



## **Summary of press conference of the head of UN Department of Peacekeeping operations**

*(Abidjan, 29 December 2010)*

### ***ALAIN LE ROY DENOUNCES INCITEMENT TO HATRED AGAINST UNOCI***

The Head of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, stated on Wednesday in Abidjan that the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was the victim of a hate campaign orchestrated by the state-owned Radio Television ivoirienne (RTI).

« The declarations we hear on the public Ivorian channels are fabrications, anti-UNOCI propaganda and that is how interpret, very clearly, the incidents that occurred in Yopougon,» he added at a press conference marking the end of his three-day visit to Côte d'Ivoire.

The Head of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations recalled the sections of UN Security Council resolutions that urge parties to provide freedom of access to public media. «The Security Council also exhorts the media not to issue any calls to hatred,» Mr. Le Roy stressed, reminding the RTI's officials of their responsibility in the face of the many declarations on a possible involvement of international justice against all those who whip up hatred against the civilian population or UNOCI staff.

Responding to a question on the presence of the mission, Mr. Le Roy stated that UNOCI would fulfill its mission in a robust manner, in keeping with Security Council Resolution 1962. In this regard, he welcomed the determination and spirit of the Special Representative and of UNOCI's military personnel and police, as they seek to ensure and enforce the mission's freedom of movement throughout Côte d'Ivoire.

«We are here for peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire for the benefit of the Ivorian people,» he stressed, announcing that he had met the Chief of Staff of the Defence and Security Forces, Gen. Philippe Mangou, who promised him that the military forces would no longer hamper UNOCI's freedom of movement.

Referring to the protection of civilians, an essential aspect of the mission's mandate, Mr. Le Roy announced that the number of day and night patrols would be increased, warning systems would be strengthened, and contacts developed with the local population.

Earlier, Mr. Le Roy had rejected all the accusations leveled at UNOCI by a hostile segment of the population and hostile political leaders following the

certification of the result of the second round of the presidential election by the Special Representative. Where this is concerned, he recalled that UNOCI did not have to choose any camp. “The mission carried out its certification mandate as it did, and on no occasion did it exceed it,” he stressed.

The certification was done in a perfectly impartial manner, in keeping with the Security Council’s decision and in agreement with all the legal services of the United Nations,” he said emphatically.

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