



CONTENTS

editorial

- 1 UNOCI in action
- 2 UNOCI meets the press
- 3 Sensitisation
- 4 Messages of peace
- 5 Post-crisis situation
- 6 Portrait
- 7 Image of the week
- 8 What's new on ONU CI FM...?

Editorial

The question of re-launching local, regional and national dialogue has become the main preoccupation among Cote d'Ivoire's partners including the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). UNOCI's top management has been organizing multi-faceted meetings with all the actors of the political and socio-economic life of Cote d'Ivoire to discuss the issue of an inclusive and lasting dialogue. On its part, the Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation has resumed consultations with the different political parties in a bid to re-launch republican dialogue in Cote d'Ivoire which is indispensable for the country to turn over a new leaf after a decade of crisis, worsened by the post electoral conflict. Other groups such as associations and religious communities are equally concerned with this endeavour to settle what appears to be a stumbling block to efforts aimed at reducing tension. Despite the jolting experience of recent weeks, Cote d'Ivoire remains a favourite destination for businessmen and especially international institutions. The visit to Cote d'Ivoire on 4 September by the newly appointed World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, the first he has undertaken abroad, is a strong message to Ivorian authorities and the population. It is mark of attention given to a country just coming out of conflict and a fragile condition. This puts an additional pressure on Ivorian authorities to address the problems of health, education, employment especially for the youth, roads, and justice. The World Bank President made it a point to reassure the authorities and the people of the bank's readiness to assist the country in its development drive. In a press conference before going on to South Africa for the next leg of

his regional tour, Mr. Kim called on the country to engage in political dialogue, turn its back on their differences and kick start its economic development; above all take a step backward to take two forward, as the saying goes. It has been proven every time the situation requires a step backward to take a leap in order to surmount an obstacle. Judging from what has been going on in the west of the country with the recurrence of land disputes, security and humanitarian problems, one tends to question why there is this repetitive situation of 'two steps forward and three steps backward' which the helpless population is experiencing. It is important to show the evolution of the situation in the west or run the risk of relegating the region to the ghetto and stigmatizing its population. Even if the multiple efforts of the actors in the field –communal and administrative authorities, development partners and the impartial forces- fall short of the expected dimension, even if some pessimists have the tendency to consider these efforts as a drop in the ocean, one cannot deny that the management of the problems of this region remains today like yesterday a priority, an emergency that features on the agenda of civil society, the authorities, development partners and the international community. To continue to maintain this attention and collective interest, bringing to the open difficult and crucial issues, making known the progress, albeit small, constitute a good reason to hope for a peace that has been patiently and profoundly reconstructed in the West. On the national level, the recent signals sent by the different political parties are encouraging to say the least and these efforts ought to be encouraged and supported for them to bear fruit.

1 UNOCI in action

• UNOCI AND IEC REVIEW ELECTORAL PROCESS

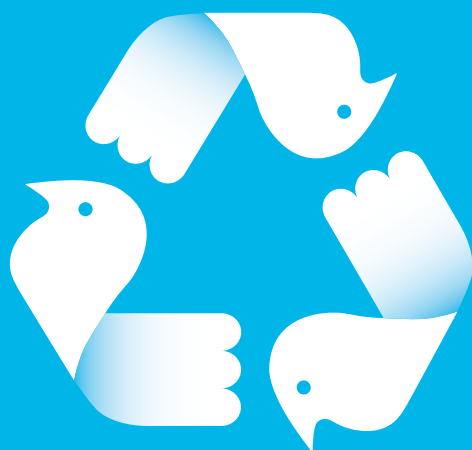
On 4 September the Deputy Special Representative in charge of Political Affairs, Arnauld Akodjenou met with the President of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Yousouf Bakayoko to discuss electoral issues including arrangements for the holding of legislative by-elections in the Bonon and Facobly constituencies as well as other constituencies where there is a



vacancy resulting from the death of a parliamentarian, and arrangements for the organization of local elections. The meeting, described by the DSRSG as constructive, was the second in less than one month between the IEC President and UNOCI's top hierarchy. On 16 August, the Special Representative Bert Koenders met with Mr. Bakayoko to explore ways in which UNOCI can assist IEC in the next stages of the electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire.

• DSRSG MEETS HEAD OF MOSLEM CLERICS

Deputy SRSG Arnauld Akodjenou met with the President of the Higher Council of Imams, Boikari Fofana on Friday 31 August to review the socio-political situation in Cote d'Ivoire. Mr. Akodjenou said they agreed on the need to do everything possible to assist political actors to re-launch dialogue. The Imam on his part said the country cannot progress without peace. "We understand the government's firmness. We, as religious leaders, hope to lead all the children of this country toward peace," the Imam concluded.



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF PEACE**
21 SEPTEMBER, 2012



• UNOCI LENDS SUPPORT FOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN BOUAKE

UNOCI's Pakistani Battalion based in Bouake gave logistic, material and medical support to the finals of an inter-village football tournament on Saturday 1 September 2012 in the town of Bouake. Eight villages took part in the competition organized to help holiday makers refrain from certain unhealthy habits and to reinforce social cohesion among the youths. UNOCI Commander for Sector East, Brigadier-General Muhammad Youssaf said "the support was in response to a request by the village Chief of Kouadio-Assekro and the youths of the area and is proof of the level of understanding and collaboration between UNOCI and the population." The Pakistani Battalion helped to rehabilitate the football field which been rendered useless by the heavy seasonal rains, provided security and medical assistance during the tournament, and made available a variety of promotional items, jerseys and the trophy. Several local



administrators, traditional authorities and the military attended the event during which the population demonstrated their commitment to social cohesion and reconciliation.

2 UNOCI meets the press :

UNOCI's weekly press conference was held at the mission's HQ in Abidjan on Thursday 6 September with Spokesperson Sylvie Van Den Wildenberg as host. Here are some excerpts of the conference:

Support for peace process

«The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) welcomes the current consultations between Ivorian political actors in a bid to re-launch republican dialogue as requested by the UN Security Council in Resolution 2062 adopted on 26 July 2012. The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Cote d'Ivoire is ready to support every constructive action within the framework of this dynamic.»

Security

«The week just ended was marked by persistent rumours of imminent attacks on the national territory especially in the West and South of the country. This was the case in the Toulepleu zone where rumours of impending attacks spread panic among the population last weekend and early in the week. As a result, UNOCI's Moroccan battalion, and UN Police have reinforced vigilance,



reinforced security arrangements and patrols to reassure the population.»

«There has been an intensification of joint patrols between UNPOL-MILOBS and the Ivorian Army (FRCI). 1,900 land and air patrols were conducted by UNOCI Forces in the week just ended.»

UN Force supports social work

«The engineering corps of UNOCI's Pakistani battalion has so far completed 24 km of rehabilitation work on the 35 km Tai-Sakre-Zriglo main road that would facilitate access to the west by humanitarian organizations.»

«Blue Helmets provided 2495 free medical consultations and treatment and distributed 46,500 litres of drinking water to the needy in the past week.»

«Following news of a prison break in which dozens of detainees escaped from the Daloa Prison, UNOCI responded immediately through its Rule of Law Office and UNPOL to assist Ivorian authorities to deal with the situation. For the past several months, UNOCI has been giving technical assistance aimed at improving security in detention centres throughout the country.»

«On 4 September, UNPOL organized a seminar to train some 30 policemen on the use of computers for compiling reports related to judicial matters, gender, human rights and child protection.»

Sensitisation

«UNOCI continued its sensitization campaign to pro-

mote peace, social cohesion and reconciliation throughout the national territory and notably in Grand Lahou which hosted United Nations Days which for three days brought the UN family in contact with the population, local authorities, the security forces, traditional leaders, media practitioners and civil society.»

«On the 8 and 9 September, campaigns will take place in Odienne (North-West) and in Guianle commune (590 km north of Abidjan on 13 September.»

«Sport for peace and cultural activities have also been scheduled for Legouale (565 km north-west of Abidjan) on 7 September; 8 September in Odienne; 9 September in Goh and 13 September in Iboguhe, 28 km from Issia.»

3 Sensitisation :

• Human Rights division at the service of reconstruction

The Human Rights Division of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on 6 and 7 September organized a seminar in Yamoussoukro for some 60 staff of the Police, gendarmerie, the Army, Customs, Marine and Water and Forestry to educate them on the basics of human rights. The course was designed to give them practical knowledge of the national regional and international instruments governing human rights. Subjects treated included the responsibility of defense and security forces in the protection of human rights and the consequences of violating these rights. The seminar which focused on professional standards and ethics was jointly organized by UNOCI, the Ivorian Ministries of Culture and Francophonie, and Human Rights and Civil Liberties.



Make your voice heard



United Nations

- **General Assembly of Ivorian press met in Yamoussoukro to map out new take off**

The General Assembly of Ivorian media practitioners held in Yamoussoukro from 30 to 31 August 2012 to examine ways of making the press more independent and improving performance as well as improving the socio-economic working conditions of media people. UNOCI took part in the meeting as an observer. Deliberations which held under the auspices of the Ivorian Ministry of Communication were aimed at diagnosing problems related to professional journalism practice in Cote d'Ivoire and to define conditions for the emergence of an independent and professional press that respects professional and ethical standards. Discussions focused on finding appropriate responses to professional shortcomings, especially through the legal framework governing professional practice and improving the socio-economic environment of the profession. The following recommendations were directed especially to the supervisory ministry, the regulatory and self-regulatory organs and to professional associations. They envisage:

1. Revision of law no. 2004-643 of 14 December 2004 with the aim of adapting to an ever changing press environment.
2. Full application of law no. 2004-643 of 14 December 2004 while waiting for effective revision.
3. Harmonization of training programmes and pedagogic content of professional journalistic training and the reinforcement of capacities of state institutions charged with journalistic training.
4. Adoption by journalists of the new code of profes-



5. Creating favourable conditions to guarantee professional practice in newsrooms.
6. Taking into account the digital enterprise by regulatory and self regulatory organs.
7. Adopting measures to guarantee the security of journalists and media enterprises.
8. Taking action to sensitise, inform and educate the public on the media and legal instruments protecting their rights and mechanisms for redress available to the public in case of damages incurred as a result of press malpractice.

Participants hailed the commitment of the supervisory ministry for putting in place an evaluation and follow up committee to ensure the implementation of these recommendations.

- **Elites and opinion leaders in Oume implement resolutions taken at UNOCI seminar**

The elites of Oume met on 1 September in Oume to set up a platform for social cohesion, national reconciliation and development. This was in response to an urgent need expressed by the elites and opinion leaders during a regional seminar organized by UNOCI in Gagnoa on the 29 and 30 May 2012 on their role in promoting social cohesion and national reconciliation. The platform is a formal framework headed by the Prefectural authorities to engage all the citizens of the Goh region in the peace process. One of the elite remarked that it was the first time since 2000 that a meeting bringing together all the elites was taking place.



- **UNOCI discusses with opinion leaders about their contribution to national reconciliation.**

UNOCI organized a sensitization session on 3 September with opinion leaders of Tortiya (516 km north of Abidjan). The theme of discussion was <Traditional chiefs, women and youths of Tortiya and the challenges of a lasting peace>. The sub Prefect and Mayor of Tortiya took part in the discussions which brought together some 100 participants including community leaders and traditional hunters of the Niakaramadougou division. Mr. Mohamed Eissa of UNOCI's Human Rights Division spoke of the contribu-



tion of the UN mission in the Ivorian crisis resolution process. The sub Prefect made allusion to the recent troubling events and concluded it was time to establish harmonious relations among all the inhabitants of Cote d'Ivoire. Among a number of issues raised were the conflicts between cattle grazers and crop farmers, the leadership role of traditional Chiefs, support to women's groups for the realization of income generating activities, youth unemployment, and the rehabilitation of the municipal secondary school and coverage of the area by ONUCUI FM signal.

- **Djebonoua population adhere to peace dynamic**



The people of Djebonoua (326 km north of Abidjan) have demonstrated their commitment to work for peace and reconciliation. The pledge was made during a maracana football tournament organized by UNOCI on 4 September 2012 at the public square which was packed full with men and women of all ages and different origins to watch the match between the teams from Konzo and Sessekro villages. The event was organized within the framework of UNOCI's campaign to promote peace and social cohesion. The administrative secretary of the town council, Mrs. Attah Akua Claude Olga "called on the population to regard the UNOCI initiative as an opportunity to break down barriers between them." Mr. Kassimi Bamba of UNOCI's Political Affairs Office called on the inhabitants to join their efforts and all their energy to restore a lasting peace in Djebonoua and throughout Cote d'Ivoire. The Member of Parliament from the area, Bernard Kouakou Yao appealed for a spirit of forgiveness and dialogue among the population.

4 Messages of peace...

Mrs. Atta Akua Claude Olga, Administrative Service Chief of Town Council. (Maracana tournament organised by UNOCI in Djebonoua)

<<Through its different activities, UNOCI works for the physical, moral, spiritual and material welfare of the people. Everywhere it strives to create an atmosphere of unity, peace and social cohesion. >>

Mr. Bernard Kouakou Yao, MP for Djebonoua. (Maracana tournament in Djebonoua)

<<Dialogue is the weapon of the strong. One should always seek dialogue. Let us anticipate conflict by dialoguing because without peace, we can do nothing. >> He concluded by recommending all Ivorians to cultivate the spirit of peace and reconciliation so that Cote d'Ivoire can find peace and stability.

5 Post-crisis situation :

Resolving the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire requires the contribution of all the components of the society, all the sectors of activity, and all the different national and international partners. In the previous edition of UNOCI WEEKLY we examined the situation of human rights with particular reference to transitional justice and the role of UNOCI. In this edition, we take a broader look at the issue of human rights.

More than a year after the post-electoral crisis and despite progress made in the area of transitional justice with the putting in place of legal mechanisms and non legal mechanisms such as the Commission for Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation and the national investigative commission, a number of challenges still remain in the domain of national reconciliation, the fight against impunity and at the security level. The security situation deteriorated during the months of July and August 2012 and was marked by several attacks of Army (FRCI) positions by armed men. As a result of these attacks, FRCI carried out several operations during which persons suspected of involvement in the attacks were arrested and detained, often in violation of legal procedures and kept beyond the stipulated duration for holding persons in custody. Article 137 of the Criminal Procedure Code, modified by Law No. 96-673 of 29/08/1996 stipulates that freedom is a right while preventive detention is an exception. Should the Police require keeping a person or persons in custody for the purpose of investigation, such custody shall not go beyond 48 hours. The Prosecutor could extend custody by another 48 hours (Art. 76). Faced with this situation of arrests, UNOCI's Human Rights Division (HRD), in accordance with its mandate to promote and protect human rights in Cote d'Ivoire, has drawn the attention of the Ivorian authorities on the need to respect legal procedures, and international standards

regarding the arrests and detention of persons. To this end, HRD organizes training workshops on the principles of human rights in relation to arrests and detention in order to bring the Police and gendarmerie and the Judicial Police to conform to these principles. Thus between July and August 2012, more than 400 officers and sub officers of the Police and Gendarmerie from Abidjan and some areas of the West (Duekoue, Bolequin, Guiglo and Touleupleu) have been drilled on human rights norms. These workshops fall within the framework of the Support Project for the Re-establishment of Security jointly set up by UNOCI and the UN System in Cote d'Ivoire and financed by a consolidated fund of the UN. A similar project aimed at a wider group including the Army (FRCI), the Police, Gendarmerie, Forest Guards and Customs and implemented in collaboration with national and international NGOs had been initiated since November 2011 and covers the national territory including Abidjan, San Pedro, Daloa, Man Guiglo, Duekoue and Bouake and focuses on human rights, the rule of law and the protection of the vulnerable components of society. Yet another project financed by the International Organisation of Francophonie has been set in motion by HRD on 6 and 7 September 2012 in collaboration with the Ivorian Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Liberties, and the National Commission on Francophonie.

6 *Portrait : Dja Akissi Danièle,*

Communication for the restoration of peace in Cote d'Ivoire.

Dynamic, committed, passionate competent and professional are all words that have been used to describe Daniele Akisi Dja otherwise known as Mrs. Zan. This mother of two young boys is a holder of a Maitrise in Communication from the University of Bouake. Before joining UNOCI, she was a part time lecturer in certain professional schools in Yamoussoukro and served as supervisor of a camp of the International Rescue Committee between 2005-2007 on its programme of Protection, return and re-integration in Man. She joined UNOCI in April 2010 as an assistant officer of information with the Public Information Office in Odienne. Far from her birthplace in Bodokro in the Bouake region, Daniele Zan set for herself the objective of supporting and encouraging the Kabadougou, Folon and Bafing regions to move toward real and sincere reconciliation aimed at a lasting peace. She has initiated a number of sensitization and advocacy activities aimed at giving the local

authorities and the population the opportunity to contribute to the peace process. As she likes to say, "Peace has no price, but war has a price." That is why in all her sensitization activities in which she takes an active part, Daniele Zan calls on the population to accept reconciliation in truth, justice and forgiveness while respecting the laws and institutions of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.



7 *Image of the week*



Let us advance on **the road to peace** →

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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

Every day ONUCI FM brings you a full newscast at 7h, 8h, 12h and 18h and the news-in-brief as from 9h.

- On Monday 10 September at 7h40 ONUCI FM Action presents the NGO «Femmes en Action de Cote d'Ivoire» which is working to eradicate illiteracy, trains women and young girls in the rural area.

- Tuesday 11 September at 8h40 ONUCI FM Action will let you learn more about the National League for inter-ethnic alliances in Cote d'Ivoire. At 20h «Racine et Retour» will bring you music old timers of Cote d'Ivoire and Africa of the 1960s to 1990s.

- Wednesday 12 September at 7h40 ONUCI FM Reportage takes you to the Tiapoum division where peace and reconciliation have been restored after the legislative election. At 14h30 «Espace Enfant» brings you a variety programme for the very young. At 15h reggae music in

ReggaeTime.

- Thursday 13 September at 7h40 ONUCFM Reportage invites you to discover l'Atelier d'Application et de Production in Odienne. At 9h10, travel through time and discover the history of Cote d'Ivoire in «Histoire d'Ici».

- Friday 14 September the Radio for peace will commemorate the international day of democracy. At 7h40 ONUCI FM Reportage focuses on dialogue within the family. At 20h latin American music in «Caliente»

- On Saturday Zik Culture brings you news of the world of showbiz. At 19h «Destination Musique» presents the latest in the world of music.

- On Sunday from 16h-18h «Dimanche Sport» presents the national, African and world arenas of sport. At 17h «San Frontiere» takes you on a touristic, gastronomic, musical and cultural journey of a given country.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1820

SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Together we say **NO!**

To impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence



UNOCI GENDER UNITY

Let's advance on the road to peace



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

ONU CI FM's FREQUENCIES

ABENGOUROU 94.7 • ABIDJAN 96.0 • ADZOPE 96.0 • BANGOLO 91.1 • BONDOUKOU 100.1 • BOUAKÉ 95.3 • BOUNA 102.8
BOUNDIALI 90.0 • DABAKALA 93.9 DALOA 91.4 • DANANÉ 97.6 DAOUKRO 94.7 • DUEKOUÉ 91.1
FERKESSEDOUGOU • 104.4 • GAGNOA 91.4 • GUIGLO 93.7 • KORHOGO 95.3 MAN 95.3 • ODIENNÉ 101.1 • SAN-PEDRO 106.3
SEGUELA 101.8 TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93.7 • YAMOUSSOUKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

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