

National Daily Press Review: JANUARY 3-25, 2012

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 25, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. President Alassane Ouattara's state visit to France
2. Reactions following an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday
3. Role of Roman Catholic leaders in the reconciliation process
4. Arrest of a policeman jailed for killing a French journalist
5. Reform in coffee and cocoa sector
6. Plan to relocate the African Development Bank to Abidjan
7. Media training on good governance, the fight against corruption and the promotion of human rights

1. President Alassane Ouattara's visit to France

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 2) hints that Cote d'Ivoire and France will sign a new defense agreement tomorrow, the day after President Alassane Ouattara's arrival in Paris for a state visit. According to the paper's special envoy, President Ouattara is scheduled to meet his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy at the Elysee, the French Presidential Palace. The report also indicates that under the new defense agreement, France will scale down its troops stationed in Cote d'Ivoire from 700 to 250 or 300 soldiers. With more on the agenda, the report says that President Ouattara will be meeting with French businessmen as well as the speaker of the French National Assembly and the French Prime Minister. The article also suggests that this maiden official visit will boost French-Ivorian cooperation.

A prominent article in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 5) suggests that President Ouattara's visit is the mark of "a new chapter" in the French-Ivorian relations, and will help foster "the resumption of full bilateral

cooperation" between the two countries. According to the paper, top government officials including Economy and Finance Minister Charles Diby Koffi and Foreign Affairs Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, among others, are travelling with the president. "48 hours to revive relations between Paris and Abidjan," says a prominent headline in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3)**. With a picture of Ouattara and Sarkozy on its front page, ***L'Inter*** carries an article (p. 3) suggesting that "the restoration of security throughout the Ivorian territory will be high on the agenda" during President Ouattara's visit to France.

Meanwhile, a report in ***Soir Info* (p. 4)** says that supporters of former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo, who is facing trial in The Hague, are threatening to protest President Ouattara's visit to Paris. "Ouattara's state visit to France: Africans to protest," says a front-page headline in ***Notre Voie***. According to the paper, several pro-Gbagbo supporters are set to organize demonstrations in the French capital to denounce "the dictatorial posture of Ouattara's regime in Cote d'Ivoire." "The patriots have a surprise for Ouattara after the barbarism of his partisans," says a prominent headline in ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 1)**. But an article in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5)** announces counter demonstrations to be held in Paris by pro-Ouattara supporters.

2. Reactions following an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday

"The civil society has called on the RDR party to sensitize its supporters on peace and democracy," reports ***Notre Voie* (p. 4)**. According to the paper, this was contained in a statement issued by Patrick N'Gouan, the head of CSCI, an Ivorian civic group, in reaction to an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally Saturday in Abidjan.

"The United States is angry," writes ***Soir Info* (p. 3)**, which comments that the United States is not happy after the incidents that occurred Saturday during the meeting organized by the former ruling FPI party in Abidjan. The paper quotes a statement issued by U.S. Embassy as saying, "Freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are fundamental democratic rights and it is the responsibility of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to protect those rights." "Paris condemns violence against supporters of Gbagbo," says a front-page headline in ***L'Inter***.

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 4)** carries a statement issued by the police announcing an investigation into Saturday's incidents. The statement also says that "security measures were taken by the police to secure the meeting."

Meanwhile, a prominent headline in ***Le Patriote* (p. 1)** describes the attack on pro-Gbagbo supporters during their meeting Saturday as "the revolt of the population of Yopougon against the torturers." The paper also carries gruesome photos showing people who were allegedly killed or burned together with a headline reading: "The FPI killed and burned youths." "We went through hell," the paper quotes a supposed Yopougon dweller as saying, and calls on supporters of the former president "to change their speeches and support the reconciliation process."

3. Role of Roman Catholic leaders in the reconciliation process

"150 Catholic clerics pray for reconciliation," says a prominent in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 1)**. The report (p. 7) says that Catholic clerics from 17 West African countries have gathered in the Ivorian political capital Yamoussoukro for a conference on "The church, an engine for reconciliation, justice and peace in West Africa." According to the paper, President Ouattara, who was present at the opening ceremony

yesterday, underscored the importance of reconciliation for the population in the crisis-stricken West African region. "People living in West Africa want to turn the page after years of crises that they were confronted with," President Ouattara is reported as saying. Reporting on the same event, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 1)** calls on Catholic leaders from Cote d'Ivoire to apologize for their role during the recent political crisis.

4. Arrest of a policeman jailed for killing a French journalist

Le Patriote (p. 1) carries a prominent headline announcing the arrest of Theodore Dago Sery, a policeman who was jailed in December 2003 after he was found guilty of the killing of Jean Helene, a French journalist in Abidjan. Dago Sery, who was sentenced to 17 years in prison and detained in MACA, a prison in Abidjan, was reported to have escaped.

5. Reform in coffee and cocoa sector

A front-page story in **Fraternite Matin** says that a new board, which has been tasked by the government to oversee reforms in coffee and cocoa sector, has been officially installed. According to the paper, the ceremony took place yesterday in Abidjan under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Mamadou Sangafowa, who said: "One of the missions of the board is to pursue reforms in order to enable the attainment of the first stage of debt relief under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC)." The report also says that members of the new board have elected Lambert Kouassi Konan, who represents the President of the Republic on the board, as its chairman.

6. Plan to relocate the African Development Bank to Abidjan

Fraternite Matin announces that the headquarters of the African Development Bank (AfDB) will be moved from Tunis to Abidjan. According to the paper, this announcement was made by the president of the bank, Donald Kaberuka, who cited the "normalization of the situation in Cote d'Ivoire."

7. Media training on good governance, the fight against corruption and the promotion of human rights

A report in **L'Inter (p. 16)** says that nearly two dozens of journalists yesterday received training on "how the media can help fight corruption and promote good governance." The training was organized by the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan in partnership with UNJCI, a network of Ivorian journalists. The report says that the participants also discussed "the role of the media in promoting human rights." The training was the final of a series of three that were organized for journalists in Yamoussoukro and the western city of Man.

Media affiliation and circulation

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RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000
AIP	State News Agency	

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 24, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions following an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday
2. Media reaction to Deputy Assistant Secretary William Fitzgerald's statement on Cote d'Ivoire

3.U.S.-Cote d'Ivoire economic cooperation

4.President Allassane Ouattara's visit to France

1. Reactions following an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday

"The first clash between Obama and Ouattara," says a prominent headline in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 1) with pictures of the two presidents. The article (p. 4) suggests that nine months after the fall of Laurent Gbagbo, the Ivorian former president, "the United States is very angry," and for the first time "the United States seems to have distanced itself from President Ouattara." "Violence is an unacceptable obstacle to the continued progress of Cote d'Ivoire," the paper quotes a statement issued Monday by the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan as saying in reaction to an attack on a pro-Gbagbo rally on Saturday in Abidjan. The paper also quotes the statement as saying, "The U.S. calls on the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to undertake a full and impartial investigation and to take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents," adding that the choice of words like "strongly condemns" or "unacceptable obstacle" are evidence of the level of anger and indignation expressed by the U.S. Government following Saturday's event.

"Obama says no to pro-Ouattara's extremists," says another headline in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 4) which quotes other portions of the statement as saying, "Freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are fundamental democratic rights and it is the responsibility of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to protect those rights. It is likewise the responsibility of all citizens to respect the rights of others and to participate in the political process in a non-violent manner."

Le Patriote devotes its front-page to calling for an end to continual attacks on rallies organized by the former ruling FPI party. The paper hints that the Interior Minister is to investigate Saturday's incident, but calls members of Gbagbo's party "torturers who want to become martyrs." "Dictatorship in Cote d'Ivoire: The United States distances itself from Ouattara," says a prominent headline in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 1). "The United States strongly condemns," says another front-page story in *Notre Voie*, while an article in *Fraternite Matin* says that "The United States condemns acts of violence."

2. Media reaction to Deputy Assistant Secretary William Fitzgerald's statement on Cote d'Ivoire

"Obama calls for Gbagbo's trial," says a front-page story in *Nord-Sud Quotidien*. According to the paper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William Fitzgerald, during an interview with the French international broadcaster RFI, said: "Gbagbo must be absolutely tried." The paper (p. 2) also quotes DAS Fitzgerald, who said he was "impressed by the program of President Ouattara." "He must be tried," says a prominent headline in *L'Inter* (p. 1) which comments that the United States is opposed to the release of former president Laurent Gbagbo. *Notre Voie* (p. 1) carries a prominent picture of DAS Fitzgerald and quotes him as saying, "Gbagbo has achieved great things for his country."

3. U.S.-Cote d'Ivoire economic cooperation

An article in *L'Inter* (p. 13) says that after its eligibility for AGOA, Cote d'Ivoire is negotiating to participate in another American program. According to the paper, a delegation of American

businessmen met last week with the Minister of Planning and Development, Albert Mabri Toikeusse, to talk about Cote d'Ivoire's eligibility for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Cote d'Ivoire eligibility for the MCC would allow the country to obtain some 500 billion FCFA (about US \$994 million) in the form of aid packages.

4. President Alassane Ouattara's visit to France

Relations between Cote d'Ivoire and France are also the subject of front-page story in ***Fraternite Matin***, which announces that President Ouattara is expected in France from January 25 to January 26, 2012 as part of a state visit. The paper suggests that the visit will help open a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries. Another article (**p. 2**) says that France is the largest trade partner of Cote d'Ivoire, adding that French investments in Cote d'Ivoire represent 28 percent of the total private investment in this country. The paper also hints that Presidents Sarkozy and Ouattara will sign a new defense partnership agreement, adding that France will help train Ivorian forces.

Media affiliation and circulation

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Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000
AIP	State News Agency	

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 23, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

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1. Attack on pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday
2. Security and the general political situation in Cote d'Ivoire
3. Fight against the worst forms of child labor

1. Attack on pro-Gbagbo rally in Abidjan on Saturday

A front-page story in ***Fraternite Matin*** says that at least one person was killed and several others wounded Saturday in Abidjan following an attack on a rally organized by supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo. In an article (**p. 5**), the paper attributes this information to Michel Amani N'Guessan, a leading member of Gbagbo's FPI party, who was speaking at a press conference after the rally. Amani N'Guessan, the report says, accused security forces deployed at the event of failing to protect rally participants.

Another article in ***Fraternite Matin*** (**p. 4**) says that the rally was disrupted by thugs who threw stones at the participants. The paper quotes one of the thugs as saying, "This is insulting. The FPI killed a lot of Ivorians. We cannot accept that this party is holding a meeting here and praising Laurent Gbagbo who is an assassin." The report also says that UN peacekeeping forces, police and gendarmes who were present at the scene helped prevent a clash between the thugs and pro-Gbagbo supporters.

In a related development, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) publishes a statement issued by UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) which "strongly condemns incidents that occurred Saturday in Yopougon during the rally organized by the FPI party." The statement also says "many were injured" during the rally; and calls on the government "to take the necessary steps to investigate events that led to these incidents, to identify the actors, arrest them and bring them to justice."

"Crackdown on FPI meeting: Barbarism in power," says a banner headline in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 1). According to the paper, "the regime in Cote d'Ivoire is gripped by panic following the exceptional turnout at the rally." "The FPI will overcome Ouattara's dictatorship," the paper quotes Amani N'Guessan as saying. According to the article (p. 4), nearly 40,000 people attended Saturday's meeting. "FPI meeting scarred with blood," says a front-page headline in *Soir Info*, while a prominent headline in *Notre Voie* (p. 1) says, "The RDR and its militia groups attack the rally organized by the FPI." "Drama unfolds at FPI rally," says a front-page headline in *L'Inter*.

A front-page headline in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* blames the incidents at the rally on what it describes as "anti-Gbagbo extremists." The paper (p. 5) also quotes government spokesperson Bruno Kone who promised that "the Interior Minister will investigate the incidents and punish the perpetrators."

Meanwhile, a banner headline in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 1) says that the rally organized by the former ruling party ran into violence due to the speakers' inflammatory rhetoric. According to a front-page story in *Le Patriote* (p. 1), "insults, provocations and violence," were the major messages delivered by pro-Gbagbo supporters at the rally on Saturday. The paper allegedly reports that the motive behind these messages was "to create mayhem and chase away investors."

2. Security and the general political situation in Cote d'Ivoire

A front-page story in *Fraternite Matin* quotes Ivorian Chief of Defense Staff General Soumaila Bakayoko who vowed "to fire elements of the Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire who have not returned to the military barracks." According to the paper (p. 6), General Bakayoko sent the warning during a recent tour of the garrisons in the northern town of Korhogo. The report also quotes the army officer who announced plans to provide Ivorian soldiers with a new uniform and an ID card.

On the general political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) quotes former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who has commended the Ivorian authorities for the progress that has been made since they came to power. According to the paper, Annan, who is also a member of The Elders, was speaking in Abidjan after a series of meetings with President Alassane Ouattara and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro. "The reconciliation and peace process must remain the national priority in order to overcome past heritage," Annan reportedly said.

3. Fight against the worst forms of child labor

"Cote d'Ivoire has decided to strongly fight this phenomenon," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) quotes the Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Solidarity, Gilbert Kafana Kone, as saying. According to the paper, the minister was speaking ahead of an international meeting on "child labor in cocoa farms," scheduled to get underway today in the U.S.

Media affiliation and circulation

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AIP	State news agency	

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 20, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Opposition papers say Gbagbo's FPI denied access to state media
2. Mass grave found in south east town of Adzope
3. Ivorian government outlines new policy on private investments

1. Opposition papers say Gbagbo's FPI denied access to state media

According to a report by **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)** Gbagbo's FPI will hold its rally according to plan after Ivorian authorities gave their formal consent for the event. However, the paper denounced RTI's decision not to air the announcement prepared by the FPI to advertise the event. The daily alleged that RTI officials are denying the FPI access state media and criticized RTI for a double-standard regarding political parties. The paper claimed that under the current regime only activities carried by pro-governmental political parties are being reported by the state media.

In a separate development, the same paper (**p. 5**) noted that according to RTI official Mrs. Da Chagas, the decision not to air the announcement stemmed from a collective measure applicable to all political parties, irrespective of their affiliation. "In view of the fragile situation, political announcements are closely monitored," she said arguing that political propaganda is prohibited under this measure. According to **L'Expression** RTI would have accepted the announcement if the FPI had removed pictures of Laurent Gbagbo and Affi N'Guessan.

Still on media issue, **Le Patriote (p. 3)** noted that important decisions came out of the meeting President Alassane Ouattara had on Wednesday with media professionals. According to the daily, in a bid to support the press, the Ivorian leader has announced a three-year suspension of taxes imposed on media companies. This measure, the paper said, was welcomed by media professionals as it will allow the press to recover after a difficult decade.

Notre Voie (p. 3) for its part criticized President Ouattara and his regime, which it accused of attempting to silence the press. The daily alleged that it nine reporters that have been imprisoned during President Ouattara's nine-month term. The paper argued that President Ouattara's rhetoric in support of a free press is inconsistent with the actions his regime has taken against the opposition press.

2. Mass grave found in south east town of Adzope

According to a report by **Le Nouveau Reveil (p.10)** a mass grave was found in the south east town of Adzope yesterday. Providing details, the paper underscored that human remains were unearthed from the two pits for further investigations. Government officials, including the country's deputy prosecutor, joined law enforcements agents and UN investigators to gather more information. The paper alleged that the remains are likely to be those of individuals killed during the country's post-electoral crisis that claimed the lives of 3, 000 people.

On security issues, an article in **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** informed readers that a hundred soldiers and mercenaries have been arrested in the south city of Dabou. The daily noted that their arrest followed the discovery of a militia training camp in the city. These individuals are currently under custody awaiting trial in an Abidjan court for their alleged role in the post-electoral violence.

3. Ivorian government outlines new policy on private investments

A report in **Soir Info (p. 7)** noted that the Ivorian government is on the verge of adopting a new policy on private investments. According to the daily, a two-day seminar was recently held in Abidjan to discuss the issue. The session which brought together government officials, including the Ivorian Minister of Industry, Mr. Dosso Moussa, Mrs. Kaba Niale, the Minister of Housing and World Bank Director for Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Madani Tall came out with proposals to streamline procedures related to investments and to promote sustainable development. The final project is to be ratified by the government, the paper added.

On the energy sector, the same paper **(p. 7)** noted that the Ivorian government has signed an agreement with three Nigerian petroleum companies which will be conducting off-shore exploration. The signing ceremony recently brought together the Ivorian Minister of Energy, Mr. Adama Toungara and the Ivorian Minister of Finance, Mr. Charles Koffi Diby as well representatives from Taleveras Energy, a Nigeria-based petroleum company. The agreement, the paper said calls for the joint exploitation of wells.

On the human rights issues, an article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** noted that the Ivorian government is committed to fighting child labor and recently released a roadmap to address the phenomenon. In accordance with a document recently released by the Ivorian State Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Mr. Gilbert Kafana, children under the age of 16 are prohibited from carrying out household work and other dangerous labor.

Media affiliation and circulation

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Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
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Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000
Le Temps	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	30,000

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 19, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit triggers mixed comments in Ivorian press
2. UN relief official says Cote d'Ivoire still needs humanitarian assistance
3. Interior Minister authorizes Gbagbo's FPI rally
4. President Ouattara vows to support the press but calls on journalists to report responsibly

1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit triggers mixed comments in Ivorian press

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton concluded her two-day visit to Cote d'Ivoire on Tuesday. However, Ivorian papers continue to report on the visit. Thus, an article culled from **lobserveur.bf**

and published in **L'Inter (p. 8)** underscored that the move bodes well for multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries. According to the report, the U.S. is likely to strengthen cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire and enhance support for the security sector in a bid to counter the threats posed by AQMI, maritime piracy, and drug trafficking. The paper recalled that the U.S. endorsed, along with France, the victory of the then presidential claimant and was one of President Ouattara's major supports during the political stalemate that followed the 2010 presidential election.

L'intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3) noted that the visit was also meant to encourage a new approach with Ivorian political shareholders, including Gbagbo's FPI. The daily alleged that U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III who was very active during the political standoff between the then presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara and former President Laurent Gbagbo is now in a role of facilitator between the two rival groups. "A door is thus opened for the FPI which can now use this opportunity to directly voice their concerns to the U.S. Ambassador," the paper cited a diplomat.

But, according to **Notre Voie (p. 2)** the hidden agenda of the visit was to convince the Ivorian leader to hand over Prime Minister Guillaume Soro and his warlords to the International Criminal Court. The daily referred to a **Jeune Afrique** story which it had reprinted the day before.

2. UN relief official says Cote d'Ivoire still needs humanitarian assistance

According to Deputy UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mrs. Catherine Bragg, Cote d'Ivoire remains in great need of humanitarian assistance. **Le Quotiden d'Abidjan (p. 12)** noted that Mrs. Bragg made the announcement yesterday after a three-day fact-finding mission in the country. "Assistance to the most vulnerable persons remains an absolute priority, especially in the country's western and south-western regions," she said as she called on donors to continue to assist the country in addressing these challenges. "Considerable needs remain in several areas such as protection of civilians, restoration of means of livelihood, shelter, access to basic services, and voluntary return and reintegration of displaced persons and refugees," she added. A total of CFA Francs 85 billion (US \$ 173 million) that is still needed to address humanitarian challenges in Cote d'Ivoire she said, adding that the premature exit of humanitarian actors could aggravate the situation.

This development came as the UN Special Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Albert Gerard Koenders recommitted the UN to supporting Ivorian authorities in addressing security challenges and supporting actions to recover the country's economic growth. The information was given by **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)** which noted that Mr. Koenders made the announcement yesterday at the end of a meeting with the Ivorian Premier Guillaume Soro.

Still on home affairs, the same paper **(p. 4)** noted that former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan met yesterday with President Alassane Ouattara and the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mr. Charles Konan Banny. According to the daily, Mr. Annan commended the Ivorian leader for efforts made toward national reconciliation. "Reconciliation is a national concern, not just a matter for President Ouattara or Mr. Konan Banny...All Ivorians must be involved in it," he reportedly said.

3. Interior Minister authorizes Gbagbo's FPI rally

According to **L'Inter (p. 3)** Ivorian authorities have given their go ahead to a rally scheduled this Saturday by the central FPI leadership. Citing sources close to the Ivorian Minister of Domestic Affairs,

Mr. Hamed Bakayoko, the paper noted that the police will monitor the event to avoid clashes. “The Ministry has been officially notified and has given its consent for the holding of the rally,” the paper reported an official from the Ministry as saying.

However, an article in **Le Quotiden d’Abidjan (p. 2)** alleged that elements from the Republican Forces of Cote d’Ivoire (FRCI) yesterday prevented partisans of former President Laurent Gbagbo from attending a ceremony presenting a book by Gbagbo’s youth wing leader Charles Ble Goude. According to the daily, FRCI elements used tear gas to disband participants. This situation, the paper said, does not bode well for Saturday’s rally which is likely to mobilize more people.

4. President Ouattara vows to support the press but calls on journalists to report responsibly

Yesterday President Alassane Ouattara welcomed journalists and media professionals at the Presidential Palace. Providing details on the event, **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)** noted that the occasion was for the Ivorian leader to extend his New Year wishes to the press. Most Ivorian and foreign media organizations, including the Ivorian Journalists Union (UNJCI) attended the event, at which President Ouattara recommitted the government to supporting a free press. He called on journalists to learn from past mistakes and to report responsibly

Still on media, **L’Inter (p.14)** reported on a workshop recently held in Yamoussoukro. Jointly organized by the US Embassy and the UNJCI (Union Nationale des Journalistes de Cote d’Ivoire) the one-day session trained local reporters on good governance and the fight against corruption, the paper said, adding that in his presentation Judge Malan Ehounou underscored the necessity for media professionals to be involved in the fight against corruption.

Media affiliation and circulation

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,900
L’Intelligent d’Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L’Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	21,960
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former	17,190

	President Henri Konan Bedie	
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000
Le Temps	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	30,000

NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 18, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says she is upbeat about Cote d'Ivoire's development but urges greater dialogue with opposition
2. UN Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire to discuss possible lifting of arms embargo
3. Gbagbo's FPI to hold rally over the weekend

1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says she remains upbeat about Cote d'Ivoire's development but urges greater dialogue with opposition

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's maiden visit to Cote d'Ivoire was in the limelight of today's press. With a banner picture showing Secretary Clinton and President Ouattara addressing journalists,

Fraternite Matin (pp. 4&5) noted that Mrs. Clinton had talks yesterday with the Ivorian leader. The two-hour closed door meeting was followed by a joint press conference, the paper said, adding that Secretary Clinton had on the occasion commended the Ivorian leader for recent achievements advancing peace. "We have no doubt, President Barack Obama and myself, that Cote d'Ivoire can once again be the engine of economic growth for Ivorians, but also for the region," the paper cited her as saying. "I thank the president for traveling to 10 of the 15 ECOWAS countries during his early months in office because West Africa has so much potential, and Cote d'Ivoire has to be at the center of realizing that potential," she further added. According to Secretary Clinton, the United States stands ready to be a partner and a friend to Cote d'Ivoire and its people. "The United States stands ready ... to provide assistance and support as appropriate to help you achieve the goals that you have set forth for the future," she reportedly said in her address alongside the Ivorian leader at the presidential palace yesterday. **RTI** television broadcast an excerpt of the conference in its 20:00 news bulletin, and most newspapers devoted multiple pages to the visit. **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (pp. 6&7)** underscored that Secretary Clinton also urged the Ivorian leader to engage in discussion with the opposition. "It is important to continue the democratic process that you have embarked upon to include all voices, even dissenting ones, in political dialogue, because democracy requires not just elections, but strong institutions, an independent, impartial judiciary, a free press," she reportedly said. For his part, the Ivorian leader, in his remarks, recommitted the government to working to build credible and strong institutions. "We have the firm will to build the rule of law with impartial justice and, of course, respect for human rights," **Le Patriote (pp. 2&3)** reported the Ivorian leader as pleading for the U.S. support of Cote d'Ivoire's attempt to be admitted by the IMF and the World Bank into the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

Although the private meeting was closed to the press, **Nord Sud Quotidien (pp. 2&3)** noted that the agenda included cross-border crime, development and other concerns.

L'inter (p. 2&3) noted, however, that Secretary Clinton has deliberately ignored political parties.

Le Temps (p. 3) and **Notre Voie (p. 3)** both reprinted a **Jeune Afrique** story that alleged that the purpose of the visit was to convince President Alassane Ouattara to hand over Prime Minister Guillaume Soro to the International Criminal Court. Citing American diplomatic sources, the paper argued that the U.S. has called on the Ivorian leader to set up a national unity government and desires that the Prime Minister and his close associates who may have committed crimes and human rights abuses appear before the ICC - "even as mere witnesses."

Le Nouveau Courrier (pp. 4&5) had a similar account tagging the Ivorian premier as the "scapegoat" to be sacrificed soon for taking lead of the 2002 armed rebellion which split the country into a rebel-held north and a government-controlled south. The paper also criticized the United States for a double-standard policy on human rights and the International Criminal Court, noting that the US has not ratified the Treaty of Rome and thus does not recognize the competency of the ICC.

2. UN Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire to discuss possible lifting of arms embargo

According to **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3)** the UN Special Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Bert Koenders will discuss next week at the UN headquarters in New York the possibility of lifting the arms embargo affecting Cote d'Ivoire. The information, the paper said, came out of the meeting, Mr. Koenders had yesterday with President Alassane Ouattara. "The decision must come from the UN Security Council

and I am going to discuss the issue," Mr. Koenders reportedly said, adding that "raising the embargo will allow the police and the gendarmerie to be equipped to fully carry out their missions."

3. Gbagbo's FPI to hold rally over the weekend

According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, Gbagbo's FPI will hold a rally on Saturday in its Yopougon stronghold. The rally which will be the first one organized by the central FPI leadership since Gbagbo's arrest last year; some local elements of the party have organized previous demonstrations which have led to clashes and other incidents. FPI official Mr. Michel Amani, noted that authorization to hold the meeting has not yet been given, although discussions are underway.

This update came as opposition papers, namely **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3) and Le Temps (p. 5)** noted that on the margins of the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. on January 15, hundreds gathered in Atlanta, Georgia to demonstrate in support of African leaders, including Laurent Gbagbo currently awaiting trial at the ICC.

Media affiliation and circulation

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,952
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	21,960
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Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

Le Temps	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	30,000
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NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 17, 2012

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Today's Top Story

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1. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Cote d'Ivoire

Secretary Clinton's visit to Cote d'Ivoire is the major issue in Ivorian media today. "Hillary Clinton is here," says a front-page headline in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien*** with a picture of the Secretary's arrival in Abidjan yesterday on its front page. The paper (**p. 2**) also carries another picture showing Ivorian Foreign Affairs Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan flanked by Ambassador Phillip Carter III welcoming Secretary Clinton.

The state broadcaster RTI-TV1 also carried footage showing Foreign Affairs Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan flanked by Ambassador Phillip Carter III and other government officials welcoming Secretary Clinton. The report says that Secretary Clinton arrived in Abidjan as part of a four-nation tour in West Africa.

A prominent headline in ***the state-owned Fraternite Matin*** says that President Alassane Ouattara will hold a tete-a-tete today with Secretary Clinton. The paper (**p. 6**) comments that Secretary Clinton's visit to Cote d'Ivoire marks "the return of Cote d'Ivoire to the international community." The paper also recalls President Obama's call for "strong institutions and not strongmen in Africa," during his visit to Ghana in 2009. The article also suggests that Secretary Clinton's visit will help "boost" cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire and the U.S., adding Cote d'Ivoire is again eligible for AGOA, a program that will enable Cote d'Ivoire to export many products to the U.S. market tax-free.

An article on ***the state-run news agency AIP*** also says that Secretary Clinton's visit is "to showcase U.S. support for national reconciliation and strengthening democratic institutions following successful legislative elections in December 2011." According to the article, development, democracy, reconciliation, human rights, economic and security cooperation will be high on the agenda during this visit.

“Reinforcement of relations between Cote d’Ivoire and U.S.,” says another headline in **L’Inter (p. 2)**. The paper quotes a media advisory issued by the U.S. Embassy saying, “Secretary Clinton will meet with President Ouattara and showcase U.S. support for national reconciliation and strengthening democratic institutions following successful legislative elections in December 2011.” The visit of Secretary Clinton to Cote d’Ivoire, comments the paper, shows that “the diplomacy of President Ouattara’s government is yielding fruitful results.” A prominent headline on the front page of the paper, however, explains “how the Americans have sealed the airport” as Secretary Clinton arrived for the first time in Cote d’Ivoire. The report says that the security was so tight that photographers and videographers had no choice but to take pictures from a long distance.

“Hillary Clinton arrives in Abidjan under heavy military and police escort,” reads a front-page headline in **Le Patriote**, which reports that journalists, who went to the airport to cover the arrival of the Secretary “could not see or hear anything.” According to the paper (**p. 2**), the Ivorian security forces, backed by their American counterparts, spared no effort to ensure maximum security for the former American first lady. “The airport is cordoned off as Secretary Clinton arrives in Abidjan,” says a front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil**. According to the paper, American security agents sealed off the airport while presidential guards detached to the airport were pushed back.

Media affiliation and circulation

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,000
L’Intelligent d’Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L’Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party	17,000

	of President Alassane Ouattara	
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.

American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 13, 2012

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Today’s Top Stories

1. President Ouattara says 2012 brings hope as the country will address major challenges
2. DNA tests show remains not of missing reporter
3. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s visit triggers mixed reaction in the local press
4. The trial of the former heads of the cocoa and coffee body adjourns
5. A new pro-opposition paper to start next week

1. President Ouattara says 2012 brings hope as the country will address major challenges

President Alassane Ouattara yesterday received New Year’s wishes from the diplomatic corps accredited in Cote d’Ivoire and from the country’s top military brass and religious dignitaries. The ceremony made news in most pro-government papers, especially in ***Fraternite Matin (pp. 4 - 6)*** which noted that in his address, the Ivorian leader underscored that 2012 is a year of hope for the

country which went through ordeals last year. "We are now embarked on a reconciliation process and we are rebuilding the country," he reportedly said. According to the daily, President Ouattara recommitted the government to addressing the country's major challenges, including taking the necessary measures to foster homeland security, promote investment and foster national cohesion.

Still on the issue, **Le Patriote (p. 2)** noted that U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III attended the event. Speaking to journalists, the U.S. envoy reportedly said he remains upbeat on the country's recovery. "My feeling is that there is room for hope... the international community remains committed to helping the country regain its leadership in the sub-region and also to supporting President Ouattara in implementing his programs."

2. DNA tests show remains not of missing reporter

Remains unearthed last week in the western city of Issia are not those of missing French reporter Guy-Andre Kieffer according to DNA results released yesterday. Providing details, **Soir Info (p. 4)** noted that the announcement was made by a lawyer close to the case, Mr. Alexis Gublin. "Samples of the body sent to France for identification by DNA tests were not conclusive," he said, adding however that the "investigation will continue."

For opposition papers, particularly **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 5)** and **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**, this update is a setback for the ruling regime. An article in **Le Nouveau Courrier** alleged that French prosecutor Patrick Ramael is not fair enough in his investigations.

3. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit triggers mixed comments in the local press

Most dailies reported on the forthcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Tagged as a move likely to foster the relationship between Cote d'Ivoire and the United States, **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** noted that security issues, especially in connection with threats posed by the Al Qaida branch in the Maghreb and economic issues are likely to be high on the agenda of the visit.

Soir Info (p. 7) carried a similar account, highlighting that the U.S. intends to expand its multi-faceted relationships with Cote d'Ivoire which, according to insiders, is a "strategic country" for the Obama administration. The move, the paper said, is also to counter France's hegemony in the country's economy. Secretary Clinton's visit was arranged during the Ivorian leader's recent trip to the U.S., the paper said.

However, for opposition papers, such as **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 5)** Secretary Clinton is coming to "take her share after the job." The daily alleged that the visit, which comes a few weeks after the U.S. advised its citizens to avoid traveling to Cote d'Ivoire, is meant to "right a wrong" in the cocoa sector where American businessmen are being left aside by a regime it helped gain power.

Similarly, **Aujourd'hui (p. 3)** noted that there is nothing to expect from this visit.

4. The trial of former heads of the coffee and cocoa body adjourned

According to **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p.3)**, an Abidjan court has adjourned the trial of the former heads of the Ivorian coffee and cocoa body who are being accused of mismanagement and embezzlement. The date of the new trial of the accused, who are currently on bail, is scheduled for February 16, the paper said.

5. New pro-opposition paper to start next week

According to *Aujourd'hui (p. 3)*, a new pro-opposition paper is to be launched next week. Called Lg Infos, the new general information daily will feature in-depth investigations and political interviews.

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,970
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 12, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Announcement of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Cote d'Ivoire next week
2. Handover of equipment to the Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III
3. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire
4. Security issues
5. The trial of the former heads of the cocoa and coffee bodies
6. Fight against worst forms of child labor

1. Announcement of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Cote d'Ivoire next week

With a picture of a smiling Secretary Clinton on its front page, **Le Patriote** carries a prominent headline reading, "Hillary in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire fascinates the world." An article in this paper (**p. 2**) says that Secretary Clinton is expected in Cote d'Ivoire from January 16 to 17, 2012. The paper comments that with President Alassane Ouattara in power, Cote d'Ivoire has again become "a country to visit," adding that Cote d'Ivoire under the leadership of its president has decided to reposition itself in the international community.

"Cote d'Ivoire is back, Hillary Clinton in Abidjan from January 16 to 17, 2012," says a prominent headline in **Fraternite Matin (p. 1)**. Secretary Clinton's visit is "a mark of the efficiency of the country's new diplomacy," the paper quotes government spokesperson Bruno Kone as saying after a cabinet meeting Wednesday chaired by President Ouattara.

Reporting on the same issue, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** quotes Kone who underscored the "excellent relations" between Cote d'Ivoire and the United States. "Obama sends Hillary Clinton to Ouattara," says a front-page headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien**. The paper recalls last year's meeting between President Barack Obama and Ouattara in Washington. Secretary Clinton's visit will help buttress the relationship between Cote d'Ivoire and the United States, writes **L'Inter (p. 2)**, which also believes that the visit will help restore the image of Cote d'Ivoire.

On the rationale behind Secretary Clinton's maiden visit to Cote d'Ivoire, **Soir Info (p. 5)** carries an article culled from French news magazine Jeune Afrique alleging that "diplomatic and security issues" will top the agenda during meetings with authorities in Cote d'Ivoire, including President Ouattara and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro. "The United States intends to use Cote d'Ivoire as its regional intelligence center, especially in the fight against Al-Qaida in Maghreb (AQMI) and maritime pirates." The article further suggests that the visit will also focus on "economic issues" as "the United States fears losing its position in favor of France."

2. Handover of equipment to the Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III

An article in **L'Inter (p. 13)** says that the United States has donated more than FCFA 400 million (about US \$800,000) to help restore the rule of law in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper reports that this package is to help the government of Cote d'Ivoire equip 15 tribunals throughout the country. **State broadcaster RTI TV1** also carried footage of the donation ceremony and quoted Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio as saying, "The donation will help the government face three challenges, including the promotion of the rule of law and human rights and to reintegrate the Ivorian justice system into the international judicial system."

3. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** says that the results of DNA tests on the human remains believed to be those of Guy-Andre Kieffer, a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire, could be announced on Friday. The report says these results were originally planned to be announced on Wednesday but quotes Kieffer's lawyer as saying that "the results could be released on Friday."

4. Security issues

A prominent report in **L'Inter (p. 1)** says that several people were killed following gunfire between elements of the Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire and unidentified armed men. According to the paper, the gunfire took place on the Abidjan-Yamoussoukro highway. In a related development, a report in this paper (**p. 4**) says that the government has set up a special Military Police unit, whose role is to crack down on illegal forces and restore security throughout the country. Another report on the same page suggests that relations between President Ouattara and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro are strained after the decision by the president to nominate Kone Zakaria as the head of this security unit.

5. The trial of the former heads of the cocoa and coffee bodies

According to an article in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 10)**, the trial of the former heads of the cocoa and coffee sectors is set to resume today in a court in Abidjan. According to the article, the defendants are accused of embezzlement, breach of trust, misuse of company property, fraud and forgery.

6. Fight against worst forms of child labor

A report in **L'Inter (p. 12)** says that Ivorian First Lady Dominique Ouattara is expected soon in the United States to participate in a tripartite meeting on the worst forms of child labor in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, Mrs. Ouattara, who is also the chairperson of the national committee overseeing the campaign against child labor, will be accompanied by Raymonde Koffi Goudou, the Minister of Social Affairs.

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,000
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000

L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 11, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

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1. Handover of equipment to Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III

2. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire
3. The reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire
4. The general political atmosphere and alleged bargaining to determine the next Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly

1. Handover of equipment to Ministry of Justice by Ambassador Phillip Carter III

"U.S. Embassy equips 15 tribunals," writes *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8). With a picture showing Ambassador Carter symbolically handing over a computer to Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio Tuesday in Abidjan, the paper reports that the US \$800,000 package is to help the government of Cote d'Ivoire equip 15 tribunals throughout the country. Ambassador Carter, the report says, hailed the Ministry of Justice for its commitment "to provide efficient and impartial justice to foster national reconciliation." The U.S. Ambassador is also reported as saying that his country will remain "an unconditional partner to Cote d'Ivoire" as part of the reconstruction of democratic institutions. "This partnership is aimed at reinforcing the state of law and the respect of human rights that will guarantee a lasting peace," Ambassador Carter is reported as saying.

In reaction, Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio said: "Thank you very much," reports *Fraternite Matin* (p.8). "This assistance from the U.S. Embassy will help us face the challenges of the rule of law and the respect of human rights, and to reintegrate the Ivorian justice system into the international judicial system."

2. The case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says that the discovery of human remains believed to be those of Guy-Andre Kieffer is a landmark in investigations into the case of the French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, this was made known Tuesday by Justice Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. "We've accelerated the procedure because since 2004 the investigation team, which has come from France in connection with this matter, has been blocked," Kouadio is quoted as saying.

3. The reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire

A prominent headline in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 1) questions the capacity of the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Charles Konan Banny. The article in this paper (p. 2) suggests that nearly a year after the launching of this commission, Ivorians are yet to have a clear cut objective of a commission whose role is to reconcile them. The article also indicates that the major problem facing the commission is how to proceed in reconciling Ivorians, quoting an observer who has described as mere "folklore" activities that have been carried out so far by the commission. The paper believes that to salvage this commission, President Alassane Ouattara must come to its rescue.

Meanwhile, a front-page story in *Fraternite Matin* explains how Banny is preparing to give new momentum to the reconciliation commission which, the paper indicates, has no excuse to fail. According to the paper, Banny and his team are working on "key points" of the reconciliation process.

4. The general political atmosphere and alleged bargaining to determine the next Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly

An article in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) suggests that President Ouattara Monday tried to defuse tension among his allies over who should take the posts of Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Assembly. According to the paper, Ouattara’s allies, including the PDCI-RDA led by former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie, and the former rebel movement have been fighting over the two positions. “Fever over the Primature,” writes *Notre Voie* (p. 6) which hints that Ouattara and Bedie are no longer speaking with the same voice on whether the current Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, should quit or not.

A front-page story in *Soir Info* indicates that President Ouattara and Bedie are set to meet soon to settle the issue regarding the post of the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly. The paper recalls that during the campaign for the second round of the November 28 presidential election, Ouattara promised to give the portfolio of the Prime Minister to his PDCI-RDA ally if he won the election.

“The confidence of Ouattara over the fate of Soro,” says a prominent headline in *L’Inter* (p. 1) which discloses that “the decision has been taken, Soro will quit his post.” According to insiders at the Presidency quoted by the paper, President Ouattara is no longer convinced of the need “to maintain Soro at his post.” The paper also suggests that Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, the facilitator in the Ivorian peace process is also not in favor of Soro maintaining his post and would prefer that the leader of the former rebel movement become the Speaker of the next parliament.

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L’Intelligent d’Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L’Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri	17,000

	Konan Bedie	
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000

American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 10, 2012

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Today’s Top Stories

1. President Ouattara’s position on the next government and the National Assembly
2. Meeting between Ivorian Army Chief General Soumaila Bakayoko and other army officers on security issues
3. The discovery of human remains believed be those of a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d’Ivoire
4. ICC investigations into the crimes committed in Cote d’Ivoire during the recent political crisis
5. Media-related issues

1. President Ouattara’s position on the next government and the National Assembly

“There will be no cabinet reshuffle before April,” a front-page headline in Nord-Sud Quotidien quotes President Alassane Ouattara as saying. The president, the report (p. 3) says, was speaking Monday in Abidjan. “Let’s move on slowly, we’ve work to do and the government must continue its work,” President Ouattara reportedly said.

President Ouattara's pronouncement on the new government to be formed and the next National Assembly are also subjects of a prominent headline in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 1). The paper (p. 6) reports that that commentaries and speculation going on regarding the composition of the new cabinet and the first session of the National Assembly are not the President's "priorities." The priorities for the president is to "continue working with Ivorians" because "important tasks are to be completed in the coming weeks, months and years," reports the paper.

Regarding the National Assembly, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) quotes President Ouattara as saying, "The Constitutional Council is examining the electoral disputes; the Independent Electoral Commission should run the Logouale by-election and announce the final results of the parliamentary elections to enable the National Assembly to convey." The President, the report says, has also vowed "not to put pressure on neither the Constitutional Council nor on the Independent Electoral Commission," adding, however, that "the legal deadline will be respected." "The new National Assembly will convene in April," says a front-page headline in *Le Patriote*, quoting President Ouattara, who is also reported as saying, "I won't succumb to pressure."

In a related development, a front-page headline in *Soir Info* suggests that "there will be no cabinet reshuffle before the end of this month," while another prominent headline in *L'Inter* (p. 1) indicates that Guillaume Soro, the current Prime Minister, is likely not to retain his post. The paper (p. 4) comments that while speculation on Soro's possible departure rage on, many political observers believe that the prime minister could be replaced by a cadre from the PDCI-RDA, the party of former Ivorian president Henri Konan Bedie.

In an interview with *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 1), Bedie is reported as saying, "The post of the Prime Minister will come to the PDCI-RDA."

2. Meeting between Ivorian Army Chief General Soumaila Bakayoko and other army officers on security issues

"One cannot put security into the hands of people who are indisciplined," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) quotes the Ivorian Army Chief General Soumaila Bakayoko as saying during a tour of garrisons yesterday in Abidjan. According to the paper, General Bakayoko used the opportunity to remind army officers about their role in order to restore the image of the government forces. He also announced a new uniform for the Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire and vowed "to track down those who will be wearing this new uniform to commit acts that tarnish the image of the army," the report says.

3. The discovery of human remains believed be those of a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire

A prominent report in *Notre Voie* (p. 1) suggests that the human remains uncovered by investigators in the central region of Cote d'Ivoire are "a black person's human remains." In the wake of the discovery of human remains believed to be those of Guy-Andre Kieffer, a French-Canadian journalist, who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 1) denounces "a bogus affair."

4. ICC investigations into the crimes committed in Cote d'Ivoire during the recent political crisis

A prominent report in L'Inter (p. 1) suggests that "Presidents Obama and Sarkozy are divided over the case of the Ivorian Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro. "The article (p. 2) also suggests that international human rights groups are pressing for Soro, the leader of the former rebels in Cote d'Ivoire, to be arraigned before the ICC. According to the paper, this prospect does not go down well with French President Sarkozy. "Paris believes that the transfer of Soro to the ICC could have dangerous impact on President Ouattara," the paper quotes a report as saying.

5. Media-related issues

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 13) says that Ibrahim Sy Savane, the head of HACA, the state-run broadcast media regulatory body, has exhorted heads of religious radio stations to encourage coverage of the entire country.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 9, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

- 1.The discovery of human remains believed be those of a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire
- 2.The decision by the ICC to provide legal aid for Laurent Gbagbo's defense
- 3.The political landscape in Cote d'Ivoire
- 4.Security issues

1. The discovery of remains believed be those of a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire

A few days after investigators have unearthed human remains that may be those of Guy-Andre Kieffer, a French-Canadian journalist who disappeared in 2004 in Cote d'Ivoire, Notre Voie carries a front-page headline denouncing "a French-sponsored show." An article in this paper (p. 2) also suggests that the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire, with the backing of France, are "desperately looking for evidence" in order to blame the death of the missing journalist on former president Laurent Gbagbo.

Still on the same issue, a front-page headline in *Le Patriote* reads: "FPI in turmoil after the discovery of human remains of Guy-Andre Kieffer." A headline in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 1) announces that the results of DNA tests on the human remains will be released tomorrow. In its weekend issue, the paper (p. 9) suggested that the discovery of the human remains, eight years after the disappearance of Guy-Andre Kieffer, would help uncover the mystery surrounding the case the French-Canadian journalist.

2. The decision by the ICC to provide legal aid for Laurent Gbagbo's defense

An article in the weekend edition of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) said that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has decided to provide legal aid for the defense of Laurent Gbagbo, who is accused of crimes against humanity. The article further indicated that the ICC, in its December 28, 2011 ruling, said that the financial aid granted by the court will cover only the preliminary stages of Gbagbo's case while the court investigates his financial status.

"Gbagbo wins his first battle," said a prominent headline in *Notre Voie* (p. 1), which went on saying that the ICC's ruling is proof that the former president has "no assets abroad." The paper (p. 2) also rejected previous accusations of economic crimes leveled against the former president.

"After looting his country, Laurent Gbagbo declared poor by the ICC," said a front-page headline in the weekend issue of *Le Patriote*, which saw the ICC's ruling that the former president does not have money to pay for his defense as "a big joke." "Where did Gbagbo hide his billions?" asked *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 1). The article (p. 7) indicated that Gbagbo, whose assets were frozen by the European Union during last year's political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, might have succeeded in hiding his money from the western bankers.

3. The political landscape in Cote d'Ivoire

Fraternite Matin (p. 1) carries in today's edition a banner headline wondering about the delay in convening the first session of the newly-elected National Assembly. The article (p. 2) says that nearly a month after their election, the Ivorian lawmakers are still waiting for the Independent Electoral Commission to send the list of the new MPs to the office of the National Assembly for their registration. The paper, however, quotes a member of the electoral commission who explained that the body cannot send any list of MPs to the National Assembly until the Constitutional Court rules on the electoral disputes. The paper also explains that the Constitutional Court has a three-and-half-month deadline to announce its decision regarding the electoral disputes.

A front-page story in *L'Inter* announces that after 10 days of vacation, the government of President Ouattara is to resume work today. The paper (p. 2) suggests that with the election of most of the ministers from the current government to the new National Assembly, President Alassane Ouattara will have to form a new cabinet, adding that negotiations for the distribution of portfolios are still underway.

4. Security issues

A front-page headline in *Soir Info* suggests that several militiamen and gendarmes have been arrested after the government's *Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire* foiled an assault on a military barracks in

Abidjan. An article (p. 6) says that the militiamen are composed of elements of MILOCI, one of the militia groups based in western Cote d'Ivoire.

In another development, Soir Info (p. 6) also reports that the Chief of Defense Staff, General Soumaila Bakayoko, will begin today a tour of the different garrisons in order to announce major decisions designed to restore the image of the government forces.

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,000
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 6, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Senegalese President accuses former Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo of arming dissident group
2. RTI official suspended after failing to report on a government-led exhibition soccer game.
3. Hundreds gather in Abidjan to protest electricity shortages

1. Senegalese President accuses former Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo of arming dissident groups

In a recent interview with French wire service RFI and reported in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5) Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade accused Ivorian former leader Laurent Gbagbo of having armed a dissident group in the disputed Casamance province. According to the Senegalese leader, Cote d'Ivoire's then-president financed Casamance rebel leader Salif Sadio who, he added, travelled to Cote d'Ivoire on many occasions. "Salif Sadio was supported by Laurent Gbagbo... he has stayed there and received money and ammunition to foster his movement," Mr. Wade reportedly said.

These allegations were, however, rejected by Gbagbo's former adviser Mr. Alain Toussaint, who qualified the statement as unfounded and irresponsible. "There is no tangible evidence of Gbagbo's link with Mr. Salif Sadio... These accusations are baseless," he reportedly said (p. 5), adding that the Senegalese leader has been fueling the Ivorian crisis since 2002.

This development came as Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7) noted that former president Laurent Gbagbo is to face additional charges in Cote d'Ivoire despite his transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Citing people close to the case, the paper underscored that besides charges of human rights violations and crimes against humanity, Mr. Gbagbo is accused of undermining state security and embezzlement. According to the daily, investigations are ongoing and a court in Abidjan is to decide on the case soon.

Le Quotidien (p. 5) on its part alleged that French President Nicolas Sarkozy is maneuvering for the release of the Ivorian former leader who is awaiting trial at the ICC. According to the daily the drive is being made in fear of the possible disclosure of sensitive information likely to bring to light the role France has played in Cote d'Ivoire's recent history. The daily went on suggesting that in the event of a trial, former president Laurent Gbagbo could release details of events surrounding the controversial bombing in 2004 of a French military camp in Bouake that led to the destruction of Ivorian military aircraft by the French military.

In a separate story, Le Temps (p. 2) noted that Gbagbo's doctor, Ble Christophe was released from jail five days after a court had granted him bail. According to the daily, the information was confirmed yesterday by his lawyer Toussaint Zahui Dako.

2. RTI official suspended after failing to report on a government-led exhibition soccer game

An exhibition soccer game was held yesterday in Abidjan between members of the government and officials of Cote d'Ivoire' soccer league. The event was in the limelight of pro-government papers and of Fraternelle Matin (pp. 18 & 19) which devoted large columns to the gala party. According to the daily, the initiative was in support of Cote d'Ivoire's soccer team which will compete for the 2012 African Cup of Nations co-organized by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The event was highlighted by President Ouattara's participation in the game, the paper said.

However, for unknown reasons, the event was not broadcast live on national television as initially planned. As a result, RTI management announced the suspension of the head of the broadcast branch, Mr. Doua Bruno. The announcement was made yesterday in the course of the RTI evening news bulletin.

The gala party was criticized by opposition papers, especially Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3), which accused the government of playing while challenges to improve the day-to-day lives of Ivorians remain unattended.

3. Hundreds gather in Abidjan to protest electricity shortages

Hundreds of people, mostly women and tradesmen, gathered yesterday in Abidjan to protest recurring electricity shortages. According to Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3), demonstrators occupied for hours the main road leading to neighboring Ghana before a compromise could finally be found with government officials and the national electricity company, CIE.

Note: L'Inter and Soir Info did not publish today as they observe a day of mourning following the death of their managing director Nady Rayess, who died in plane crash last Monday.

Opposition newspaper Aujourd'hui was not published today; it has been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 5, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Insecurity and human rights abuses: President Ouattara on a wild-goose chase
2. Ivorian Labor Minister says registration of civil servants helps save up to 10 Billion CFA as opposition papers denounces waste and mismanagement in country's budget
3. Gbagbo's doctor still detained despite court bail decision

1. Insecurity and human rights abuses: President Ouattara on a wild-goose chase

According to a report by Le Temps (pp. 4&5) western countries, including the United States, are distancing themselves from the current regime because of the ongoing insecurity and high level of crime in Cote d'Ivoire. The daily alleged that after having endorsed the installation of President Ouattara, the U.S. government is now stepping back as it realizes that President Ouattara is not meeting expectations. The paper went on to suggest that the Ivorian leader is experiencing the side-effects of his alliance with the Forces Nouvelles - the former rebel group whose coup attempt in September 2002 led to the division of the country. Despite a recent drive by the Ivorian leader to track down rogue FRCI elements, the operation has not yet yielded results, the paper said, adding that crimes and other human rights abuses are still being reported.

Notre Voie (p. 3) carried a similar report suggesting that President Ouattara's recent 48-hour ultimatum to the Ivorian military track down rogue FRCI soldiers was a vain exercise.

2. Ivorian Labor Minister says registration of civil servants helps save up to 10 Billion CFA as interior debts remain a major challenge for the government

The operation initiated by the government to register Cote d'Ivoire's civil servants nationwide has helped the country saved up to 10 Billion CFA (approximately US \$ 20 million) according to the Ivorian Labor Minister, Mr. Gnamien Konan, in the course of a recent interview with ONUCI FM and reported in Le Patriote (p. 10). According to Mr. Gnamien, the operation was aimed at identifying state employees. "The move has allowed the government to distinguish real employees from fake agents," he reportedly said, denouncing massive fraud in the public administration.

This announcement came as opposition papers remain skeptical of the government's 2012 budget. According to an article by Le Temps (pp. 8&9) the FCFA 3.16 trillion (US \$6.3 billion) budget is unaffordable under the current circumstances. The daily alleged that the current budget was adopted in anticipation of 8 per cent economic growth which the paper deems unlikely. In a separate development, the paper revealed that 223 Billion CFA (US \$ 446 million) is allotted to the office of the prime minister whereas some other ministries have been allotted only trivial amounts.

3. Gbagbo's doctor still detained despite court bail decision

According to L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3) former President Laurent Gbagbo's doctor Dr. Ble Christophe is still detained despite a court decision to grant him bail. Addressing the issue yesterday, his lawyer Mr. Herve Gouamene underscored that this development resulted from the refusal of Commandant Fofie Kouakou - the warlord of Korhogo where Mr. Ble has been imprisoned since his arrest - to release the man.

This development came as L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2) noted that Gbagbo's youth wing leader Charles Ble Goude is being blackmailed after calling for an inclusive dialogue between the different political actors in Cote d'Ivoire.

Note: Opposition newspaper Aujourd'hui was not published today; it has been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 4, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Chinese Foreign Minister kicks off African tour in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Opposition papers say President Ouattara's Western support is falling apart
3. Gbagbo's youth wing leader reiterates call for dialogue as major opposition coalition stumbles

1. Chinese Foreign Minister kicks off African tour in Cote d'Ivoire

President Alassane Ouattara held talks yesterday in Abidjan with Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi. According to a report on RTI yesterday during the evening news bulletin, discussions focused on the multi-faceted cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire and China. "The Chinese government commends Ivorian authorities for the recent achievements made to regain stability and for its actions to promote national reconciliation and the recovery of the economy," Mr. Yang reportedly said as he committed the Chinese government to supporting Ivorians in these efforts. Speaking to journalists after his meeting with the Ivorian leader, Mr. Yang underscored that the long history of cooperation between Cote d'Ivoire and China will be strengthened this year.

Still on the meeting, L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7) noted that President Ouattara also thanked the Chinese government for their support for development in the country and their contribution to the resolution of the Ivorian crisis. The meeting, the paper said, was the initial step of a tour that will bring the Chinese official to various African countries.

In a related development, Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 5) noted that a CFA Francs 9.5 billion (approximately US \$18 million) loan was granted by the Chinese government to Cote d'Ivoire. The information was given by the Ivorian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, who had a

separate meeting with the Chinese envoy. Mr. Duncan also announced the Chinese government's decision to write-off some Ivorian debts.

2. Opposition papers say President Ouattara's Western support is falling apart

According to *Le Temps* (pp. 6 & 7) President Ouattara's western support is falling apart. The paper alleged that the decision by the British government to close its embassy in Abidjan, added to the recent move by the Canadian authorities to delocalize their Abidjan mission to Dakar, Senegal are blatant signs that western countries are distancing themselves from the Ivorian leader's regime. According to the daily, the unattended security issues and the high level of crime threat in Cote d'Ivoire are the reasons for this setback.

In a similar account, *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 9) noted that, like the United States did earlier, Canadian authorities have issued a travel warning advising their citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to Cote d'Ivoire. According to a report culled from a web page, the security situation in Abidjan as well as along the Liberian border and in zones formerly controlled by the Forces Nouvelles remains unpredictable.

In a separate development and citing insiders, *Le Temps* (p. 5) noted the French Licorne forces stationed in Cote d'Ivoire will depart the country. The daily argued that the issue was recently discussed at the French Parliament. The announcement, the paper said, has triggered doubts within the ruling coalition which has been receiving military support from these forces since it gained power.

3. Gbagbo's youth wing leader reiterates call for dialogue as major opposition coalition stumbles

In a statement issued yesterday and published in *Notre Voie* (p. 2), Mr. Charles Ble Goude, former president Laurent Gbagbo's youth wing leader, reiterated his call for a dialogue between the government and opposition parties. According to the fugitive known for his hard-line rhetoric against President Ouattara and western countries, the time for mutual forgiveness has come. "I call on all of those who have been humiliated to forgive," he reportedly said, adding that discussions are of paramount importance for a "new national consensus to rescue the country and to consolidate social cohesion."

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (pp. 4 & 5) remains skeptical about the hidden motivation for such a U-turn. The daily argued that Mr. Ble Goude's drive could be part of a political maneuver to deceive the ruling coalition. The daily went on suggesting that Gbagbo's right hand man, whose striking abilities to mobilize youth in the streets remains a powerful asset, is feared both by Gbagbo partisans and members of the ruling coalition.

Mr. Ble Goude's message came as dissension is being reported among members of the *Congres National de la Resistance pour Democratie (CNRD)* - a coalition of partisans of former president Laurent Gbagbo. According to *Soir Info* (p. 5) two rival groups led by Mr. Maika Oureto (the acting president of the FPI party) and Mr. Gervais Coulibaly are at loggerheads. The dissension has led to the creation of a rival group dubbed the *LMP (Ligue des Mouvements pour le Progres)*.

On a different issue, *L'Inter* (pp. 6 & 7) noted that a session to confirm charges against ex-president Laurent Gbagbo currently under custody at the International Criminal Court (ICC) is scheduled for June 18 this year. The court will have ten days to decide whether or not the Ivorian former leader

should be tried for crimes against humanity and human right violations, the paper said, adding that discussions will undoubtedly be lively.

Still on human rights issues, Le Patriote (p. 2) noted that French prosecutor Patrick Ramael is in Cote d'Ivoire to further investigate the case of French investigative journalist Guy-Andre Kieffer whose whereabouts are unknown since his 2006 disappearance in Abidjan.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4) on its part noted that, according to people close to the case, a high-level official from the current ruling regime could be involved in the kidnapping of the reporter.

Note: Opposition newspaper Aujourd'hui was not published today; it has been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JANUARY 3, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

1. Pro-government and opposition papers divided over President Ouattara's New Year's Eve address
2. Confusion over the release of Gbagbo supporters
3. Ivorian press tycoon dies in plane crash

1. Pro-government and opposition papers divided over President Ouattara's New Year Address

Most dailies continued to report on the celebration of the New Year and President Ouattara's New Year's Eve message. An article in Fraternite Matin (p. 4) noted that the Ivorian leader called on Ivorians to join hands to work and rebuild the country's prestige. According to the daily, in a wide-ranging and optimistic address, President Ouattara recommitted the government to working for a timely recovery of the country's war-torn economy and to strengthening efforts to return to normal nationwide. "We are on the right track and we remain upbeat as good prospects are in the offing," he reportedly said.

Dailies close to the ruling RHDP coalition echoed this perspective whereas opposition papers qualified the address as a masquerade. Le Temps (p. 6) argued that, in his address, the Ivorian leader has purposely overlooked reality, highlighted by the pressing challenges of security and the lack of law and order. The paper went on tagging the positive prospects as "puff dreams."

Notre Voie (pp. 1 & 4) on its part carried a banner headline with a front page picture of a triumphant Laurent Gbagbo, whom the paper referred to as the "genuine leader." In an article contrasting the two Gbagbo and Ouattara, the paper alleged that former president Laurent Gbagbo's leadership was by far more effective than President Ouattara's approach. The paper criticized the gap between President Ouattara's rhetoric of good governance and the facts and denounced a double-standard of justice prevailing in the country since Gbagbo's April 11 arrest.

2. Confusion over the release of Gbagbo supporters

The decision last week by an Abidjan court to grant bail to some partisans of former President Laurent Gbagbo has triggered comments in the press after confusion was reported on their case. *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) underscored that Mr. Franck Anderson Kouassi, the former head of the Conseil National de la Communication Audiovisuelle, Cote d'Ivoire's former broadcast media regulatory agency, was not released Friday as expected. According to the daily, unlike Mr. Herman Aboa who was discharged last Friday, administrative procedures have delayed the release of the man arrested for allegedly attempting to undermine state security and for mismanagement. His release is scheduled for today, according to his lawyer Mr. Dirabou Mathurin, the paper added.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5) denounced ambivalence in the court decision suggesting that its decisions are ordered by the government. The daily alleged that the whole judicial system is under the command of the ruling regime and serves as a means to blackmail the opposition.

This development came as Gbagbo's FPI said a lasting peace is contingent upon the release of all of the partisans of the former leader imprisoned in the wake of Gbagbo's April 11 arrest. In an address made on the eve of the new year, FPI spokesperson Laurent Akoun called on Ivorian authorities to take measures to restore the rule of law and to stop harassing FPI partisans. *Le Temps* (p. 5) published the verbatim transcript of the address.

3. Ivorian press tycoon dies in plane crash

Mr. Nady Rayess, chief of Cote d'Ivoire's media group known as Groupe Olympe, died yesterday as his private airplane crashed in a village 37 miles from Abidjan. The information made news in the press which unanimously paid tribute to the deceased. Providing details on the accident, *Soir Info* (pp. 2 - 4) noted that Mr. Rayess' single-engine aircraft crashed as he was returning from the seaside town of Assinie yesterday morning.

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 11), Mr. Souleimane Coty Diakite, the Ivorian Minister of Communication has, on behalf of the government, saluted the deceased, whom Mr. Coty hailed as "a valiant entrepreneur and media man." Mr. Rayess's Groupe Olympe is the owner of *Soir Info*, *L'Inter* and *Star Magazine*.

Note: Opposition newspaper *Aujourd'hui* was not published today; it has been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator.

Media affiliation and circulation

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,945
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Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
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NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.