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Editorial

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) pursues its multifaceted awareness-building activities in the field. The agenda of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, includes meetings with local political personalities and foreign delegations who also elicit his views on the post-crisis period.

The UN mission has been involved in the crisis resolution in Cote d'Ivoire in accordance with its mandate, which has been extended for three months. On the security front, the UN Security Council has extended until 30 September 2011 the redeployment of three MI-24 attack helicopters provided to UNOCI by the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). It also extended the deployment of 2000 extra troops until 31 July 2011. All this would give UNOCI added mobility should the need arise.

On the aspect of reconstruction and economic recovery, the international community has confirmed its readiness to stand by Cote d'Ivoire to help it re-launch its economic machinery. In order to support the economic recovery of the country, the European Union on Monday June 27, lifted sanc-

tions on three establishments, including the national broadcaster RTI, whose assets had been frozen. Within the past weeks, the EU lifted sanctions on some ten Ivorian enterprises, a determining factor for the Ivorian government, which has identified reconstruction as its priority challenge.

In this arrangement, security remains a sensitive and important factor for the restoration of confidence, economic revival and the return to normal life in Cote d'Ivoire. All observers are unanimous on that point. Only security can guarantee that Cote d'Ivoire recover its former glory. There are high expectations, especially in the reform of the security system. To this end, a conclave was held in Grand Bassam from June 22 to 24 to draw up a framework for a new army committed to the values of unity, cohesion and republican norms. It emerged after the meeting that 11,000 units would be incorporated into the new army, 8700 of whom would come from the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) and 2300 from the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI). The spirit of fraternity and professionalism among the men and women who make up this army would be very determining in turning a new page

from the post-electoral crisis and the direct and collateral damages it caused. This is an urgent task.

Another challenging area is national and international justice, which has engaged a process, each at its own level, to ensure that reparations are made where necessary. Judiciary and penitentiary establishments were looted during the post-electoral period. There is an urgent need to rehabilitate certain establishments without which the system would grind to a halt. Where this is concerned, UNOCI will make a contribution through its quick impact projects. Still on the judicial aspect, an evaluation mission of the International Criminal Court has been visiting Cote d'Ivoire since 27 June. The presence in Côte d'Ivoire of the ICC (which has signed a cooperation accord with the country) will hopefully help promote the respect of human rights, for which UNOCI has always advocated an impartial and credible justice.

During the post-electoral crisis, 3000 people lost their lives; a heavy toll for an electoral matter that had been settled by a free, transparent and democratic vote by the sovereign people of Cote d'Ivoire on November 28 2010.

1 *UNOCI in action*

• Y.J. Choi and Bensouda discuss impartiality of justice.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, met on 28 June with the Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, who had come to explain to him the purpose of her visit to Cote d'Ivoire. "It's an evaluation, not an investigative mission," she stressed to reporters after the meeting at the mission's HQ. "In our discussion with the Special Representative, we requested logistic and security support to enable our delegation to travel in security throughout the national territory". Mrs. Bensouda referred to the signing, on 28 June, of a judicial cooperation agreement between the ICC and Cote d'Ivoire. The ICC delegation arrived in Abidjan on June 27 for a week's working visit.



• Y.J. delivers strong message to the population of Sassandra



The Chief of the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, has called on the population of Sassandra to leave the past behind and look forward to constructing their country. He was speaking on Wednesday June 29 at a forum which marked the highpoint of UNOCI Days, organised in Sassandra to promote social cohesion and national reconciliation.

He insisted that only Ivorians can bring peace to their country and he reaffirmed, at the same time, that the international community was ready to support their efforts to achieve it. During his brief visit to this coastal town, Mr. Choi also met with local authorities and gave the kick-off to a canoe race.

• UNOCI Chief calls on Ivorians to cultivate spirit of fair play.

On Tuesday 28 June, Y.J. Choi was the special guest at Sport-Ivoire, an award ceremony for the best Ivorian football player, during which he called on Ivorians to get together and reconstruct the country in peace and reconciliation and in the spirit of fair play. He stressed that the spirit of fair play that should "rein as much in politics as in the domain of sport." "The respect of the rules and the commitment of all to the spirit of fair play could help avoid crises such as the one we experienced following the presidential election," the head of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) said. In explaining the purpose for his presence at the

ceremony for the yearly award of a prize to the country's best sportsman who demonstrates the spirit of tolerance, humility and excellence, Mr. Choi reiterated UNOCI's readiness to support every activity that celebrates peace and reconciliation. He praised the Ivorian culture of non-violence "which permitted the avoidance of a higher casualty figure in the country." On behalf of the organizing committee, Mr. Choi handed prizes to the 11 ambassadors of Sport Ivoire, while he himself received the gift of a painting symbolizing peace and union by the Director of Sport Ivoire, Mahama Coulibaly.

Earlier, the Ivorian Minister of Sport, Philippe Legre, praised the honesty and strength of character of the Special Representative, which “made it possible to save democracy in Cote d’Ivoire.” He urged Ivorian sports-

men both in the country and abroad to initiate action aimed at reconciling the population and consolidate social cohesion.



• Deputy Special Representative holds discussions with religious leaders

The Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d’Ivoire, Ndolamb Ngokwey, on Friday 24 June received a delegation of the “Cellule des religieux pour la paix” who had come to explore modalities for cooperation with UNOCI and to express their gratitude to the mission. Mr. Ngokwey stressed the fundamental role of religious leaders in the national reconciliation process. He urged them to reconcile among themselves first. “Reconciliation does not only concern politicians; it also concerns the community, on the basis of truth, and this is where you have a fundamental role to play,” he said. The leader of the delegation, Rev. Henri Makosso, disclosed that the different communities that make up the group had begun to work toward reconciliation. He transmitted the thanks of the Christian and Moslem communities to the UN for its support in resolving the post-electoral crisis in Cote d’Ivoire. “We are ready to be involved in sensitization and promoting reconciliation by traveling throughout the



national territory,” he said, calling on UNOCI to give it assistance in this initiative.

• Mission from New York to evaluate electoral process, satisfied.

A UN mission from New York was in Cote d’Ivoire from 19 to 30 June to evaluate the electoral process. Led by Tadjouline Ali-Diabacte, the delegation was here to gather information on favourable conditions for organising the upcoming parliamentary election. It will forward its findings to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon before the elections are held. During their stay, members of the delegation met with the various stakeholders of socio-political life in Cote d’Ivoire without discrimination. The delegation visited

the interior of the country in order to have first-hand knowledge of the reality on the ground such, including in Duékoué, where it made an assessment of election needs and the security situation, which still requires much work to be done. Firearms are still circulating and both private and official buildings have been sacked and looted, as were certain materials of the regional office of the Independent Electoral Commission. Social cohesion also needs to be strengthened.

A lot of notes were taken and a lot of listening done with a view to enabling UNOCI to assist, as it did for the presidential election, in the holding of a free, transparent,

democratic and open parliamentary election. The parliamentary election, billed for end of the year, will also be certified by the Special Representative.

• Moroccan contingent in Duekoue recognized for its bravery



The events of 28 March in Duékoué put soldiers of the 14th contingent of the Moroccan battalion MORBATT to a rough test. During confrontations between the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI)

and the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) for the control of the town of Duékoué, 502 km west of Abidjan, Moroccan soldiers opened a corridor to facilitate the movement of members of the population who wanted to seek refuge at the Catholic Church. The operation exposed them to gunfire of the combatants, but this did not discourage them from carrying out their arduous task. UNOCI Force Commander, Berena Gnako, in decorating the soldiers on 27 June had this to say: "This contingent demonstrated an iron will to restore peace in Cote d'Ivoire. They placed themselves at a crossfire but succeeded in protecting the population which took refuge at the Catholic Mission," he pointed out. MORBATT provided security for the Catholic Mission and the neighborhood known as Carrefour. General Gnako expressed his gratitude to the Royal Army of Morocco for their continued support for the cause of peace in Cote d'Ivoire.

2 UNOCI meets the press :

The Chief of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Y.J. Choi, held a press conference attended by national and international correspondents as well as diplomats in Abidjan on Thursday 30 June at the mission's HQ at the former Sebroko Hotel. The agenda covered UNOCI projects to rehabilitate certain infrastructures and issues related to the rule of law. Excerpts :

- The Ivorian people demonstrated an unflinching determination during the post-electoral crisis. With the help of the international community, a painful page of Ivorian history has been closed.

- We promised Mr. Gbagbo that we would do everything to make sure he is treated with dignity. We contribute to security, but from the outside, in Bouna, Katiola, Korhogo, and at Pergola Hotel. Primary security falls within the responsibility of the Ivorian authorities.

- We are going to set up a camp at Aboisso. As soon as those who are out of the country wish to return, we will apply the same principle of human rights protection.

- UNOCI has shown the world what is tolerable for a peace-keeping mission during a crisis.

- I would like to stress the importance of a quick restoration of the rule of law because it is a necessary condition for the success of the other tasks.

- UNOCI has taken certain security measures in the West of the country where a certain level of inadequacy has been observed. This has been done with the cooperation of the



Ivorian government.

- The first measure concerns the creation of eight new military camps in the West at Bouafle, Gagnoa, Issia, Sinfra, Tabou, Tai, Toulepleu and Zouan Hounien. UNOCI intends to complete these projects by the end of July.

- I have been at the head of UNOCI for 3 ½ years. A new page has been turned in Cote d'Ivoire. I have discussed with my colleagues and suggested it would be better to let a new representative head the mission instead of me leaving in the middle of a new chapter. A decision could be taken by mid-July.

- There are four conditions for the holding of legislative elections: the reorganization of the Electoral Commission, logistic aspects, an agreement on the number of

parliamentarians and the issue of youths who have attained voting age in recent years. The Ivorian authorities must settle these matters.

- The cantonnement of soldiers in barracks must take place as soon as possible. The Ivorian government is conscious of that fact. I praise the fact that gendarmes and policemen are receiving their salaries. They have to be redeployed in Abidjan, in the North and West.

3 *Sensitisation :*

• 15th edition of UNOCI Days: Sassandra committed to national reconciliation

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) organised on 28 - 30 June in Sassandra (283 km west of Abidjan), the 15th edition of UNOCI Days, during which the UN mission interacted with the population. The first day of the event was devoted to free medical consultations and treatment of members of the public by UNOCI's Moroccan battalion. Day 1 also included five preparatory workshops run concurrently. They included, for the first time, one organised for units of the Republi-

cote d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi. In his message to the people, he urged them to massively follow the road to peace, remarking that this south-west town should become the central focus of national reconciliation in view of the upcoming parliamentary election. While reiterating the commitment of the UN mission and the international community to assist Cote d'Ivoire in the broad task of national reconciliation and social cohesion, he stressed on the role each Sassandrian must play in reconciliation



can Forces (FRCI) and which centred on the norms of public order maintenance and human rights. The other workshops were destined for representatives of youth and women's groups, traditional and religious leaders and media practitioners. Documentary films produced by UNOCI and presentations by officials representing UNOCI's various services on the nature of their work in Cote d'Ivoire enabled the population to better acquainted itself with the work of the peacekeepers and also to be better more aware of the role they can play in national reconciliation and social cohesion. The climax of the Days was the arrival on Wednesday 29 June of the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General or

process. "Working hand-in-hand, we will bring our own contribution to the strengthening of social cohesion," Mr. Choi said. For his part, the Prefect of Sassandra, Soro Bakari, gave a brief presentation, depicting the painful aspects of the post-electoral crisis experienced by this once-prosperous cosmopolitan district. He asked the UN for food and non-food items, shelter and assistance in sanitation.

Turning to the population, he called on them to join efforts to achieve the restoration or reinforcement of social cohesion and reconciliation. The UNOCI Days were also marked by sporting and cultural activities.

• UNOCI supports Brobo's monitoring and reconciliation committee

A reconciliation day organised in Brobo (460 km from Abidjan) enabled Laurent Gbagbo's local campaign manager to publicly reconcile himself with his political opponent of the RHDP. The two childhood friends had not spoken to each other since the election campaign. The organization of the reconciliation day, which took place on Friday, June 24, was made possible thanks to the support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). This event was the culmination of three discussion sessions organized by a monitoring and reconciliation committee established by the Sub-prefect, Jande Lorgne, as part of the national reconciliation effort. The committee aims to reconcile the supporters of the Presidential Majority (LMP) and those of the Rally of the Houphouëtists for Democracy

and Peace (RHDP). Incidents between the two groups erupted after the announcement of the results of the second round of the presidential election, forcing some LMP supporters to leave the city. The discussion sessions enabled people from both sides to speak freely. The head of delegation of UNOCI, Kei Tagawa, welcomed these discussions that culminated in a solemn ceremony of truth, forgiveness and reconciliation.

For its part, the sub-prefect of Brobo thanked UNOCI for its contribution to the restoration of truth and democracy in Cote d'Ivoire. «If UNOCI does not help us in strengthening security to achieve lasting peace, all its efforts will come to nought, but we have to facilitate the task by avoiding any behavior that divides us,» he said.



• Akoupé, Divo, Daloa, Duekoue, Man, Niakaramadougou, Niablé and Touba: Civil Society fights for national reconciliation



From June 27 to 30, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) organized several regional seminars and outreach activities in various towns, including Divo, Daloa, Duékoué, Man, Touba and Niakaramadougou. Civil society was invited to better understand its role in strengthening social cohesion and peace building. Traditional leaders, traditional chiefs and religious leaders, women's organisations, youth groups and media were aware of the need to combine their efforts to ensure that Cote d'Ivoire regains normalcy. Despite the undermining of social cohesion during the post-electoral crisis, people expressed the wish to be involved in the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire. They also hoped that UNOCI would multiply its training workshops for civil-society leaders on social cohesion and reconciliation and support NGOs to encourage the population to work for a peaceful post-election environment.

• Gagnoa's students mobilise for national reconciliation



More than a thousand students from schools in Gagnoa District participated in a school caravan organised by the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on Thursday 23 June 2011. Held under the theme of "Gagnoa's students commit to the promotion

of unity and reconciliation", the caravan was part of the mission's contribution to peace efforts by Ivorians. Speaking at the event, UNOCI's regional coordinator for Sector West, Ousmane Kane, called on the students to become involved as actors at a time the sons and daughters of Côte d'Ivoire strive to rebuild a harmonious relationship among themselves. For their part, the students performed various artistic presentations stigmatizing mistrust and intolerance between communities. They also pledged to pass on the message to their peers and friends. Sixteen establishments participated in a "Génie en herbe" [Budding Genius] competition won by the Lycée Moderne 2 [Modern Grammar School 2] following which prizes were distributed. The Secretary-General and heads of department of the Prefecture thanked UNOCI for this action for peace and stressed that it should also be conducted in hinterland localities, which have expressed the need to be sensitized on the issue of reconciliation.

• UNOCI encourages national reconciliation through draughts tourney

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is using all means at its disposal to encourage people to commit to dialogue and peace. It recently organized a draughts tournament of which the final was held on 28 June 2011 in Odienné. This competition mobilized local authorities and populations from different areas of Odienné. Emile Mani of the Electoral Assistance Division (DAE) and UNOCI focal point in Odienné congratulated the participants for their engagement in the tournament and urged the public to be more tolerant, more united and inclusive. «Through this draughts tournament, UNOCI wants to encourage a spirit of fair play and mutual tolerance in Odienné,» he said. For Ibrahim Sharif, secretary general of the prefecture, the tournament should persuade everyone to take part in reconciliation and forgiveness for a sustainable national reconstruction. For over an hour, the audience gathered at Odienné Park, to follow a very tight final between



Fanny Moussa and Doumbia Amara. The latter emerged victorious from the competition and won the trophy in a very festive atmosphere.

• UNOCI saves Koko maternity clinic from flames

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) succeeded on June 25, 2011, in controlling a fire at the Koko Maternity Clinic in Bouake. According to Kalbo Kambiré, a nurse in the clinic, neigh-

borhood youths tried to limit the fire before a team of UNOCI firefighters came to douse it. The fire apparently was caused by a short circuit. It destroyed the clinic's pharmacy and damaged its delivery room.

• Two hundred karatekas sensitize for peace and forgiveness in Korhogo

Dressed in kimonos of different colours according to their disciplines, 200 karatekas representing 21 clubs from Boundiali, Ferkessédougou, Sinématiali, Dikodougou, SUCAF and Korhogo, flocked to the Korhogo Cultural Centre on Wednesday 29 June to take part in a regional karate festival organised by UNOCI. Executing katas or combat techniques for attack and defence, the masters of the different clubs that practice disciplines such as Shotokan, Kung Fu, Tae-Kwondo, Sankudo, Shito-Ryu, Wado Ryu and Viet-Dao launched peace messages and called for reconciliation, drawing inspiration from the wisdom and philosophy of the martial arts. The spokesman of the karatekas, Metinga Ali Bakayoko, highlighted the importance of the festival to them, and urged the population to make sure that peace remains always in the community. "For us karatekas, this festival is a boon, enabling us to send a strong signal to the people of the Savanes Region and the entire country, by demonstrating that, despite the diversity of its disciplines, the wisdom and philosophy of karate remain the

same: develop the reflexes of self-discipline and respect for others, thereby participating harmoniously in social cohesion through forgiveness and reconciliation. We call on all peoples living in Côte d'Ivoire to espouse these values".



4 Messages of peace...

Philippe Legré, Minister of Sports (Ivoire Sport-Ceremony)

«The power of sport is a reality. Sport must take its place in the reconciliation process.»

Madame Marie KOFFI Okou, Deputy Prefect of Kregbé (soccer tournament on June 26)

“Forget the insults you suffered during this crisis so as to achieve forgiveness”, the deputy prefect said. She reminded the players of the spirit of the tournament, which is reconciliation. “You have to play for peace to win,” she said.

Soro Bakari, Prefect of Sassandra (Days of UNOCI)

«If we do not want a fake reconciliation, we must fight the evil at the root, in truth and good faith, through forgiveness.»

5 Postelectoral situation:

Understanding Conflict

We often hear of «conflict» and witness conflict around the world. The word «conflict» can be defined as a struggle or a battle between people with needs, interests, ideas, beliefs and diverse objectives. Conflict is inherent to human beings. It could be an important mechanism

for the future development of human beings. There is therefore a positive aspect to the notion of conflict. Indeed, what matters most is how we respond to conflicts. A conflict could escalate and lead to either non-productive results, or be advantageously solved and produce a final result of quality.

a) The conflict becomes problem when it:

1. Disrupts performance
2. Catches a blow to morale
3. Causes more opposition and more tension

When we are involved in unresolved conflicts, it can have a negative impact on our health and well-being!

b) Learning to manage conflict situations

Learning to manage conflict is essential to good team performance. Conflicts may be the result of misunderstandings between people, based on their needs, ideas, beliefs, goals or values. Conflict management is the principle by which we clearly understand that all conflicts cannot necessarily be solved and we learn how to reduce them. Conflict management is to acquire the skills of conflict resolution, to be aware of different modes of conflict, to communicate skills in conflict situations, and create a structure for managing

conflicts in your environment and create a structure for managing conflicts in your environment.

c) Resolving conflicts

- «Having the ability to listen» is one of the most important qualities in communication; we sometimes think we master it, but studies have shown that the majority of people are bad listeners. In a conflict situation, we must not only pay attention to words, but also perceive the feelings displayed and then move on to solve problems.
- Stay calm. Do not respond to provocations. Attack the problem, not the person.
- Take the views of other people into account.
- If you are wrong, you have to admit it and assume full responsibility.
- Discuss solutions. The resolution of conflict is a creative act.

(Advice of Unit the Staff Counsellor)

6 *Portrait : Maria De Los Angeles Murillo Ayala, Staff Counsellor*

« Peace is built day by day through the efforts of all and with hope for a better future for Humanity »

Maria Murillo, a Uruguayan national, is a member of UNOCI's Staff Counselling Unit. After obtaining a university diploma in psychology, she specialized in Clinical Psychology as well as Child and Adolescent Psychology. She served as an officer in her country's army, working as a psychologist at the Central Hospital of the Armed Forces of Uruguay. Mrs Murillo worked as a professor of psychopathology at the University of the Republic in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 1999 to 2004, before joining the United Nations in 2005, serving first in the UN Mission in Congo, MONUC, which later became MONUSCO. She subsequently joined the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in May 2010 as a staff counselor within the Staff Counselling Unit.

The wide experience she has acquired over the years, and especially her passion for her work, are reflected in the following words: "There is no health without mental health", which translates the importance of the role her unit plays in the UN mission. She explains that her work is to promote the staff member's well-being and emphasizes that her unit is open to all. "My door is open to all



the colleagues who need psychological assistance and professional support, under the seal of confidentiality," she stresses. She also attaches great importance to the promotion of peace and the message she leaves with us reflects that: "Peace is built day by day through the efforts of all and with hope for a better future for Humanity." Mrs. Murillo is married and has one child.

7 *Image of the week*



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

ONUFI FM, the radio of peace, whose primary objective is to inform Ivorians with a view to peace and national reconciliation, offers you information slots each day, with a full newscast at 0700, 0800, 1200 and 1800 HRS, and news briefs on the hour, from 0900 HRS.

The radio of peace also provides feature reports and magazines on social and health issues, culture and sport.

On Friday 1 July at 0740 HRS, **ONUFI FM Culture** receives Koné Dodo, a manager of artistes and an organiser of shows, who will speak about the commitment of the music world to reconciliation and post-crisis reconstruction. At 0850 HRS **Parlons de paix** [Let's speak of peace] highlights the rights and duties of citizens and the means of recourse for victims of post-election violence. Then, at 1030 HRS, **Woro Woro** Tour promotes tolerance through the acceptance of one another's religion.

On Saturday, from 0700 to 1200 HRS, and on Sunday from 0800 to 1200 HRS, there will be live entertainment on our airwaves for the relaxation of listeners. From 16 to

18 HRS, **Dimanche Sport**, offers an overview of sports news with a focus, this week, on the Under-17 Football World Cup in Mexico.

On Monday 4 July, 7-12, at 0740 HRS, **ONUFI-FM Action** features the head of the COFEM-CI-REPC, who will speak on the involvement of women in post-crisis reconstruction.

At 0850 HRS, **Parlons de paix** will feature a psychologist, who will focus on trauma management and analyse the different reactions to trauma.

On Tuesday 5 July, at 7h40 HRS, **ONUFI FM Action** receives the ASAPSU, an NGO that works in the area of humanitarian aid and provides support to populations in the field of health. On Wednesday 6 July at 0740 HRS, **ONUFI FM Culture** presents Bassamouka, a comedian and singer committed to reconciliation and peace in Côte d'Ivoire. And at **0850 HRS, Parlons de paix**, with Professor Lanciné Sylla, presents conflict management mechanisms.

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