



## UNOCI – 957

### PRESS RELEASE

#### ***A NEW MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNOCI***

**Abidjan, 5 January 2011 ...** On 29 December 2011, President Laurent Gbagbo's camp, via Radio Télévision ivoirienne (RTI), began the second phase of its hostile media campaign against the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

This campaign must have been planned at the highest level of President Gbagbo's camp on 29 December 2011. Since that date, the RTI has continually broadcast images of two injured persons presented as victims of shootings by a UNOCI patrol in Abobo. The tone mounted recently and the campaign is mobilizing actors at the highest level in President Gbagbo's camp.

It is the second time that President Gbagbo's camp has undertaken a negative campaign against UNOCI. The first phase of the manoeuvre, in which the Mission's military impartiality was called into question without any grounds, began on 15 December 2010 as a prelude to the demand for UNOCI's departure on 18 December 2010. UNOCI denounced this manoeuvre at a press conference on 20 December.

UNOCI demands the immediate cessation of this negative campaign.

Similarly, UNOCI denounces once again the violations of human rights, including the raids by armed elements sent by President Gbagbo's camp to the headquarters of the Rally of Houphouëtistes for Democracy and Peace (RHDP) on the morning of 4 January 2011, which resulted in many arbitrary arrests and victims.

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