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Editorial

The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders has resumed his meetings with Ivorian political actors at a time when these actors have decided to delve into more profound debates under the auspices of the Permanent Consultative Framework, a forum that would permit the government and the opposition to hold serious discussions in order to give the country a chance to emerge from the crisis that has lasted a decade. The opposition Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) did not take part in the meeting of 1st June 2012 at the Prime Minister's office between the government and the opposition but its members have confirmed their commitment to dialogue, an important factor in approaching issues which today might appear insurmountable but which require just a little patience, the ability to listen, determination and collective sacrifice to resolve. The problem of security, generally speaking and particularly in the west of the country is still on the agenda of most meetings. For several weeks today, Ivorian authorities have been making trips to that region to reassure the population who are still under the shock caused by the incidents of last month. The solidarity demonstrated by host families and communities towards displaced persons confirms that despite all the fears, there is reason to hope. Besides, one notes a significant return of the inhabitants of Sakre and Para who had fled their homes because of the atrocities. UNOCI Chief Bert Koenders goes to the area on the weekend of 6 July to assess the situation bearing in mind that the UN Mission has been carrying out a the-

matic evaluation of the region in the past weeks. It would be recalled that between 27 and 29 June, a joint mission of UNOCI's Child Protection office and the Gender Unit were in Duekoue, Guiglo, Tai and Toulepleu to evaluate the situation of the rights of children and women as well as the protection of the civilian population. These visits are important beyond mere follow up and are aimed at studying ways of improving on the lives and security condition of the people in that region. Matters of security in Cote d'Ivoire also extend to the plight of ex-combatants for whom a new census programme has been launched by the Ivorian government. UNOCI is working hand-in-hand with the national Commission for the fight against the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms (COMNAT-ALPC) which is organizing the collection of small arms in the possession of ex-combatants in Abidjan and throughout the rest of the country. The operation in progress at its own rhythm toward normalization thus the holding of common entrance and first school leaving certificate examinations throughout the national territory is a strong message for the youths. As it was in 2011, UNOCI is making a very important contribution to this operation by providing transport and security for the distribution of the examination materials throughout the national territory. UNOCI will equally do same for the transportation of the scripts to the marking centres. Other challenges facing Cote d'Ivoire include economic revival, judiciary reform and humanitarian problems not forgetting the issue of national reconciliation for a lasting and inclusive peace.

1 UNOCI in action

- UNOCI Chief and Ivorian President Ouattara review points on the agenda for forthcoming UN Security Council meeting on Cote d'Ivoire



The Special Representative of UN Secretary-general for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders met with Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara on 4 July to review the major points on the agenda of a UN Security Council meeting on Cote d'Ivoire billed for 18 July 2012. The Council will also discuss the renewal of UNOCI's mandate. "We raised the issues related to security sector reforms, national reconciliation, the situation in the west of the country as well as the question of municipal elections and the role of UNOCI in the organization of

these elections," Mr. Koenders told the press after his one hour meeting. Regarding the elections, Mr. Koenders disclosed that an official request for assistance by the Ivorian President to the UN in connection with the elections has been made. He said a mission to assess the electoral needs of the Ivorian government from UN HQ in New York has been in the country to carry out a feasibility study. This mission will produce a report that will be submitted to the Security Council to make a final decision.

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- Ghanaian battalion in Bondoukou honoured



A total of 498 officers and sub officers of the Ghanaian battalion of the UNOCI Force based in Bondoukou and Bouake were on 29 June 2012

awarded the UN medal of honour in a ceremony presided over by Sector East Commander, General Nafis Afzal Satti in the presence of administrative and tradi-

tional authorities of Bondoukou, Bouna and a powerful delegation from Ghana. The Commander of the Ghanaian Medical corps (Ghanmed), Colonel Ralph Kojo Ametepi thanked the people of Bondoukou and Bouna for their warm welcome and frank collaboration. After saluting the colours, reviewing the troops and awarding the medals, General Nafis paid homage to the battalion. He also stressed the readiness of the local authorities of the region to facilitate the daily task of the contingent. Their presence at the ceremony confirms their commitment to support the Ghanaian battalion in the execution of their duties.



2 UNOCI meets the press :

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) organized its traditional press conference on Thursday 5 July at its HQ at former Hotel Sebroko and conducted by Interim Spokesperson, Sylvie van Den Wilenberg. Here are some excerpts:



Activities of Special Representative

- "Special Representative Bert Koenders met yesterday 4 July with Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara to review the major items on the agenda on Cote d'Ivoire to be discussed on 18 July 2012 by the UN Security Council and during which the Council will examine the renewal of UNOCI's mandate.

- "Regarding the situation in the west of the country, the Special Representative is getting ready to take off for the region this weekend on a 2-day visit to take stock of efforts made to normalize the security and humanitarian situation and to move forward the process of national reconciliation and social cohesion, and all this within one month of the deadly attack on 8 June 2012 in which some 20 persons were killed including one Ivorian soldier and seven UNOCI peace keepers.

- The Special Representative intends to use his stay to reiterate his call for greater efforts toward national reconciliation and social cohesion.

Activities to reinforce reconciliation in the west

- The situation is gradually returning to normal and no major incident was reported during the week. However an atmosphere of fear still reigns in certain areas thus preventing a massive return of internally displaced persons (idps) to their homes. In the meantime, the return of certain idps has been reported. On 2 July UNOCI's Civil Affairs office assisted administrative and municipal authorities in Tai in the return of villagers of Sakre (30 km from Tai). They helped to officially relocate the Chief of the village, the notables and other natives of the village who had fled an attack on 26 April 2012.

- Still in the western region, UNOCI's Pakistani military engineering corps is continuing work on a 40 km stretch of road linking Tai and Zriglo. Ten kilometers have been completed since the work began a fortnight ago.

Human rights activities

- In the domain of human rights, UNOCI is satisfied with the cooperation of the Ivorian government in facilitating regular access of its Human Rights officers to the 41 persons extradited from Liberia in 23 June and are being held in preventive custody. UNOCI will continue to give technical assistance to the Ivorian government to enable it guarantee that the judicial procedure regarding this file would be carried out in accordance with international instruments of human rights.

Activities of UNOCI Force

- Throughout the week in the Tai area, particularly along the Liberian border, UNOCI Force in conjunction with the UN Police and the civilian component of the Mission have doubled their efforts towards ensuring the freedom of movement of persons and goods as well as the mechanism for the protection of the civilian population and the early warning system. All contingents are maintaining a high level of alert and have increased the number of land and air patrols. The patrols are closely coordinated with those carried out on the other side of the border by the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and

with the support of the Ivorian and Liberian authorities.

Sensitisation Activities:

- On the 5 and 6 July 2012, a seminar on national reconciliation and social cohesion for some 100 students of the University of Cocody was organized with the assistance of UNOCI and the National Commission for

Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation. UNOCI welcomed the initiative and commitment of the students' associations in the national reconciliation process. On 10 July, UNOCI Tour, a mobile grassroots sensitization programme of UNOCI would be in Duekoue to promote national reconciliation and the contribution of the local population toward achieving this goal.



3 Sensitisation :

- UNOCI revisits the rights of women and the girl child in Seguela



UNOCI's regional Human Rights office in Daloa, in collaboration with the Public Information office and the Child Protection office on 7 July organized a sensitization campaign on the rights of women and the girl child in the rural environment and ways of seeking redress. The main speaker at the campaign, State Counsel for Seguela magistrate's court, Maurice Kouadio remarked that the rural women were the most vulnerable category among women because of their illiteracy and certain cultural impediments which most often resulted in the falsification of the physical and moral integrity of the rural woman. He said the state must promote the rights of the woman and the girl child in rural areas who have become prisoners and victims of harmful practices.

The regional chief of Child Protection office in Daloa, Jean Pierre Bayanhaga urged participants to pay greater attention to children who are exposed to traditional practices such as genital mutilation. The spokesperson for the women, Mrs. Sekongo Topka expressed the wish for such campaigns to be repeated so as to sensitise the population about acts of violence to which women are exposed. At the end of the discussions, the head of UNOCI Human Rights office, Prosper Schabani hailed the participation of the women of Worodougou. The Director of the Social Centre, Mr. Adama Coulibaly and the representative of the President of the General Council, Mr. Deruoth Toure were also present at the campaign.

- **UNOCI hands over keys of renovated and equipped Gendarmerie brigade in Tiebissou**



Tiebissou, a strategic buffer town between the north and south of Cote d'Ivoire and a theatre for hold ups, was on Saturday 30 June the beneficiary of a gendarmerie brigade entirely renovated and equipped with administrative materials and information technology by UNOCI. The keys of the brigade were handed over to the authorities by UN Police Commissioner Awale Abdoul Nassir, chief of the reform, restructuring, and reinforcement of capacity unit of UNOCI's police component. The brigade is the 15th quick impact project by UNOCI and falls within the framework of its efforts to restore the security of the country. The inauguration of the building was done in the presence of the Ivorian Minister Delegate for Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi and several personalities of the area such as General Gervais Kouassi Kouakou, Superior Commander of the Gendarmerie. The General said having such a well equipped brigade would permit the Gendarmerie to strengthen its operational capacity, have an efficient staff which can work under good conditions with UNOCI in this period in which his ministry has a mission to reinforce national security arrangements. The renovation and equipment is estimated at CFA 11 million francs (approx. 22,000 USD)

and UNOCI Police would provide training in the use of the equipment to their Ivorian counterparts. This brigade forms part of a series of quick impact projects of UNPOL for the benefit of their Ivorian counterparts during the past ten months. Other Ivorian security services that have benefitted include the general directorate of the Police, the Police College and the Gendarmerie College.



- **UNOCI and FRCI promote reconciliation through sport in Daoukro**

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) based in Daoukro organized a football tournament on 30 June at the gendarmerie squadron of Daoukro to promote reconciliation. At the opening ceremony the head of

the UNOCI delegation, Salvator Hakizimana said UNOCI could not but responds favourably to the invitation to take part in the tournament which falls within the framework of peace and fraternity through sport. The chief of gendarmerie squadron, Major Ibrahim Aidara said "in

holding this tournament we wanted to take advantage of the return of peace to communicate through this collective sport to demonstrate that the efforts made by each one of us would help in restoring real reconciliation in the interest of all.. If we are united as soldiers, the population would only have to follow our example and we believe

that at the end of this tournament, the spirit of solidarity, social cohesion and fair play would be strengthened among us. The tournament saw the participation of the forces of law and order i.e. national police and gendarmerie, forestry police and the military.



4 Peace messages

Mr. Awale Abdounazir, chief of reform, restructuring and reinforcement of capacity unit of UNPOL (Rehabilitation of Tiebissou gendarmerie brigade)

“UNOCI thought it wise to rehabilitate the Tiebissou gendarmerie brigade seeing the state of disrepair in which it was after the crisis.”

Major Ibrahim Aidara chief of Daoukro gendarmerie squadron (Football tournament UNOCI-FRCI)

“In organizing this tournament, we wanted to take advantage of the return of peace to commune together through collective sport and demonstrate that the efforts made by of each one of us would help in restoring real reconciliation in the interest of all. If we are united as soldiers, the population will only follow our example and we believe at the end of this tournament, the spirit of solidarity, cohesion and fair play would be strengthened among us.”

5 Post crisis situation

Resolving the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire requires the contribution of every component of the population, all the sectors of activity, the different actors and national and international partners. At the electoral level, UNOCI has greatly contributed to the success of the presidential and legislative election. UN election experts were in Cote d'Ivoire from 21 June to 4 July for feasibility studies and to gauge the expectations of the Ivorian government regarding the organization of forthcoming elections. The assessment mission was led by Mr. Akinyemi Adegbola of the UN Department of Political Affairs and this is what he had to say after meeting the Ivorian Minister of Interior, Hamed Bakayoko:

“It was a question for me and the honourable minister to examine the issue of elections and as you would know, Ivorian authorities plan to organize local elections in Cote d'Ivoire and have made a request to the UN for assistance. The rules of the system warrants that we come to the field to evaluate the context in which the elections are going to take place, the needs of the government and see in what way the UN can eventually be of assis-

“tance. That is what will permit us to define the nature of an eventual assistance. That is why we came to discuss with the minister.” Having decided to organize the elections by the third quarter of 2012, these consultations would permit the completion of the institutional structure of Cote d'Ivoire and allow the people to have representatives who would be aware of their expectations.

6 *Portrait : Major Abdala Ramazani, policeman of quality at UNOCI Bondoukou.*



All those who have been to the UNOCI office in Bondoukou must have met Major Abdallah Ramazani, Commander of UNPOL in Bondoukou since 26 July 2010 and appointed Chief of Post since 10 October 2011. Always available and ready to render service, Major Abdallah was born on 15 September 1971 in

Kalemie, Democratic Republic of Congo in the province of Katanga. He has a diploma in Management Informatics from Bel Campus University, Kinshasa and specialized in crowd control in Slagboom in the province of Port Elizabeth in the Republic of South Africa following a 3-year course at the Kinshasa Police College and later an internship at the <Police Training College> in Maseru, capital of Lesotho to be followed by another one at the <Royal Swaziland Police College> in the context of peace keeping. This specialist in the maintenance of law and order joined UNOCI on 13 July 2010. After two years with UNOCI, he had this to say concerning Cote d'Ivoire: "I wish Ivorians can get more involved in the national reconciliation process without which peace cannot last. To the forces of law and order, I recommend an effective reform of the security sector among the police and gendarmerie units as well as the training of the new army. I wish that the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programme be pursued to the end in order to ensure an effective security for the population. Major Abdallah is married and father of four.

7 *Image of the week*



8 What's new on ONUCI FM...

ONUCI 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 ONUCI 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 9 July** ONUCI FM, the Radio for peace celebrates the day for the destruction of arms. At 7h40 ,<ONU CI ACTION> focuses on the National Commission for the fight against the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms. At 11h25 share a day in the life of a prosthetic dentist who talks about his profession.

- **Tuesday 10 July** at 7h40 <ONU CI Reportage> makes you discover a female Ivorian restaurant owner in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea. At 11h10, learn about the procedures to follow when a plantation owner steps beyond his boundaries.

- **Wednesday 11 July**, the Radio for peace focuses on the world population day. At 7h40 <ONU CI ACTION> presents an NGO 'SOS Civil Status'. At 14h30 <Espace Enfant> brings you programmes for the very young. At 15h00, its music all the way in ReggaeTime.

- **Thursday 12** at 7h40 <ONU CI Reportage> takes you on a trip of Tipa Dipa, a village in Gagnoa. At 9h10 tra-

vel in time and discover the history of Cote d'Ivoire, the relationship between its people and its relationship with people of other countries in the sub region in <Histoire d'Ici>.

- **Friday 13 July** at 7h 40, ONUCI FM focuses on the NGO 'Mission for health and social development'. At 20h00 rendez-vous with latin music in <Caliente>.

- **Every Saturday** from 7h-12h and on Sundays from 8h- 12h, we bring you live from our studios < Samedi et Dimanche chez vous> with several programme slots for your weekend enjoyment. At 19h, <Destination Musique> will bring you the latest from the world of music.

- **Sunday** 16h-18h, <Dimanche Sport> brings you news from the world of sport covering sporting events in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa and the world. At 17h <Sans Frontiere> will take you on a touristic, gastronomic, musical and cultural journey of a given country.

Security Council Resolution 1820

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