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## *Editorial*

The security situation remains high on the agenda in Cote d'Ivoire with regard to the normalization process. Attacks on Republican Forces positions in Pékani Kanhouebli on 13 August 2012 in the Liberia-Ivorian border area and in Dabou on 16 August are reminders that despite all the efforts to reinforce security, there are still certain pockets of resistance. Besides the violence that characterizes these attacks, the population is once more kept on the run or constrained to stay at home. Rumours are spreading fear and increasing stress among the population. On the other hand, one notes that many internally displaced persons in Duekoue have returned to their respective villages. This however does not lessen the refugee problem and the re-escalation of armed violence which has spread to the south and east of Cote d'Ivoire in recent weeks. There is an urgent need for Ivorian authorities to restore security and confidence by taking decisions that would permit those in charge of protecting the population to fully exercise their duty. Disarmament must be re-launched following the endorsement of a

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration policy in order to create the opportunity for the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. Those with a potential to serve in the military should be given a chance to serve while those in illegal possession of arms should be made to surrender them to the authorities. All this cannot be done without the participation of all the socio-economic actors. They have a national duty to dialogue among themselves, to overcome their differences and to continue to sensitise the population in order to reduce tension. The findings of the national commission of inquiry established on 20 July 2011 by Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara should provide a good working basis for justice because in order to achieve an inclusive reconstruction and to put an end to impunity and the violation of human rights, it is important to have equity as well as redeploy the administration and restore state authority. This should be accompanied by the respect of commitments toward reconciliation based on universal values which form the foundation of democracy.

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## 1 UNOCI in action :

- UNOCI CHIEF AND IEC CHAIRMAN DISCUSS NEXT STAGES OF ELECTORAL PROCESS.



The head of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders and the Chairman of Cote d'Ivoire's Independent Electoral Commission, Youssouf Bakayoko met in Abidjan on Thursday 16 August 2012 to discuss the next stage of the electoral process. The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General said they had discussed Security Council Resolution 2062 (2012) on Cote d'Ivoire as well as the current security situation. Mr. Koenders said "it was necessary to continue the democratisation process, the preparation of local elections as recommended by the Security Council which also advises the continuation of political dialogue in order to

achieve reconciliation. There is no alternative." Events in recent days stress the necessity for firmness, vigilance and progress in the reconciliation process, Mr. Koenders remarked. On the electoral level, the UNOCI Chief disclosed that discussions touched on the repeat of legislative by-elections in the Bonon and Facobly constituencies. He said it was up to the Ivorian government to fix a date for the local elections, adding that the "Security Council would like to see a correct electoral calendar, correct conditions for holding the elections and ,as we have said, it is important to move ahead."

## 2 UNOCI meets the press :



*The weekly press conference of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) took place on Friday 17 August 2012 at the Mission's HQ at former Hotel Sebroko in Abidjan. Here are excerpts of the conference conducted by acting Spokesman Kenneth Blackman.*

### • Security situation

- UNOCI strongly condemns recent attacks against Ivorian military and security installations in certain areas of the country. These attacks caused several deaths and injuries, triggering the displacement of persons, thereby adding to the suffering of the population already affected by the post-electoral crisis.

- Vigorous measures have been taken to make UNOCI's support for Ivorian forces more effective through optimum collaboration between UNOCI and the Ivorian government. We are in constant touch with the Government and other measures are being put in place to reinforce security and contribute to the protection of the civilian population by assisting the Ivorian forces.

## • Human rights

- UNOCI has taken note of the fact that several persons were arrested in the week just ended who were suspected of having “attempted to infringe on state security” or suspected for having taken part in the aforementioned attacks against military and security installations. This concerns 104 persons among whom 73 civilians. 32 of them have been set free for lack of evidence.

- Regarding the conditions of arrest and detention of the arrested persons, UNOCI’s Human Rights Office (HRO) has paid several visits to the detention centres in Abidjan, San Pedro and Yamoussoukro where they are being held. While HRO has been able to get access to detention centres in the interior of the country, it has not been given access to certain detention facilities in Abidjan.

## • Sensitisation activities

- In this sensitive period which requires the contribution of every component of the society to calm the situation, UNOCI has been pursuing its sensitization activities throughout the national territory. Thus, in Madinani in the

Odienne region, we organized a meeting with the youths to promote social cohesion and human rights.

- At the same time, we organized a sensitisation session aimed at creating a peaceful environment in the village of Bogohuo, 25 km from Duekoue. Yesterday also an open chat-and debate session was held with the youth leaders of Boundiali.

- Today, Friday 17 August, a similar session is to be held in the village of Obie, 20 km east of Divo. The aim is to sensitize the population on the values of social cohesion and national reconciliation for the restoration of a lasting peace in Cote d’Ivoire. This is to be followed in the afternoon by a football match to seal the reconciliation between the various communities of the area.

- On Tuesday 21 August, we would be in Soubre for the official handing over a UNOCI-financed quick impact project (QIP) which consists of two rehabilitated schools, water pumps as well as a center for voluntary HIV/AIDS screening. It would be recalled that the foundation stone for these projects were laid during United Nations Days organized in Soubre by UNOCI from March 21-23 2012.

## UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1820

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Together we say **NO!**

To impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence



Let's advance on  the road to peace

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**



Make your voice heard



United Nations

### 3 *Sensitisation :*

#### • Boundiali youths want to play a role in the Ivorian peace process

In view of restoring peace in Cote d'Ivoire, which must necessarily be achieved through the contribution of every component of the society, the youths of Boundiali have decided to make a commitment in that direction. The commitment was made during a get-together organized by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire for youth leaders of Boundiali, 680 km north of Abidjan on 16 August 2012. The meeting which brought together leaders from different youth associations and groups from the various communities that make up the town and various political parties, provided an opportunity for the participants to make a commitment to adhere to the dynamics of national reconciliation and the reinforcement of social cohesion by setting up a permanent framework for dialogue. In order to achieve this goal, the youths expressed the wish for capacity building seminars on the democratic culture and political tolerance for youths and candidates to enable them prepare for the forthcoming local elections; the organization of meetings aimed at encouraging peaceful cohabitation between the Malinke and Senoufo communities in the area; facilitate access to development projects for youths, especially UNOCI's quick impact projects; the provision of conventional arms to Republican Forces to enable them ensure



the security of the population. The head of the UNOCI delegation, Mr. Toure Dabla encouraged the youths to demonstrate a sense of responsibility and solidarity. "The youths of today must be responsible and avoid violence in all its forms in order to fully play their role in the national reconciliation process," Mr. Dabla urged. The meeting was conducted by Mssrs. Bakayoko Bakery and Toure Dabla of UNOCI's Public Information and Civil Affairs offices respectively.

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#### • UNOCI takes part in campaign for social cohesion and peace

The government primary school in Moussadougou, 40 km from San Pedro was the venue for a sensitization meeting on social cohesion and peace held on 14 August at the initiative of the traditional ruler of the central district of Krumen in San Pedro, his highness Pascal Gnepa Koye . According to Chief Koye, the meeting was held as a result of rumours that the indigenous youths of Massadougou (of the Bake,Winne and Krumen ethnic groups) were planning to attack the town of San Pedro for reasons linked to the post-electoral crisis. He called on each and everyone to respect the fact that the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is Alassane Ouattara. "It is a mark of respect for democracy and we must now devote our energies to working for the development of Cote d'Ivoire," he advised. The Chief of the Bakwe clan, Celestin Youkou Wantche, the head of the Malinke group, Massadougou Sidibe, and the representative of landowners, Andre Youkou took turns to call for unity, forgiveness, social cohesion and peace in the area. They acknowledged that there was misunderstanding related to the crisis but used the occasion to sue for peace among the population. They also acknowledged the role played by the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire



(FRCI) to provide security for the population. FRCI Commander for the San Pedro region, Captain Bema congratulated the Central Chief of Krumen, his highness Pascal Koye for the initiative and promised for his part to organize a similar meeting to bring together the heads of the various communities to seal a pact of reconciliation in Massadougou.

- **ONUCI TOUR takes peace, national reconciliation to Gbangbegouine Yati sub division**

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) organized an information and sensitization session on reconciliation, social cohesion and the culture of peace on 13 August 2012 in the twin villages of Kouitongouine II and Bogouine II in the sub-prefecture of Gbangbegouine Yati (Tonkpi region), 600 km north-west of Abidjan. Some 120 opinion leaders from various political parties, religious and ethnic groups, women's and youth associations, peasant farmers and traditional authorities took part in the meeting. The head of the UNOCI delegation, Mrs. Marion Arnaud said the heavy turnout of the population was indicative of the interest they have in matters related to peace, social cohesion and national reconciliation. She called on the inhabitants of the two



villages to adhere to the dynamic of the national reconciliation process, the only guarantee for the restoration of a lasting peace and harmonious development in Cote d'Ivoire. The sub Prefect's representative, Mr. Rodrigue Zon described the session as noble and urged the population to contribute to the restoration of effective peace in the country. At the end of the day, messages of peace translated into the Yacouba language were read to the participants who were called upon to relay them to their various communities. The UNOCI representative confirmed that the Mission will continue in its efforts to contribute to the establishment of a lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire within the limits of its means.

## 4 Messages of peace...

**His Highness Pascal Gnepa Koye, Chief of the Central Canton of San Pedro (Sensitisation in Moussadougou)**

*"If there is trouble in the country, it is together that we have to bring back peace in Cote d'Ivoire."*

*"I came to Moussadougou to bring you reassurance because for the past ten years you have been glaring at each other with animosity. No, let's move towards peace now."*

*"Stop allowing yourselves to be manipulated. Politicians have manipulated us and we got nothing in*

*return."*

**Mr. Sidibe Moussa, Central Malinke Chief (Sensitisation for social cohesion in Moussadougou)**

*"We should love one another because it is several years today that we have been living together."*

**Mr. Konate Lazen, youth president in Boundiali (Youth sensitization in Boundiali)**

*"We guarantee that this meeting would be beneficial for us the youths, because we will always work toward reconciliation and a lasting peace."*

## 5 *Postelectoral situation :*

### Duekoue is not alone

***The crisis resolution requires the contribution of every component of the society, every sector of activity, the different actors and partners, both national and international. This week, UNOCI WEEKLY would like to share with our readers a story concerning the town of Duekoue in which social cohesion has been affected by rumour mongering and physical attacks. Sensitisation and the presence of the authorities among the population have become even more necessary.***

“Let’s not pay attention to the importance some would like to give to rumours. Some people wish that the We people should be fighting the Malinke people or that the We should rise up against the Baoules. We must remain vigilant; hand-in-hand we can together live in peace.” These were the words of the Prefect of Duekoue, Benjamin Efolo who led a powerful delegation to the Carrefour neighbourhood, a former stronghold of ex-militiamen of the previous regime who claim to be persecuted in order to discuss and reassure them. Rumours of impending attacks of all kinds had reached its peak. The relative calm that had reigned in Duekoue began to wear out as from the month of May 2012 to the detriment of peace. The capital of Guemon has now returned to the former era of insecurity accompanied by rumours of inter-communal attacks. A number of security incidents were recorded between 7 June and 20 July 2012 leading to the loss of lives, injuries, trauma and a weakening of the social ties among the population with people being forced to flee

their homes. An attack on 20 July on a camp for displaced persons in Nahibly, 3 km from Duekoue further raised the tension. As a result of these rumours, the local forces (police, gendarmes, and soldiers) as well as the impartial forces have beefed up their presence and reinforced joint patrols both day and night so as to reassure the population. In the meantime, the authorities and elites of the region have held meetings aimed at restoring calm while the Chairman of the National Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation, Charles Konan Banny paid a visit to the region the previous week. The volatile nature of the situation calls for the commitment of all and the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI), through its grassroots campaigns for social cohesion and reconciliation dubbed ONUCI TOUR, has been supporting every initiative to restore calm. Considerable efforts at the national and international levels have been deployed to facilitate the return of displaced persons to their homes.

## 6 *Portrait : Sedjro Léonard Sossoupke,* UNOCI Electoral Office

***“There is no peace without the respect of human rights and there is no development without peace.”***

Leonard Sossoupke is an international staff of UNOCI. A holder of a master’s degree in international and European law from the University of Nantes, France, he is married and a father of four including two girls and two boys. He arrived in Cote d’Ivoire in July 2005 to take up his appointment as Adviser in UNOCI’s Electoral Office. According to him, working for the UN is an opportunity to serve and defend the cause of democracy and good governance (free elections, human rights, legal assistance to the poor or disadvantaged). This explains why he decided to become a volunteer of the UN; an appropriate framework where advocacy in all its forms can be found (assistance, diplomacy and pressure), making it possible for one to realize certain ideals. After 6 years in the Electoral Office, Leonard Sossoupke decided to work in the legal domain: providing legal assistance to the poor and disadvantaged. For his part, human rights form the basis of development. “There is no peace without respect



for human rights and there can be no development without peace. Whenever all the resources of a country are geared towards obtaining peace instead of consolidating it, development becomes slow and difficult to achieve. The leaders must understand this for the good of their people.” This explains why he accepted to be deployed to Toulepleu (Far West) because he knew the challenges were enormous and he was right. Asked how he is coping with the persistent rumours of impending attacks and security incidents in the western zone, he replies: “I feel sorry for the people I see with luggages on their heads trying to flee. But I have hopes that the authorities would find adequate ways to reassure everyone.” To Ivorians, he sends this message: “Everyone should rise above their selfish interest and think of the nation, of its unity and development. A country does not development by conflict. Cote d’Ivoire has immense resources.”

## 7 *Image of the week*



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

**M**onday 20 August at 7h40 ONUCI FM Action presents the NGO <Sourire a la Vie> which assists here lipped children undergo surgery. At 11h25 share the day in the life of a piano teacher.

Tuesday Aug. 21 the radio of peace revisits the international day for humanitarian assistance and the 6th anniversary of the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan. At 7h40 ONUCI FM Action presents the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). At 11h10 <Comprendre le Foncier Rural> invites you to follow the resolution of a practical rural land dispute.

Wed. Aug. 22. At 7h40 ONUCI FM Culture talks with SIB COLLINS a young artist who sings reggae in the Lobe language. At 14h30 ESPACE Enfant presents a variety programme for the very young. At 15h00 –ReggaeTime.

Thursday 23 Aug. we commemorate the international day in memory of the African slave trade and its abolition. At 7h40 ONUCI FM Action presents the NGO <Goree Institut> for a democratic Africa. At 9h10, travel through time and learn the history of Cote d'Ivoire in <Histoire d'Ici>.

On Friday Aug, 24 at 7h40, discover the NGO <Femme Debout> pour le progress en Cote d'Ivoire. At 11h10 ONUCI FM Culture will host the writer Foua Ernest de Saint Sauveur who would be talking about his book <Echos de la Republic of Zougou>. AT 20h00 take a rendezvous with Afro-Cuban music in <Caliente>

Every Saturday from 7h to 12h00 and on Sundays from 8h to 12h00 we bring you a variety of programmes for your weekend enjoyment.

Saturday August 25, Zik Culture brings you information from the world of show business. At 19h00 <Destination Musical> brings you news from the world of music. On Sunday from 16h to 18h00 <Dimanche Sport> will cover national, African and world sport. At 17h00 <San Frontier> makes you discover the touristic and gastro-nomic wealth of a given country including its music and culture.



### ONUCI FM's FREQUENCIES

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 • 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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