UNOCI-987

PRESS RELEASE

UNOCI CONDEMNS ATTACK ON ITS HELICOPTER BY THE FORCES REPUBLICAINES

Abidjan, 29 March 2011... A helicopter belonging to the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI), was shot at on Monday afternoon while on a reconnaissance flight above Duekoué. Elements of the Forces Républicaines de Côte d’Ivoire (FRCI) fired at the helicopter, but failed to hit it.

UNOCI strongly condemns this attack against its peacekeepers, which could be considered a war crime and launches an urgent appeal to the authorities concerned to do everything to identify those responsible, so that they can be held accountable for their action.

UNOCI reiterates its military impartiality and once again urges all the parties to quickly find a definitive solution to the post-electoral crisis in order to end the suffering of the Ivorian people.

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