



Summary of UNOCI weekly press conference *(Abidjan, 10 February 2011)*

UNOCI CHIEF RETURNS TO ABIDJAN AFTER MISSIONS TO ADDIS ABABA AND NEW YORK

The Spokesman of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Hamadoun Touré, on Thursday, gave an account of the missions carried out by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, who returned to Abidjan on Wednesday, 9 February 2011, after visiting Addis Ababa and New York.

Speaking during the Mission's weekly press conference, Mr. Touré said that Mr. Choi's visits to the two cities involved him taking part in meetings on the Ivorian crisis at the African Union (AU) summit and making a presentation on the same subject to the UN Security Council. He said that the Chief of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had discussed the post-electoral crisis everywhere he went and highlighted UNOCI's contribution to current efforts to overcome the political impasse it had provoked.

In this regard, the Spokesman said that a UNOCI delegation, led by the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Mission, Abou Moussa, had, on Wednesday, met with a team of experts assisting the High Level Group mandated by the AU to help find a peaceful resolution to the post-electoral crisis. "The delegation made presentations on the electoral process, UNOCI's assistance to the process, as well as the post-electoral crisis," said Mr. Touré.

Turning to human rights issues, Mr. Touré said that UNOCI had this week recorded 22 new cases of people killed in connection with the post-electoral violence in the district of Abidjan. "This brings the total number of persons killed in the post-electoral crisis since mid-December to more than 296," he said. He also gave an update on the number of rapes, persons who have disappeared and extortions.

Regarding UNOCI's activities, Mr. Touré announced that the Mission had intensified its sensitisation campaign to promote social cohesion and preserve a peaceful post-electoral environment. He said that several cities and towns will be visited to encourage the population to reiterate their commitment to promote a peaceful post-electoral environment.

The Spokesman concluded by making a short presentation on the activities of UNOCI peacekeepers. Mr. Touré said that during January 2011, UNOCI's military force had provided medical treatment to 3,099 patients, distributed 71,000 litres of potable water to the population and carried out 4,822 ground and air patrols, including 979 in Abidjan.

Responding to a question on “the decision” by the National Council for Audiovisual Communication (CNCA) to withdraw ONUCI FM Radio's frequencies, Mr. Touré said that the Mission had not been officially notified of the decision. He added that ONUCI FM was an integral part of the Mission and is therefore implementing the mandate given to it by the UN Security Council. “We are carrying out our mandate and ONUCI FM, as part of the Mission, is also carrying out its mandate,” he explained.

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