UNOCI STATEMENT ON RHDP MARCHES

Abidjan, 16 December 2010... Since the announcement of the marches by the Rassemblement des Houphouetistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP) scheduled for 16 and 17 December 2010, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d’Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, has increased his initiatives to ensure that reason prevails and everything is done to avoid violence so as not to aggravate an already complex situation.

To this end, he has met with all the Ivorian parties as well as members of the diplomatic corps to stress emphatically that the will of the Ivorian people, expressed on 28 November 2010, must be assured in a democratic and peaceful manner.

The United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) reiterates its opposition to any recourse to violence to resolve the difficulties and appeals to all parties concerned to remain calm and avoid doing anything that could increase the suffering of the population and compromise the multiple efforts being made to allow the will of the people as expressed on 28 November 2010 to prevail.

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