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PRESS RELEASE

UNOCI DEPLORES AMBUSH ON PEACEKEEPERS IN ABIDJAN

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) deplores the ambush perpetrated against its peacekeepers by armed forces from President Laurent Gbagbo's camp on Tuesday night in the Abidjan neighbourhood of Abobo.

A mixed team of UNOCI military and police was returning from patrolling the PK 18 area of Abobo when shots were fired at it from both sides of the road. UNOCI military were forced to fire back. Three members of UNOCI's force were slightly injured during the incident.

UNOCI notes that the ambush came a day after one of its convoys of food supplies was blocked and pillaged at a roadblock set up by forces from President Gbagbo's camp.

UNOCI recalls that its rules of engagement allow peacekeepers to return fire only if they have been targeted by an armed attack. UNOCI reiterates its appeal for calm and invites all the parties concerned to avoid any use of violence.

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