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Editorial

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, met the panel of African Union heads of state mandated by their peers of the continental organisation to find a peaceful solution to the Ivorian post-election crisis.

Mr. Choi briefed the Chadian, Mauritanian, South African and Tanzanian presidents on the role played by the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in the management of the electoral process, in particular with regard to certification. He once

again explained the methodology that enabled him to certify both the first and second rounds of the presidential election.

During the one-hour meeting, in which the chairmen of the African Union and Economic Community of West African States commissions participated, Mr. Choi recalled that the role of certifier had been conferred upon him at the request of the Ivorian parties to the Pretoria Agreement of 6 April 2005 and the Ouagadougou Political Agreement of 4 March 2007 ■■■

1 *UNOCI in action*

UNOCI's management at the side of the staff

Encouraging the staff of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), sharing with them the three key elements of the mission's mandate and finding responses to the current socio-political questions were among the salient points of a meeting between UNOCI's Bouaké team and representatives of the mission's management, held on Saturday 18 February in the central town.

For over two months now, UNOCI has been confronted with enormous difficulties in carrying out its logistical operations and activities, as a consequence of the post-election crisis. The management of the UN mission has taken up the duty of sustaining its civilian and military components.

The discussions centered on the latest developments of the socio-political situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the position of UNOCI in the resolution of the crisis. The Chief of Staff of the mission

recalled UNOCI's mandate, which focuses mainly on three points: ensure the protection of the civilian population, provide security for the Golf Hotel and safeguard the results of the 28 November 2010 presidential election. No issue was avoided, whether political, economic or social.

Security was also among the issues that the meeting focused on. Participants further discussed the humanitarian situation in the western town of Duékoué, the reopening of schools in the central, northern and western zones and UNOCI's support for the panel of heads of state mandated by the African Union, four of whose five members arrived in Abidjan on 21 February as scheduled.

The team from Abidjan promised to provide the sections concerned with full support to ensure that the UNOCI functionaries work in the best possible conditions to support the crisis-resolution process in Côte d'Ivoire.

2 *UNOCI and the press*

Ndolamb Ngokwey, United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Côte d'Ivoire, addressed journalists on Thursday 24 February at UNOCI's weekly press conference, whose main focus was on humanitarian issues. Excerpts:

"More than 13,000 persons have received kits of non-food items, comprising mats, soap, blankets and pots, from the ICRC, UNICEF and UNHCR.

"With regard to water and sanitation, UNICEF and its partners have supplied displaced persons in Duékoué and Danané with 750 twenty-litre jerry cans, 250 buckets, and 1,000 aquada tablets for purifying water.

"There are already 20,000 family tents prepositioned in Daloa that will be used in the new camp for internally displaced persons in Duékoué and in Danané. With



regard to education, UNICEF has distributed school supplies for kindergarten teachers and for 4,000 pupils as well as playthings for 2,500 children in IDP camps in Duékoué, Man and Danané.

Internally displaced persons have been registered in the centre and east of the country, along with hundreds of others in Daloa, Lakota and Issia.

Where the refugees are concerned, UNHCR have registered 39,685 Ivorians in Liberia. Guinea has received 800 refugees and Togo 252."

3 *Sensitization in Tengrela*

Like their compatriots in the localities of Ferkessedougou, Boundiali and Napié in the Savanes Region, the population of Tengrela, 860 km north of Abidjan, reaffirmed in 16 February 2011 its commitment to maintaining a peaceful post-election environment.

At an awareness-building day organised by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) administrative, political and military authori-



ties, traditional chiefs, women, youths and NGO members confirmed, through their presence, their commitment to peace. The Prefect of Tengrela Department, Issa Coulibaly, noted that as a result of the preventive nature of UNOCI's sensitization, the presidential election was peaceful in his locality. He said the sensitization day would help to make the existing cohesion more lasting, adding "Elections come and go but people remain; each one is free to have his/her opinion and choice, but we must remain together to make sure politics do not divide our community."

Earlier, the head of UNOCI's delegation, Patricia Nwoteigho of the Human Rights Division, stressed that, instead of being a source of discouragement, the post-election crisis should, on the contrary, be a stimulant for the promotion of peace and social cohesion. "Everyone, at every level, is an essential element of the nation's future, so we urge you to take up your pilgrim's staff and raise the awareness of your relatives, friends and acquaintances on the need to maintain a peaceful environment that favours the development of the society and the individual," she said. "You have certainly begun, but you should arm yourselves with will and perseverance so as to convince those around you that the future cannot be built without peace".

4 *Human rights situation*

The importance of human rights for elections in a crisis-resolution framework...

When successfully organised, elections can lead to strong, legitimate national institutions. Thus, the extent to which human rights are respected and taken into account in the electoral process determines, in the final analysis, the legitimacy of the leaders who emerge from the polls as well as their capacity to govern effectively.

What determines whether an election is free or not is its capacity to facilitate the expression of the political will of the people, which is the foundation

of the very legitimacy of public authority.

Respect for all basic human rights leads to a climate conducive to free elections. Article 21, paragraph 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures".

Victims, witnesses, women, children, elderly and handicapped persons, military, police or ordinary citizens, help us to work for the respect of human rights and to fight against impunity.

Contact the **Green** line of UNOCI's Human Rights Office by telephone at: **06.20.80.59** or **20.23.80.59** or by email: hcdh.ci@un.org

5 *Peace message*

The Prefect of Tengréla:

« THERE CAN NEVER BE TOO MUCH SENSITIZATION »

The Prefect of the district of Tengréla (north of the country), Issa Coulibaly, speaking at a sensitization day for the preservation of a peaceful post-election environment, organized by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) highlighted the preventive nature of the mission's sensitization sessions, as a result of which the presidential poll in his locality was peaceful. He added that he hoped the population would practice the mission's teachings for the promotion of harmonious development. For him, UNOCI's sensitization day would help



to reinforce cohesion. "I am glad to meet you again today. One could say nothing happened in Tengréla so there is no need to organize this sensitization session. I say no. There can never be too much advice; there can never be too much sensitization. I congratulate you for having maintained proper language and good manners. We should keep up this conviviality, this true fraternity, this desire to live together as we have always done. Division does not achieve anything," he said.

6 *Portrait of the Force*

■ UNMIL's Force Commander in Bouaké

The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), General Muhammad Khalid, on 23 February went to the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Bouaké within the framework of intermission cooperation.

The meeting he held with UNOCI's Deputy Force Commander, Brigadier General Freeman Benjamin Kusi and the Commander of Sector East, General Malick Hussain Fida, revolved around security and peace. It should be recalled that UNOCI's troops will very soon receive logistical support from UNMIL. For his part, the Deputy Force Commander, General Kusi, recalled that the military collaboration between the two missions was perfect.

This is evidenced by the many joint air and road patrols organized for the protection of the population in the two neighbouring countries. After the



discussions with UNOCI's Deputy Force Commander, General Khalid visited the troops of the UNMIL's Ukrainian aviation unit, now based in Côte d'Ivoire, and UNOCI's Pakistani contingent.

■ Why UNOCI patrols are necessary



UNOCI's military forces are pursuing their missions throughout the Ivorian territory. Aerial and ground patrols have been intensified throughout Cote d'Ivoire to face the difficult security situation that has obtained since 28 November 2010. During the week of 14 to 20 February 2011, 866 patrols were executed.

These patrols help ensure freedom of movement and a climate of security, as was the case on Saturday, 19 February 2011 in the Abidjan neighbourhood of Abobo. The presence of peacekeepers averted clashes between protesters and Defense and Security Forces. «The presence of UNOCI troops in hotspots and on roads ensured free movement of UN personnel, the protection of equipment and facilities of the mission and the provision of assistance to populations who are threatened and harassed,» UNOCI Force Commander General Abdul Hafiz said.

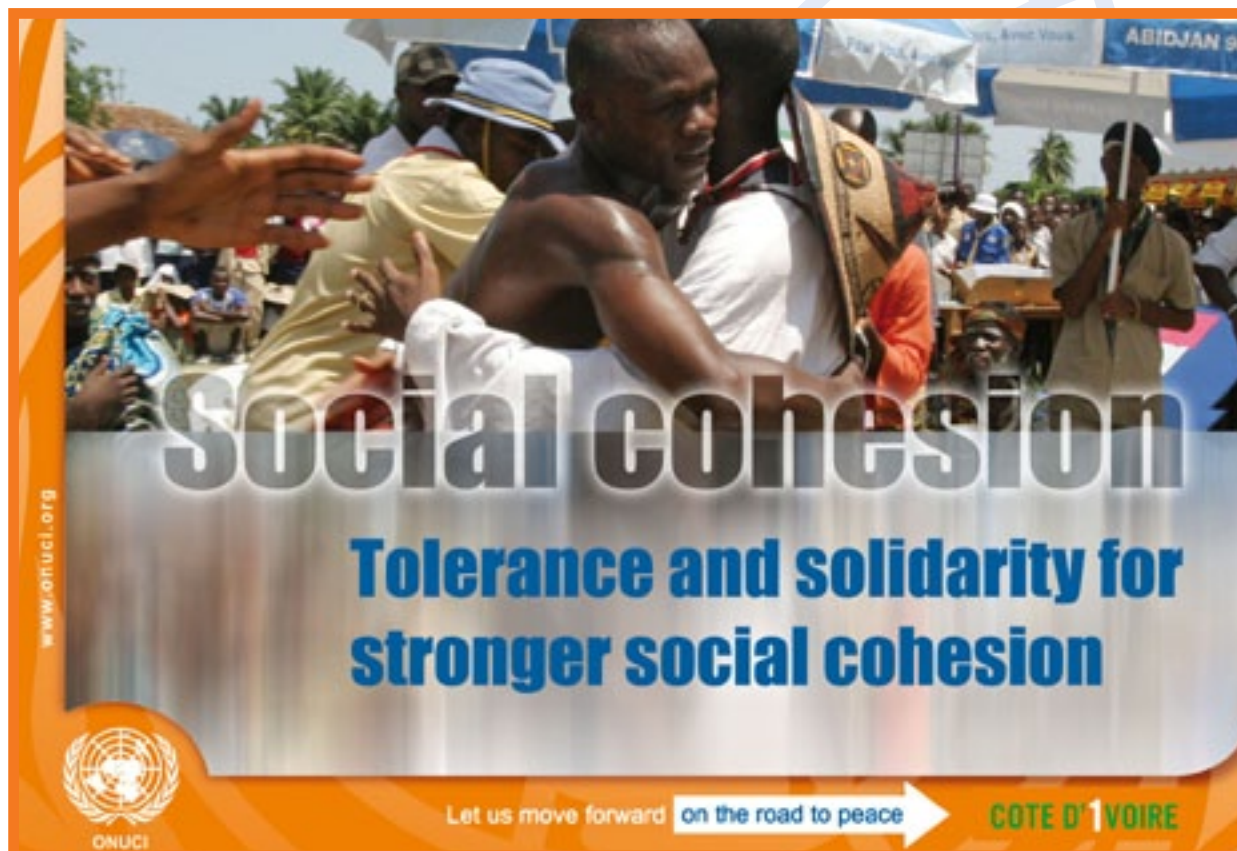
■ Bangladeshi peacekeepers put out fire at IEC headquarters in Man

A team of eighteen (18) peacekeepers from the Bangladeshi battalion (BANBATT 3) extinguished, on 22 February 2011, a fire that broke out around 3 am on the same day at the headquarters of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in Man. The building, which was almost completely gutted, is located in the town's Lycée neighborhood.

Banbatt needed two water tanks of 18,000 liters each - a total of 36,000 liters of water - to tackle the flames. Lieutenant Colonel Jahangir, deputy battalion commander, reaffirmed the availability of the UN mission to assist and support the Ivorian population in times of difficulty, within the limits of its resources.



7 *Image of the week*



8 *On ONUCI FM...*

ONUFI FM, the radio of peace, whose goal is to help Ivorians build peace and national reconciliation, offers regular newscasts every day from 7:00 a.m. The radio of peace also offers feature, cultural, music and other programmes.

ONUFI FM invites you to listen to our “special guest” this Saturday at 8:12 a.m. Garbadrome offers you a satire on social cohesion, a very important component of national reconciliation, while “Histoire d’ici” will take you this week to the village

of Lolobo. Health is the cornerstone of social development, so let’s make an appointment with “Tell me, Doctor”.

Finally do not forget “The Kpakpato pressé”, an off-beat way of crunching the daily news, and catch up on any news you may have missed with the weekly digest on Saturday.

Tune in to **ONUFI FM**, the radio of peace, for full details on these and other broadcasts.

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