

## NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW JANUARY 2-31, 2014

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review JANUARY 31, 2014

#### Today's Top Stories

1. Deputy Assistant Secretary Bisa Williams holds talks with President Ouattara
2. Former president Bedie urges opposition party to continue dialogue, stop violence
3. Ivoirian opposition parties discuss forming a united front
4. More supporters of former president to be released today
5. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo set for Monday

#### 1. Deputy Assistant Secretary Bisa Williams holds talks with President Ouattara

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12366-forum-ici-2014-le-pr%C3%A9sident-ouattara-a-re%C3%A7u-des-d%C3%A9l%C3%A9gations-allemande-et-am%C3%A9ricaine>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485972.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485921.html>
- <http://www.mboconnect.com/articles/2014/01/30/cote-divoire-les-usa-engag%C3%A9s-%C3%A0-renforcer-leur-pr%C3%A9sence-en-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire-bisa#axzz2rxqubKG7>

A U.S. delegation, in Cote d'Ivoire for the "Invest in Cote d'Ivoire" business forum, met yesterday with President Allasane Ouattara and other government leaders reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 7)***. The Department of State's Deputy Assistant Secretary Bisa Williams is leading the delegation. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, DAS Williams said, "We met with the president to present our business delegation and we are here to explore ways to invest in Cote d'Ivoire." DAS Williams is also quoted as saying that President Ouattara used the meeting to reassure the U.S. delegation on the safety of doing business in the country.

***Le Patriote (p. 7)*** quotes DAS Williams as saying after the meeting, "We are here to let the president know of our interest in investing in Cote d'Ivoire." The U.S. has assured President Ouattara of its

support for reconstruction efforts after the 2011 post-electoral crisis reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**.

According to a report in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)**, the meeting between the U.S. delegation and President Ouattara is a sign of the U.S.'s intention to reinforce its presence in Cote d'Ivoire. In a related story, **L'Inter (p. 5)** reports that DAS Williams will be meeting today with the head of the Independent Electoral Commission in order to seek ways to support the commission in advance of the 2015 presidential election.

## **2. Former president Bedie urges opposition party to continue dialogue, stop violence**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12374-dialogue-politique-le-fpi-sollicite-l'implication-du-president-bedié>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485934.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485970.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485932.html>

Former president Henri Konan Bedie has called on the opposition FPI party to "turn the page" on violence reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**. Bedie made the call yesterday at a meeting between his PDCI party and leaders of the FPI. According to Bedie's spokesperson Maurice Kacou Geikaheu, Bedie used the occasion to offer advice to leaders of the opposition. "He advised them to continue the dialogue in order to find solutions facing the country." According to the paper, the release of opposition prisoners and the return home of supporters of the former president were also discussed.

**Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** quotes FPI president Pascal Affi N'Guessan as saying after the meeting, "We want Bedie to get involved in order to resolve the problems facing the country. "

From the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, claims that the meeting, the first meeting between the two parties since before the crisis in 2011, shows that political dialogue is underway in the country. According to **Le Temps (p. 5)**, Bedie and N'Guessan agreed to work together to advance peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire.

## **3. Ivoirian opposition parties discuss forming a united front**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485931.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485941.html>

The FPI party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo and its allies in the opposition have started talks to form a united opposition reports **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)**. The report mentions other parties that could become members of this alliance include the Ivoirian Labor Party (PIT) of Daniel Aka Ahizi and the Republican Union for Democracy (URD) party of Danielle Boni Claverie, among others. A report in **Aujourd'hui (p. 6)** claims that by forming an opposition coalition ahead of the 2015 presidential election, Affi N'Guessan has found the "political weapon" that could bring down President Ouattara. Reporting on the potential coalition, Boni Claverie said it will help the opposition better dialogue with the government.

## **4. More supporters of former president to be released today**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485959.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485940.html>

**Notre Voie (p. 3)** reports that 34 political detainees believed to be close to former president Gbagbo will be released today from prison. The paper says that this will be the third group of Gbagbo supporters to be released in the last week. According to the paper, a total of 39 detainees were released between Monday and Wednesday as part of the government's plan to diffuse tensions in the country.

**Soir Info (p. 4)** quotes a source close to the Ministry of Justice as saying that today's release will be the last in the series of releases of detainees, who have been held since 2011.

## 5. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo set for Monday

- <http://koaci.com/articles-89497>
- [http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14441:proces-de-la-crise-postelectorale-l-audition-de-mme-gbagbo-reportee&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110](http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14441:proces-de-la-crise-postelectorale-l-audition-de-mme-gbagbo-reportee&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110)

The attorney for the former first lady, Simone Gbagbo, announced that her first hearing in the country has now been moved to Monday reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)**. The paper notes that the hearing was originally planned for this past Tuesday.

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

[Ivory Coast lacks justice ahead of 2015 vote](#)

UPI.com - ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan. 29 (UPI) -- With elections set for 2015, an Ivory Coast human rights advocate said justice has yet to be served for violence ...

[Politics Undermining Trials, Activists Say](#)

AllAfrica.com - Abidjan — With just a single trial concluded out of the 86 cases arising from Côte d'Ivoire's 2010-2011 post-poll violence, concerns are emerging that ...

[From Côte d'Ivoire to chocolate bar – the difficult road for sustainable ...](#)

The Guardian - From Côte d'Ivoire to chocolate bar – the difficult road for sustainable cocoa. Cocoa is the biggest cash crop in Ivory Coast, yet smallholder

[Amnesty: Ivory Coast authorities must investigate violent attacks ...](#)

PinkNews.co.uk - Amnesty International has urged authorities in the Ivory Coast to investigate what it calls an "unprecedented wave of homophobic attacks", which have ...

[African mobile operators struggle with network quality](#)

CFOworld - Regulators in sub-Saharan Africa's leading economies such as Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Uganda, among others, have ...

[Media affiliation and circulation](#)

**(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)**

[L'Expression](#) \_

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[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

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Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

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Le Mandat - (no current website)

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[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

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[Notre Voie](#)

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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

JANUARY 30, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Deputy Assistant Secretary Bisa Williams holds talks with Ivoirian Justice Minister
2. Ivoirian Prime Minister Duncan opens Cote d'Ivoire business forum
3. ICG report says situation in western Cote d'Ivoire key to reconciliation
4. Former president Bedie and opposition leader Affi N'Guessan to meet today
5. Media syndicate welcomes law on free access of information

### 1. Deputy Assistant Secretary Bisa Williams holds talks with Ivoirian Justice Minister

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485849.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12337-terence-mc-culley-ambassadeur-eu-la-justice-ivoirienne-est-en-bonne-santé>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=999>

A meeting yesterday between the U.S. Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs Bisa Williams and the Ivorian Minister of Justice Gnenema Coulibaly is covered today in several newspapers. A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) says that DAS Williams was accompanied in the meeting by U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley where they discussed cooperation between the United States and Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes Williams as saying, "We want to support Cote d'Ivoire in executing equitable justice and reconciliation." The paper also quotes Ambassador McCulley as saying that "The Ivoirian justice sector is in good health," and "The work accomplished thus far by the Ivoirian government since the post-electoral crisis is impressive." Government newspaper *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10) says Ambassador McCulley also announced in the meeting plans to support the Ivoirian judicial system through the construction of appellate courts, adding that the appellate court of Bouake would be completed by March of this year. A report in *L'Inter* (p. 2) says that DAS Williams, in Cote d'Ivoire this week for the business forum, also said, "The partnership between the United States and Cote d'Ivoire covers issues including politics and economics, as well as bilateral trade and investment."

### 2. Ivoirian Prime Minister Duncan opens Cote d'Ivoire business forum

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485897.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485891.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12332-ici-2014-le-nouveau-miracle-économique-est-réalizable-selon-kablan-duncan>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5634-le-fmi-invite-le-gouvernement-ivoirien-a-r-duire-le-gr-a-gr-dans-la-passation-des-march-s-publics.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5629-ici-2014-daniel-kablan-duncan-a-l-ouverture-du-forum-le-nouveau-miracle-conomique-est-r-alisable.html>

The economic forum this week in Abidjan, "Invest in Cote d'Ivoire," is widely reported upon today. A supplement in *Fraternite Matin* dedicated to the forum reports that Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan opened the event yesterday in Abidjan. The paper reports that nearly 3,000 people from more than 60 countries are taking part in the fourth iteration of the forum. "The new economic miracle after those in 1960 and 1980 is possible due to the ambition of President Alassane Ouattara to make Cote d'Ivoire an emerging economy by the year 2020," the paper reports Duncan as saying. The paper also reports that international organizations attending include the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank among others.

The economic forum could “propel the country into the international arena and pave the way for the country’s ambitions to become a reality” reports **Le Patriote (p. 2)**. At the same time, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)** quotes IMF director Christine Lagarde as cautioning Ivoirian authorities to reduce the practice of no-bid contracts. The paper also quotes the vice president for Africa at the World Bank Makhtar Diop as saying, “Economic growth alone does not put food on the table, there has to be jobs created for the people.”

On the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 7)** also underscored the message from IMF director Lagarde against non-competitive agreements by the government. **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** also reports Lagarde as telling Ivoirians to reduce the amount of money they borrow in order to reduce the risk of default.

### **3. ICG report says situation in western Cote d’Ivoire key to reconciliation**

- <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/west-africa/cote-divoire/212-cote-divoire-s-great-west-key-to-reconciliation.aspx>

A story in **L’Inter (p. 3)**, says that the human rights NGO International Crisis Group (ICG) has sounded an alarm in a recent report about the threat of continued violence due to instability in western Cote d’Ivoire. The paper quotes the report as saying, three years after post-electoral violence that devastated the region, there is still a danger of more violence. The report also mentions land tenure could be the cause of recurrent conflict if it is not addressed by the government. The report also warns that reconciliation has not been seen in the region where tensions between communities are still visible. The report calls on the Ivoirian government to take measures to address the situation quickly. **Le Temps (p. 4)** carries the text of the report.

### **4. Former president Bedie and opposition leader Affi N’Guessan to meet today**

- <http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/article.php?id=506946>

A report in **Notre Voie (p. 4)**, says that former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie and the leader of the opposition FPI party Pascal Affi N’Guessan will be meeting today in Abidjan. According to the paper, the meeting was arranged at the request of Affi N’Guessan to discuss the social and political situation in the country. The paper also speculates that Affi N’Guessan may use the opportunity to try and convince Bedie of the importance of holding a national forum proposed by the FPI.

**Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** reports that the two political leaders could also talk about a potential alliance between the opposition and Bedie’s PDCI-RDA party, a member of the ruling coalition.

### **5. Media syndicate welcomes law on free access of information**

A report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 10)** says that Guillaume Gbato, the head of the Ivoirian journalists’ union SYNAPPCI, is calling on the government to organize an awareness campaign on the recently-passed freedom of information law. According to the paper, the law was passed on December 23, 2013 by the National Assembly and allows any Ivoirian citizen to have access to information related to the public interest. The same paper also publishes the full text of the new law above which a commentary compares the law to the Freedom of Information Act in the United States.

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

[Ivory Coast rebuilds navy to ward off growing piracy threat](#)

Chicago Tribune - ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Ivory Coast is adding around 40 new vessels to its depleted navy as it confronts a growing threat from pirates in the Gulf of ...

[Ivory Coast artist Frederic Bruly Bouabre dies](#)

BBC News - His work was displayed at last year's Venice Biennale, both at the international exhibition, called The Encyclopaedic Palace, and at the Ivory Coast ...

[Politics undermining Côte d'Ivoire trials, activists say](#)

IRINnews.org - ABIDJAN, 29 January 2014 (IRIN) - With just a single trial concluded out of the 86 cases arising from Côte d'Ivoire's 2010-2011 post-poll violence, ...

[Côte d'Ivoire: Activists in hiding after wave of homophobic attacks](#)

Amnesty International - The only way to stop the unprecedented homophobic witch-hunt taking place in Côte d'Ivoire is for the authorities to investigate the attacks and bring ...

[Cote d'Ivoire Ambassador to China Dies in Paris](#)

AllAfrica.com - Abidjan — Cote d'Ivoire's Ambassador to China Alain Nicaise Coffie Papatchi died in Paris where he had been taken to get medical treatment, Cote ...

[IMF Boss Pledges to Sustain Support for Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Daily Times Nigeria - The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ms Christine Lagarde on Wednesday said the fund would continue to provide ...

Media affiliation and circulation

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JANUARY 29, 2014

### Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador McCulley speaks on U.S.-African relations and human rights
2. Cote d'Ivoire business forum opens today in Abidjan
1. 3. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo delayed
4. Ruling RDR party tasks UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to create conditions for transparent elections
5. Ivoirian authorities to acquire more military ships to beef up maritime security

#### **1. Ambassador McCulley speaks on U.S.-African relations and human rights**

The second part of an in-depth interview with U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley is featured in today's ***Fraternite Matin (p.6)***. Today's edition focuses on relations between the U.S. and Africa as well as human rights issues. "Obama and the United States understand the importance of the African continent," the paper quotes the Ambassador as saying. He also said that the African summit, planned for August in Washington, D.C., will give both sides an opportunity to evaluate cooperation between African nations and the U.S. The summit, according to the Ambassador, will also serve as a forum to discuss "the different projects we are working on together to contribute to the consolidation of democratic institutions and economic growth in Africa."

Regarding the recent attacks against the headquarters of an LGBT NGO - Alternative Cote d'Ivoire - and the homes of some of its members, the Ambassador said, "I was shocked that these attacks happened in Cote d'Ivoire and I hope that Ivoirians will understand that the activities of this NGO are legitimate in a democracy. For us, freedom of expression and freedom of association are fundamental in a democracy. Even if you do not agree with the activities of an organization, it is important to help people to organize themselves to defend their rights."

#### **2. Cote d'Ivoire business forum opens today in Abidjan**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12312-forum-ici-2014-nous-venons-avec-de-nombreux-investisseurs-selon-le-vice-president-du-ghana>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5624-le-forum-investir-en-c-te-d-ivoire-s-ouvre-ce-matin-a-abidjan.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485786.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485782.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485764.html>

A large business forum, "Invest in Cote d'Ivoire," set to open today in Abidjan is featured in many of today's newspapers. ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 10)*** reports that Abidjan will be the "World Capital of Business" this week as more than 2000 visitors from around the world are expected to attend the forum. The paper quotes Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan as saying that the forum will serve as a "gateway" for more than 300 million people from West Africa to have access to business in the region. The paper also says that the three-day event will bring together business leaders from a variety of sectors including agriculture, mining, energy and economic infrastructure to share their experiences.

***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)*** quotes President Alassane Ouattara as sharing a similar sentiment saying, "We want Cote d'Ivoire to become the gateway to West Africa." The paper also comments that the business forum could mark the second economic triumph for Cote d'Ivoire.

According to **Le Patriote (p. 11)**, about 100 American investors have arrived in Abidjan to attend the forum. The paper also reports that Ivoirian first lady, Domonique Ouattara arrived yesterday in Abidjan from Paris with 420 French investors for the event.

### **3. Hearing of former first lady Simone Gbagbo delayed**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485785.html>

The hearing for the former first lady, Simone Gbagbo, scheduled for January 28, has been delayed again says a report in **L'Inter (p. 4)**. Gbagbo has been detained in the northern town of Odienne since April 2011 in connection with crimes committed during the post-electoral crisis. The paper quotes the attorney for Gbagbo as saying, "We are trying to find a new date for the hearing." The attorney also is quoted as deploring the difficult conditions in which they work because their client does not have access to her bank account to pay them.

On the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 3)** reports that the hearing could not take place because the judge and his team were not present in Odienne. The judge are reported as working together to find a new date for the hearing.

### **4. Ruling RDR party tasks UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to create conditions for transparent elections**

- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5614-l-onuci-et-le-rdr-pour-des-elections-consensuelles-et-democratiques-en-2015-en-c.html>

**Fraternite Matin (p. 11)** reports that a delegation from President Ouattara's RDR party met with the head of the UN mission to Cote d'Ivoire Aichatou Mindaoudou about the 2015 presidential election yesterday. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the head of the delegation, Ahmadou Soumahoro, indicated that the meeting focused on UN support to create conditions for transparent elections in Cote d'Ivoire.

"For the results of the election to be credible, the UN should help create good conditions for an election," **Le Jour Plus (p. 4)** quotes Soumahoro as saying. He also said that the UN is willing to build a strong democracy, and find lasting peace and stability in Cote d'Ivoire.

In a related story, **L'Inter (p. 6)** suggests that the UN mission is pushing for reform of the electoral commission and disarmament before the 2015 presidential election. The story quotes a statement released on Monday by the UN mission.

### **5. Ivoirian authorities to acquire more military ships to beef up maritime security**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12311-s%C3%A9curit%C3%A9-maritime-30-bateaux-en-construction-pour-la-c%C3%B4te-d%E2%80%99ivoire>
- <http://www.connectionivoirienne.net/95869/la-cote-divoire-commande-30-navires-militaires-patrouilleurs-vedettes-commandos#comment-36091>

According to **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)**, authorities in Cote d'Ivoire will acquire 30 military boats in an effort to reinforce maritime security. **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 5)** features a story from the news website, **Connectionivoirienne.net** which says that in addition to the 30 boats, to be purchased from the French company UFAST, authorities are also planning to acquire other military equipment to increase patrol in Ivoirian waters.

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

[Nestlé, Cargill and ADM face child slavery case](#)

ConfectioneryNews.com - The cocoa suppliers and manufacturer are accused of aiding and abetting the luring of the men across the border from Mali to the Ivory

#### [Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire to share ideas on chieftaincy](#)

Vibe Ghana - Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire have taken their bilateral relations a step further by agreeing to explore areas in chieftaincy and traditional governance.

#### [Endeavour dedicates Côte d'Ivoire's Agabaou gold mine](#)

Mineweb - Endeavour dedicates Côte d'Ivoire's Agabaou gold mine. With the commercial start-up of Agbaou, Endeavour Mining has added a fourth operation to ...

#### [Sambo Calls For Increased Bilateral Ties Between Nigeria and Cote ...](#)

Daily Times Nigeria - Vice President Namadi Sambo has called for increased bilateral ties between Nigeria and the Cote d'Ivoire especially in the economic field as both ...

#### [Vice President Amissah-Arthur Attends Investment Forum In Abidjan](#)

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation - Vice President Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur left Accra on Tuesday for Abidjan, La Cote d'Ivoire to attend a forum on international investments.

#### [Randgold Resources boosts production at Tongon](#)

IFA Magazine - Randgold Resources said production at the Tongon gold mine in Ivory Coast has increased following efficiency enhancement projects. However ...

#### [Plugging the security gaps vital to protect against cybercrime attack](#)

The Information Daily - Headlines such as 'huge data thefts hit Korea' or 'Ivory Coast cracks down on cybercrime' are never far from the news agenda, yet despite

#### [Endeavour expects 3 tonnes a year of gold from Ivorian Agbaou mine](#)

Reuters - Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer, aims to increase gold output to diversify its sources of income and boost the economy. Randgold's Tongon ...

#### [France to deploy an additional 3 000 French troops permanently in ...](#)

defenceWeb - France already has troops on stabilisation missions in Ivory Coast, Mali and the Central Africa Republic (CAR). Addressing a press conference after ...

#### Media affiliation and circulation

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Daily close to former President Laurent Gbagbo

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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

JANUARY 28, 2014

### Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador McCulley speaks on U.S.-Cote d'Ivoire bilateral relations
2. Supporters of former president Gbagbo released
3. Prime Minister Duncan inaugurates a new mining company
4. World Bank outlines priorities in Cote d'Ivoire
5. Trial of police officers accused of disobeying orders adjourned
6. Nigerian Vice-president Namadi Sambo arrives in Abidjan to boost Nigeria-Cote d'Ivoire relations
7. Regulatory body warns commercial radio station for "serious breaches"

### **1. Ambassador McCulley speaks on U.S.-Cote d'Ivoire bilateral relations**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12281-coopération-sem-terence-p-mcculley--il-faut-continuer-à-faire-des-progrès->

U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley met yesterday with reporters from the government-run newspaper, *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 1, 4&5) where he discussed U.S. engagement in the country. In the in-depth interview he mentioned four main priorities: democracy and good governance, security reform, trade and economy and support of the health sector through PEPFAR. On national reconciliation, the Ambassador said, "There is good will on both sides to find a way to reconcile differences." At the same time, he is quoted as saying that reconciliation can only happen if there is equitable justice.

The visit was also covered in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3), who quoted Ambassador McCulley as saying, "We will have programs to support government institutions for the organization of the 2015 presidential election." According to the paper, the Ambassador also expressed satisfaction about bilateral relations between Cote d'Ivoire and the U.S.

### **2. Supporters of former president Gbagbo released**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485713.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485680.html>

A report in *Aujourd'hui* (p. 6) says around 30 political detainees close to former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo were released yesterday. According to the paper, the 30 were part of the approximately 800 political detainees who have been imprisoned since the 2011 post-electoral crisis. The paper also believes that the release came as a result of pressure from the opposition FPI party on the government. Another opposition paper, *Notre Voie* (p. 4), reports that Martial Yavo, former leader of the pro-Gbagbo youth organization, COJEP, and five gendarmes were among those released. The paper also quotes sources as saying that another 77 detainees could be released today.

*L'Inter* (p. 4) indicates that some of those released yesterday are close to another former head of COJEP, Charles Ble Goude, who is detained in Cote d'Ivoire while facing an outstanding warrant from the International Criminal Court.

### **3. Prime Minister Duncan inaugurates a new mining company**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12268-divo-daniel-kablan-duncan-inaugure-la-mine-dagbahou>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 14)** says that Prime Minister Duncan launched a CFA 80 billion (\$167 million) mining company in Agbahou in central Cote d'Ivoire yesterday. According to the paper, the Agbahou Gold Corporation, Endeavor Mining Company and Cote d'Ivoire Mining Development Company (SODEMI) will be co-managing the project. The report also says that the project hopes to produce 35 tons of gold over the next ten years and will employ 500 people.

According to ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 12)**, with the opening of this new mining company, gold production in Cote d'Ivoire will be increased by 20 percent. Speaking at the launch event, Duncan said that mining is one of the "main pillars" of the Ivoirian economy.

#### **4. World Bank outlines priorities in Cote d'Ivoire**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485670.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12258-croissance-économique-la-banque-mondiale-préconise-des-programme-porteurs-de-richesses>

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 17)** reports that the new director of the World Bank in Cote d'Ivoire, Ousmane Diagana, says that the bank's priority will be encouraging economic growth to reduce the poverty rate in the country. At a press conference yesterday, Diagana said, "The impact of growth is our main concern. There have been projects initiated by the government to promote development and we encourage those to continue." Diagana also said that Cote d'Ivoire is an economic powerhouse in West Africa and that new economic reforms will be part of the solution to problems in the region. According to a report in ***Soir Info* (p. 8)**, the World Bank will investigate any government project not open to competitive bidding. The paper also reports that the contribution of the World Bank to Cote d'Ivoire during the past ten years is nearly \$1.3 trillion.

#### **5. Trial of police officers accused of disobeying orders adjourned**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12273-procès-de-11-officiers-laudience-reportée-au-3-février>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485671.html>

A tribunal in Abidjan yesterday adjourned until Monday the trial of 11 police officers accused of disobeying orders reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 8)**. According to the paper, the trial was adjourned due to the absence of two eye-witnesses in the case. The officers' actions reportedly led to a violent repression of demonstrators during the post-electoral crisis in 2011. According to ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5)**, the police officers could be released soon because yesterday's proceedings led to the conclusion that the charges are unfounded.

#### **6. Nigerian Vice-president Namadi Sambo arrives in Abidjan to boost Nigeria-Cote d'Ivoire relations**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485678.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485638.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485637.html>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 7)** indicates that a high-level Nigerian delegation, led by Vice President Mohammad Namadi Sambo, arrived yesterday in Abidjan for meetings to boost bilateral relations between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. The delegation, who met yesterday with Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, will be participating in an Ivoirian business forum this week, "Invest in Cote d'Ivoire," which opens tomorrow.

#### **7. Regulatory body warns commercial radio station for "serious breaches"**

***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 2)** reports that the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) yesterday issued a warning to an Abidjan radio station for what it calls "serious breaches" of broadcasting laws. Nostalgie, a popular commercial radio station, is accused by HACA of allowing a

guest on a talk show, singer Antoinette Allany, to make unfounded accusations as well as obscene and slanderous statements.

### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

#### [Ivory Coast: Mob attacks gay rights group office](#)

Washington Post - Nearly 200 people stormed the offices of Alternative Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan, the capital, on Saturday afternoon, breaking windows with stones and ...

#### [Security sector reform, national reconciliation needed in Côte d ...](#)

UN News Centre - 27 January 2014 – Côte d'Ivoire is making "good progress" towards lasting peace and stability, but with presidential elections on the horizon, urgent ...

#### [We Need A Strong Mechanism For The Implementation Of Bilateral ...](#)

Daily Times Nigeria - The Vice President made the remark on Monday, at a meeting with the prime minister of Cote D'Ivoire Kaplan Duncan at his Plateau office in Abidjan ...

#### [Flotation Expansion Project to Unlock Tongon's Full Potential](#)

Mineweb - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25 January 2014 - Efficiency enhancement projects at the Tongon gold mine have boosted its performance significantly, and ...

### Media affiliation and circulation

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

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Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

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[L'Inter](#)

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

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 27, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Dailies speculate on Ambassador McCulley's meeting with opposition leader
2. Minister in charge of defense reassures exiled soldiers who returned home
3. Former defense minister returns home from exile
4. Randgold announces a \$12.5 million investment into Ivoirian mining sector however licensing delayed

### 2. Dailies speculate on Ambassador McCulley's meeting with opposition leader

- [http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14366:presidentielle-2015-politique-nationale-le-fpi-et-les-etats-unis-levent-les-doutes&catid=8&Itemid=110](http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14366:presidentielle-2015-politique-nationale-le-fpi-et-les-etats-unis-levent-les-doutes&catid=8&Itemid=110)

On Friday, U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley held a closed door meeting with the leader of the opposition party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, in Abidjan. Speculation over what was discussed is widely covered in today's press including opposition paper **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**. The paper claims that, apparently disappointed by President Alassane Ouattara, President Barack Obama is "courting" the opposition party. The paper quotes FPI spokesperson Franck Mamadou Bamba as saying, "The U.S. Ambassador has met with the FPI leadership to show his will to help Cote d'Ivoire make progress. The exchanges were frank and friendly between the two sides."

According to a report in **Aujourd'hui (p. 2)**, the U.S. government has criticized President Ouattara while trying to get closer to the FPI party. The paper also reports that the meeting came in the wake of a substantive speech earlier in the week by Ambassador McCulley that "reminded President Ouattara of promises made and not kept."

Pro-government paper **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** has said that the FPI party has called on the U.S. government for a "rescue." **L'Inter (p. 2)** says that the meeting focused on the 2015 presidential election. The paper also refers to Affi N'Guessan's recent statement saying that Cote d'Ivoire is not yet ready to organize the 2015 elections due to "serious delays" in the preparation process.

In **Soir Info (p. 2)**, it is speculated that the meeting was an opportunity for Affi N'Guessan to present the difficulties facing the country and obstacles holding back the reconciliation process to the American Ambassador. The paper quotes sources close to the FPI party as saying that the continued detention of FPI leaders and the plight of Ivoirians still in exile are some of the issues that the party presented to the Ambassador.

### 2. Minister in charge of Defense reassures exiled soldiers who returned home

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485520.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485461.html>

The weekend issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** reports that on Friday, Minister in charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi, met with 1280 former security and defense forces under the former president who recently returned home from exile. According to the paper, the minister used the occasion to reassure them about their security and urged them to encourage those who are still outside the country to return home. **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** reports that the former defense and security forces will be reintegrated into the army and may receive their first paycheck by the end of the month.

For the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 4)** reports that some of the former soldiers staged a demonstration on Friday during a meeting with Koffi Koffi. According to the paper, they protested against the government's decision not to reintegrate them directly into the army, but to require them to go through the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process first. Those who protested,

estimated at 1000, are reported as claiming that they went to military academy and were about to be integrated into the army when the 2011 political crisis erupted.

### **3. Former defense minister returns home from exile**

The former Minister of Defense under former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, Alain Dogou, has returned to Cote d'Ivoire from Ghana reports today's issue of ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)**. According to the paper, officials of the national intelligence agency met the former minister at the airport on Friday. ***Notre Voie* (p. 4)** reports that family members of the former minister and officials of the FPI party were at the airport to meet Dogou. "I am very happy to return home and there are many other Ivoirians who are living in exile who have not yet had the chance to return," the paper reports Dogou as saying. In ***L'Inter* (p. 4)**, the minister is also reported as saying, "I am back home to join the FPI to move forward the peace and reconciliation process."

### **4. Randgold announces a \$12.5 million investment into Ivoirian mining sector however licensing delayed**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12244-exploitation-minière-randgold-resources-plaide-pour-la-validation-des-nouveaux-permis>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485543.html>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)** says the director of Randgold Resources, Mark Bristow, has called on the Ivoirian government to give the company new licensing for gold mining in 2014. Bristow said that the development in the gold mining industry in Cote d'Ivoire is on hold because of the delay in issuing licenses. ***Le Patriote* (p. 10)** also quotes Bristow as saying that his company will invest CFA six billion (\$12.5 million) into the mining sector this year in Cote d'Ivoire. However, before this investment can be made, the government has to issue new licenses. ***L'Inter* (p. 11)** reports that output for Rangold Resources could reach of 260,000 ounces of gold by the end of the year.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

##### [Cote d'Ivoire: 7 new commissioners approved for ECOWAS ...](#)

Panapress (subscription) - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (PANA) - The ECOWAS Council of Ministers has approved the appointment of seven new Commissioners into the expanded

##### [LGBTI Rights Defenders in Ivory Coast Facing Death Threats and ...](#)

Salem-News.Com - (WASHINGTON, DC) - Death threats have been issued against Claver Touré and his colleagues at Alternative - Côte d'Ivoire. They been facing ...

##### [Hanergy mulls Ivory Coast factory](#)

Recharge - Chinese PV group Hanergy is considering building a module factory in the West African country of Ivory Coast, following a meeting between company ...

##### [Gov't Makes Efforts At Resolving Ghana, Ivory Coast Maritime Dispute](#)

spyghana.com - Ghana and Ivory Coast are claiming ownership of a territory in the maritime border of the two countries which is estimated to hold 2 billion barrels of

##### [Ivoirian power producer to invest \\$344 million, boosts capacity](#)

Reuters - "This project will contribute in securing power supply in Ivory Coast, boost growth and strengthen the country's role as a regional power supplier," ...

#### [IFC sees opportunity for pension funds to invest in fragile states](#)

Devex - ... European pension funds to start a dialogue on potential investment opportunities in clean technology in fragile countries like Nepal and Ivory Coast.

#### [French chocolatier to launch locally made products in West Africa ...](#)

Reuters - ABIDJAN Jan 23 (Reuters) - French chocolate maker CEMOI will this year start selling chocolate produced in Ivory Coast across the fast-growing ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 24, 2014

### Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador McCulley addresses students on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration
2. Demonstrations against LGBT community
3. Ambassador McCulley to meet opposition leader today
4. U.S. government renews commitment to support health programs
5. Government launches survey to meet MCC conditions
6. Minister of Justice urges the press to support reconciliation
7. Communication minister announces reform within state television

#### **1. Ambassador McCulley addresses students on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration**

- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5557-la-vie-de-martin-luther-king-pos-e-en-modele-pour-les-tudiants-ivoiriens.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485349.html>

At a speech at the national university yesterday, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9), reports that U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Terence McCulley, expressed optimism to the students that Cote d'Ivoire could again become a stronghold of peace, prosperity and an example for the region. "It is urgent now to change the ways of the past that have limited the development of Cote d'Ivoire for many years. Now is the time to create an environment where people do not take up arms after an election, but rather to become promoters of peace."

*Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) says that the Ambassador called on students to turn the page on the past and to move forward for a better future. A report in *Le Mandat* (p. 5) says the Ambassador called for the reinforcement of democratic institutions, and for peaceful, transparent and credible elections in 2015. "We will support the Ivoirian government," *Le Patriote* (p. 5) quotes the Ambassador as saying.

On the opposition side, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 4) the Ambassador expressed his concern ahead of the 2015 presidential election. The paper reports that Ambassador McCulley's concerns are similar to those expressed by the opposition FPI party recently. With 20 months to go before the 2015 presidential election the paper quotes the Ambassador as saying, "We have concerns about the future." According to the paper, the Ambassador also called for the end of impunity, referring to President Alassane Ouattara's promise to keep "victor's justice" from Cote d'Ivoire. *Notre Voie* (p. 5) reports a similar point of view, quoting the Ambassador as saying, "There can be no rule of law if there is no equal justice."

#### **2. Demonstrations against LGBT community**

- [http://www.linodrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14323:cocody-guerre-ouverte-entre-pedes-et-populations&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110](http://www.linodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14323:cocody-guerre-ouverte-entre-pedes-et-populations&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110)
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485251.html>

*L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5) reports that several leaders in the homosexual community were demonstrated against and forced out of their homes earlier this week. "We will burn down the house of the gays and HIV-positive people in our neighborhood," one of the demonstrators is quoted as saying. The paper also quotes one of the residents of the Djibi neighborhood as saying, "We find used condoms all the time and my son told me one day that he saw two men hugging. Enough is enough." One of those attacked, Claver Toure, denies the allegations and called on the international community to address the challenges they are facing. "We hope that a quick solution will be found to this situation so that the accused can return to their homes," he is reported as saying.

### **3. Ambassador McCulley to meet opposition leader today**

A report in **Aujourd'hui (p.3)** says that Ambassador McCulley will be meeting today with the leader of the FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, at the party's headquarters in Abidjan. The paper speculates that the meeting would focus on the reconciliation process and the 2015 presidential election.

### **4. U.S. government renews commitment to support health programs**

A report in **Le Patriote (p. 10)** says that the U.S. government has reaffirmed its commitment to support health programs in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, during a meeting yesterday between Ambassador McCulley and the Minister of Health and the Fight against HIV, Dr. Raymonde Goudou Coffie, the Ambassador announced that the U.S. government will not reduce its financial support to the health sector. "I appreciate the partnership between our two countries and this must continue," the paper reports the Ambassador as saying. **L'Expression (p. 6)** reports that the U.S. and Cote d'Ivoire have pledged to continue their partnership in the health sector.

### **5. Government launches survey to meet MCC conditions**

- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=827>

According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 6)**, the government has launched a survey among the population about public services in order to better comply with conditions of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The report also says that a three month pilot survey will be launched soon and will involve 35,000 people. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 8)** reports that the survey will be designed to determine whether people are satisfied with the performance of the Ivoirian public service sector.

### **6. Minister of Justice urges the press to support reconciliation**

- [http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14347:gnenema-coulibaly-tire-sur-la-presse&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110](http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14347:gnenema-coulibaly-tire-sur-la-presse&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110)

At a conference yesterday, Minister of Justice Mamadou Gnenema Coulibaly criticized the media for not doing their part to support the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire reports **L'Inter (p. 2)**. "Cote d'Ivoire has been through a very difficult period for which the media bears part of the responsibility," the Minister is quoted as saying. He also said that journalists learned nothing from this crisis and continue to fuel divisions. At the same time, Coulibaly recognized the important role of the press in a democracy and their ability to stabilize a country.

According to **Soir Info (p. 5)**, the Minister was speaking at a conference organized by Transparency Justice, a local NGO where he urged the press to stop fueling the political acrimony in Cote d'Ivoire.

### **7. Communication minister announces reform within state television**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485382.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485334.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 17)** reports Minister of Communication Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine yesterday announced reforms within the national broadcaster, Radiodiffusion Television Ivoirienne (RTI). According to the story, RTI will soon be divided into two bodies; one in charge of production and another that will oversee broadcasting. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 12)** also says that the Minister promised to help resolve the economic issues facing newspapers due to poor sales.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire: Shelter Afrique seeks 10b FCFA in West African ...](#)

African Manager - Côte d'Ivoire: Shelter Afrique seeks 10b FCFA in West African financial market. The Pan-African institution specializing in housing, Shelter Afrique, ...

[Pair guilty of trying to bribe minister's critic](#)

Independent Online - Abidjan - Ivory Coast's press regulator has suspended the head of the main journalists' union and a publisher for six months after finding them guilty of ...

[Alstom to supply hydropower turbines for Ivory Coast project](#)

Renewable Energy Focus - Alstom to supply hydropower turbines for Ivory Coast project. 23 January 2014. 250 MW installation entails three Alstom 90 MW Francis ...

[Ivorian refugees afraid to return home](#)

eNCA - File: Ivory Coast president Alasane Quattara. About 300,000 Ivorians fled the west African country in the wake of the presidential election, which saw ...

[Amara Mining PLC: Filing of Technical Report](#)

MarketWatch - This follows the news release regarding the Mineral Resource update for Amara's Yaoure Gold Project ("Yaoure") in Cote d'Ivoire dated 13 December ...

[Ghana Government Urged to Lift Ban on Rice Imports Via Borders](#)

Oryza - The Association of Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Rice Importers and Sellers (GISA) have appealed to the Ghana government to lift the ban on rice imports from ...

[Chinese firm to invest 500 mln USD in Cote d'Ivoire solar project](#)

People's Daily Online - ABIDJAN, Jan. 23 -- Chinese firm, Hanergy Group, will invest in the production of renewable energy in Cote d'Ivoire with plans unveiled for the ...

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JANUARY 23, 2014

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1. Opposition leader speaks on political situation in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Former warlords receive promotion
3. Seminar on army reform opens in Grand-Bassam
4. Chinese firm to invest US \$500 million on renewable energy in Cote d'Ivoire

#### 1. Opposition leader speaks on political situation in Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485241.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485281.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5538-affi-n-guessan-fpi-tient-a-ses-etats-g-n-raux-de-la-r-publique.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12069-marcel-gossio-fpi-%E2%80%98pour-la-r%C3%A9conciliation-on-ne-doit-pas-parler-de-pr%C3%A9alable-%E2%80%99>

Speaking yesterday in Abidjan during a press conference, the head of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, said that the FPI has no pre-existing conditions before starting dialogue with the government reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 12). Affi N'Guessan is reported as saying, "The purpose of the dialogue is to resolve the issues facing the country and we cannot use the release of our supporters as conditions to this dialogue."

Speaking on the legal procedures underway in connection with crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis, N'Guessan deplored what he saw as a "double-standard" of justice. As a solution, he proposed a more traditional model of justice where the court listens to both the victims and the accused in order to arrive at an understanding.

According to *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 2-11), N'Guessan welcomes the on-going dialogue with the government. Speaking on the recent call made by the president to refugees living abroad, N'Guessan announced that those exiled will soon return home.

Concerning the 2015 presidential election, N'Guessan said, "There is a need to organize a debate on who should be the members of the Independent Electoral Commission." He also addressed the eligibility of President Alassane Ouattara to run for reelection saying, "Mr. Ouattara's eligibility has been 'politically' settled but not constitutionally settled." He further said that there is a need to make sure that "the law conforms with political will."

For the opposition's part, *Notre Voie* (pp. 2&3) quotes the opposition leader as saying, "It is time to put an end to persecution and arbitrary detention." On the state of security in the country, Affi N'Guessan said, "We are living in the Republic of ComZones."

#### 2. Former warlords receive promotion

*Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) features a statement issued by the government yesterday saying that a number of army officers have been promoted. *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) reports that the promotions include former ComZones Issiaka Ouattara, also known as Wattao, Gausou Kone, Morou Ouattara and Cherif Ousmane among other former warlords. The paper reports that the promotions were done in accordance with the 2007 Ouagadougou political agreement.

#### 3. Seminar on army reform opens in Grand-Bassam

- [http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14331:defense-et-securite-les-instructions-du-president-ouattara-a-l-armee&catid=8&Itemid=110](http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14331:defense-et-securite-les-instructions-du-president-ouattara-a-l-armee&catid=8&Itemid=110)

Still on the military, **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)** reports that the army opened yesterday a workshop on reform in the coastal town of Grand Bassam. According to the paper, the army is holding the seminar to evaluate the performance of the army during the past year and to plan for 2014 to 2015. A report in **Le Mandat (p. 4)** says that based on the experience during the past year, army officers are working on capacity building strategies designed to improve the performance of the Ivoirian army. According to the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, "The army of the future will focus more on security for the population and international rules and regulations regarding defense and security." The minister also called for greater respect of human rights, more discipline and better maintenance of army equipment.

#### **4. Chinese firm to invest US \$500 million on renewable energy in Cote d'Ivoire**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485267.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485293.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=804>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)** says that the head of the Chinese company Hanergy, Li Hejung, has announced that his company will invest \$500 million for the construction and installation of solar panels for energy production in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper reports that this was announced yesterday after a meeting with President Ouattara.

In a related story, the paper also reports that Indian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Preneet Kaur arrived yesterday in Abidjan. According to the paper, Kaur and the Ivoirian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Charles Koffi Diby, will be signing bilateral agreements to promote Indian and Ivoirian relations.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

##### [Ivory Coast suspends publisher, press union boss in bribery case](#)

Thomson Reuters Foundation (blog) - ABIDJAN, Jan 21 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's press regulator has suspended the head of the main journalists' union and a publisher for six months after ...

##### [Nemex Resources discovers 4 kilometre gold anomaly at ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia - ... (ASX: NXR) should trade substantially higher today after revealing results of infill sampling at its Abengourou gold project in Côte d'Ivoire.

##### [APNewsBreak: France to up Africa Military Presence](#)

ABC News - "We are going to reinforce Abidjan as an entry point, a logistical support post," Le Drian said of Ivory Coast's commercial capital. "And then we'll ...

##### [Africa grapples with challenges from oil refining to subsidies](#)

Platts - Countries including Senegal, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Angola and Nigeria are considering either the modernization of their existing refineries or the ...

##### [Pirates Feared To Have Hijacked Oil Tanker](#)

Shipping Times - Originally conducted off Nigeria, cargo theft first migrated westward to Benin, Togo and Ivory Coast and then south to Gabon as security

##### [Nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children](#)

The Guardian - ... Improved Nutrition has reached 12.3 million children and pregnant and lactating women with affordable and nutritious foods in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, ...

#### [France to beef up military presence in restive Africa](#)

The Japan Times - "We are going to reinforce Abidjan as an entry point, a logistical support post," he said of Cote d'Ivoire's capital. "And then we'll boost the intervention ...

#### Media affiliation and circulation

**(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)**

#### [L'Expression](#) \_

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

#### [Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned and controlled daily newspaper with the widest circulation

23,933 daily

#### [L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily with mostly balanced news

2,292 daily

#### [L'Inter](#)

Independent daily that publishes mostly balanced news

11,134 daily

Le Jour Plus - (no current website)

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

2,925

Le Mandat - (no current website)

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

2,561

[Nord-Sud Quotidien](#)

Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

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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

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 22, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Head of Ivoirian journalists' network takes a six-month leave of absence amid corruption scandal**
2. **Government announces new police academy to recruit former combatants**
3. **12 soldiers loyal to Gbagbo to stand trial**
4. **American investors arrive in Cote d'Ivoire for business**
5. **Ivoirian refinery and Worldwide Energy sign US \$200 million**
6. **More 40 Heads of state to attend U.S.-Africa Summit in Washington in August**
7. **A report says 36 per cent of teenagers are married in Cote d'Ivoire**
8. **U.S. Embassy trains English teachers in Korhogo**

### 1. Head of Ivoirian journalists' network takes a six-month leave of absence amid corruption scandal

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12074-unjci-moussa-traoré-`se-met-en-congé`-habiba-dembelé-nouvelle-présidente>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5527-lu-dans-la-presse-de-ce-jour-unjci-moussa-traor-d-missionne-suite-a-son-implication-dans-une-affaire-de-corruption..html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485178.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485161.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485160.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485148.html>

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 19)**, says that the president of the national journalists' association, Traore Moussa, has taken a six month leave of absence in the midst of a corruption scandal in which he is allegedly involved. Moussa said, "Pending investigation into the corruption scandal that stained my image and that of the association, I am here to announce that I am taking leave from the presidency of the association, the National Association of Journalists of Cote d'Ivoire (UNJCI)."

For the opposition side, ***Notre Voie* (p. 6)** says that the Minister of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba, could be implicated in the corruption scandal, as well. According to the paper, Kaba's name has been mentioned in media reports relating to an attempt to bribe a newspaper publisher.

### 2. Government announces new police academy to recruit former combatants

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485124.html>

The Ivoirian Minister of the Interior and Security, Hamed Bakayoko, joined with Canadian Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Chantal Varennes, to sign an agreement on Monday for the opening of a new police academy in Cote d'Ivoire reports ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5)**. The CFA 7 billion (\$14.5 million) project would allow the government to recruit 10,000 former combatants and organize training for an additional 3,500 officers. According to the paper, the training program will be based on Canadian and American techniques. The project is slated to start in the next three months.

### 3. 12 soldiers loyal to Gbagbo to stand trial

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12076-tribunal-militaire-des-militaires-pro-gbagbo-transférés-à-abidjan>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485138.html>

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 7)** today reports that 12 soldiers who served former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo have been transferred to Abidjan ahead of their trial in connection with the 2011 political crisis. The 12, which includes Gbagbo's personal doctor, have been detained in the northern town of

Korhogo since Gbagbo was arrested in April 2011. According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, the 12 are accused of committing a variety of violent crimes during the crisis.

#### **4. American investors to arrive in Cote d'Ivoire for business**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485151.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=747>

From January 29 to February 1, the Ivoirian government is organizing a business forum to promote investment in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3)**. The decision by a group of American business leaders to visit Cote d'Ivoire came after a recent visit by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan to the U.S. where he extended the invitation. The report also says that on January 14, Ivoirian Ambassador to the U.S. Daouda Diabate met with business leaders and Ivoirians living in the U.S. to invite them to the economic forum.

#### **5. Ivoirian refinery and Worldwide Energy sign US \$200 million**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p.15)** says the Ivoirian Refinery Company and Worldwide Energy yesterday signed a \$200 million agreement to boost petroleum production in Cote d'Ivoire. The agreement, the paper says, will also help boost the production capacity of the refinery.

#### **6. More 40 Heads of state to attend U.S.-Africa Summit in Washington in August**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485169.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485151.html>

**Fraternite Matin (p. 23)** reports today that more than 40 African heads of state are expected in Washington to attend the U.S.-Africa Summit schedule for August 5 and 6, 2014. "President Barack Obama is happy to welcome leaders from the African continent to the nation's capital in order to reinforce relations with one of the world's most dynamic regions," the paper reports White House spokesperson Jay Carney as saying. Carney is also quoted as saying that, "The summit will help advance the administration's goals in terms of trade and investment in Africa and will showcase U.S. engagement on security in Africa and the development of democracy for its people."

#### **7. A report says 36 per cent of teenagers are married in Cote d'Ivoire**

A report in **Le Temps (p. 9)**, says that nearly 36 percent of teenagers are already married in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper attributes the statistic to a recent report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The report also mentions gender-based violence including female genital mutilation, sexual violence and domestic violence in Cote d'Ivoire, adding that 38 percent of women aged 15 to 49 were subjected to FGM in 2011-2012.

#### **8. U.S. Embassy trains English teachers in Korhogo**

A story in **Le Patriote (p. 8)** reports that the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan has opened an English teaching center in the northern city of Korhogo. The new Dubbed Webinar Center was used recently to train English teachers in the region. According to Ernest Gbeada, the coordinator of the center, "The webinar center is a powerful tool for training and capacity building for English teachers."

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

[Kenya, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, And Ghana: The African KINGS](#)

Seeking Alpha - Ivory Coast: In UEMOA, growth will be driven largely by a mix of public investments and FDIs; especially into post-crisis Ivory Coast. Investment in the ...

[Rare forest elephants evacuated to a protected zone in Ivory Coast](#)

The Independent - A A A. Email. In pictures: Rare forest elephants evacuated to a protected zone in Ivory Coast. Suggested Topics. Côte D'ivoire (ivory Coast) ...

[A mammoth rescue mission: Incredible photos show rare forest ...](#)

Daily Mail - The endangered African forest elephants had torn up farms and crops in villages in Ivory Coast, triggering fears that farmers would shoot them.

[Cote d'Ivoire: Resistance in Côte d'Ivoire to Funding of Programmes ...](#)

AllAfrica.com - Côte d'Ivoire is known throughout West Africa as the most tolerant country, where gay, lesbian and transgender people from all backgrounds do not ...

[Rice importers, sellers appeal to gov't](#)

GhanaWeb - The Association of Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Rice Importers and Sellers (based in Kumasi) is appealing to the government to take a critical decision on the ...

[MSI builds on 7 year relationship with Tullow Oil through current ...](#)

Your Oil and Gas News (press release) - MSI builds on 7 year relationship with Tullow Oil through current measurements In 2,400m offshore Cote D'Ivoire. Tuesday, Jan 21, 2014. MSI has ...

Media affiliation and circulation

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

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[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 21, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley holds talks with Communication Minister**
2. **President Ouattara holds talks with Burkina Faso Foreign Affairs Minister, Guinea Bissau Prime Minister**
3. **Media regulatory body suspends head of Ivoirian journalists' network for corruption**
4. **Opposition delegation in Ghana and Togo to urge refugees to return home**
5. **Swiss authorities unfreeze assets of supporters of former Ivoirian president**
6. **EU grants about US \$38 million to support Cote d'Ivoire's economy**

### 1. U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley holds talks with Communication Minister

- [http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5475-affoussiata-bamba-lamine-recoit-l-ambassadeur-des-etats-unis-terence-mcculley-affoussiata-bamba-lamine-recoit-l-ambassadeur-des-etats-unis-terence-mcculley.html](http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5475-affoussiata-bamba-lamine-recoit-l-ambassadeur-des-etats-unis-terence-mcculley-affoussiata-bamba-lamine-recoit-l-ambassadeur-des-etats-unis-terence-mcculley-affoussiata-bamba-lamine-recoit-l-ambassadeur-des-etats-unis-terence-mcculley.html)

On Friday, the U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Terence McCulley, met with Minister of

Communication Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine reports the weekend issue of ***Fraternite Matin (p. 6)***.

Ambassador McCulley used the occasion to reaffirm his country's commitment to support the ongoing reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire. "I can assure Ivoirians that the United States remains a key partner in the reconciliation process. Cote d'Ivoire plays an important role in the stability of the sub-region and the country needs a stable democracy."

### 2. President Ouattara holds talks with Burkina Faso Foreign Affairs Minister, Guinea Bissau Prime Minister

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/12037-situation-politique-au-burkina-djibril-bassolé-fait-le-point-au-président-ouattara>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485074.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5499-le-premier-ministre-bissau-guineen-chez-le-president-ouattara-cet-apres-midi.html>

The political crisis in Burkina Faso over President Blaise Compaore's reelection plans, the crisis in Mali and the security situation in the Mont Preko region of western Cote d'Ivoire were the issues on the agenda during a meeting between the Foreign Affairs Minister of Burkina Faso, Djibril Bassole, and President Alassane Ouattara reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 7)***.

According to Bassole, the meeting with the president was to brief him after an Ivoirian delegation met with Compaore recently over the political situation in their country. Bassole is quoted as saying, "The political situation has improved and we needed to inform President Ouattara." On the security situation in Mont Preko, home of many Burkinabe farmers, the two agreed to relocate the farmers reports ***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)***.

The president also recently met with Guinea Bissau Prime Minister Rui Duarte Baros in Abidjan. ***Fraternite Matin (p. 6)*** says that according to Baros, the meeting focused on the political transition on the way in his country, as well as the coming general election.

### 3. Media regulatory body suspends head of Ivoirian journalists' network for corruption

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485098.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5512-lu-dans-la-presse-de-ce-jour-la-suspension-de-moussa-traore-et-alafe-wakili-en.html>

- <http://www.5minutesinfos.net/abidjan-media-affaire-chantage-et-escroquerie-le-cnp-suspend-lourdement-alafe-wakily-et-le-president-de-lunjci/>

Several journalists were suspended according to today's edition of **Notre Voie (p. 9)**, including the president of the national association of journalists, Traoure Moussa. The paper reports that Moussa and Wakili Alafe, head of the newspaper *L'Intelligent*, were suspended by the national press council (CNP) for six months for "attempted corruption," after being accused of trying to bribe a fellow newspaper publisher to stop reporting negatively about a government minister.

The CNP also suspended several newspapers. Opposition paper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan*, was suspended for two months for knowingly publishing inaccurate statements. Another opposition paper, *Le Nouveau Courrier* and pro-government paper *Le Jour Plus*, were fined CFA 500,000 (\$1,032) and CFA one million (\$2,064) respectively for publishing false statements.

#### **4. Opposition delegation in Ghana and Togo to urge refugees to return home**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484940.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485011.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485090.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485070.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5500-cote-d-ivoire-deux-cadres-du-parti-de-gbagbo-au-ghana-pour-preparer-le-retour.html>

The director of the port of Abidjan under former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, Marcel Gossio, has called on all political exiles to return home reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**. Gossio made the call after a meeting yesterday with Minister of Interior and Security Hamed Bakayoko. The meeting came a few days after Gossio returned from nearly three years in exile.

In a related story, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)** says that a delegation of the opposition FPI party has traveled to Ghana and Togo in an effort to convince Ivoirian refugees still living in those countries to return home to Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, more than two-thirds of the 300,000 refugees from the political crisis of 2011 have returned home.

**L'Inter (p. 7)** reports Bakayoko as saying that President Ouattara's call for refugees to return is not a political ploy nor a trap but rather a hope that they can all work together toward reconciliation.

#### **5. Swiss authorities unfreeze assets of supporters of former Ivoirian president**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/12036-sanction-européenne-la-suisse-dégèle-des-fonds-des-pro-gbagbo>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/485020.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5504-la-suisse-degele-plus-de-10-milliards-de-fcfa-appartenant-a-quatre-pro-gbagbo.html>

A report in **Le Patriote (p. 7)** says that Switzerland has unfrozen more than CFA 10 billion (\$20.6 million) belonging to officials from the administration of former president Gbagbo. The report also says that the decision was motivated by the improvement of the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. Reporting on the same issue, **L'Inter (p. 5)** quotes Swiss authorities as saying that the money was made available on January 19.

#### **6. EU grants about US \$38 million to support Cote d'Ivoire's economy**

**Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)** reports that the European Union has granted nearly CFA 19 billion to support economic reforms in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, this was announced in a statement issued recently by the EU in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes the statement as saying, "The money will be used for the reconstruction and restoration of government infrastructure in order to boost the country's economic performance."

## International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

### [Complaints about cybercrime highest in Ivory Coast – government](#)

HumanIPO - The government of Ivory Coast has decried the increasing number of complaints about cybercrime in the country, saying it received more in the first ...

### [Ivory Coast cracks down on cyber crime](#) BBC News

The average age of a cyber-criminal in Ivory Coast is now between 16 and 17, each making around \$13,000 (£8,000) a month - teenagers taking ...

### [Cardinal named for Ivory Coast hopes he can advance peace](#) National Catholic Reporter

Ivory's Coast's new cardinal is confident his nomination will advance peace after a decade of conflict and instability in the French-speaking West ...

### [Ivorian ex-first lady awaits trial 3 years later](#)

Appeal-Democrat - The last time the world saw her in April 2011, former Ivory Coast first lady Simone Gbagbo was being hustled out of a bunker by armed men, her ...

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### [Alstom wins contract at Soubre hydropower project in Africa](#)

PennEnergy (press release) - ... Corporation Limited to provide electromechanical equipment and technical services to its Soubre Hydropower Project in Ivory Coast

-

### [Japanese drive to help Africa offers benefits for both sides](#)

The Nation - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has just wrapped up a visit to three African countries: Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Ethiopia. The trip marked the first visit ...

-

### [Gold output from Côte d'Ivoire Ity mine jumps 50% in 2013](#)

Creamer Media's Mining Weekly - ABIDJAN – Gold output from Côte d'Ivoire's Ity mine soared over 50% to 2.5 t (89 595 oz) in 2013 compared with the previous year due to ...

-

### [AfDB's Return to Headquarters - President's Office and Board of ...](#)

AllAfrica.com - On the subject of the return of the AfDB to its Côte d'Ivoire headquarters, he indicated that the President's Office and Board of Directors

[Kenya, Ivory Coast, Nigeria And Ghana: The African KINGS \[Sasol ...](#)

Seeking Alpha - Note that we refer to the Ivory Coast as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) hub, hosting the Bourse Regionale des Valeurs ...

[ECOWAS: Nigeria tops piracy list in 2013 –IMB](#)

Daily Sun - ... ventured far into waters off Gabon, Ivory Coast and Togo, where they were linked with at least five of the region's seven reported vessel hijackings.

[Glo Mobile to expand West Africa fibre network](#)

ITWeb Africa - Globacom's submarine cable Glo-1 is a 9 800 km long network that connects Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Glo Mobile ...

[How Can Young Ivorians Fund Their Entrepreneurial Dreams?](#)

AllAfrica.com - Cote d'Ivoire: How Can Young Ivorians Fund Their Entrepreneurial Dreams? By Kahofi Suy, 20 January 2014. Abidjan — Ivorian president Alassane ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo's release will facilitate reconciliation in Cote d ...](#)

Premium Times - Mr. Gbagbo is held at the International Criminal Court, for his role in the 2011 post-election violence that gripped Cote d'Ivoire. Michel Gbagbo, son

Media affiliation and circulation

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Daily close to National Assembly President Guillaume Soro

3,909 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

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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

JANUARY 17, 2014

### Today's Top Stories

1. U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley holds talks with head reconciliation commission
2. NDI trains female mayors and women leaders on reconciliation
3. Salaries of civil servants to increase by 12 percent by end of January

#### **1. U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley holds talks with head reconciliation commission**

**L'Inter (p. 4)** today reports that U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley yesterday met with the Head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), Charles Konan Banny. "We have talked about the work the commission is doing, its achievements and its efforts at the local level," the paper quotes Ambassador McCulley as saying. The paper also reports the ambassador as saying that other issues discussed at the meeting focused on "the general political situation in Cote d'Ivoire, the 2015 presidential election and the role all the political parties should play in this process."

#### **2. NDI trains female mayors and women leaders on reconciliation**

A report in **L'Inter (p. 6)** says the National Democratic Institute (NDI) recently trained female Ivoirian mayors and leaders on reconciliation. According to the paper, the training was aimed at providing the women with the skills necessary to fully take part in the on-going reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire. The participants at this seminar also learned about how to raise funds to support development projects in their regions.

#### **3. Salaries of civil servants to increase by 12 percent by end of January**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484687.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484736.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11911-gnamien-konan-les-salaires-augmentent-de-12-a-partir-de-fin-janvier>

The Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform, Gnanmien Konan, yesterday announced that "salaries of public servants will be increased by 12 percent by the end of January," reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)**. The minister, speaking at press conference, also said that the decision by President Alassane Ouattara to increase salaries will cover the past five years and will cost the state about FCFA 80 billion (nearly \$160 million).

Meanwhile, a report in the pro-government newspaper **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p.6)** says that 80 percent of public servants are not affected by the salary increase. The salaries of just 38,680 workers out of approximately 150,000 will be increased, the paper says. Reporting on the same issue, **Soir Info (p. 9)** says more than 140,000 public servants will not benefit for the salary increase.

On the opposition side, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 8)** says that the announcement made by President Ouattara to increase the salaries of public servants was "a joke." **Notre Voie (p.7)** also sounds cynical about the president's announcement saying it was, "a big disappointment."

### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire: Militia leader accused of crimes against humanity must ...](#) Amnesty International Authorities in Côte d'Ivoire must transfer former militia leader Charles Blé Goudé, who is accused of crimes against humanity, to a legally recognized ...

[Ivory Coast / post-electoral crisis: Special Investigation Unit term ...](#) FIDH

The post-electoral crisis in Ivory Coast was started when ex-President Laurent Gbagbo refused to recognize the victory of Alassane Ouattara in the ...

[Global Piracy Hits Lowest Level Since 2007, Report Says](#) New York Times

The report said Nigerian pirates also ventured farther from home, attacking vessels off the coasts of Gabon, Ivory Coast and Togo. A report last June by

[Mars Chocolate Releases Gender Assessment Regarding Women ...](#) 3BL Media (press release)

The company will embed its efforts to empower women cocoa farmers into Vision for Change, which will directly reach 150,000 farmers in Cote d'Ivoire ...

#### Media affiliation and circulation

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

[L'Expression](#) \_

Daily supportive of current president Alassane Ouattara

3,240 daily

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 16, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Meeting between government and opposition FPI renews hope for dialogue
2. Government official threatens opposition FPI leader
3. American NGO launches project against child trafficking in Tiassale
4. Broadcast regulatory body evaluates conditions in proximity radio stations
5. Former warlord takes journalist to court for defamation

### 1. Meeting between government and opposition FPI renews hope for dialogue

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484638.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484626.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11889-dialogue-politique-le-fpi-invite-%C3%A9-%C3%A0-ne-pas-r%C3%A9veiller-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98les-vieux-d%C3%A9mons%E2%80%99%E2%80%99>

The leader of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, said yesterday at a government and opposition meeting that both sides have the willingness to achieve reconciliation says ***Fraternite Matin (p. 13)***. However, the two sides have yet to arrive at any agreements, including on the FPI request for a national forum on reconciliation.

A report in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)***, quotes the head of the government delegation to the meeting, Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, as calling on the opposition to let the dialogue be an opportunity to restore peace and social cohesion in Cote d'Ivoire. Kouadio is also reported as drawing the attention of the opposition party to the fragility of the current situation. He also urged the opposition not to engage in "old issues" that have previously led the country into crisis.

***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)*** reports Affi N'Guessan as saying that the meeting was "positive" while Kouadio called for peace. According to ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)***, the discussion during the meeting yesterday was "difficult" because the two sides could not reach agreement on key issues.

***A story in L'Inter (p. 3)*** says that Kouadio pleaded with Affi N'Guessan to call on Ivoirians still living abroad to come back home. The paper also reports Kouadio as saying that "significant progress" was made in the meeting.

### 2. Government official threatens opposition FPI leader

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11886-adama-toungara-menace-%E2%80%98affi-n%27guessan-ne-mettra-pas-les-pieds-ici-%E2%80%98a-abobo>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=528>

***L'Expression (p. 5)*** quotes Adama Toungara, a leading member of President Ouattara's RDR party as saying that Affi N'Guessan is not allowed to hold an FPI rally in the Abidjan suburb of Abobo. Toungara was reacting yesterday to recent statements made by Affi N'Guessan that Toungara said were "against the reconciliation" currently underway in the country. "Affi N'Guessan needs to know that he cannot set foot in Abobo as long as he continues to make these statements and as long as he does not change his attitude," Toungara is quoted as saying. According to ***Le Patriote (p. 5)***, Toungara said this at a meeting yesterday in Abobo.

### 3. American NGO launches project against child trafficking in Tiassale

A report in ***L'Inter (p. 13)*** says World Education Incorporated, a U.S.-based NGO, has launched in the town of Tiassale a program aimed at fighting child trafficking. The project was launched yesterday at an event in Abidjan. According to the report, officials from the Ministry of Education welcomed the

project and urged the head of World Education Inc. to extend the project to other regions in the country.

#### **4. Broadcast regulatory body evaluates conditions in proximity radio stations**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484633.html>

A report in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 10)**, says that Ibrahim Sy Savane, head of the government broadcast media regulator, the High Authority on Audiovisual Communication (HACA), visited four community radio stations yesterday in Abidjan. The paper quotes Sy Savane as saying that the visit was to evaluate working conditions in the community radio stations. "We wanted to see for ourselves the situation in these stations, how they are organized and the conditions in which they work." During the visits, Sy Savane also announced that the regulatory body will establish more regular contact with the stations to make sure that the stations respect the law.

***Le Patriote* (p. 6)** reports Sy Savane as encouraging the stations to stop running their stations like street vendors, and to develop an economic plan for the staff of the radio in order to make money.

#### **5. Former warlord takes journalist to court for defamation**

According to ***Soir Info* (p. 5)**, former ComZone Fofie Kouakou has sued a journalist with *Le Nouveau Reveil* for defamation. The case against the journalist, Dieusmonde Tade, is related to an article he wrote in November 2013 involving the former warlord's refusal to pay rent for a home rented from an Ivoirian singer. The paper also recalls that Tade was kidnapped two months ago, allegedly in connection with this case. The paper for which Tade works, ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3)**, reports that Kouakou has also sued the paper for defamation, as well. The paper says that Kouakou is demanding CFA 50 million (\$100,000) in compensation.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Cote d'Ivoire | World Finance](#) World Finance

Abidjan has one of the fastest-growing populations in the world today, having doubled in less than a decade from three million in 1996, to more than ...

[Ivory Coast / post-electoral crisis: Special Investigation Unit term ...](#) FIDH

... pro-Ouattara Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) on the other. Fighting and violence caused somewhere between 3000 and 5000 deaths.

[Japan in Africa: A Rising Sun?](#) Brookings Institution (blog)

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe completed his African tour this Monday in Ethiopia after visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Mozambique. His visit was the ...

[Chocolate Slavery Case Against Nestlé Allowed to Proceed](#) CorpWatch.org

Eight years after they sued Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Cargill and Nestlé for allegedly forcing them to work as child labor on a Côte d'Ivoire cocoa

[Japan shapes up for a bigger role in Africa](#) BDLive

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara, left, talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the presidential palace in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, last ...

[How a Giant Replica of the Vatican Ended Up In a Small African City](#)Gizmodo

Construction on the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro, the largest church on earth, started 28 years ago in the small Ivory Coast city of ...

Media affiliation and circulation

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

**JANUARY 15, 2014**

Today's Top Stories

1. Italian foreign minister in Abidjan to boost Cote d'Ivoire-Italy relations
2. AfDB pledges \$1 billion in support of reconstruction projects in Cote d'Ivoire
3. Army chief commander sets security goals for 2014
4. Government seeks a three-month reprieve to decide on Ble Goude's transfer to ICC
5. Controversy over ICC chief prosecutor's evidence on charges of crime against Gbagbo
6. Dailies say dialogue between government opposition FPI party hangs in the balance

#### **1. Italian foreign minister in Abidjan to boost Cote d'Ivoire-Italy relations**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484535.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11821-côte-divoire-italie-la-ministre-emma-bonino-`propose-4-lignes-directrices`>

A report in the government newspaper *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7), says that the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister, Emma Bonino, said yesterday in a meeting that her country will be investing in four major sectors in Cote d'Ivoire in the near future. Bonino, in Cote d'Ivoire for a two-day visit, said after her meeting with Ivoirian Foreign Minister Charles Koffi Diby that the four areas include good governance, human rights, agriculture and energy. The paper says that Bonino also praised Cote d'Ivoire for progress in the national reconciliation process after the political crisis in 2011.

#### **2. AfDB pledges \$1 billion in support of reconstruction projects in Cote d'Ivoire**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484516.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484538.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484472.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/economie/item/11835-reconstruction-post-crise-la-bad-apporte-une-enveloppe-de-plus-de-470-millards-fcfa>

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 14), African Development Bank (AfDB) director Donald Kaberuka has pledged more than CFA 470 billion (\$1 billion) for economic reform and reconstruction in Cote d'Ivoire. Kaberuka said this yesterday after a meeting with Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. According to Kaberuka, the bank has already committed CFA 300 million (\$623,000) to support security reform and energy production in the country. "We are committed to supporting Cote d'Ivoire, which has been through a ten-year crisis," the paper reports Kaberuka as saying. "However, the country is making encouraging efforts towards recovery."

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 7) quotes Kaberuka as commending Cote d'Ivoire for its "economic renaissance" and pledging to support reconstruction projects initiated by the government. According to the paper, he also met with President Ouattara over the weekend.

#### **3. Government seeks a three-month reprieve to decide on Ble Goude's transfer to ICC**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484537.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484528.html>

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484503.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11847-extradition-de-blé-goudé-la-côte-d'ivoire-demande-un-sursis-de-3-mois-à-la-cpi>

**Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** reports today that the government of Cote d'Ivoire has submitted an application seeking to delay for three months the decision on whether or not to send former youth leader Charles Ble Goude to the International Criminal Court (ICC). According to the paper, the application was submitted by the government attorney handling the case, in response to a demand from the ICC to transfer the prisoner.

Opposition paper **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** says that it seems the government is "not interested" in transferring Ble Goude to The Hague.

**Notre Voie (p. 2)** says that the government decision to ask for a delay is motivated by the investigation currently underway in Cote d'Ivoire against the former youth leader. **Le Patriote (p. 4)** supports this, quoting the attorney for the government as saying, "The continued presence of Ble Goude in Cote d'Ivoire is necessary for the smooth conduct of the current investigation underway against him."

#### **4. Controversy over ICC chief prosecutor's evidence on charges of crime against Gbagbo --**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484527.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484486.html>

**Notre Voie (p. 2)** features its reaction today to the report of the additional evidence submitted to the ICC by head prosecutor Fatou Bensouda in connection with the case against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. The paper says that the new evidence consists of "unfounded accusations." Another opposition paper, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)** shares a similar point of view, claiming that new evidence provided by the chief prosecutor was no different than what has already been submitted. On the government side, **Le Jour Plus (p. 2)** describes the new evidence against the former president as proof of an organized plan to commit crimes against humanity during the post-electoral conflict. The paper quotes the document as saying, "Knowing of the inevitability of the presidential election, Gbagbo went to work designing and executing an organized plan jointly with his supporters in order to maintain power by any means necessary."

#### **5. Dailies say dialogue between government opposition FPI party hangs in the balance**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484504.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484493.html>

According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)**, the government will be meeting with the opposition FPI party today as part of the on-going dialogue aimed at reconciliation. However, **L'Inter (p. 3)**, reports that the meeting, scheduled to take place yesterday, has been postponed indefinitely. The paper attributes the information to Michel Amani N'Guessan, a leading member of the opposition party. N'Guessan is quoted as saying, "This meeting has been postponed. I don't know when it will take place."

At the same time, **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 5)**, says that the meeting will "finally" take place today, quoting a source close to the office of the prime minister. According to this paper, the delay of the meeting was due to a scheduling conflict.

#### **6. Army chief commander sets security goals for 2014**

At a press conference yesterday, **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)**, reports that the head of the armed forces, General Soumaila Bakayoko, as saying that the priority for the army this year is to maintain unity among the troops and provide capacity building for army officers. He also reminded army personnel about their role to ensure security and to fight against armed robbery in the country.

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

[We Have Not Evaded Taxes - Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire Rice Importers ...AllAfrica.com](#)

MEMBERS OF the Ghana-Cote D'Ivoire Rice Importers and Sellers have denied the assertions by Finatrade, a rice importing firm in Ghana, that they ...

[Ivorian reconciliation slow to develop UPI.com](#)

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan. 13 (UPI) -- Human rights officials said Ivory Coast is commended for trying to repair old wounds but the process is ...

[Truth Panel Seen Faltering AllAfrica.com](#)

Abidjan — Côte d'Ivoire's Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) recently concluded its two-year mandate with a report detailing ...

[ECOWAS Tables Workplan AllAfrica.com](#)

At the end of a sub-regional meeting held in Abidjan, the Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf says ECOWAS has tabled the ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 14, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Rights groups urge government to enhance support for Special Investigation Unit
2. President Ouattara, ECOWAS leaders meet Japan Prime Minister in Abidjan
3. ICC chief prosecutor submits more evidence on charges of crime against Gbagbo
4. Ivoirian air carrier to double its capital in 2014

### 1. Rights groups urge government to enhance support for Special Investigation Unit

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484349.html>

A report in **Le Jour Plus (p. 4)** says that human rights groups from both Cote d'Ivoire and outside the country have welcomed the government's decision to augment the special investigative unit charged with investigating crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis. The government made the announcement on January 8 after the weekly cabinet meeting. The groups indicate that the decision is the result of continuous mobilization for the reestablishment of the investigative unit. The decision, groups say, will fundamentally speed up investigations.

According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** the U.S.-based NGO, Human Rights Watch, welcomes the government's decision calling it a "positive sign for justice." The government, the paper says, will have to provide the unit with staffing, resources and the independence to make their own decisions.

**Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** claims that the decision by President Alassane Ouattara to extend the cell was made "under pressure" from outside groups. A report in **L'Inter (p. 2)** says that Human Rights Watch has also recommended that the government should review the mandate of the special cell to focus on the most serious crimes committed between December 2010 and May 2011.

### 2. President Ouattara, ECOWAS leaders meet Japan Prime Minister in Abidjan

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484331.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484343.html>

President Ouattara called on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to invest in West Africa during a visit by Abe on Friday to Abidjan where he met with leaders from 11 West African nations says **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. The paper also says Abe announced a more than CFA 38 billion (\$79 million) investment in Cote d'Ivoire. According to **Le Patriote (p. 2)**, Japan will also invest \$32 billion in all of West Africa over the next five years.

**L'Inter (p. 10)** suggests that the decision by the Japanese prime minister to meet with West African leaders here was to make Cote d'Ivoire its anchor partner in the region. The paper also suggests that Japan is planning to use the port in Abidjan as the hub for activities in other countries in the region.

### 3. ICC chief prosecutor submits more evidence on charges of crime against Gbagbo

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484447.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484401.html>

A report in opposition paper **Notre Voie (p. 5)**, says the head prosecutor in the International Criminal Court (ICC) case against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, Fatou Bensouda, has submitted more evidence in support of the charges. The paper also indicates that Gbagbo's attorney will have until January 27 to examine the new evidence.

According to **Le Patriote (p. 3)**, Bensouda has submitted 1,300 new pieces of evidence to support the case against Gbagbo. This evidence reportedly includes forensic evidence as well as recordings of phone conversations of Gbagbo allegedly giving instructions to military leaders.

#### 4. Ivoirian air carrier to double its capital in 2014

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484306.html>

The national air carrier, Air Cote d'Ivoire will work to double its working capital by the end of 2014 says a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)**. This was announced on Friday by Rene Decurey, the general manager of the company. However, a report in **Soir Info (p. 8)** suggests that the performance of the air carrier was poor in 2013, due to start-up issues for the new company. **Le Patriote (p. 10)** says Air Cote d'Ivoire will launch in June 2014 domestic flights from Abidjan to the cities of Bouake, San Pedro and Korhogo.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire truth panel seen faltering](#) IRINnews.org

ABIDJAN, 13 January 2014 (IRIN) - Côte d'Ivoire's Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) recently concluded its two-year mandate ...

[Japan PM Shinzo Abe to pledge \\$14bn to Africa](#) BBC News

Although Ivory Coast is recovering after the end of a long period of conflict and political instability, it provides a gateway into French-speaking Africa

[West Africa: At Mini-Ecowas Summit, Attended By President Sirleaf ...](#)AllAfrica.com

The President also met with the leadership of the Liberian community in Côte d'Ivoire. The Japanese Prime Minister is on a week-long first visit to ...

[DekelOil gets payment under off-take deal](#) Stock Market Wire

StockMarketWire.com - DekelOil Public - operator and 51% owner of an established vertically integrated palm oil project in Côte d'Ivoire - has received

[Japan 'keen to invest'](#) Biztech Africa

Ghana's President John Mahama and other ECOWAS Heads of Government have held meetings in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, with the Prime Minister of ...

[West Africa: At Mini-Ecowas Summit, Attended By President Sirleaf ...](#)AllAfrica.com

The President also met with the leadership of the Liberian community in Côte d'Ivoire. The Japanese Prime Minister is on a week-long first visit to ...

[Top 5 people to watch in West Africa in 2014](#) The Africa Report

The ANRMP director says there is not a strong culture of questioning ministerial decisions in Côte d'Ivoire and the ANRMP has faced pressure from ...

[Drop in Ghana's currency spurs cocoa smuggling to Ivory Coast](#)GhanaWeb

Smugglers have trafficked around 40,000 tonnes of Ghanaian cocoa beans into top grower Ivory Coast since November to take advantage of a drop in ...

[Pope's choice of new cardinals puts emphasis on poor](#) Reuters UK

Two are from Africa - the archbishops of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and Abidjan in Ivory Coast. From Asia are the archbishops of Seoul in South ...

[Access Bank divests from Cote d'Ivoire subsidiary, appoints ED ...](#)WorldStage  
WorldStage Newsonline-- The Board of Directors of Access Bank Plc notified the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) of the completion of the bank's ...

[Air Cote d'Ivoire agrees \\$114 mln aircraft loan from Afreximbank](#) Reuters  
Air Cote d'Ivoire, established to replace defunct carrier Air Ivoire, agreed late ... Air Cote d'Ivoire is 65 percent state owned, with Air France holding 20 ...

### **Media affiliation and circulation**

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

[L'Expression](#) \_  
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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

JANUARY 10, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara commits to supporting a free press in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Ahead of the 2015 elections, the voter list will be updated
3. In a bid to streamline entry visa process, the Ivoirian government initiates an online application system
4. Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expected in Abidjan today
5. The FPI boycotts talks with the government

### 1. President Ouattara commits to supporting a free press in Cote d'Ivoire

- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=384>
- <http://www.aip.ci/depechesv.php?ID=2238>

In a new year's courtesy call yesterday with media leaders, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** reports that President Alassane Ouattara said that he supports a free press in Cote d'Ivoire and that he will not accept any journalist being assaulted or killed in the country. The president also announced that the government has made available CFA one billion (\$ approximately two million dollars) since 2011 to support the media sector. At the same time, he acknowledged much more needs to be done to improve the press.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 4)** reports that the president noted during the ceremony that the media have an important role to play in consolidating peace and national cohesion. The paper quotes the president of the association of journalists, Moussa Traore, as saying, "Only a few media companies are able to pay their reporters a decent salary," and called on the president to support the implementation of an agreement signed recently to improve wages for journalists.

### 2. Ahead of the 2015 elections, the voter list will be updated

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484195.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=376>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11676-youssouf-bakayoko-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98la-cei-conna%C3%A9tra-une-r%C3%A9forme-de-son-organe-central%E2%80%99%E2%80%99>

In the new year's message from the president of the independent electoral commission (CEI), Youssouf Bakayoko, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7)** reports that the commission is working to update the voter list for the 2015 elections. In the address, he thanked international partners who helped during the 2010 elections and also commended the political actors who agreed on the list.

Opposition paper **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)**, says that it is time for the chairman of the CEI to step down and expresses disappointment that instead of doing so, he is talking about updating the new voter list. They also note that it is necessary to change up the electoral commission before the 2015 election because, "Bakayoko has lost all credibility," and that the country "needs someone neutral to conduct the electoral reforms necessary ahead of the 2015 elections."

### 3. In a bid to streamline entry visa process, the Ivoirian government initiates an online application system

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484198.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11661-a%C3%A9roport-international-fhb-le-visa-biom%C3%A9trique-d%C3%A9sormais-disponible>

Former minister Adama Bictogo held a launch event yesterday at the Abidjan airport to announce the new "E-Visa" project says **Le Patriote (p. 11)**. The software system will allow visitors to the country

to apply online, streamlining the visa process. "Anyone interested in visiting Cote d'Ivoire just needs to go online to our address to submit their application," Bictogo said. "The visa will then be issued once the traveler arrives in Cote d'Ivoire." The paper says that the move will likely boost tourism and that the number of visas issued could increase from 180,000 to 300,000 per year.

**Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 10)**, says that the long-term visa will cost 130 Euros and a short-term visa will be 70 Euros. The paper also reports that the event was attended by the Chinese ambassador who commended the program and said, "This will help bring many more Chinese investors to Cote d'Ivoire."

#### **4. Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expected in Abidjan today**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483810.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484206.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5370-visite-de-shinzo-abe-occasion-pour-redynamiser-la-cooperation-selon-afrijapan..html>

As part of a tour of several African countries, the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe is visiting Cote d'Ivoire today reports **L'Inter (p. 9)**. He is expected to meet with President Ouattara and economic development issues between the two countries will be discussed, the paper reports. Japan is working to encourage economic growth in African countries through the UN program for growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p.2)** adds that the Japanese prime minister will be meeting other heads of state who are traveling to Cote d'Ivoire, including the presidents of Burkina Faso, Liberia, Nigeria, Benin and Ghana.

#### **5. The FPI boycotts talks with the government**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/484209.html>

The opposition FPI party has again decided to boycott reconciliation talks with the government reports **Le Patriote (p. 3)**. The delegation from the FPI did not attend yesterday's session with Minister of State Jeannot Ahoussou to restart discussions that had been on hold since last year. However, the paper notes that discussions with other opposition parties took place as planned. "President Ouattara has instructed the government to work to see how those who have had their assets frozen retrieve their funds," Ahoussou is quoted as saying.

Opposition paper **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4)** says that the session yesterday "does not concern the FPI" as it is specifically for other opposition parties and that the FPI has their own forum to meet with the government.

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

[Côte d'Ivoire: Positive Sign for Justice](#)

Human Rights Watch

Identifying those responsible and bringing them to justice is essential if Côte d'Ivoire is to break from its recent history of impunity, Human Rights ...

[Apollo Consolidated trenching for gold at Seguela in Cote d'Ivoire ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

Apollo Consolidated is trenching for gold at is Seguela project in Cote ... program at the Seguela gold project in the central west of Cote d'Ivoire.

[Cote d'Ivoire government faults Gbagbo's party on Ouattara's ...](#)

Premium Times

The Cote d'Ivoire government on Thursday faulted comments by the country's Popular Front, (FPI) party, suggesting that President Alassane Ouattara

[225000 Ivorian refugees have returned after crisis- UNHCR](#)

The Punch

Ms Ann Encontre, the Resident Representative of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Cote d'Ivoire says 225,000 Ivorian refugees have returned ...

[Life 'getting back to normal' in Abidjan after decade of turmoil](#)

BDlive

Côte d'Ivoire's national soccer team, the highest-ranked in Africa, was doing ... Côte d'Ivoire was a pretty unique place for the first four decades after

[Army official killed in Ivory Coast road crash](#)

The Daily Star

An army official working in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Ivory Coast, who was injured in a road accident on December 28, died at a hospital in ...

[Jonathan ECOWAS Leaders To Meet With Japanese PM in Abidjan](#)

Daily Times Nigeria

President Goodluck Jonathan will on Friday afternoon travel to Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire to attend a meeting of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government ...

[Moving further into West Africa's frontier market](#)

MarketWatch

The Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) is the largest economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), consisting of 40% of the Union's ...

[Drogba formalises gold business](#)

SuperSport

Ivory Coast international Didier Drogba on Tuesday signed his entry into the capital of state-owned Ity Mines Cooperation, after acquiring 5% shares ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 9, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Opposition leader's statement on President Ouattara eligibility for the 2015 elections sparks controversy**
2. Government to speed up procedures to unfreeze assets and reintegrate supporters of former president Gbagbo
3. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume today
4. Didier Drogba signs entry into capital of state-owned mining corporation

### 1. Opposition leader's statement on President Ouattara eligibility for the 2015 elections sparks controversy

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484059.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484088.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484048.html>

A statement made recently by FPI party president Pascal Affi N'Guessan, saying that President Alassane Ouattara is not eligible for the 2015 election, is widely covered in the media today. In reaction, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)** has government spokesperson Bruno Kone saying, "Affi N'Guessan is responsible for what he said. Ivoirians are not easily duped and they know where the recent crisis started."

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)** published a statement issued by President Ouattara's RDR party that says, "President Ouattara will be a candidate during the 2015 presidential elections." The statement also indicated that the debate over who can be a candidate in Cote d'Ivoire is over. A report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**, quotes RDR spokesperson Joel N'Guessan who described Affi N'Guessan's statement as "war mongering" adding that "this battle has already been fought."

From the opposition side, **Notre Voie (p. 6)** suggests that the debate over President Ouattara's eligibility is not yet over. The paper claims that the country's constitution is clear about who can be a candidate for elections and that President Ouattara is not eligible.

### 2. Government to speed up procedures to unfreeze assets and reintegrate supporters of former president Gbagbo

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/484056.html>
- [http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14139:conseil-des-ministres-hier-de-bonnes-nouvelles-pour-les-pro-gbagbo&catid=8&Itemid=110](http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14139:conseil-des-ministres-hier-de-bonnes-nouvelles-pour-les-pro-gbagbo&catid=8&Itemid=110)

According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)**, the president yesterday took several measures to help supporters of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. These measures include the decision to unfreeze the assets of several prominent supporters and reintegrate them into public service. These measures, the paper quotes government spokesperson Kone as saying, are "aimed to diffuse political tensions in the country."

In reaction to yesterday's announcement opposition paper, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** says that people need more than words, they need actions. **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)** welcomes the measures, but believes that the government should take "more courageous actions" in favor of supporters of Gbagbo who are demanding the release of all political prisoners.

### 3. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume today

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483989.html>

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11633-dialogue-politique-le-rdr-invite-le-fpi-au-`travail-pour-faire-redecoller`-le-pays>

According to a report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 5)**, the dialogue between the government and opposition is scheduled to resume today. The paper indicates that the reform of the Independent Electoral Commission and preparation for the 2015 presidential election will be the two major issues on the agenda.

#### **4. Didier Drogba signs entry into capital of state-owned mining corporation**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/484058.html>

International soccer star Didier Drogba has purchased a nearly five percent share of a government-owned mining corporation reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7)**. This was announced yesterday after an agreement signed between Drogba and the Minister in charge of Economy Niale Kaba. Speaking after the ceremony, Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan described Drogba as a “model for the Ivoirian youth.”

**L’Intelligent d’Abidjan (p. 3)** also quotes Prime Minister Duncan as saying that this was a savvy move by Drogba because, “The agreement will generate nearly CFA 20 billion (more than \$40 million) in returns for the footballer by 2015.”

#### International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

##### [Moving further into West Africa's frontier market](#)

MarketWatch

The Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) is the largest economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), consisting of 40% of the Union's ...

##### [Ivory Coast Sees Soaring Oil Production Rivaling Ghana by 2019](#)

Bloomberg

Ivory Coast Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said his nation will boost oil production within five years to 200,000 barrels a day, rivaling ...

##### [Campaign: For chocolate free of child-slavery!](#)

The Independent Singapore News

According to the US Department of state, Cote d'Ivoire or Ivory Coast, which alone accounts for nearly 40 percent of world's cocoa production, has ...

##### [Forest Elephants Establishing Communities Near Humans and ...](#)

Nature World News

... revealing that there was a population of resident elephants in an unprotected area. Pictured is a male African forest elephant from the Ivory Coast.

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 8, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. FPI head says the government must surrender if it cannot achieve reconciliation, warns the FPI will not join an incompetent cabinet
2. Government to streamline the management of aid from partners
3. Four people injured after a building collapse in Yopougon
4. Two days after a similar incident in Koumassi, rival transport unions clash in Treichville

### **1. FPI head says the government must surrender if it cannot achieve reconciliation, warns the FPI will not join an incompetent cabinet**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483990.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483989.html>
- <http://www.lintelligentdabidjan.net/?p=294>

While receiving supporters as part of new year's wishes to the opposition FPI party, party president Pascal Affi N'Guessan came out strongly against the government. According to **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4)**, Affi N'Guessan said, "After three years, the government has not been able to achieve reconciliation. Further, President Ouattara and his men have been destroying all that was achieved before they came to power." He went on to say that the government must "step down" if they are not capable to do the job. Affi N'Guessan also is reported as saying that, during the Ouattara administration, the unemployment rate has moved from 36 to 60 percent.

**L'Inter (p. 3)** quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying the President Ouattara is "not eligible" to run for reelection. He says that Ouattara was eligible to run in 2010 only because of a "special deal" between the current president and former president Laurent Gbagbo.

A report in **Le Temps (pp. 6-7)** further quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying that the government has failed to achieve reconciliation and that the FPI cannot join a team that is "incompetent" and that discriminates among Ivoirians in providing government jobs.

### **2. Government to streamline the management of aid from partners**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483995.html>

**Le Patriote (p. 11)** reports that the government has inked an agreement with Development Gateway to improve the system of managing external resources. Minister of Finance Kaba Niale signed the deal yesterday with the director of Development Gateway, Jean-Louis Sarbib, for the implementation of software to bring together all available aid resources provided by international partners to support Cote d'Ivoire.

In the paper, Sarbib is quoted as saying, "The goal is to help the Ivorian government make the best use not only of resources given by the technical and financial partners, but also of their national resources." He is also quoted as saying that this is a "first step" to integrate all the available resources in the country into one system.

According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)**, Minister Niale said at the signing ceremony, "This will be a centralized system that will facilitate the way we monitor external resources and will provide information on all aid given by our partners." The paper reports that the system will take three years to be fully implemented.

### **3. Four people injured after a building collapse in Yopougon**

<http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5348-un-immeuble-s-effondre-dans-la-commune-de-yopougon-a-abidjan.html>

At least four people are reported as injured after an apartment building collapsed yesterday in the Abidjan suburb of Yopougon says **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 6)**. According to the paper, the building collapsed at around 3:00 p.m. yesterday. Firefighters and police were able to rescue some of the victims but more are expected in the rubble. The paper reports that three ministers – the Minister of Health Raymonde Goudou Coffi, Minister of Family Anne Desiree Ouloto and the Minister of Construction were all on the scene to show support for the rescue efforts.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)** reports that many more people are still missing and are suspected to be buried in the rubble from the five-story building. The paper says that this type of disaster is caused by “negligence” and the use of poor quality construction materials.

#### **4. Two days after a similar incident in Koumassi, rival transport unions clash in Treichville**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483982.html>

Three people were injured yesterday in a clash between rival transporters in the Abidjan neighborhood of Treichville reports **Soir Info (p. 6)**. According to the paper, witnesses say that the incident stemmed from a leadership conflict for the control of a taxi depot.

The incident in Treichville came after a similar event recently in nearby neighborhood Koumassi in which heavy weapons were used. **Aujourd'hui (p.3)** has a more serious account, saying that two people were killed in the clash. The paper also adds that the two rival transportation unions are being controlled by two former ComZones, Cherif Ousmane and Issiaka Ouattara.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast leader urges end to militia attacks](#)

GlobalPost

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara on Monday asked a group of traditional hunters blamed by the UN for summary executions and human rights

[Nestle initiative aids the ivory coast](#)

AG Week

Nestle aims to help the world's top cocoa grower Ivory Coast head off a potential production crisis by distributing 12 million seedlings to the country's

[Ivory Coast's black culture institute to help Africa rise again](#)

Radio Netherlands

At the ICN, an institute for black civilisations in Abidjan, young people are learning how to “claim historical truths about Africa”, as founder

[Access Bank Sells Ivorian Unit To Afriland For \\$1m](#)

Ventures Africa

The bank will now be called Afriland First Bank Cote d'Ivoire,” Reuters quoted Jacob Amematekpo, a bank administrator and

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

**JANUARY 7, 2014**

Today's Top Stories

1. Foreign diplomats call on Ivoirian political actors to work together
2. President Ouattara calls on Dozos to return to traditional activities
3. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to resolve their maritime boundary dispute

### **1. Foreign diplomats call on Ivoirian political actors to work together**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483896.html>
- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11559-crise-postelectorale-le-nonce-apostolique-souhaite-la-liberation-des-prisonniers>

Speaking on behalf of foreign diplomats at a meeting with Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara, *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4&5) reports that Roman Catholic Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Bishop Joseph Spiteri, called on Ivoirian political stakeholders to engage in "ice-breaking" actions to move forward with reconciliation. As part of the New Year courtesy calls to the president, Bishop Spiteri is quoted as saying, "We hope that all the political actors will be courageous in order to break the wall that has prevented enemies from recognizing each other." He also called for "dialogue and reconciliation."

In response, President Ouattara urged all political parties to engage in the political process for a lasting peace to return to Cote d'Ivoire.

Opposition paper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 4) reports that Bishop Spiteri called on the president not to keep political detainees in prison. "We hope that the detainees will not remain much longer in prison without a trial and that damages caused to the victims will not be forgotten," the paper quotes the bishop as saying. *Notre Voie* (p. 2) reports that the foreign diplomat called on President Ouattara to accelerate the reconciliation and social cohesion processes underway in the country.

### **2. President Ouattara calls on Dozos to return to traditional activities**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483858.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483862.html>

*Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) reports that in a speech yesterday, President Ouattara urged traditional hunters, also known as Dozos, to return to their traditional activities. The president is also reported as saying that he has given instructions to the Minister of Interior and Security and the Minister in charge of Defense to better train the Dozos about their role in society, which does not include working alongside the armed forces. A similar report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 2) says that the president wants the Dozos to stop presenting themselves as soldiers in the military.

On the general security situation in the country, *L'Inter* (p. 4) reports that President Ouattara this week offered congratulations to the Ivoirian armed forces for their effort to restore peace and security throughout the country.

### **3. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to resolve their maritime boundary dispute**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483804.html>

In a report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 2), says Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire are committed to resolve their maritime boundary dispute. The report quotes the Ghanaian Minister for Lands and Natural

Resources, Alhaji Inusah Fuseini who has expressed hope that the maritime dispute between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire will be resolved peacefully by the middle of the year. He is also reported as saying that a joint committee, set up by both countries, is currently working steadily to address the matter.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Qash Mobile Banking now in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Bizcommunity.com

Mobile Money Africa: Quash launches Mobile Money in Cote d'Ivoire... The service, called Qash Mobile Banking, reportedly enables customers who ...

[UNOCI says it will not interfere with judicial proceedings in Cote d ...](#)

Premium Times

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire, UNOCI, has said that it will not interfere with judicial proceedings concerning the country's post-election crisis.

[Africa In 2014: Uncool Democracy](#)

Vibe Ghana

Is it the one where Ghana would have election and be in court for close to eight months and still come out even more stronger or that of Cote D'ivoire, ...

#### Media affiliation and circulation

***(Newspaper circulation figures represent average number of copies sold daily. Latest numbers as of September 30, 2013.)***

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 6, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. Minister of Justice clarifies President Ouattara's New Year announcement on release of political detainees
2. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume on January 9
3. UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire denies Ble Goude being detained at its headquarters in Abidjan
4. Debate over reform of the electoral commission continues

### 1. Minister of Justice clarifies President Ouattara's New Year announcement on release of political detainees

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483707.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483733.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483727.html>
- [http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14082:justice-ivoirienne-apres-les-instructions-de-ouattara-le-sort-de-simone-et-ble-goude-connu-dans-3-mois&catid=8&Itemid=110](http://www.linfodrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14082:justice-ivoirienne-apres-les-instructions-de-ouattara-le-sort-de-simone-et-ble-goude-connu-dans-3-mois&catid=8&Itemid=110)

Over the weekend, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) reports that Minister of Justice Gnenema Coulibaly clarified in an interview with the UN radio station the terms of requesting the release of additional political detainees. "We will submit the president's request to the judges to enable them to decide on whether detainees should be released or not." The article also suggests that the president has the constitutional power to grant pardon to any prisoner or detainee, if he so chooses.

*Le Jour Plus* (p. 2) reports that in December 2012, a number of high-profile political detainees close to former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo were released on bail at the request of the president. Among them were the former prime minister under Gbagbo, Gilbert Marie Ake N'Gbo, and former minister in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS Christine Adjobi.

*Le Patriote* (p. 3) quotes Ivoirian attorney Soungalo Coulibaly as saying that high profile detainees including former first lady Simone Gbagbo and former youth leader Charles Ble Goude would not be affected by this decision. According to opposition paper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5), the request by the president to release political detainees is a political "farce." The paper also says that the announcement by the president came as a result of pressure by the international community for the president to do something to diffuse political tensions in the country.

### 2. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume on January 9

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483734.html>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483725.html>

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 5) says that after an almost eight month stalemate, the dialogue between the Ivoirian government and the opposition is scheduled to resume on January 9. This was announced by former prime minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio on Friday during a radio interview. "We are planning to meet on January 9 with all the opposition political parties in an effort to prepare for the 2015 general election," Kouadio is quoted as saying. He continued, "We are looking forward to seeing all the parties at this meeting."

However, an article in opposition paper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) suggests that the meeting has little chance to take place and quotes opposition FPI party spokesperson Laurent Akoun as saying, "We were not informed about this meeting." On the other hand, the weekend issue of *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) quotes a "reliable source" as saying that the meeting will take place as planned.

**Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)** also features former prime minister Kouadio as saying that the agenda of the meeting will include the release of detainees and the unfreezing of their assets.

### **3. UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire denies Ble Goude being detained at its headquarters in Abidjan**

- <http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11539-justice-l'onuci-dément-la-présence-de-blé-goudé-dans-ses-locaux>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483750.html>

**Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** reports on the story that former youth leader Ble Goude is being detained at the UN headquarters in Abidjan. In a statement, the UN denied these reports and expressed surprise at the rumor. "The UN wants the public to know that Ble Goude is not being held at its headquarters."

**Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** quotes the same statement from the UN as saying, "The UN mission is not an office of the International Criminal Court," and therefore does not have the right to detain prisoners.

### **4. Debate over reform of the electoral commission continues**

The weekend issue of **Aujourd'hui (p. 1)** reports that the National Democratic Institute (NDI), a U.S.-based NGO, is calling for the establishment of a new, independent electoral commission ahead of the 2015 presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire. The call came after an NDI delegation visited Cote d'Ivoire several weeks ago. The paper reports that, at the end of the visit, the NDI delegation came to the conclusion that Ivoirian political stakeholders unanimously support the idea that the electoral commission should not include members from organizations that no longer exist in Cote d'Ivoire. **Le Mandat (p. 3)** quotes the regional director of NDI, Christopher Fomunyoh as saying, "Since elections involve political parties, they should be represented in the electoral commission."

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

##### [Ivoirian Hunters Accused of Abuses](#)

AllAfrica.com

Abidjan — Since fighting for Côte d'Ivoire's President Alassane Ouattara during the election violence in 2010-2011, armed traditional hunters known ...

##### [Cote d'Ivoire to increase rice production to address food insecurity](#)

Coastweek

ABIDJAN (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire authorities and experts are banking on rice production to address the perennial challenge of food insecurity.

##### [13 killed in road accident in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

TwoCircles.net

Abidjan: A road accident involving a minibus carrying Christian pilgrims left 13 people dead Thursday night in Cote d'Ivoire's Central-Western region ...

##### [Nestlé inaugurates experimental farm in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Process & Control Today

Nestlé has inaugurated a new experimental farm on a 30-hectare site in Cote d'Ivoire to focus on plant science and research into nutrition, ...

#### [Ghana, Ivory Coast maritime boundary dispute to be resolved](#)

GhanaWeb

Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Inusah Fuseini has expressed hope that the maritime dispute between Ghana and Ivory Coast will be ...

#### [Cote d'Ivoire's PM hails China's economic support](#)

Global Times

Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan on Friday justified his country's preference for China for post-conflict economic reconstruction ...

#### [Access Bank Divests from Cote d'Ivoire Subsidiary](#)

Codewit World News

Access Bank Plc has divested from its Cote d'Ivoire subsidiary through a direct sale to Afriland First Group SA. In a notification to the Nigerian Stock ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 3, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Worker unions said they are skeptical of salary increase announced by President Ouattara
2. "Judges can refuse to release political detainees," lawyer says as additional releases requested
3. FPI youth branch leader says the time has come to "mobilize" for the release of Gbagbo

### **1. Worker unions said they are skeptical of salary increase announced by President Ouattara**

<http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5281-revalorisation-des-salaires-les-syndicats-d-noncent-un-chantage-politique.html>

According to opposition paper, *Le Temps* (p. 3), workers' unions in Cote d'Ivoire, after listening to President Alassane Ouattara's New Year's Eve message promising salary increases, are skeptical that the raises will take place and want to see action. They say that the details are "vague" with no indication of how much the increase might be. A leader of one union, Elie Dago Boga, said that he has listened carefully to the speech and commends the idea, but wants to see a concrete proposal before making judgment. He also expressed frustration that no date was given for the increase to be implemented. "We are waiting to see it become reality," the paper quotes Boga as saying. Civil servants are "between doubt and hope" according to *L'Inter* (p. 12). Union leader Appolinaire Tape Djedje is quoted as saying that they are "wary" since it is a political decision, while another leader, Atte Boka, says, "We fear that this announcement is just a political campaign move." *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) says that only civil servants would be affected by the changes. They also say that CFA 138 billion (\$287 million) has been set aside for salary increases.

### **2. "Judges can refuse to release political detainees," lawyer says as additional releases requested**

- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483637.html>
- <http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5292-la-requ-te-de-mise-en-libert-provisoire-des-pro-gbagbo-sera-soumise-aux-juges-annonce-gn-n-ma-coulibaly.html>

In an interview with the UN radio station in Cote d'Ivoire yesterday, Soungalo Coulibaly, an attorney for victims of the post-electoral crisis, said that the instruction given by the President to the Minister of Justice to release additional detainees is not "an order." The details of the interview were published in *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 3). Coulibaly explained that the president does not have the power to tell judges what to do; therefore, they must decide if there is a legal reason for detainees to be released. Coulibaly went on to say that detainees may be granted bail after trial.

In a related story on *Abidjan.net*, Minister of Justice Gnenema Coulibaly said that judges have received the request to provisionally release additional opposition detainees and that this is being considered.

### **3. FPI youth branch leader says the time has come to "mobilize" for the release of Gbagbo**

*Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) reports that Justin Koua, leader of the youth branch of the FPI party, said in his new year's message that FPI supporters should be "mobilized" to press for the release of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. "Nothing should hold us back," Koua is reported as saying. "This is needed for the sake of the country which has been down since President Ouattara came to power."

Koua is also quoted as saying that poverty is at an "intolerable" level and that national cohesion is being jeopardized by the government; therefore, "It is time for Ivoirians to stand up."

**Le Temps (p. 5)** carries a similar report.

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

[Cote d'Ivoire: National reconciliation is govt's priority in 2014](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - The tireless pursuit of national reconciliation and cohesion will be one of the priorities of the Ivorian government in 2014, ...

[Access Bank Divests from Cote d'Ivoire Subsidiary](#)

THISDAY Live

Access Bank Divests from Cote d'Ivoire Subsidiary ... Access Bank Plc has divested from its Cote d'Ivoire subsidiary through a direct sale to Afriland ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Public workers to get pay rise soon](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - Ivorian president Alassane Ouattara has announced plans to grant pay hike to workers in the wake of what he called 'the ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

January 2, 2014

Today's Top Stories

1. **Reactions after President Ouattara's New Year address to the nation**
2. **Opposition leader calls for strong coalition against Ouattara's reelection in 2015**
3. **AfDB to fund projects for youth employment**

### 1. Reactions after President Ouattara's New Year address to the nation

- <http://www.fratmat.info/une/item/11403-discours-de-fin-d'annee-alassane-ouattara-annonce-le-deblocage-des-salaires-des-fonctionnaires>
- <http://news.abidjan.net/h/483540.html>
- [http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14051:liberation-des-prisonniers-ouattara-dribble-les-pro-gbagbo&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110](http://www.linfordrome.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14051:liberation-des-prisonniers-ouattara-dribble-les-pro-gbagbo&catid=8:vie-politique&Itemid=110)

On New Year's Eve, Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara presented his annual state of the union new year's message. The speech is covered extensively in today's press. Government newspaper **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-8)**, quotes the president as promising, "2014 will mark the end of the water shortage in Abidjan and 100 percent of the Ivoirian population will have access to telecommunications."

The president admitted that the cost of living in the country is very high but that he would review the salaries of workers in Cote d'Ivoire. On the political front, Ouattara also announced that he has given instruction to the Ministry of Justice to start moving towards the release of some political detainees, incarcerated after the 2011 political crisis. The paper believes that the president's decision to release more detainees is aimed at diffusing tensions in the country.

Regarding the announcement of the possible release of political prisoners, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** believes that high-profile detainees such as former first lady Simone Gbagbo and former youth leader Charles Ble Goude, among others, will not be released because they have been accused of "serious crimes" and therefore are subjected to international arrest warrants. Opposition paper **Notre Voie (p. 3)** offers that, for the president to say that he has issued these instructions, it means the justice system is still under control of the president and is not fair and free. The paper also denounces what it calls the "double standard" of justice under Ouattara.

**Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** believes that by announcing the release of more political detainees, the president is trying to "flatter" the opposition FPI party into joining the government.

### 2. Opposition leader calls for strong coalition against Ouattara's reelection in 2015

At the same time as the president gave his new year's message, opposition party LIDER president Mamadou Coulibaly presented one of his own. According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 5)**, Coulibaly called for a united coalition against to the current president in the 2015 presidential election. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 8)**, features the statement in its entirety which says, "This coalition should not encourage hatred among the population or be based on ethnic or religious considerations." "Rather," he said, "the coalition should call for reconciliation."

In advance of the 2015 presidential election, Coulibaly calls for a general census of the population, a new voter registration, the restructure of the independent electoral commission, a reform of the security sector and a clearly defined status of opposition political parties.

### 3. ADB to fund projects for youth employment

According to ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3)***, the African Development Bank will support projects designed to provide jobs for youth in Cote d'Ivoire  
The paper says that the bank will be providing CFA14 billion (\$29 million) to fund the project. According to the paper, the initiative was announced several weeks ago during a meeting in Yamoussoukro.

#### **4. Witness of Nahibly massacre allegedly killed**

A report in ***Notre Voie (p. 12)*** claims that a young man believed to be one of the eyewitnesses of the massacre perpetrated in the western village of Nahibly in July 2012 has been killed by government forces. The report says that security forces in the region arrested him on Tuesday under suspicion of being an armed robber. Security forces say that the young man was then killed while trying to escape.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

##### [Cocoa Heads for Biggest Loss Since August as Harvest Advances](#)

Bloomberg

Crop areas in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the top producers, will be "seasonally dry" in the next few weeks, allowing farmers to accelerate harvesting, ...

##### [Lukoil Scores Appraisal Well Success off Ivory Coast](#)

Rigzone

Russian explorer Lukoil reported Tuesday that its first appraisal well on the Independence field, offshore Cote d'Ivoire has proven oil in Turonian ...

##### [Cote d'Ivoire evacuates 103 citizens from Central African Republic](#)

Global Times

A total of 103 Cote d'Ivoire citizens arrived in Abidjan on Monday evening from Bangui, Central African Republic's capital. They were received at the ...

##### [Ivory Coast: Efforts towards reconciliation gather momentum](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire - Two years after a post-electoral crisis triggered a civil war in Cote d'Ivoire, the political class of the West African country has ...

##### [Ivorian refugees in Ghana fear repatriation – Report](#)

Ghana Business News

Many of those who fled to Ghana are from Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan, and other urban areas. Among them are high-ranking stalwarts of ...

##### [Cote d'Ivoire: Public workers to get pay rise soon](#)

Panapress (subscription)

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (PANA) – Ivorian president Alassane Ouattara has announced plans to grant pay hike to workers in the wake of what he called ...

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