

NATIONS UNIES
Opération des Nations Unies
en Côte d'Ivoire



UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Operation in
Côte d'Ivoire

Summary of UNOCI weekly press conference

(Abidjan, 24 February 2011)

UNOCI CALLS ON FDS AND FAFN TO SHOW RESTRAINT

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on Thursday expressed concern over clashes which took place between the Defence and Security Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FDSCI) and the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) on the same day in the Dix-huit Montagnes region.

In a statement read by its Spokesman, Hamadoun Touré, during the Mission's weekly press conference, UNOCI reiterated its appeal for calm in order to prevent the country from going up in flames. The UN mission, he added, believes that such confrontation could lead to armed conflict, which is a violation of the ceasefire, and urges the parties to use peaceful means to resolve the current post-electoral crisis.

Mr. Touré also highlighted the increased violence, particularly in certain neighbourhoods in Abidjan, between the military and demonstrators, with the use of heavy weapons, adding to the growing number of deaths. In this regard, the Spokesman said that the Human Rights Division had reported 315 persons killed since mid-December. "The Division is carrying out inquiries into these incidents and in this regard, UNOCI reiterates its conviction that violence cannot be the solution," he added.

Turning to the activities of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, Mr. Touré announced that he had met the panel of heads of state mandated by the African Union (AU). During the meeting, he made a presentation on UNOCI's role in the management of the electoral process, particularly the certification of the presidential election, and once again explained the methodology he used to certify both the first and second round of the presidential poll.

With regard to humanitarian issues, the Humanitarian Co-ordinator, NDolamb Ngokwey, gave an update of the situation of the internally displaced population in

the west of the country. He said that there were now 40,876 IDPs, of whom 10,355 are in camps while 30, 521 are living with families. He also said that the IDPs had been registered in the centre and east of the country, as well as hundreds in Daloa, Lakota and Issia. "With regard to refugees, UNHCR has registered 39,685 Ivorians in Liberia. Guinea had received 800 refugees and Togo, 252," said the Humanitarian Co-ordinator. He also gave an update of the humanitarian response with regard to the distribution of food and non-food items, school supplies, leisure equipment, and the rehabilitation of latrines, by United Nations agencies such as WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR, as well as the Red Cross with the support of national institutions.

Mr. Ngokwey gave information on a number of epidemics, such as cholera which has affected nine districts in Abidjan as well as Bassam and Anyama. "From 14 to 20 February, we have recorded 485 cases, 115 of which are new and 12 deaths, he said, adding that Attécoubé is the most-affected area. "With the support of WHO, UNICEF, the Red Cross and their partners, and health authorities continue to extend their sensitisation campaign," he added. He also said that there was a measles epidemic in the district of Adiaké in the Sud Comoé region. "In response, a vaccination campaign, supported by WHO and UNICEF, was launched on 17 February," he said. With regard to aid to the IDPs, Mr. Ngokwey said this remained a delicate operation. "We have organised ourselves in order to better respond to this situation," said the Humanitarian Co-ordinator, adding that the humanitarian community continued to plead for humanitarian workers to have access to the IDPs.

For further information, please contact:

Hamadoun Touré, Spokesman

Tel. : +225-06203305 ; Cell phone : + 225-05990075 ; Fax : +225-020235107

Email: hamadoun@un.org.

<http://www.onuci.org>