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Editorial

A mission from the UN Headquarters in New York visited Abidjan from 26 to 29 July to discuss with Ivorian authorities the kind of assistance Cote d'Ivoire expects from the UN to enable it organize forthcoming regional and municipal elections. The visit was at the request of the Ivorian government. It was therefore necessary for a team to make an on-the-spot assessment and examine in what ways the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) can support the government at the electoral level. The team held meetings with different authorities, political parties, and civil society and international partners in order to work out an adequate response to the Ivorian request in terms of support, collaboration and presence. In another domain, the securisation of the western part of the country, the return of internally displaced persons and refugees has remained a challenge to the national and international communities this week. The UN system has organized several missions to start resolving the issues in the region and to reassure persons in difficulty. In the coming days and weeks, other measures would follow and UNOCI would go ahead with a progressive decentralization of certain staff members in order to reinforce proximity to the population. The people need to be listened to, encouraged and protected and to get an early res-

ponse to their problems which can be contained by reinforcing the presence of the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire in the wake of a visit to the area by the General Army Chief of Staff, General Soumaila Bakayoko who has taken exceptional measures for the security of the western region, prone to repeated attacks along the Liberian border. In another development, there has been a reduction of verbal tension in the media following a press release issued last week by UNOCI expressing concern over the rise in the use of inflammatory language in the media and calling on political actors to tone down their language and take their responsibility. The European Union, in concert with other European diplomatic missions accredited to Cote d'Ivoire, followed suite on 25 June by expressing concern over "the rise in virulent discourse". Everyone at their level is bound to contribute to the appeasement of the situation in order that questions related to security, humanitarian problems, social cohesion and the recurrent clashes over rural land occupancy can find a solution. These challenges are those of Cote d'Ivoire which is urging that all efforts should converge and move in the same direction in order to achieve an inclusive solution and give the country a chance to restore peace.

1 *UNOCI in action*

• Niger President visits UNOCI Niger contingent in based in Gagnoa UNOCI



The Niger contingent of UNOCI Force was honored on Thursday 28 June with a visit by their Head of State Mahamadou Issoufou who is in Cote d'Ivoire for the summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States holding on 29 June in Yamoussoukro. President Issoufou who was accompanied by UNOCI Deputy Chief Arnauld Akodjenou and UNOCI Force Commander, General Muhammad Iqbal Asi made it a point of duty to make the trip to Gagnoa following the death of seven Niger peace keepers in an ambush by assailants in Para near the Liberian border on 8 June 2012. "Your presence here gives the opportunity for our country to fly its flag high in these missions that have become so important for the peace and development of our sub region, which for long has been plagued by conflicts with devastating consequences. Beyond the sub region and even beyond the continent, our defense and security forces are contributing to peace and international security. They are assuming their share of responsibility in the mission to safeguard national security,"

the Head of State declared with visible pride and emotion. President Issoufou told the Niger contingent that he had made the trip to Gagnoa to personally deliver his message of condolence following the death of seven of their comrades-in-arms who died in action in Para, west of Cote d'Ivoire. He posthumously elevated the departed soldiers to a higher rank. Another speaker, the Interim Special Representative of UN Secretary-general for Cote d'Ivoire, Arnauld Akodjenou paid a similar homage to the fallen soldiers for their invaluable contribution not only to UNOCI but to other countries in difficulty. Reiterating the condolences of UNOCI to the Niger battalion and hailing the professionalism and dignified behavior of the contingent despite the tragedy that struck them, UNOCI's second in command announced that an investigation is underway to shed light on the incident that caused the death of the Niger soldiers, recalling that UNOCI, in accordance with its mandate, is determined to contribute to peace in Cote d'Ivoire and by extension, the sub region.

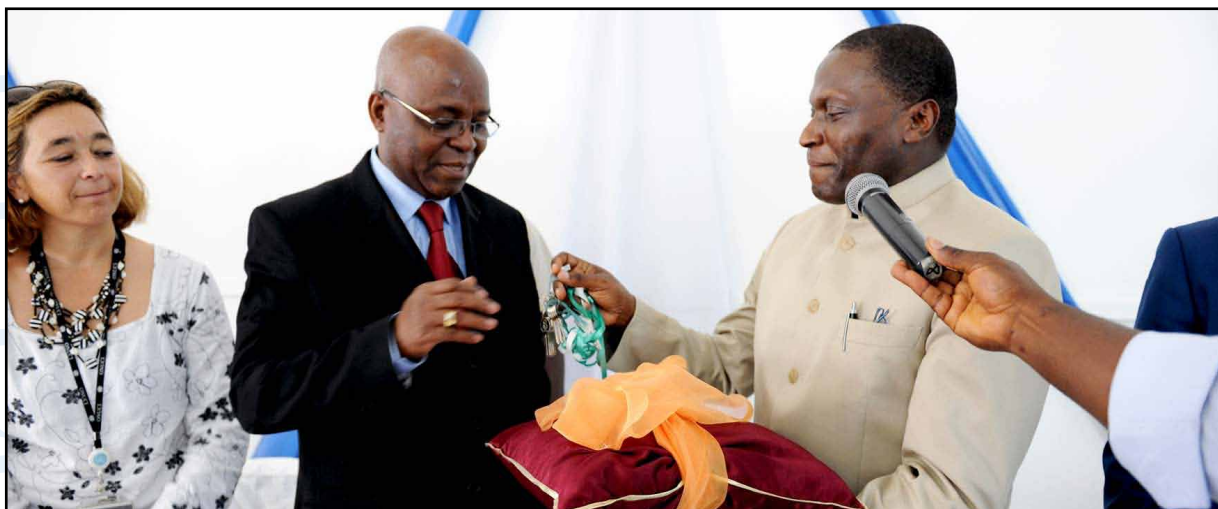
• UNOCI Deputy Chief inaugurates youth centre in Koumassi neighbourhood

The Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey on 26 June inaugurated a youth centre in the Abidjan neighbourhood of Koumassi that had been rehabilitated thanks to funding from UNOCI's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). The handing over of the CFA 24 million francs project was accompanied by the setting up of a committee for the prevention of crisis. This was achieved through the concerted efforts of the NGO 'The

Convention of Leaders for Democratic Culture (CLCD) and UNOCI's Human Rights Office which followed up the two projects closely. In handing the keys of the centre to the Mayor of Koumassi, Mr. Raymond Ndohi, the Deputy Special Representative said he was satisfied with the efforts made by the inhabitants of Koumassi to provide a comfortable environment to facilitate social cohesion. "The Centre is a noble objective aimed at reconnecting people who were torn apart. It is a goal which attempts

to reinforce social cohesion in an area where it had been weakened,” Mr. Ngokwey stressed. He recalled that the project ties in with the collective effort recommended by the Ivorian government and supported by UNOCI to move forward on the road to peace. The Deputy SR did not fail to hail the community sensitization work, the

training of elites and community leaders on the respect of human rights, and the management of conflicts and rumours. In this light, films were projected and training sessions organized for 30 religious and community leaders, 120 youths and 120 members of the municipality.



2 UNOCI meets the press :

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire held its traditional weekly press conference on Thursday 28 June at its HQ at former Sebroko Hotel conducted by interim Spokesperson Sylvie Van Den Wildenberg.

Activities of Special Representative and deputies

- The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders has welcomed the visits to the west of the country by representatives of different state institutions, notably a delegation of members of the National Assembly with the aim of reinforcing the message of reconciliation and social cohesion. The Special Representative will be visiting the West next week to evaluate the security and humanitarian situation on the ground along with a team of military, civilian and police personnel as well as other actors on the ground and of course Ivorian authorities on the spot and the citizens.

- Today Thursday 28 June, the President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou, who is already in Cote d'Ivoire, will be visiting UNOCI's military contingent from Niger in Gagnoa, in the west of the country. President Issoufou



has come to encourage the Niger contingent in the execution of their duties following the death of seven Niger peace keepers in an ambush mounted by armed assailants in Para in the West of the country along the border with Liberia early this month. The Niger President will

be accompanied on his Gagnoa trip by the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs, Mr. Arnaud Akodjenou and the UNOCI Force Commander General Iqbal Asi.

- UNOCI contingents continue to beef up their numbers and increase daily land and air patrols. Positions to the north of Tai have been reinforced especially in Grabo and Saho. UNOCI forces, the Ivorian army and Gendarmerie have intensified joint patrols along the border with Liberia.

- The situation has been improving gradually and no major incident was reported in the week just ended. However, vigilance remains a watchword as UNOCI troops are on maximum alert and are continuing

the close collaboration with their counterparts in the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to coordinate their efforts on both sides of the border in support of their respective host country.

- UNOCI's Formed Police Units who arrived in Tai for

reinforcement in Tai zone are still assisting local authorities in the protection of displaced persons while UNOCI teams of civilian staff continue to step up their presence and to work towards the improvement of the system of alert among the local population and authorities.

Support of the Judiciary

- Within the framework of support to state institutions, UNOCI, in collaboration with Ivorian authorities, is ensuring the follow up of the detention condition of 41 Ivorians transferred to Cote d'Ivoire from Liberia on Saturday 23 June 2012. UNOCI confirms that Ivorian authorities have facilitated regular access to the said detainees since their arrival in Cote d'Ivoire.

Sensitisation

In view of the situation in the West, UNOCI is concentrating its grassroots sensitization campaigns close to the region.

Disclaimer

- UNOCI has denied reports that its Moroccan contingent of peace keepers along the Liberian border in the West of the country might have refused to patrol the zone of Para where a patrol of Niger troops fell into an ambush on 8 June.

- The Moroccan peace keepers are carrying out their mission with courage and professionalism in the service of peace and the protection of the civilian population in Cote d'Ivoire. In the evening of the attack, the Moroccans moved from their base in Tai to go and reinforce their Niger comrades and to assist in the protection of civilians who had taken refuge in Para while the assailants had fled the area and it was feared that another attack might ensue.

- The Niger Blue Helmets were deployed in that zone by a decision of staff headquarters following repeated attacks on the civilian population which called for reinforcement of staff and patrols in the region. >>

3 Sensitisation :

• The UN and partners reinforce capacity of Republican Forces in Guemon region

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire and the UN system including the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) organized a seminar for the Prefectural corps and units of the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) from 26 to 29 June 2012 to reinforce their capacity on the respect for the rule of law and the protection of vulnerable persons in Duekoue, Guemon region, 502 km north of Abidjan. The training was conducted by experts. Representing the UN system, Tane Bamba Mahamane of the UNHCR had these words to say: "We are always with you. Our concern is to support you. Proof is that we are building a police post in the vicinity of the site for internally displaced persons from Nahibly to Duekoue for the security of those living there and to facilitate humanitarian assistance." He said this training would enable participants to meet new challenges which crop up. Colonel Mambly Kone, representing army staff HQ, welcomed the initiative saying it would allow his men to carry out their mission properly. Likewise the Prefect of the region, Mr. Benjamin Effoly who emphasized the necessity to reassure all the dis-



placed persons, especially those living in camps who number almost 6000.

• UNOCI takes part in arms collection operation in Gagnoa



The National Commission for the fight against the spread of illicit small arms (COMNAT-ALPC) with the support of UNOCI's Office of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) on 25 and 26 June organised a voluntary arms collection operation in Gagnoa. A sensitization session that preceded the

operation brought together traditional, community, and political leaders, youths, women, the local administration and security forces. Commissioner Leon Djokouehi Djibre who is in charge of operations at the National Commission explained the objectives of the exercise and presented two characteristics of these weapons which constitute a danger for its holder and the community. These include the ease with which they can be concealed and circulated. This, he said, was good reason for holders of such weapons to get rid of them. UNOCI's representative at the operation, Pierrot Mutombe Daie of DDR explained that disarmament was a process placed under the responsibility of the Ivorian government with the international community, notably UNOCI as partners. He said the role of UNOCI concerned three aspects namely, the collection of arms, the reduction of violence and the broad area of DDR which comprises the rehabilitation of 9 out of 20 rehabilitation camps. Three camps in Abidjan, Guiglo and Bouake have already been completely rehabilitated. The Secretary-general of the Gagnoa Prefecture, Ble Pepe who presided over the ceremony called on traditional and community leaders to collaborate with the operation.

• ONUCI Tour takes peace campaign to Mankono and Assouakro

UNOCI in partnership with Radio Mankono organized on 26 June a grassroots sensitization campaign dubbed ONUCI Tour. The campaign was broadcast live throughout the Bere region, 680 km from Abidjan as the Radio carried messages of peace to the most remote villages and sub Prefectures. The head of the UNOCI delegation at the campaign, Colonel Idrissou Seydou called on listeners of radio Mankono to make peace and reconcile with each other for the wellbeing of Cote d'Ivoire. "Your daily activities should be guided by peace. It is necessary to forget the frustrations and difficult times of the political and military crisis to follow the road to peace, the precondition for all development," he said. The Prefect, Pierre Nazaire Ncho Mbassidje called on his citizens to reconcile. "At all levels, you should be artisans of peace," he said. Before closing the ceremony, he asked the public to observe a minute of silence in memory of the seven UN peace keepers who were killed in action in Para, west of Cote d'Ivoire on 8 June. Every speaker expressed the wish for the population to adhere to the peace process by requesting that such sensitization be multiplied: "Repetition is pedagogic." The station manager of Radio Mankono, Kone Kader, speaking on behalf of the director-general, reaffirmed the commitment of the station, saying its partnership with UNOCI can easily be seen in its programming. We want to make our listeners courageous builders of peace. In order to achieve this, we present programmes on the theme of peace and national reconciliation. We have game shows, magazines, interactive programmes, live broadcasts of big meetings on peace such as ONUCI

Tour," he enumerated. In Assouakro village in the sub Prefecture of Djekanou, 46 km south-east of Yamoussoukro, about 200 persons took part in ONUCI Tour during which they learnt about the activities of UNOCI while the UNOCI delegation listened to their preoccupations and shared messages of peace. The population were sensitised on the establishment of a peaceful post crisis environment. All the speakers on the occasion expressed the wish that the population adhere to the peace process. The local administration, led by sub Prefect Mrs. Matenin Ouattara, actively took part in the campaign.



4 *Peace messages*

Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey, UNOCI's 3rd in command (Inauguration of Youth Centre, Koumassi)

"You the beneficiaries of this project are henceforth better equipped to play a leadership role and to be responsible within this community for the prevention of crisis. The structures put in place shall see to it that conflicts are rapidly managed and contained to avoid a repetition of the horrors of the recent past in Koumassi."

Benjamin Efolly, Prefect of Guemon region (seminar for FRCI units)

"Our country and especially our region have come a long way. We have recorded in Duekoue 6000 internally displaced persons still living in camps and who have refused to return to their homes because they do not feel secure and because we have not succeeded in reassuring them."

Colonel Mambly Kone, army HQ representative (seminar for FRCI units)

"Even in war, there are certain limits one should not go beyond. It is in this context that this seminar should equip participants with the tools to better accomplish their tasks."

Mr. Ble Pepe, Secretary-General of Prefecture (Arms collection operation, Gagnoa)

"We have attempted to experiment with war and we have seen its limits. It is time to go for reconciliation and peace. We guarantee the security of all persons in possession of arms to hand them over without fear. Henceforth you have been assigned the duty to spread this message in your villages."

5 *Post crisis situation*

The resolution of the crisis demands the contribution of all the components of the society and all sectors of activity, the different actors, national and international partners. The question of human rights is an essential element in this chain and UNOCI is very present in this domain. In the first part of this series, UNOCI WEEKLY this week brings you an overall view of UNOCI's Human Rights Office (HRO) and its multiple support to Ivorian authorities in their efforts towards national reconciliation.

Within the framework of its support to national institutions, UNOCI's Human Rights Office (HRO) in collaboration with other substantive sections of UNOCI conducted a number of sensitization activities to reinforce peace and social cohesion. Representatives of civil society, political and administrative authorities and members of the judiciary attended seminars organized by UNOCI on human rights norms and principles. In collaboration with military authorities, similar sessions were organized for units of the republican forces (FRCI) to make up for shortcomings in their training. HRO also organized 15 training courses on the techniques of investigating and writing reports on human rights issues for the benefit of civil society organisations. In a bid to promote the national reconciliation process, HRO is working closely with the National Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation (CDTR) in pursuit of its mandate and in accordance with international standards and good practices. In this regard, the UN High Commission for Human Rights deployed two support missions in August 2011 and April 2012 to Cote d'Ivoire to assist the CDTR to prepare the holding of national consultations. An introductory seminar was organized in November 2012 to familiarize members of CDTR with the work expected of a fact finding commission. Still in collaboration with CDTR, HRO organized a seminar for civil society on transitional justice, the mandate and the mission of CDTR in order to facilitate a well informed participation of civil society in the work of the Com-

mission. More than 100 representatives of civil society organizations were drilled on several themes. Through the UN fund for the consolidation of peace, UNOCI and the Human Rights High Commission lent financial support to CDTR to kick off its activities. Hence the campaign and mobilization for the take off of the national consultations is just a matter of time. In the context of the process of institutional reforms, HRO is working with the Ministry of Human Rights and Public Liberties and NGOs to streamline the current National Commission on Human Rights with international standards and good practices on the matter. In this regard, HRO has held several training sessions and briefings on the Paris Principles on the statutes and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. HRO continues to work in collaboration with national authorities and civil society charged with reinforcing mechanisms for the protection of human rights with particular interest in the rights of women and children. It will continue to reinforce the capacity of the different actors for an informed and credible participation in the work of CDTR which will soon be launching national consultations after which local commissions would be set up. UNOCI's Human Rights Office is also committed to continuing the training of members of the defense and security forces and would strengthen its presence in the west of the country in accordance with UNOCI's plans to decentralize its services.

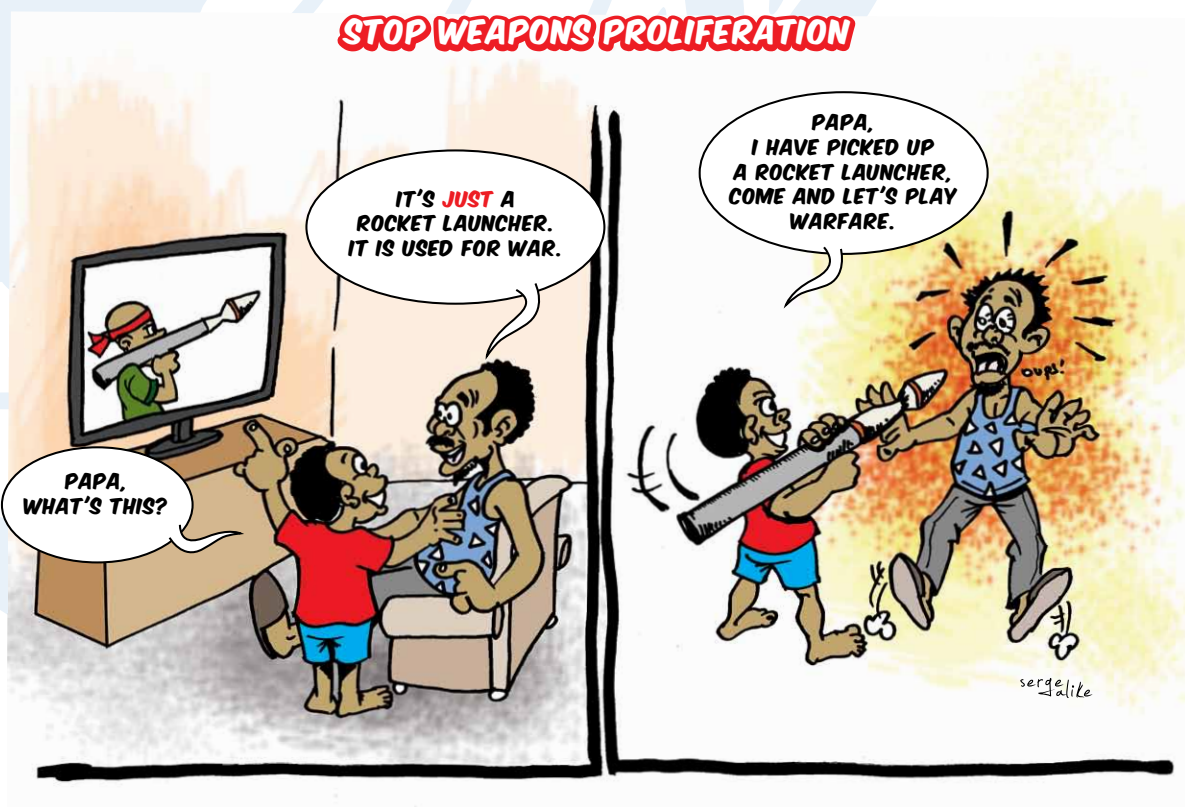
6 *Portrait : Doctor Brou Thibaut of Duekoue General Hospital at the service of peace*



“What I did was an act of solidarity to bring relief to the population.” This is how Dr. Brou Melanie Thibaut, general practitioner and Chief of Service in charge of Medicine at the General Hospital in Duekoue, describes his participation at the free medical consultations and treatment organized by the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI) during the holding of its meet-the-

people programme dubbed United Nations Days in the capital of Guemon region from 24 to 31 May 2012 in the presence of the Special Representative of UN Secretary-general for Cote d’Ivoire, Bert Koenders, administrative authorities, elites of the region and all the different components of the society. “When I was informed of the free medical consultations and with the approval of the director of the hospital, I decided to put up a team of two nurses: Mr. Camara Gnegninri, Mr. Kly Bi Goore and myself to make a contribution to the success of this gesture for the benefit of the population. People always need someone to help, to relieve suffering and to carry out selfless acts.” Dr. Brou expressed the wish that UNOCI multiplies this kind of initiative for the good of people in difficulty, concluding that beyond its contribution to peace, the Mission could work for the well being of his compatriots. Dr. Brou Thibaut is a graduate of the University of Cocody who has been serving in Duekoue since July 2007 and the focal point on matters related to HIV/AIDS. He heads the service in charge of medicine which he says is short of staff despite the help of <Doctors without Borders> from 2011 to April 2012 through an emergency project.

7 *Image of the week*



8 *What's new on ONUCI FM...*

ONUFI FM, whose first objective is to inform and guide Ivorians toward peace and national reconciliation offers you a complete News edition at 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 am and 6:00 pm and news briefs from 9:00 am. From Monday to Friday on ONUFI FM you will have the 7-12, your program of entertainment and information coming to you live.. The radio of peace invites you to follow reports and magazines on culture, sport and health. This week we invite you to follow the following reports:

Monday 2 July at 7h40, <ONUFI Reportage> will focus on social cohesion in Sikensi. At 11h25 you'd share a day in the life of a UN policeman of Canadian nationality but of Ivorian origin.

Tuesday 3 July at 7h40 <ONUFI FM ACTION> presents the Djiguila Foundation, the great hope striving for the advent of a world of peace, love and fraternity. At 11h10 we explain rural land matters and how to obtain a land certificate for a parcel of land crossed over by a body of water.

Wednesday 4 July <ONUFI FM Reportage> examines the causes and consequences of pregnancy in the school environment. At 14h30 <Espace Enfant > brings you a variety show for the very young. At 15h00, lots of music in ReggaeTime.

Thursday 5 July 7h40 <ONUFI FM Reportage> examines the difficulties involved in the reconstitution of civil status registries in Soubre following the post electoral crisis. At 9h10, you can travel through time and learn the

history of Cote d'Ivoire, its relationship with people from other countries of the sub region in <Histoire d'Ici>

Friday 6 July the radio for peace focuses on the international day of cooperatives. At 7h40 <ONUFI FM ACTION> presents the Federation of Women's Movements in Abengourou which is striving for the financial autonomy of women in the locality. At 20h00, take an appointment with the best of latin music in <Caliente>.

On Saturdays from 7h -12h and on Sundays from 8h00-12h00, we bring you live from our studios <Samedi at Dimanche chez vous> several programme segments for your listening pleasure. <Zik Culture> brings you news of the art, music and world of show biz. At 19h00, <Destination Musique> will be yours.

On Sunday from 16-18h00, <Dimanche Sport> brings you news from the sporting world. At 17h00, we bring you <Sans Frontier>, your magazine on the touristic, gastronomic, musical and cultural attractions of a given country.

Security Council Resolution 1820

SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Together, let us say **NO!**
to the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence

ONUFI FM's FREQUENCIES

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FERKESSEDOUGOU • 104.4 • GAGNOA 91.4 • 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

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