PRESS RELEASE

UNOCI HELICOPTER SHOT AT IN ABIDJAN

Abidjan, 1 April 2011... A UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) helicopter was shot at in Abidjan as it started its landing descent. The aircraft, which was returning to UNOCI headquarters after an air reconnaissance, sustained slight damage near its fuel tank, but succeeded in landing without any problem. All passengers and crew are safe and sound.

This is the second attack against a UNOCI helicopter in five days.

UNOCI vigorously condemns this act, which adds to the list of attacks against UN peacekeepers. Such attacks constitute war crimes and will be judged and punished as such.

Even though its headquarters and its patrols, both land and airborne, have been coming increasingly under fire, UNOCI wishes to assure the Ivorian people of its determination to continue carrying out its work to the very end.

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