



UNOCI – 964

PRESS RELEASE

***FORCES FROM PRESIDENT GBAGBO'S CAMP SHOOT AT UNOCI
PEACEKEEPERS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY OF KENYAN PRIME
MINISTER'S DELEGATION***

Abidjan, 18 January 2011... The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) deplores the repeated acts of aggression against its patrols by part of the population supported by forces of President Laurent Gbagbo's camp.

UNOCI security elements stationed at the entrance of the Pullman Hotel, were waiting for the arrival of the African Union's Emissary, Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, escorted by a UNOCI patrol. A group of young people from President Gbagbo camp encircled the peacekeepers. The armed elements, who were supporting them, opened fired in the direction of the UNOCI vehicles forcing the peacekeepers to respond by shooting in the air.

UNOCI stresses that the version of events given last night by the Radio télévision ivoirienne (RTI) on the incident last night was not based on facts. It was in fact part of an ongoing campaign whose objective is to incite hatred among President Gbagbo's supporters against UNOCI.

UNOCI reiterates its appeal for calm and serenity to ensure a favourable environment to find a solution to the current post-electoral crisis.

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