



CONTENTS

Editorial

- 1 UNOCI in action
- 2 UNOCI Meets the Press
- Sensitisation: Sport for Peace in Kani and Korhogo
- 4 Peace message of the Prefect of Kani
- 5 Humanitarian situation in Seguela
- 6 Portrait : chief of post UNPOL in Divo
- 7 Image of the week
- 8 What's new on ONUCl FM?

Editorial

Three months after the presidential election, there is still uncertainty regarding the resolution of the crisis. The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and its staff, men and women alike, has decided to maintain its course. In spite of great difficulty in the field, UNOCI believes the door to dialogue remains open to all our media partners, non-governmental organizations, political and administrative authorities to assist in finding a solution to the crisis.

Warlike slogans have been broadcast over Ivorian television RTI and certain youths have taken upon themselves to carry out search operations and inflicting violence on citizens. Confrontations between partisans of the two disputing parties are increasing; the Centre-North-West zones have been plunged into darkness due to power cuts causing the beginning of a huma-

nitarian disaster.

In Abidjan, a mass exodus of the population to places of worship is going on. The UN High Commission for Refugees estimates that 500 families have been internally displaced. In Plateau-Dokui, the population has taken refuge in schools.

Food shortages, scarcity of cooking gas and hikes in the prices of certain essential commodities is the order of the day for the majority of the population while shops and markets are less frequented for security reasons and shortage of supplies.

Cote d'Ivoire after democratic and transparent elections is experiencing a climate of distrust accompanied by fear and all kinds of rumours. The country is at a crossroads ■■■

1 *UNOCI in Action*

Ivorian crisis dominate conference of UN peacekeeping missions in West Africa

The Chief of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi on 28 February 2011 participated in a high level conference of Special Representatives of UN Secretary-General in West Africa which centered on the Ivorian crisis.

Mr. Choi informed his counterparts from Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and the UN bureau for West Africa of the latest developments in the post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

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After giving a background of the electoral process, the UNOCI boss stressed the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation marked by numerous confrontations in Abidjan and across the country.

Mr. Choi reminded the conference that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians fell on the Defense and Security Forces (FDS). UNOCI contributes through its patrols in Abobo, an Abidjan district that has been under high tension and a curfew for several weeks.

All the participants expressed their support for their counterpart and the solidarity of the peacekeeping missions of the sub-region with the people of Cote d'Ivoire and their colleagues at UNOCI. To the participants, the return to calm and the peaceful resolution of the crisis constituted the basic conditions for the stability of Cote d'Ivoire and by extension, the sub-region.

2 *UNOCI Meets the Press*

The position of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire with regard to the post-electoral crisis ensuing from the 28 November presidential election, the resurgence of violence, and the attendant exodus of the population were the main focus of the weekly press conference given on Thursday by UNOCI spokesperson Hamadoun Toure and the deputy chief of the Human Rights Office, Guillaume Nguéfa. Hereunder are some important quotes:



“UNOCI has received two combat helicopters in conformity with a decision of the UN Security Council to ensure the task of peacekeeping and the protection of the population. They are not meant for aggressing anybody.”

“UNOCI will organize, in conjunction with the entire UN system, the International Women’s Day on March 8.”

“UNOCI’s certification of the election has not changed, is unchangeable and we have no reason to change it.”

“We are warning all those responsible for human

rights violations that they shall answer individually for their acts.”

“The human rights situation is deteriorating. As at today, the number of casualties recorded since mid-December 2010 has risen to 365.”

“UNOCI continues to lend support including medical assistance to victims of violence within the limits of its mandate and capacity.”

“We are going to call for a truce in Abobo in order to establish corridors to convey food and medicines to the [distressed] inhabitants.”

3 *Sensitisation: Sport for Peace in Kani and Korhogo*

UNOCI has for the past several years been using sporting activities as a means of sensitization and communication with watchwords such as “Sport: a factor of unity”, “Sport: a school of life” as well as other social values and attitudes associated to sport. Here is a recap of the events:

• Kani

The people of the region of Worodougou watched a football tournament to promote the preservation of peaceful post-electoral environment. Eight teams including three female teams from the towns of Kani, Diarabana, and Seguela took part in the tournament with the support of local authorities.

Two thousand people attended the opening ceremony presided over by the Prefect of the division, Mr. Kouame Koffi in the presence of the Prefect of the region, Mr. Fofana Ibrahim and the Mayor of Kani, Mr. Meite Yaya as well as their deputies and secretaries-general. The message to the population was ‘fair play’, spurring the players to deemphasize the result of the matches and to commit themselves to the values of peace, non violence and dialogue.



• Korhogo



The Maracana (football) tournaments organised by UNOCI in Korhogo on the 25 and 26 February were aimed at promoting the values of social cohesion, fair play, unity, solidarity dialogue, tolerance and peace with a view to establishing a peaceful post-electoral environment.

The competing teams were made up of civil servants, businessmen, artisans and artists and even the unemployed in the presence of local administrative authorities and a crowd of spectators. Peace team won Social cohesion by 2-0; while Solidarity won the fair play trophy.

4 *Peace message of the Prefect of Kani:*

“The preservation of a peaceful post-electoral environment promoted through football by UNOCI is praiseworthy. This sporting event permits the youths throughout the Worodougou division to come together. It is the first such acti-

vity of UNOCI for the year 2011. It is our hope that this lasting peace we seek would influence all the towns of the country especially those that have fallen prey to post-electoral violence.

5 *Humanitarian situation in Seguela*

Water and power cuts, inhabitants rush to wells, hospitals in difficulties...



Seguela, like other divisions in the region, has been deprived of electricity and drinking water since 28 February 2011. The Ivorian electricity corporation says these cuts, which have untold and grievous consequences, are not of it making. The divisional director of health, M r. Coulibaly Seidou who painted a sad picture of the situation said 5000 vaccines have been rendered useless.

More to that, he said, a spread of tuberculosis in Worodougou region should be expected because microscopic diagnosis cannot be carried out without electricity. Likewise surgical operations. The lack of potable water would entail the rise in di-

seases such as typhoid, cholera, amibiases and other parasites. The head of the Hygiene Institute of Seguela, Mr. Bayoko Vessaly says water is a vital element of life. Wells in the town are overcrowded. Some women go as far as 4 kilometers to Gbolo to fetch water at the sole hydraulic water pump which is in an advanced stage of decay.

Long queues are formed every morning. Faced with this situation, UNOCI provides potable water to inhabitants who come asking with water vessels. Day-watchmen at UNOCI head office help to fill the e jars with water estimated at about 800 litres a day. We are heading for a humanitarian disaster if the situation continues.

6 *Portrait*

- **Mamoudou Idrissa, interim chief of post UNPOL in Divo**

« A steadfast commitment in the service of peace »

“The desire to serve others, maintain peace and restore peace in Cote d’Ivoire as well as share my experience with others can explain the motivations for the choice of my vocation and my presence in the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire,” says Mamoudou Idrissa, interim chief of post of the UN Police in Divo.

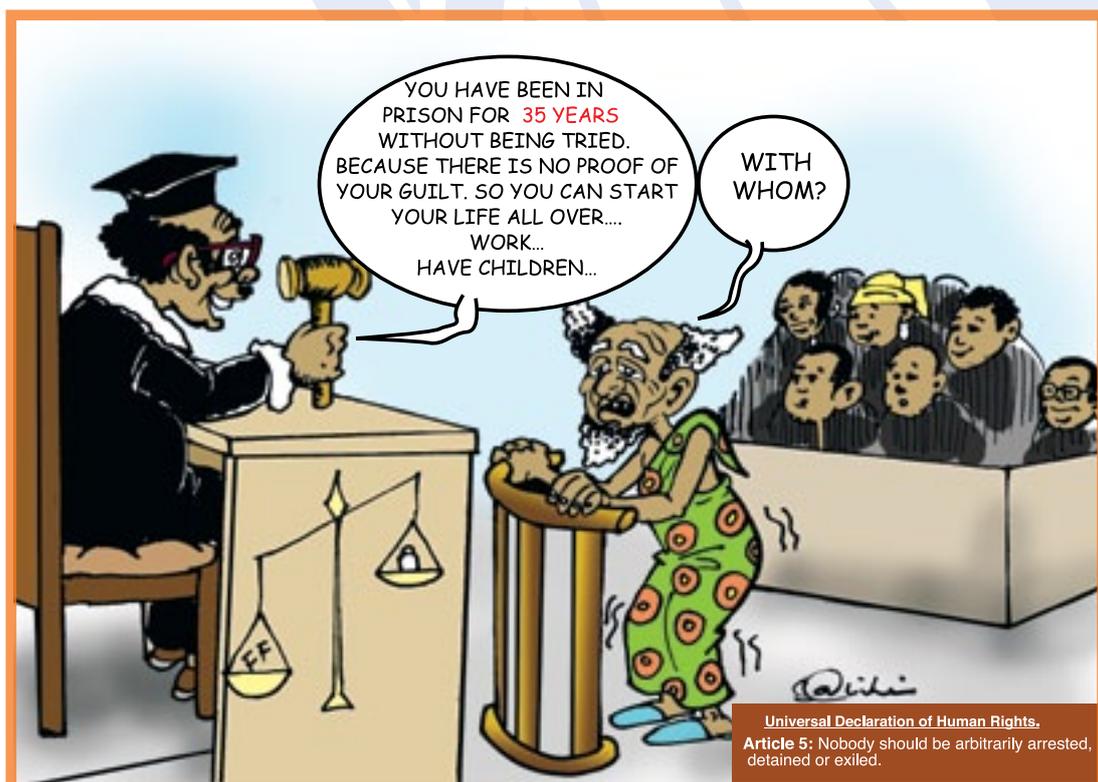
Captain Mamoudou, 40, a gendarmerie officer from Niger who arrived in Cote d’Ivoire on 10 May 2010, was coming on his second tour of service following a first tour between September 2008 and May 2009 during which he represented his country meritoriously as assistant provost Marshall of the Niger contingent in Korhogo.

“My work and those of my colleagues consists in making patrols and visits to the local communities to inspire confidence and encourage reconciliation among Ivorians and to establish a police presence



in Sud- Bandama and Fromager regions which constitute a cover zone. We also lend support to the local gendarmerie and police through technical advice. Despite the present difficult conditions of our mission, we continue to organize patrols across Divo town,” says Captain Mamoudou who demonstrates a steadfast commitment to peace in Cote d’Ivoire worth

7 *Image of the week*



8 What's new on ONUCI FM?

ONUCI FM the Radio for Peace whose primary objective is to inform Ivorians on the national peace and reconciliation process, has a regular news package for its listeners as from 7 am. It also offers special reports, cultural and musical programs.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March, you can listen to the enthusiasm of young people for the Institute for women's training and education in Bondoukou and what the institute holds for the future. Don't miss "**Kpakpato presse**" with a special treat for women's day. "Women's dignity" would examine the crisis of good governance; "**Passarelle**" aims at helping young Ivorians meet the challenges of the crisis. The activities of the NGO "Bonne action - Aid to children"

in Odienne and the consequences of the closure of banks would be on the menu. Espace Enfant, Saturday and Sunday, would examine the issue of politeness.

Reading for Peace on Thursday and Friday will have as guest a journalist, Henri Nkoumou who will discuss his work, "Morsures D'Eburnie or the land of the living dead". Reggae Time on Sunday will have a special guest, Richie Spice. Lastly, don't forget to catch up with news of the week with the weekly newsreel on Saturday.

Tune to **ONUCI FM**, the Radio for Peace to get more details of these programs and much more!!

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1820



**SEXUAL VIOLENCE
CONSTITUTES A THREAT
TO INTERNATIONAL
PEACE IN SECURITY**

Together, let's say **NO!**
To impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence

Let's advance on the road to peace

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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Visit our website : www.onuci.org

Publisher : Hamadoun Touré
Editor-in-chief : Eliane Hervo-Akendengué
Illustrator : Jean Brice N'Doli
Illustrations : Serge Aliké Assain
Photos : Basile Zoma, PIO Séguéla, PIO Korhogo, PIO Divo

ONU CI hebdo

Volume 1 • N°000 ONU CI hebdo • 04 march 2011