

NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW MAY2-30, 2014

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review May 30, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. National Assembly passes law to reconfigure the electoral commission
2. Members of the Entente Council gather in Abidjan to mark 55th anniversary
3. Government inspector says use of information technology can grow number of bank customers
4. Following recent attacks along its border with Liberia, military announces new action

1. National Assembly passes law to reconfigure the electoral commission

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/499019.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498993.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99763/cote-divoire-youssouf-bakayoko-present-representer-ouattara-nouvelle-cei>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99458/cote-divoire-nouvelle-cei-voici-profil-futur-president>

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7- 9), the National Assembly gave its approval to the government to reconfigure the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). Members of the National Assembly voted to approve the measure on Wednesday. The paper reports that two amendments were proposed to the bill: one to prohibit political parties from controlling the commission; and a second to limit the voting power of certain members of the commission. However, both amendments were rejected. According to the paper, under the new structure of the CEI, civil society will have greater representation, with four out of the 17 members.

The law passed by a vote of 207 to 8 reports *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2). Minister of Interior and Security Hamed Bakayoko oversaw the vote. The paper reports that, with the new law, the current head of the CEI, Youssouf Bakayoko will likely remain in his position. However, the paper adds that main opposition FPI party has expressed a desire for a new chair.

L'Inter (p. 6) notes that the head of the LIDER political party, Mamadou Koulibaly, criticized the new composition of the CEI, saying that the commission is now "under the control of political parties." The paper adds that the new format of the CEI has both strengths and weaknesses. One of the strengths, according to the paper, is the fact that commission will now be more streamlined, with 17 members

versus 31 in the past. On the other hand, the paper notes that the fact that political parties are still represented on the committee, specifically the ruling party, keeps it from truly being “independent.” On the opposition side, **Le Quotidien d’Abidjan (p. 5)**, reports that National Assembly member Bertin Konan Kouakou says that the new structure of the commission is “not appropriate” given the country’s history with elections and that it may create more problems than it solves. Kouakou is quoted as saying, “We have not learned from our past mistakes.” Kouakou is one of the eight that voted against the final bill.

2. Members of the Entente Council gather in Abidjan to mark 55th anniversary

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498986.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498985.html>

Fraternite Matin features a special insert today marking the anniversary of the Entente Council, a regional board made up of representation from five West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, and Cote d’Ivoire. The body was created in 1959 by the country’s first president Felix Houphouet Boigny. According to the paper, the Entente Council was created to promote “brotherhood and solidarity” among its member countries.

According to **L’Inter (p. 2)**, at an event on Wednesday to mark the 55th anniversary of the council, Ivoirian Minister of African Integration Ally Coulibaly commended the leaders of the council by saying, “We are celebrating the solidarity and peace that this commission has promoted.” The minister also noted that the founding fathers of the organization came together across borders to work together.

3. Government inspector says use of information technology can grow number of bank customers

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/499025.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498987.html>
- <http://fr.starafrika.com/actualites/cote-divoire-lutilisation-des-tics-proposee-comme-solution-a-la-hausse-du-taux-de-bancarisation.html>

Government inspector Emmanuel Niamien N’Goran said this week that information technology can be used to increase the number of bank customers in Cote d’Ivoire reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9)**. N’Goran discussed this issue during a three-day seminar this week with Ivoirian bank and insurance officials to find ways to improve and develop the banking sector. He is quoted as saying, “Cote d’Ivoire is the largest economy in the West African region and we have 23 different financial institutions. However, we still need to do more to promote financial services and increase access to banking services.” N’Goran said that in 2012, only 24 percent of the Ivoirian population had a bank account but that information technology can help increase that number. He also called for better regulation of the banking and financial industry.

Banks need to take into account the realities of the population and ease restrictions to opening a bank account **Soir Info (p. 6)** reports N’Goran as saying.

4. Following recent attacks along its border with Liberia, military announces new action

- <http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-apres-lattaque-grabo-larmee-veut-neutraliser-bandes-incontrolees--92116.html>

The Ivoirian chief of staff for the army, General Soumaila Bakayoko announced Wednesday a major military action following recent attacks in Western Cote d’Ivoire reports **L’Inter (p. 3)**. “We will be intensifying our activities in areas such as Grabo to bring security back to the region,” Bakayoko is quoted as saying. The operation will be conducted jointly between the military, gendarme and police. The ultimate goal is to bring to an end the on-going attacks and raids against border villages by unidentified armed groups crossing the border from Liberia.

The military operation will also target roadside bandits and others committing crimes in groups in the region reports ***Soir Info (p. 5)***. The recent attacks have cost the lives of 13 people including 10 civilians and three soldiers reports ***Le Patriote (p. 2)***.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[UPDATE 1-Ivory Coast sees surprise budget surplus in first quarter 2014](#)

Reuters Africa

(Adds details). ABIDJAN May 27 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast recorded a surprise budget surplus in the first quarter after state revenues exceeded ...

[Azonto Petroleum Plans Delayed By Slow Progress On Ivory Coast Gas Pipeline](#)

London South East

LONDON (Alliance News) - Azonto Petroleum Ltd Wednesday said it now doesn't expect a final investment decision to be made for its Gazelle gas ...

[Ivory Coast group to build Omani cocoa plant](#)

MEED (subscription)

Ivory Coast-based CKG Holding plans to build a \$150m cocoa plant in Salalah, southern Oman, through a new joint venture in the sultanate called ...

[Transport Minister Calls on Iran to Set Up Car Making Factory in Ivory Coast](#)

Fars News Agency

TEHRAN (FNA)- Ivory Coast's Transport Minister Gaoussou Toure in a meeting with Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization Valiollah Afkhamirad ...

[Who will benefit from diamond imports from Cote d'Ivoire?](#)

Press TV

The Cote d'Ivoire is rich with a number of precious metal mines, but like many African countries, it loses millions of dollars annually through a corrupt ...

-

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

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Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

22,723 daily

Soir Info

Independent daily

17,378

Le Nouveau Reveil

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12,546 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

11,883 daily

L'Inter

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

10,457 daily

Notre Voie

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

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Le Mandat - (no current website)

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[ONUCI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 28, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Ivoirian authorities extend deadline of national census**
2. **National Assembly adopts law protecting human rights activists**
3. **UN official speaks on human rights situation in Cote d'Ivoire**
4. **UNDP supports campaign against small and light weapons**
5. **American businessmen in Abidjan for business prospection**
6. **Ivoirian authorities launch low-cost household power connection**
7. **RTI launches mobile network**

1. Ivoirian authorities extend deadline of national census

The Ivoirian government yesterday announced that the national census, which started on April 1 and was set to last just 30 days, has been extended to June 14, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4). According to the paper, government spokesperson Bruno Kone made the announcement yesterday after a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara. Kone is reported as saying that the extension is necessary due to "technical and logistic problems" encountered during the operation. However, Kone indicated that the boycott by the opposition FPI party had "little impact." Despite these difficulties, the national census has been so far "a success," *L'Inter* (p. 2) reports the government spokesperson as saying. "By May 22, the operation has covered 82 percent of the entire country and by May 25, 85 percent of the population has been counted," Kone added.

2. National Assembly adopts law protecting human rights activists

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) says the Commission on General and Institutional Affairs of the National Assembly yesterday adopted a bill seeking to support and protect human rights activists in Cote d'Ivoire. The bill was presented by the Minister Justice, Human Rights and Public Liberties, Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly, who indicated that the objective of the bill is to create conditions for human rights activists to do their work. "We want to put an end to situations where human rights activists are victims of threats and physical harm," the minister is quoted as saying. Coulibaly is also reported as saying that the bill will enable Cote d'Ivoire to better comply with the UN charter on human rights.

3. UN official speaks on human rights situation in Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20140527-eugene-nindorera-chef-division-droits-homme-onuci/>

In a related story, French national radio RFI this week interviewed Eugene Nindorera, the head of the UN human rights division, on the human rights situation in the country. "State investigators are not respecting legal rights and procedures," *L'Inter* (p. 3) quotes Nindorera as saying in the interview. "There is a problem with the rule of law in Cote d'Ivoire and justice officials are afraid to do their jobs."

On the opposition side, *Notre Voie* (p. 6) quotes Nindorera as saying, "There is still much to be done to end impunity in Cote d'Ivoire." However, he is also quoted as saying, "For the past three years, much progress has been made such as the adoption of a law to be party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and steps toward restoring judicial systems throughout the country."

4. UNDP supports campaign against small and light weapons

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15879-armes-l%C3%A9g%C3%A8res-le-japon-dote-la-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-de-mat%C3%A9riel-de-marquage-et-de-destruction>

The development program of the United Nations (UNDP) presented equipment on Monday to the National Commission against Small and Light Weapons reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8). The

equipment is designed to help mark and destroy illegal arms in the country. The donation was made with the support of the Japanese government which helped to fund the equipment purchase. The machine, according to the paper, is capable of destroying 200 weapons a day. The paper quotes the Minister of Planning and Development Albert Mabri Toikeusse, who received the donation by saying, "This donation is a sign of the determination of the Ivoirian government to reinforce security and control the circulation of arms in Cote d'Ivoire."

5. American businessmen in Abidjan for business prospection

Le Patriote (p. 16) reports that a delegation of American business leaders yesterday visited the National Center for Agricultural Research (CNRA). The visit was the result of the economic forum organized earlier this year by the government of Cote d'Ivoire that brought thousands of business leaders from around the world to the country. The paper quotes Dennie Beach, the head of the American delegation, as saying that the purpose of this visit was to discuss a partnership with the center in order to improve the center's performance.

6. Ivoirian authorities launch low-cost household power connection

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498923.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15903-electricit%C3%A9-le-co%C3%BAt-de-l%E2%80%99abonnement-ramen%C3%A9-%C3%A0-1000-fcfa>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99723/electricite-les-menages-desormais-10-ans-payer-les-150-000-f-labonnement>

The government yesterday announced a plan designed to help households obtain low-cost power connections reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. According to the plan called, "Social Connection," each household will be able to obtain power for FCFA 1000 (\$2) compared to bills as high as FCFA 150,000 (\$311) in the past. The paper reports that the purpose of the plan, in addition to lowering costs, is to ensure that all homes across the country are connected to electricity by the year 2020.

7. RTI launches mobile network

The government television station, RTI, yesterday launched a mobile network that will allow Ivoirians to watch RTI programming from their cell phone or tablet reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)**. Called, "RTI Mobile," the system will enable viewers to download television programs directly to their phone.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire ministry calls on 3 small operators to merge](#)

Telecompaper (subscription)

The ICT ministry of Cote d'Ivoire has asked the country's three smallest mobile operators, Cafe Mobile, Green Network and Comium-CI to merge, ...

[Nigerians in Abidjan Laud Embassy for Repatriating Stranded Girls](#)

AllAfrica.com

The Association of Nigerian Youths in Cote d'Ivoire has commended the Nigerian embassy in the country for its timely intervention in repatriating some ...

[The epidemiology of malaria and anaemia in the Bonikro mining area, Central Cote d'Ivoire](#)

7thSpace Interactive (press release)

The epidemiology of malaria and anaemia is characterized by small-scale spatial and temporal heterogeneity, which might be influenced by human ...

[Ivory Coast refugees rebuild shattered lives](#)

www.worldbulletin.net

Gbagbo's son Michel, who spent nearly three years in jail after being arrested alongside his father, now lectures at Ivory Coast's largest university in ...

[Monster Barge in Port Abidjan Serviced by GAC-OMA](#)

MarineLink

GAC Nigeria, with its local partner OMA Ivory Coast. says it provided a range of ship agency, husbandry & logistics services for her and her attendant ...

[Cote d'Ivoire must strengthen electoral institutions to avoid democratic back-slide in 2015](#)

Cocorioko

A complicating factor in Cote d'Ivoire is that the largest opposition party, the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI), which won 38% and 46% of votes during the ...

[Cote d'Ivoire allows cargo trucks into country](#)

GhanaWeb

Cote d'Ivoire's Ministry of Finance has finally allowed stranded cargo trucks at the Elubo border to move into the country after being denied entry for ...

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

May 27, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Ivoirian authorities to disarm traditional hunters**
2. **"We cannot exclude an alliance between PDCI-RDA and FPI," lawmaker says**
3. **More than 400,000 students to take primary school exams**
4. **FESCI calls for strike to protest lack of teachers**
5. **Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana meet over border demarcation**

1. Ivoirian authorities to disarm traditional hunters

<http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15904-securite-et-defense-le-pouvoir-decide-les-dozos-seront-desarmes>

<http://news.educarriere.ci/news-9547-securite-et-defense-le-pouvoir-decide-les-dozos-seront-desarmes-les-craintes-du-gouvernement.html>

The authorities in Cote d'Ivoire have decided to disarm traditional hunters, who are also known as Dozos, reports *L'Inter* (p. 2) today. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by Cabinet Director at the Ministry of Interior and Security Cheick Daniel Bamba. "Very soon, there will be an operation leading to the disarmament of the Dozos," Bamba is quoted as saying. The paper also reports Bamba as saying that the decision by the government to disarm these traditional hunters, who allegedly fought along forces supporting President Alassane Ouattara, during the 2011 post-electoral crisis, is to improve security across the country.

2. "We cannot exclude an alliance between PDCI-RDA and FPI," lawmaker says

Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3) carries a long interview with Kouadio Konan Bertin (KKB), PDCI Deputy for Port Bouët and former youth leader. KKB criticized the proposed makeup of the Independent Electoral Commission and described the PDCI has the "hostage" of the RDR. KKB calls for a PDCI candidate in the first round of the 2015 presidential elections, noting that his was the decision of the most recent party congress. In response to a question about a PDCI-FPI alliance, KKB responded that the PDCI wants to bring together all Ivoirians, including the

3. More than 400,000 students to take primary school exams

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/498894.html>

<http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/plus-de-200-mille-candidats-a-l-assaut-du-cepe-et-de-l-entree-en-6e-20364.html>

<http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-demarrage-examens-grand-tirage-avec-cepe-lentree-6eme-92037.html>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10) says more than 400,000 students from primary schools have started writing their final exams today across the country. According to the paper, the primary school exams mark the beginning of this year's final exams in primary and secondary schools in Cote d'Ivoire.

A report in *Le Mandat* (p. 8) however says teachers from private primary schools are threatening to disrupt the exams to protest the non-payment of allowances by the government. According to the paper, the National Private School Teachers Union of Cote d'Ivoire (SYNEPLACI) has called for a strike to demand the payment of allowances estimated at more than FCFA 363 million (about US \$753,000).

4. FESCI calls for strike to protest lack of teachers

A report in *Notre Voie* (p. 12) says FESCI is calling for a 72 hour strike at the University of Cocody starting on Wednesday to protest the lack of instructors and classrooms and the tuition charges for

Masters 2 students. Kipré Ange Kevin, Deputy Secretary of the FESCI for the UFR of Economic Sciences and Management, also accused authorities of assigning dormitory rooms to non-students.

5. Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana meet over border demarcation

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/498876.html>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 14) says Ivoirian and Ghanaian authorities are meeting in Abidjan this week in an attempt to find a final solution to a dispute between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire over their maritime border. According to the paper, ministers and experts from the two sides are meeting for the second time, after the first meeting in April in Accra, Ghana, to work on a blueprint to be submitted to the authorities of the two countries for approval. The paper reports the Ghanaian Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Barbara Serwaa Asamoah as saying that this week's meeting is crucial and will help the two sides agree on the demarcation of the maritime border between the two countries.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

Minister: **Ivory Coast** Keen to Use Iran's Knowledge of Car Assembly

Tasnim News Agency - 1 day ago

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – **Ivory Coast**'s Transport Minister Gaoussou Toure called on Iran to share its valuable technical know-how with his country ...

-

Ghana to drag **Ivory Coast** to ECOWAS secretariat

Citifmonline - 3 days ago

The Ghana Shippers Authority has threatened to drag **Ivory Coast** to the ECOWAS Secretariat if it fails to allow cargo trucks from Ghana into its ...

-

Ivory Coast's Bollore Africa Logistics 2013 net profit up 20 pct

Reuters Africa - 21 hours ago

ABIDJAN May 26 (Reuters) - **Ivory Coast** shipping company Bollore Africa Logistics reported net profits of 9.83 billion CFA francs (\$20.43 ...

-

CKG of **Ivory Coast** Planning \$150 Million Cocoa Factory in Oman

Businessweek - 3 days ago

CKG Holding, an Abidjan, **Ivory Coast**-based company, plans to open a cocoa factory in Oman in 2015 amid growing chocolate demand in the ...

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May 23, 2014

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1. As government and opposition FPI party resume dialogue, 150 supporters of former president Gbagbo to be released from jail
2. Police prevent demonstration against high cost of living
3. Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to sign 26 bilateral agreements

1. Government and opposition FPI party resume dialogue, 150 supporters of former president Gbagbo to be released from jail

- <http://fratmat.info/une/item/15776-affi-n%E2%80%99guessan-%E2%80%98%E2%80%99le-gouvernement-a-marqu%C3%A9-sa-volont%C3%A9-de-travailler-avec-l%E2%80%99opposition%E2%80%99%E2%80%99>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498670.html>
- <http://fr.starafrika.com/actualites/150-detenus-pro-gbagbo-seront-liberes-dans-les-heures-qui-suivent-annonce-affi-nguessan.html>
- <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJAWEB20140522151131/>
- <http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15876-reprise-du-dialogue-gouvernement-fpi-hier-150-pro-gbagbo-bientot-liberes>

The major issue in the press today is a meeting yesterday in Abidjan between a government delegation and leaders of the opposition FPI party. A report in ***Fraternite Matin (p. 10)*** says Pascal Affi N'Guessan, the head of the FPI delegation to the meeting, expressed "satisfaction" about the discussion. "The government has demonstrated its willingness to move forward and work with the opposition in order to resolve problems confronting the country," Affi N'Guessan said.

Regarding supporters of the party still jailed in connection with investigation into crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral violence, Affi N'Guessan announced that 150 out of 750 proposed by the FPI party will be released. The report also says that the head of the government delegation, former prime minister Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio, asked the opposition party to call off the boycott against the national census.

Ahoussou-Kouadio called on the leaders of the FPI party "to take actions that will lead to peace," reports ***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)***. According to ***Le Patriote (p. 4)***, the 150 supporters were released yesterday while Ahoussou-Kouadio assured the leaders of the FPI that, "All differences between the government and opposition will be resolved through negotiation."

From the opposition point of view, ***Notre Voie (p. 6)*** claims that the resumption of the dialogue and the demands by the government to call off the boycott of the national census is evidence that the government is aware of the important role the FPI can play in the reconciliation process. ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)*** shares the same opinion saying that the government has finally confessed the "failure" of the national census.

A report in ***L'Inter (p. 4)*** says that UN Secretary General Special Representative in Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou, commended the two sides for the resumption of the dialogue. According to the paper, Mindaoudou urged the two sides to "fully engage in political dialogue," which is, "the only way to reinforce the national reconciliation process."

2. Police prevents demonstration against high cost of living

A report in **Notre Voie (p. 9)** says security forces yesterday used tear gas to disperse demonstrators who gathered in a shanty town in Abidjan called "Washington," to protest against the high cost of living. According to the paper, the demonstration was called by a group named the Coalition of Poor People of Cote d'Ivoire. The paper reports the leader of the coalition, David Samba, as saying that the movement has been created to draw the attention of President Alassane Ouattara to the poor living conditions of those less fortunate in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to sign 26 bilateral agreements

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498681.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-5)** says Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso committed this week to sign 26 bilateral agreements in order to reinforce partnership between the two countries. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday during a meeting between Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and Burkina Faso authorities in Ouagadougou. The agreements will include, among others, cooperation in the mining, energy and transport sectors.

According to a statement issued at the end of the meeting, Cote d'Ivoire has accepted to increase the energy supplied to Burkina Faso from 70 to 80 MW. The two countries have also agreed to create conditions in order to facilitate more liberal movement of people and goods between the two countries.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast and Ecuador to return to bond markets](#)

Financial Times

Ivory Coast, which defaulted in 2011, and Ecuador, which did the same five years ago, plan to issue new dollar-denominated bonds as early as July in ...

-

[Cote d'Ivoire: Ivory Coast - "Why Did My Wife Stop Taking Life-Saving HIV Medication?"](#)

AllAfrica.com

As Kouakou Brice, from the Ivory Coast, tries to come to terms with his wife Leonine's death, he finds it hard to understand why she stopped taking her ...

-

[DekelOil signs up second Ivory Coast customer](#)

ShareCast

DekelOil signs up second Ivory Coast customer ... announced it has started to supply crude palm oil to a second local customer in the Ivory Coast.

-

[Israel Eyes Stronger Africa Ties](#)

Israel Today

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman early next month will lead an Israeli delegation on a visit to five African nations: Angola, Ivory Coast, Ghana ...

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Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

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22,723 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

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Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

12,546 daily

[Le Temps](#) - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

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Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

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Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

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Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

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UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 22, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. USAID to help develop partnership between public and private sector on health issues
2. Government sets conditions on children's travel in and out Cote d'Ivoire
3. Ivoirian government assigns National Security Council to deal with attacks in West
4. 80 percent of security barriers in Cote d'Ivoire are illegal
5. Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister expected in Burkina Faso today in a bid to strengthen bilateral relations
6. Capacity building training on financial crimes underway in Abidjan
7. Government commits funds for rehabilitation of world heritage city of Grand-Bassam
8. A woman immolates herself in front of presidential palace in Abidjan

1. USAID to help develop partnership between public and private sector on health issues

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498591.html>

A report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 12) says that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is holding a two-day workshop in Accra this week to develop a roadmap on how the public and private sectors can collaborate to improve and expand health care services in West Africa. The story also says that discussions will highlight the findings of two recent reports on the private health care sector and ways that mobile technology can aid in diagnosis and treatment.

2. Government sets conditions on children's travel in and out Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498600.html>
- <http://koaci.com/cote-divoire-entree-enfants-territoire-gouvernement-pose-conditions-91934.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15753-protection-des-enfants-le-gouvernement-prend-un-projet-d%C3%A9cret>

President Alassane Ouattara and his cabinet yesterday approved a law that will regulate the travel of minors to and from Cote d'Ivoire reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4). According to the paper, the new law will focus on fighting the worst forms of child trafficking and child labor in the country. The decree will reinforce measures put in place in 2010 to combat child trafficking. The law sets conditions on a child traveling by requiring children and parents or family member to provide documentation that demonstrate family ties. In addition, the new law requires that any child traveling should at least have its birth certificate. The cabinet also empowered security forces to implement the new law.

3. Ivoirian government assigns National Security Council to deal with attacks in West

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498600.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498613.html>

The government has tasked the Ivoirian National Security Council with dealing with the ongoing armed attacks in western Cote d'Ivoire reports *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2). Government spokesperson Bruno Kone made the announcement yesterday after the weekly cabinet meeting. "All steps will be taken to improve security in the western region where Cote d'Ivoire shares a border with Liberia," Kone is quoted as saying.

On the motive behind the most recent attack last week, Kone is quoted in *Le Patriote* (p. 5) as saying, "This could be linked to land disputes and the difficult living situations between ethnic groups in the region." He also said that last week's attack was "not politically motivated."

4. 80 percent of security barriers in Cote d'Ivoire are illegal

- <http://www.linfordrome.com/societe-culture/15858-128-frci-poursuivis-par-le-tribunal-militaire>

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15749-racket-crimes-et-lutte-contre-l%E2%80%99impunit%C3%A9-ange-kessy-fait-le-point-des-proc%C3%A8s>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 11)** quotes military prosecutor Colonel Ange Bernard Kessi Kouame as saying that 80 percent of roadblocks in the country have been set up illegally. This came up yesterday during a press conference focused on legal procedures underway against perpetrators of crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis.

Kouame is reported as saying that the illegal roadblocks are leading to police harassment and extortion across the country. He also said that more than 100 soldiers, gendarmes and police have been charged with racketeering. "Despite the security measures put in place, these illegal practices still continue. We therefore call on the population to let us know where these illegal roadblocks exist and when they have been the victim of extortion by security personnel."

5. Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister expected in Burkina Faso today in a bid to strengthen bilateral relations

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498567.html>

Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan will arrive today in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, in order to reinforce bilateral relations between the two countries reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 7)**. Among other topics during the visit, Duncan will be discussing with Burkina authorities the construction of a highway and a railway between the capitals of their two countries. Other issues include cooperation between the two countries in the mining, education, energy, and health sectors.

6. Capacity building training on financial crimes underway in Abidjan

The national financial information processing unit in the country, CENTIF-CI, has organized a three-day seminar this week to train investigators of financial crimes reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 12)**. According to the paper, 40 investigators are taking part in the training focused on how to conduct investigations, and coordination between investigative units and CENTIF-CI. The training will also help the participants acquire better skills to combat money laundering and the funding of terrorist groups.

7. Government commits funds for rehabilitation of world heritage city of Grand-Bassam

Rehabilitation work in the World Heritage Site of Grand-Bassam will begin later this year reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 14)**. According to the paper, the government has announced its commitment to spend FCFA 400 million (\$834,000) for the rehabilitation of colonial architecture. The effort is designed to bring more tourism to the region.

8. A woman immolates herself in front of presidential palace in Abidjan

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15750-abidjan-une-femme-tente-de-s%E2%80%99immoler-au-plateau>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99547/cote-divoire-dame-tente-simmoler-devant-palais-presidentiel>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498610.html>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 11)** says that an Abidjan nurse, Nandjara Ouattara, attempted to immolate herself yesterday outside of the presidential palace. The woman was saved by presidential body guards who were at the scene. She is now in the hospital. According to ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 8)**, the woman set herself on fire to protest against the government which owes her money for past work.

Opposition paper ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6)**, reports that the victim is a supporter of the ruling RDR political party. It reports that in 2007, Ouattara "rented" her car to the presidential campaign of President Ouattara but has never been paid.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[59 trucks choke Elubo border; Cote d'Ivoire law restricts mov't](#)

GhanaWeb

Fifty-nine cargo trucks loaded with goods from the ports of Ghana have been denied entry into Cote d'Ivoire, in line with the enforcement of a trade ...

[Task force intercepts cocoa bags near Cote d'Ivoire border](#)

GhanaWeb

An anti-cocoa smuggling task force has intercepted more than 132 bags of cocoa beans at two different places near the border with Cote d'Ivoire in the ...

[Ivory Coast director lambasts leaders 'who forget their people' at Cannes](#)

Capital FM Kenya

It's not often that a film-maker, especially an African one, uses a movie to pay tribute to politicians. But that's exactly what French-Ivorian director ...

[DekelOil signs up second Ivory Coast customer](#)

Yahoo Finance UK

LONDON (ShareCast) - Oil and gas exploration group DekelOil (LSE: DKL.L - news) announced it has started to supply crude palm oil to a second ...

[Africa's Blue Economies Vital for Development](#)

AllAfrica.com

Speaking at the African Development Bank's 2014 Annual Meeting, Ministers from South Africa, Ivory Coast and Seychelles echoed this view and ...

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 21, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Parliament commission adopts bill on reform of electoral commission
2. Government and opposition to resume dialogue tomorrow
3. Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe holds talks with President Ouattara in Abidjan
4. President Ouattara meets with heads of international cocoa firms
5. Government commits \$8 million to boost Ivoirian private sector
6. More than 3,000 people displaced after gun attack in Grabo

1. Parliament commission adopts bill on reform of electoral commission

- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99524/cote-divoire-grand-oral-devant-les-deputes-mention-honorable-hamed-bakayoko>
- <http://fr.starafrika.com/actualites/ladoption-de-la-loi-sur-la-nouvelle-commission-electorale-a-la-une-des-journaux-ivoiriens.html>
- <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20140520-cote-ivoire-commission-electorale-independante-abidjan-cei-sera-reformee/>

The General and Institutional Affairs Commission of the National Assembly yesterday adopted the bill to reform the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) ahead of the 2015 presidential election, reports *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5). According to the paper, 29 members of the commission supported the bill while only one voted against the reform. Speaking before the commission, Interior and Security Minister Hamed Bakayoko explained that the reform takes into account "the normalized institutional environment" that now exists in Cote d'Ivoire. Bertin Konan Kouadio, a member of the National Assembly from the PDCI-RDA party, who was the lone vote against the bill, explained his vote by saying that, "The reform does not respond to all the concerns of the people of Cote d'Ivoire who will continue to question the efficiency of the electoral commission." Reacting after the vote, Danielle Boni Claverie, vice-president of an alliance that includes the main Ivoirian opposition party, the FPI, is quoted as saying, "We hope that during the final session, lawmakers will amend the text." According to a report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 4-5), the debate over the reform yesterday turned into a protracted political bargaining session between the PDCI-RDA party, the party of former president Henri Konan Bedie, and the RDR party of President Alassane Ouattara. The paper reports a member of the RDR party as criticizing the alleged efforts by lawmakers from the PDCI-RDA to work with members of the opposition without approval from the ruling RHDP alliance. However, the paper quotes chairman of the PDCI-RDA's group in the National Assembly, Gaston Ouassena Kone as saying that, "PDCI-RDA did not vote for reform under pressure."

An article in pro-opposition newspaper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) claims that the PDCI-RDA party has lost some of its credibility for supporting the reform. The paper explains that the party, which was calling for amendments to the bill, has finally surrendered to the "intimidations" of the RDR.

Le Temps (p. 4) has a similar position, saying that the bill was adopted yesterday following a "command" from President Ouattara. *Notre Voie* (p. 8) also believes that the future electoral commission as it was approved yesterday will fall under "government control."

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 5) quotes Yaya Fofana, a spokesperson of the MFA party, which also a member of the ruling RHDP coalition, denouncing the "grave setback for democracy" after the vote.

2. Government and opposition to resume dialogue tomorrow

According to a report in *L'Inter* (p. 3), the dialogue between the government and the opposition FPI party is schedule to resume tomorrow. This was announced by the Secretary General Special

Representative for the UN in Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou. She said this on Monday after a meeting with former prime minister and head of the government's efforts in the talks, Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio

3. Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe holds talks with President Ouattara in Abidjan

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15733-faure-gnassingbe-%E2%80%99quand-la-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-va-bien-la-sous-r%C3%A9gion-le-ressent%E2%80%99%E2%80%99>
- <http://www.linfordrome.com/vie-politique/15844-cooperation-cote-d-ivoire-togo-faure-gnassingbe-a-ouattara-le-travail-que-vous-faites-ici-nous-est-profitable>
- <http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/article.php?id=604234>

Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe yesterday met with President Ouattara in Abidjan, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**. The Togolese president, in Abidjan as part of a one-day visit, is quoted as saying, "We are fortunate in that when Cote d'Ivoire is doing well, the whole West African region benefits. The impressive peace and economic revival of Cote d'Ivoire is good for us all." According to the Togolese president, the meeting with his Ivoirian counterpart was also an opportunity to discuss the security situation in the region, in particular in Mali.

4. President Ouattara meets with heads of international cocoa firms

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498548.html>
- <http://fratmat.info/une/item/15732-durabilite-%C3%A9-du-cacao-une-d%C3%A9claration-d%E2%80%99intention-conjointe-sign%C3%A9e-ce-mardi>
- <http://news.icilome.com/?idnews=782674&t=Le-gouvernement-ivoirien-et-12-industries-de-chocolat-adoptent-une-strategie-de-durabilite-du-Cacao>

President Ouattara yesterday met with heads of the World Cocoa Foundation to present reforms underway in the Ivoirian cocoa sector, ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 14)** reports. The report also says the president of the World Cocoa Foundation and President Ouattara also discussed plans designed to improve the quality of the cocoa produced by Cote d'Ivoire.

5. Government commits \$8 million to boost Ivoirian private sector

The Ivoirian government has committed FCFA 3.8 billion (about \$8 million) to support a program aimed at boosting the performance of the country's private sector, ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 15)** reports. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba during a meeting in Abidjan. The three-year program, which begins in 2014, also seeks to help the private sector become more competitive.

6. More than 3,000 people displaced after gun attack in Grabo

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15718-grabo-ce-qui-s%E2%80%99est-r%C3%A9ellement-pass%C3%A9-%C3%A0-f%C3%AAtai>
- <http://www.rti.ci/replay.php?page=replay&chaine=emirti1&genre=elmtjtrti1&id=453067606&titre=cote-d-ivoire-le-gouvernement-fait-des-dons-aux-deplaces-de-grabo%22>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 29)** says more than 3,000 people are now displaced as a result of last week's attack against a village near Grabo in the southwestern region of the country by as of yet unidentified gunmen. According to the paper, the displaced populations include dozens of pregnant women who are now being sheltered in a center in Grabo.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Ivory Coast power firm Cie aims to double customer base in 3 years](#)

Reuters Africa

ABIDJAN May 19 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast power utility Cie plans to invest 100 billion CFA francs (\$209 million) to double its customer base by 2017, ...

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[Ivory Coast: Major General Hafiz appointed commander of UN operations](#)

Business Recorder

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed of Pakistan as the Force Commander for the United Nations ...

-

[SapuraKencana clinches \\$312 million contracts in Cote d'Ivoire, Asia and Russia](#)

BusinessDay

In Cote d'Ivoire, SapuraKencana was awarded a contract for the provision of offshore drilling rig and services by its Tender Assist Drilling Rig "SKD T- ...

[Global Chocolate and Cocoa Companies Announce Unprecedented Sustainability Strategy in ...](#)

NEWS.GNOM.ES

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, May 20, 2014 /NEWS.GNOM.ES/ — Senior executives from 12 of the world's largest chocolate and cocoa companies are ...

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 20, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Parliament's debate on bill of reform of electoral commission to begin today
2. Ministers trained on budget management
3. President Ouattara meets with EU head in Cote d'Ivoire over peace and security in Africa
4. Government moves to ban illegal gold mining
5. CNP and GEPCI disagree over collective agreement for journalists

1. Parliament's debate on bill of reform of electoral commission to begin today

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498504.html>

The National Assembly will begin today debate on the bill seeking reform of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the body tasked with organizing elections in Cote d'Ivoire, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) reports. The newspaper says that the Minister of Interior and Security, Hamed Bakayoko, will be at the National Assembly today to present the bill. The paper recalls that the bill, which was amended by the government last week after a meeting between Bakayoko and representatives of parties from the opposition, continues to be controversial.

A report *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 2-3) quotes Sui Bi, a member of National Assembly from the PDCI-RDA party as saying, "PDCI-RDA wants a representative of the Ministry of Defense on the future electoral commission." However, Bi is reported as saying that her party agrees with the recent amendment of the bill that brought the number of members of the commission from 13 to 17.

L'Inter (p.6) reports that Bertin Konan Kouadio, another member of the National Assembly from the PDCI-RDA party, warned against any attempt by those who support the amendment from "using force" to push the bill through. The paper also suggests that Minister Bakayoko will need to reconcile all these positions in order to obtain a consensus over the controversial bill.

Meanwhile, reports in other paper say that the debate over the bill, which was initially set to begin on Monday, has again been postponed. On the reason behind this delay, *Le Temps* (p. 5) quotes insiders as saying that the government is still under pressure to review the bill following observations made by the opposition FPI party. According to a report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3), a member of parliament from the PDCI-RDA party has cast doubts about starting the debate saying that "the government has unilaterally set the date without taking into account the calendar of the National Assembly."

2. Ministers trained on budget management

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498496.html>
- <http://fratmat.info/une/item/15700-coop%C3%A9ration-ue-ci-%E2%80%98nous-voulons-que-cela-continue%E2%80%99%E2%80%99-souhaite-thierry-de-saint-maurice>

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) says that members of the government yesterday received training on budget management. According to the paper, the session was led by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and was designed to strengthen the capacity of ministers in management in order ensure accountability within the government's actions. *L'Expression* (p. 10) reports that the session was an opportunity for the government to review measures such as efficient utilization of government vehicles that are aimed at ensuring good governance.

3. President Ouattara meets with EU head in Cote d'Ivoire over peace and security in Africa

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498494.html>

President Alassane Ouattara and the head of European Union delegation in Cote d'Ivoire, Thierry de Saint Maurice, yesterday held talks on peace and security in Africa, reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 6)***. The paper quotes de Saint Maurice as saying that the discussion focused on the activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria and the recent fighting between the Malian army and the National Movement of the Liberation of the AZAWAD.

4. Government moves to ban illegal gold mining

A report in ***Fraternite Matin (p. 40)*** says that the Minister of Industry and Mining, Jean Claude Brou, met on Saturday with traditional gold miners operating in the central towns of Bouafle and Yamoussoukro. According to the paper, the aim of the meeting was to inform miners about the new mining code put in place by the government. The move was also part of a government campaign against illegal gold mining in Cote d'Ivoire.

5. CNP and GEPCI disagree over collective agreement for journalists

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15691-application-de-convention-collective-le-gepci-s'oppose-à-la-décision-du-cnp>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin (p. 25)*** says the National Press Council (CNP), the government-run print media regulatory body and the Association of News Publishers in Cote d'Ivoire (GEPCI), disagree over the implementation of recommendations following a collective agreement signed by the two sides. According to the paper, the agreement seeks, among other things, to establish new salaries for professional journalists and media practitioners in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes GEPCI president Amedee Assi as saying, "The government has the obligation to support the press through grants. Once the government respects this obligation we will have the means to apply the recommendations."

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Cote d'Ivoire: Consolidating Cote d'Ivoire's 'New' Democracy](#)

AllAfrica.com

At the end of March 2014, Ivorian President Alassane Outtara declared in Abidjan that "we are determined to ensure that [the 2015 elections] are ...

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[Ban names new force commander for UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Shanghai Daily (subscription)

Following the 2010 presidential election and the ensuing political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, UNOCI has remained on the ground to protect civilians, ...

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[Amara Mining To Conduct Feasibility Study For Taoure Gold Project](#)

London South East

... feasibility study for its Taoure Gold Project in Côte d'Ivoire in the first quarter 2015 following a placing and open offer which raised USD30.5 million.

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12,546 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

11,883 daily

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Government-run television and radio conglomerate

U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 19, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Thousands of farmers join campaign against child labor
2. President of National Assembly vows to bring back exiled politicians
3. PDCI-RDA's youth wing wants the party to contest 2015 presidential elections
4. Former exiled politician takes back leadership of opposition youth wing

1. Thousands of farmers join campaign against child labor

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/la-premiere-dame-et-les-planters-de-san-pedro-ensemble-pour-lutter-contre-le-travail-des-enfants-19718.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498379.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498391.html>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 9) says thousands of farmers from southwestern Cote d'Ivoire have committed to stand by first lady Dominique Ouattara in her campaign against child labor. According to the paper, the first lady, visiting the southwestern town of San Pedro over the weekend, urged cocoa farmers not to use children as laborers on their farms. The first lady also is quoted as saying, "The campaign against child labor has led to the government of the United States to review Cote d'Ivoire's status" in how the country deals with child labor.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7) reports that the aim of first lady's campaign is to enable Cote d'Ivoire to obtain a certification for its cocoa products. The paper also indicates that more than eight million farmers are involved in cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire. However, the paper says that the first lady said that the efforts of these farmers could be undermined if they use children as laborers. ***Le Nouveau Reveil*** (pp. 6 - 9) quotes the first lady as saying, "Our goal is not to prevent the children from learning the trade of their parents, but to ensure that they also go to school." A report in this paper also says that a panel meeting as part of the first lady's visit to the region also called for the application of a law that bans the worst forms of child labor in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper also reports the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Professional Training, Dosso Moussa, as saying, "The law provides sanctions that could lead to 20 years of imprisonment."

2. President of National Assembly vows to bring back exiled politicians

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/guillaume-soro-pret-pour-aller-chercher-les-exiles-pro-gbagbo-19717.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498387.html>
- <http://www.linodrome.com/vie-politique/15805-soro-guillaume-je-suis-pret-a-aller-chercher-les-exiles-pro-gbagbo>
- <http://nouvelles.abidjantv.net/actualite.php?id=21220-guillaume-soro-pret-pour-aller-chercher-les-exiles-pro-gbagbo.html>
- http://www.ladepechedabidjan.info/Guillaume-Soro-pret-pour-aller-chercher-les-exiles-pro-Gbagbo_a17697.html

The President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, said, "I am ready to go and look for politicians who are still in exile," reports ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 4). Soro, the paper says, was speaking on Saturday in Agboville where he concluded a week-long tour of the Agneby-Tiassa region, northeast of Abidjan. Addressing the gathering, Soro urged people living in exile to return home in order to take part in the reconciliation process.

3. PDCI-RDA's youth wing wants the party to contest 2015 presidential elections

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498385.html>

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/pdci-rda-la-jeunesse-se-mobilise-pour-la-reconquete-du-pouvoir-avec-un-candidat-actif-19712.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/presidentielle-2015-en-presence-de-guikahue-les-jeunes-du-pdci-reclament-la-candidature-d-un-militant-actif-de-leur-parti-19730.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498360.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-jeunesse-pdci-remobilise-pour-reconquete-pouvoir-2015-91836.html>

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (pp. 3 and 5)** says approximately 300 members of JPDCI, the youth wing of PDCI-RDA party, met over the weekend and recommended that the party's leadership nominate a candidate for the 2015 presidential elections. A statement issued at the end of the meeting also called on all JPDCI members to rally behind the head of the party and former president, Henri Konan Bedie. The paper quotes the leader of the JPDCI, Brahima Kamagate, as calling on party supporters to "get ready to guarantee a victory for PDCI-RDA in 2015."

A report in **L'Inter (p. 5)** quotes Bedie as telling members of the JPDCI, "The political situation is still fragile." Bedie's message, which was read by PDCI-RDA's executive secretary Maurice Kacou Guikahue, also called for coaching to enable the party's youth to "better understand" the current political environment in Cote d'Ivoire.

4. Former exiled politician takes back leadership of opposition youth wing

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15654-jfpi-koua-justin-a-pass%C3%A9-le-flambeau-%C3%A0-konat%C3%A9-navigu%C3%A9>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/jfpi-passation-des-charges-entre-navigue-et-koua-a-13-h-19690.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-konate-navigue-retrouve-tete-jeunesse--91844.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99452/cote-divoire-navigue-reprend-les-renes-jeunesse-du-parti-gbagbo-apres-exil>
- <http://nouvelles.abidjantv.net/actualite.php?id=21212-cote-d-ivoire-konate-navigue-nouveau-president-de-la-jeunesse-du-fpi.html>

Navigate Konate, a youth leader of the opposition FPI party who recently returned from exile, has been selected to take back over the leadership of the JFPI, the party's youth wing, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. According to the paper, Konate took over from Justin Koua during a ceremony over the weekend at the party's headquarters in Abidjan.

Notre Voie (p. 5) reports that Konate assumed leadership after three years in exile. The paper quotes Konate as pledging to "continue the battle of his predecessor" for the liberation of former president Laurent Gbagbo.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Ivory Coast bounces back after 11 years of conflict](#)

Financial Times

When Amadou Oumarou left Ivory Coast at the start of the country's civil war, he prepared for a short absence. "We thought: in six months, we will be ...

[Ivory Coast army retakes border town](#)

News24

Abidjan - Ivory Coast's army took back control of a village on its southwestern border with Liberia on Friday after gunmen seized it in an attack that ...

[Future May be Bitter for Chocolate Lovers Leading Processor Warns](#)
NDTV

That leaves improving productivity, and to that end Barry Callebaut runs a programme to improve the skills of farmers in Ivory Coast, the world's top ...

[CANNES: Philippe Lacote's 'Run' Could Help Ivory Coast Film Industry Rebound](#)
Variety

With a film from the Ivory Coast selected for the first time to screen at Cannes, hopes are high that the West African country's long-dormant film industry ...

[Francophone Africa way to go: Standard Bank](#)
Manica Post

Africa's largest lender opened its Ivory Coast representative office in Abidjan last November to service 145 clients with operations in Francophone ...

[Bollore Said to Win Contract to Upgrade Ivory Coast-Burkina Rail](#)
Bloomberg

Sitarail, a rail company controlled by Bollore SA (BOL), won a bid to upgrade the route it operates between the West African nations of Ivory Coast and ...

[Higher West Africa farmer prices won't fill global cocoa gap](#)
Reuters Africa

Ivory Coast expected to raise farmer price above 800 CFA. * Farmers hope for prices between 900 and 1,000 CFA. * ICCO forecasts global 2013/14 ...

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Media affiliation and circulation

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[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

May 16, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. [Bedie's PDCI-RDA on campaign for a consensual electoral commission](#)
2. [Question over leadership of FPI's youth wing](#)
3. [Government forces repel attack at Ivoirian-Liberian border](#)
4. [National Assembly adopts law on transparency](#)

1. Bedie's PDCI-RDA on campaign for a consensual electoral commission

- <http://www.eburnienews.com/>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/cei-classe-politique-et-societe-civile-divisees-sur-le-nouveau-projet-de-reforme-19548.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498256.html>

PDCI-RA, the party of former president Henri Konan Bedie has launched a large consultation over the bill on the reform of the Independent Electoral Commission reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)**. The consultation came after the government adopted a new bill on Wednesday. According to the paper, the aim of this consultation is to ensure that all the political parties in Cote d'Ivoire agree on "a consensual" commission. A delegation of Bedie's party yesterday met with the MFA leader, Innocent Anaky Kobena, who reportedly called for the delay of the debate over the bill on the reform on the electoral commission. Anaky Kobena also proposed that the future electoral commission should not be the control of the government.

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)** says executive members of PDCI-RDA party also met yesterday over the new bill and quotes the party's executive secretary, Maurice Kacou Guikahue, as saying, "We have no problem with the government's proposal."

Soir Info (p.4) reports on the positions of different political leaders over the new bill which says the future electoral commission will be made up of 17 members instead of 13 in the previous bill. "The issue is not the number of the members of the commission but its composition," the paper quotes Bertin Konan Kouadio, a PDCI-RDA's Member of Parliament as saying. Kouadio also complains about the fact that the President of the Republic will have a representative in the future commission. "This commission is totally dependent of the President of the Republic," the paper quotes the leader LIDER, Mamadou Koulibaly as saying. Koulibaly also proposed that "the electoral should be amended because it gives too much power to the President of the Republic."

2. Question over leadership of FPI's youth wing

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/des-jeunes-du-fpi-demandent-a-justin-koua-de-ceder-le-secretariat-general-a-navigue-konate-19595.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15596-fpi-des-jeunes-du-parti-r%C3%A9clament-le-retour-de-konat%C3%A9-navigu%C3%A9-%C3%A0-la-t%C3%AAtte-de-la-jfpi>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498258.html>

JFPI Nouvelle Vision organized a press conference yesterday to call for the reinstatement of Konaté Navigue as President of the FPI youth wing, JFPI. Serges Alan Degré, Secretary General of this faction, noted that Affi N'Guessan and Laurent Akoun resumed their positions after being released from prison. He further threatened a sit-in at FPI headquarters if action is not taken. Degré further called on civil society to prevent the FPI from using young Ivoirians to achieve their goals.

3. Government forces repel attack at Ivoirian-Liberian border

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/498208.html>

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/une-attaque-armee-repousee-a-la-frontiere-liberienne-19538.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-nouvelle-attaque-signalee-grabo-aurait-fait-mort-chef-91799.html>
- <http://www.linfodrome.com/faits-et-mefaits/15784-frontiere-ivoiro-liberienne-grabo-attaque-hier-par-des-assaillants>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99401/cote-divoire-nouvelle-attaque-armee-repousee-frontiere-du-liberia>

Several newspapers today report that an Ivoirian village near the border with Liberia has come under attack. **Fraternite Matin (p. 40)** quotes sources as saying that the incursion took place in the early hours of Thursday when armed men from neighboring Liberia reportedly crossed the River Cavally and headed for the village of Fetai where they looted and burned several houses.

4. National Assembly adopts law on transparency

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9)** says the Parliamentary Committee on the Economy and Finances approved a modified version of a law on fiscal transparency yesterday. The law had previously been approved in December, but was returned by the Constitutional Council for modification in January. Ministry for Economy and Finances Kaba Niale noted that this is the first time the Constitutional Council has returned a law and that this is an indication of the normalization of institutions in Côte d'Ivoire.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

Ivory Coast inaugurates 1st toll road

Turkish Press - 15 hours ago

ABIDJAN – **Ivory Coast** on Thursday inaugurated its first-ever toll road, featuring a 240km dual highway linking capital Yamoussoukro to ...

-

Cote d'Ivoire: Attack repelled to Liberian border

StarAfrica.com - 12 hours ago

The Ivorian village of Fetai, located 9 miles from **Grabo** (Southwest) along the border with Liberia has come under attack. Security sources said ...

-

UPDATE 1-Ivory Coast sells forward more than 1.05 mln T of **cocoa**

Reuters Africa - 1 day ago

(Adds quotes from source, details). ABIDJAN May 14 (Reuters) - Top **cocoa** producer **Ivory Coast** is aiming to increase its guaranteed farmer ...

-

Ivory Coast set to raise farmer price on successful **cocoa** auctions

Business Recorder - 1 day ago

image ABIDJAN: Top **cocoa** producer **Ivory Coast** is aiming to increase its guaranteed farmer price next season after it sold forward over 1.05 ...

Media affiliation and circulation

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Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review
May 15, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Government reviews structure of future electoral commission**
2. **President of National Assembly Soro demands pardon**
3. **Victims of 2011 post-electoral crisis decry their conditions**

1. Government reviews structure of future electoral commission

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497199.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497198.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15550-cei-le-nouveau-texte-de-loi-propose-17-membres>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/la-nouvelle-cei-fruit-d-un-consensus-avec-l-opposition-selon-hamed-bakayoko-19500.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-7003-cote-d-ivoire-la-composition-de-la-nouvelle-cei-passe-de-13-a-17-membres-gouv.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99378/cote-divoire-parti-ouattara-se-rejouit-modification-du-projet-lois-cei>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-gouvernement-cede-nouvelle-passe-membres-91767.html>

Government's decision to review the composition of the future electoral commission that will be tasked to organize next year's presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire has sparked mixed reactions in the media. According to ***Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5)***, the new bill adopted yesterday at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara said the commission will now be made up of 17 members instead of 13 proposed in the previous bill. The Minister of Interior and Security, Hamed Bakayoko, who made the announcement, is reported as saying that after his meeting with leaders of the opposition parties last week, President Ouattara has decided to move forwards in taking into account the opposition's observations. The new 17-member commission will be made up of four representatives from the public administration, four representatives from the civil society, four representatives from the opposition parties, four representatives from the ruling parties and one representative from the President of the Republic, reports the paper. The paper also indicates that the new bill will be put on the table of the National Assembly on May 19.

Through his decision to take into account recommendations of the opposition parties, Cote d'Ivoire is moving forwards to "a consensual" electoral commission, writes pro-government daily ***Le Patriote (p. 5)***. The paper also suggests that by this decision, President Ouattara has responded to the demands of the opposition parties. However, the paper wonders whether this decision will satisfy the leader of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who criticized the previous bill on reform of electoral commission.

According to ***Le Nouveau Reveil (pp. 2&3)***, PDCI-RDA, the party of former president Henri Konan Bedie has welcomed the government's new bill. However, the paper quotes insiders as saying that the Bedie's party will continue its consultations with other political parties and the civil society on their position on the new bill.

An article in the independent newspaper ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)*** suggests that by reviewing the bill on the reform of the electoral commission, President Ouattara wanted to show that he listens to his people. But the paper quotes Joel N'Guessan, the spokesperson of President Ouattara's RDR party, as saying that the decision took by the government yesterday was "just a bill. Final decision will come from lawmakers." ***Soir Info (p. 7)***, another independent daily sees the new bill as "a big victory" of Bedie's PDCI-RDA and the opposition parties.

Meanwhile, dailies close to the opposition are singing a different tune as **Notre Voie (p. 4)** describes the government's decision as "a political diversion." The paper also claims the new bill is likely to make the representative of the President of the Republic "a de facto" president of the future Independent Electoral Commission. According to a report in **Aujourd'hui (p. 5)**, the structure of the new bill does not respond to the balance that the opposition parties were yelling for.

2. President of National Assembly Soro demands pardon

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/guillaume-soro-dit-ne-pas-etre-a-la-chasse-du-fpi-dans-l-agneby-tiassa-19502.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497196.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99383/cote-divoire-guerre-nest-pas-bonne-chose-meme-en-legitime-defense-soro>
- <http://abidjan911.com/guillaume-soro-dit-pas-etre-chasse-du-fpi-lagneby-tiassa/>

President of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro continues his visit in the Agneby-Tiassa region – an area that has supported the FPI in the past. During his remarks, Soro compared politics to a game, suggesting that people should separate politics from the personal lives. According to a report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)**, Soro also demanded pardon of the Ivoirian people both on his personal account and on account of his position. "If my governance has wounded, frustrated, or vexed any Ivoirian, I demand pardon on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire. ... War is not a good thing, whatever reasons one may have. One should demand pardon even for legitimate defense." **Le Nouveau Courrier (p.3)** cites the *La Lettre du Continent* claiming that tensions exist between Soro and Ouattara, who is apparently isolating his former Prime Minister.

3. Victims of 2011 post-electoral crisis decry their conditions

- <http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15781-se-sentant-abandonnees-les-victimes-de-la-crise-menacent-le-gouvernement>

L'Inter (p. 3) reports that hundreds of victims of the 2011 post-electoral crisis yesterday gathered in Abidjan to voice their displeasure on the grounds that the government has ignored them. According to the paper, these victims announced their intention to stage sit-in demonstrations to press the government. The protesters also decried what they called "injustice" on the part of the government which, according to them, is handling better the case of the refugees as compared to that of the victims.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

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[UPDATE 2-Ivory Coast set to raise farmer price on successful cocoa ...](#)

Reuters Africa - 20 hours ago

Ivory Coast sells forward over 1.05 mln T by end April. * Expects to raise farmer price above 800 CFA/kg next season. * Sees output above 1.5 ...

[Currency fall deepens Ghana's cocoa smuggling troubles](#)

The Africa Report - 1 day ago

Ghana's falling currency has fuelled smuggling of as much as 100,000 tonnes of **cocoa** into neighbouring **Ivory Coast** since October, reversing ...

Ghana **cocoa** main crop purchases reach 750122 T by May 1 ...

Reuters Africa - 1 hour ago

ACCRA (Reuters) - **Cocoa** purchases declared to Ghana's industry ... Ghana, the world's second-largest **cocoa** producer after **Ivory Coast**, ...

-

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Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

May 14, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivoirian political stakeholders discuss electoral violence ahead of 2015 vote
2. Mel Theodore lobbies President Ouattara to release former first lady
3. ECOWAS experts working on regional immigration policy
4. Experts from International Civil Aviation Organization evaluate security at Abidjan airport
5. Announcement of road tolls on new motorway sparks controversy

1. Ivoirian political stakeholders discuss electoral violence ahead of 2015 vote

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497114.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99348/cote-divoire-bedie-recommande-respect-du-code-electoral-eviter-les-violences>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/la-violence-electorale-est-liee-au-quot-manque-de-culture-democratique-politique-et-de-conscience-citoyenne-quot-selon-le-president-de-la-cei-19372.html>

A seminar on how to prevent electoral violence is one of the major issues in the press today. According to a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8), the seminar is organized by the Academy of Sciences, Culture and African Arts and Diaspora (ASCAD), an Ivoirian think-tank, ahead of the 2015 general elections in Cote d'Ivoire. Participants include the president of the Independent Electoral Commission, Youssouf Bakayoko, the president of the Constitutional Council, Professor Francis Wodie, political leaders and the country's renowned academics including Professor Ake N'Gbo. "The institutions in charge of organizing the vote must be impartial," the paper quotes Wodie as saying. The head of the Constitutional Council also said that to prevent electoral violence, "candidates must exercise restraint and accept the verdict of the ballots." The paper also reports Bakayoko who stressed the importance of teaching the population "the culture of democracy, the respect of the law and the principles of good governance."

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 5) publishes a statement signed by former president Henri Konan Bedie indicating that "Through efforts to respect the electoral laws, we can avoid violence." Bedie's statement, which was read on his behalf at the seminar, also underscored "the role of a trustful Independent Electoral Commission to ensure a peaceful vote."

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 6) says political leaders attending the conference blaming each other for violence that blemished recent elections in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper reports PDCI-RDA's leader Maurice Kakou Guikahue as saying that the 1995 electoral violence in Cote d'Ivoire were mainly orchestrated by the FPI party. On his part, Sebastien Dano Djedje, who was speaking for FPI, denounced physical assaults, threats, intimidation of the party's supporters during the 2010 presidential elections.

2. Mel Theodore lobbies President Ouattara to release former first lady

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/apres-avoir-invite-ouattara-a-oublier-le-passe-mel-theodore-recu-par-le-chef-de-l-etat-19403.html>

Several newspapers including *L'Inter* (p. 7), *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6) and *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 6) report that President Ouattara yesterday received Mel Theodore, President of the opposition UDCY party, at the Presidential Palace. Theodore laid out his recommendations for promoting reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, specifically requesting that former first lady Simone Gbagbo be granted provisional release as other prisoners have been granted.

3. ECOWAS experts working on regional immigration policy

A report in ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 9) says experts from West African countries are meeting in Abidjan this week to work on a regional immigration policy. According to the paper, the meeting focuses on questions relating to regional economic integration and implementation national immigration programs. The report also says that the experts will try to harmonize their countries programs that include the rights and security of immigrants in the sub-region. Recommendations from this conference will also help foster free movement of people in the region, the report says. A report in ***Soir Info*** (p. 8) indicates that Cote d'Ivoire has the largest number of immigrants from the region. According to the paper, more than two million immigrants from countries in the region are living in Cote d'Ivoire

4. Experts from International Civil Aviation Organization evaluate security at Abidjan airport

A panel from the International Civil Aviation Organization is currently in Abidjan to assess security at the Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport in Abidjan, reports ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 14). The inspection, according to the paper, is to ascertain whether safety measures put in place at the airport are conforming to the standards set by International Civil Aviation Organization. The audit is part of certification process of the Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport.

5. Announcement of road tolls on new motorway

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15532-autoroute-du-nord-les-vehicules-personnels-payeront-1250-fcfa-par-poste>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/pont-a-peage-le-gouvernement-fixe-les-prix-entre-2500-et-10-000-fcfa-19386.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-peage-2500-fcfa-minimum-pour-aller-yamoussoukro-91749.html>
- <http://actu.atooc.ci/larticle.php?id=20841>

Fraternite Matin (p. 13) reports that three ministers took part in a press conference to announce the new tolls that will apply on the highway between Abidjan and Yamoussoukro. Rates range from 2500 CFA for light vehicles to 10000 CFA for heavy trucks (to be paid in two installments at two toll plazas). The authorities explained that these rates are lower than tolls on comparable roads in other African countries and will permit Côte d'Ivoire to pay for maintenance and repay loans, but will not build up a fund for future infrastructure projects. Minister Patrick Achi stated that the Prime Minister would be the first to pay the toll on Thursday to indicate that no one will be exempt. ***Notre Voie*** (p. 4) complains that these rates are higher than police would extort from travelers and that there is no good alternative route to avoid the tolls.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Ivoirian refugees return to homelessness](#)

IRINnews.org - 19 hours ago

UNHCR's deputy representative in **Côte d'Ivoire**, Serge Ruso, told IRIN that ... candidate and now President Alassane **Ouattara** raided villages, ...

-

[Smuggling Costs Ghana 100000 Tonnes of Cocoa](#)

AFKInsider - 12 hours ago

Ghana's falling currency has fueled smuggling of as much as 100,000 tonnes of **cocoa** into neighbouring **Ivory Coast** since October, reversing a ...

-

[Good **Cocoa** Harvest Expected on **Ivory Coast**](#)

MarineLink - 1 day ago

Cocoa farmers said on Monday weeks of abundant rain in most of **Ivory Coast's** principal growing regions will likely ensure good bean quality ...

-

[Standard Bank expands African presence](#)

BusinessDay - 8 hours ago

"**Ivory Coast** is the perfect example of how the **economic** growth potential of countries in Francophone Africa has overtaken their internal ...

-

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

22,723 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

17,378

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Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

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Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

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[L'Expression](#)

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

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Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

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[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)

Government-run news agency

[ONUCI FM](#)

UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review
May 13, 2014**

Today's Top Stories

1. Results of national census to be announced in June
2. Parliament's debate on bill on reform of electoral commission postponed
3. AFRICOM-media conference opens in Germany
4. Liberian court acquits five mercenaries accused of killing seven UN peacekeepers
5. Reporters Without Borders meet President Ouattara over press freedom

1. Results of national census to be announced in June

- <http://www.fratmat.info/economie/item/15499-ibrahima-ba-le-budget-du-rgph-est-estim%C3%A9-%C3%A0-13985-milliards-fcfa>
- <http://www.monsaphir.tv/actualites/item/5785-ibrahima-ba-le-budget-du-rgph-est-estime-a-13-985-milliards-fcfa.html>
- <http://fr.africatime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/ibrahima-ba-le-budget-du-rgph-est-estime-13985-milliards-fcfa>

Fraternite Matin (p. 7) reports the Director of National Statistics Institute, Ibrahima Ba, as saying that preliminary results of the ongoing national census will be announced in June. Ba, the paper says, was speaking yesterday at a press briefing. Ba also reportedly said that despite some difficulties the operation is moving forward and will end soon. According to Ba these first results will give clear data about the number of the people who live in every corner in Cote d'Ivoire including their sex and age. "The final results will be announced by the end of 2014." The director of National Statistics Institute also disclosed that "by the end of May, 80 percent of Ivoirians will have been counted."

2. Parliament's debate on bill on reform of electoral commission postponed

Parliamentary debate on the proposed reformation of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has been postponed. **Le Nouveau Reveil (pp.2&3)** reports that the PDCI parliamentary group supports the postponement in order to allow time for political consensus. **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** speculates that the regime is retreated in the face of societal pressure. **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 7)** quotes several political actors including the FPI which is demanding 2 of 15 seats on the Commission, and LIDER President Mamadou Koulibaly: "The Minister has said that it is not the CEI that makes one win elections, but it can make one lose them."

3. AFRICOM-media conference opens in Germany

A conference on media and military relations opened yesterday in Germany, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**. The conference is organized by the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). About 50 journalists and military public affairs officers from several French speaking African nations are taking part in this week-long symposium. Speaking at the opening ceremony, General David M. Rodriguez said the conference is designed to reinforce collaboration and to foster dialogue and communication between media and military bodies. According to the paper, an exhibition dubbed "AFRICOM and international agencies" is taking place along this conference. The paper also reports Phillip Carter III,

former U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, who is now serving as Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement, stressed the importance of press freedom in Africa.

4. Liberian court acquits five mercenaries accused of killing seven UN peacekeepers

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497009.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/497012.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496969.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99313/cote-divoire-tuerie-7-soldats-lonu-justice-du-liberia-libere-5-presumes-assassins>
- <http://actu.atooc.ci/larticle.php?id=20844>
- http://www.ladepechedabidjan.info/Tuerie-de-sept-soldats-de-l-ONUCI-la-justice-liberienne-libere-cinq-presumes-assassins_a17626.html

Several newspapers including **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** report that a criminal court in Liberia on Friday acquitted five mercenaries accused of killing seven UN peacekeepers during a cross border attack that took place in Côte d'Ivoire in 2012. According to the paper, the defendants were released due to lack of evidence. According to a report in **LeNouveau Reveil (p. 5)**, a total of 18 mercenaries have been trial for the assassination of the UN peacekeepers.

5. Reporters Without Borders meet President Ouattara over press freedom

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-chef-de-l-etat-a-recu-une-delegation-de-l-oms-et-le-secretaire-general-de-reporters-sans-frontieres-19290.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-loms-menu-jour-dado-palais-91714.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15496-audience-le-chef-de-l%E2%80%99%C3%A9tat-a-re%C3%A7u-des-d%C3%A9l%C3%A9gations-de-l%E2%80%99oms-et-de-rsf>
- <http://www.aip.ci/regions.php?ID=6673&page=ABJ>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6972-le-chef-de-l-etat-a-recu-une-delegation-de-l-oms-et-le-secretaire-general-de-reporters-sans-frontieres.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 25)** on Monday President Ouattara met with a delegation from Reports sans Frontières (RSF). Secretary General Christophe Deloire was accompanied RSF Africa Officer Clea Kahn-Sriben, local RSF representative Baudelaire Mieu, and the Minister of Communications. Deloire noted that Côte d'Ivoire's position on RSF's rankings had improved considerably over the past few years, but that much improvement was still possible. He called for a liberalization of audiovisual media and for more proportional and balanced procedures for sanctioning newspapers – specifically he called for a procedure to permit newspapers to defend themselves against charges before sanctions were applied.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[UN seeks surveillance drones for Mali, shelves plans for Ivory Coast](#)

Reuters Africa - 1 hour ago

By Michelle Nichols. UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The United Nations has shelved plans to deploy surveillance drones as part of its ...

[Coffee rallies off, focus still on Brazil](#)

Business Recorder - 9 hours ago

Arabica **coffee** futures on ICE turned higher on chart-based support on Monday, ... In the world's biggest cocoa producer **Ivory Coast**, weeks of ...

[Good Cocoa Harvest Expected on Ivory Coast](#)

MarineLink - 16 hours ago

Cocoa farmers said on Monday weeks of abundant rain in most of **Ivory Coast's** principal growing regions will likely ensure good bean quality ...

[Ivorian rains good for cocoa mid-crop quality, volumes](#) Reuters Africa

-

[Currency fall deepens Ghana's cocoa smuggling troubles](#)

Reuters - 14 hours ago

Farmers seeking to cash in on I.Coast's higher price ... fuelled smuggling of as much as 100,000 tonnes of **cocoa** into neighbouring **Ivory Coast** ...

-

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

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Government-run television and radio conglomerate

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

May 12, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Interior and Security Minister Bakayoko meets with opposition groups over bill on reform of electoral commission
2. Opposition FPI party calls for the resignation of minister planning over failure of national census
3. RDR Deputy from West Challenges Government
4. Cote d'Ivoire to become France's hub to fight terrorism
5. First Lady Dominique Ouattara urges media to help fight child labor
6. High Education Minister Konan bans syndicalism in public universities

1. Interior and Security Minister Bakayoko meets with opposition groups over bill on reform of electoral commission

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496898.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/cote-d-ivoire-le-ministre-de-l-interieur-rencontre-l-opposition-19140.html>
- http://www.pressafrik.com/Cote-d-Ivoire-le-ministre-de-l-Interieur-rencontre-l-opposition_a121994.html
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496900.html>
- http://www.rumeursdabidjan.net/?parcours=actualite_politique&article=37470#onglet_article
- <http://fr.africetime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/cote-divoire-le-ministre-de-linterieur-rencontre-lopposition>

Several newspapers over the weekend and today report on a meeting that brought together Interior and Security Minister Hamed Bakayoko and leaders of opposition groups over the bill on reform of the Independent Electoral Commission. According to the weekend issue of ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 7), the meeting was called by Bakayoko to present to the opposition groups the bill adopted by the government a fortnight ago. Speaking to reporters, Bakayoko said, "Though the bill was adopted by the government, there could be some amendments in parliament." The paper reports Daniel Aka Ahizi, the spokesperson of a coalition, which includes the opposition FPI party, as welcoming the minister's initiative to meet the opposition groups before debate in the National Assembly on the bill. "The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the issue among ourselves to ensure a peaceful election," Ahizi said.

A report in pro-government newspaper, ***Le Patriote*** (p. 2) also quotes the minister as saying, "Our goal is to reach a consensus," over the reform in order to organize "credible elections."

On the opposition side, a report in ***Notre Voie*** (p. 5) says the minister of interior and security was trying to find an agreement with the opposition leaders on taking the bill to the National Assembly. Meanwhile, a report in ***Le Temps*** (p. 4) claims that members of National Assembly from the ruling RHDP coalition disagree with the government over the electoral reform. The paper quotes Deputy Bertin Konan Kouadio (PDCI) as saying, "Cote d'Ivoire needs a consensual and independent electoral commission." Konan Kouadio, who was speaking after a consultation with the opposition coalition, says the meeting was "to find a common position" on this issue.

On a different development, a report in today's issue of ***Le Nouveau Reveil*** (p. 3) says the bill on reform of the Independent Electoral Commission proposed by the government has received the support of the United States and France. According to the paper the reform was proposed in March by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The paper also claims that NDI in its recommendations

proposed that the government compose an electoral commission made up of members of civil society, political parties and governmental bodies.

2. Opposition FPI party calls for the resignation of minister planning over failure of national census

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496960.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-fpi-exige-la-demission-de-mabri-toikeusse-19206.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-recensement-bacle-exige-demission-ministre-mabri-toikeusse-91663.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99239/cote-divoire-parti-gbagbo-demande-demission-du-ministre-du-plan-mabri>
- http://webplus.imatin.net/atooc.ci/79649_rgph-2014-le-fpi-exige-la-demission-de-mabri-toikeusse

Notre Voie (p. 2) published over the weekend a statement issued by the FPI party calling for the “resignation” of the Minister of Planning and Development, Albert Mabri Toikeusse. The statement also blamed the minister for what the party sees as “unprofessionalism” that led to “the failure” of the national census.

Le Temps (p. 6) also reports that after he was questioned last week by state investigators along with three members of his party, the leader of FPI, Pascal Affi N’Guessan, continues to call for the boycott of the national census.

3. RDR Deputy from West Challenges Government

<http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15743-oulatta-gaoudi-pierre-depute-rdr-il-plane-sur-l-ouest-le-spectre-d-une-deuxieme-rebellion>

Retire Colonel Oulata Gaho, Deputy from Bangolo and manager of the 2010 Ouattara presidential campaign in Bangolo spoke out Saturday regarding the treatment of the Wê in Guemon and Cavally. The Deputy described his meetings with the local populations there and stated that his conclusions were consistent with those of an October 2013 Human Rights Watch report. He suggested that the local populations have had their lands expropriated and have been living in fear since 2002. He expressed concerns about plans to relocate the 35,000 illegal inhabitants of Mount Peko in the vicinity and about the absence of parliamentary representation during a recent visit by Minister Anne Ouloto to Mount Peko. He warned that local populations could soon take matters into their own hands if the government does not respond to their concerns. **Soir Info (p.3); L’Inter (p.3); Le Nouveau Courrier (p.8); L’Intelligent d’Abidjan (p.11)**. In other university news, **L’Intelligent d’Abidjan (p.3)** noted that Michel Gbagbo will soon resume teaching.

4. Cote d’Ivoire to become France’s hub to fight terrorism

- <http://fr.africatime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/cote-divoire-la-force-licorne-change-de-statut>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496884.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/cote-d-ivoire-la-force-licorne-change-de-statut-19154.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-ministre-francais-de-la-defense-jean-yves-le-drian-recu-par-son-homologue-ivoirien-19174.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-abidjan-drian-confirme-hollande-juillet-annonce-mutation-force-licorne-91662.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/15429-le-drian-%C3%A0-ouattara-%E2%80%98nous-appr%C3%A9cions-le-redressement-de-la-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire%E2%80%99>

Cote d'Ivoire will become the main center to be set up by France to "fight against terrorism" in the Sahel, reports ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 6) in its weekend issue. According to the paper, this was announced Friday by French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian who was in Abidjan on the first leg of a three-stop visit to West Africa. "We have decided to reorganize our military presence in the entire region with the primary aim to better facilitate the fight against terrorism," Le Drian told reporters after meeting with Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara. "As I have said before we have decided to transform our Licorne presence at the base in Abidjan into an advance operational base which will take effect from the 1st of January next year," Le Drian said. The minister is also reported as saying, "This will mean the reinforcement of our force and presence here for the continuity of our quality relationship in the military domain."

5. First Lady Dominique Ouattara urges media to help fight child labor

- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99248/cote-divoire-lutte-contre-travail-enfants-dominique-ouattara-sollicite-soutien-journalistes>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/societe/item/15449-lutte-contre-le-travail-des-enfants-dominique-ouattara-et-les-hommes-de-m%C3%A9dias-ensemble-pour-mener-le-combat>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/societe/item/15414-la-premi%C3%A8re-dame-aux-journalistes-aidez-nous-%C3%A0-stopper-l%E2%80%99exploitation-des-enfants-en-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire>
- http://webplus.imatin.net/ato.ci/78936_cote-d-ivoire-les-journalistes-associes-a-la-lutte-contre-les-pires-formes-de-travail-des-enfants
- <http://fr.africatime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/les-journalistes-associes-la-lutte-contre-les-pires-formes-de-travail-des-enfants>

A report in the weekend issue of ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 11) says First Lady Dominique Ouattara has urged Ivorian journalists to help campaign against child labor. According to the paper, the first lady made the call at the closing session of a capacity building workshop that brought together more than a hundred journalists on the issue last week. The training was an opportunity for the journalists to get a better understanding of child labor issues.

6. Minister of Higher Education Announces an End to Syndicalism

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496978.html>
- <http://fr.africatime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/universite-jean-lorougnon-guede-de-daloale-ministre-gnamien-konan-formel-le-temps-du>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/en-tournee-a-daloa-gnamien-konan-appelle-les-jeunes-a-plus-de-responsabilites-et-deploire-un-deficit-de-2500-enseignants-dans-le-superieur-19212.html>
- http://webplus.imatin.net/educarriere.ci/79648_universite-jean-lorougnon-guede-de-daloa-le-ministre-gnamien-konan-formel-laquo-le-temps-du-syndicalisme-est-termine-raquo
- <http://news.educarriere.ci/news-9393-universite-jean-lorougnon-guede-de-daloa-le-ministre-gnamien-konan-formel-le-temps-du-syndicalisme-est-termine.html>

During remarks at the University Jean Lorougnon Guede in Daloa, Minister Gnanmien Konan called on university authorities to "tell the students that the time of syndicalism is over" and forbade them from talking with student unions. He also instructed them to refer to the prosecutor cases of serious or untimely strikes and violence. ***Le Nouveau Reveil*** (p.10) ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan*** (p. 5) quotes a representative of FESCI, the largest student union, as saying that the Minister is preparing his departure. The same paper notes that as a presidential candidate in 2010, Gnanmien Konan called for the dissolution of FESCI and that the new Minister has now gone farther than his predecessor, Cisse Baongo, whose creation of a Council of Students provoked a strong reaction.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

-

[France to 'fight terrorism' from **Ivory Coast**](#)

Aljazeera.com - 2 days ago

On the first leg of a three-stop visit to West Africa, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that the **Ivory Coast** will become the main ...

[Germany a key market for fair trade products](#)

Deutsche Welle - 3 days ago

While fair trade **coffee** currently has a market share of 2.5 percent, ... "This means the **cocoa** farmers in West Africa, particularly in **Ivory Coast**, ...

[I.Coast's San Pedro port seeks \\$1.65 bln for expansion](#)

Reuters - 3 days ago

SAN PEDRO, **Ivory Coast**, May 8 (Reuters) - **Ivory Coast's** port of San Pedro is seeking ... San Pedro is already the world's leading port for **cocoa** exports, shipping more than ... It also exports **coffee**, palm oil, timber and cotton.

-

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

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[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

12,546 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

11,883 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

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Agence Ivoirienne de Presse
Government-run news agency

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UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

RTI Television
Government-run television and radio conglomerate

U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 9, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. U.S. Embassy and government sign agreement to promote peace in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Access to state television should be open, President Ouattara says
3. Four opposition leaders interrogated over disturbances to public order, police uses tear gas to disperse supporters
4. Minister of planning and development briefs journalists on population census
5. French Defense Minister expected in Abidjan to discuss military cooperation

1. U.S. Embassy and government sign agreement to promote peace in Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/democratie-les-usa-et-la-cote-d-ivoire-signent-un-quot-accord-de-financement-au-profit-de-la-paix-quot-19016.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15392-d%C3%A9mocratie-les-usa-et-la-c%C3%B4te-divoire-signent-un-accord-de-financement-au-profit-de-la-paix>
- http://webplus.imatin.net/fratmat.info/78771_democratie-les-usa-et-la-cote-d-ivoire-signent-un-quot-accord-de-financement-au-profit-de-la-paix-quot
- <http://www.izuba.info/info/democratie-les-usa-et-la-cote-d-ivoire,2851954.html?lang=fr>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)** says U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley and Ivoirian Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Koffi Diby signed a US \$7.5 million agreement yesterday in Abidjan. According to the paper, this financial assistance will help advance peace in Cote d'Ivoire as part of the reconciliation process. "This agreement aimed at supporting peace is a demonstration of the U.S. government's solidarity and commitment to stand by the people of Cote d'Ivoire in their efforts to foster democracy," the paper quotes Diby as saying. The paper also reports Ambassador McCulley as commending "the solid partnership" between the United States and Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the ambassador also stressed the commitment of the two countries to work together to "reinforce democratic institutions in Cote d'Ivoire."

2. Access to state television should be open, President Ouattara says

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/lassane-ouattara-invite-a-l-acces-equitable-de-tous-aux-medias-d-etat-19055.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-lassane-ouattara-previent-liberalisation-audiovisuel-fondamentale-91623.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496801.html>

President Alassane Ouattara has called for "free access" to state television reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 4)**. President Ouattara was speaking yesterday at a ceremony where he received the 2013 annual report from the government-run broadcast media regulatory body, the High Authority of Audio-Visual Communication (HACA). The report was presented by the head of HACA, Ibrahim Sy Savane. President Ouattara, according to the paper, noted, "The total liberalization of broadcasting media in Cote d'Ivoire has yet to be achieved," but he assured that "This will be done." Responding to the president, Sy Savane said, "HACA has been ready for liberalization and submitted the project to the government in 2012." However, he said the liberalization process has been delayed due to efforts to migrate from analog to digital television, reports the paper.

***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3)** quotes President Ouattara as condemning the part of the Ivoirian media that refuses to "support the national reconciliation."

3. Four opposition leaders interrogated over disturbances to public order, police uses tear gas to disperse supporters

- <http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15718-audition-des-responsables-du-fpi-c-etait-chaud-au-plateau-hier>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-convocation-daffi-nguessan-militants-gazes-arretes-police-91616.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99184/cote-divoire-convocation-4-leaders-du-fpi-manifestants-arretes-video-2>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496817.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/affi-n-guessan-et-ses-3-camarades-relaches-apres-8h-d-audition-a-abidjan-19035.html>
- <http://abidjan911.com/plateau-militants-du-fpi-gazes-police-devant-brigade-recherches/>

Several newspapers today, including ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)**, report that the head of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N’Guessan, along with three other members of the party were questioned yesterday by government investigators over the party’s call to boycott the ongoing national census. According to the paper, the four people were released the same day.

A report in ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 4)** says that the four opposition leaders could be charged for “disturbances to public order.” However, the paper quotes Affi N’Guessan as saying, “Our effort to boycott the national census is politically motivated and is not designed to cause any disturbances.” According to a report in ***L’Expression* (p. 3)**, supporters of the FPI party were planning to use the questioning of their leaders to hold a public demonstration in Abidjan. ***L’Inter* (pp. 4-5)** says that police used tear gas to disperse the supporters gathered. According to the paper, four journalists who were covering the event were also briefly detained by the police. The paper also quotes FPI spokesperson Michel Amani N’Guessan as condemning President Ouattara’s “bad governance.” On the opposition side, ***Notre Voie* (pp. 4-5)** publishes a list of 19 people who were arrested yesterday. Another article in this paper denounces the government’s “dictatorial posture.” “We will continue our campaign to boycott the anti-national census,” ***Le Temps* (p. 4)** quotes FPI youth leader Justin Koua as saying.

4. Minister of planning and development briefs journalists on population census

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/rgph-2014-mabri-toikeusse-promet-la-fin-de-l-operation-d-ici-a-la-fin-de-ce-mois-19044.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-mabri-toikeusse-promet-recensement-dici-mois-91615.html>
- <http://www.linfodrome.com/vie-politique/15723-boycott-du-recensement-mabri-toikeusse-ceux-qui-lancent-les-mots-d-ordre-doivent-assumer>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496798.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99203/cote-divoire-abidjan-enregistre-taux-recensement-18-79>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6932-cote-d-ivoire-le-recensement-de-la-population-n-est-pas-politique-selon-les.html>

Minister of Planning and Development Albert Mabri Toikeusse yesterday told journalists that the national census is “a success,” reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 7)**. According to the paper, Toikeusse was speaking at a press briefing where he presented a report on the operation. The paper also reports that the minister called on the population “not to politicize” the census. He also emphasized that the census is designed to plan for future development projects. The minister, however, outlined technical difficulties that were encountered during the operation and assured that steps are being taken to resolve these problems.

According to ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3)**, Toikeusse declared at the press briefing to have evidence that violence in certain regions against census workers was caused by the opposition FPI party.

On the opposition side, **Le Temps (p. 9)** quotes Toikeusse as saying, "FPI's boycott campaign against the census will not have negative impact on the results." The paper then questions why the government has decided to extend the census while accusing the opposition FPI party of disrupting the operation.

Similarly, a report in **Notre Voie (p. 5)** claims that yesterday's press briefing was an opportunity for the minister to confess that the national census was "a failure."

5. French Defense Minister expected in Abidjan to discuss military cooperation

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496812.html>
- <http://fr.africatime.com/articles/le-ministre-francais-de-la-defense-en-visite-de-travail-de-deux-jours-abidjan>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-ministre-francais-de-la-defense-en-visite-de-travail-de-deux-jours-a-abidjan-18996.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** says French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian is expected today in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the visit is part of a regional tour of West Africa. According to the paper, the minister will be meeting French nationals living in Cote d'Ivoire and meet with Ivoirian authorities to discuss military cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire and France.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[I.Coast's cocoa farmer price falls despite heavy grinder demand](#)

Reuters Africa

ABIDJAN, May 7 (Reuters) - Cocoa merchants in several of Ivory Coast's main growing regions have begun paying farmers less than the government ...

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[Randgold Resources Announces 1st Quarter Results](#)

Wall Street Journal

Tongon in Cote d'Ivoire again struggled with a below par throughput rate as the Vibrocone crushers, intended to address this issue, continued to ...

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Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

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May 8, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. FPI leader Affi N'Guessan, three others summoned for questioning
2. Industry and port week launched in San Pedro
3. Ivoirian Prime Minister at World Economic Forum in Abuja
4. American and Chinese investors on business prospection in Bouake

1. FPI leader Affi N'Guessan, three others summoned for questioning

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496749.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/affi-n-guessan-et-3-dirigeants-du-fpi-convoques-ce-jeudi-a-la-brigade-de-recherche-18952.html>
- <http://www.linfordrome.com/vie-politique/15708-affi-n-guessan-kodjo-richard-akoun-et-odette-lorougnon-convoques>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99151/cote-divoire-urgent-affi-akoun-odette-lohourougnon-kodjo-richard-convoques-brigade-recherche>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-affi-nguessan-convoque-brigade-recherche-91603.html>

Notre Voie (p. 5) reports this morning that the head of the opposition FPI party and three others have been called in by the gendarmerie for questioning. The paper says that the three others are Richard Kodjo, Laurent Akoun and Odette Lorougnon, all executive members of the FPI. According to the paper, the motive behind the questioning has not been clearly identified. However, the paper speculates that it could be linked to the ongoing effort to boycott the national census. The paper notes that on Monday, the government threatened to prosecute those who call on others to avoid participating in the national population census.

The summons of the four members of the opposition came after the head of the president's RDR party, Amadou Soumahoro, warned Affi N'Guessan about criticizing President Alassane Ouattara reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**. The paper also reports that FPI spokesperson Justin Koua is calling on all members of the party to accompany the four leaders to the gendarmerie at 10:00 a.m. this morning.

A report in **Soir Info (p. 4)** says that the decision to summon the four leaders could lead to a clash between party members and the government. The paper also says that the decision by the government to prosecute people who call for a boycott of the census has not deterred the opposition party from continuing its efforts. Referring to Article 169 of Cote d'Ivoire's criminal code **L'Inter (p. 4)** claims that if the four opposition leaders are charged under this law for calling to disrupt government operations, they could be sentenced to three to five years in prison. The paper also wonders if threatening people was the best solution by the government to encourage people to take part in the census.

2. Industry and port week launched in San Pedro

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/port-de-san-pedro-quot-plus-de-8000-milliards-fcfa-quot-pour-son-developpement-18945.html>
- <http://abidjan911.com/port-san-pedro-volume-du-traffic-passe-12-million-en-2010-43-millions-tonnes-en-2013/>
- <http://www.sinportci.com/tout-sur-la-sinport.php>

Yesterday, business and government leaders in the port city of San Pedro, in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire, launched industry and port week reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)**. The event, which is being organized by the government, seeks to promote greater investment in the city. Speaking at the

event, Minister of Transportation Gaoussou Toure said that the government will commit more than FCFA eight billion (\$17 million) for investment in the city. The minister is also reported as saying that this project is part of the government's plan to make Cote d'Ivoire an emerging economy by the year 2020.

3. Ivoirian Prime Minister at World Economic Forum in Abuja

- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6912-le-premier-ministre-ivoirien-au-forum-economique-mondial-pour-l-afrique.html>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-ouattara-repos-duncan-remplace-abuja-pour-forum-africain-mondial-91580.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-pm-ivoirien-au-nigeria-pour-le-forum-economique-mondial-sur-l-afrique-18927.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496718.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496697.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/economie/item/15363-forum-%C3%A9conomique-mondial-duncan-repr%C3%A9sente-la-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-%C3%A0-abuja>

Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan is currently in Abuja, Nigeria where he is participating in the World Economic Forum on Africa reports *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 11-12). According to the paper, Duncan is meeting with foreign investors to promote Ivoirian agriculture potential. The paper also reports that Duncan met yesterday with former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, where the two focused on education issues. A report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) quotes Duncan as saying, "Brown promised to help Cote d'Ivoire improve its education system."

4. American and Chinese investors on business prospection in Bouake

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/en-mission-de-prospection-les-americains-et-chinois-interesses-par-la-region-de-gbeke-18975.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496734.html>

This week, a delegation of American and Chinese investors is in Bouake, the second largest city in Cote d'Ivoire, reports *L'Inter* (p. 6). The purpose of the visit is to find new investment opportunities. According to the head of the regional council, Jean Kouassi Abonouan, "The American investors are here to help rebuild the city of Bouake after the significant damage suffered during the crisis of the past decade."

Abonouan also said that when meeting with the delegation, the conversation focused on education and creating jobs for youth in the region. *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) quotes a member of the American delegation, Hourani George Michael, the president of *Born to Build*, as saying, "The region appears to be a potential new market for business in Cote d'Ivoire. Michael is also quoted as saying after discussions with local leaders, "The delegation has identified agriculture as one of the most promising opportunities in the region."

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Are African Issuers About to Get the Show on the Road?](#)

Wall Street Journal (blog)

Last week, Ivory Coast's Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said the West African country is pressing ahead with plans to issue a dollar bond—just ...

-

[Ouattara's Party Urges Opposition To Put Politics Out Of Ongoing Population Census](#)
Leadership Newspapers

The Rally for Republicans (RDR) party of Cote d'Ivoire's President Alassane Ouattara, has urged opposition political parties to put politics aside from ...

-

[Chibok: Envoy Commends President Jonathan's Acceptance Of U.S. Offer](#)

Daily Times Nigeria

Nigeria's Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Ifeoma Akabogu-Chinwuba, has commended President Goodluck Jonathan for accepting the offer of the U.S. to ...

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 7, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. "A professional media strengthens democracy," says President Ouattara
2. Ivoirian opposition leader speaks on President Ouattara's three year in office
3. Ivoirian scholars hold seminar on how to prevent violence during elections
4. New brigade of firefighters launched in Bouake
5. Defense and security experts from 16 countries attending international forum in Abidjan

1. "A professional media strengthens democracy," says President Ouattara

- http://www.imatin.net/article/societe/le-president-ouattara-recevant-les-journalistes-quot-une-presse-de-qualite-renforce-la-democratie-quot_19300_1399448423.html
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496690.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-president-ouattara-exhorte-le-cnp-a-privilegier-la-concertation-pour-parvenir-a-une-presse-de-qualite-18885.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15339-alassane-ouattara-la-presse-a-l%E2%80%99obligation-de-contribuer-%C3%A0-la-r%C3%A9conciliation>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-ouattara-responsables-presse-normale-contribue-reconciliation-91574.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6903-alassane-ouattara-a-recu-le-rapport-annuel-d-activites-du-conseil-national-de-la.html>

The National Press Council (CNP), the government-run print media regulatory body, yesterday presented its 2013 report to President Alassane Ouattara reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 13)***. Receiving the document, President Ouattara said, "A professional media strengthens democracy. In a country such as Cote d'Ivoire, which has gone through a long crisis, there is an obligation for journalists to go beyond simple news collection and to make sure that what they publish is accurate." The president also called on journalists to work to become more professional in order to gain the trust of the public.

The president also mentioned news publishers, calling on them to find ways to improve the pay for journalists as well as their working conditions. He also encouraged the CNP to continue working with publishers to accomplish this goal.

The president is quoted as congratulating the CNP for "a job well done" reports ***Le Patriote (p. 16)***. This newspaper also quotes the president as saying that he reads 18 newspapers each day in order to see how they report on government activities. Speaking on sanctions imposed by the CNP in the past against newspapers, the president said, "In a modern society, sanctions are necessary." The president used the meeting with CNP to urge the media to support reconciliation adds ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 11)***. The newspaper also indicates that in 2013, the CNP imposed sanctions against four publishers and suspended nine newspapers for various infractions.

2. Ivoirian opposition leader speaks on President Ouattara's three year in office

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496683.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/sante-securite-ecole-justice-mamadou-koulibaly-attaque-ouattara-sur-tous-les-fronts-18865.html>
- http://www.imatin.net/article/politique/sante-securite-ecole-justice-hellip-mamadou-koulibaly-attaque-ouattara-sur-tous-les-fronts_19302_1399448784.html

Mamadou Coulibaly, former president of the National Assembly and head of the LIDER political party, yesterday spoke at a conference about the first three years of President Ouattara's administration reports **L'Inter (p. 3)**. Coulibaly criticized the government's performance, saying, "Ouattara has failed his supporters from the north of the country." He also is reported as saying, "After helping Ouattara get to power, his supporters have been abandoned."

Coulibaly is quoted in **Soir Info (p. 3)** as saying that Cote d'Ivoire is a "police state" and that the country's judicial system is under too much government control. Coulibaly suggested that in order to make the justice system more independent, the president should resign from the high council of magistrates and that the federal prosecutor should not be appointed by the president.

3. Ivoirian scholars hold seminar on how to prevent violence during elections

Ivoirian scholars, including former prime minister now university professor Ake N'Gbo, organized a seminar yesterday to find ways to prevent violence during elections reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. The seminar was sponsored by the Academy of Science, Culture, African Art and Diaspora (ASCAD) who said that electoral violence is mainly a cause of weaknesses in the organization of the elections and a lack of respect for electoral laws. Speakers at the event also said that the goal of the seminar was to identify the cause of electoral violence, the effects on the population, and ways to prevent violence in the future.

The other objective of this seminar, reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)**, was to create conditions for a violence-free election in Cote d'Ivoire in 2015. To achieve this objective, the paper says that the participants used the experience of previous elections in the country.

4. New brigade of firefighters launched in Bouake

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15342-r%C3%A9insertion-des-ex-combattants-un-corps-des-sapeurs-pompiers-civils-cr%C3%A9%C3%A9>
- <http://abidjan911.com/reinsertion-ex-combattants-corps-sapeurs-pompiers-civils-cree/#>
- <http://www.monsaphir.tv/actualites/societe/item/5718-reinsertion-des-ex-combattants-un-corps-des-sapeurs-pompiers-civils-cree.html>

Minister of Interior and Security Hamed Bakayoko on Monday inaugurated a new fire brigade in Bouake reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. The group of firefighters is comprised of 720 former combatants which is expected to be increased to 1,500 in the future. The creation of this new firefighting unit is part of the Demobilization, Disarmament and Reinsertion (DDR) process for former fighters, the minister said. The paper also quotes Fidele Sarassoro, the head of the DDR process in the country, as saying, "To date, more than 27,000 former combatants have returned to normal life." However, according to **Soir Info (p. 4)**, 47,000 former soldiers are still waiting for reintegration into society.

Defense and security experts from 16 countries attending international forum in Abidjan

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/defense-et-securite-un-salon-s-ouvre-a-abidjan-sous-le-signe-de-la-lutte-contre-la-piraterie-maritime-et-la-gestion-des-catatrophes-18873.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6899-des-experts-de-securite-reunis-a-abidjan-proposent-des-solutions-aux-pays-africa.html>
- http://www.gouv.ci/actualite_1.php?recordID=4476&depart=8&c=s

Defense and security experts from 16 countries in Africa and other parts of the world are meeting this week in Abidjan reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)**. According to the paper, more than 60 exhibitions on security and defense are on display at the event. The newspaper quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying that the forum is an opportunity for defense and security experts to share their experiences on how to fight problems such as religious extremism and maritime piracy.

According to a report in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)***, the event is also focused on the crisis management in Africa. In addition, at the end of the event, the paper reports, two regional centers will be created – one in Congo and one in Cote d'Ivoire –to better secure coastal and maritime navigation.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast bids to save chimpanzees](#)

StarPhoenix

A boy watches chimpanzees at the Ivory Coast National Zoo. Once thriving, the country's chimpanzee population has declined by 90 per cent in the ...

[I.Coast chooses banks, rating agencies ahead of Eurobond issue](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN May 5 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast has chosen Citigroup , BNP Paribas and Deutsche Bank to market a \$500 million Eurobond expected to be ...

-

[IMF's West African PFM centre met two-thirds of targets](#)

Public Finance International

The steering committee of the IMF's Regional Technical Assistance Centre for West Africa (West AFRITAC) has met in Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire to ...

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Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

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Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

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[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

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2,221

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[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)
Government-run news agency

[ONU CI FM](#)
UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)
Government-run television and radio conglomerate

U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 6, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Government to prosecute people calling for boycott of population census
2. Bill on reform of electoral commission before National Assembly on May 12
3. International forum on defense and security to begin today in Abidjan
4. Students of Abidjan university on strike to protest poor online registration
5. Conference on image of women in media opens in Abidjan

1. Government to prosecute people calling for boycott of population census

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496578.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496599.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15310-rgph-le-gouvernement-veut-s%C3%A9vir-contre-les-fauteurs-de-troubles>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/rgph-le-gouvernement-veut-sevir-contre-les-fauteurs-de-troubles-18760.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/99078/cote-divoire-face-lampleur-du-boycott-gouvernement-ouattara-se-fait-menacant>
- <http://www.koaci.com/cote-divoire-appel-boycott-recensement-gouvernement-garde--91549.html>

The government yesterday met to evaluate the ongoing population census in Cote d'Ivoire reports ***Fraternite Matin* (pp. 5, 8)**. Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, government spokesperson Bruno Kone said, "The government will take action against all those trying to disrupt the census." Kone was referring to the boycott of the census by members of the opposition FPI party. According to Kone, boycotting the census is against the law and violators will be prosecuted. The secretary general of the opposition RPP party, Gnonzie Ouattara, is quoted as saying that it is not appropriate to boycott the census. Ouattara says that a population census is "vital to a nation's development." In ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 11)**, the Minister of Planning and Development Albert Mabri Toikeusse, is reported as having met yesterday with prefects and traditional chiefs in Yamoussoukro in order to seek their assistance in better informing the population on the importance of taking part in the census.

The main opposition party, the FPI, has called again on President Alassane Ouattara to immediately halt the census reports ***L'Inter* (p. 4)**. According to the paper, a statement from the party yesterday says that the census has been "a failure" and that the government needs to face the consequences. This is the same point of view in opposition paper ***Notre Voie* (p. 5)**, which also says that it was "clear from the beginning that the census would fail" because of the politicized environment in which it was launched. Another opposition paper, ***Le Temps* (p. 2)**, claims that the government is trying to "intimidate" Ivoirians to force them to take part in the census.

2. Bill on reform of electoral commission before National Assembly on May 12

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/composition-de-la-cei-la-cosopci-appelle-l-assemblee-nationale-a-surseoir-a-l-examen-du-projet-du-projet-18785.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496586.html>

Minister of Interior and Security Hamed Bakayoko is expected at the National Assembly on May 12 to defend the government's bill to reform the Independent Election Commission (CEI) reports ***L'Inter* (p. 3)**. This was announced yesterday during a session held by members of the National

Assembly. However, the paper notes that one member, Souagnon Soro, called for more time to study the issue before it is considered for a final decision. Vice President of the Assembly, Sarah Sacko Fadiga, is quoted as saying that the delay will be considered.

3. International forum on defense and security to begin today in Abidjan

- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6822-premier-salon-international-de-la-defense-et-de-la-securite-interieure-du-6-au-8-premier-salon-international-de-la-defense-et-de-la-securite-interieure-du-6-au-8-mai-2014-abidjan..html>

An international forum on defense and security, Shield Africa, starts today in Abidjan reports **Le Temps (p. 9)**. The event, according to the paper, will focus issues such as cyber-security and trafficking in persons as well as crisis management and maritime piracy.

In an interview in **Fraternite Matin (p. 11)**, Philippe Giannuzzi, a maritime security expert, says that countries along the Gulf of Guinea, including Cote d'Ivoire, must join together to fight maritime piracy. The paper also notes that the conference is sponsored by the Ivoirian government with support of Geos. Participants include members of the Ivoirian military and other security experts.

4. Students of Abidjan university on strike to protest poor online registration

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496581.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/universite-d-abobo-adjame-les-etudiants-en-greve-18770.html>

Students at Nangui Abrogoua University in Abidjan began a strike yesterday in order to protest dysfunction with online registration reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)**. SA spokesperson for the students, Eude Kpanieu Dan, is quoted as saying that the new registration system put in place by the university is not operational, making it difficult for students to register. The students are also complaining that, due to the problems with the online system, they are unable to apply for financial aid.

5. Conference on image of women in media opens in Abidjan

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496554.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-gouvernement-ivoirien-denonce-l-image-caricaturale-de-la-femme-dans-les-medias-18752.html>
- <http://www.aip.ci/regions.php?ID=6324&page=ABJ>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496468.html>

At an event yesterday, Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women, and Children Anne Desire Ouloto urged the Ivoirian media to report more on women's issues reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 28)**. Ouloto was speaking at a workshop designed to find ways to improve the portrayal of women in the media. "I want your stories to reflect more gender balance," the minister is quoted as saying. The two-day conference is also focusing on other challenges facing female journalists including discrimination, sexual harassment and stigmatization.

The Network of Female Journalists and Communicators of Cote d'Ivoire is sponsoring the event reports **L'Inter (p. 13)**. The goal of this organization, reports the paper, is to create a better environment for women working in and with the media.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Mondelez International Takes Steps to Advance Women's Rights in Cocoa Farming](#)

Wall Street Journal

In Ghana, female cocoa farmers earn 25-30 percent less than their male counterparts; in Cote d'Ivoire, women in cocoa communities earn up to 70 ...

[Division, not consensus, may be the key to fighting climate change](#)

The Guardian

A toxic waste dump in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. 'With climate change, a long-standing form of inequality is becoming more and more visible: environmental ...

[Maroc Telecom to buy over UAE's Etisalat affiliates in Africa](#)

Morocco World News

The USD 650-million deal, which also includes Prestige Telecom in Cote d'Ivoire, which provides IT services to the operations of Etisalat in these ...

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 5, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Minister of Justice speaks on the case of former first lady Simone Gbagbo
2. Communication minister joins journalists to march for press freedom
3. Government launches rehabilitation work on road to Ghanaian border
4. Government commits \$21 million to protect forest reserves _

1. Minister of Justice speaks on the case of former first lady Simone Gbagbo

Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Public Freedom Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly spoke over the weekend to French media on the legal procedures concerning former first lady Simone Gbagbo reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). According to the minister, the former first lady, held in northwestern Cote d'Ivoire since April 2011, could face from 20 years to life in prison. "This is the possible sentence if she is found guilty of the charges leveled against her," the minister is quoted as saying.

The minister also discussed the possible indictment of officials close to President Alassane Ouattara reports *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 9). "If the International Criminal Court (ICC) wants people close to the president to be transferred to The Hague, we will comply if there is justification." On the issue of whether Gbagbo should be transferred to the ICC or not, the minister said, "The Ivoirian courts were the first to charge Simone Gbagbo and those procedures are still underway. Once this procedure is over, we will decide if she should be transferred to the ICC."

During the interview, the minister was "trying to protect criminals close to the current government" reports *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 4). The paper also describes the minister's interview as a "comedy." According to the paper, those close to the president that could face charges include former regional warlords who are currently serving in high positions in the military.

2. Communication minister joins journalists to march for press freedom

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/cote-d-ivoire-les-journalistes-marchent-pour-commemorer-la-journee-mondiale-de-la-liberte-de-la-presse-18646.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/culture/item/15250-libert%C3%A9-de-la-presse-affoussiata-bamba-conduit-une-procession-%C3%A0-la-maison-de-la-presse>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496481.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-6868-les-journalistes-ivoiriens-marchent-pour-commemorer-la-journee-mondiale-de-la-li.html>
- <http://lebanco.net/banconet/bco22006.htm>

A peaceful march organized on Saturday by Ivoirian journalists to mark World Press Freedom Day is prominently reported upon in today's newspapers. *Fraternite Matin* (p. 27) says that Minister of Communications Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine participated in the march and said, "Press freedom is a reality in Cote d'Ivoire." The minister also used the opportunity to call on all journalists to abide by fundamental principles of the press, to evaluate the state of the media in the country, and to remember those journalists who have been killed while carrying out their duties.

The minister is quoted in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 8) as denouncing the fact that some journalists have become "mouthpieces of politicians." She called on those journalists to work to inform the population instead of being "engaged in propaganda." A report in *Le Patriote* (p. 16) also quotes the minister as saying, "Cote d'Ivoire has now been dropped out of the list of countries where press freedom is at risk."

On the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 7)** described the minister statements on the media as "total falsehoods." The paper mentions that there were two recent cases of journalists being attacked: one where a journalist, Herve Makre, was stabbed and killed and another where journalist, Dieusmonde Tade, was kidnapped and later released. Another article in this paper quotes the head of the national journalists' union Guillaume Gbato as saying, "Press freedom in Cote d'Ivoire has yet to be achieved."

3. Government launches rehabilitation work on road to Ghanaian border

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/duncan-lance-les-travaux-de-rehabilitation-de-la-voie-aboisso-noe-18672.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496522.html>
- <http://www.linfordrome.com/economie/15659-corridor-abidjan-lagos-duncan-lance-les-travaux-de-rehabilitation-de-la-route-aboisso-noe>

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan launched on Saturday a rehabilitation project on the road connecting the eastern Ivoirian towns of Aboisso to Noe, at the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire border reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)**. The rehabilitation, according to the paper, will lead to reduced poverty in the region and boost regional integration by allowing greater access to schools and hospitals and by facilitating the exportation of goods. The paper explains that 27 percent of regional trade passes through this border crossing. The project will cost FCFA 22.5 billion (\$47.5 million), which is being funded by a loan from The World Bank.

4. Government commits \$21 million to protect forest reserves

- <http://www.fratmat.info/societe/item/15292-protection-foresti%C3%A8re-un-nouveau-projet-de-conservation-des-ressources-naturelles-lanc%C3%A9>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/protection-forestiere-un-nouveau-projet-de-conservation-des-ressources-naturelles-lance-18689.html>

The government has launched a FCFA 10 billion (\$21 million) project to protect forests and natural reserves in Cote d'Ivoire reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 16)**. The project, which will be fully-funded by the government, was launched last week by the Minister of Environment, Health, and Development Remi Allah Kouadio. According to the minister, the project will allow the government to take control of all natural resources in Cote d'Ivoire and to ensure their effective management. _

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[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Ivory Coast to issue first Eurobond](#)

Turkish Press

ABIDJAN – Ivory Coast will be issuing its first ever Eurobond, estimated at \$500 million, next July."
"This is an event for us because it is actually our first ...

-
[Ivory Coast tries ecotourism to save chimpanzees](#)

Washington Post

TAI NATIONAL PARK, Ivory Coast — Before dawn in the thick rainforest of western Ivory Coast, the air was filled with the sounds of male chimpanzees ...

[Diamantaires eyeing Ivory Coast for rough imports](#)

Times of India

SURAT: Diamantaires are looking at Ivory Coast for rough diamond imports after the United Nations Security Council lifted a decade-long ban on ..._

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[Ivory Coast utility CIE net profit down slightly in 2013](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN May 2 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast power utility CIE recorded a 2013 full year net profit of 8.28 billion CFA francs (\$17.50 million), down by around ...

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U.S. Embassy Cote D'Ivoire National Daily Press Review

May 2, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. President of National Assembly urges national consensus
2. Amnesty International says conditions of detention of former first lady improved
3. Government to put in place new labor code
4. Ivoirian veteran journalist says press freedom not yet achieved in Cote d'Ivoire
5. Minister calls for more actions to empower women
6. Youth leaders trained on conflict management

1. President of National Assembly urges national consensus

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496366.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/guillaume-kigbafori-soro-appelle-a-la-conscience-nationale-et-au-consensus-national-18487.html>
- http://www.rumeursdabidjan.net/?parcours=actualite_politique&article=37181#onglet_article
- <http://fr.africetime.com/cote-d-ivoire/articles/guillaume-kigbafori-soro-appelle-la-conscience-nationale-et-au-consensus-national>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/ceremonie-d-ouverture-de-la-1ere-session-ordinaire-2014-le-discours-de-guillaume-soro-18448.html>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/98953/cote-divoire-soro-prone-consensus-national-les-questions-dinteret-national>

The new session of the National Assembly opened on Wednesday in Abidjan. Reporting on the session, ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)** quotes Assembly President Guillaume Soro as saying, "We have to work together to build a united nation." According to the paper, Soro was speaking on the topic, "National Conscience and National Consensus."

The government has submitted 16 bills to be considered by the National Assembly during this session reports ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2)**. ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 9)** adds that the "controversial" bill seeking to reform the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) is among the 16 bills submitted. The debate for the bills will start Monday and the paper indicates that there is "no doubt" that the bill on the reform of the CEI will be adopted.

2. Amnesty International says conditions of detention of former first lady improved

- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/droits-de-l-homme-nathalie-kouakou-presidente-d-amnesty-international-cote-d-ivoire-les-conditions-de-detention-de-simone-gbagbo-ont-ete-ameliorees-18511.html>
- <http://news.ivoirecanal.com/fr/autres-journaux-locaux/droits-de-lhomme-les-conditions-de-detention-de-simone-gbagbo-ont-ete-ameliorees.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496392.html>

Amnesty International says that the detention conditions of former first lady Simone Gbagbo have gotten better reports ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 9)**. Gbagbo has been held since April 2011 in the northwestern city of Odiene. At a press conference Wednesday, Natalie Kouakou, president of the Ivoirian branch of Amnesty International talked about Gbagbo and the state of justice in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, Kouakou commended President Alassane Ouattara for his willingness to release political detainees. She added that "there are still 792 political prisoners in detention," but Kouakou welcomed the decision by the national prosecutor to start trials for the remaining detainees by the end of this month.

That being said, Kouakou also deplored the fact that some political prisoners, including former military officer Seka Seka, were transferred recently to a prison in Bouake reports **L'Inter (p. 3)**. Until these prisoners are tried and sentenced, Kouakou said, the courts have no right to transfer them.

3. Government to put in place new labor code

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/496411.html>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-gouvernement-annonce-la-creation-d-un-conseil-national-du-dialogue-social-18496.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/15211-f%C3%A0te-du-travail-duncan-exhorte-%C3%A0-la-poursuite-du-dialogue-avec-les-syndicats>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/98975/cote-divoire-fete-du-travail-ouattara-absent-discours-kablan-duncan>
- <http://www.lebabi.net/actualite-abidjan/le-gouvernement-veut-consolider-le-dialogue-avec-les-travailleurs-18502.html>

Several newspapers today report on the Ivoirian Labor Day or May Day celebration observed yesterday in Cote d'Ivoire. **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)** reports that the government used the opportunity to announce that a new labor code will be put into place soon. The paper quotes Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Professional Training Moussa Dosso as saying, "The new code will preserve both the right of workers and those of the employers." The minister also mentioned that the "pillars" of government actions to improve conditions for workers include a focus on the minimum wage, the salary of domestic workers, the fight against child labor, and the health and security of workers.

Ivoirian workers are demanding another salary increase after the decision last year by the president to increase minimum wage reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 6)**. The request, the paper reports, is a result of the "high cost of living in Cote d'Ivoire."

On the opposition side, **Notre Voie (pp. 8&9)** reports that Felix Kouame Kra, leader of the labor union FESACI, denounced "violations" by the government of the right of workers to unionize.

4. Ivoirian veteran journalist says press freedom not yet achieved in Cote d'Ivoire

At an event sponsored by the national journalists' association to mark World Press Freedom Day, **Soir Info (p. 12)** reports that veteran Ivoirian journalist Zio Moussa said, "There is a long way to go to achieve press freedom in Cote d'Ivoire." He urged Ivoirian journalists to continue fighting to help the country achieve media freedom. In **L'Inter (p. 14)** Moussa is quoted as saying that Article Nine of the Ivoirian press law clearly prohibits the imprisonment of journalists. However, he adds the law also includes some sections that undermine press freedom in the country.

Opposition paper **Notre Voie (p. 12)** carries a report on the state of the media in the country. According to the paper, the government is consistently "abusing its power" when it comes to newspapers close to the opposition. The paper notes that several journalists are still living in exile, including Pierre Brou Amessan, former director of the national TV and radio stations RTI; Patrice Douh, former chief editor of *Le Temps*; and Claude Franck About, a former RTI journalist.

5. Minister calls for more actions to empower women

Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children Anne Desire Ouloto called for "more actions" that help to empower African women reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. Ouloto was speaking on Wednesday in Abidjan at a conference on the topic, "Women Entrepreneurship in Africa: Lessons, Opportunities and Challenges." Ouloto said that women represent only 15 percent of business owners in Cote d'Ivoire. The minister added that this is due in part to the low literacy rate among women and high number of school dropouts. In order to reverse this situation, the government has implemented

an action plan that includes funding for women. In 2013, more than 6000 women benefited from this financial assistance.

6. Youth leaders trained on conflict management

The West African for Peace (WANEP-CI) last week trained youth leaders on conflict management reports *L'Inter* (p. 3). The paper reports that the objective of the training was to help the youth leaders develop skills and techniques on how to peacefully resolve conflict. The head of WANEP-CI, Ibrahim Tiohazon, encouraged participants to implement what they learned during the training within their family, their communities, and their political parties.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Output from Randgold's Tongon mine to hit 260 000 oz in 2014](#)

Creamer Media's Mining Weekly

Gold production from Randgold Resources's Tongon mine, in northern Ivory Coast, will hit 260 000 oz this year, up from 233 591 oz in 2013, the ...

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of December 31, 2013.)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

22,723 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

17,378

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily owned by the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

12,546 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of former President Gbagbo and his FPI party

11,883 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

10,457 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

8,547 daily

[Le Quotidien d'Abidjan](#)

Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

6,771 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily owned by President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

6,523 daily

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,054 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

2,999 daily

Le Mandat - (no current website)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA Party of former President Henri Konan Bedie

2,833

[L'Expression](#) _

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

2,664 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,571 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

Privately owned daily supportive of President Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans Party

2,221

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[Agence Ivoirienne de Presse](#)
Government-run news agency

[ONU CI FM](#)
UN-owned radio operated by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire

[RTI Television](#)
Government-run television and radio conglomerate