion which is in tune with the mandate of UNOCI. "You bring forth life, so you are better placed to preserve that life by promoting peace and forgiveness around you," she noted. The president of the Women's Association, Mrs. Bosse Marie, on behalf of the women thanked UNOCI for having accepted to take part in the meeting.



## • Reconciliation celebrated with sport in Seguela

**A** mini Maracana football and handball tournament was organised in Seguela on August 5 on the initiative of an association of female teachers, Amicale des Institutrices de Seguela to promote reconciliation. In Maracana football, teachers beat health technicians 1 nil while in women's handball, health workers won the day by beating the organizers who accepted defeat with sportsmanship. The leader of the Amicale told the participants to adopt the values of the culture of peace saying: "We call on Ivorians to reconcile with one another for a lasting peace because without peace we cannot transmit knowledge to the future leaders of Côte d'Ivoire."

On behalf of UNOCI, Amos Tueche of the Electoral Assistance office called for the respect of the values of democracy and reconciliation. "We urge you to respect democracy, that is to say the acceptance of each other's differences because that is the way we can live together in a reunited, peaceful and reconciled Côte d'Ivoire."



## 4 Messages of peace

- **Dama Dramani, President of the Inter-parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union** «We told Mr. Choi that the work is not over. Côte d'Ivoire must be pacified; Ivorians must be reconciled to reconstruct the country. So the role of the UN shall continue.»
- **Interim Prefect of Worodougou region, Blaise Kouassi Cyril (Day of sport, Seguela).** «We are committed every blessed day to pursue this action. But we hope that UNOCI shall continue to hold our hand to remain on this path. It is with regret that we hear that very soon the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Choi will be leaving Côte d'Ivoire. Let him remember that Côte d'Ivoire is his second home. We feel sad. We would have liked to finish the electoral process with him. But UNOCI has its own rules which must be respected. The new Special Representative of UN Secretary-General will have the same qualities like him and for that we thank him.»
- **Fofana Kone of the NGO Wobeh (Sensitisation of Bahouakaha population).** «You are lucky to be sensitized by UNOCI on the ill effects of the tension among you and on the negative acts which destroy thousands of women. Listen to them and consider their advice as a challenge for your own good.»
- **Mr. Bosse, central sub prefect of Bouafle (Sensitisation of Bouafle women on peace and social cohesion)** «This conference you are giving today is a ground breaking gesture in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.»
- **Djedjoro Lath Eric, student rep. (Sensitisation Day for Daoukro students initiated by UNOCI)** «Côte d'Ivoire is a beautiful country given by God to Ivorians. If we destroy it we would no longer have a country. Forget your grudges and let us hold our hands together and march on the road to peace.»
- **Doumbia Alassane, FRCI Chief of Operations in Issia.** «Yesterday, we military people fought one another but today we are together again. Remember, we the military are tired of war and call on you to do like us.»
- **Ossey Achi Olivier, Prefect of Issia** «I extend my sincere thanks to the village chiefs who have pledged to work for peace and reconciliation. Without this much desired peace, no development can be possible.»

## 5 Postelectoral situation:

**In order to assess the condition of detention of former presidential couple Mr. and Mrs. Gabgbo and members of their entourage, UNOCI's Interim Chief of Human Rights, Guillaume Nguefa recently paid visits to Bouna, Boundiali, Odienne, and Korhogo where he met with all the persons in detention or under house arrest**

In Odienne and Korhogo, Mr. Nguefa discussed with Mrs. and Mr. Gbagbo on their condition of living including access to information and their legal counsels. Certain concerns were observed regarding their conditions of detention and recommendations would be made to the Ivorian authorities.

Detainees in Boundiali (25), Bouna (7), and Katioala (5) have been formally charged and remanded in custody. In general they are charged with undermining state security and economic crimes. The main

charges range from undermining national defence and tribalism and xenophobia. Others include the formation of armed groups for the purpose of insurrection, plotting and attempting to undermine state authority, undermining public order, rebellion and usurpation of functions. In Abidjan, other UNOCI human rights officials visited several detainees including the journalist Herman Aboua who was presenter of the TV programme, "Raison d'état" held at the Gendarmerie Camp at Agban since 21 July 2011.

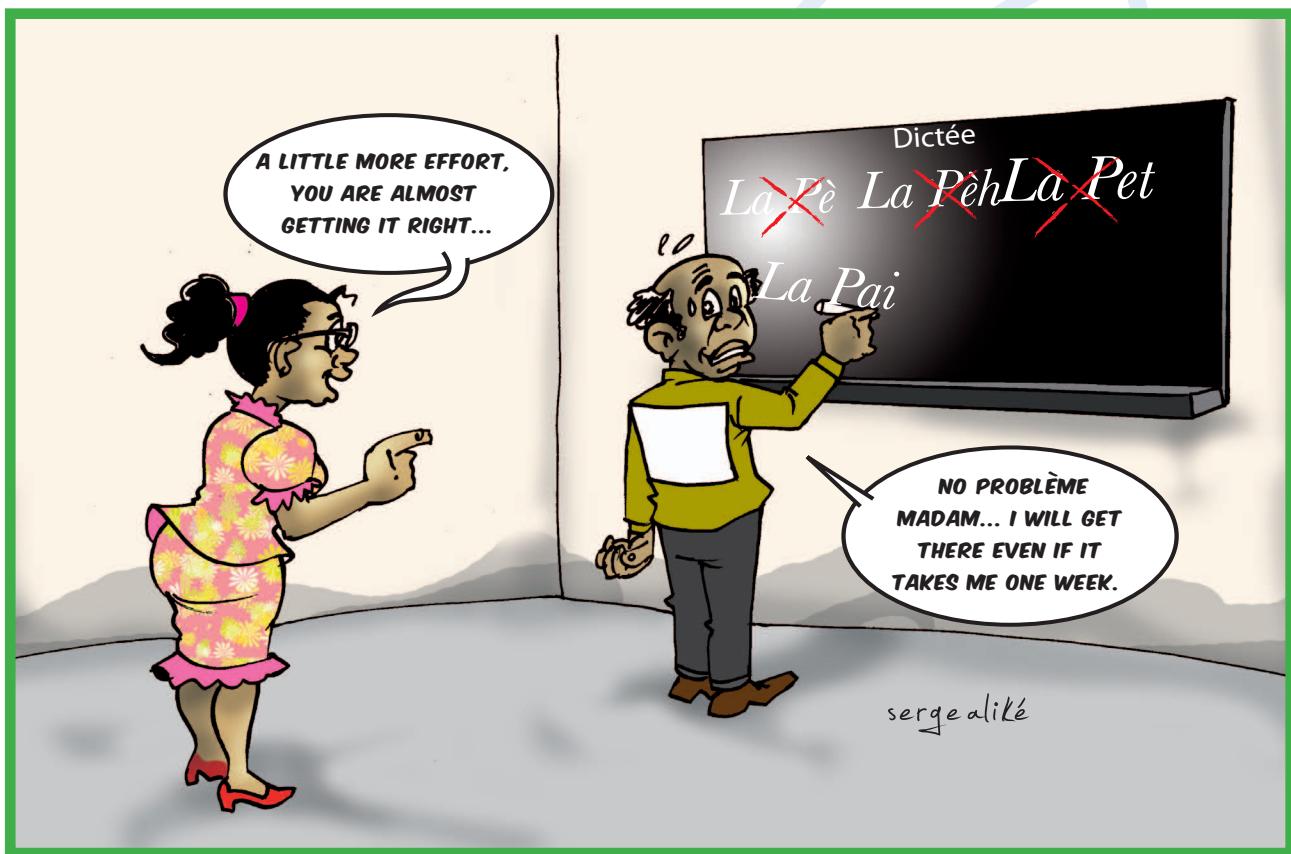
## 6 Portrait : Natalie Patricia Sarafian, Officer in Charge of Civil Affairs in Divo, militant for reconciliation and social cohesion for Ivorians

Natalie Patricia Sarafian is of Canadian nationality and has been with UNOCI since February 2010 in her capacity as Officer in Charge of Civil Affairs. She was first of all posted to Bondoukou in the Zanzan region and later in June 2011 to the regions of Sud Bandama and Fromager. Full of energy, the 31 year-old spinster is always meeting with local authorities and community leaders of the two regions in a bid to bring people together especially during this period in which social cohesion has been weakened by the post-electoral crisis. But what really accounts for her courage and good humour under all circumstances? "It is first of all the satisfaction of making a



contribution to Ivorian efforts to strengthen social cohesion which drives my courage and perseverance," she says. 'In effect to see people who once turned their backs on each other begin gradually to look at one another with mistrust at first then later with understanding is a source of satisfaction even if one does not always succeed.' Far from her native Canada, she occasionally longs to be by her family but one dream dominates her thoughts: to see Ivorian communities accepting to communicate and dialogue as a necessary bridge to peaceful coexistence for union in diversity.

## 7 Image of the week



## 8 What's new on ONUCI FM ...?

ONUCI FM the Radio for peace whose primary aim is to inform Ivorians on the peace and national reconciliation process is proposing its regular major newscasts at 7h, 8h, 12h, and 18h as well as news briefs as from 9h. The Radio for peace is offering special reports and magazine programmes on society, health, culture and sport. This week, we invite you to follow the following at 7h40:

Monday 15 August ONUCI FM pays a visit to Duekoue at the Diahe Bernard quarter popularly known as Carrefour where refugees from the Catholic Mission in Duekoue have begun returning to remake their life.

On Tuesday 16 August, the Radio for peace will feature the NGO "Nourriture pour tous" (Food for all) which is trying to settle the conflict between farmers and cattle grazers and is also leading the fight against illiteracy in Odienne.

On Wednesday 17, discover the reggae artiste Mansa Solo and on Thursday 18 we would throw light on the self -help group, Mudes Tortiya which is striving to open a secondary school.

Finally on Friday 19, ONUCI FM brings you a conversation with a female garbage collector in Bondoukou.

Visit our website : [www.onuci.org](http://www.onuci.org)

— Twitter ONUCI Address : [@ONUCINFO](https://twitter.com/ONUCINFO)

Publisher : Hamadoun Touré  
Editor-in-chief : Eliane Hervo-Akendengué  
Graphique designer : Jean Brice N'Doli  
Illustrator : Serge Aliké Assain  
Photos : Basile Zoma, Macline Hien and Field Offices

**UNOCI** weekly

Volume 1 • ONUCweekly