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## *Editorial*

### SECURITY AND EASING POLITICAL TENSION: TWO MAIN CHALLENGES FOR UNOCI

**T**he security situation in Cote d'Ivoire remains a cause for concern and even if calm reigns throughout the national territory at present, there is need to exercise vigilance. And this, for very good reasons: rumours of attacks still persist in the Grand West, a zone which on several occasions has been the target these recent months of armed individuals who have caused death and sown sorrow wherever they have operated.

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), mandated by the international community to help restore peace in Cote d'Ivoire, has once again taken the frontline in the fight against insecurity, considered to be one of the biggest obstacles to normalization after the painful experience of the post electoral crisis. On the ground, the UNOCI troops continue their patrols and are closely collaborating every day with Ivorian security forces to efficiently counter any subversive acts that could affect the nation's march toward stability.

It would be stating the obvious to say UNOCI does not only concentrate on security. In accordance with its mandate, the mission, without beating about the bush, supports political dialogue. At a time when contacts have begun between the government and the opposition led by the former ruling FPI party, the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders has reiterated his readiness to support every constructive move toward the easing of the tense political atmosphere.

Besides, UNOCI urges the government to do all it can so that the legislative by election in the Bonon and Facobly constituencies be conducted and that the long awaited local elections be held quickly. These elections, in his view and that of the international community, constitute two important stages toward the return to normal constitutional life in Cote d'Ivoire.

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# 1 *Latest news*

- **The Administrator of the UN Development Programme pays four day visit to Cote d'Ivoire**

The Administrator of the UN Development Programme, Helen Clark met with Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara on Thursday 13 September as part of her 4-day official visit to Cote d'Ivoire to discuss the support of the UN System to Cote d'Ivoire's development.

On arrival in Abidjan on September 11, she said she had "come to assess the work done in the field by UNDP and other UN agencies to support Cote d'Ivoire."

Mrs. Clark was scheduled to visit the interior of the country especially Guiglo to acquaint herself with the humanitarian situation in the West of Cote d'Ivoire, which had been most affected by the post electoral crisis that hit the country. She would inaugurate the <UN House> that has been constructed to coordinate humanitarian activities in the zone as well as the administrative quar-



ters of the Prefecture, the Gendarmerie and the Police stations rehabilitated thanks to the UN and the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI).



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## 2 *The week at UNOCI*

### • UNOCI PAYS LAST RESPECTS TO CORPORAL MURAD SAEED MUHAMMAD OF UNPOL/FPU

Dozens of UN Police, Formed Police Unit, UNOCI Force and civilian staff of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire gathered at the esplanade of the Mission's HQ on Monday 11 September 2012 to pay their last respects to Corporal Muraad Saeed Muhammad of UNOCI's Jordanian Formed Police Unit who died on 4 September in Abidjan as a result of ill health. He had been posted to the former American school in the Riviera neighbourhood.

The funeral ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Arnauld Akodjenou in the presence of the Head of the Police component of UNOCI, Commissioner Jean Marie Bhoury.

Before a Guard of Honour was mounted by the forces, the funeral oration was read by the UNPOL Public Information officer, Narcisse Ano who recalled that Corporal Muhammad had performed his duties with honour and devotion. "UNOCI, through me, would like to express its sincere gratitude to his country and family," he concluded.



At the end of the ceremony, colleagues of the deceased spontaneously gathered together to say a prayer for him.

Born on 3 April 1986 in Jordan, Muraad Saeed Muhammad was married and father of two young children.

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## 3 *Sensitisation, Advocacy and Support to partners.*

### • UNOCI assists Ivorian government to train civil servants on human rights

Some 60 civil servants from various government ministries and institutions charged with human rights issues were the beneficiaries of a 2-day training programme organized on 13 September 2012 by the Ivorian Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Liberties with the technical and financial support of UNOCI. The seminar was aimed at reinforcing the capacity of the focal points on matters of human rights. At the opening of the workshop, the Director of Human rights at the Human Rights Ministry, Dr. Bouhaman Kamate recalled that

since independence, Cote d'Ivoire had made a commitment to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in this light, Cote d'Ivoire cooperates with different institutions at various levels.

Participants were to be trained in the techniques of information gathering and reporting on human rights abuses as well as learn about the different human rights mechanisms at the national, regional and international level.



On his part, the UNOCI representative Augustin Some said he was satisfied with the initiative which would permit Cote d'Ivoire to improve its handling of human rights issues through the work of the focal points. The training, he said, would help the participants produce quality reports and respond in a timely manner to commitments. The Minister of Human Rights, Gnenema Coulibaly reiterated Cote d'Ivoire's willingness to consolidate the rule

of law especially after the human rights abuses recorded during the post electoral crisis. He said Cote d'Ivoire was a signatory to several instruments of human rights which commit it to the protection of these rights. Apart from a general introduction to the basic human rights norms, participants were shown a documentary film on the organs charged with the surveillance of human rights treaties and the Periodic Universal Review.

## • UNOCI trains security forces on professional standards and ethics

Some 15 police and gendarme officers underwent a training course on 8 September 2012 organised by UNOCI on professional standards and ethics in Korhogo. UN Police chief in Korhogo, Colonel Jean Louis Dingatoudjou said "we hope by this continuous training to reinforce the capacity of the security to apply the rules of ethics and professional standards." A gendarme officer who was representing the company commander said the training would help participants to cope with difficulties in the field. The training programme which consisted of 11 modules was conducted by UNPOL officers: Dingatoudjou and Eric Murhy de Munani.



- **Sport, culture of peace: The people of Ibogoguhé, Lobolo and Legoualé committed to work for peace.**

Three days of sporting and cultural activities were organized by UNOCI in the villages of Lobolo, Ibogouhe and Legouale by UNOCI to promote social cohesion and reconciliation. At Ibogouhe, 30 km from Daloa and known to be the theatre of violent confrontations between indigenes and settlers, emphasis on the 13 September occasion was placed on reconciliation.

The UNOCI delegation led by Prosper Shabani of the Human Rights office in Daloa called on the population to promote peaceful cohabitation between the different communities. “UNOCI will always stand by you in the context of consolidating peace. However this peace must come from you and must be felt in your daily lives and ability to live in perfect harmony despite your differences,” Mr. Shabani explained.

On his part, the sub Prefect of Ibogouhe, Ba Bi Kale expressed joy at the UNOCI initiative, saying Ibogouhe will never be the same again. He said he hoped the people had understood the need to accept one another.



All the communities including the Gnanbouan indigenes, the Senoufos, the Malinkes, the Baoules and Burkinabe mingled with one another throughout the event marked by songs and dance and other cultural displays. In Lobolo, Attegouakro division, sporting and cultural activities organized under the auspices of UNOCI on 12 September was attended by hundreds of people. The head of the UNOCI delegation, Bettina Kircher said the people should be inspired by the values of sport to reinforce social cohesion in their area. “Sport is a powerful instrument of unity and promotion of peace, tolerance and dialogue. It spreads the values of solidarity, fair play, respect for established rules, dignity in victory as in defeat,” she explained to the villagers. Cecile Senghor

of the Public Information Office in Yamoussoukro called on the different communities in Lobolo to accept their political and religious differences. The village chief, Ndja Brou on his part urged the population to support UNOCI. Sporting activities included maracana football, a marathon race and a traditional game of the Baoule called Ablele. The cultural activities consisted of folk dances and music, and dramatic sketches showcasing messages of peace.

On 7 September, the town of Logouale, near Man hosted a day of cultural and artistic display aimed at promoting peace. The head of the UNOCI delegation to the event Marion Arnaud called on these people of the western part of the country to adhere to the values of sport which include unity, tolerance, fair play, diversity and social cohesion in order to make possible the consolidation of peace in their area. “In order that the country turns its back definitely on the crisis, it is absolutely important that the commitment of every one should be seen in their daily actions and in a radical change of behavior,” she said.

The sub Prefect of Logouale, Adolphe Guehi urged the citizens to profit once more from the cultural and sporting event to harvest the grain of peace being planted by UNOCI throughout the country.

The Mayor’s representative said he was pleased with the decision to choose a sporting and cultural event because of its ability to bring people together in order to share.

The director of sport and leisure of Tonkpi region, Eddo Kouadio encouraged the people of Logouale to practice sport for its physical, intellectual and social benefits.



## 5 *Post crisis action/humanitarian*

- **Three days of sporting and cultural activities were organized by UNOCI in the villages of Lobolo, Ibogouhe and Legouale by UNOCI**

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is in charge of operations aimed at reducing the economic, social and environmental impact of mines and post war explosive devices. It should be noted that action against mines through demining activities has a long term effect because of their considerable impact on the daily life of the people and the communities located in zones where there has been armed conflict. The inhabitants most often live under the threat of left over explosives which include non exploded devices and abandoned explosive devices.

UNMAS is a strong arm of the Rule of law office and security institutions of the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations. The fight against mines comprises five categories of complementary activities: education on the risks posed by mines; humanitarian demining includes technical studies on the presence of mines and left over mines; the mapping of risk areas; cordoning and cleaning up; assistance to victims, including their re-adaptation and reintegration; destruction of mine stocks and advocacy against the use of anti-personnel mines.

Since the 2010/2011 post electoral crisis, UNMAS set up a programme in Cote d'Ivoire known as UNMAS-CI to respond to the immediate needs of the country in terms of the security of persons, economic recovery, and the reinforcement of the capacity of security institutions charged with the management and securisation of arms and ammunition cache.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year UNMAS –CI developed a three-pronged action to support the UNOCI mandate. This comprises:

- Protection of civilian population: this consists in a rapid response to demands for the de-fusing and destruction of explosive devices.
- Support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme of UNOCI by securising arms and ammunition collected during the voluntary arms collection operation carried out by UNOCI in collaboration with the national commission for the fight against the proliferation of small and light weapons.
- Support for security sector reforms in terms of management and securisation of arms and ammunition



stocks (stockpile management in conformity with international standards).

In conformity with UN Security Council resolution 2065 (2012), UNMAS will continue to assist UNOCI thanks to projects such as the rehabilitation and construction of arms depots in response to national priorities, the reinforcement of national capacity in the management of ammunition stocks, assistance to government to enable it attain objectives fixed by the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti personnel mines, the Oslo Convention and conventions of the Economic Community of West African States against the proliferation of small and light weapons.

From a purely strategic point of view, by reinforcing national capacities at a very technical level such as the management of ammunition and neutralizing and destroying explosive devices, UNOCI would be helping to consolidate peace and sustainable development in Cote d'Ivoire.

The setting up of UNMAS activities was done with the collaboration of several national and international actors such as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN High Commission for Refugees, the national commission for the fight against small and light weapons as well as the Ivorian Armed Forces (FRCI), the Police and gendarmerie, the African Union, ECOWAS, and the European Union as well as various donor organizations.

## 6 *Portrait : Colonel Théodore Useni Sombo, Chief of UN Police post, Guiglo*

*« Setting up the Police post of the UN was a real challenge for me. »*

There is nothing in life that is easy. You simply need to have the vocation and willingness to achieve good results.» This is the driving principle guiding the daily life of Colonel Theodore Sombo, Chief of the new UNPOL post in Guiglo in the execution of his duties. That explains why this native of Maniema in DR Congo and father of 12 did not hesitate to quit his functions as Chief of

the information unit in the Abidjan office when he was assigned in August 2011 to open the UN Police post in Guiglo, one of the most sensitive zones of the country. Despite the numerous difficulties encountered such as poor road access to certain villages, frequent internet breakdown, the Colonel would not be prevented from doing his duty. While in the field, he applies his long experience acquired through several training programmes at the Higher Military School, the Military Marine, and the Pilot School of the National Gendarmerie- all of which he attended after primary and secondary school education.

Today Colonel Useni who joined UNOCI in December 2007 is proud of the work he and his team have accomplished. His reasons for satisfaction are many: the return of peace and security to Guiglo, the return home of internally displaced persons, the restoration of state authority, good inter-communal cohabitation and excellent col-

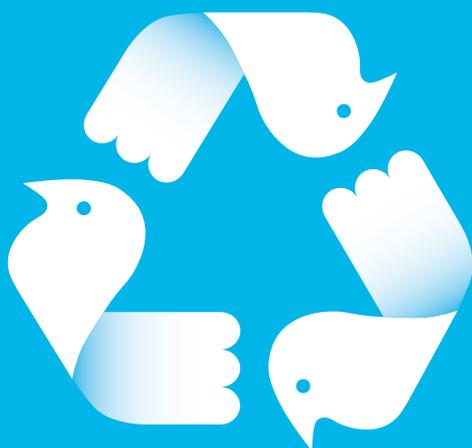


laboration between local forces and UNOCI.

This good result is the fruit of a participatory organization and leadership. «I am proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished. We horizontally share all information before it is treated and forwarded to our supervisors. Besides we have a relationship which goes beyond the work place and we sometimes share

a meal together. All this in a bid to strengthen our relationship and develop a team spirit.»

His relations with the local security forces: police, gendarmerie and the army (FRCI) as well as the population is guided by the same spirit. The humanism of this Congolese officer is rooted in his belief in God, his Christian values of forgiveness and the love of one's neighbour, sincerity and sharing. For the people of Guiglo and Cote d'Ivoire in general, Colonel Sombo expresses one wish: «I call on my brothers to turn over a new leaf and look to the future of Cote d'Ivoire which moreover is the flag bearer of the sub region. I recommend Ivorians to wipe out hatred and to cultivate peace and to continue to live with the foreigners. They should get back to work and make their country a land of hospitality where life is pleasant.»



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