

Summary of press conference of Chairman of Monitoring Committee on Resolution 1946

(Abidjan, 13 December 2010)

UNOCI WILL RECORD OBSTRUCTIONS TO PEACE PROCESS

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has set up a Monitoring Committee on any obstruction to the peace process, the Chairman of the committee, Mr. Simon Munzu announced on Monday in Abidjan.

Speaking during a press conference at the Mission's headquarters, Mr. Munzu, who is also head of the Human Rights Division, explained that the Committee's work was to record all the incidents, behaviour, actions and decisions which block the peace process and obstruct the work of UNOCI and other international actors involved in the peace process.

Mr. Munzu reiterated the Security Council's willingness to impose targeted sanctions against anyone who attempt to threaten the peace process, block the action of UNOCI and other international actors or commitment serious human rights and international humanitarian rights.

The Committee, created following the adoption of Resolution 1946 by the UN Security Council on 15 October 2010, will also take into account serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian rights, including equal access to state media for everyone and incitement to hatred and violence. It is also charged with identifying the authors of such actions.

The chairman added that the Committee also has to ensure the implementation of the measures envisaged by Resolution 1946 and the press statement on the post-electoral situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Munzu recalled certain points of the Council's declaration, especially the denunciation of the suspension of non-governmental media in Côte d'Ivoire. To this end, the Council recalled that it was essential that Ivorians enjoy full access to several and diverse information in the media and urged the Ivorian authorities to immediately re-establish equal access to state media, as well as the requirements of paragraph 7 of resolution 1933.

According to the Chief of the Human Rights Division, the Committee will propose concrete measures to be taken, including the imposition of immediate targeted sanctions, explained Mr. Munzu, who called on Ivorians to avoid the different actions cited, thereby allowing the country to continue the march

towards peace and a definitive resolution to the crisis, which has lasted too long. « If this does not happen, the Committee will do its work and nothing but its work, » he added.

Asked to give an update on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire since the second round of the presidential election, Mr. Munzu said that members of staff from his division, with the help of colleagues from other sections, were currently on the ground, throughout the country collecting information on violations known to them. “Once we have fully carried out our usual work, we will make the results known to the public,” he said.

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