



Summary of press conference of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary- General for Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 29 November 2010

SECOND ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS HELD IN GENERALLY DEMOCRATIC CLIMATE, SAYS UNOCI CHIEF

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi, has said that the second round of the election, like the electoral campaign, took place in a generally democratic climate despite some incidents, sometimes violent, reported in the West and North of the country.

Speaking during a press conference in the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), 24 hours after the presidential election, Mr. Choi gave a preliminary assessment of the conduct of the poll and said he was encouraged to note that along the five observation routes the Mission established, representatives of both candidates were present in all the polling stations.

The Special Representative talked about the atmosphere before, during and after the campaign and noted that there had been incidents, some of them violent, and isolated disturbances. He nevertheless said that the election had been held in a democratic climate, especially the face to face debate between the two candidates "unanimously welcomed as exemplary and even exceptional".

Earlier, he said that the eve of the polls had been marked by a demonstration by opposition youths in Abobo against the institution of a curfew which degenerated into a confrontation with the security forces, resulting in the burning of a police vehicle and three deaths among the demonstrators. As a result, voting on Sunday started in an atmosphere of tension and passion, said the head of UNOCI.

Mr. Choi, said that the transportation of tally sheets was going on normally despite numerous rumours, suspicion and false alarms. "For example, all the tally sheets from the region of Abidjan, which has about a third of the electorate,

are in the process of being transported to the headquarters of the IEC, without a single incident,” he stated.

In this regard, he invited everyone to have confidence in the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) so that it can start announcing the provisional results of yesterday’s poll as soon as possible. “It is evident that we are now in a crucial phase that we are going to go through with serenity, confidence, firmness and hope,” added the head of UNOCI.

Mr. Choi reiterated the international community’s continued support to the Ivorian people. “UNOCI, the symbol of the international community’s commitment in Côte d’Ivoire, will continue to support its efforts to end the crisis,” he concluded.

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