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*Editorial*

The security situation has been improving over the past weeks in Côte d'Ivoire, but there is still need for improvement. The illegal checkpoints that the Ivorian government is striving to dismantle, not only to ensure freedom of movement for goods and persons, but also to enable those in charge of security to carry out their mission are among the challenges facing the country's authorities. In this regard, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Y.J. Choi, received his vis-à-vis from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Ellen Loj, on Thursday 7 July to discuss intermission collaboration. They discussed issues related to UN assistance with a view to improving the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, focusing in particular on how to support the Ivorian and Liberian authorities to strengthen the peace and stability of their respective populations along their common border, thereby facilitating the return of refugees. In this regard, UNOCI and UNMIL have been conducting joint border patrols within the framework of inter-mission cooperation in the area of security. Mrs Loj left for Liberia on Thursday afternoon after meeting members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Côte d'Ivoire.

Where the issue of security is concerned, Mr. Choi announced at a press conference on Thursday 30 June the construction of eight (8) military camps throughout the

country. The installation of these new camps to secure the West is among actions taken by UNOCI to contribute to the return of lasting peace to Côte d'Ivoire. The visit by Mr. Choi and Interior Minister Hamid Bakayoko to Duékoué, Guiglo and Toulepleu on 1-2 July reinforced that action. However, the various forms of support are not meant to replace the Ivorian authorities, but to contribute to a process that is enfolding and whose chances of success stand to increase with the continuous and unfailing support of the international community.

The UN Peace-building Fund has also chipped in at the right moment to rehabilitate certain prefectures and sub-prefectures in various parts of Côte d'Ivoire, with particular emphasis on the Moyen Cavally and other areas seen as sensitive. The restoration of rule of law also continues to be a shared concern. There are pre-conditions, but there is also a political will that has been demonstrated, and which needs to be encouraged. Civil society also intends to be involved and has made this known. For reconstruction, it is in fact important for all citizens to be able to vindicate their rights and for impunity not to become a *modus operandi*.

These and other phenomena were among the challenges which the Government of Prime Minister Guillaume Soro sought to address at a seminar held by the Government on 5 and 6 July in Abidjan.

According to Government spokesman Koné Bruno, this meeting, which went beyond the cabinet-of-ministers framework, will allow the authorities to better predict and anticipate the actions the Government will need to take over the next six months. Three months after the end of the post-election crisis, the population is impatient for a change in its living conditions, which is legitimate. The international community, which has committed to Côte d'Ivoire for years, did not give in despite sometimes hostile situations. A relationship of trust now exists with the Ivorian leaders, but there are also expectations that need to be fulfilled in various domains, including respect for human rights and dignity. The visit paid on the 4th of July 2011 by Mr. Choi to the former Ivorian president, Laurent Gbagbo, under house arrest in Korhogo, ties in with this vision. It also was also a reiteration, by UNOCI, of its commitment to the security of civilians, whoever they may be.

At the same time, there are still many refugees and internally displaced persons, and not a week passes without actions on their behalf by international organizations and/or opinion leaders from certain regions, who travel to host communities to convince those who are still reticent to return home. At this stage, peace also needs to benefit from national ownership with a view to forging national unity.

# 1 *UNOCI in action*

## • The Special Representative visits ex-President Gbagbo

I came to Korhogo to congratulate the staff and contingents who work there. This was requested of me by the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, during his stay in Côte d'Ivoire. I then went to greet President Gbagbo, whom I saw for the last time on the 12th of April in the Hotel Golf, with two messages. The first was to let him know that, whether in Abidjan or elsewhere, there will always be a contingent to ensure

his security. The second was to reassure him that we are going to do everything to make sure he is treated with dignity". This was stated by Special Representative Y.J. Choi after visiting ex-President Laurent Gbagbo, who is under house arrest in Korhogo, on Monday 4 July. This was Mr. Choi's second visit to the former president since he was captured on 11 April 2011 by forces loyal to President Alassane Ouattara.

## • YJ Choi, Hamed Bakayoko talk with the people of Moyen Cavally



The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, and Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko concluded, on Saturday 2 July 2011 in Toulepleu, 654 km northwest of Abidjan, a two-day visit to the west of the country, which also took them to Duékoué and Guiglo. The visit, which fell within the framework of an evaluation of the post-election situation, ended with a meeting with the population of Toulepleu. In his address, Mr. Choi indicated that Ivorians had organised a magnificent presidential election, whose results had, unfortunately, been wrongly contested by the camp of ex-President Laurent Gbagbo. He told the population that he had come to bring a message of optimism, adding that peace had returned. He also announced the construction of eight (8) military camps in the west, including one in Toulepleu. "In four weeks time, they will be completed, to reinforce your security," he said. The head of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) added that resources would be provided to the regional administrative authorities, police and gendarmerie. All of this should help kick-start

economic recovery in the department, he said, adding that two billion CFA francs had been earmarked for the development of the Moyen Cavally region, which includes Toulepleu, Guiglo and Duékoué.

Minister Hamed Bakayoko thanked Mr. Choi for the assistance awarded to the Moyen Cavally region and he urged the population to eschew any enmity or hate speech. Religion, political conflict and ethnic origin should not divide Ivorians, he said. Fourth Deputy Mayor Benoit Gnanhoulou said that even if security was gradually improving in the zone, thanks to the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI - Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire), it was imperative that the gendarmerie and police resume work to ensure security. That would also help the refugees, two-thirds of whom were still in Liberia, to return home quickly, he explained. All speakers urged the population to become involved in efforts to bring the situation in their region back to normal as quickly as possible.

## • UNOCI Chief receives envoy of Senator John Kerry

The issue of national reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire is still on everyone's agenda, and it was also a key issue discussed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, and Ms Shannon Smith, Africa Advisor for Senator John Kerry, chair of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, when they met on Tuesday 5 July. At the end of the meeting, held at UNOCI headquarters in Sebroko, Abidjan, Ms Smith said the purpose of her visit was to discuss the present situation in Côte d'Ivoire with the UNOCI head on behalf of Senator Kerry and his committee. "The committee is very interested in the evolution of the situation in the country and the reconciliation process," she said. Ms. Smith, who is a specialist in peacekeeping and health issues, said her visit to Côte d'Ivoire was motivated by the will to deepen her knowledge of the post-crisis situation. To this end, she was scheduled to travel this week to the west of the country. Ms. Smith was



accompanied by the US Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, Philip Carter III.

## 2 UNOCI meets the press :

**UNOCI's weekly press conference was held on Thursday 7 July at the mission's headquarters in Sebroko. The issue of security was once more on the agenda, which also included a multidisciplinary mission from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) that is in Côte d'Ivoire at the invitation of the government. Speakers at the press conference included the FAO Representative in Côte d'Ivoire, Mrs Marie-Noelle Koyara. Excerpts**

- UNOCI's Force carried out 4812 land and air patrols during the past month. The Blue Helmets also pursued their mixed patrols with the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire) with a view to further reassuring the population.
- Security is always among UNOCI's priorities and that is the reason behind the upcoming establishment of nine new military camps in the west and centre of the country as well as Aboisso.
- Check-points are part of the security issue. Trust has to be re-established. We have to make sure checkpoints that were dismantled are not reinstalled.
- The team that has been clearing unexploded bombs and ammunition has cleaned up 67 of the 70 officially declared sites. The operation will continue until it is completed, and we once again call on the population to be careful with these ordnances, and not to touch them.
- The FAO has elected a new president [José Graziano da Silva], who will take office in early January.
- The multidisciplinary team from the FAO is in Côte d'Ivoire until the end of July at the request of the government, in connection with an emergency programme for agricultural recovery in this country.
- The expert mission is also an aspect of technical coo-



peration.

- The expert mission is working on food security; it seeks to identify emergency needs and come up with a road map for jump-starting agricultural growth and support the Ivorian government.
- The food situation in Côte d'Ivoire is very difficult since the post-election crisis; the average food ration has been reduced to one meal a day.
- In this regard, a donor round table has been set for September.



### 3 *Sensitisation :*

#### • Sinfra's sons and daughters make a commitment to peace

Hundreds of people flocked to the compound of the Town Hall in Sinfra, a town in the centre west of Côte d'Ivoire, on 30 June 2011 to talk about reconciliation, peace and social cohesion, during a reconciliation day organised by the Public Information Office of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Daloa. While the Department of Sinfra had been the scene of many clashes between members of its indige-

commitment to convince their people of the need for peace and forgiveness, and they expressed the wish that perceived differences would be transformed into a source of strength. There should never again be any clashes between the sons and daughters of Sinfra, they stressed. UNOCI's Public Information Office seized the opportunity to raise participants' awareness on the culture of peace – the various values that serve as a



nous and settler communities, on that day, people were more determined than ever to turn over that dark page in their history and start a new one. They decided to play their part in ensuring that never again would communal clashes mar the co-existence between them. To this end, the chiefs of the various communities made a

foundation for peace -, highlighting what Côte d'Ivoire stands to gain when there is peace. The UNOCI delegation reiterated that the mission stood ready to use all means at its disposal to conduct activities at the grass root level so as to create platforms for national reconstruction in conjunction with its partners.

#### • Duékoué's Kérébanan neighbourhood says « yes » to reconciliation

A UN Operation on Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) delegation, comprising officials of the Human Rights, Public Information, Electoral Assistance and Security sections, as well as military observers, had discussions on Tuesday 5 July 2011 with the population of Kérébanan, a neighbourhood in Duékoué, 502km from Abidjan.

The visit fell within the framework of ONUCI Tour, a campaign of information and sensitization conducted by UNOCI throughout Côte d'Ivoire to encourage popular participation in the effort to restore lasting peace to Côte d'Ivoire, so the main focus of the discussions was peace and reconciliation. "War has ended, the time for reconciliation and forgiveness has begun and one has to ascribe resolutely to it," Pierre Aby of the Public Information Office told his interlocutors, urging the different communities in Kérébanan to opt for dialogue and tolerance in settling conflicts. Lt.-Col. Tassumti Djato, a military observer, explained to the population that the members of UNOCI had "come from different horizons to contribute to peace" while Jean-Marie Kalama of the Human Rights Division reminded his listeners that they had rights and duties towards their relatives, friends and others. Neigh-

bourhood chief Koné Mohitié thanked UNOCI for bringing ONUCI Tour to his neighbourhood and called on it to return to his area, which is slowly recovering from the post-election violence. Reconciliation, forgiveness, social cohesion and peace were the key words at this event, during which the various speakers underscored the need for peaceful co-existence and to create a climate of trust within the population.



## 4 *Messages of paix...*

- **ONUCI Tour in Kèrèbanan, Duékoué, 5 July 2011-07-07**

**Koné Moritie, chief of Kèrèbanan**

« UNOCI's action has brought back a little more calm to the department of Duékoué. I therefore call on the different populations (Malinké, Guéré and foreigners) to cultivate peace as is done in other localities. We want to live in peace with our hosts because we are tired of poverty and hunger. Let the elders from each community give wise counsel to the youths so as to steer them away from the paths of violence, vengeance and settling of scores. Let us also remember that President Alassane Ouattara is the president of all Ivorians and not just the Malinké.»

- **15th Edition of UNOCI Days, held in Sassandra on 28, 29 and 30 June 2011**

**SORO Daufangui Bakary Benjamin, Prefect of Sassandra**

« Dear relatives, dear fellow citizens, if we think that reconciliation and social cohesion will fall from Heaven, we are making a serious mistake. It is through our will and our efforts that we shall achieve them. »

**André Dablé, an inhabitant of Sassandra**

« Hate benefits no-one and rumours divide.»

**Marie Amoin Sara Koffi, Sixth Grade [Class Six] pupil**

« My bothers, my sisters, stop the violence because violence has never been the solution to any problem. »

***Sensitization of women's organisations in Yamoussoukro by UNOCI on 30 June 2011***

**André Ekponon, Prefect of the Région des Lacs [Lake Region]**

« A nation is not built on a foundation of intolerance, of hatred, and that is why it's important for us to have instruments for restoring social cohesion in our respective communities ».

## 5 *Postélectorale situation :*

### **Bas Sassandra region gets new lease on life**

**T**he post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire exacerbated communal tensions and sorely tested social cohesion throughout the country. As they sought to go back home after being routed in Abidjan, foreign fighters from neighbouring countries sowed desolation and suffering among the population of some localities in Bas Sassandra Region. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in keeping with its mandate to help the Ivorian authorities restore peace and social cohesion and bring about reconciliation, organise regular reflection and discussion sessions with the population, throughout the national territory, with a view to promoting dialogue, forgiveness and tolerance. This is the background to UNOCI Days, organised on 28-30 June in the town of

Sassandra on the theme of "The population of Sassandra and UNOCI, hand in hand to strengthen social cohesion". This event, graced by the participation of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, provided a prime opportunity for discussions with and among inhabitants of the area, especially during the preparatory workshops. It also allowed for communion between the various participants during the concert and sporting events that formed part of its activities. And it was also a time for sharing, as the Moroccan battalion offered free medical consultations to the local population. All in all, each stage of UNOCI Days in Sassandra was full of meaning and highly symbolic for a population that has been crying out for neglect.

"I am all the more satisfied that the population of this department, who were severely shaken and bruised by the latest developments of the post-election crisis, are living in a fragile social context which, in order to avoid any disruptions, would benefit from a breath of fresh air through the discussions on social cohesion and reconciliation, essential themes of the Days," said Daufangui Bakary Benjamin Soro, Prefect of the Department of Sassandra. The various activities conducted during UNOCI Days and the peace messages conveyed throughout the three-day event contributed to breaking down the wall of mistrust, wiping away fear and relaunching economic activities in some sectors. Broadly speaking, the Bas Sassandra region, and in particular the town of San Pedro, has seen a full resumption of activity.

**On the economic front :** All sectors function normally. Except for the BICICI, which has remained closed, financial institutions are operational. Intra- and inter-urban transport function well. The second lifeline of the Ivorian economy, the PASP is even looking to increase its traffic. Speaking during a recent workshop in the port city on the theme of "stakes and prospects for the export of cashew nuts through the port

of San Pedro", PASP Commercial Director Guy Manhois said the port intended to increase the volume of traffic it handles annually from 1.2 million tonnes to 5 million tonnes by 2012. "San Pedro Port offers exporters important trade advantages," he said. "Cashew nuts will be exported from San Pedro from now on."

**On the security front :** the presence of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI – Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire) has served, more or less, as a deterrent. Even if there are sometimes armed robberies and burglaries, the global trend in this regard is downward.

**On the socio-political front :** political activities, which usually constitute factors that aggravate the situation and social relations, have been reduced considerably. Other than isolated commentaries, no large-scale action has been observed, other than those that followed the fall of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo. The organisation of UNOCI Days in Sassandra on 28-30 June marks the launch of new actions targetting the population and aimed at achieving real peace, which is what the inhabitants of this region hope for.

## 6 Portrait : Anderson Kra (Child Protection Unit)

*« We must move on from what happened and extend a hand to one another, otherwise we'll have no future. »*

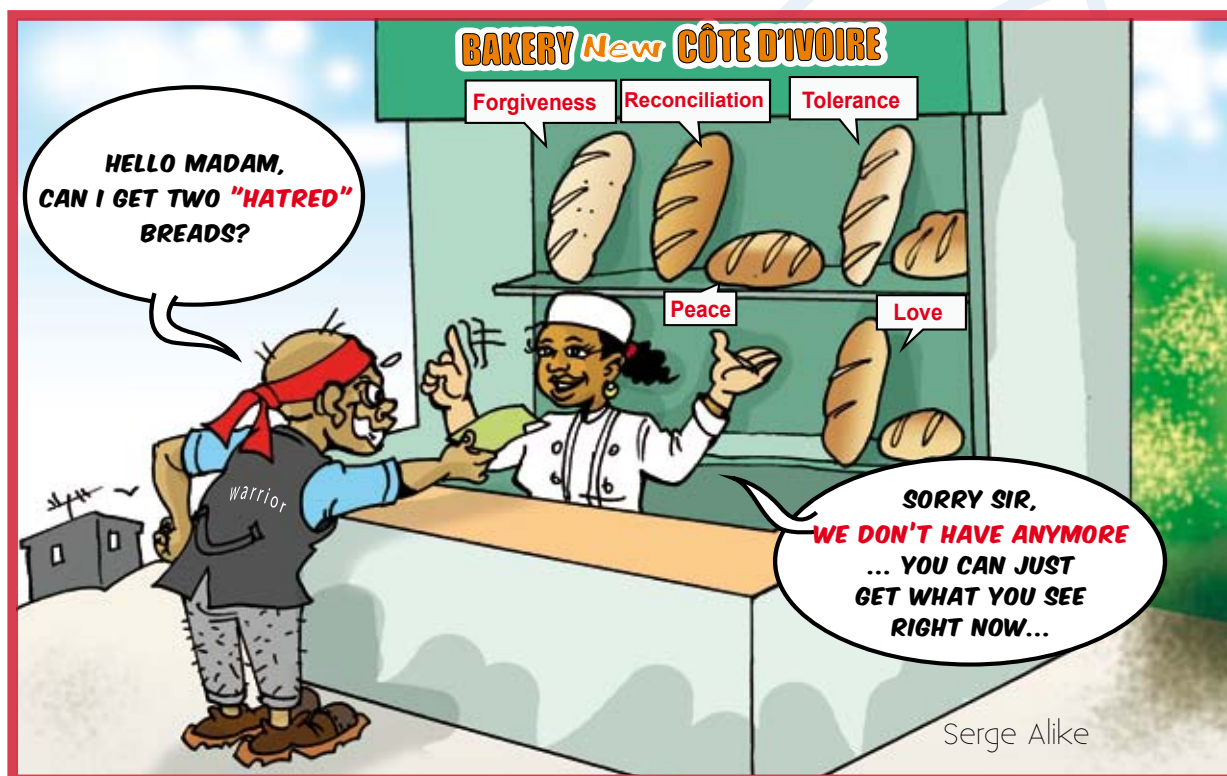
Anderson Kra has been working in the Child Protection Unit of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) since 28 November 2007. He was not necessarily destined to join the UN system. He used to be a lecturer but had to quit the teaching profession when the Ivorian crisis broke out in 2002. At the time, he was working in the University of Bouaké's Law Faculty, which was subsequently moved to Abidjan. He drew inspiration from the preamble to the UN Charter, which begins "We, the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind..." He recalls: "Every time I read the United Nations Charter, the words of the preamble resounded in my mind as an individual call addressed to me, as a call to contribute my stone to the construction of a better world. The coming of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire gave me the opportunity to contribute my small stone to building the edifice of peace. And, as an Ivorian, I felt



all the more concerned since many people around me had paid a heavy price in the crisis, and whenever I do my work, I always bear in mind that future generations must no longer suffer from the horror of war." Within the Child Protection Unit, where he works as a national administrator, his work entails preventing severe violations of children's rights and, if, unfortunately, such violations are committed, seeing that the victims receive all the assistance they need and helping to ensure that the perpetrators answer for their actions. For Anderson, respect for children's rights is a calling, and his peace message is unambiguous: "If we want a better world for us and for our children, we have to immediately and forever banish hatred, anger and resentment, in other words, war, and reconcile ourselves because banishing war is the sine qua non condition for progress. What has happened must become a thing of the past and we must extend a hand to one another, otherwise we would have no future." He deeply believes in this. Anderson is married with one daughter.



## 7 *Image of the week*



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

On Friday 8 July at 8.50, the radio of peace offers **Parlons de Paix** [Let's talk about peace], which will focus on the rights and duties of citizens in the post-crisis period. Then, at 10.30, **Unis dans nos différences** [United in our difference] looks at the role of associations in urban and village communities. At 15.40, **A Day in the Life of a Diabetic** provides an insight into the difficult challenges faced by people living with the illness, in particular in the absence of good medical coverage.

On Saturday and Sunday, ONUCI-FM's listeners can relax and listen to live and direct entertainment from 7.00 to 12.00 and from 8.00 to 12.00 respectively. On Sunday, from 16.00 to 18.00, our sports magazine, **Dimanche Sport**, gives an overview of the main news in the world of sport in Côte d'Ivoire and in internationally.

On Monday 11 July, ONUCI FM Action features the

MESAD, an NGO that works in the area of child protection and assists youths in distress. That's at 7.40. At 8.50 Parlons de Paix offers advice on how to overcome traumas. At 10.30, Un **Dossier d'ONUFI FM** looks at contraceptive use in Côte d'Ivoire.

On Tuesday 12 July, at 7h40, it's time to discover the 17th century mosque in the town of Kong, with ONUCI FM Reportage, which will later take you, at 10.30 on a trip to farms in Bonoua, where a new agricultural technique entailing farming above the ground is being experimented with.

And on Wednesday 13 July, the 7-12 Programme will feature the comedian and storyteller Frotomogou, while, at 8.50, Parlons de paix looks at conflict management mechanisms.

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