

NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW - OCTOBER 1-31, 2013

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 31, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Defense minister urges populations to help preempt armed attacks
2. Head of UN Peacekeeping Operations holds talks with Ivoirian authorities
3. More than 800 refugees return home from Liberia
4. Seminar on judiciary reforms gets underway
5. Ivoirian minister meets MCC committee over Cote d'Ivoire's eligibility
6. Prime Minister Duncan in U.K. on business prospection
7. Trial of former heads of coffee and cocoa board for embezzlement adjourned
8. Panel on digital television transition starts work

1. Defense minister urges populations to help preempt armed attacks

Ivoirian Minister in Charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi yesterday appealed to the people of Agboville, about 80 kilometers north of Abidjan, to help preempt continuous armed attacks, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. Koffi said this during a visit to the region following two attacks orchestrated by unidentified gunmen in the last week. "If you don't want the population to be isolated, if you don't want the deployment of forces to resolve this problem, search your houses," the minister is reported as telling residents of Agboville. According to the minister, the assailants, who raided government security barriers, came from the region. In response to the minister's appeal, the National Assembly member from the area, M'Bolo Martin, assured, "No rebellion will come from Agboville."

Reporting on the minister's visit to the region, **Le Mandat (p. 6)** quotes him as saying that the recent attacks are, "a declaration of war against the country." According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**, soldiers deployed in the region asked the government to better equip them with bulletproof vests and motorcycles to "enable them track down the assailants."

During his visit, the Minister in Charge of Defense also informed officials of the next visit of the President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, to the region, reports **Le Patriote (p.2)**.

Meanwhile, a report in **Le Temps (p. 5)** quotes a resident of the region as saying that the recent attacks happened after the announcement of the visit of the president of the National Assembly. The

paper also quotes the source as saying these recent attacks could be linked to infighting among the government's Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) over their integration into the national army. The paper also carries an independent contribution in which the writer denounces the "witch-hunting" of supporters of the former ruling FPI party ahead of Soro's visit.

2. *Head of UN Peacekeeping Operations holds talks with Ivoirian authorities*

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 8)** says the Ivoirian peace and reconciliation process, economic reforms and cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire and the United Nations were high on the agenda yesterday during a meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Koffi Diby and *Herve Ladsous*, United Nations Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Ladsous said the UN and Cote d'Ivoire share the same point of view on the UN contribution to important reforms underway in Cote d'Ivoire, especially in the security sector. However he added, "There is still a lot to be done concerning certain projects and we will continue providing our support in the run-up to the 2015 presidential elections."

According to ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3)**, the head of the UN Peacekeeping Operations also met with former president Henri Konan Bedie to seek his "advice."

3. *More than 800 refugees return home from Liberia*

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 11)** says 820 Ivoirians who sought refuge in Liberia during the 2011 post-electoral violence have returned home. According to the paper, the voluntary repatriation of the refugees was conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a few days after President Alassane Ouattara made an appeal to his compatriots seeking refuge in Liberia to return home.

4. *Seminar on judiciary reforms gets underway*

A seminar on judiciary reform is underway this week in Grand Bassam, reports ***L'Inter* (p. 13)**. The program is funded by German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and is seeking to restore "integrity into the Ivoirian judiciary system." Representatives of government's institutions and donors are taking part in this seminar.

5. *Ivoirian minister meets MCC committee over Cote d'Ivoire's eligibility*

Efforts for Cote d'Ivoire to qualify for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are also feature prominently in the press today. A report in ***Le Jour Plus* (p. 9)** says that on October 17, Minister of Planning and Development Albert Mabri Toikeusse presented to the *MCC committee* reforms and projects being implemented by authorities in Cote d'Ivoire for the country's qualification into the program. The minister also presented to the *MCC committee progress made by Cote d'Ivoire in various sectors such as investment in human capital, free market reforms and encouraging good governance*.

6. *Prime Minister Duncan in U.K. on business prospection*

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 19)** says that more than 500 potential British investors took part in a conference in London on Wednesday designed to showcase business opportunities in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, who was the head of the Ivoirian delegation, addressed the conference which was attended by British Minister for African Affairs Mark Simmonds.

7. *Trial of former heads of coffee and cocoa board for embezzlement adjourned*

A court in Abidjan yesterday postponed until November 6 the trial of the former heads of the coffee and cocoa board who are standing trial for a variety of charges including embezzlement, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 12)**. The paper reports that the judge, who announced the adjournment, cited a lack of a sound system in the courtroom as the motive behind the decision.

8. *Panel on digital television transition starts work*

A committee tasked with working on Cote d'Ivoire's transition from analog to *digital television* was set up yesterday, reports **Le Jour Plus (p. 5)**. According to the paper, the committee will be chaired by Minister of Communication Affoussiata Lamine-Bamba.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[West Africa's political crises](#)

Daniels Trading

Currently, the two hotspots are the Ivory Coast and Nigeria. The former only recently emerged from decades of brutal and intractable civil war, and that conflict ...

[Rwanda, Côte D'Ivoire , Burundi lead Sub-Saharan Africa in ...](#)

Citifmonline

A new World Bank Group report finds that Sub-Saharan Africa continues to record a large number of reforms aimed at easing the regulatory burden on local ...

[DekelOil CEO presents at UK-Cote d'Ivoire forum](#)

Stock Market Wire

This will be attended by the prime minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Daniel Kablan Duncan and other dignitaries. Story provided by StockMarketWire.com ...

[Ghana: west Africa's haven of stability has its own challenges](#)

The Guardian

Cote d'Ivoire was, after independence from France, regarded as an "economic miracle" – the financial powerhouse of west Africa, a label which glossed over the

[Ivory Coast's 2013-14 Cocoa Output Steady as Changes Take Time](#)

Bloomberg

Cocoa production in Ivory Coast, the largest grower, will be steady in the season started this month as market-structure changes take time to have an impact, ...

[Ivoirians Face an Incomplete Justice](#)

Inter Press Service

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, Oct 31 2013 (IPS) - "We are sad. We want our president back," Yao Amandine told IPS from a street corner in the Ivorian economic ...

[Rice Importers Angry Over Ban](#)

Ghanaian Chronicle

The Ghana-Ivory Coast Rice Importers and Sellers Association (GIISA) has ... The Ministry of Trade and Industry has reportedly announced a ban on the ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 30, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Reactions after ICC says Gbagbo must to remain in custody**
2. **Two soldiers injured after new armed attack**
3. **Five suspected to be jihadists arrested in Abidjan**
4. **Local NGO calls for constitutional amendment**
5. **AU meeting of mediators, envoys on conflict resolution opens in Abidjan**
6. **Prime Minister Duncan holds talks with UNSG's special adviser on the prevention of genocide**
7. **Cote d'Ivoire improves record on doing business**
8. **Ivoirian First Lady, American University sign deal to fight child trafficking**

1. Reactions after ICC says Gbagbo must to remain in custody

The decision made yesterday by the International Criminal Court (ICC) that former Ivoirian President Laurent Gbagbo must remain in custody ahead of his trial on charges of crimes against humanity orchestrated during the 2011 post-election violence in Cote d'Ivoire sparked mixed reactions in the local press.

With a picture of Gbagbo listening to the verdict, pro-government newspaper **Le Jour Plus (pp. 2&3)** says, "The ICC has shut down the dream of his supporters." "Gbagbo's supporters broke into tears," reads a prominent headline in **L'Expression (p. 1)** which carries a commentary (**p. 2**) saying that, "This disillusion should serve as lesson to the FPI," the former ruling party.

On the same tone, **Le Patriote (p. 2)** says the decision by the ICC is "a victory" for Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. The paper also opines that the verdict marks the beginning of "Gbagbo's downfall." Reporting on the ambiance in Gbagbo's hometown of Gagnoa, **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** says plans for a celebration of Gbagbo's eventual freedom were cancelled.

The tone is different in pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, which tells readers that two of the ICC's judges opposed the decision to keep Gbagbo in custody. A commentary carried by the paper on the same page also suggests that, despite being maintained in custody, the former president is still innocent until the court finds him guilty.

In the wake of the court's decision, **Le Temps (p. 2)** denounces the "parody," adding that the former Ivoirian president has become a thorn in the side of the ICC's judges. The paper also denounces what it sees as a "plot" against Gbagbo. **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)** also denounces the "political decision." The paper reports insiders as saying the decision behind Gbagbo staying in custody could be linked to fears that his release would spark trouble in Cote d'Ivoire.

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** quotes Joel N'Guessan, spokesperson of President Alassane Ouattara's ruling RDR party as saying that the decision made yesterday by the ICC has brought to an end "predictions" on the eventual release of Gbagbo. N'Guessan also believes that the decision was a sign that the court was more concerned about the cases of the victims. Meanwhile, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, president of Gbagbo's FPI party, expressed "optimism" reports the paper.

2. Two soldiers injured after new armed attack

A report in *Soir Info* (p. 3) says two soldiers were injured following an attack on government forces at a check-point near the town of Agboville, about 80 kilometers north of Abidjan. The report notes that this new attack came barely four days after an assault Saturday on government forces in the same region. Despite the assurance given by the Ministry in charge of Defense, Agboville was hit a second time in less than a week, notes *Notre Voie* (p. 5).

3. Five suspected to be jihadists arrested in Abidjan

Reports in the press today say that five Mauritanian citizens suspected to be jihadists have been arrested in Abidjan. According to *L'Inter* (p. 3), which attributes the source to www.pointschauds.info, a Mauritanian online news site, four of the alleged terrorists were arrested at Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport in Abidjan while the fifth was arrested later.

4. Local NGO calls for constitutional amendment

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 5) says *Aimons Notre Afrique* (We Love Our Africa), an Ivoirian NGO, has called for a review of the Ivoirian Constitution. The paper quotes the head of the group, Harouna Douamba, as saying at a press conference Monday that an amendment should be added that creates a vice-president in Cote d'Ivoire. "The post of vice-president is a security guarantee for the population," the paper quotes Douamba as saying.

5. AU meeting of mediators, envoys on conflict resolution opens in Abidjan

A conference of African Union's mediators and special envoys opened Tuesday in Abidjan, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). The conference, which is being organized in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of independence in Africa, will also try to evaluate progress made in peace maintaining on the continent.

6. Prime Minister Duncan holds talks with UNSG's special adviser on the prevention of genocide

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8), Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan held talks Tuesday with the UN Secretary General's **Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng**. "**We have to ensure that peace prevails in Cote d'Ivoire,**" the paper quotes Dieng as saying.

A report in *Le Patriote* (p. 4) says Dieng, who met with the Prime Minister on the sidelines of the conference of African Union's mediators and special envoys, commended Cote d'Ivoire for preventing genocide in the past.

7. Cote d'Ivoire improves record on doing business

Cote d'Ivoire has risen six positions in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report for 2014, rising from 173 to 167, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16). According to the paper, the report also ranks Cote d'Ivoire the top economy in Africa that has recorded the highest growth.

8. Ivoirian First Lady, American University sign deal to fight child trafficking

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13), Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara has signed an agreement with Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana in a bid to fight child trafficking. The deal, signed Monday in Washington D.C., seeks among other things to establish cooperation in order to conduct research regarding the Harkin-Engel Protocol. Also known as the Cocoa Protocol, this effort is aimed at ending the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in the production of cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire, the largest producer of cocoa in the world.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[An Elder's Commentary On Joint Council of Chiefs](#)

AllAfrica.com

Chiefs and Elders from La *Cote d'Ivoire* underscored the point that "the... Transitional *Justice* approach - the process from systematic abuse of ...

[Rwanda, Côte D'Ivoire , Burundi lead Sub-Saharan Africa in ...](#)

Citifmonline

A new World Bank Group report finds that Sub-Saharan Africa continues to record a large number of reforms aimed at easing the regulatory ...

[Ivory Coast brewer Solibra first half net profit up 8.45 pct](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN Oct 29 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast brewer Solibra's net profit rose 8.45 percent to 8.97 billion CFA francs (\$19 million) in the first six months of 2013 ...

[International Criminal Court says former Ivory Coast president ...](#)

Washington Post

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — International Criminal Court appeals judges say former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has to stay in custody ahead of his ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 29, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Opposition FPI party again calls for national forum**
2. **Donors meet on transnational criminality in West African region**
3. **West African lawmakers hold conference on conflict prevention and resolution**
4. **Insurance companies meeting on money laundering**
5. **Endowment fund contributes about US \$100 million to agriculture research**

1. **Opposition FPI party again calls for national forum**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says the former ruling FPI party has again called for a national forum in place of the ongoing inter-Ivoirian dialogue initiated by the government as a way to resolve problems confronting the country. According to the paper, this was announced in a statement issued yesterday after a meeting of executive members of the party. The statement, reports the paper, describes FPI's proposal for a national forum as a "transitional mechanism" that could pave the way for "a definitive resolution" of the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

Notre Voie (p. 2) describes recommendations contained in the statement as "important FPI decisions" while *Le Temps* (p. 9), which also carries the full text of the statement, comments that the party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo is ever-committed to "oust" President Ouattara. Reporting on the same issue, *L'Inter* (p. 6) says yesterday's meeting of FPI's executives was an opportunity for the party to iron out a nine-point blueprint in the run-up to the 2015 presidential elections. The paper also underscores the party's call for a national forum saying, "It is the only way to resolve the crisis and to establish a lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire."

2. **Donors meet on transnational criminality in West African region**

At the opening of a regional conference on transnational criminality in the West African region yesterday, a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) quotes Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan as saying, "organ trafficking, trafficking in persons, child labor, money laundering, cyber criminality, maritime piracy and illicit trafficking of cultural heritage are obstacles that undermine security, social cohesion, peace and development in the sub-region." The conference is being jointly organized by the UN and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The paper also reports on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Executive Director, *Yury Fedotov*, who spoke about the scope of criminality and drug trafficking in the Sub-Saharan Africa. *Fedotov*, the paper says, put special emphasis on the influx of arms from Libya that constitutes a serious menace to stability of the region, especially in northern Mali.

A report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 3) says the conference is also designed to make resources available in a bid to back efforts by countries to fight acts of criminality in the region.

In related development, experts from eight West and Central African regions have been recently trained on how to fight maritime and armed gangs in the Gulf of Guinea reports *L'Inter* (p. 10).

3. **West African lawmakers hold conference on conflict prevention and resolution**

Lawmakers from ECOWAS have been urged to contribute to the prevention and resolution of conflict in the sub-region, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). The call was made yesterday in Abidjan at the opening of a two-day conference jointly organized by Cote d'Ivoire's National Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentarian Union (UIP). The report also says members of the National Assembly could fully contribute to conflict prevention and resolution by better explaining the issues to their constituency.

4. **Insurance companies meeting on money laundering**

About 70 experts from insurance companies are meeting this week in Abidjan in a bid to design a plan to fight money laundering, reports *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3). The conference is being organized

by Cote d'Ivoire's Ministry of Finance and Economy in conjunction with Cellule Nationale Financiere de Cote d'Ivoire (CENTIF-CI).

5. Endowment fund contributes about US \$100 million to agriculture research

The national endowment fund FIRCA, whose role is to provide resources for research and project development to support farmers, has contributed about US \$100 million to the agricultural sector in Cote d'Ivoire during the past ten years, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13). According to the paper, this was disclosed by Prime Minister Duncan during a ceremony marking the tenth anniversary of the fund. The report also says that during the same period, more than 400 projects have been implemented and about 300,000 farmers have benefited from resources provided by the fund.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire has enormous gold exploration potential – Bristow](#)

Creamer Media's Mining Weekly

JOHANNESBURG (miningweekly.com) - Despite facing its own drawn out battles in establishing a sustainable mining operation in Côte d'Ivoire, Randgold ...

[Internal Affairs Minister on transit to anti-drug meeting in Abidjan](#)

Sierra Express Media

B. Dauda yesterday touched down in Dakar Senegal on transit to a two day meeting in Cote d'Ivoire to attend the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) meeting .

[Cargill opens business skills program for cocoa farmers](#)

Baking Business (registration)

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST — Cargill has launched the Cargill Coop Academy, which the company describes as the first business skills program for cocoa farmer ...

[International Criminal Court says former Ivory Coast president ...](#)

Minneapolis Star Tribune

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — International Criminal Court appeals judges say former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has to stay in custody ahead of his ...

[West African neighbors pledge to support Mali](#)

Las Vegas Sun

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara, who currently chairs the 15-nation regional bloc known as ECOWAS, warned Friday that the terrorist ...

[SocGen's Ivory Coast arm says H1 net profit drops 55 pct](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN | Tue Oct 29, 2013 2:16pm IST. ABIDJAN Oct 29 (Reuters) - The Ivorian unit of Societe Generale, SGBCI, said its first-half net profit fell 55 percent to ...

[AU, Partners to Discuss Africa's Peace and Security](#)

Voice of America

A spokesman for the African Union (AU) says high ranking officials from the group will meet in the Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan Tuesday to promote ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 28, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. [Dailies speculate ahead of ICC's decision on Gbagbo provisional release](#)
2. [Unidentified gunmen attack police barrier in north Abidjan](#)
3. [Ivoirian MPs commit to uphold campaign against corruption](#)
4. [Mining firm welcomes new reforms in Cote d'Ivoire](#)
5. [Third Youth Forum opens today in Abidjan](#)
6. [West African leaders take more steps towards a monetary union](#)

7. [AU mediators to meet in Abidjan on conflict resolution](#)
8. [U.S. Embassy celebrates Daniel Pearl World Music Days](#)
9. [U.S. Embassy trains photojournalists](#)

1. Dailies speculate ahead of ICC's decision on Gbagbo provisional release

The decision expected tomorrow from the International Criminal Court (ICC) on whether former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, awaiting trial for crimes against humanity, will be released on bail is a subject of speculation in the local press today. A prominent story in pro-Gbagbo *Notre Voie* (p. 4) says 86 percent of Ivoirians want the former president to be released. According to the paper, this result came from an opinion poll carried out by the ICC. The article also claims that most of the people interviewed believe the release of Gbagbo will give new momentum to the reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire.

An article in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) claims that President Alassane Ouattara is "gripped by panic," as observers express optimism about the release of Gbagbo. Gbagbo's release is "legally possible," the paper quotes a French newspaper as saying. However, the paper notes that authorities in Cote d'Ivoire have threatened to arrest the former president if he returns.

On a different tone, newspapers close to the government express doubts about the chances of Gbagbo being released from The Hague tomorrow. An article in *Le Patriote* (p. 2) says supporters of the former president who believe that their leader will be freed are "dreaming."

"Will Gbagbo be freed tomorrow?" asks a prominent headline in pro-government daily *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3). The paper, which is skeptical about tomorrow's court procedure, says it is possible new charges could be leveled against the former Ivoirian leader. The paper also claims that the ICC's chief prosecutor may also justify that Gbagbo's must remain in jail on the grounds that his release on bail could seriously endanger the court proceedings.

While *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (pp.4&5) speculates about a deal aimed at releasing the former Ivoirian president, a prominent article in *L'Inter* (p. 3) suggests that President Ouattara could have another plan in case Gbagbo is freed. The plan, the paper quotes a French newspaper as saying, is the intention of the Ivoirian authorities to announce new charges against Gbagbo.

2. Unidentified gunmen attack security barrier in north Abidjan

An attack on government forces on Saturday by unidentified gunmen at a check-point near the town of Agboville, about 80 km north Abidjan, features prominently in the press today. "The situation is under control," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) quotes an official at the office of the Minister in charge of Defense as saying. The official, who confirmed the assault on government forces, is also reported as saying that the attack was launched by "five disguised people armed with AK47s and grenades." The official is reported as saying that the gang is on the run, and that no one was killed or injured during the attack. Another article on the same page of this paper says that 10 people suspected to be involved in the attack have been arrested and that security forces are patrolling the area.

An eyewitness report in **L'Inter (p. 4)** quotes a traditional chief of the area saying that in response to the attack, government forces assaulted women and young men and also looted properties. An article in **Le Jour Plus (p. 4)** quotes the same traditional chief calling for "restraint" on the part of the government forces. After the attack, "FRCI terrorized the villages," reports **Le Temps (p. 5)**.

In a related development, a report in **Soir Info (p. 4)** says government forces recently foiled a rebel attack in the town of Dabou, near Abidjan. The leader of the rebel group, Essis Fidel, also known as "Ble Goude," was arrested, the paper reports.

3. Ivoirian MPs commit to uphold campaign against corruption

Ivoirian lawmakers on Friday pledged to support the campaign against corruption, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** in its weekend edition. According to the paper, National Assembly members met with a delegation of the National Secretariat of Good Governance (SNGRC) as part of a capacity building training. Discussion during the training focused on the role and responsibility of lawmakers in fighting corruption. The head of Transparency Afrique, Chantal Uwimana, who attended the program, is also reported as disclosing that over the past 10 years, embezzlement of public funds has reached US \$8 billion.

Meanwhile, a report in today's issue of **Notre Voie (p. 5)** describes the government's campaign against corruption as a "hoax." The article suggests that despite the government commitment, corruption continues to gain ground in the public sector, which, according to the paper, was recently ranked as among the most corrupted in Africa.

"Cote d'Ivoire, the most corrupted country," writes **Le Temps (p. 8)**, referring to a recent report documented by Mo Ibrahim, a non-profit organization. The paper quotes the report as saying, "With a score of 28.6 out of 100, the Ivoirian public sector ranks 32 out of 52 countries in Africa."

4. Mining firm welcomes new reforms in Cote d'Ivoire

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2) reports Mark Bristow, head of mining company Randgold Resources, as saying that Ivoirian mining reforms will make the Ivoirian mining code, "the best in the sub-region." Speaking at a press briefing on Saturday, Bristow said, "We are happy about the way the reforms are being conducted," adding that the discussions underway over the reforms are "open" at all levels of the government.

Another article on the same page of this paper says the press briefing was an opportunity for Bristow to react to critics accusing him of being behind President Ouattara's decision to take the portfolio of mining from the Minister of Petrol and Energy, Adama Toungara. "I am not the one who rules and decides for the government of Cote d'Ivoire," Bristow is quoted as saying.

5. Third Youth Forum opens today in Abidjan

Thousands of youth from all walks of life are expected to gather in Abidjan as the Third National Youth Forum opens today, reports **L'Inter (p. 6)**. According to the paper, the conference will focus on issues including unemployment and opportunities to create jobs for youth.

6. West African leaders take more steps towards a monetary union

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)** says West African leaders meeting in Dakar, Senegal, have taken more steps towards a monetary union. The report also says the leaders have agreed to implement a single customs tariff system by 2015. The agreement on the Common External Tariff was reached Friday at a special summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Senegal focused on moving the region towards a common market and monetary union by 2020.

7. AU mediators to meet in Abidjan on conflict resolution

The African Union's special envoys and mediators are expected to meet this week in Abidjan on conflict resolution, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** in its weekend issue. The two-day conference, set to kick off tomorrow, will be an opportunity for the experts to evaluate peace processes on the continent during the past 50 years.

8. U.S. Embassy celebrates Daniel Pearl World Music Days

A report in ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)*** says the U.S. Embassy celebrated Daniel Pearl World Music Day on Saturday calling for reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes Charge d'Affaires Cheryl J. Sim as calling on Ivoirians to "come together for harmony in Cote d'Ivoire."

9. U.S. Embassy trains photojournalists

The U.S. Embassy has trained 20 photojournalists from different print media outlets, reports ***L'Expression (p. 10)***. The training was organized on Thursday in conjunction with Voice of America and the Ivoirian photojournalists association. The paper reports the training was led by American journalist and media consultant Ronald Wimer.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ghana, others embark on \\$58b ECOWAS rail project](#)

GhanaWeb

The countries are Ghana, Cote D' Ivoire, Nigeria, Togo and Benin, and the project will have its stations in Cotonou, Lome and Accra as well as terminals in ...

[Gold price drop jolts West Africa from mining dreams](#)

Business Recorder

This year's drop in world gold prices has been deeply sobering for West African countries, from established producer Ghana to promising newcomer Ivory Coast, ...

[Randgold Resources eyes new opportunities in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

CITY A.M.

Randgold owns and operates Cote d'Ivoire's largest gold mine at Tongon, which went into production at the end of 2010 and has already delivered over 600,000

[Getting the right price](#)

ICT Update

The National Association of Agricultural Producer Organizations of Côte d'Ivoire (ANOPACI) surveys producers to identify their needs for training and advice.

[Ivory Coast Cocoa Growers Pool Funds to Set Up Agricultural Bank ...](#)

Cocoa growers in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer of the crop, plan to establish a bank for small farmers and farmers' cooperatives.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 25, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Gathered for a summit in Dakar, West African leaders discuss ways to fight poverty and mitigate conflicts**
2. **The trial of supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo to open soon amidst speculation and critics by human rights groups**
3. **Abidjan port reinforces security measures to face potential piracy acts**
4. **Entrepreneurship: Cote d'Ivoire chapter of the African Women's Entrepreneurship to explore opportunities for women**
5. **PDCI mourns death of party's women wing president**

1. **Gathered for a summit in Dakar, West African leaders discuss ways to fight poverty and mitigate conflicts**

President Alassane Ouattara and his counterparts from other West African countries met yesterday in Dakar, Senegal. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5) which notes that the meeting is part of a joint summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union known by its French acronym UEMOA. On the occasion, the paper says, the group of leaders recommitted to working to strengthen regional integration and taking the necessary steps to combat poverty in the region. In his opening address, Senegalese president Macky Sall called on peers to join efforts to achieve development and address regional challenges. Citing peace and security as priorities, the paper notes that UEMOA official Cheikh Hadjibou underscored that development in the region is contingent upon a peaceful political and social environment. "Achieving growth is not possible without peace and security," he reportedly said.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6) carries a similar account.

2. **The trial of supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo to open soon amidst speculation and critics by human rights groups**

According to a report in *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 2), the trial of supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo, including his wife Simone Gbagbo, will start soon. The daily alleges that arrangements are being made to start over the proceedings. Citing people close to the case, the paper notes that a final verdict is expected this year. "There is no date yet but people want the case to be finalized by the end of the year" one of the defense lawyer Herve Gouamene said.

This update came as *L'Inter* (p. 4) notes that Western diplomats in Cote d'Ivoire have voiced concerns about the Ivoirian justice system. According to the daily, their concerns were recently echoed by human rights groups who have accused the Ivoirian government of being engaged in a double standard of justice.

Notre Voie (p. 4) carries a similar account adding that, according to a recent report by French newspaper *Le Monde*, Cote d'Ivoire has made no substantial move ahead in its fight against impunity, calling on the Ivoirian government to take greater measures to address the problem.

3. **Abidjan port reinforces security measures to face potential piracy acts**

Authorities from the Abidjan port said yesterday that security measures have been increased to combat potential piracy acts on the port. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 19). According to the daily, a mock attack by pirates was carried out to assess the efficiency of these measures and ensure they meet international standards including the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

4. **Entrepreneurship: Cote d'Ivoire chapter of the African Women's Entrepreneurship to explore opportunities for women**

According to a report in ***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 2)***, members of AWEP - the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program of Cote d'Ivoire - opened a training yesterday in Abidjan on business opportunities. Intended to improve the skills of female entrepreneurs, the session is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, the paper says.

5. **PDCI mourns death of party's women wing president**

PDCI supporters paid tribute yesterday to Henriette Dao Coulibaly, the former president of the PDCI women's wing who died last week. The information is reported by ***Le Nouveau Reveil (pp. 2-6)***. In his eulogy, PDCI Secretary Maurice Kacou Guikahue said, "the party will always remember her and her commitment."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Embargo fails to stop Ivory Coast illicit diamond trade: UN experts](#)

Chicago Tribune

The Security Council began imposing sanctions on Ivory Coast, including an ... of Ivory Coast's former President Laurent Gbagbo, suggests the existence of a ...

[Ivory Coast Cocoa Cooperatives Delay Buying on Funding Troubles](#)

Bloomberg

Cocoa farmer cooperatives in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer, say a shortage of funds to buy beans from growers is slowing shipments to ports.

[UPDATE - DekelOil's palm oil plant on course to generate first ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

The plant in the Ivory Coast is set to become one of West Africa's largest with a ... to becoming a significant producer of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) in Cote D'Ivoire.

[Polio vaccination in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Afrique en Ligue

7.5 million Ivorian children for polio vaccination - More than 7.5 million Ivorian children, aged 0-5 years, will be vaccinated against polio when the third round of ...

[Ivory Coast says natural gas output doubles](#)

London South East

ABIDJAN, Oct 24 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's natural gas output has jumped to around 220 million cubic feet per day, double last year's level, with plans for a further ...

[Ivory Coast Cocoa Cooperatives Delay Buying on Funding Troubles](#)Bloomberg

Cocoa farmer cooperatives in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer, say a shortage of funds to buy beans from growers is slowing shipments to ports.

[Ivorian justice slow, rights group says](#) UPI.com

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Oct. 23 (UPI) -- Ivorian authorities need a coherent strategy to fight a culture of impunity prevalent since a post-election crisis in 2010, ...

[Victims of Côte d'Ivoire's post-electoral crisis must not be forgotten ...](#) UN News Centre

24 October 2013 – Victims of the violent post-election crisis that gripped Côte d'Ivoire two years ago must not be forgotten, an independent United Nations ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 24, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **UN expert calls for release of all post-electoral detainees**
2. **Ble Goude's attorneys plead to government not to hand over youth leader to ICC**
3. **Report says Cote d'Ivoire near top of global slavery index**
4. **Government commits US \$8.5 billion for 2014 budget**
5. **Vice Consul speaks on Diversity Visa**

1. UN expert calls for release of all post-electoral detainees

Reports in the Ivoirian press today say a United Nations independent expert on human rights, Doudou Diene, has called for the release of all people detained in connection with the 2011 post-electoral violence. An article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) quotes Diene as calling on the government to release on bail all the prisoners including former first lady Simone Gbagbo. According to Diene, the former first lady, who is detained in the northern city of Odienne in connection with post-electoral violence, is still "abreast" of the current political developments in Cote d'Ivoire, but is physically "frail." Diene, speaking yesterday at a press conference in Abidjan at the end of a ten-day mission in Cote d'Ivoire, also encouraged the government to renew the mandate of the Special Investigation Unit, a body tasked with shedding light on crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral violence, in a bid to "reaffirm its commitment to establish rule of law," reports the paper.

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 7) says the independent expert has discouraged any plan to decree a general amnesty on the grounds that "this will not help settle the problems but will worsen them."

In a related development, *Soir Info* (p. 2) carries an interview of Diene with a French international network and reports him as warning, "Cote d'Ivoire is moving towards a dangerous end." Diene's interview also features prominently in pro-opposition dailies including *Notre Voie* (p. 2) and *Le Temps* (p. 4) with headlines reading "UN demands the release of Simone Gbagbo."

L'Inter (p. 3) says the UN independent expert has commended the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) for organizing recent legislative and local elections, but proposed the reform of the body before the 2015 presidential elections.

"The reform of the CEI must take into account recent political development in Cote d'Ivoire, the new political landscape and the issue concerning the voter registration," *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) quotes the independent expert as saying.

2. Ble Goude's attorneys plead to government not to hand over youth leader to ICC

A prominent report in *Notre Voie* (p. 3) says attorneys of Charles Ble Goude, a staunch supporter of former president Laurent Gbagbo, have pin-pointed weaknesses in an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the former Ivoirian youth leader. The paper quotes the attorneys, speaking yesterday at a press conference, as saying that the warrant was illegal and could threaten the reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire.

"Ble Goude's attorneys declare the arrest warrant obsolete," reports *Aujourd'hui* (p. 4) which quotes the attorneys as pleading for the former youth leader not to be transferred to The Hague. A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) also reports the attorneys as saying they prefer that Ble Goude be tried by domestic courts, the same that will be trying former first lady Simone Gbagbo, on the grounds that the two cases are the same.

3. Report says Cote d'Ivoire near top of global slavery index

A story in *Soir Info* (p. 6) quotes a report by Walk Free, an Australian human rights group, as saying that Cote d'Ivoire is ranked eighth an index of slavery around the world. The story also indicates that 38 African countries comprised the top 50, with Mauritania at the top of the list.

4. Government commits US \$8.5 billion for 2014 budget

Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5) says the government has adopted a US \$8.5 billion budget bill for 2014. According to the paper, the bill was adopted yesterday at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara. The paper also notes that the US \$8.5 billion budget represents an increase of 9.4 percent over the 2013 budget. The statement also mentions the government's plan to provide jobs for 15,000 people in the education and health sectors.

5. Vice Consul speaks on Diversity Visa

A press conference organized yesterday by the U.S. Embassy on Diversity Visas features prominently in many local newspapers today. A report in *L'Expression (p. 5)* says Vice-Consul Alexander Taylor used the opportunity to explain the application procedures of the Diversity Visa and to warn against the visa scams.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast: the fight against impunity at a crossroad](#)

FIDH

The present-day political dialogue is a positive element in preventing the outbreak of more political violence in Ivory Coast, but it cannot replace a genuine ...

[UN Body Renovates Police Station in Cote D'ivoire](#)

Nigerian Bulletin

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has concluded the renovation of a police station in Sinfra department, West-Central Cote d'Ivoire, its official has said.

[The power of 96 elephants: Teaming up to end ivory poaching](#)

Christian Science Monitor

... criticized as anti-African, this initiative has the support of several African countries: Malawi, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Botswana, South Sudan, Kenya, and Gabon.

[UN Mission Preaches Peace Among Ivorian Border Communities](#)

Leadership Newspapers

The UN Mission in Cote D'Ivoire (UNOCI) has called on residents of the Ivorian border town of Tienko to embrace peace and live harmoniously with one another.

[Cargill Launches Coop Academy, First Business Skills Program for ...](#)

SYS-CON Media (press release)

Cargill has established the first business skills program for cocoa farmer cooperative executives in Côte d'Ivoire with the launch of the Cargill Coop Academy.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 23, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. [The U.S. government to support reforms within the Ivoirian justice system](#)
2. [Human Rights groups call on for more actions to fight impunity in Cote d'Ivoire](#)
3. [Rival FRCI soldiers clash at military barracks in Abidjan](#)

1. **The U.S. government to support reforms within the Ivoirian justice system**

According to a report in *L'Inter* (p. 6), a \$19 million grant was made available by the U.S. government as part of the ProJustice program to advance the administration of justice and increase the access to the judicial system in Cote d'Ivoire. The launching of the program yesterday in Abidjan featured Cheryl Sim, the Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, and Fodjo Kadjo Abo, the chief of staff to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights.

L'Expression (p. 4) says that the program is administered through USAID and implemented by consulting services provider Tetra Tech. In her address, Sim said the effort is part of the U.S.'s support to improve the capacities of the justice sector in Côte d'Ivoire. "The implementation of this program will serve as a comprehensive road map of all planned justice programming throughout the country. This is an achievement that, once implemented, will have long-term effects," she is reported as saying, adding that the program will also help fight insecurity and impunity.

Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 5) and *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5) carry similar stories, adding that the five year project will target ten courts throughout the country.

2. **Human Rights groups call on for more actions to fight impunity in Cote d'Ivoire**

Notre Voie (p. 5) reports that human rights group FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights) says that efforts are still needed to fight impunity in Cote d'Ivoire. "Progress by the Ivoirian judiciary up to now has not been sufficient to give hope that in the near future a major trial will be held on the post-electoral crisis under acceptable conditions," the group president Patrick Baudouin is reported as saying at an event yesterday. In its recent report, "Cote d'Ivoire: the fight against impunity at a crossroad," FIDH says there is a gap between the Ivoirian government rhetoric on impunity and concrete actions to address it, especially when it comes to supporters of President Alassane Ouattara.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3) notes that the report was jointly prepared by the Ivoirian Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and the Ivoirian League of Human Rights (LIDHO), two local human rights advocacy groups.

3. **Rival FRCI soldiers clash at military barracks in Abidjan**

Two factions from the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) clashed yesterday at a military base in Abidjan. According to *Notre Voie* (p. 9), the skirmish stemmed from a dispute over the payment of allowances to soldiers. The incident reportedly happened yesterday morning at around 8:00 a.m. at the main police barracks in Yopougon. An angry mob of FRCI soldiers armed with AK-type weapons held barricades on the roads and started firing. Heavy shooting was also reported inside the camp. Although no casualties were reported, the incident paralyzed activities and forced people to hide in their homes throughout the morning.

Aujourd'hui (p. 3) carries a similar account, adding that an unnamed army official said the situation is being closely monitored.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast Commerce Minister Says Roads, Taxes Limit GDP](#)

Bloomberg

Ivory Coast's tax rates and decaying infrastructure are limiting private investment in the world's largest producer of cocoa, Commerce Minister Jean-Louis Billon ...

[Ivory Coast Cocoa Growers Pool Funds to Set Up Agricultural Bank](#)

Bloomberg

Cocoa growers in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer of the crop, plan to ... Ivory Coast in 2011 introduced an electronic auction selling most of the cocoa ...

[DekeOil Says Construction Of Ivory Coast Crude Palm Oil Mill ...](#)

London South East

LONDON (Alliance News) - DekeOil Public Limited Tuesday said the construction of its 60 tonne per hour crude palm oil extraction mill in Ivory Coast by ...

[Two Liberian Mercenaries Arrested -Gov't Vow Not to Use Liberia As ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

The UN panel of expert investigation recently reported on plan to undermine Ivory Coast identified eastern Liberia as a recruitment platform and rear base for ...

[Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire Institutionalizes Peace](#)

AllAfrica.com

Monrovia — After nearly two years of peace negotiation and dialogues and the signing of more than two communiqués, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire have finally ...

[UNHCR Welcomes Liberian & Ivorian Peace Confab](#)

AllAfrica.com

Assuring some 58,000 Ivorian refugees currently living in Liberia that they will be assisted to return to Côte D'Ivoire and contribute to the development of their ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 22, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Identification of disabled ex-fighters begins**
2. **Regional conference on small and light weapons opens in Abidjan**
3. **Experts meeting on conflicts monitoring in West Africa**
4. **President Ouattara heads to Dakar tomorrow to attend ECOWAS summit**
5. **Posthumous honor conferred on French journalist murdered in 2013**

1. Identification of disabled ex-fighters begins

A report in *Soir Info (p. 7)* says the government's Authority for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (ADDR) has launched a nationwide exercise aimed at identifying all former combatants suffering from a disability. The paper quotes the coordinator of this program, Colonel Sinima Bamba, as saying the program will provide assistance to combatants who are either wounded, maimed or suffering from any mental disorder as a result of the 2011 post-electoral armed-conflict in Cote d'Ivoire.

2. Regional conference on small and light weapons opens in Abidjan

Experts from West African countries are meeting this week in Abidjan in a bid to find ways to reinforce collaboration in monitoring the circulation of small weapons in the sub-region, reports *Le Jour Plus (p. 3)*. According to the paper, this week's conference is the follow-up to a regional workshop held in Abidjan in 2012 when experts committed to work together in order to scale down the proliferation of those arms in the region.

Reporting on this conference, *Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)* quotes Interior and Security Minister Hamed Bakayoko as urging experts to come out with recommendations and ideas that will enable countries in the region to stop the illicit circulation of small weapons in an effort to reduce crime.

3. Experts meeting on conflicts monitoring in West Africa

A report in *Fraternite Matin (p. 9)* says experts from ECOWAS countries are meeting this week in Abidjan on quick conflict prevention and resolution in the sub-region. Speaking at the opening of this conference, Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Koffi Diby encouraged the participants to propose "mechanisms that can help reduce conflicts significantly and to find solutions that will help create an environment conducive for peace and security necessary for development and economic integration in the region."

According to *Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)*, the conference will specially address issues relating to cross-border criminality, activities of jihadists and the high level of maritime piracy confronting countries in the region. "The fight against these activities would be more efficient if the government members of ECOWAS came together to map out strategies and prevention mechanisms," the paper quotes Diby as saying.

3. President Ouattara heads to Dakar tomorrow to attend ECOWAS summit

According to *Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)*, President Alassane Ouattara is expected tomorrow in Dakar, Senegal to take part in two summits to be organized by ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The paper also speculates that economy and crises facing the region will be high on the agenda during the summits.

4. Posthumous honor conferred on French journalist murdered in 2013

The Ivoirian government has conferred a National Order Award on French journalist Jean Helene to mark the 10th anniversary of the assassination of the former journalist. *Fraternite Matin (pp. 7&8)* devotes large columns to this ceremony and quotes Communication Minister Affoussiata Lamine-Bamba as calling for "a commitment so that such an atrocity should never happen again neither in

Cote d'Ivoire nor elsewhere in the world." Jean Helene was shot in the head on October 21, 2003, while interviewing activists from the RDR, the party of President Ouattara. Police Sergeant Theodore Seri Dago was later given a 17 year prison sentence for the murder.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast calls on Turkey to join \\$13 bln investments](#)

www.worldbulletin.net

Ivory Coast Deputy PM Mabri visits Turkey for the first time and calls on Turkish ... Toikeusse Mabri has invited Turkish businesspeople to invest in Ivory Coast,

[Sudan, Ivory Coast see strongest internet speed increases](#)

HumanIPO

Sudan and the Ivory Coast display some of the strongest increases in average internet speeds globally, while Libya remains the country with the slowest ...

[Tata Steel widens Africa presence](#)

Business Standard

Director-general of Tata Steel Cote d'Ivoire Mukesh Ranjan told IANS here that the company expects to produce about 20 million tonnes of ore from its Bonglo ...

[Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire Sign Joint Communiqué](#)

AllAfrica.com

Over 108 chiefs from Liberia and the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire have ended a four-day Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh ...

[Côte d'Ivoire honour for RFI journalist Jean-Hélène, murdered in 2003](#)

RFI

Jean-Hélène was today posthumously made Officer of the National Order of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, one of the country's highest honours, at a ceremony in ...

[Port of Abidjan, Cote d'ivoire. Investments in infrastructure are key to ...](#)

International Monetary Fund

African countries are focusing on improving their infrastructure and managing their natural resource wealth to achieve broad based inclusive growth. Speaking ...

[Mill construction progressing well, says DekelOil](#)

Stock Market Wire

DekelOil - the operator and 51% owner of an established vertically integrated palm oil project in Côte d'Ivoire- says the mill is on course to become fully ...

[Ivory Coast Commerce Minister Says Roads, Taxes Limit GDP](#)

Bloomberg

Ivory Coast's tax rates and decaying infrastructure are limiting private investment in the world's largest producer of cocoa, Commerce Minister Jean-Louis Billon ...

[Ivory Coast utility CIE says H1 profit down 57 pct](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN Oct 22 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast power utility CIE recorded a net profit of 3.22 billion CFA francs (\$6.71 million) in the first half of 2013, down 57 percent ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 21, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara calls on refugees to return home, Liberia and UN pledge to support repatriation
2. UN human rights expert meets with jailed former first lady
3. Supporters of Ble Goude summon government to release the youth leader
4. 600 ex-fighters receive training
5. Government bans illegal gold mining
6. Government commits US \$20 million to boost small scale industries
7. Use of mobile phone while driving banned in Cote d'Ivoire

1. President Ouattara calls on refugees to return home, Liberia and UN pledge to support repatriation

Talks between President Alassane Ouattara and his Liberian counterpart Ellen Johnson Sirleaf over the weekend feature prominently in the press today. The talks were intended to support peace and reconciliation between the two nations and to discuss the return of Ivoirian refugees living in Liberia. "The country is waiting for you," a report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) quotes President Ouattara as saying as he addressed Ivoirians who sought refuge in Liberia during the 2011 post-electoral crisis. President Ouattara, who was speaking at the closing ceremony of a joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting of border communities between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire in Zwedru, said the objective of this conference was to "inform the populations along the borders about security issues and the importance of reinforcing cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation."

An article in *L'Inter* (p. 2) announces that some 16,000 Ivoirian refugees are on their way back home. A report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) says about 50,000 Ivoirians are currently living in Liberia. According to the paper, Liberian authorities and the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire have pledged to back any efforts aimed at restoring peace and security along the borders between the countries. The head of the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou, has also urged the refugees to return home and promised "to support efforts being deployed to facilitate their return," the article says.

Meanwhile, an article in *L'Expression* (p. 2) describes calls on Ivoirian refugees to return home as a "last warning" from President Ouattara to those who are still using Liberia as a base to launch armed attacks on civilians in Cote d'Ivoire.

On the opposition side, a report in *Notre Voie* (p. 4) quotes the refugees as saying that they will not return home unless Burkinabe nationals leave their lands. *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 6) also casts doubt about the decision by the refugees to return home despite the meeting between Ivoirian and Liberian authorities. A report in *Le Temps* (p. 4) claims that President Ouattara returned from the meetings "empty-handed."

2. UN human rights expert meets with jailed former first lady

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) says UN Human rights expert Doudou Diene met on Saturday with former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo in the northern town of Odienne. Diene, in Cote d'Ivoire as part of fact-finding mission, is reported as saying that the visit to the former first lady, accused of crimes against humanity in the aftermath of her husband's election defeat in 2010, is to see personally the situation facing victims of the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis.

3. Supporters of Ble Goude summon government to release the youth leader

According to a report in *Notre Voie* (p. 2), supporters of former Ivoirian youth leader Charles Ble Goude have given a two-week deadline to the government to release their leader. "If Ble Goude is not released in two weeks, we will embark on a hunger strike to protest this injustice," the paper quotes

Eric Dogbo Gnamaka, president of the youth wing of Ble Goude's COJEP movement as saying at a press conference in Abidjan on Saturday.

4. 600 ex-fighters receive training

Some 600 ex-combatants are being trained in the northern town of Korhogo as part of the disarmament and reintegration program, reports *Soir Info* (p. 4). The training, the article says, will help the former fighters return to normal life.

5. Government bans illegal gold mining

A report in *Soir Info* (p. 12) says the government is moving toward banning illegal mining in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the government announced last week plans to monitor sites and to close illegal mines throughout the country.

6. Government commits US \$20 million to boost small scale industries

The government has announced a US \$20-million guarantee of funds to be used to boost small-scale enterprises in Cote d'Ivoire, reports *L'Inter* (p. 11). According to the paper, this was announced last week. The funds, the report says, are part of government's National Development Plan.

7. Use of mobile phone while driving banned in Cote d'Ivoire

Reports in the weekend issues of newspapers said that the government has banned mobile phone use while driving in Cote d'Ivoire. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4), the decision was made Friday at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Ouattara. The move, the paper said, is to reduce road accidents in the country.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Pirate attacks by heavily armed gangs surge off Nigerian coast](#)

Chicago Tribune

Countries on the Gulf of Guinea, including Nigeria, Ghana and Ivory Coast, are major sources of oil and cocoa and increasingly metals for world markets.

[Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania firms win grants from Agriculture Fast Track ...](#)

WorldStage

"Two new applicants have been awarded grants under the Agriculture Fast Track Fund," the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced today. This coincides ...

[Hailing the Ongoing Zwedru Peace Initiatives](#)

AllAfrica.com

The meeting, which began yesterday with a meeting of chiefs from Liberia and La Cote d'Ivoire, is discussing peace and security at the porous Liberian-Ivorian ...

[Ivory Coast cocoa prices up on supply concerns](#)

Business Recorder

Concern that Ivory Coast's main crop cocoa harvest could tail off early provoking a supply crunch has fuelled strong competition among major grinders and ...

[Two Businesses from Cote d'Ivoire and Tanzania Win Grants from ...](#)

Sierra Express Media

The two new grantees—the National Federation of Food Production Cooperatives (FENACOVICI) of Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania-based Darsh Industries, ...

[Cote D'Ivoire Trains 600 Ex-combatants in Korhogo](#)

Nigerian Bulletin

The Ivorian Government has started reintegration training programmes for some 600 ex-combatants in the Korhogo Region of the country, a government ...

[Regulatory Body Rejects Appeal, Maintains Sanctions Against ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

press release. The statutory press regulator of Cote d'Ivoire, Conseil National de Presse (CNP), has thrown out an appeal filed by Seydou Coulibaly, editor of the ...

[Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire Sign Joint Communiqué](#)

AllAfrica.com

Over 108 chiefs from Liberia and the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire have ended a four-day Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 18, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **West and central Africa leaders meet in Ouagadougou to streamline business laws**
2. **Ivoirian journalists receive professional agreement**
3. **Former warlord Wattao accused of economic crimes as DDR chief says the stalled reintegration process is in part due to fraudulent individuals**
4. **Search for Common Grounds promotes reconciliation in western Cote d'Ivoire**

1. **West and central Africa leaders meet in Ouagadougou to streamline business laws**

Gathered in Ouagadougou yesterday for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the "Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa" (OHADA), leaders from West and Central Africa committed to strengthening the institution. The information is reported by **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-5)** which notes that Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara took part in the event. In her address, OHADA Permanent Secretary Dorothe Kossi-Sossa said the organization met the expectations set forth during the organization's inception in 1993 and called on members to work to improve the regional body. OHADA is an initiative to make business laws similar between neighboring countries to easy commerce. It also aims to find alternative solutions to the lack of economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, the paper notes, adding that the final communication of the meeting outlined needed reforms to streamline the institution.

2. **Ivoirian journalists receive professional agreement**

Ivoirian Minister of Communication Affoussiata Bamba participated yesterday in the official handover of press accreditation cards to qualified, Ivoirian, professional journalists. According to **Notre Voie (p. 8)**, a total of 779 cards were issued for the 2013-2014 session.

Soir Info (p. 10) carries a similar account, adding that the press sector is still growing.

Also on the press, **L'Inter (p. 16)** notes that Ibrahim Sy Savanne, the president of the Ivoirian High Council of Audio Visual Communication (HACA), the governing body that oversees television and radio communications, was appointed to serve as the vice-president of the Francophone Network of Media Regulatory Agencies known as REFRAM. His appointment was made public during the recent meeting of the organization in Ndjamena, Chad, the paper adds.

3. **Former warlord Wattao accused of economic crimes as DDR chief says the stalled reintegration process is in part due to fraudulent individuals**

According to a report in **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, former regional commander Issiaka Ouattara, known by his *nom de guerre* "Wattao," is among several former leaders of the rebellion accused of economic crimes. The allegations stem from excerpts of a film by French journalist Christophe Hondelatte that went viral on the Internet. The video stream features a boasting Wattao surrounded by luxury cars. According to the daily, the "overnight wealth" of Wattao and others can be traced to the theft at the central bank in Bouake and the ad hoc economy the rebellion set up in the region under their control after the 2002 conflict.

These allegations came as the chief of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process, Fidele Sarassoro said the DDR process is being delayed because of fraudulent individuals, including civil servants and others who are trying to be profiled as former fighters in order to benefit from the process. According to **L'Inter (p. 6)**, he reminded people that the DDR is exclusively intended to former fighters.

4. **Search for Common Grounds promotes reconciliation in western Cote d'Ivoire**

As part of its activities to promote peace and reconciliation, Search for Common Ground has initiated mediation between two villages over a land dispute in western Cote d'Ivoire. The information is reported by **Le Jour Plus (p. 6)**, which notes that group representative Dominique Kouame called on

villagers from Idibouo Zakpa to settle any dispute in a peaceful manner and champion reconciliation efforts.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast struggling to gain traction](#) UPI.com

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Oct. 16 (UPI) -- Former militants in Ivory Coast are returning to violence because they're frustrated with the pace of reconciliation, ...

[I.Coast, Burkina Faso ink deal to fight child trafficking](#)

AFP

Abidjan — The first ladies of Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso on Thursday sealed ... Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, is a large centre for regional ...

[Bad news for top rubber farmers](#)

eNCA

ABIDJAN - Ivory Coast's local rubber farmers are concerned their output will decrease because of new taxes despite it being Africa's leading rubber producer.

[Hailing the Ongoing Zwedru Peace Initiatives](#)

AllAfrica.com

The meeting, which began yesterday with a meeting of chiefs from Liberia and La Cote d'Ivoire, is discussing peace and security at the porous Liberian-Ivorian ...

[Liberia: Min. Dukuly Senses Lasting Regional Peace](#)

AllAfrica.com

The five-day event which began Wednesday October 16, 2013 with the arrival of about 108 Chiefs and Elders from border region in Liberia and Ivory Coast will ...

[Ivory Coast Cocoa Output to Climb Next Season, Government Says ...](#)

Bloomberg

Cocoa output in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer, will rise in the season ... seeds" in the past few years, Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said.

[MTN buys datacentre for Ivory Coast](#)

Telecoms.com

Pre-fabricated datacentre specialist Flexenclosure said Friday it has received an order from African carrier MTN Côte d'Ivoire to deliver a 336 square meter ...

[Sifca to invest \\$417m in West Africa palm-oil expansion](#)

BusinessDay

Sifca Group, which owns Africa's biggest palm-oil refinery located in Ivory Coast, said it plans to spend \$417 million in the next five years on plantations and ...

[Biofuel not off the hook for 'land grabs'](#) Reuters AlertNet

A woman dries palm seeds in Dabou, around 49 km (30 miles) from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on June 12, 2013. REUTERS/Thierry Gouegnon. Tweet · Recommend ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 17, 2013

1. **Days after congress, PDCI reshuffles party leadership**
2. **Electric shuttle bus service inaugurated yesterday on Abidjan main campus**
3. **First Ladies from Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso join effort to fight against child trafficking**
4. **Dozos and ex-fighters: a threat to security and the 2015 elections**

1. **Days after congress, PDCI reshuffles party leadership**

According to a report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2), Alphonse Djedje Mady, long-time PDCI secretary general and one of the challengers to PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie during the party's recent congress has been removed from his position. The paper says that the role of the secretary general has been replaced by a cabinet which will be chaired by the current deputy secretary general Maurice Kakou Guikahue. The paper adds that the official handover ceremony took place yesterday at the party headquarters in Abidjan. In his address, Mady commended Bedie for their collaboration. "I would like to thank Bedie for having given me the opportunity to serve the party," he reportedly said, adding that he remains committed to the PDCI.

Notre Voie (p. 2) for its part denounces the move, arguing that the decision to replace an elective body by a cabinet whose members are appointed does not serve the party but solely the president.

2. **Electric shuttle bus service inaugurated yesterday on Abidjan main campus**

A free shuttle bus service is now available to students from the Felix Houphouet- Boigny University in Abidjan according to *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5). The daily says that President Alassane Ouattara inaugurated yesterday the first two solar-powered vans to operate on the campus. Made possible thanks to a donation by French transport group Bolloré, the President says the move is part of efforts to modernize the country's public universities to meet international standards. Service will be reinforced with two additional buses, the paper adds, qualifying the move as the first of its kind on the continent.

Opposition paper *Notre Voie* (p. 7) says the move is just a "smokescreen" as two buses cannot nearly accommodate the 60,000 students who have to commute on a daily basis from Abidjan neighborhoods to the university.

3. **First Ladies from Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso join effort to fight against child trafficking**

Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara and her Burkina Faso counterpart, Chantal Compaore, have joined hands to optimize the response to child trafficking between their two countries. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) which notes that Mrs. Compaore has been in Abidjan this week to finalize an agreement to that end. "The issue of child trafficking is important and I am here to work out on an agreement between Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire to address it," Mrs. Compaore said upon her arrival.

L'Inter (p. 12) carries a similar account, adding that Mrs. Compaore was welcomed by the Ivoirian First Lady, who was accompanied by the Minister of Family Anne Desirée Ouloto.

4. **Dozos and ex-fighters: a threat to security ahead of the 2015 elections**

According to a report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6), Cote d'Ivoire's traditional hunters, known as *dozos*, have become a threat to security. The daily alleges that by attempting to carry out the duties of regular law enforcement forces, the group has been engaged in deadly incidents. The latest episode resulted in the death of at least three people when *dozos* are alleged to have raided the village of Buyo on Monday. Citing security experts, the paper notes that this does not bode well and could be a threat to the 2015 presidential elections if not addressed.

Le Jour Plus (p. 4) carries a similar account, adding that, although the group largely backed forces loyal to President Ouattara against loyalists to former president Laurent Gbagbo during the 2010 post electoral crisis, it has turned out to be "a hot potato" in the hands of the Ivoirian leader.

In a related development, **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** argues that the issue of former fighters needs to be addressed. According to the daily, the slow pace of security sector reforms is prompting ex-fighters to take to banditry.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[International Court Urged to Administer Equal Justice in Ivory Coast](#)

Voice of America

The court says Ble Goude, who led Gbagbo's Young Patriots movement, had the power to ... White said the lack of prosecution of forces supporting President Alassane ... "Everybody knows not only in Ivory Coast but in the Mano River Union ...

[Groundbreaking Peaceful Coexistence in the Mano River Union](#)

AllAfrica.com

Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Alassane Ouattara of neighboring Cote d'Ivoire have a different formula for ensuring lasting bilateral and sub ...

[MoTI tackles rice smuggling](#)

GhanaWeb

An estimated 100,000 metric tonnes (about 4 million bags) of rice is reported to be smuggled into Ghana from Cote d'Ivoire every year. Rice smuggling has been ...

[Endeavour starts mining at Agbaou](#)

Creamer Media's Mining Weekly

PERTH (miningweekly.com) – Dual-listed gold miner Endeavour Mining has started mining operations at its Agbaou mine, in Côte d'Ivoire. The miner said on ...

[Cashew market turns active as trading for next year begins](#)

Hindu Business Line

The cashew market has turned buoyant over the last 2-3 weeks with some ... tonne and for Ivory Coast and Ghana from \$750-850 a tonne depending on quality.

[Ivory Coast cocoa prices up on competition, supply concerns](#)

Reuters

Ivory Coast's grinders include Cargill, Barry Callebaut, CEMOI and ADM, some of the industry's biggest players. Bean exporters were also seeking to secure ...

[Italian cotton firm to set up new ginnery in Ivory Coast](#)

Fibre2fashion.com

The Italian cotton producing firm I Cotoni Del Firello has announced plans to set up a new ginnery in the West African nation of Ivory Coast, where it is ...

[30 million living in slavery worldwide: WFF report](#)

Press TV

Benin, Gambia, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Haiti and Nepal are among other countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery, the report said.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 16, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Head of CDVR presents report to President Ouattara
2. Muslim leaders call for national cohesion on Eid-El-Kabir celebration
3. **Three killed as Dozos attack village in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire**
4. **Western Cote d'Ivoire hit by community violence**
5. **President Ouattara to meet Liberian Sirleaf over Ivoirian refugees**
6. **World Bank grants a US \$50 million loan to Cote d'Ivoire**
7. **Conference on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative opens today in Abidjan**

1. Head of CDVR presents report to President Ouattara

Two years after the launching of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), the head of the commission, Charles Konan Banny, has presented a report to President Alassane Ouattara, reports *Soir Info* (p. 6). According to the paper, this was announced on the commission's website, www.cdvr.ci, which does not mention the date the report was submitted. The article further indicates that the submission of this report, which contains its achievements and recommendations, marks the end of the two-year mandate given to the commission.

In a related development, a report in *L'Inter* (p. 4) says supporters of President Ouattara are demanding the resignation of the head of the commission. The petitioners, who according to the paper are led by National Assembly member Soro Kanigui Mamadou, have also called for the "dissolution" of the commission. On the motive behind these demands, the paper carries another article suggesting that the attacks against Banny by supporters of President Ouattara is related to Banny's recent statement asking the PDCI-RDA, an ally of the president's RDR party, to contest the 2015 presidential elections.

2. Muslim leaders call for national cohesion on Eid-El-Kabir celebration

The Ivoirian Muslim community has called for unity, reports *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 1, 6&7). According to the paper, the call was made on Tuesday as Muslim faithful gathered to celebrate Eid-El-Kabir. According to the paper, President Ouattara, who was among prominent Muslim during the celebration, also urged Ivoirians to work toward reconciliation. "With a united nation we will move forward," a report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 10) quotes President Ouattara as saying after attending the ceremony in Abidjan. The paper also quotes a Muslim leader warning against the resurgence of "hatred" messages in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. Three killed as Dozos attack village in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire

Conflicting reports in the press say around three people were killed and three others seriously injured after traditional hunters also known as Dozos attacked Buyo, a village located in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire. According to a report in *Soir Info* (p. 4), several inhabitants fled the village following the attack on Monday. The paper also quotes the police as saying that eight Dozos have been arrested. The paper says that the attack was the result a land dispute between a Burkinabe farmer and a member of the local community.

Le Temps (p. 5) says that the attack was jointly carried out by the Dozos and government forces. A report in *Notre Voie* (p. 9) says the population in Buyo is demanding the Dozos leave the village. The paper also quotes the prefect of the region as promising that the perpetrators of the attack and the killings will be brought to justice.

4. Western Cote d'Ivoire hit by community violence

A report in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3)** says scores of people were injured in Bohinou, a village located in the central department of Vavoua, following a two-day clash between Burkinabe farmers and members of the local community. According to the paper, the incidents occurred in the course of a traditional ceremony. A report in ***Notre Voie* (p. 6)** blames Burkinabe and Malian farmers as well as Dozos for being behind the incident.

5. President Ouattara to meet Liberian Sirleaf over Ivoirian refugees

A report in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8)** quotes Minister of Justice and Human Rights Mamadou Gnenema Coulibaly as saying that President Ouattara will be meeting with his Liberian counterpart, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, this week in Monrovia to discuss bilateral issues. The minister, who said this Monday at a meeting with a delegation of opinion leaders from western Cote d'Ivoire, also announced that the two leaders will talk about plans for the return of Ivoirian refugees living in Liberia.

In a related development, ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4)** reports that security along the border between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia will be high on the agenda of the two presidents.

Meanwhile, an article in ***Notre Voie* (p. 9)** says some 100 thousands refugees are "under threat" as President Ouattara prepares for the meeting over Ivoirians who fled the country during the 2011 post-electoral crisis.

6. World Bank grants a US \$50 million loan to Cote d'Ivoire

The World Bank has granted a US \$50 million loan to Cote d'Ivoire, reports ***L'Inter* (p. 10)**. According to the paper, the agreement for the disbursement of this financial support was signed last week in New York on the margins of the general assembly of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The funds will be used to boost the country's agricultural sector.

7. Conference on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative opens today in Abidjan

A report in ***Le Jour Plus* (p. 5)** says the 25th session of the board of governors of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is due to open today in Abidjan. The report also says the organization will be organizing a capacity building training for its Francophone members on the margins of this conference.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Los Zetas smuggles drugs to Europe through West Africa](#)

Infosurhoy

Security forces detain suspected drug dealers and users in the Côte d'Ivoire city of Abidjan on May 28. Los Zetas, the Sinaloa Cartel, and other Latin American ...

[UN stance on biofuels 'legitimises food violations', claim campaigners](#)

The Guardian

Farmers work in a Jatropha nursery field in Dimbokro, Ivory Coast. The Jatropha produces a seed oil that can be made into biodiesel. Photograph: Kambou Sia/ ...

[World Bank Approves Funds to Support Côte d'Ivoire's Buildup of ...](#)

Newstime Africa

"Despite recent periods of instability, Côte d'Ivoire still possesses considerable ... said Madani M. Tall, World Bank Country Director for Côte d'Ivoire.

[Côte d'Ivoire: UN expert launches fifth official visit](#)

Scoop.co.nz (press release)

Geneva / Abidjan, 14 October 2013 – The United Nations Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Doudou Diène, started today his ...

[Zwedru Meeting to Focus On Security, Peace](#)

AllAfrica.com

The expected meeting between President of Cote d'Ivoire Allasane Ouattarra and his Liberian counterpart, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Zwedru, Grand ...

[Cote d'Ivoire joins bond market rush](#)

emergingmarkets.org

Cote d'Ivoire is set to become the latest sub-Saharan African state to issue a sovereign bond – and perhaps the most daring in what has already been a ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: People Displaced By Conflict Face Land Theft - Swiftly ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

Abidjan — At least hundreds of people who fled violence in western Côte d'Ivoire during the country's 2010-2011 post-election crisis have returned to find that ...

[Supreme Group Expands Charitable Activities in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

DigitalJournal.com

Supreme Foundation, a registered charitable trust established by the global supply chain solutions provider Supreme Group, has expanded its charitable work in ...

[Tackling waste in the global food supply chain](#)

The Guardian

Cocoa beans in a solar drier in the Ivory Coast. Photograph: Nana Kofi Acquah. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), ...

[Côte d'Ivoire sees sharp rise in banditry](#)

IRINnews.org

ABIDJAN, 16 October 2013 (IRIN) - In the three months since June, *Côte d'Ivoire* has seen twice as many armed highway attacks as in the whole of 2012.

[Infrastructure, Natural Resources Key to Inclusive Growth in Africa](#)

AllAfrica.com

Prime Minister Duncan said that *Cote d'Ivoire* was using its oil ... He stressed that expanding the non-mining sector, and particularly *agriculture*, ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 11, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Former UN chief Kofi Anan commends President Ouattara for recent achievements**
2. **Human Rights Watch calls on government to address the issue of land tenure; says the situation is combustible in western Cote d'Ivoire**
3. **Cote d'Ivoire signs treaty to protect environment**
4. **Speculation continues after the ICC puts on hold Gbagbo's bail request**

1. **Former UN chief Kofi Anan commends President Ouattara for recent achievements**

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Anan met yesterday in Abidjan with President Alassane Ouattara. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) which notes that Anan said he is impressed by achievements made in the country. "I call on the Ivoirian people to join hands and work together to rebuild the country," he told reporters, adding that Ivoirians need to move ahead from the past. Quoting President Ouattara, the paper notes that discussions between the two men focused on the peace and reconciliation processes in Cote d'Ivoire.

In a separate development, the paper notes that Anan, who is also the president of peace group The Elders, concluded his two-day visit yesterday with a press conference in which he called on the Ivoirian government to take the necessary steps to ensure the 2015 elections are conducted peacefully. "The future elections must in no way be a source of conflict. Everybody must learn from their past mistakes and work to ensure the process is fair," he reportedly said.

With more on the issue, *Notre Voie* (p. 4) says that Anan and FPI president Pascal Affi N'Guessan met yesterday in a candid tête-à-tête, an occasion for the latter to voice the concerns of the opposition party.

2. **Human Rights Watch calls on government to address the issue of land tenure; says the situation is combustible in western Cote d'Ivoire**

According to a report in *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 6) while land disputes have been fueling and exacerbating tensions in the country over the past decade, the situation remains particularly combustible in the western part of the country. International human rights watchdog group Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report saying that people, including Ivoirian citizens and immigrants who fled their plantations in the west because of the multiple conflicts, have found their land occupied by others upon their return. Now access to cocoa and coffee plantations – long a source of inter-ethnic tensions in the country – is at the heart of unrest in the west, particularly as more people return, the group said citing people with knowledge of the situation. According to HRW, the government of President Ouattara has committed to addressing the issue. However, even though a new law on land tenure has been passed, no tangible efforts have been made on the ground.

Soir Info (p. 4) carries a similar account, adding that HRW argues that clashes are frequent in western Cote d'Ivoire.

3. **Cote d'Ivoire signs treaty to protect environment**

According to a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 14), the Ivoirian government is committed to protecting the environment and to demonstrate this, yesterday signed the Minamata Convention, a United Nations pact designed to limit mercury use and emissions internationally. Cote d'Ivoire is among the 140 countries to have ratified the convention. Ivoirian Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development Remi Allah Kouadio lead the Ivoirian delegation to the Diplomatic Conference for the Minamata Convention held Thursday in Japan, the paper says.

4. **Speculation continues after the ICC puts on hold Gbagbo's bail request**

Speculation is still on-going after the ICC put on hold a decision to grant bail to former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, although a previous request for bail was denied by The Hague-based court, ICC judges said Wednesday that they will reconsider their decision should the defense provide sufficient grounds to support the move. **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4)** alleges the former leader could be released sooner than announced, saying that this could happen before his November 11 trial. **Aujourd'hui (p. 2)** for its part notes that the Ivoirian government is maneuvering to bias the legal proceedings with fake accusations against Gbagbo. **Le Patriote (p. 3)** says his release is not on the agenda.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Kofi Annan interview: 'African justice is weak. The ICC is not anti ...](#) The Guardian

Kofi Annan. The Ivory Coast football captain Didier Drogba (left) hands over a signed shirt to Kofi Annan in Abidjan. Photograph: Sia Kambou/AFP/Getty Images

[Addressing Land Dispossession after Côte d'Ivoire's Post-Election ...](#)Human Rights Watch

Land conflict is at the heart of Côte d'Ivoire's decade of grave human rights abuses. If the Ivorian government is serious about ending the recurring violence in ...

[Illegal land sales raise risk of violence in Ivory Coast- HRW](#) Chicago Tribune

Ivory Coast's 2011 civil war are returning to find their land illegally sold, raising the risk of fresh violence, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Thursday.

[Côte d'Ivoire: People Displaced By Conflict Face Land Theft, Says ...](#)Eurasia Review

At least hundreds of people who fled violence in western Côte d'Ivoire during the country's 2010-2011 post-election crisis have returned to find that their land ...

[Ivorians protest former Head of State Laurent Gbagbo's Hague ...](#) The Standard Digital News

The Hague: The International Criminal Court (ICC) was under siege Wednesday as residents from Ivory Coast took to the streets protesting the detention of their

[Cote d'Ivoire to host African water and sanitation meet](#) New York Daily News

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Oct 10 — The 2013 edition of the 'High Level Forum on Water and Sanitation in Africa' will be held Nov 21-23 in Abidjan, Cote ...

[GAC-OMA Extends Ivory Coast Shipping & Logistics Service](#) MarineLink

GAC is further strengthening its presence in West Africa with the extension of the GAC-OMA network agreement to include the Ivory Coast. The extension of the ...

[Al-Sada meets Ivory Coast Minister of oil, mines and energy](#) Peninsula On-line

DOHA: HE Minister of Energy and Industry Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada conferred here on Thursday with Ivory Coast Minister of mines, petroleum and ...

[Mars Ambassador Visits UTZ Certified Cocoa Farms in Côte d'Ivoire ...](#)Broadway World

He will travel for ten days in the remote areas of Côte d'Ivoire where UTZ certified cocoa is produced, meeting with cocoa producers in four different cities: ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 10, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Kofi Annan in Cote d'Ivoire to push for reconciliation**
2. **Supporters celebrate after rumors say Gbagbo is free**
3. **USAID supports training on protection of witnesses and victims**
4. **About 300 disbanded ex-fighters receive motorcycles**
5. **Prisoners released after presidential pardon**
6. **Experts meet over ways to curb traffic in persons**
7. **Government hands over new headquarters to AfDB officials**
8. **Media, Communication and IT Salon opens in Abidjan**

1. Kofi Annan in Cote d'Ivoire to push for reconciliation

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has called on all Ivoirians "to come together and work for peace and reconciliation," reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). According to the paper, Annan, currently in Abidjan in his capacity as Chairman of Elders, a think-tank pushing for reconciliation following the 2011 post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, said this yesterday after a meeting with the President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro. Despite problems, some progress has been achieved during the past two years, Annan is reported as saying.

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) says Annan also met with other political stakeholders including PDCI-RDA's leader and former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie where he encouraged the government and the opposition to continue their dialogue.

Reporting on the mediation efforts of the Chairman of Elders, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 8) says that Annan and leader of the opposition FPI party Pascal Affi N'Guessan are set for a crucial meeting today. An article in *Aujourd'hui* (p. 7) says the meeting will be an opportunity for Affi N'Guessan to demand the release of former president Laurent Gbagbo, who is facing trial at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

2. Supporters celebrate after rumors say Gbagbo is free

Several supporters of former president Gbagbo celebrated yesterday in his hometown of Gagnoa following rumors that he was released on bail, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). *Soir Info* (p. 5) also reports that supporters of the former president celebrated in Yopougon, a neighborhood in Abidjan reputed to be an opposition stronghold, as court procedures were underway at The Hague. After admitting that this fever was premature, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) says that these celebrations are a sign of Gbagbo's popularity despite having been in jail for more than two years. Opposition papers differ in their analysis of the situation; while an article in *Aujourd'hui* (p. 2) announces that Gbagbo will be released within a month, *Notre Voie* (p. 2) quotes ICC judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi as saying that "the court will render its verdict on November 11." The paper also discloses that South Africa could grant asylum to Gbagbo if he were to be released.

3. USAID supports training on protection of witnesses and victims

State news agency AIP reports that the Ministry of Justice, USAID and the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire jointly organized training this week on the protection of eyewitnesses and victims of the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire. The training is designed to enhance the capacity of state institutions, civic groups and community leaders on the issues of protection and legal actions to be taken.

4. About 300 disbanded ex-fighters receive motorcycles

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10) says some 285 former combatants in Bouake have received motorbikes as part of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program to help them attempt to return to normal life.

5. Prisoners released after presidential pardon

Yesterday, about 80 prisoners were released from MACA, a prison in Abidjan, according to a report in ***Soir Info* (p. 10)**. The release, the paper says, came after a presidential pardon was granted to 3,000 inmates several weeks ago. A report in ***Le Jour Plus* (p. 4)** says more than 100 prisoners have been set free so far as part of this mass release.

6. Experts meet over ways to curb traffic in persons

A report in ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 8)** says experts are meeting this week in Abidjan to map out plans aimed at stamping out trafficking in persons. The seminar will also identify obstacles in identifying victims of trafficking and make recommendations to be implemented with the backing of donors including the United States, reports the paper.

7. Government hands over new headquarters to AfDB officials

The government has handed over to officials of the African Development Bank the new building that will serve as the headquarters of the bank in Abidjan, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 14)**. The paper also reports government officials as saying that the rehabilitation of this building, which was jointly financed, has cost FCFA 33.7 billion (about US \$67 million).

8. Media, Communication and IT Salon opens in Abidjan

Minister of Communication Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine yesterday launched the fourth edition of Media, Communication and IT Salon, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 29)**. The three-day event, jointly organized by Cote d'Ivoire's union of journalists (UNJCI) and the Abidjan Press Center, has brought together local media groups and others from the sub-region.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire: People Displaced by Conflict Face Land Theft](#)

Human Rights Watch

A community meeting in the village of Diouya-Dokin, organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council, to try to find solutions regarding disputed parcels of land.

[Ivoriens protest former Head of State Laurent Gbagbo's Hague ...](#)

The Standard Digital News

The Hague: The International Criminal Court (ICC) was under siege Wednesday as residents from Ivory Coast took to the streets protesting the detention of their ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Muslims to celebrate Eid al Adha on 15 October](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – The Muslim community in Côte d'Ivoire will on 15 October celebrate Eid al Adha, the festival of the sacrifice. An official statement said to ...

[GAC-OMA Extends Ivory Coast Shipping & Logistics Service](#)

MarineLink

GAC is further strengthening its presence in West Africa with the extension of the GAC-OMA network agreement to include the Ivory Coast. The extension of the ...

[Orange adds UK and Ivory Coast SIM cards to Nashua partnership](#)

HumanIPO

Orange Horizons and Nashua have now added the United Kingdom and the Ivory Coast, meaning travellers will be able to communicate in the respective ...

[DekelOil making smooth progress towards profitability, says broker](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

Optiva Securities has taken a close look at the Ivory Coast-based business, which will process crops produced by local growers. The crucial step on the ladder is ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 9, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Speculations continue as Gbagbo is set to appear before ICC judge today**
2. **Prime Minister Duncan speaks about obstacles in government-opposition dialogue**
3. **UDPCI to meet ahead of December congress**
4. **Experts meeting on how to curb criminal violence**
5. **West African Bank commits US \$52 million for road construction in Cote d'Ivoire**
6. **Programs of state broadcaster now available on Internet**

1. Speculations continue as Gbagbo is set to appear before ICC judge today

Dailies ponder the fate of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo who is set to appear today before a judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of crimes against humanity. "Will Gbagbo be released on bail?" asks *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). According to the paper, today's hearing is seen by supporters of Gbagbo as the one that will determine whether their leader walks free from the court or remains in custody pending his trial.

"Gbagbo to be set free," *Soir Info* (p. 3) quotes the chairman of Gbagbo's FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, as saying Tuesday at a rally. Pro-opposition daily *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 4) also expresses optimism about the release of Gbagbo saying this was announced by prophets. *Notre Voie* (p. 3), which seems more realistic, says the decision is in the hands of ICC judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi.

Le Temps (pp. 6&7) is also full of optimism about the fate of the former president. There are four major reasons for Gbagbo to be released, writes the paper, including that ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has yet to provide sufficient evidence to justify the detention of the former president. Barring the unexpected, charges leveled against the former president by the ICC chief prosecutor will be confirmed today, writes pro-government newspaper *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2). An article in *Le Patriote* (p. 2) also claims that the judge will not rule in favor of Gbagbo's release because the ICC chief prosecutor has provided more evidence to support charges of crimes against humanity leveled against the former president.

In a related development, *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 4) quotes former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as saying it would be "shameful" if some African countries pulled out of the convention establishing the ICC. Annan, the report says, was speaking ahead of an emergency summit designed to bring together the ICC and African leaders on October 11-12 in Addis Ababa, and was reacting to criticism from some African leaders who accused the court of "discrimination" and "racism."

2. Prime Minister Duncan speaks about obstacles in government-opposition dialogue

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) says Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan has raised concerns about some of the obstacles that are likely to hinder the ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition FPI party. According to the paper, Duncan, speaking to a French international broadcaster yesterday, said, "Some of the concerns of the party constitute a stumbling block to the process." One of these demands, Duncan is reported as saying is, "President Alassane Ouattara should go to The Hague to meet former president Gbagbo." The prime minister also mentioned the party's demand for a general amnesty for all of those accused of crimes during the post-electoral crisis of 2011 as another sticking point in the discussion with the opposition.

3. UDPCI to meet ahead of December congress

A meeting called by the leadership of UDPCI to reconcile positions on certain issues confronting the party ahead of the December congress features prominently in the press today. A report in *L'Inter* (p. 5) quotes the general secretary of the party, which is a member of the ruling coalition, as saying

that the meeting scheduled for next weekend will be an opportunity for members to think about the future of their party.

4. Experts meeting on how to curb criminal violence

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 4) says experts are meeting this week in Abidjan to discuss a project designed to curb criminal violence in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the program is organized by the UNESCO office in Abidjan with the backing of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Center (IDRC), a Canadian program aimed at helping communities in the developing world to find solutions to social, economic and environmental problems. Abobo, a neighborhood in Abidjan, and two other cities, Duekoue and Bouake, have been selected for a pilot project before its implementation.

5. West African Bank commits US \$52 million for road construction in Cote d'Ivoire

The West African Development Bank (BOAD) will provide a loan for FCFA 26 billion (about US \$52 million) for road construction and electricity production in Cote d'Ivoire, reports *L'Inter* (p. 13). According to the paper, the agreement was signed Monday by the vice-president of the bank and the Minister in Charge of Economy and Finance, Niale Kaba.

In a related development, a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 14) says BOAD's contributions to development projects in Cote d'Ivoire account for more than FCFA 508 billion (about US \$1 billion) since the establishment of the bank 40 years ago.

6. Programs of state broadcaster now available on Internet

Programs of the state broadcaster RTI are now available on Internet, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16). Viewers and listeners can now have access to its radio and TV programs through the RTI website: www.rti.ci. According to the paper, the program was launched yesterday by the Minister of Communication, Affoussiata Lamine-Bamba, who said, "The new RTI will help Cote d'Ivoire shine in Africa and in the world."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Dubai's Abraaj invests in West African company](#)

ArabianBusiness.com

Headquartered in Cote d'Ivoire, AIS was founded in 2001 and has established presence and operations across eight countries in West Africa including Benin, ...

[Ivory Coast Holds Business Days in Douala](#)

Business in Cameroon

Some 30 enterprises from Ivory Coast are expected to start showcasing their business know-how in Cameroon's economic capital this ...

[Manufacturing potentials](#)

BusinessDay

Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria account for 71 percent of global cocoa ...of the world and lift 680 million people out of poverty in 19 years.

[Business opportunities growing for some African women](#)

eNCA

In *Ivory Coast* women were now allowed to choose the family ... it easier for women to pursue *entrepreneurship* or employment activities.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 8, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Former UN Secretary General to evaluate reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire**
2. **Ex-president Gbagbo to appear in court**
3. **AU and ICC to hold summit, AU official in Abidjan says**
4. **UN envoy seeks President Ouattara's support to fight terrorism in the Sahel**

1. Former UN Secretary General to evaluate reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire

Ivoirian newspapers today announce that former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is expected in Cote d'Ivoire tomorrow for a two-day, fact-finding mission. According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7), Annan is coming in his capacity as the Chairman of Elders, a think-tank that is pushing for reconciliation following the 2011 post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper says Annan will evaluate the progress and obstacles encountered in the reconciliation process underway in the country. His agenda includes meetings with President Alassane Ouattara and other Ivoirian political stakeholders including the President of the National Assembly, political leaders and the head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR). The paper also recalls that Annan and other members of the Elders visited Cote d'Ivoire in January 2012 and met with former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, then detained in the northern town of Korhogo.

Pro-government newspaper *Le Mandat* (p. 3) carries an article claiming that the chairman of the Elders is coming as "a firefighter" because the peace process in Cote d'Ivoire is "deadlocked." The article also suggests that Annan will help the country's political stakeholders "overcome obstacles before the 2015 presidential elections."

L'Inter (p. 3) however, notes that Annan is coming to Cote d'Ivoire at the time "important progress" has been made in the reconciliation process and after the release of opposition leaders who were detained in connection with crimes allegedly committed during the 2011 post-election crisis.

A commentary in opposition paper *Le Temps* (p. 8) suggests that President Ouattara, who is under pressure from the opposition FPI party, has called Annan for "rescue." The paper also sees Annan as one of the "supporters" of President Ouattara during the 2011 political crisis and wonders whether he is the right man to mediate between President Ouattara and the opposition.

While an article in pro-opposition newspaper *Aujourd'hui* (p. 4) indicates that Annan is coming to stimulate "a direct dialogue" between the FPI and President Ouattara, a commentary in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) casts doubts about Annan's capacity to broker a peace deal between the government and the opposition. The commentator cites what they describe as an "arbitrary imprisonment" and "hijacking" of electoral institutions by the current presidency as sticking points that could hinder Annan's mediation.

2. Former president Gbagbo to appear in court

According to reports in the press, former president Gbagbo, facing trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity, is scheduled to appear in court tomorrow. *Notre Voie* (pp. 2&3), which devotes large columns speculating the possible scenarios, carries an independent opinion suggesting that the court could decide to release the former president on bail. The other alternative, the article says, is the creation of an African Criminal Court where Gbagbo can be tried.

Aujourd'hui (p. 2) believes that the former president may be released after the hearing tomorrow. *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6) indicates that although there is a little chance for Gbagbo to be released on bail, efforts are being underway to find a solution to his case.

3. AU and ICC to hold summit, AU official in Abidjan says

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) says an emergency summit designed to bring together the ICC and African leaders is scheduled for October 11-12 in Addis Ababa. According to the paper, this was

announced yesterday by African Union Ambassador Ambroise Nyomsaba after a meeting with President Ouattara. The report notes that this summit will be held following criticisms from some African leaders which accuse the court of "discrimination" and "racism."

4. UN envoy seeks President Ouattara's support to fight terrorism in the Sahel

UN envoy Romano Prodi yesterday sought President Ouattara's support to fight terrorism in the Sahel, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4). This was during a meeting between the president and the UN diplomat.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[New drive to fuel Africa's industrialization](#)

The Standard Digital News

Lopes once pointed this out to Côte d'Ivoire's president, Alassane Ouattara, and lamented the fact that only about 10 per cent of the money from chocolates goes ...

[Water and sanitation for 100000 in Côte d'Ivoire cocoa communities](#)

Process & Control Today

Almost 100,000 people in cocoa-growing communities in Cote d'Ivoire are now able to access clean drinking water and sanitation facilities thanks to an ...

[Cargill in final talks over ADM cocoa unit](#)

Financial Times

In addition, both ADM and Cargill have processing plants in Brazil, *Ivory Coast* and Ghana, although there is little overlap in the US. Any deal ...

[Rocketing chocolate costs leave sour taste](#)

Express.co.uk

Cocoa butter prices have increased due to bad weather on Africa's *Ivory Coast* and poor production forecasts for the coming year. Chocolate ...

[Textile industry: child labor still common](#)

FashionUnited.co.uk

Unfortunately, the textile and garment *industry* is one of the sectors that... Kenya, Madagascar, Zambia, Zimbabwe and *Ivory Coast* in Africa.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 7, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Fending off dissidents, PDCI president retains party leadership**
2. **FPI president calls on the government to release party detainees to facilitate reconciliation**
3. **The reintegration of former combatants kicks off in San Pedro, papers say**

1. **Fending off dissidents, PDCI president retains party leadership**

Securing votes from most delegates, PDCI president Henri Konan held on to his party's leadership in elections over the weekend. The information is the subject of banner headlines in most of today's and the weekend's papers. **Le Nouveau Reveil (pp. 2-3)** says Bedie outmatched his two challengers – PDCI secretary general Alphonse Mady and the party youth leader Bertin Konan Kouakou by securing 93.29 % of the vote. Opponents Mady and Bertin secured each 3.29 and 3.07 respectively.

Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-6) says Bedie's overwhelming victory was no surprise. In his victory speech, Bedie recommitted to working for all party members. "Nobody has lost while the PDCI and our democracy have won," he reportedly said, adding that the party will definitely have a candidate for the 2015 presidential election.

For **Notre Voie (p. 5)** the "dice were loaded" and results of the vote were known beforehand. The paper denounces irregularities that reportedly plagued the voting process and the blatant bias against Bedie's two challengers.

2. **FPI president calls on the government to release party detainees to facilitate reconciliation**

According to a report in **Notre Voie (pp. 2-5)**, thousands of people gathered yesterday in Gagnoa to welcome FPI president Pascal Affi N'Guessan. Addressing supporters in former president Laurent Gbagbo's hometown, Affi said their mobilization mirrors the party leadership on the national political scene. "Your determination has no equal," he reportedly said, denouncing the government's efforts to silence the FPI.

Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4) says that Affi called on President Ouattara to release FPI officials and supporters still in detention. "If by the end of the year they are not released, we will act up...It is unfair that Simone Gbagbo, Ble Goude and Jean Yves Dibopieu are still in detention," he said, arguing that their release would be in line with reconciliation efforts. "We will not have peace as long until they are released," he added. **Aujourd'hui (pp. 2-3)**, **L'Inter (pp. 4-5)** and **Le Nouveau Courrier (pp. 4-5)** carry a similar story casting the promise to supporters as a "threat" to the government while **Le Patriote (p. 5)** said the remarks showed that FPI was not in favor of reconciliation.

On the other hand, **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** says that Affi was simply recommittting the FPI to supporting the reconciliation process.

3. **The reintegration of former combatants kicks off in San Pedro**

According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**, a reintegration campaign of former combatants started Thursday in San Pedro. Jointly conducted by the ADDR, a government body overseeing the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process, the United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the UN Development Program, the paper says the operation is meant to provide alternatives to former combatants through training and apprenticeship. 10,065 people have been profiled to benefit from the program, according to ADDR Coordinator Fidele Sarassoro. He called on former FRCI and associate forces to join the process as well, the paper adds.

In a related development, the paper notes that an operation aimed at labeling and identifying weapons used by the GSP - an elite force in charge of security operations at the presidency - was

conducted Saturday at a naval base in Abidjan. The move, the paper says, is part of efforts to control the proliferation of weapons and counter crime.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Former Ivory Coast president retains party leadership post, fending ...](#)

Washington Post

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — The Democratic Party of Ivory Coast says former President Henri Konan Bedie has retained his party leadership post after delegates ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire Takes Big Step to End Statelessness By ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

Geneva — Yesterday, Côte d'Ivoire acceded to the international conventions on statelessness. This is one of the key measures the Ivorian government is taking ...

[MTN Mobile Money, Best Telecoms Innovation in Central Africa](#)

Biztech Africa

MTN Cameroon has just won an important award at the 9th Edition of the Africa Telecom People (ATP) forum held from 1st to 2nd October 2013 in Ivory Coast

[Cote d'Ivoire: Government gives military deserters 2 months to return ...](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire - The Ivorian government has issued a two-month ultimatum to soldiers of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), the National ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Senegalese appointed deputy head of UN mission](#)

Afrique en Ligue

UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Mr. M'Baye Babacar Cisse from Senegal as the Deputy Special Representative

[Cross-border rice smuggling : A big hole in Ghana's revenue kitty](#)

Citifmonline

Rice smuggling has long been observed to be a regular and lucrative activity along Ghana's entire western frontier with Cote d'Ivoire, of which Kwamesie Krom, ...

[Africa's animosity to ICC goes beyond justice, into politics](#)

BDlive

Africa's animosity to ICC goes beyond justice, into politics For instance, in the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the vanquished presidential contender, ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

OCTOBER 4, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **According to PDCI president, despite challenges, the party still stands firm**
2. **"The voice of the Ivoirian people is calling on us," Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro says to National Assembly**
3. **Ivoirian university administrators to participate in a voluntary visitor program on higher education management**
4. **Ivoirian First Lady discusses child labor with Nestle officials**

1. **According to PDCI president, despite challenges, the party still stands firm**

In a wide-ranging address yesterday at the opening of the PDCI congress, party president Henri Konan Bedie said that the PDCI stands firm despite recent challenges and setbacks. The information is reported by *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 6-9), which notes that Bedie denounced the military coup that ousted him from the presidency in 1999. "We are still experiencing the trauma caused by this coup," he reportedly said, calling on supporters to remain committed to the strengthening of the party.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6-8) carries a similar account, adding that Bedie insisted that measures must be taken to ensure the party is better managed. *Nord Sud Quotidien* (pp. 2-3) notes that Bedie underscored that necessary steps are also needed within the RHDP ruling coalition and that more jobs must be made available for supporters.

2. **"The voice of the Ivoirian people is calling on us," Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro says to National Assembly**

The second ordinary session of the National Assembly opened Wednesday in Abidjan, according to a report in *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 4). According to the daily, the country's 2014 budget is under debate. In his address, assembly president Guillaume Soro said, "the voice of the Ivoirian people is calling on the deputies." He compelled members of the assembly to act in way that serves in the best interest of the people.

3. **Ivoirian university administrators to participate in a voluntary visitor program on higher education management**

Nine Ivoirian public universities administrators are traveling to the United States to attend a voluntary visitor program on higher education management. The information is reported by *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 8) which notes that the program will examine the U.S. system of higher education through visits to a variety of American universities and will include interactions with administrators, professors and students. Participants, the paper adds, will discuss historical and contemporary perspectives, as well as current issues and challenges facing institutions of higher learning. *L'Inter* (p. 12) carries a similar account.

4. **Ivoirian First Lady discusses child labor the issue with Nestle officials**

The issue of child labor was on the agenda of a meeting this week between Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara and the vice-president of Nestle, Jose Lopez. According to *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5) Ouattara outlined actions being done by the CNS and the CIM, two task forces set up by the Ivoirian government to combat child labor, and underscored actions taken so far to prevent children from being used as workers on cocoa farms. According to Lopez, Nestle has initiated similar projects in cocoa-growing communities in Cote d'Ivoire. As part of this initiative, Nestle is planning to build schools and support education, he said. *L'Inter* (p. 12) carries a similar account.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Nestlé initiative helps Côte d'Ivoire communities access clean water](#)FoodBev.com

Almost 100,000 people in cocoa-growing communities in Côte d'Ivoire are now able to access clean drinking water and sanitation facilities thanks to an initiative ...

[ICC Seeking Militia Leader - Government Should Clarify Stance on ...](#) Human Rights Watch
Johannesburg — Côte d'Ivoire should either surrender a notorious militia leader to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or formally contest transferring him if it ...

[HK nabs \\$1.5M in ivory in 3rd big bust since July](#) Greenwich Time
The shipments came from Cote d'Ivoire and transited through Malaysia. Officials said the likely final destination was mainland China. No arrests have been ...

[Ivory Coast Raises Minimum Cocoa Price for Farmers by 3.4%](#) Bloomberg
Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer of cocoa, will pay farmers 3.4 percent more for their beans in the main harvest of the 2013-14 season starting today.

[Africa's animosity to ICC goes beyond justice, into politics](#)
BDlive

Africa's animosity to ICC goes beyond justice, into politics For instance, in the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the vanquished presidential contender, ...

[A new burst of energy in industrial activity](#)
Sierra Express Media

Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana produce 53% of the world's cocoa. ... 2008–2009 global financial crisis were largely due to "new mineral discoveries, ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 3, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. PDCI congress to go ahead as court rejects injunction to postpone it
2. Government takes note of ICC's arrest warrant for ex-Ivoirian youth leader
3. President Ouattara summons defecting soldiers to return home
4. Prime Minister opens forum on gender equality
5. Government raises minimum cocoa price by 3.4%

1. PDCI congress to go ahead as court rejects injunction to postpone it

A report in ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 8) quotes the spokesman of the committee tasked with organizing the 12th Congress of PDCI-RDA party, due to kick off today, as saying that the event will go ahead according to plan. The spokesman, Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, speaking yesterday at a press conference, said, "I wish to reassure all the party's members, Ivoirians and the international community that 12th Congress will go ahead." According to Adjoumani, more than 4,000 participants have registered for the gathering. The paper also reports the spokesman as saying that all the candidates for the party's chairmanship will be treated equally. On the court battle over the alleged exclusion of 6,000 participants, another article in this paper (p. 8) says the court yesterday rejected the demands of petitioners to postpone the congress.

A prominent headline in ***Le Nouveau Reveil*** (p. 2) says a court in Abidjan yesterday "humiliated" Alphonse Djedje Mady and Bertin Konan Kouadio, the two challengers of current chairman of the party Henry Konan Bedie, who is seeking reelection. "One cannot seek a court injunction to postpone a congress if they are not a participant," the paper quotes a judge as saying.

In the wake of the court's ruling, ***Le Temps*** (p. 3) quotes Djedje Mady as saying, "Despite all the difficulties, we will go to the congress." The paper (p. 2) also describes the congress as a "coup d'etat" planned by Bedie and his supporters to "take control" of the party's leadership.

According to an article in ***L'Inter*** (p. 4), Bedie and the three other candidates to the party's chairmanship held a closed door meeting yesterday. The paper quotes insiders as saying that the meeting was to "reach a consensus" or to come out with a "gentleman's agreement" before the congress gets underway today.

2. Government takes note of ICC's arrest warrant for ex-Ivoirian youth leader

A day after the International Criminal Court (ICC) made public an arrest warrant for Charles Ble Goude, the former youth leader under former president Laurent Gbagbo, a report in ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 6) quotes government spokesman Bruno Kone as saying, "We have taken note." Kone, speaking yesterday after a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara, is also reported as saying that the government will be giving the ICC, "the appropriate response." Pressed by reporters who were trying to compare the case of Ble Goude to that of the former president's wife, Simone Gbagbo, who the government says will be tried by domestic courts, the spokesperson said, "A case by case analysis will done and the appropriate response will be given the ICC."

Reporting on the government's reaction, ***Le Patriote*** (p. 2) indicates that Ble Goude is likely to be taken to The Hague. But a report in ***Le Temps*** (p. 8) claims that President Ouattara has no intention to hand over Ble Goude to the ICC.

3. President Ouattara summons defecting soldiers to return home

According to ***Le Patriote*** (p. 5), President Ouattara has given a "last chance" to soldiers who fled the country during the 2011 post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire to return home. The paper, referring to a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Interior and Security and the Ministry in Charge of Defense, says the defecting soldiers have up until November 30 to come back home or to be discharged from their duties.

At the same time, an article in pro-opposition newspaper ***Aujourd'hui*** (p. 2) suggests that the exiled soldiers constitute a potential threat to President Ouattara's regime, while ***Le Nouveau Courrier*** (p. 4) claims that the president's deadline for soldiers to return home is "a trap."

4. Prime Minister opens forum on gender equality

Fraternite Matin (p. 15) quotes Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan as saying, "Women are a vital element for agricultural development on the continent." The Prime Minister said this yesterday in Abidjan at the opening session of a conference on gender equality and women empowerment, jointly organized by the Ivoirian government and the African Union. The goal of the conference is to map out an action plan in preparation for the UN-backed Millennium Development Goals.

5. Government raises minimum cocoa price by 3.4%

Fraternite Matin (p. 5) publishes a statement announcing that the government will pay a minimum price of FCFA 750 (about US \$1.50) per kilogram of cocoa against FCFA 725 (about US \$1.45) guaranteed last year. The statement was issued yesterday after a cabinet meeting which instructed the Ivoirian cocoa board to "take the necessary measures to ensure the application of this decision."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast farmers say cocoa reform has let them down](#) Reuters

SAN PEDRO, Ivory Coast, Oct 1 (Reuters) - One year into a sweeping reform in the world's largest cocoa grower, Ivory Coast's farmers say the government has ...

[Côte d'Ivoire: ICC Seeking Militia Leader](#)

Human Rights Watch

Charles Blé Goudé (left with hand raised), former leader of the "Young Patriots" movement, attends a rally of Gbagbo supporters in January 2011, during the ...

[Ivory Coast Opposition Condemns Member's ICC Arrest Warrant](#) Voice of America

A leading member of Ivory Coast opposition says the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrant for Charles Ble Goude will undermine any attempt to ...

[IMF concludes 4th Extended Credit Facility review in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

BusinessDay

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has concluded the fourth review of Cote d'Ivoire's performance of programmes supported by the Extended Credit Facility ...

[Islamic Development Bank extends more than \\$170 million ...](#)

CPI Financial

During a two-day visit to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in September IDB Vice-President for Operations, Birima Boubacar Sidibe, signed two agreements for \$170.6 ...

[Liberia: UNHCR Organizes "go and See" Visit As Repatriation Tops ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

The Tripartite Commission comprises the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and the UNHCR. Meanwhile, despite challenging road conditions with ...

[Implementation of ECOWAS Common External Tariff starts 1 Jan. 2015](#)

African Manager

Rounding off their extraordinary session Monday in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, the ministers also adopted the Regulation on Supplementary Protection measures ...

[Cargill close to agreeing purchase of ADM's cocoa unit:sources](#)

Business Standard

Some analysts and bankers have cautioned that competition concerns would arise, particularly in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's top two growers, where ...

[Ivory Coast ups cocoa farmer price, curbs exporter competition](#)

Business Recorder

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast raised the minimum price payable to cocoa farmers and capped the amount exporters can pay for beans at ports on Wednesday, as the world's top grower increased state regulation ahead of a new harvest. The twin decisions, taken as ..

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 2, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions after ICC unseals arrest warrant for ex-Ivoirian youth leader
2. Head of reconciliation commission warns against hatred rhetoric
3. Members of Bedie's PDCI party in a court battle ahead of congress
4. Donors hail economic progress in Cote d'Ivoire
5. Seminar on reforms in mining sector opens in Abidjan

1. Reactions after ICC unseals arrest warrant for ex-Ivoirian youth leader

The decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to make public an arrest warrant for Charles Ble Goude, the former youth leader under former president Laurent Gbagbo, is widely commented upon today. Opposition paper *Notre Voie* (p. 4) describes the decision as, "a gross comedy" that, "undermines the credibility of the ICC." Another article in this paper (p. 5) points out "partiality" on the part of the court; despite a recent report released by the Embassy of the United States accusing forces loyal to President Alassane Ouattara of, "grave human rights violations." The paper (p. 4) also features an interview of an ICC spokesman who disclosed that, "other arrest warrants will soon be unsealed."

An article in *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 3) also accuses the court of being "biased," adding that since the 2011 post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire that left at least 3,000 people dead, three arrest warrants have been issued for supporters of former president Gbagbo versus none for those loyal to President Ouattara.

Aujourd'hui (p. 5), another newspaper close to the opposition FPI party sees the ICC's decision as, "a tempest in a teacup;" while an article in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) says the ICC continues to look "ridiculous." "How long would it take the court to release the warrants for supporters of Ouattara?" asks the paper, which suspects the ICC's decision as part of a ploy designed to "buy time." In the wake the ICC's decision, *Le Temps* (p. 7) warns that any act against the reconciliation process could throw Cote d'Ivoire into an "abyss."

Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2) suggests that the decision by the ICC to unseal the arrest warrant for Ble Goude a couple of days after authorities in Cote d'Ivoire refused to transfer the former president's wife, Simone Gbagbo, to the ICC, puts pressure on President Ouattara. "Cote d'Ivoire has the obligation to transfer suspects to The Hague," the paper also quotes ICC spokesman as saying. "Why Ble Goude should go to The Hague," is the headline in *Le Patriote* (p. 2), which presents the former youth leader as somebody who epitomizes violence and who served as "an executor" for former president Gbagbo. Meanwhile, *L'Expression* (p. 3) reports an Ivoirian judge describing the ICC's decision as, "ill-timed."

2. Head of reconciliation commission warns against hatred rhetoric

Chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) Charles Konan Banny has warned against, "the reappearance of hatred speech," reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). Banny, speaking yesterday at a CDVR event, urged Ivoirian political stakeholders to be "vigilant" because, "the country has not yet achieved full reconciliation."

Responding to critics who accuse the commission of not achieving much since its inception more than two years ago, Banny said, "Saying that nothing has been done is a sign of bad faith," reports *Le Jour Plus* (p. 6). "Tremendous work has been done," *Soir Info* (p. 4) quotes the chairman of the commission as saying.

3. Members of Bedie's PDCI party in a court battle ahead of congress

Soir Info (p. 5) warns against violence as rival factions within the PDCI-RDA party are engaged in a court battle the day before the start of a congress designed to elect a new president of the party. The court case is over the alleged exclusion of 6,000 participants from voting in the congress. "Bedie's camp has forged the list of participants," another article in this paper (**p. 6**) quotes Bertin Konan Kouadio, one of the challengers of the party's leadership, as saying.

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** suggests that the petitioners are also seeking the court's ruling to postpone the congress on the grounds that conditions for a violence-free gathering have yet to be met. Amid the ongoing court battle, pro-PDCI newspaper **Le Mandat (p. 7)** reports that the attorney of the party assures participants that the congress will go ahead according to plan.

4. Donors hail economic progress in Cote d'Ivoire

Fraternite Matin (p. 25) reports international donors as saying that economic reforms underway in Cote d'Ivoire after the 2011 post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire have generated better results than expected. According to the paper, the head of a delegation of donors made this public yesterday at a meeting with President Ouattara in Abidjan. "Macro-economic performance for the first quarter has been better than expected with a steady growth of the Gross Domestic Product and a decline of inflation," the paper quotes the head of the delegation, Michel Lazare, as saying.

5. Seminar on reforms in mining sector opens in Abidjan

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan has called for greater efforts to make the mining sector the second largest revenue-producer for the Ivoirian economy, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 25)**. The prime minister said this yesterday at seminar reviewing Cote d'Ivoire's mining code. Efforts must be made to enable the mining sector to contribute to Cote d'Ivoire's quest to become an emerging country by the year 2020, Duncan is reported as saying. The report also says that at this time, the mining sector accounts for about one percent of the Gross Domestic Product with around 3,000 jobs. International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Arrest Warrant for Ivory Coast Atrocities Suspect](#)

ABC News

The International Criminal Court says it has unsealed an arrest warrant for a man from Ivory Coast suspected of four counts of crimes against humanity allegedly ...

[ICC says arrest warrant issued for Ivory Coast politician Goude](#)

Reuters

... made public that an arrest warrant has been issued for Charles Ble Goude, a politician accused over post-election violence in Ivory Coast in 2010 and 2011

[Experts mull lifting of UN embargo on Cote d'Ivoire diamond](#)

BusinessGhana

International experts met in Cote d'Ivoire's economic capital Abidjan on Monday to examine the possibility of lifting UN embargo on the West African country's ...

[Ivory Coast notes ICC warrant of arrest](#)

eNCA

He is currently in detention in Ivory Coast where he also faces charges ... Goude, 40, is currently in detention in Ivory Coast where he also faces ...

[Opposition Condemns Member's ICC Arrest Warrant](#)

Voice of America

A leading member of Ivory Coast opposition says the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrant for Charles Ble Goude will undermine any attempt to stabilize the country. Ble Goude was the leader of a militia loyal to former President Laurent Gbagbo ...

[Studies Find Poverty Still High Despite Economic Growth](#)

AllAfrica.com

Africa: Studies Find Poverty Still High Despite Economic Growth ... mostly in West African countries, including Togo, Niger, Guinea, Ivory Coast, ...

[Exclusive: Cargill close to agreeing purchase of ADM cocoa unit - sources](#)

Reuters

Some analysts and bankers have cautioned that competition concerns would arise, particularly in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's top two growers, where both companies own processing plants. ADM, Cargill and Barry Callebaut account for as much as 40 ...

[IMF - INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND : Press Release ...](#)

4-traders (press release)

"The Côte d'Ivoire authorities and the IMF team made excellent ... public banks as well as the elaboration of electricity and mining sector code

[Sourcemap and Mars - making a difference in the Cote D'Ivoire](#)

Spend Matters UK/Europe

V4C is one element of the company's Sustainable Cocoa Initiative, which is ... development projects across the Soubré region of Côte d'Ivoire.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

October 1, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Panel monitoring Kimberly process meets with Ivoirian authorities**
2. **Cocoa board launches campaign against racketeering and smuggle**
3. **West African ministers meet over ECOWAS single currency**
4. **Network of investigative journalists launched**

1. Panel monitoring Kimberly process meets with Ivoirian authorities

An independent panel monitoring the application of the Kimberly Process in Cote d'Ivoire has started an investigation to determine whether the country can resume trade of its diamonds, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13). According to the paper, the panel, which met yesterday in Abidjan with Mining and Industry Minister Jean-Claude Brou, will be visiting diamond production zones before submitting a report that could lead to the lift of the ban imposed since 2005 on Ivoirian diamonds. "Our teams have enough information, but we want to see for ourselves the situation on the ground," the paper quotes the head of the panel, Maurice Niema, as saying.

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3) quotes Niema as saying that, at the end of this fact-finding mission, the panel will submit a report either demanding the lift of the embargo or make recommendations. *Soir Info* (p. 9) quotes the Mining and Industry Minister as deploring the costs of the embargo which is, "preventing the country from resources necessary for its economic and social development."

2. Cocoa board launches campaign against racketeering and smuggle

According to a report in *L'Expression* (p. 5), the Ivoirian cocoa board has launched a campaign aimed at fighting racketeering and the smuggling of cocoa into neighboring Ghana. The campaign, the report says, will also ensure that the price of cocoa is respected on the entire territory.

In a related development, a report in *Soir Info* (p. 9) says cocoa farmers are demanding the government increase the price of this commodity from FCFA 725 (about US \$1.45) per kilogram to FCFA 850 (US \$1.70) per kilogram.

3. West African ministers meet over ECOWAS single currency

Ministers from West African countries have started meeting this week in Abidjan in a bid to speed up the regional currency integration scheme, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). The report also says the ministers will come up with ideas on how to strengthen the ECOWAS regional market and monetary system within the body. The meeting will further evaluate progress made in the negotiation for the Economic Partnership Agreement between countries in the region and the European Union, as well as the implementation of a Common External Tariff between countries in the region.

According to an article in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 11), the current meeting is taking place ahead of the Summit of the ECOWAS heads of state scheduled for October 25 in Dakar, Senegal.

4. Network of investigative journalists launched

A report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 9) says a Network of Investigative Journalists of Cote d'Ivoire (ONJI-CI) was launched a few days ago in Abidjan. The paper quotes its president, Seriba Kone, as saying that this new organization will uphold professional journalism and contribute to efforts for Cote d'Ivoire to become an emerging country.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[ICC says arrest warrant issued for Ivory Coast politician Goude](#)

Reuters

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Judges at the International Criminal Court on Tuesday made public that an arrest warrant has been issued for ...

[How Cell Phone Minutes Can Help Map the Distribution of Wealth in ...](#)The Atlantic Cities

A group of Belgian researchers has come up with a novel way of mapping the distribution of wealth in Côte d'Ivoire—by looking at purchases of mobile airtime ...

[ECOWAS ministers meet on EPA, others](#)

African Manager

ECOWAS ministers were due to begin an extraordinary session in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from Monday (30Sept) to discuss the latest proposals to revive stalled ...

[Africa's industrialisation burst](#) The Africa Report

Lopes once pointed this out to Côte d'Ivoire's president, Alassane Ouattara, and lamented the fact that only about 10 percent of the money from chocolates goes ...

[Call for railway project receives support](#) GhanaWeb

The leaders of the five countries - Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire - met on the sideline of the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of ...

[Addressing the Training Issue for the Digital Transition in Africa ...](#)

HispanicBusiness.com

The company has worked for TV and Radio station mainly in West and ... Here are a few examples: RTI-Ivory Coast , TV CONGO- Congo, ...

[Call for railway project receives support](#)

GhanaWeb

Call for railway project receives support ... to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire for a double-lane return railway project has received immense support.

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent number of copies printed, not actual sales)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned daily newspaper

23,000 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily; leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara

7,000 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily

20,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

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

17,000 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily close to the RDR party of President Alassane Ouattara

17,000 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

30,000 daily

Nord-Sud Quotidien- (no current website)

Daily close to Speaker of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro

10,000 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

15,000 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily

22,000

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[Agence Ivoirienne](#) de Presse

Government-run news agency

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate