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EDITORIAL

RESUMPTION OF APPEALS PROCESS ON THE GREY LIST: AVOID FAILURES AND ORGANISE ELECTIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

There are times when the evolution of the crisis-resolution process in Côte d'Ivoire gives us reasons to hope. One such occasion was following the official announcement on 10th May that the appeals process on the "grey electoral list", containing registered voters who still need to prove their nationality, was to resume. This announcement, it could be said, capped various measures, initiatives and decisions, taken by the authorities and the main political actors to defuse the tension in the country.

In fact, the serious tone had been set by the negotiations between President Laurent Gbagbo and one of his main opponents in the presidential election, Henri Konan Bédié of the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI). At the height of the last political crisis, which shook the country and caused serious concerns among Ivoirians and the international community alike, the two leaders decided to talk to each other. The first result of their consultations was the acceptance by the opposition coalition, the Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) to call off its demonstration planned for 15 May - just two weeks before the first major international conference to be held on Ivorian soil since the beginning of the crisis in September 2002. This event, as you may have guessed, was the annual meetings of the African Development Bank (ADB), which was organised this year on the banks of the Ebrié Lagoon.

The continued improvement in the political situation could also be observed when the Ivorian President and the leader of the Rally for the Republicans (RDR) met to exchange views on how to end the political impasse caused by the numerous delays in organising elections which Ivoirians have been waiting for since 2005.

While encouraging these high-level

contacts between Ivoirians, officials of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), such as the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, have for their part, increased initiatives aimed at helping the country end the difficult situation it had recently been experiencing.

The head of UNOCI therefore held discussions with presidential candidates for the PDCI, and RDR, a zone commander of the Armed Forces of Forces Nouvelles (FAFN), Martin Tuo Fofie as well as with women from civil society groups and representatives of other political parties (See Juliette Amantchi's article on page 3).

These were not the only actions taken by UNOCI. In order to inform the international community of the state of the crisis-resolution process, Y. J. Choi travelled to New York to participate in a high-level meeting presided over by UN Secretary-General, Ban-Ki Moon, on this issue.

In addition to the initiatives it has taken locally, UNOCI continued to support the electoral process. For instance, it provided transportation and security escort for the Grey List -- the processing of which was completed by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) on 11 May-- from Abidjan to the 415 electoral commissions on 14 and 15 May. This operation required important aerial and road transportation. It also mobilized civilian personnel, United Nations Police (UNPOL) and the military. In addition, UNOCI also transported forms and methodological guides for the treatment of appeals on the Grey List, to the Vallée du Bandama (Bouaké), Savanes (Korhogo), Moyen Cavally (Guiglo), Denguele (Odienné), Worodougou (Séguéla), and Bas-Sassandra (San Pedro) regions, at the request of the IEC.

And thanks to the daily coverage of the

electoral process, special programming and information spots on ONUCI-FM, the Mission's radio for peace has greatly contributed to sensitising and informing the population on the whole process. Ivoirians, who are entitled to be on the provisional electoral list, were urged through messages broadcast on the radio, to go to identification centres to exercise their constitutional rights.

Community outreach is another tool used by UNOCI to target an important segment of the population. UNOCI Days (Les journées de l'ONUIC), the Mission's information and sensitisation campaign, recently organised in Tiémé, in the Denguélé region and in Ouangolodougou, in the Savanes region, have provided the opportunity for direct and frank discussions between UNOCI personnel and the population in the interior of Côte d'Ivoire.

Furthermore, numerous training sessions and workshops were organised by the Mission for civil society groups, traditional chiefs, members of the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces and other key actors in the forthcoming elections. All this was obviously conducted with the aim of promoting a peaceful electoral environment.

At this juncture, as the appeals process on the Grey List is launched once again, UNOCI is of the opinion that it is extremely important that lessons drawn from similar operations be taken into consideration in this new one, in order to avoid failures, stoppages, and deadlocks in the process, as happened in the past. This will surely make reaching a consensus on the provisional electoral list, also known as the "white List", easier, and this will in turn lead to the organising of open, fair, free and transparent elections - in short a poll organised in accordance with international standards and norms.

UNOCI CHIEF CONSULTS IVORIAN POLITICAL ACTORS BEFORE NEW YORK VISIT

In an effort to see how the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) could contribute to breaking the deadlock in the Ivorian peace process, the Special Representative for the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, held consultations with key political actors prior to his visit to New York where he took part in the Security Council meeting on Cote d'Ivoire.

Mr. Choi met with the leaders of the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), Henri Konan Bedie, and the Rally of Republicans, Alassane Ouattara to review the electoral process and the issue of reunification.

He also granted an audience to the President of the Coalition for Change, Mamadou Toure to whom he explained the accompanying role of UNOCI as outlined in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA) of March 2007. The Coalition had been planning to stage a demonstration in front of the headquarters of UNOCI to express its concerns over the electoral process.

On the military side, the Zone Commander of the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) in Korhogo, Martin Tuo Fofie, met Mr. Choi to reassure him of his willingness to comply with the military provisions of the OPA especially with regard to the cantonment of ex-combatants of the FAFN.

During his various encounters, the Special Representative stressed the need for the interested parties to reach an understanding in the spirit of compromise and national interest so that they can, and the deadlock and make progress on the issues of election and reunification. In this regard, Mr. Choi expressed satisfaction with the meetings between President Gbagbo and leaders of opposition parties.

While in New York, the Special Representative took part in a top level meeting of the Security Council which on May 27 adopted Resolution 1924 to extend the mandate of the peacekeeping operation in Cote d'Ivoire for one month.



UNOCI's SRSG Y.J. Choi in discussion with Mr. Bedie, chairman of the PDCI © UN / ONUCI



...and then with Alassane Ouattara, chairman of the RDR © UN / ONUCI



Mr Choi meets the chairman of the Coalition for Change, Mamadou Toure © UN / ONUCI

By Juliette Amantchi

UNOCI CONTINUES TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO ELECTORAL PROCESS



Boxes containing the "grey" list are handed over to the local IECs © UN / ONUCI

The processing of appeals on the electoral list, known as "grey list" which contains the names of registered voters who still need to provide proof of their nationality, started on 17 May 2010. In this regard, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), whose mandate is specifically to accompany Côte d'Ivoire in the crisis-resolution process, continued its work which includes supporting the electoral process.

On 14 May 2010, UNOCI started to transport the grey list to 19 regions throughout the country. In every region, cartons containing the list had been received by the head of the regional office of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

The same day, ten regions started the distribution of the list to district, sub prefecture or local commissions with UNOCI's support. This was the case, for example, in the Lac region, where the cartons transported from Abidjan by the Mission were transported from Yamoussoukro to Kossou sub-prefecture, and the chairman of the regional electoral office, accompanied by UNOCI staff members, gave them to the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

In the Agneby region, the lists were received in the town of Adzopé by the chairman of the local IEC and were then transported under escort provided by the Jordanian Battalion to Akoupé, Affery, Agboville and Yakassé Attobrou.

The distribution to the district, municipal

or sub-prefecture commissions also started on 14 May in the Bafing, 18 Montagnes, Fromager, Lagunes, N'Zi Comoé, Savanes, Sud-Bandama and Sud-Comoé regions.

The operation to transport the grey list continued in the other regions of the country from 15 May as UNOCI handed over the list to the local IECs in the Moyen-Cavally, Denguélé, Bas-Sassandra, Worodougou, Zanzan, Vallée du Bandama, Marahoué, Moyen-Comoé and Haut-Sassandra regions.

The UN mission has worked hard to contribute to the success of the Ivorian electoral process. In this regard, in November 2009, the Mission transported the provisional electoral list to the local IECs throughout the country. The UN Mission also provided local IEC's offices in 16 districts in the interior of the country with computers and generators.

Some 200 computer kits and 20 generators were transported by road to the Marahoué, Worodougou, Haut-Sassandra and 18 Montagnes regions. The equipments allowed the local IECs to function well during the posting of the provisional electoral list and the processing of appeals. The IEC's offices in Abidjan received their equipments during the same operation initiated by UNOCI. On this occasion, UNOCI Force and UNPOL ensured protection and provided security to the IEC's equipments for one week. In Abidjan, UNOCI provided the IEC with logistic resources to transport its material and staff.

The Mission also transported identification material to the regions of Côte d'Ivoire. It intends to continue its action until elections are held and lasting peace is re-established in Côte d'Ivoire. In this regard, Hamadoun Touré, the Mission's spokesman, gave the assurance during a press conference, that UNOCI would continue its support so that elections are held by Ivorians under the best conditions and as soon as possible.

By Michel Man

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UNOCI CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), on Saturday, 29 May 2010, commemorated International Peacekeepers Day at the Mission's headquarters in Seboko, Abidjan and in various towns throughout Côte d'Ivoire.

During the ceremony in Abidjan presided over by the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Abou Moussa, UNOCI paid homage to all the military, civilian and police personnel of the Mission who died in Côte d'Ivoire. "We have the duty to pay homage to our colleagues who came for peace and lost their lives", said the Mission's deputy chief.

In his message for the Day, read by Mr. Moussa, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, said that "this year's International Peacekeepers Day is a sad day. The past 14 months have been particularly bloody for United Nations Peacekeeping Forces."

In fact, many tragedies affected the UN forces worldwide, resulting in 121 deaths in UN Forces in Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti.

According to the United Nations Secretary-General, "The United Nations Mission for Stabilization in Haiti (MINUSTAH) lost 96 peacekeepers". However he said that "the sad day [due to the earthquake in Haiti] has also become one of the most glorious days of the organization because men and women in MINUSTAH put aside their trauma, to reestablish [...]the mission and helped the population of Haiti to overcome the horrible consequences of the disaster".

The ceremony at UNOCI's headquarters was marked by the raising of the Côte d'Ivoire and United Nations' flags, laying of a wreath as homage to the departed soldiers of peace, reading out their



Bangladeshi peacekeepers on parade at UNOCI's International Peacekeepers Day ceremony © UN / ONUCI

names and a photo exhibition of the work carried out by peacekeepers in Côte d'Ivoire.

In Yamoussoukro, the day provided an opportunity for the authorities of the political capital of Côte d'Ivoire to congratulate peacekeepers' actions. According to the Mayor's representative, Djaha Lucien Koffi, "The Bangladeshi and Senegalese contingents with the passing years, have integrated into the Ivorian family to such an extent that when we do not see them we are worried, because their presence reassures, relieves and makes us feel secure".

In Korhogo, the ceremony which was attended by the administrative and military authorities was marked by a military parade by peacekeepers, a visit to the stands set up by UNOCI sections and United Nations agencies, the screening of a film on peacekeepers' activities and a football match between

the Niger battalion and teachers from the Montagne sector of Korhogo.

In Divo, Guiglo and Adzopé, International Peacekeepers Day was also celebrated through sports activities. In Divo, a football match between a team of the Moroccan contingent (Morbatt) and teachers from Collège Ehoulé James was marked by the reading of peace messages.

In Adzopé, the local authorities paid homage to UNOCI. According to Sylva Kouakou, the head of sport in the Youth and Cultural Centre, "UNOCI's presence has reinforced the fraternity among the youths and women in Adzopé through sports initiatives for peace and non-violence. These initiatives are praiseworthy and are at the origin of the population's trust in UNOCI".

It should be noted that UNOCI has lost 25 soldiers, 10 civilians and 9 policemen from 2004 to present.

LISTEN TO ONUCI-FM THE UNITED NATIONS RADIO IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

UNOCI DAYS: OUANGOLODOUGOU WELCOMES UN MISSION WITH JOY

Ouangolodougou, the cross-roads town situated along the Mali-Burkina Faso border, hosted the 7th edition of UNOCI Days – a three-day event which provides personnel of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire with an opportunity to interact with the local population to explain the mandate, role and activities of the Mission, as well as find out the preoccupations and expectations of the people.

For their part, the inhabitants of Ouangolodougou, a town of several ethnic and immigrant communities, presented a mixed cultural heritage through songs and dances depicting the rich traditions of the Senoufo, Malinke, and Moré, indicating perfect understanding and harmony among these groups.

Before the launching of the activities, the head of the UNOCI delegation, Hamadou Touré, accompanied by the representatives of various UNOCI sections, held a working session with local authorities who symbolically handed him the keys to the town. The delegation, accompanied by members of the local authorities, then proceeded to the health centre where a medical team from the Niger battalion based in Ferkessedougou, were providing free medical consultations and treatment to some 300 inhabitants



UNOCI Days starts with free medical treatment for local people © UN / ONUCI

under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Ibrahim Moussa. The head of the health centre, Dr. Sahande Vakaba, who was beaming with satisfaction, noted the importance the day had for his patients, who, he said, cannot usually afford medication. The majority of people in Ouangolodougou are cotton, yam and

cashew nut farmers.

At the conference hall of the Catholic Mission, journalists from radio, television and the press in the Savannah region were participating in a workshop aimed at identifying the contribution of the media in establishing a peaceful electoral environment. Mr Touré highlighted the role of the media in restoring a lasting peace in the country. He also spoke of UNOCI's assistance programme to the media and socio-professional media groups in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication.

The journalists unani-mously welcomed the frank exchanges of ideas and experiences and made an undertaking to respect the ethics of their profession and expressed the need for more of such encounters.

In the meantime, other groups including traditional and religious leaders, women and youth organisations were also holding workshops to discuss how they too can contribute to promoting a peaceful electoral environment.



UNOCI provided funds to building six classrooms for the local school © UN / ONUCI

The second phase of the UNOCI Days was marked by a press conference and a discussion forum with the population. Throughout the three-day activity, which was punctuated by songs and dances and messages highlighting the virtues of peace, there was a massive turnout by the population.

The Prefect of the district, Tiakoue Adje, stressed the role of women in sensitizing their husbands and children about the need for a peaceful electoral environment. On the same day, 15 kilometres away from Ouangolodougou, the inhabitants of Kawara gave a warm welcome to the UNOCI delegation and the administrative authorities of the region who had come to visit the government primary school.

Built in 1957, the school building had been neglected over time. Following a request for help, UNOCI funded the rehabilitation of six classrooms at an estimated cost of 8.5 million FCFA, through its Quick Impact Projects programme aimed at improving the well-being of the local people. Kawara, a town of 1300 inhabitants, is the site of a 700-year old Mosque, the oldest in the region.

Return to Ouangolodougou

At the lively and colourfully decorated esplanade of the Cultural Centre, children, youths and women had all gathered to take part in the radio programme, Listeners Club, during which they discussed their activities, difficulties and expectations.

The last day was marked by sporting events, beginning with a cross-country race along the main streets of the town. Two football matches involving two female and two male teams were held. Team members read out messages conveying the spirit of fair play, peace, fraternity, unity, respect for one another and tolerance, while at the same time drawing analogy between sport and election.

The lights then went out softly in the peaceful town of Ouangolodougou, where during three days, the population had the opportunity to get to know UNOCI better through its activities and its responsibilities.

By Juliette Amantchi



Peacekeepers distribute water to the population © UN / ONUCI



The Days ended with sports activities © UN / ONUCI



...and a live open air concert © UN / ONUCI

ODIENNÉ, KOFFIKRO AND TIASSALE BENEFIT FROM UNOCI'S QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS (QIPS).



UNOCI Civil Affairs Section hands over a building rehabilitated by the Mission © UN / ONUCI

The Civil Affairs Section of the United Nations Operation in Côte D'Ivoire (UNOCI) had a very busy schedule in May 2010. In the course of the month, the Section, which is in charge of the Mission's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), officially handed over to local authorities several buildings it had renovated.

One of them, the Documentation and Archives Centre, was donated to Odienné district, some 713 km in the north of Abidjan. The building, which cost about FCFA 10 million to construct, has a documentation room and a block of five toilets.

According to the head of Civil Affairs in Odienné, Idefonso Nduwimana, UNOCI, through this gift, wanted to improve the living conditions of civil servants in Odienné. The national executive secretary of the National

Monitoring Committee for the Redeployment of the Administration (CNPRA), Ebenezer Guebo Dja, said he highly appreciated UNOCI's contribution. For Mr. Guebo: "UNOCI's efforts helped CNPRA create an environment conducive for the resumption of public services and the rehabilitation and equipping of public buildings in the north-centre-west areas (CNO)".

In the district of Bingerville, Civil Affairs handed a school of three classes to education authorities in Koffikro village. Villagers had started building the public primary school but had run out of funds. Thanks to FCFA 8,502,000 provided by the UNOCI, the building was completed in May.

The renovated school was intended to accommodate nearly 180 students. During the handover ceremony of the classes, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General

of the United Nations for Côte d'Ivoire, Steven Ursino, said that the project was part of UNOCI's efforts to help Ivorians create a favorable environment to consolidate peace and hold free and fair elections.

The renovation of the school was completed by the Togolese battalion (TOGOBATT). According to Colonel Ali Nadjombe, Commander of TOGOBATT 12, his team was proud to work on the project because one of the key development goals advocated by the United Nations was education for all.

The representative of Koffikro's traditional authorities, Amoh Hogbe, paid tribute to UNOCI, which according to him had put an end to the distress of the population and students. "We will take good care of this gift and use it efficiently so that the leaders of tomorrow can emerge from this school," he said.

In Tiassalé, a centre for counselling and voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS, co-funded by UNOCI up to 8.6 million FCFA, was opened on 6 May 2010.

Dorcella Bazahica, head of UNOCI's HIV/AIDS Unit encouraged people to know their HIV status. She also urged women, particularly pregnant women, to participate in voluntary testing.

The Resident Representative of UNAIDS, Claire Mulanga, asked people to take full ownership of the new centre.

For his part, the Mayor of Tiassalé, Yapi Lambert, expressed gratitude on behalf of the population for the numerous projects developed by the Mission since 2005 for the city. He expressed the hope that the partnership with UNOCI will continue to improve the well-being of the population.

By Marie-Mactar Niang

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TRADITIONAL CHIEFS DISCUSS MECHANISMS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

How should inter-community conflicts be dealt with? What are the different conflicts? How should they be resolved? What is the importance of the power and behaviour of a chief? These were just some of the questions that were discussed during three seminars on the prevention and management of conflicts organized in May by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) as part of its efforts to create a peaceful electoral environment.

More than 100 people, mainly traditional chiefs and representatives of NGOs took part in the seminars organized in Lakota, Touba and Yamoussoukro by the Civil Affairs section, in collaboration with the Public Information Office.

The aim of the training sessions was to create a forum to exchange views and reflect on what ways to prevent and resolve conflict and to help traditional chiefs face the challenges confronting them during this crisis-resolution period, said Mrs Cecilia Piazza, head of the Civil Affairs section.

Each seminar included presentations, followed by discussions on two themes: "The Problematic and Technique of the



Traditional chiefs turned up in large numbers to the seminars organized by UNOCI for them © UN / ONUCI

Prevention and Management of Conflict" and "The Cultural and Strategic Foundations of Conflict Prevention and Management". Several sub themes were also discussed, including the definition of conflict, the modalities of designating chiefs, and the role of chiefs as well as of women in conflict management.

Traditional chiefs are the first link between the people and territorial administration and therefore have the same mission as the administrative authorities to lead the population, said the prefect of Lakota, Kpan Droh. They also have a key role to play in maintaining a peaceful environment within the community, which is why UNOCI decided to strengthen their capacity with regard to the prevention and management of conflict.

"We all wish for the people of Cote d'Ivoire to be reconciled with a climate of social cohesion existing between the different communities," said Mrs Piazza at one of the seminars.

During the last seminar, which took place in Lakota, participants discussed a real case study which involved a locality in the region that could not agree on whom they wanted as their chief. Discussing this case gave participants the opportunity to make concrete proposals based on the tools that had been given to them, on how the issue could be resolved.



A group of participants © UN / ONUCI

UNOCI EDUCATES WOMEN ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PROMOTING A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT

In May 2010, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)'s outreach campaign throughout the country, was mostly aimed at sensitizing women.

UNOCI organized training sessions for women on the fight against sexual violence and impunity, for a better dissemination of UN Security Council Resolution 1820, the training in leaders and how they can contribute to creating and maintaining a peaceful electoral environment. Women from Korhogo, Vavoua and Dimbokro, welcomed the UN mission and expressed their gratitude for its support.

On May 20, in Korhogo, some 580 km north of Abidjan, the advocates of the fight against sexual violence attended a training workshop on the knowledge and the reinforcement of Resolution 1820 as a means to effectively fight against these abuses. The workshops organized by UNOCI, were essentially on the "Implementation of the UN Resolution 1820."

In this regard, Yacouba Doumbia of UNOCI's Gender Unit outlined the problem of sexual violence in Côte d'Ivoire and showed how the resolution could be used as a means to fight against these practices during the conflict and post-conflict period.

According to Koné Ahmed of the Association of Women for Family and Community Health (AFESFAC), the workshop was appreciated by the participants. He said that the training strengthened relations between diverse organizations and improved the fight against sexual violence and impunity. "The lack of synergy between actors was weakening our actions on the ground," he said.

For Second Lieutenant Aman Kouassi Guillaume of the Integrated Command Centre (ICC), the presence of the police



Women are ready to join the fight against sexual violence © UN / ONUCI

at the training was intended to reassure the population and demonstrate the strong desire of the government to end impunity.

For their part, women asked the members of the Platform of the fight against gender-based violence to spread the recommendations of the training and the resolution.

In Vavoua, a town situated some 500 km northwest of Abidjan, UNOCI's Gender Unit and Electoral Assistance Division organized a training in leadership skills on 18 May 2010. This was as a result of recommendations made at a women's workshop during UNOCI Days – the Mission's sensitization and information campaign to create a peaceful electoral environment - in December 2009.

For three days, 40 women from civil society groups, political parties and various ethnic communities were trained in leadership skills and mobilization techniques, the management of women's organizations, and conflict

prevention and management. They also discussed their role in the electoral process. According to Tra Siagbé of the Gender Unit, the training was aimed at "helping members of women's organizations in Vavoua to better organize and manage their affairs and also increase their participation in decision-making".

In Dimbokro, about 65 km east of Yamoussoukro, 105 women of various groups and associations based in the town participated in UNOCI's outreach campaign to create and maintain a peaceful electoral environment on 12 May 2010.

UNOCI Public Information Officer, Mrs. Marie Puchon, asked the women to become more involved in strengthening social cohesion within their families, neighborhoods and organizations in order to ensure that forthcoming elections are conducted in an atmosphere of nonviolence.

By Marie-Mactar Niang

UNOCI ORGANISES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL ENVIRONMENT IN BANGOLO, BONDOKOU, DIVO AND DUEKOUÉ

Using sport as a means of preventing conflicts and strengthening social cohesion is not a new idea. For some time now, the UN has incorporated sport in its actions to promote peace.

In view of the forthcoming elections, the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has been organizing football encounters throughout the country to promote the need to create a peaceful electoral environment. The towns of Bangolo and Duekoué in the west, Divo in the south and Bondoukou in the Zanzan region northwest of Côte d'Ivoire were the venues for mass mobilization activities between 22 and 29 May 2010.

In Duekoué, the head of the UNOCI delegation, Severin Agbonoukon, said the organization of the tournament in the western town was aimed at bringing the various communities together so as to facilitate interaction.

The Mayor of the town, Victor Tikpao, called on the population to spread the message of peace in their homes and communities so that Côte d'Ivoire can overcome the crisis it has been going through for the past eight years.

The football tournament brought together four competing teams from Guiglo, Guehieby, Guezon and Duekoué. A match between two women teams preceded the final which ended with a victory for Duekoué, who beat Guiglo by 2 goals to nil.

In the regional capital of Sud Bandama, the tournament was labelled "UNOCI and Divo play for a peaceful electoral environment". The Security and Defence Forces beat a selection of civil society associations by 1 goal to nil in the women's category while in the men's category, a team comprising local teachers beat the Security Forces by penalties after the 90-minute match ended in a goalless draw.

On behalf of the organizing committee, the Commander of the gendarmerie



Football tournaments to create a peaceful environment have become vectors of peace
© UN / ONUCI

company of Sud Bandama, Captain Basile Danho Basile expressed satisfaction with the public enthusiasm for the event and praised UNOCI for the initiative, which he said had helped to ease the population's suffering at this crucial moment in the life of Côte d'Ivoire.

The Regional Director of Youth, Sport and Urban Hygiene, Athanase Otchoumou, who presided over the event, declared that UNOCI had attained its objective of creating a peaceful electoral environment in Divo. "The messages of peace read by the team captains have gone a long way to making us aware of the capacity of sport as a factor of social cohesion, which is necessary to establish a peaceful electoral environment," he said.

In Bangolo, the final of the Maracana football match in the women's category ended in a victory for Vankao over the United Plateau Youths, while in the men's category, Flamengo beat

Maracana Club after penalties. The resident Mayor of the town, Mamadou Toure said by organizing the event in which all the communities took an active part, "UNOCI had come to heal the wounds caused by the conflict." The deputy prefect, Richard Zenin Bi, called on the population to cultivate, like sportsmen, the spirit of fair play in their daily lives.

In Bondoukou, the Koun-Fao team won the peace trophy by beating Yezimala by 1-nil at the Place de la Culture field on 29 May in a well-attended match. The event provided an occasion for the first secretary-general of the Prefecture, Victor Gnanbli Diby to pay homage to UN peacekeeping troops who died for the cause of peace throughout the world and especially in Haiti and also to praise UNOCI for restoring peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

By Salvator Ndabazerutse, Joseph Wabatinga, Samy Passalet et Pierre Aby

UNOCI AND NGO TRANSPARENCY JUSTICE PROMOTE “PRACTICAL GUIDE TO JUSTICE”

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in collaboration with the NGO, Transparency Justice and the Canadian Embassy, organized a workshop in Korhogo, 580 km from Abidjan, on Thursday, 18 May 2010, to present to the public a “Practical Guide to Justice”, which was distributed to some 100 representatives of NGOs and civil society.

According to UNOCI official, Mrs. Margaret Anaminyi, who was representing the Mission's Regional Coordinator for Sector East, “it is very useful during this period of the resumption of the electoral appeals to inform the population about the procedure for the issuance of certain official documents they may require.”

Mr. Corbeil Siakam Techumani of UNOCI's Rule of Law Section highlighted the UN's support for every initiative to resolve the Ivorian crisis. He recalled that in order to resolve the crisis and especially with regard to post-crisis reconstruction, Côte d'Ivoire should reinforce and modernise its legal framework in order to facilitate access to justice for all.

He said each individual should know the legal system and his rights no matter his level of education. The restoration of the rule of law, according to UNOCI's expert, must begin with information that people need to know regarding certain legal instruments.

For Judge Manlan Ehounou Kan Laurent, President of Transparency Justice, the objective of the Guide, which contains 27 judicial and



The main speakers at the workshop to present the guide in Korhogo © UN / UNOCI

administrative decisions, was to help Ivorians know their judicial system through the regular legal decisions it issues.

“The more the citizen is educated, the more he is inclined to protect his rights if they are violated and the more he is inclined to participate in the activities of his society,” said Mr. Techumani.

According to the secretary-general of the Prefecture, Mr. Famy Rene Kouame, the development of a country depended on a strong and independent judiciary which guarantees the rights of citizens and their property.

Two presentations were made, one by Corbeil Siakam Techumani of the Rule of Law Office, on access to justice and another by Judge Manlan Ehounou Kan Laurent, President of Transparency

Justice on the “The Practical Guide to Justice”.

The ceremony was attended by the State counsel at Korhogo Magistrate's court, Mr. Dah Roger Charlemagne, who expressed the hope that the focal points designated in Korhogo would help promote the work of Transparency Justice in order to inform a greater number of people.

Similar workshops to promote the Practical Guide to Justice funded by UNOCI, have already taken place in Daloa on 28 April and in Bouake on 29 May 2010. It is part of UNOCI's efforts to assist the Ivorian government to re-establish state authority and the rule of law throughout Côte D'Ivoire.

By Bakary Bakayoko

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