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Côte d'Ivoire

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PRESS RELEASE

UNOCI PEACEKEEPERS DID NOT SHOOT AT CROWD IN ABOBO

Abidjan, 30 December 2010 ... UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) peacekeepers did not fire on a crowd during a patrol in Abobo, Abidjan, contrary to the lies reported by the Radio Television Ivoirienne (RTI) on 29 December 2010.

The facts of the matter are quite simple. A patrol of UNOCI's military forces was assailed on Wednesday 29 December at around 10 a.m. by angry youths in the commune of Abobo, and was shot at from buildings on the road between the SOTRA Bus Depot in Avocatier and the village of Anonkoua Kouté, towards the PK18 neighbourhood.

After firing warning shots in the air, as is the rule, the patrol was able, with the help of elements of the CECOS [a special Ivorian crime-fighting unit] and the Republican Guard, to get past the roadblocks that had been erected to block it, and return to the UNOCI base in Sebroko.

UNOCI wishes to express its indignation at the manoeuvres of the RTI, aimed at inciting part of the population to hatred and preventing the mission from concentrating on its work in the service of the Ivorian people.

UNOCI recalls that it is not at war with anyone and is decided to conduct its peace mission to the end so as to help Côte d'Ivoire to find a peaceful solution to the post-election crisis, which is to no-one's benefit. It appeals to all parties for calm, wisdom and serenity, for a definitive end to the crisis.

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