



Summary of UNOCI weekly press conference *(Abidjan, 3 February 2011)*

Y.J. CHOI MEETS TROOPS AND POLICE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, was due to meet the countries that contribute troops and police to the UN peacekeeping missions, in New York on Thursday, 3 February 2011, the Deputy Spokesperson of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Kenneth Blackman, announced on Thursday in Abidjan.

Speaking at UNOCI's weekly press conference, Mr. Blackman said that Mr. Choi would brief them on the latest developments on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. He added that the encounter, as well as other meetings, would be held during Mr. Choi's visit to New York, as part of his periodical consultations.

With regard to the humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Blackman recalled that the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey, had carried out two missions to evaluate the situation in the west of the country, including Duekoué, which has some 18,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). This figure could however increase after the registration of IDPs, which is currently being done by some humanitarian agencies, he added.

"Humanitarian agencies and NGOs are looking for financing to meet the needs of the internally displaced persons in terms of placements, shelter, water, food, health and protection," the deputy spokesperson added.

Still on the humanitarian situation, the Spokesperson said that last week, UNOCI's force distributed 16,000 litres of drinking water to the population and carried out 817 patrols throughout the country.

In addition, the medical staff of the various contingents provided free medical care to 1,376 patients, including three people who were shot by elements of the national police on 1st February in Bondoukou, and who were treated by Ghanaian peacekeepers, said Mr. Blackman. He added that contrary to information which had been published in a local newspaper, there were no plans for the Ghanaian contingent to leave UNOCI. "The contingent continues to carry out its mission with devotion in the parts of the country where it is deployed, especially the Zanzan and Lacs regions," he said.

Concerning UNOCI's community activities with the population, Mr. Blackman said that the Mission was continuing its sensitization campaign to strengthen social cohesion and preserve a peaceful post-electoral environment. In this regard, he announced the organization of sensitization days in several localities for the next two weeks.

These activities, he said, were aimed at offering a platform of discussion to the population, as well as between the population and UNOCI, in an effort to preserve a peaceful electoral environment. “Through these activities, UNOCI is showing that its credo remains finding a peaceful, inclusive and definitive crisis-resolution in Côte d’Ivoire”, the deputy spokesperson reiterated.

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