PRESS RELEASE

UNOCI DENOUNCES THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS

Abidjan, 29 March 2011... Forces loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo shot at innocent civilians on Monday afternoon in Williamsville, Abidjan, killing about a dozen people. In another incident, a group of pro-Gbagbo youths put a tyre around a young man and burnt him alive in the Riviera area of Abidjan. Another group savagely attacked two members of staff of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), who were going about their business.

UNOCI condemns this wave of atrocities against civilians and warns that these acts will not go unpunished.

With the increase in human rights violations and barbaric practices, there are grounds for wondering whether President Gbagbo is still in charge of his forces and supporters. UNOCI believes it is imperative to end this spiral of violence by finding a definitive solution to the political impasse which stemmed from the post-electoral crisis.

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