

# American Embassy's National Daily Press Review July1-31, 2013

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JULY 31, 2013

### Today's Top Stories

1. UN Security Council renews UNOCI mandate, reduces forces
2. Dozens cooperation agreements signed between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso
3. **“The party stands united,” PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie says upon his return from France**

1. **UN Security Council renews UNOCI mandate, reduces forces**

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 28), the United Nations Security Council adopted yesterday a resolution to renew for another year the mandate of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The Council, the paper says, extended UNOCI's mandate until June 30, 2014 and reduced its military personnel to 7,137. The move, the paper adds, came after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pleaded last month for an extension of the mission in light of the unpredictable security situation in the region.

2. **Dozens cooperation agreements signed between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso**

The third conference of the Summit of Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso ended yesterday in Yamoussoukro with the signing of eighteen cooperation agreements. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) which notes that these bilateral accords aim at boosting regional integration. During a joint press conference, President Alassane Ouattara and Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore said they were both committed to working to increase the well-being of their citizens. The two countries have also decided to strengthen cooperation in the defense sector and have taken collective measures to curb cross-border trafficking of children and promote free movement of people and goods. “Nothing was left unattended in our road map to achieve our common goals,” President Ouattara reportedly said.

*Le Patriote* (pp. 2-3) carries a similar account, adding that according to the two heads of state, only policies that foster regional integration can induce economic growth. The two men also

commended the Malian people for holding peaceful presidential elections and called the move a “major political achievement.”

3. **“The party stands united,” PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie says upon his return from France**

According to former president Henri Konan Bedie, current president of PDCI party, the party is still united despite a recent wave of dissent. The information is reported by *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 2-3) which notes that Bedie made the announcement upon his return yesterday from France. “I assure you there will be no split in the party,” he reportedly said. According to the paper, hundreds of people, including dignitaries from the party, gathered yesterday at the airport in Abidjan to welcome him.

However, an article in *L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* (p. 6) says that a group of deputies from the PDCI party has, in an open letter, called on Bedie to step down. “At age 75, Bedie cannot expect an extension as head of the party,” their statement reads. Their position is gaining momentum, according to the paper, which notes that members of parliament, including Yasmina Ouegnin, are supporting the idea of Bedie quitting the leadership of the party. *L’Inter* (pp. 4-5) carries a similar account.

**International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire**

[Two Years After Civil War's End, Côte d'Ivoire Is Still Unstable](#) The Atlantic

As the international community focuses its attention on the elections in Mali, neighboring **Côte d’Ivoire** is increasingly perceived as being on track in its transition ...

[UN Peacekeeping Mission Extended in Côte d'Ivoire](#) Rapaport

RAPAPORT... After a unanimous vote, the United Nations (UN) Security Council extended its peacekeeping operations in **Côte d’Ivoire** until June 30, 2014 with

[Political Leaders Stall Needed Reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire](#) Huffington Post

Recent weeks have shown how the political elite keep blocking the path to reconciliation in **Côte d’Ivoire**. The leadership from both sides of the politico-ethnic ...

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**American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 30, 2013**

**Today’s Top Stories**

1. President Ouattara inaugurates an oil pipeline in Yamoussoukro and welcomes Burkina Faso counterpart
2. Amnesty International says the Ivoirian government has failed to investigate killings at Nahibly refugee camp, calls for an international probe
3. Corruption and nepotism plague business environment in Cote d’Ivoire, papers say
1. **President Ouattara inaugurates an oil pipeline in Yamoussoukro and welcomes Burkina Faso counterpart**

A 240 mile-long oil pipeline was inaugurated yesterday by President Alassane Ouattara in Yamoussoukro. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) which notes that the

supply line project aims at reducing the crowd of tanker trucks on the country's roads and facilitating supply to landlocked countries like Mali and Burkina Faso. According to the Ivoirian Minister of Mines and Energy, Adama Toungara, the Abidjan-Yamoussoukro pipeline can transport four million gallons of oil per day. It is a cost-efficient, safe and reliable mode of transportation, he added. The pipeline project is part of the government's engagement to establish the country as an oil hub in Africa, the paper says. In his address, President Ouattara commended the government and private companies involved in the implementation of the project which has cost more than 140 billion CFA (approximately \$280 million). Opposition paper *Notre Voie* (p. 6) says the project was initially launched in 2007 under former President Laurent Gbagbo's leadership.

On the margin of the inauguration ceremony, President Alassane Ouattara welcomed his Burkina Faso counterpart, Blaise Compaore. According to *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 2), the two men are set to co-chair a conference today as part of the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between the two neighboring countries. "Our commitment to foster a relationship between our two countries must serve as a model in the region," Burkina Faso President Compaore said.

Also yesterday, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) reports that Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and his Burkina Faso counterpart, Luc Adolphe Tiao, both attended the inauguration ceremony for a healthcare facility and PEPFAR-funded laboratory. According to the daily, thanks to a 360 million CFA grant (approximately US \$750,000) from PEPFAR, the transfusion center of Yamoussoukro was equipped with state-of-the-art material which will help ensure delivery of safe blood products.

## **2. Amnesty International says the Ivoirian government has failed to investigate killings at Nahibly refugee camp, calls for an international probe**

According to a recent report by Amnesty International, the Ivoirian government has done little in investigating crimes committed during the assault on the Nahibly refugee camp in western Cote d'Ivoire in 2012. The information is widely reported in papers today close to the opposition. With a picture of the ransacked camp, once home to an estimated 2,500 internally displaced people (IDPs), *Le Temps* (pp. 6-8) publishes an excerpt of the report from the human rights group. "One year on, and despite repeated promises to ensure justice, the Ivoirian government has made no substantial progress in investigating the crimes committed during this attack," Salvatore Saguès, Amnesty International's Researcher on West Africa said.

The Nahibly camp was allegedly attacked and destroyed by a large crowd that include Dozos – local hunters that once served as security – and elements of the Ivoirian army in July of 2012. Most of the IDPs belonged to the Guere ethnic group, generally perceived to be supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo. According to the daily, the group estimates that at least 14 people were killed during the attack and a number of others were subjected to enforced disappearance. Six corpses were exhumed from a well in October 2012 but 11 other wells in the area that are believed to contain bodies have not been investigated. "It is inhumane that those who lost loved ones are still waiting to find out where the bodies of their relatives are, and that those responsible are still walking free," Saguès added, calling on Cote d'Ivoire to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate the atrocity.

*L'Inter* (p. 4) publishes a recent interview by Sagues in which he blamed UN troops stationed in western Cote d'Ivoire for failing to support victims during the attack. "Amnesty International

received many statements from people who told them that UN police rebuffed people who asked for help during the attack and stood by as camp residents were beaten,” he reportedly said. In the interview, he also denounces the one-sided nature of the justice currently being administered in Cote d’Ivoire.

### 3. **Corruption and nepotism plague business environment in Cote d’Ivoire, papers say**

According to a report in *Soir Info* (p. 3), international partners, including the United States and France, are concerned with the business environment in Cote d’Ivoire. The paper argues that corruption, nepotism and mismanagement are still plaguing the sector and are a hindrance to investment. The paper cites several ethically-questionable practices that will keep the Ivoirian economy from thriving if not addressed.

*Aujourd’hui* (p. 8) reports that an audit carried out by the International Monetary Fund has revealed overbilling and mismanagement throughout the government.

#### **International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire**

##### [Ivory Coast to Clean Up Contract Awards as Untendered Deals Jump](#)

Businessweek

Ivory Coast is attempting to clean up the awarding of public bids, placing the regulating agency under the oversight of President Alassane Ouattara after the ...

##### [Randgold Ivory Coast Tongon Mine Won't be Affected by Mining ...](#)

Wall Street Journal

LONDON--West African gold producer Randgold Resources Ltd. (GOLD) has received assurances from the Ivory Coast government that the convention that ...

##### [Ivory Coast Urged To Excavate Well Holes Suspected To Be Mass ...](#)

RTT News

Amnesty International has called on Ivory Coast to establish an international commission of inquiry to probe human rights abuses linked to the killings at Nahibly ...

##### [Côte d'Ivoire €50 million power expansion project](#)

ESI Africa

Electricity demand in Côte d'Ivoire increased at an average rate of 6% a year from 2003 to 2012 while net electricity production grew at only 2% a year over the ...

##### [Liberia: Willing to Return - Ivorian Refugee Repatriation From ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

Monrovia — More than 10,000 Ivorians who fled to Liberia more than two years ago following post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire have returned home this ...

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**American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 29, 2013**

**Today’s Top Stories**

1. Ivoirian ministers and their Burkina Faso counterparts meet to discuss cooperation projects
2. A violent clash reported in the western town of Zouan Hounien, curfew issued
1. **Ivoirian ministers and their Burkina Faso counterparts meet to discuss cooperation projects**

Ministers from the Ivoirian government and their counterparts from Burkina Faso are gathered this week in Yamoussoukro to discuss cooperation projects. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5), which notes that the meetings are part of a cooperation treaty dubbed, TAC (*Traité d'Amitié et de Coopération*), signed in 2011 by President Alassane Ouattara and his Burkina Faso counterpart, Blaise Compaore. The TAC provides the framework for multi-faceted cooperation between the two neighboring countries, the paper says, adding that yesterday's session was attended both by the Ivoirian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Charles Koffi Diby, and his Burkina Faso equivalent Djibril Bassole. On the occasion, the two delegations discussed ongoing projects, namely the construction, due to Qatari funding, of a highway to connect Abidjan to Ouagadougou and a project to allow continued power supply to Burkina Faso from Cote d'Ivoire. A joint cabinet meeting is scheduled for today in Yamoussoukro, the paper adds.

*Le Patriote* (p. 3) says that under the TAC, the two countries are committed to ensuring free movement of people and goods and to take the necessary steps to facilitate and boost trade between Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

## 2. **A violent clash reported in the western town of Zouan Hounien, curfew issued**

Violent clashes over the weekend between rival groups in the western town of Zouan Hounien prompted authorities to issue a night curfew. The information is reported by *Soir Info* (p. 7) which notes that members of the Zouan Hounien native Yacouba tribe and Malinke settlers confronted one another over a minor dispute. The incident has paralyzed activities in the town, the paper says, adding that several people were injured and admitted to the town's hospital. The situation remains volatile despite calls by the town's authorities, who are trying to handle the situation and avoid escalation, the paper adds. According to Brunon Yao, Zouan Hounien interim administrator and Roger Zrakpa, the city's mayor, a detachment of FRCI soldiers and the gendarmes have been deployed to enforce law and order.

*L'Inter* (p. 13) carries a similar account, adding that people are fleeing the zone in fear of more wide-spread violence. *Le Temps* (p. 9) says that one man was reportedly killed in the incident.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

[Ivory Coast convicts eight for violating government cocoa price](#)

Chicago Tribune

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Eight people have been convicted in Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa grower, of buying cocoa beans below the government-guaranteed ...

[How Mobile Phone Data Could Cut Commuting Time](#)

Popular Mechanics

A team of IBM scientists used cellphone-call data from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to pick out hotspots in that city and figure out a way to overhaul the overtaxed transit ...

[Oil & Gas: Growth sector seeks investors in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

The Africa Report

The discovery has boosted hopes among oil companies that have acquired acreage off the coast of Côte d'Ivoire. On 17 February 2012, Total signed three other ...

[Two African Development Bank projects in Uganda and Côte d ...](#)

AfricanBrains

Two outstanding African Development Bank (AfDB) (<http://www.afdb.org>) initiatives, based in Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire, received Development Impact Honors ...

[Ivoirian Media Poised to Accompany AfDB Return to Abidjan](#)

AllAfrica.com

"Côte d'Ivoire, through its media and other communication tools, is ready to accompany the return of the AfDB to Côte d'Ivoire and make this move a success."

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JULY 26, 2013

### Today's Top Stories

1. Reshuffle of the Ivoirian government: mining portfolio transferred to industry minister
  2. President launches construction of a "state-of-the-art" bus station in Abidjan
  3. **In a bid to reach out to underprivileged, Ivoirian lawyers union sets up a toll-free line**
1. **Reshuffle of the Ivoirian government: mining portfolio transferred to industry minister**

It is reported today that the mining portfolio has been withdrawn from Adama Toungara, who had been serving in the Ivoirian government as Minister of Mines, Oil and Energy. The decision was announced following a cabinet meeting yesterday in Abidjan. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5), government Secretary General Amadou Gon Coulibaly said President Alassane Ouattara carried out a "technical reorganization of the government." As a result, the mining portfolio has been transferred to Industry Minister Jean-Claude Brou who will combine the two portfolios while Toungara will retain oil and energy.

*L'Inter* (p. 4) says Toungara has been recently embroiled in a dispute over a proposed windfall tax on profits with foreign gold miners operating in the country. He has also been blamed for delays in drafting a new mining code. The move likely stemmed from these recriminations, the paper says.

*Notre Voie* (p. 5) alleges that Toungara's management of the mining sector was denounced on multiple occasions and the "unproductive" reforms in which he was engaged aided illegal activity. The recent deadly incident in Angovia, in west-central Cote d'Ivoire, where illegal gold

miners clashed with villagers, proved to be the “last straw” that led to the portfolio change, the paper says.

## 2. **President launches construction of a “state-of-the-art” bus station in Abidjan**

President Ouattara laid yesterday in Abidjan the foundation stone of what will be within two years a “state-of-the-art” bus station. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6), which notes that Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and Transport Minister Gaousou Toure accompanied the Ivoirian leader on the occasion. In his address at the event, President Ouattara underscored the importance of improving the country’s road and transport infrastructure, arguing that development and economic growth are contingent upon reliable and modern highways and roads. The new compound will meet international standards and will have the capacity to accommodate 23 million passengers annually. Abdramane Camara, on behalf of the Union of Ivoirian Transport Professionals, commended the Ivoirian president for initiating the project, arguing that it was “high time” to equip Abidjan with an adequate bus station.

## 3. **In a bid to reach out to underprivileged, Ivoirian lawyers union sets up a toll-free line**

The Association of Ivoirian Lawyers has set up toll-free numbers in an effort to offer legal support to needy individuals. The information is reported by *L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* (p. 11). The secretary of the lawyers association, Adama Soro said he and his fellow group members have decided to try and aid those who cannot afford legal counseling. Help is now available at 588808801 or 41546612. Service will be available 24/7 and cases can also be submitted every Wednesday at Abidjan’s courthouse, the paper says.

*Le Patriote* (p. 5) reports on a similar project sponsored by the United Nations Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI) and the European Union.

## **International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire**

### [ICC Urged to Investigate Ivory Coast's Forces Nouvelles Leaders](#)

Voice of America

Guillame Soro, leader of the Forces Nouvelles, is currently Ivory Coast's speaker of parliament. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the United ...

### [Agribusiness: Smoothing out the bumps in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

The Africa Report

Côte d'Ivoire's 900,000 cocoa farmers contribute more than 15 percent to the West African country's gross domestic product, but ageing trees, small farms and ...

### [Two African Development Bank projects in Uganda and Côte d ...](#)

APO

(The African Development Bank Group's Emerging From Conflict/Multisector Support Project in Côte d'Ivoire. Winner of the US Treasury Development Impact ...

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## **American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 25, 2013**

## Today's Top Stories

1. Death toll rises in Abidjan MACA prison mutiny
2. "Cote d'Ivoire is a regional power," Ambassador Phillip Carter III says as he outlines U.S. engagement in the country
3. Singaporean businessmen eye the Ivoirian market

### 1. **Death toll rises in Abidjan MACA prison mutiny**

At least three inmates of the Abidjan MACA prison were killed and several others injured during an attempted escape on Tuesday. The information is reported today by most papers. *L'Inter (p. 13)* says two prison guards were also injured during the uprising which was eventually quelled by security forces. According to unconfirmed sources, the death toll could be higher. These sources alleged that 57 people, including 16 women, were reportedly killed when security forces fired live bullets into the building.

*Soir Info (p. 11)* says cases of rape against female detainees were also reported. Two of the 130 women in detention were allegedly abducted by the angry mob before being released by a security squad.

For *Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)*, the foiled riot was likely an attempt to cause trouble for the government. The paper argues that the facility, which houses thousands of inmates, is a high-profile target for coup plotters in their attempt to cause mayhem in the country. *Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)* says that in the light of event in Abidjan, security measures have been reinforced in all the country's prisons.

### 2. **"Cote d'Ivoire is a regional power," Ambassador Phillip Carter III says as he outlines U.S. engagement in the country**

Speaking yesterday at a ceremony to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Corner in Abidjan, U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III said Cote d'Ivoire is a "regional power." The information is reported by *Le Patriote (p. 7)* which notes that Ambassador Carter used the occasion to outline U.S. support to the country. "Our priorities aim at advocating democratic governance, advancing security sector reform and promoting economic recovery," he said, adding that the U.S.'s multifaceted engagement has helped the country as it begins to heal after a decade of turmoil. He also underscored that Cote d'Ivoire was among the first countries selected for support from the President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) in 2004. The program has provided approximately \$800 million dollars to combat HIV/AIDS and help transform Cote d'Ivoire's health sector.

With more on the issue, *L'Inter (p. 12)* says that, thanks to the country's re-eligibility for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and an effort being made by the government to qualify for incentives offered under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Ivoirian economy is on a good track for recovery. On security, the paper notes that according to Ambassador Carter, the U.S. government is partnering with Ivoirian authorities to carry out necessary reforms in the sector.

### 3. **Singaporean businessmen eye the Ivoirian market**

According to an article in *Le Patriote (p. 8)*, a delegation of Singaporean businessmen met yesterday in Abidjan with President Alassane Ouattara. Accompanied by Singaporean vice-

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Lee Yi Shyan, the members of the delegation said they are interested in investing in the country, specifically in infrastructure and the banking sector, the paper says. They were encouraged by President Ouattara who said the country is recovering from the long crisis it went through and that there are good possibilities for investment.

### **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

#### [Three killed in Ivory Coast prison mutiny](#)

euronews

ABIDJAN (Reuters) – At least three inmates were killed and a number injured in an mutiny at the Ivory Coast's biggest prison, security and prison officials said on ...

#### [I Coast reconciliation at 'dead end'](#)

News24

Abidjan - A bid to reconcile hardened enemies in Ivory Coast has all but broken down, according to participants and observers, and time is running out for a ...

#### [AfDB enhances access to reliable and affordable electricity supply in ...](#)

WorldStage

Electricity demand in Côte d'Ivoire has dramatically increased with an average ... Energy demand is expected to remain high in Côte d'Ivoire over the medium- to ...

#### [Taruga Gold granted concession in Cote d'Ivoire, covers Birimian ...](#)

Proactive Investors  
Australia

Mangkono covers 400 square kilometres of Birimian greenstone, with Cote d'Ivoire providing an opportunity for Taruga as proven gold mineralised belts are ...

## **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 24, 2013**

### **Today's Top Stories**

1. Accused of plotting against the government, a former Ivoirian military officer is extradited from Niger
2. **A riot reported at Abidjan main prison facility**

**1.** Accused of plotting against the government, a former Ivoirian military officer is extradited from Niger

A former captain of the Ivoirian military was arrested and extradited from Niger last Saturday, according to a story in *Soir Info* (p. 4). The paper says Captain Urbain Bley, a former aide to General Philippe Mangou, the chief of defense staff under the presidency of Laurent Gbagbo, was arrested last week and handed over to Ivoirian authorities. Captain Bley is accused of fomenting a coup against the current government, the paper says. Tagged as a devout supporter of former president Gbagbo, Captain Bley was a part of Gbagbo's inner circle and fled to Niger after the capture of the former president. His lawyer has confirmed his arrest, the paper said, adding that he is currently under custody in Abidjan.

*Le Patriote* (p. 6) says Captain Bley was planning a wide-spread attack on government forces and had reached out to sleeper cells in Abidjan to launch his offensive. He was cited by individuals arrested in the wake of attacks on governmental forces earlier this year as the sponsor of the destabilization scheme.

Opposition paper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6) says a lot of mysteries surround this arrest. The paper argues that, unlike in other cases of extradition of pro-Gbagbo soldiers, the government is reluctant to provide details on his case. The paper went on to accuse the Nigerien authorities of a “double standard of justice,” blaming them for refusing to hand over Gaddafi’s loyalists who have found shelter in the country but being eager to extradite Bley.

*Notre Voie* (p. 3) says that Bley’s arrest and extradition are nothing but a “conspiracy of the government” which is still engaged in a witch-hunt against supporters of former president Gbagbo.

## 2. A riot reported at Abidjan main prison facility

Inmates in Abidjan’s MACA detention facility mutinied yesterday according to several papers. *L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* (p. 3) says the incident stemmed from the C block of the prison where high-profile criminals are detained. The prisoners reportedly tried, in vain, to escape the paper says, adding that prison guards successfully handled the situation. *Soir Info* (p. 9) adds that several people, including inmates and law enforcement personnel, were injured in the incident. Unconfirmed cases of death were also announced the paper adds.

*Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) reports that two political detainees, supposedly militants from the FPI, were killed when the police opened fire and used tear gas to disband the crowd of prisoners.

## International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

### [UTSA Minority Business Development Agency hosts Ivory Coast delegation July](#)

UTSA Today

(July 23, 2013) -- The San Antonio Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) will host a delegation from the Ivory Coast to meet with local and state officials and discuss economic development opportunities on Thursday, July 25 at St. Philip's College.

### [Ivory Coast starts 2nd phase of fibre network roll-out](#)

Telecompaper (subscription)

The Ivory Coast government expects a USD 210 million project to lay a fibre network should allow the West African country to connect up to 30 percent of its population to the internet within five years, boosting economic growth, Reuters reports. ICT ...

### [I.Coast reconciliation at 'dead end' - By Christophe Koffi](#)

The Sunday Times Sri Lanka

ABIDJAN, Rgion des Lagunes, July 24, 2013 (AFP) - A bid to reconcile hardened enemies in Ivory Coast has all but broken down, according to participants and observers, and time is running out for a commission set up to heal the wounds of bitter strife.

### [West Africa becomes pirate hotspot amid oil boom](#)

UPI.com

But as the oil boom spread, the piracy extended to the waters of Togo, Gabon, Benin and the

Ivory Coast. The waters of West Africa are becoming more dangerous to shipping because there's little anti-piracy cooperation between the region's states, who ...

[Worrying climate outlook for West Africa's Volta basin](#)

IRINnews.org

DAKAR, 23 July 2013 (IRIN) - Drastic water loss in West Africa's River Volta basin - covering Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Togo - could deprive millions of people of food and hydropower in coming years due to climate change, ...

[Côte d'Ivoire: Money men, politicians and those who keep an eye on them](#)

The Africa Report

The stock exchange has recorded a five-year high on the back of Côte d'Ivoire's economic recovery. The BRVM plans to open a market dedicated to smaller companies later this year. The first sub-Saharan African at the head of a unit of Morocco's ...

[Côte d'Ivoire cracks down on illegal wood bound for EU](#)

ICT Update

In an attempt to fight the clearing out of forests due to illegal cocoa plantations, the government of Côte d'Ivoire has started evacuating cocoa farmers from protected forests-land, a move which stirs-up controversies over the breach of human rights ...

## **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 23, 2013**

### **Today's Top Stories**

1. President Ouattara's RDR party wins all seats in Sunday's by-elections
2. UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire meets peace commission chairman, commits to working with all Ivoirian actors
3. **PDCI leadership divided over the case of party youth branch leader**

**1. President Ouattara's RDR party wins all seats in Sunday's by-elections**

The party of President Alassane Ouattara won all three of Sunday's mayoral and regional by-elections. The information was released yesterday by the Independent Electoral Commission

(CEI). According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7), RDR candidates were declared winners in Anyama, Bettie and in the Tchologo region after securing the majority of votes in these constituencies. The highest turnout was reported in Bettie with 56.4 percent. The Tchologo region and Anyama were ranked second and third in term of participation with 44.8 percent and 39.8 percent respectively.

According to *Le Patriote* (p. 5), this achievement underscores the RDR party's position as the country's leading political force. *L'Inter* (p. 3) says these results have to be confirmed by the Ivoirian Supreme Court.

## **2. UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire meets peace commission meets peace commission chairman, commits to working with all Ivoirian actors**

UN special envoy to Cote d'Ivoire Aichatou Mindaoudou met yesterday in Abidjan with Charles Konan Banny, the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR). The information is reported by *Soir Info* (p. 3), which notes that the meeting was part of her courtesy calls to Ivoirian authorities and political actors after taking her position. At the meeting with Banny, the paper adds, Mindaoudou committed to working with all Ivoirian shareholders to help bring back peace and restore the country's economy. "I am pleased to be here to bring, on behalf of the UN Secretary General, my contribution for a return to peace and stability in Cote d'Ivoire," she reportedly said, adding that she knows the country well having studied here in the 1980s. Banny, for his part, said he is upbeat that her insight and knowledge of the country are real assets that will help address the country's complex situation.

This meeting came as the leadership of the former ruling FPI party said last week that it was concerned by Mindaoudou's appointment to Cote d'Ivoire and cast doubts on the neutrality of the Niger-born diplomat.

## **3. PDCI leadership divided over the case of party youth branch leader**

The leader of PDCI youth branch Bertin Konan Kouadio reiterated this past weekend that he will vie for the party's presidency. This story continues to be diversely commented on. An article in *Aujourd'hui* (pp. 6-7) suggests that the move unveils dissention within the leadership of the party of former president Henri Konan Bedie. According to the daily, a "generation gap" has developed between the party's "elders" and emerging young leaders who complain they have played behind the scenes roles for too long.

However, an article in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2) called on the youth leader to "cool down," arguing that his assaults on PDCI president Bedie are jeopardizing the party's unity.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

### [Gbagbo's Party Rejects New UN Mission Head in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Daily Times Nigeria-

... of former president, Laurent Gbagbo says it has no confidence in Ms Aichatou Souleymane, new head of the UN Operation in *Cote d'Ivoire*.

### [Government Produces Arms Evidence](#)

AllAfrica.com

The Liberian Government has submitted before the Criminal Court "D" at the Temple of Justice

arms and ammunitions purportedly used by 18 Liberian Mercenaries against Ivory Coast, including human and documentary evidences. Flashback: Arms ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 22, 2013**

**Today's Top Stories**

1. **Municipal by-elections mostly calm in northern Cote d'Ivoire**
2. **ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda calls on the Ivoirian government to continue cooperation with the court**
3. **The ruling RHDP coalition divided over the new bill on citizenship**

1. **Municipal by-elections mostly calm in northern Cote d'Ivoire**

Municipal by-elections were held yesterday in the communities of Anyama, Bettie and Doropo, rescheduled after violence when they were first attempted in April. The information is covered in most of today's papers, including *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) which says that the poll was overall peaceful although a few incidents were reported in Doropo. According to the daily, unidentified men ransacked voting sites and destroyed ballot boxes in the northern town. Similar incidents were reported while ballots were being counted in the town and the armed gang even reportedly confronted UN peacekeepers dispatched in the town to monitor security, the paper added.

*L'Inter* (p. 8) carries a similar account, adding that eyewitnesses allege the attackers were supporters of RDR candidate Siaka Ouattara and denounced the inaction on the part of security forces during these attacks.

*Soir Info* (p. 7) says the turnout is estimated to 42 percent in Bettie but is likely to be lower in Anyama. Results are expected to be released later today.

2. **ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda calls on the Ivoirian government to continue cooperation with the court**

The prosecutor from the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, commended Saturday the Ivoirian government for its cooperation with the Hague-based court. The information is reported by *Nord Sud Quotidien* (pp. 2-3) which notes that Bensouda concluded Saturday a three-day trip to Cote d'Ivoire. Speaking during a press conference, she urged Ivoirian authorities to continue working with the court and committed to working to put an end to impunity. "Nobody can escape justice," she reportedly said, calling on victims of the country's deadly post electoral crisis to remain upbeat on the ongoing process. According to the daily, Bensouda reiterated the court demand concerning the transfer of former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo but acknowledged Mrs. Gbagbo can be tried in Cote d'Ivoire. "The ICC does not supersede national courts," she said.

For opposition papers, namely *Le Temps* (p. 6), her trip to Abidjan aimed at strengthening her office's case against former president Laurent Gbagbo was a total failure. The paper alleges that she has returned empty-handed.

*Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 3) said the ICC prosecutor and the Ivoirian leader are "in checkmate" in their attempt to gather additional evidence against the former Ivoirian president.

### 3. The ruling RHDP coalition divided over the new bill on citizenship

Debate over the new bill on citizenship continues after members of the Ivoirian National Assembly failed to reach an agreement to move forward. The information is reported by *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5) which notes that the bill was supposed to be discussed last week but the session was adjourned upon the request of PDCI deputies who threatened to boycott the discussions. According to the daily, there is a "malaise" between the RDR and the PDCI deputies. Additionally, the two major parties in the ruling coalition seem to be pursuing a different, if not opposed, agenda over the bill which, if adopted, will grant Ivoirian citizenship to individuals born in Cote d'Ivoire, paving the way for major changes in land ownership.

*Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 4) says the two allies are at an impasse over the bill after the leadership of the PDCI requested the bill to be discussed nationwide before the National Assembly can vote and the President signs it into law. *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6) carries a similar account.

#### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

##### [Ivory Coast lags on digital broadcasting](#)

Biztech Africa

Ivory Coast is 'badly' lagging behind in terms of digital broadcasting, compared to many of its West African counterparts. Ibrahim Sy Savané, the president of Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA), the country's broadcasting regulator ...

##### [Ivory Coast's releases first 3-D animated movie](#)

eNCA

ABIDJAN - Ivory Coast has finally entered the 3-D world with the release of the country's first 3-D animated movie. The 108 minute movie is about a heroine who flees war in 18th century Ghana to set up a new kingdom in neighbouring Ivory Coast. The ...

##### [Sifca to Invest \\$417 Million in West Africa Palm-Oil Expansion](#)

Businessweek

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 factories in Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia. The company, which is also West Africa's largest ...

##### [Ivory Coast fibre optic network to boost growth - minister](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN, July 20 (Reuters) - A \$210 million project to lay fibre optic network across Ivory Coast should allow the West African country to connect up to 30 percent of its population to the Internet within 5 years, boosting economic growth, the ...

##### [UNAIDS calls for local resources on HIV and AIDS fight](#)

Sierra Express Media

Addressing journalist from West and Central Africa at a media conference in Ivory Coast Mr. Sidibe said that despite the progress made in fighting HIV, yet still most countries still depend on foreign counties to support them financially to fight HIV ...

##### [Cote d'Ivoire on right track despite challenges](#)

Afrique en Ligue

New York, US - UN Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Herve Ladsous,

says while Cote d'Ivoire is on the right path following a violent post-election crisis in 2011, threats to its peace and political stability should not be ...

[Nigeria To Reduce Troops In Mali To Tackle Insecurity](#)

Times of Nigeria

The Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government and President of Cote d'Ivoire, Allasane Ouattara, confirmed this in Abuja, where he debunked speculations that Nigeria was ...

[Blackthorn Resources delivers first zinc concentrate to port in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

... of Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire. Blackthorn Resources (ASX: BTR) has made its maiden shipment of zinc concentrate from its Perkoa Mine in Burkina Faso to the Port of Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire and expects to load its first shipment for export in early ...

[ICC prosecutor visits Ivory Coast to strengthen case against ex-President ...](#)

Washington Post

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — A top International Criminal Court says she traveled to Ivory Coast to strengthen her office's case against former President Laurent Gbagbo, who has been accused of crimes against humanity in the country's 2010-11 postelection ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 19, 2013**

**Today's Top Stories**

1. **Defense Minister Paul Koffi Koffi orders occupiers of the forested Peko reserve to leave, says the military will be deployed**
2. **The government bans access to a gold mining site following clashes among villagers**
3. **ICC prosecutor arrives in Abidjan to meet with Ivoirian justice minister**
1. **Defense Minister Paul Koffi Koffi orders occupiers of the forested Peko reserve to leave, says the military will be deployed**

Two months after the arrest of militia leader Amade Ouremi, the situation in the Peko reserve in western Cote d'Ivoire remains tense. The information is reported by *L'Inter* (p. 3) which notes that the forested area is still occupied by militiamen and supporters of Ouremi. According to the daily, Ivoirian Minister in charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi issued yesterday an ultimatum to the occupiers to desert the area. "These lands belong to the government and you cannot settle here," he reportedly said, adding that Ouremi's followers have three months to leave the region but they must surrender their weapons within one month or will be pursued by the military. Koffi, who met with traditional leaders of the Guemon region said the government will take the necessary steps needed to ensure it has total control of the reserve and the region.

*Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2) carries a similar account, adding that a deputy of Amade Ouremi, speaking on behalf of his followers, committed to abiding by the government order.

2. **The government bans access to a gold mining site following clashes among villagers**

Violent clashes took place last week between villagers and traditional gold miners from Angovia in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire resulting in the death of four people and more than a hundred others injured. According to *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 7) the unrest stemmed from an altercation over a royalty payment to access the mining site. Things turned violent after a man was reportedly killed for refusing to honor the fee, prompting rival groups – native villagers and northern settlers – to confront each other armed with rifles, machetes and bats, the paper adds. As a result of the deadly incident, the government has banned mining activities in the region.

### 3. ICC prosecutor arrives in Abidjan to meet with Ivoirian justice minister

The prosecutor from the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, is expected today in Abidjan where she is scheduled to meet with Ivoirian Minister of Justice Gnenema Coulibaly. *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) says this is her first visit to the country since the Hague-based court postponed the hearing for the confirmation of charges against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. The decision, the paper adds, was made after ICC judges said they needed additional evidence. According to the daily, the purpose of her trip may be to gather more evidence ahead of Gbagbo's pretrial hearing. It may also be linked to the recent decision by a court in Abidjan to try former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo in Cote d'Ivoire despite the arrest warrant the ICC issued against her.

Opposition papers such as *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) say the ICC prosecutor's move is to force the government to hand over former warlords like Sherif Ousmane Losseni Fofana and others who fought for President Ouattara, who have been accused of wide-spread human right abuses. *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 3) and *Le Temps* (p. 6-7) say Bensouda is engaged in a vain exercise attempting to collect fake evidence against the ex-leader.

### International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire On Right Track Despite Challenges, Security Council Told](#)

AllAfrica.com

While Côte d'Ivoire is on the right path following a violent post-election crisis in 2011, threats to its peace and political stability should not be underestimated, a senior United Nations official today said, urging the Security Council to extend the ...

[Do religion and ICTs mix ?](#)

Biztech Africa

By Issa Sikiti da Silva, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. After 'seducing' and 'conquering' almost every business sector, and helping change their destiny, the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have in the past few years begun to flirt with ...

[Ivorian leader: Nigeria pulling troops from Mali](#)

U.S. News & World Report

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara says Nigeria is withdrawing some of its 1,200 troops in Mali to fight an Islamic uprising back home. The announcement comes 10 days before elections in Mali, which is fighting its own ...

[W. Africa leaders insist Mali polls will go ahead on July 28](#)

Fox News

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara, current chair of the 15-nation West African bloc ECOWAS, said "there are no doubts" the vote would be held on time.. The polls would take place "on the scheduled date," the Ivorian leader said at the close of ...

[Scores killed in brutal ethnic clashes in Guinea](#)

FRANCE 24

The country's second-largest city, Nzerekore, and the surrounding forest region near the border with Ivory Coast have been gripped by clashes between rival communities after petrol station guards from the Guerze tribe in the town of Koule beat to death ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 18, 2013**

**Today's Top Stories**

1. **Attending ECOWAS summit in Nigeria, President Ouattara commends the regional bloc for its recent achievements**
  2. **New bill on citizenship: a hot potato in the hands of Ivoirian National Assembly members**
  3. **HACA president defends the liberalization of the audiovisual sector**
  4. **Ivoirian authorities use video surveillance to monitor security**
  5. **ICC prosecutor rejects allegation of bias, argues the court will probe on other cases in the Ivoirian crisis**
1. **Attending ECOWAS summit in Nigeria, President Ouattara commends the regional bloc for its recent achievements**

Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara commended yesterday leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for efforts being made to address regional challenges. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) which notes that the comments were made during the opening of the 43rd ECOWAS summit in Abuja, Nigeria. In his address, the Ivoirian leader, who is also the chairman of the regional bloc, highlighted the role the organization has recently played during conflicts in Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali and Togo. According to President Ouattara, thanks to its insight, ECOWAS was able to offer efficient approaches in the handling of the different crises that have shaken the region. He called on authorities in Mali and Guinea Bissau to work to provide an environment that allows for democracy and rule of law to triumph, the paper adds.

*L'Inter* (p. 2) carried a similar account, adding that the Ivoirian leader plead for reinforced security measures to curb maritime piracy and called for efforts to increase investment in the region.

2. **New bill on citizenship: a "hot potato" in the hands of Ivoirian National Assembly members**

A new bill on citizenship is being debated by members of the Ivoirian National Assembly (MPs). The information is reported by *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 4) which notes that the new bill includes legal provisions on statelessness and grants *de facto* Ivoirian citizenship to individuals born in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the issue is a "hot potato" in the hands of Ivoirian MPs. Heated debates are expected as the fate of the bill is decided tomorrow in a plenary session, the paper adds.

Opposition paper *Notre Voie* (p. 2) alleges that the move to pass the bill is nothing more than a politically-motivated scheme. Citing a political analyst, the paper accuses President Ouattara of maneuvering to recruit voters ahead of the 2015 presidential race.

Still on the issue, *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) reports that an Ivoirian civil society group dubbed *Convention de la Société Civile Ivoirienne* (CSCI) has also denounced the measure. "We are very concerned by the Ouattara administration's policy on citizenship and land tenure," a statement issued by the CSCI reportedly read. The group, the paper further adds, called on the government to adopt a more inclusive approach in dealing with highly sensitive issues of this kind and to reach out to include the country's various groups in such a nationwide project.

### **3. HACA president defends the liberalization of the audiovisual sector**

The president of Cote d'Ivoire's authority that governs television and radio, the *Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle* (HACA), Ibrahim Sy Savanne, defended yesterday the liberalization of television in the country. The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 25) which notes Sy Savanne explained the project during testimony to Ivoirian MPs. In his view, liberalization is needed to comply with requirements a democratic state should meet, and it will also lead to a greater freedom of speech. "A single television channel does not reflect all the opinions of the citizenry," he said, arguing that more television stations will also allow the country's cultural diversity to thrive and grow the economy. Given that liberalization will not come until after the transition of the television sector from analog to digital, Sy Savane lobbied for this transition to happen quickly, the paper adds.

### **4. Ivoirian authorities use video surveillance to monitor security**

According to an article in *Soir Info* (p. 3), Ivoirian authorities have decided to use video surveillance as part of efforts to monitor security in the country's cities. Video recording devices have recently been installed in cities such as Yamoussoukro, the paper says. The move, the paper adds, aims at mitigating violent crimes and banditry.

This update came as several papers, including *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 3), report on the arrest of a gang of roadside robbers who killed two people last week in their assault on a passenger bus. According to the paper, the group includes a former combatant and Fulani shepherds.

### **5. ICC prosecutor rejects allegation of bias, argues the court will probe on other cases in the Ivoirian crisis**

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, argued yesterday that the court is fair and free from any kind of political interference. The information was reported by *L'Inter* (p. 8) which notes that Bensouda, during an interview with online French newspaper *lexpress.fr*, said the case of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo is not the sole case the court will pursue related to the Ivoirian political crisis of 2011. "It is the first case but definitely not the last one," she reportedly said.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

### [Côte d'Ivoire: We must improve things for SMEs - Jean-Louis Billon](#)

The Africa Report

Contrary to what people believe, manufacturing in Côte d'Ivoire costs more than manufacturing abroad. Wanting to process more natural resources is one thing, but being able to do so is another. At the moment, we do not have this competitiveness.

### [Apollo Consolidated's joint venture secures title to Cote d'Ivoire gold ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

Apollo Consolidated's joint venture secures title to Cote d'Ivoire gold exploration licence. Apollo Consolidated's (ASX: AOP) Cote d'Ivoire special purpose joint venture company has been awarded title to an exploration licence at the Seguela gold project.

### [Residents concerned over degradation of Cote d'Ivoire's maritime coastline](#)

Shanghai Daily (subscription)

ABIDJAN, July 17 (Xinhua) -- Residents living in Port-Bouet town, south of Cote d'Ivoire's economic hub Abidjan, are increasingly concerned over the degradation of the maritime coastline of the West African country. Residents are complaining that they ...

### [China to Lend \\$10 Billion for Ivory Coast Plans, Minister Says](#)

Businessweek

China will lend as much as \$10 billion during the next six years at below-market rates to fund infrastructure projects in the Ivory Coast, according to the West African nation's planning minister. The majority of the concessional loans will come from ...

### [Swapping land for peace in war-torn Ivory Coast](#)

GlobalPost

ZIAGLO, Ivory Coast — The village of Zianglo in western Ivory Coast is about as quaint as a town comes. Lazy dirt trails wind their way through thickets of tall unkempt grass. The deputy chief rides around on a blue bicycle in flowing blue and white ...

### [I. Coast leader urges no delay in Mali polls](#)

GlobalPost

Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara said Wednesday it was crucial that Mali's presidential election be held as scheduled on July 28 amid doubts that the divided nation will be ready for the vote. Ouattara made the comments at the opening of a ...

### [Guinea deploys troops as 17 killed in ethnic clashes](#)

Chicago Tribune

Guinea's second city of Nzerekore and the surrounding region near the border with Ivory Coast have been gripped by clashes between local communities after a man accused of being a thief was lynched on Sunday. Government spokesman Damantang ...

## [How West Africa can achieve zero hunger by 2030](#)

Nigerian Tribune

The region was recently selected by the G20 to pilot a system of integrated humanitarian food stocks, while five West African countries – Burkina Faso, Ghana and the Ivory Coast in 2012, and Nigeria and Benin in 2013– have been among the first nine to ...

### **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 17, 2013**

#### **Today's Top Stories**

- 1. Authorities move towards improving business environment in Cote d'Ivoire**
- 2. Electoral commission says campaign for by-elections is peaceful**

#### **1. Authorities move towards improving business environment in Cote d'Ivoire**

Measures being taken by the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire to boost the country's economy feature prominently in the press today. A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 20) says officials from CEPICI, a body whose role is to help promote investment in Cote d'Ivoire, yesterday told reporters that many obstacles are keeping the Ivoirian diaspora from investing in the country. These obstacles range from a lack of data and information related to the country's economic and social environment to inefficient national policy regarding investment. To resolve these problems, the report says, CEPICI has come out with recommendations including a census of potential Ivoirian investors living abroad and the creation of an investment endowment fund to support them.

Reporting on the same issue, *L'Inter* (p. 13) quotes CEPICI officials as disclosing that Cote d'Ivoire is expecting some FCFA 9.5 billion (about US \$19 million) in investments from the diaspora. The report also quotes officials as saying that this was the result of Diaspora for Growth, a forum organized recently by the Ivoirian government in Paris. CEPICI's objective is also to promote local entrepreneurs, reports the paper, which quotes officials as saying that local investments have reached FCFA 300 billion (about US \$600 million) as of June this year.

Meanwhile, a report in *Notre Voie* (p. 8) claims that private investments have not improved in Cote d'Ivoire as a result of corruption and lack of transparency in the management of revenue services.

#### **2. Electoral commission says campaign for by-elections is peaceful**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) says the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has commended candidates of the July 21 local and regional by-elections for running a peaceful campaign. There have been no reported incidents now four days after the beginning of the campaign, reports the paper. The paper quotes a local member of the electoral commission as assuring that, "measures have been taken to ensure that the vote takes place in good conditions." Another report on the same page of the paper says the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire has called for

a “civilized campaign and a peaceful election.” The UN mission has also promised to back Ivoirian security forces to ensure security during the vote.

### **International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire**

#### [Cote d'Ivoire opposition blasts trial of party members](#)

Global Times

Cote d'Ivoire's opposition Popular Front (FPI) says it is displeased with the trial of 84 of its party members on charges of involvement in the 2010-2011 post-election violence. "The FPI is displeased with the fact that 84 of its members have been ...

#### [Cote d'Ivoire president to visit Nigeria for ECOWAS summit](#)

Shanghai Daily (subscription)

ABIDJAN, July 16 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire's President Alassane Ouattara visits Nigeria on Tuesday to attend the 43rd ordinary session of the conference of presidents of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), according to a government ...

#### [Cote d'Ivoire parliament approves 6% increase of state budget](#)

Shanghai Daily (subscription)

ABIDJAN, July 16 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire's parliament has approved a bill to authorize a 6 percent increase of the state budget from 7.6 billion U. S. dollars to more than 7.7 billion dollars. The bill presented before parliament by Cote d'Ivoire's ...

#### [Nemex Resources raising funds to carry out gold exploration in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

Nemex Resources (ASX: NXR) is raising up to \$545,312 to fund initial exploration of its recently acquired gold projects in Côte d'Ivoire through a pro-rata non renounceable entitlement issue to shareholders. Notably, Pareto Capital has agreed to fully ...

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### **American Embassy’s National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 16, 2013**

#### **Today’s Top Stories**

- 1. Announcement of baccalaureate examinations results**
- 2. Dailies express concerns about growing insecurity in northern Cote d’Ivoire**
- 3. Parliament reviews 2013 fiscal budget**

#### **1. Announcement of baccalaureate examinations results**

The results of the 2013 baccalaureate examinations announced yesterday have sparked mixed reactions in the press today. A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 11) says 33.58 percent of candidates passed the exams that allow them to enter university this year versus 25.22 percent in 2012, an increase of 8.36 percent.

*Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 8) and *Le Patriote* (p. 11) also note that baccalaureate examination results have increased steadily during the past five years with the lowest in 2009 when only 20.12 per cent of candidates passed the exams.

But *Notre Voie* (p. 9) describes the results as another poor performance on the part of the Ministry of National Education while *Soir Info* (p. 8) says this is one of the lowest results obtained from baccalaureate exams in Cote d'Ivoire six years.

## **2. Dailies express concerns about growing insecurity in northern Cote d'Ivoire**

Recent attacks perpetrated by unidentified gunmen in northern Cote d'Ivoire have brought up the question of security in Cote d'Ivoire. A prominent article in pro-opposition daily *Notre Voie* (p. 4) suggests that the growing insecurity in this part of the country should be blamed on ex-rebels, who, according to the paper, have taken "hostage" the northern region. The paper also describes recent attacks on government officials as one of the plagues caused by the September 2002 rebellion in Cote d'Ivoire.

*Le Patriote* (pp. 2&3) devotes large columns commenting on the issue and sees the recent attacks as "blackmail" on the part of the former fighters who have not been integrated into the national army. The paper also calls on the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire to face the issue directly by deploying a special security unit to the north in an effort to stop the activities of the armed gangs operating in the region.

An article in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) blames the attacks on the delay of the disarmament program. According to the paper, out of the 3,825 ex-combatants who have been identified, only 1,124 have returned to normal activities. Meanwhile, in an interview with *L'Inter* (pp. 5&6), the head of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Authority (ADDR), Fidele Sarassoro, himself the victim of a recent attack, said the disarmament program is not designed to put money into the pockets of former combatants. He is also reported as saying that the objective of the program is to reintegrate 30,000 ex-combatants by the end of this year.

## **3. Parliament reviews 2013 fiscal budget**

A prominent report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13) says a parliamentary commission in charge of economic and financial affairs has adopted a bill seeking a FCFA 69 billion (about US \$138 million) increase to this year's budget in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the bill was presented by the Minister in charge of Economy and Finance, Niale Kaba, who explained that the increase is necessary in order to provide money to the government to implement certain projects.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

### [Orange reinvents money in Africa via Mobile](#)

The Rude Baguette

Orange Money Mali. Orange launches the first mobile to mobile transfers in Africa. It will be available in three countries : Mali, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

### [AfDB launches open data platform](#)

Capital FM Kenya

This follows the completion in July 2013 of the last phase of the project for the following 14

African countries: Kenya, Benin, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, São Tomé and Príncipe ...

### [Amara encouraged by Yaoure testwork](#)

Stock Market Wire

StockMarketWire.com - Amara Mining is encouraged by the results of the metallurgical testwork and the latest drilling results from the Yaoure gold project in Côte d'Ivoire.

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130715-906767.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAKOApArOqTjwVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=Et4g1mc-LBY&usg=AFQjCNH-DNJ7vzHVzZsujK\\_v9abhYUGxggResearch and Markets: The Insurance Industry in Cte d'Ivoire, Key](http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130715-906767.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAKOApArOqTjwVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=Et4g1mc-LBY&usg=AFQjCNH-DNJ7vzHVzZsujK_v9abhYUGxggResearch and Markets: The Insurance Industry in Cte d'Ivoire, Key)  
[http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130715-906767.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAKOApArOqTjwVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=Et4g1mc-LBY&usg=AFQjCNH-DNJ7vzHVzZsujK\\_v9abhYUGxggTrends and ...](http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130715-906767.html&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAKOApArOqTjwVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=Et4g1mc-LBY&usg=AFQjCNH-DNJ7vzHVzZsujK_v9abhYUGxggTrends and ...)

Wall Street Journal

Côte d'Ivoire (sometimes anglicized as Ivory Coast) has a small insurance industry, encompassing a population of around 23.4 million. Given its size, the insurance industry is highly competitive and fragmented with 29 companies having a presence.

### **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 15, 2013**

#### **Today's Top Stories**

- 1. Four killed after fighting between rival communities in Cote d'Ivoire**
- 2. Reconciliation commission identifies causes of Ivoirian crisis**
- 3. PDCI youth leader to run for party's leadership**
- 4. Prime Minister Duncan launches a multi-billion CFA fiber-optic project**

#### **1. Four killed after fighting between rival communities in Cote d'Ivoire**

A prominent story in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) claims that four people were killed and many others wounded on Friday in Angovia, in central Cote d'Ivoire, following a clash between people from the Baoule ethnic group and immigrants from Burkina Faso. The violence, the report says, stemmed from a dispute over fundraising for the construction of a house for a teacher in the village.

*L'Inter* (p. 9) also carries a conflicting report quoting different sources as saying that three or five people were killed and many houses were ransacked by the feuding factions. A report in pro-government *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 9) says the indigenous residents fled the village following the clash. According to the pro-opposition daily *Notre Voie* (p. 3), the violence was the result of backlash after the death of young Burkinabe who was assaulted a day before.

#### **2. Reconciliation commission identifies causes of Ivoirian crises**

A report in today's issue of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) quotes experts tasked with finding ideas to speed up the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire as saying that land and nationality issues are

the principal causes of recent crises in Cote d'Ivoire. The experts, who met in the Ivoirian political capital of Yamoussoukro last week, also mentioned poverty, democracy, justice and security as the other sources of conflict in this country.

Reporting on the same issue, the pro-opposition daily *Le Temps* (p. 4) says the president of the Ivoirian Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), Charles Konan Banny, used the occasion to call on President Alassane Ouattara to release supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo. However, an article in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) quotes Banny as urging Ivoirians to have "confidence" in Cote d'Ivoire's judiciary system. "I urge Ivoirians not to fear their justice whose mission is to rule by law," the paper quotes Banny as saying.

### **3. PDCI youth leader to run for party's leadership**

A statement signed by PDCI-RDA's youth leader Kouadio Konan Bertin announcing his intention to vie for the party's presidency in the coming conventions features prominently in the press today. "I am a candidate against [former Ivoirian president and head of the party Henri Konan] Bedie for PDCI's presidency," *Soir Info* (p. 3) quotes the youth leader as saying at a conference in Paris. The paper also suggests that by this announcement, Kouadio, who is also a member of the Ivoirian National Assembly, was trying to send a message to Bedie that time has come for him to retire.

*Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 5) publishes a letter signed by one of the PDCI's leaders accusing the youth leader of "betraying" the party, while an article in *Notre Voie* (p. 2) suggests that the motive behind Kouadio's decision to contest the party's leadership was to instill change into the party.

### **4. Prime Minister Duncan launches a multi-billion CFA fiber-optic project**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13) says Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan has launched an ambitious fiber-optic project aimed at extending the network into rural areas. Estimated at FCFA 106 billion (about US \$212 million), the fiber-optic cable will connect the cities of Grand-Bassam and Abidjan in the south to Bouna in the northeast.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

### [Cote d'Ivoire turns to brute force to save forests](#)

Africa Review

Timber industry has devastated Cote d'Ivoire's rainforest, forcing the government to turn to brute force to save it. FILE | NATION MEDIA GROUP. Faced with the dilemma of trying to save a protected forest, which had become home to thousands of people ...

### ['Gay marriage will mark the end of the world,' warns Ivory Coast minister](#)

LGBTQ Nation

BROBO, Ivory Coast — Gay marriage is an "aberration" and "will mark the end of the world," according to Gnamien Konan, Ivory Coast's Minister of Public Service. "The marriage consent for same-sex couples will mark the end of the world," Konan said ...

### [Cote d'Ivoire: Ivorian PM extols virtue of sports as ANOCA assembly opens](#)

Afrique en Ligue

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire - Ivorian Prime Minister Daniel Duncan has described sports as an important foundation for the education of young people, as the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) began its 15th Ordinary General Assembly ...

[AfDB continues to support low-carbon development pathways for Africa](#)

This important forum was held from July 3-5, 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Given the challenges of the current carbon market, ACF reflected on how the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other mitigation and financing mechanisms ...

### **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 12, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. New UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire recommits to supporting reconciliation and reconstruction efforts
2. Campaign for municipal by-election to begin tomorrow
3. The Ivoirian political class divided over the confirmation of charges against pro-Gbagbo detainees
4. Ivoirian military discuss reforms as ex-military members are accused of becoming roadside robbers
5. The Ivoirian government likely to reach out to solar and wind power
1. New UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire recommits to supporting reconciliation and reconstruction

Aichaitou Mindaoudou, the new UN special envoy to Cote d'Ivoire met yesterday in Abidjan with President Alassane Ouattara. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) which notes that this was her first meeting with the Ivoirian leader since she took office earlier this week. On the occasion, the paper says, Mindaoudou recommitted the UN to supporting the government in its efforts to achieve reconciliation.

## 2. Campaign for municipal by-election to begin tomorrow

Campaigning ahead of the municipal by-election will start tomorrow according to an article in *Soir Info* (p. 8). The announcement, the paper says, was made yesterday by the president of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) Youssouf Bakayoko. Municipal elections are to be rerun in Anyama, Bettie, Doropo and in the Tchologo region where the initial poll was marred with incidents causing the results to be nullified by the Supreme Court. Bakayoko called on the different candidates and their supporters to act responsibly during the campaign, which will end on Saturday, July 20. He insists that security measures have been taken to ensure the poll is carried out peacefully, the paper adds.

In a related story, *Nord Sud Quotiden* (p. 6) says the government took yesterday a measure which is likely to reduce the autonomy of mayors. According to the daily, a government-sponsored commission will soon be established to provide oversight and greater government control of mayoral activities.

## 3. The Ivoirian political class divided over the confirmation of charges against pro-Gbagbo detainees

The decision Wednesday by a court in Abidjan to open a trial against Simone Gbagbo and several other detainees close to former president Laurent Gbagbo continued to receive commentary. According to *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 3), Anaky Kobena, the president of *Mouvement des Forces d'Avenir* (MFA) and an ally of President Ouattara, criticized the move arguing that it does not go along with the reconciliation process. The former Ivoirian first lady and some 80 supporters of the ex-leader are to face charges in connection with the post electoral violence. The charges against six of them were dropped.

## 4. Ivoirian military discuss reforms as ex-military members are accused of becoming roadside robbers

The leadership of the Ivoirian military gathered yesterday in Grand Bassam to discuss reforms of the defense and security sectors. The information is reported by *L'Inter* (p. 6) which notes that the two-day session is aimed at updating and streamlining operational procedures within the country's military forces. According to the Ivoirian minister in charge of defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, these reforms are needed to build a committed and modern army. "It is time to update our procedures which date back 53 years, he reportedly said. Koffi Koffi, the paper adds, also announced that the army will soon have state of the art equipment, including patrol boats which will help fight piracy.

Still on defense and security, *Soir Info* (p. 3) notes that four individuals identified as members of the "Commando du Nord," a dissident militia originally associated with the *Forces Nouvelles*, have been arrested in Aboisso. According to the daily, the gang was planning attacks on government forces and roadside robberies. Armed with AK-47 rifles, the band fled to the south while being chased by government forces.

In a separate development, the paper notes that former combatants and ex-militia men are cited as the perpetrators of most of roadside attacks, an increasing phenomenon on the country's roads.

5. The Ivoirian government likely to reach out to solar and wind power

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5) the government could reach out to solar and wind energy companies to address shortages. The information, the paper says, was released yesterday by government spokesperson Bruno Kone, who said the issue was discussed during yesterday's cabinet meeting. Four pilot companies are working on projects in Man, Korhogo, Bouake and Bouna. Their results are awaited for larger-scale implementation, the paper says.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast turns to brute force to save forests](#)

AFP

SASSANDRA, Ivory Coast — It was a brutal end to a long-term problem. Faced with the dilemma of trying to save a protected forest, which had become home to thousands of people, the Ivory Coast government turned to force. Soldiers, some armed with ...

[The Ivorian president is struggling to impose a sense of right and wrong](#)

The Economist

Ever since Ivory Coast's short but murderous crisis after a disputed election in 2010, Mr Ouérémi enjoyed close relations with the rebels who have now become the national army. Alongside bands of traditional hunters, called dozos, he helped to wrest ...

[Finance: Small companies in Côte d'Ivoire struggle](#)

The Africa Report

They represent 80 percent of Côte d'Ivoire's companies, but small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are feeling the pinch due to a lack of access to finance. Even if in recent months local banks have set aside pools of capital to extend credit lines ...

[Olympic lobbying bandwagon heads to Africa](#)

ESPN

A meeting of African Olympic committees in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, will be a hotbed of lobbying among the three cities bidding for the 2020 Olympics, the six contenders for IOC president and the three sports vying for a spot in the 2020 Games. All three...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 11, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. Charges related to post-electoral violence confirmed against Simone Gbagbo and 80 others

2. FPI party says the government is doing nothing to advance democracy
3. The government to take up measures to create jobs for the youth

#### 1. Charges related to post-electoral violence confirmed against Simone Gbagbo and 80 others

Charges against Simone Gbagbo, the former Ivoirian first lady, were confirmed yesterday by a court in Abidjan for her role in violence that followed the 2010 presidential election. *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) said the decision paves the way for the trial of Simone Gbagbo and 80 other supporters of the ex-leader, including his son Michel Gbagbo and FPI officials Pascal Affi N'guessan and Ake Ngbo. They are accused among other counts of breaching state security, rebellion and defiance of state authority the paper added.

*Le Patriote* (p. 6) carried a similar account while *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 4) argued the decision underscores the government's reluctance to transfer the case of Simone Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court which has issued an arrest warrant against her.

According to *L'Inter* (p. 5) the decision was deemed baseless and illegal by the defense team. "We are upset that the law has been ignored," the paper reported Mr. Djirabou, the legal advisor of the accused as saying. "The court should have been fair enough to conclude that there is not enough evidence against them," he added, arguing that even judges from the ICC acknowledged they lack evidence to open a trial against former president Laurent Gbagbo. He denounced a double standard of justice in the handling of the case, the paper further added.

Papers close to the FPI, including *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 2) and *Notre Voie* (p. 2) echoed the charge of bias against pro-Gbagbo detainees.

#### 2 FPI says the government is doing nothing to advance democracy

In a statement yesterday, Richard Kodjo, the interim secretary general and spokesperson of the FPI accused the government of doing nothing to advance democracy in the country. *Le Temps* (p. 8) published the full transcript of the statement in which Mr. Kodjo criticized the government's decision to get rid of the elected presidents of the country's public universities and appoint new ones. According to Mr. Kodjo such a move is not consistent with democracy and good governance. He complained that the government is still engaged in a witch-hunt against alleged supporters of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo and nepotism.

#### 3. The government to take up measures to create jobs for the youth

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16) Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said the government is committed to addressing youth unemployment and will soon be taking measures to create jobs. Speaking yesterday at a graduation ceremony at the National School of Statistics (ENSEA), Mr. Duncan underscored that the government is working to create an environment that allows business to thrive and foster job creation. To that end, he added, a task force dubbed Youth Employment Project or PEJEDEC has been set up.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[ICT in education : public schools vs private schools](#)

Biztech Africa

The main challenges to the use of ICTs in education in Ivory Coast are the lack of necessary

infrastructure, computer equipment, qualified human resources and the high cost of ICT materials, according to the 2007 Infodev Survey of ICT and Education in ...

[Drogba to build hospitals](#)

SuperSport

Former Chelsea striker Didier Drogba has announced he would build five hospitals in his homeland Ivory Coast to cater for children and women's health. The announcement was made by the secretary of his Didier Drogba Foundation, Guy Roland Tanoh, ...

[Barry Callebaut opens Côte d'Ivoire center to teach sustainable cocoa practices](#)

ConfectioneryNews.com

Barry Callebaut has opened its first Cocoa Center of Excellence to teach best practices for sustainable cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's number one cocoa-producing country. Related news: Cocoa shell powder has numerous uses in chocolate and ...

[Commodity Traders Face New Squeeze as Storage Congestion Spreads](#)

Bloomberg

Ivory Coast. While most buyers get beans directly from producing countries, the stockpiles become more important when supply is disrupted. The main harvest in Ivory Coast, the biggest grower, usually begins in mid- to late-September. It may be delayed ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 10, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions after President Ouattara asks opposition FPI party to repent
2. Ambassador Carter does final meeting with Ivoirian electoral commission
3. Francophonie parliamentary assembly to open today in Abidjan
4. Cote d'Ivoire disagrees with Ghana over construction of electricity dam

1. Reactions after President Ouattara asks opposition FPI party to repent

A recent call from President Alassane Ouattara asking the former ruling FPI party to repent and demand pardon as part of the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire has sparked reactions in the press today. Soir Info (p. 4) carries an interview with FPI general secretary, Richard Kodjo, who said, "People who look for others to beg pardon are those who destroy the country." Kodjo denounced a scenario in which "the butcher is calling him or herself a victim."

Kodjo's reaction has also prompted commentary in Soir Info (p. 5) which reports observers as saying that the political dialogue between the government and the party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo is "deadlocked" as the two sides are accusing each other of being responsible of the violence that erupted after the 2010 presidential runoff. The pro-government newspaper Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 8) also quotes Sebastien Danon Djedje, a leading member of Gbagbo's FPI party as saying, "Why should we beg for pardon?"

“It is Ouattara who should demand pardon,” writes pro-opposition daily Notre Voie (p. 4), which claims that people loyal to the Ivoirian president took up arms to help him get into power during the 2011 political crisis.

## 2. Ambassador Carter does final meeting with Ivoirian electoral commission

An article in L’Inter (p. 2) says Ambassador Phillip Carter III commended the president of the Ivoirian electoral commission for his role in settling disputes during the recent local elections. The ambassador, the paper says, was speaking Tuesday in Abidjan after a final meeting with the head of the electoral commission, Youssouf Bakayoko. Bakayoko thanked the ambassador for his “personal involvement and that of his country” leading to the success of the peace and electoral process in Cote d’Ivoire.

In a related development, an article in L’Expression (p. 5) quotes Ambassador Carter saying, “There is hope for Cote d’Ivoire.” According to the paper, the ambassador said this during a recent interview with the Ivoirian television station RTI.

## 3. Francophone parliamentary assembly to open today in Abidjan

An article in Fraternelle Matin (p. 9) says the 39<sup>th</sup> conference of Francophone parliamentarians opens open today in Abidjan. The report also says ahead of this conference, youth parliamentarians and the network of Francophone women parliamentarians met yesterday. The women’s conference was designed to come up with ideas on how to resolve problems facing women. Addressing the youth, Speaker of the Ivoirian National Assembly Guillaume Soro called on them to “participate peacefully in the political, economic and social process.”

## 4. Cote d’Ivoire disagrees with Ghana over construction of electricity dam

A report in Soir Info (p. 8) says Cote d’Ivoire disagrees with Ghana over the decision by Ghanaian authorities to construct a hydro-electric dam on the Volta River. According to the paper, Ivoirian authorities recently sent a letter to their Ghanaian counterparts to protest the construction of the dam which they say could cause damage to Ivoirian waterways. The paper also quotes the letter as saying, “This decision violates international laws on trans-border projects.”

International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

[La Côte d'Ivoire: A race against time](#)

The Africa Report

The IMF, World Bank and other donors gave Côte d'Ivoire more than \$4bn in debt relief in 2012. Last December, donors pledged about \$8.6bn

[Gay Marriage: Cote d'Ivoire Will Stick To Its Laws, Traditions - Ouattara](#)

Leadership Newspapers

“I do not have much comments to make on this issue; we have laws in Cote d'Ivoire, we have traditions too; we will stick to them,” the statement ...

[Ouattara says Ivory Coast to issue bond as economy booms](#)

Globe and Mail

Stronger-than-expected cocoa production in Ivory Coast would drive economic growth of around

9 per cent this year, supported by higher public infrastructure spending and rebounding private investment, President Alassane Ouattara said. A robust post-war ...

[Ivory Coast plans special fund to boost cotton production](#)

Fibre2fashion.com

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said the special fund would increase cotton production in the country to 600,000 tons by 2016, from the present production of 350,000 tons per year, Ivoirian news agency AIP reported. President Ouattara said the ...

[Archer Daniels Midland puts its cocoa business up for sale](#)

spyghana.com

Archer Daniels Midland has put its worldwide cocoa business on the block as it plans to exit cocoa business and concentrate on grain trading. ADM built a US\$70million processing plant in Kumasi in 2009 and has other cocoa operations in Ivory Coast ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 9, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara calls on FPI to join the country's peace process
2. A pro-opposition paper suspended by the Ivoirian press watchdog for criticizing the government
3. As verdict is expected soon, papers speculate on jail sentences for the ex-managers of the cocoa and coffee sector
4. A government-sponsored task force launches an anti-corruption campaign
1. President Ouattara calls on FPI to join the country's peace process

President Alassane Ouattara yesterday extended an invitation to leaders of the former ruling FPI party to participate in the peace and reconciliation process. *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) said the overture was made in the city of Korhogo where the Ivoirian leader yesterday concluded his tour of the north. "I would like once again to call upon our brothers and friends from the FPI to join the reconciliation process... The FPI was bold enough to denounce the one-party system and is therefore capable of repenting and acting with humility towards victims of the crisis and their families," President Ouattara reportedly said, adding that he remains committed to reconciliation, unity and brotherhood.

*Le Patriote* (p. 2) carried a similar account and published (pp. 6-8) an interview the Ivoirian leader gave on the margins of his presidential trip. In a wide-ranging discussion, President Ouattara said the government is addressing the country's challenges and that all people implicated in the country's deadly crisis will face justice.

President Ouattara's overture was also commented on by opposition papers. Le Temps (p. 5) argued the Ivoirian leader's move is a vain attempt to turn the real victims into perpetrators of the atrocities the country went through. The paper alleged that supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo and the FPI are the real victims of the crisis which can be traced back to the 2002 failed coup attempt and was exacerbated during and after the 2010 presidential election.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5) argued that the Ivoirian leader is jeering at the victims of the Nahibly refugee camp reportedly ransacked by supporters of the president.

2. A pro-opposition paper suspended by the Ivoirian press watchdog for criticizing the government

Le Quotidien d'Abidjan an opposition paper close to the former ruling FPI party has been suspended for seven days by the Conseil National de la Presse, the country's press watchdog. The information made news in the press as it happened a few days after the CNP lifted sanctions imposed on three other papers which resumed publication yesterday. According to Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9) the paper was suspended for publishing a controversial article alleging that a dictatorship is reigning in Cote d'Ivoire with hundreds of political leaders being detained by the Ivoirian regime. According to the CNP such allegations are likely to jeopardize national cohesion and fuel tensions; hence the CNP sanction which also suspended the publisher of the paper, Mr. Allan Alliali for two months.

However, for Mr. Alliali, the CNP's decision is politically-motivated. "This politically-motivated decision is unfair and abusive," he complained, arguing that the subject article was not intended to stir up people. "As the president himself put it, we are free to speak up and that is what I did," he added.

3. As verdict is expected soon, papers speculate on jail sentences for the ex-managers of the cocoa and coffee sector

The trial of the former managers of the Ivoirian cocoa and coffee sectors accused of mismanagement and embezzlement is at its climax according to papers which noted that the verdict is expected soon. Soir Info (p. 8) noted that in his indictment state prosecutor Fernand Oulaye requested jail sentences for Henri Amouzou and Theophile Kouassi two of those accused of economic crimes.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3) said the ex-cocoa and coffee tycoons are likely to serve several years in jail.

4. A government-sponsored task force launches an anti-corruption campaign

According to an article in Fraternite Matin (p. 19) the government has initiated a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of corruption. Speaking yesterday at the launching of the campaign, Mr. Meite Sindou, the chairman of a government-sponsored task force aimed at promoting good governance, said the initiative is attempting to use publicity and advocacy efforts to change public attitudes towards corruption which is a hindrance to the development of the country.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Billboards against corruption](#)

The Economist (blog)

IN MID-JUNE curious billboards sprung up around Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capital. In orange lettering set against a black backdrop, ...

[Saving Côte d'Ivoire's Fragile Forests and People](#)

Independent European Daily Express

DIX-HUIT MONTAGNES REGION, Côte d'Ivoire, Jul 09 (IPS) - As the Côte d'Ivoire government clears its protected forests of illegal occupiers, ...

[Ivory Coast accuses Ghana of breaching int'l law over Bui dam](#)

Myjoyonline.com

The Ivorian authorities are demanding discussions with the Ghana government over the likely environmental and social impact of the Bui hydroelectric dam project on Ivory Coast. According to the Ivorians, Ghana, in building the Dam, failed to consult ...

[Defense Ministry: First group of Ukrainian peacekeepers moves from Liberia to ...](#)

Interfax

Ten servicemen of the 56th separate helicopter detachment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia have left for the town of Man (Ivory Coast), the Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported on Monday. The main purpose of the redeployment of peacekeepers to ...

[High Court Rejects Appeal of Ivory Coast Infiltrators](#)

Arutz Sheva

The four were denied their original request for asylum shortly after their arrival but the government had a policy of not returning people to the Ivory Coast. Following cancellation of the policy and a change in government in the western-African nation ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 8, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. On a visit to the north, President Ouattara says he seeks reelection, commends ex-dissident leader Guillaume Soro for fairness
2. Chinese investors eye the Ivoirian market
3. Fire destroys major cosmetics company in Abidjan
4. New UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire arrives in Abidjan
5. Three papers resume publication after suspension by the country's media watchdog
1. On a visit to the north, President Ouattara says he seeks reelection, commends ex-dissident leader Soro Guillaume for fairness

The Ivoirian leader said Sunday that he will seek another term. The information was reported by Fraterrite Matin (pp. 4-11) which noted that President Alassane Ouattara was yesterday in the

town of Sinematiali as part of his tour of northern Cote d'Ivoire. He called on people to move on from the long crisis and champion reconciliation. "Each of you must work for the development of the country," he reportedly said.

On the occasion, the paper (p. 8) said President Alassane Ouattara commended Guillaume Soro, the president of the National Assembly for his insight and commitment to democracy. According to the Ivoirian leader, the then-prime minister in Gbagbo's regime, provided crucial support when Ouattara was declared the winner of the 2010 presidential by the country's electoral body and former president Laurent Gbagbo refused to cede power.

Still on the visit, Le Jour Plus (p. 4) reported that the Ivoirian leader who is often criticized by the opposition for his multiple trips around the world and on the African continent said all these efforts are needed to bring Cote d'Ivoire back onto the track of development and prosperity.

Le Jour Plus (p. 10) also noted that RTI, the state broadcaster, successfully covered the whole trip. Technical difficulties in RTI's coverage of the President's visit to Man may have cost the previous Director of RTI his job.

## 2. Chinese investors eye the Ivoirian market

According to an article in Le Jour Plus (p. 5), 30 Chinese businessmen are in Cote d'Ivoire on the invitation of the president of the District of Abidjan Robert Beugre Mambe to assess business opportunities. Led by Chinese vice-president in charge of foreign affairs Mr. Feng Zuoku, the delegation is scheduled to meet with Ivoirian authorities, including PM Daniel Kablan Duncan and public-private investments agencies like the Chamber of Commerce and the CEPICI. According to the paper, the move is in line with the government initiatives to promote economic and commercial cooperation with foreign investors. The Abidjan meeting came few days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> forum on trade between China and African countries recently attended by Mr. Mambe, the paper added.

With more on economy, an article in Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3) noted that according to an expert from the World Bank, the bid that led to the selection of French Bolloré Africa to operate the Abidjan port second containers terminal was fair. According to Maurice Adoni the selection process was conducted in accordance with the norms laid out in the solicitation.

## 3. Fire destroys major cosmetics company in Abidjan

The Ghandour Cosmetics complex located in Yopougon was totally destroyed Saturday night after a massive fire broke out in the factory. The incident was reported by most papers. According to Soir Info (p. 8) eight people including two firefighters were injured as a result of the incident. The origins of the fire remain a mystery, the paper said, arguing that losses and damages are estimated in the millions.

## 4. New UN envoy to Cote d'Ivoire arrives in Abidjan

The newly appointed UN special envoy to Cote d'Ivoire Aichatou Mindaoudou arrived Friday in Abidjan. The information was reported by Fraternite Matin in its weekend edition (p. 11). The paper noted that Mrs. Aichatou Mindaoudou, a national of Niger and veteran diplomat committed to supporting Ivoirian authorities in their efforts to promote democracy and sustainable development.

## 5. Three papers resume publication after suspension by the country's media watchdog

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, Aujourd'hui and Le Nouveau Courrier resume today after being suspended by the Ivoirian media regulatory body or CNP for failing to comply with media laws. Le Nouveau Courrier carried a long editorial (p. 2) in which it observed that the suspension came as the result of administrative shortcomings and was justified by an effort to improve the economic status of journalists, but that the regulations cited could potentially shut down independent voices and be abused for partisan purposes.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[West African Cocoa Harvests Seen Delayed on Weather to Crop Size](#)

Businessweek

Farmers in Ivory Coast are harvesting the mid-crop, the smaller of two annual harvests, and it's estimated to be 440,000 metric tons, the third-biggest ever, the London-based International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) said. Cocoa in London yesterday ...

[Hero MotoCorp begins African safari; starts operations in Kenya](#)

Economic Times

The company's operations are slated to commence in Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast next week, HMC said in a statement. In Kenya, HMC has partnered with Ryce East Africa to sell its two-wheelers in the country. Under the alliance, Sameer Group, which is a ...

[Africa on the move to establish Carbon markets](#)

Africa Science News Service

Participants at the 5th African Carbon Forum in Abidjan, Ivory Coast heard that if the development succeeds could benefit the continent and the climate as a result. Participants in the fifth Africa Carbon Forum learned about the latest national and ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 3, 2013**

**Today's Top Stories**

1. Government moves to boost cotton and cashew sectors in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Ivoirian think tank to propose ideas for Cote d'Ivoire's emerging economy
3. Student's strike avoided at the government-run university in Abidjan

1. Government moves to boost cotton and cashew sectors in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 7) says the government has adopted a bill seeking, among other things, to increase sales of Ivoirian cotton and cashews, mainly grown in the north of the country. The bill was adopted during a cabinet meeting yesterday in the northern town of Korhogo as part of President Alassane Ouattara's week-long visit to the region. The article says that cotton production, which dropped from at 400,000 tons per year before the political crisis of 2011 to 150,000 tons after, has grown steadily since that time to approximately 350,000 tons per

year at present, the paper quotes government spokesperson Bruno Kone as saying after the meeting. Cashew production has also grown steadily making Cote d'Ivoire the second largest producer of cashews in the world, the paper reports the spokesperson as saying.

According to a report in Le Patriote (p. 2), the cabinet meeting also saw the formation of a committee that will make recommendations on how to stabilize the prices of cotton and cashews to increase the revenue of farmers.

## 2. Ivoirian think tank to propose ideas for Cote d'Ivoire's emerging economy

An article in Fraternite Matin (p. 12) says an Ivoirian think tank made up of researchers from CAPEC, an Ivoirian research center for political and economic policies, met yesterday in Abidjan to evaluate results of recent research conducted on social and economic policies in the country. The policies are designed to foster ongoing reforms in Cote d'Ivoire. International trade, economic dynamism, good governance and development of the private sector are the major issues addressed by the research. The think tank will also make recommendations for which economic policies to apply in order to enable the country become an emerging economy by the year 2020.

## 3. Student's strike avoided at the government-run university in Abidjan

Activities at the government-run Nangui Abrogoua University in Abobo, a suburb of Abidjan, were brought to a stand-still yesterday, as angry students believed to be close to the Ivoirian student group FESCI tried to disrupt classes and examinations going on the campus, reports Fraternite Matin (p. 13). However, the paper quotes an official from the university as saying that "there was no incident," despite the fact that police were called in to secure the campus. A report in L'Expression (p. 10) says the strike called by FESCI was aborted due to the heavy presence of police on the campus. Meanwhile, a conflicting report in pro-opposition daily Notre Voie (p. 9) says the strike went on despite the police presence.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

### [Ivorian Cocoa Farmers Say Bean Refunds Too Late to Boost Sales](#)

Businessweek

Ivory Coast's Le Conseil du Cafe-Cacao said last month it would refund exporters and processors buying smaller beans to allow them to resume purchases and shipments. The move came after shippers and grinders asked for bigger discounts for small beans ...

### [Distributed Power Pioneer Expands Footprint In Africa](#)

Forbes

Ensconced in the Vridi section of Abidjan, the Aggreko power plant was initially constructed in 2010 to provide about 70 MW of capacity. In 2011, the plant was expanded by an additional 30 MW. Ivory Coast has sustained strong economic growth (8.5% GDP ...

### [Exclusive: Cargill explores purchase of ADM's cocoa unit - source](#)

Reuters

ADM has processing and manufacturing facilities in the United States, Ivory Coast, Ghana,

Singapore and Brazil. For Cargill, buying its rival would also be a bet on rising long-term demand as consumers in emerging markets develop a taste for chocolate.

[Liberia: Jurors Turned Down - in Trial of 19 Grand Geddeans, More Prospective](#)

AllAfrica.com

In November 2012, the 19 Grand Geddeans were indicted by the Grand Jury of Montserrado County for their alleged role in the cross border attacks along the Liberia-Ivory Coast border by men believed to be loyalists of former Ivorian President Laurent ...

### **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 2, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions after Human Rights Watch report on racketeering in western Cote d'Ivoire
2. Gunmen attack convoy in northern Cote d'Ivoire
3. Ivoirian Prime Minister and UK Minister for Africa commission 100 MW power plants
4. Mali Prime Minister says voting to go ahead on July 28
5. Ivoirian students union threatens to go strike

1. Reactions after Human Rights Watch report on racketeering in western Cote d'Ivoire

A statement issued by Human Rights Watch saying that government forces and police in Cote d'Ivoire conduct large-scale racketeering of travelers in the west of the country sparked reactions in the Ivoirian press today. A report in L'Inter (p. 3) quotes the Minister of Justice, Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly, as deploring the acts and promising that the government will "spare no effort to put an end to these practices." He added that, "The perpetrators will be prosecuted."

Reporting on the same issue, the pro-government newspaper, Le Patriote (p. 7), says that Human Rights Watch has noted some improvement in the government's efforts to curb racketeering in Cote d'Ivoire. But an article in the pro-opposition daily Notre Voie (p. 6) suggests that these practices have become common place under the regime of President Alassane Ouattara.

2. Gunmen attack convoy in northern Cote d'Ivoire

A report in Fraternelle Matin (p. 12) says a soldier was killed and two others wounded yesterday in northern Cote d'Ivoire, after unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy of government officials. The group, which included the head of the Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (ADDR) Fidele Sarassoro, came under attack while on official duty. The paper

blames the incident on “bandits” operating in the region and Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2) quotes government spokesman Bruno Kone describing the attack as an “isolated act that will not tarnish the president’s visit.” President Ouattara starts a visit to the region today.

A report in Le Patriote (p. 3) says the UN mission in Cote d’Ivoire has condemned the attack. Meanwhile, an article in L’Inter (p. 3) warns about taking the incident for granted and calls on President Ouattara to take the issue of the disarmament of former combatants seriously. The paper quotes sources claiming that most of the attacks in northern Cote d’Ivoire are perpetrated by former combatants who have yet to be reintegrated into society.

### 3. Ivoirian Prime Minister and UK Minister for Africa commission 100 MW power plant

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 25) says Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and UK Minister for Africa Mark Simmonds yesterday commissioned a 100 MW gas-fired Aggreko power plant in the Abidjan suburb of Vridi. According to the paper, the Aggreko power plant will take the total capacity of the Vridi plants to 200 MW. The move, the paper also says, is part of efforts by the government to increase power supply in Cote d’Ivoire from 1,395 MW to 3,000 MW by the year 2020.

“Our ambition is to make Cote d’Ivoire a regional power hub,” an article in Le Jour Plus (p. 5) quotes Prime Minister Duncan as saying. On the presence of the UK Minister for Africa at this ceremony, Duncan said, “This is a symbol of the good diplomatic, economic and commercial relationship between our two countries.”

### 4. Mali Prime Minister says voting to go ahead on July 28

The launching of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the presidential elections scheduled for July 28 were the major issues discussed yesterday between President Ouattara and Mali’s Prime Minister Diango Cissoko in Abidjan, reports Fraternite Matin (p. 8). On the date of elections, Cissoko said, “the date of July 28 is reasonable.”

In a related report in Nord-Sud Quotidien, Cote d’Ivoire will send another 1,260 troops to Mali as part of the UN mission to restore security in the country ahead of the vote. The paper (p. 2) says the troops will be comprised of police gendarmes and military.

### 5. Ivoirian students union threatens to go strike

A report in Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 7) says the Ivoirian student group FESCI is threatening to call for a strike beginning today at the government-run Nangui Abrogoua University in Abobo if grievances, including the issuance of student ID cards, are not addressed.

International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

[Ivory Coast forest clearances threaten cocoa exports, human rights](#)

Reuters UK

BALEKO-NIEGRE, Ivory Coast (Reuters) - The Ivory Coast is clearing tens of thousands of cocoa farmers from protected forests, threatening exports from the world's top grower and leading to complaints about human rights abuses. Cocoa represents about 10 ...

[Attack on Ivory Coast disarmament convoy kills 1](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Ivory Coast's state broadcaster says gunmen attacked a convoy carrying the head of a national commission that is trying to convince ex-combatants to disarm. A soldier was killed and three other people were wounded.

[Racketeering plagues west Ivory Coast](#)

GlobalPost

"Security forces routinely and openly extort money at roadblocks in the western part of (Ivory Coast)," the New York-based non-governmental organisation said, after visiting villages and talking to 82 victims and witnesses to the demands for money.

## **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**

**JULY 1, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. Construction of ultra-modern mother-child hospital begins
2. African agriculture ministers plead for U.S. support to boost the sector
3. Belgium firm to invest FCFA 10 billion to increase Abidjan port capacity
4. Press regulatory body presents annual report to President Ouattara

1. Construction of ultra-modern children hospital begins

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4&5) says President Alassane Ouattara and First Lady Dominique Ouattara launched on Saturday the construction work of a hospital for mothers and children in the Abidjan neighborhood of Bingerville. According to the paper, the 110-bed hospital, the first of its kind in West Africa, will be completed within 18 months. Donors are supporting FCFA four billion (about US \$8 million) of the cost of the hospital, which represents 75 percent of the total costs, reports the paper.

2. African agriculture ministers plead for U.S. support to boost the sector

President Barack Obama's ongoing trip to Africa and one of his meetings in Dakar with African agriculture ministers are one of the major issues in the press today. "We have asked the American authorities to support the Africans," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 25) quotes Ivoirian Agriculture Minister Sangafowa Coulibaly as saying. The article says the meeting brought together ministers from nine countries, all members of the Alliance of Food Security in Africa.

With more on President Obama's trip to Africa, *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 6) reports that Ivoirian youth and journalists gathered on Saturday to watch the president's speech in Johannesburg, South Africa. The report says the program was part of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative program designed to promote, among other things, youth entrepreneurship in Africa.

### 3. Belgium firm to invest FCFA 10 billion to increase Abidjan port capacity

Sea Invest, a Belgium firm, will invest FCFA ten billion (about US \$20 million) to boost the capacity of Cote d'Ivoire's principal port in Abidjan, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 26). According to the paper, this was announced Friday by officials of the firm during the launching of the project at the port.

### 4. Press regulatory body presents annual report to President Ouattara

A prominent report in the weekend issue of *Fraternite Matin* says the National Press Council (CNP), the government regulatory body, presented President Ouattara a 2012 report on the print media in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper (p. 20), this is first time the regulatory body has presented such a report to the president. The article says the president used the occasion to express "concern" about training of the Ivoirian journalists and to encourage them to uphold "freedom of expression."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

#### [UN fears attacks from Liberia on I. Coast](#)

Authint Mail

Extra Ivory Coast government forces and UN peacekeepers have been sent to the border area in recent months following raids on villages in Ivory Coast this year. "Reports continued indicating that planning and organizing of further cross-border attacks ...

#### [Ivory Coast Western Cocoa Regions Plagued by Illegal Roadblocks](#)

Businessweek

The setting up of illegal roadblocks, including by military and police forces, has surged since the beginning of the year in parts of western cocoa growing regions of top producer Ivory Coast, according to a report. A total of 160 roadblocks, of which

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.africanbusinessreview.co.za/business\\_leaders/online-retailer-jumia-expands-to-ivory-coast&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAGOAZA29S0jgVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=ZYLQYBdA2Dw&usg=AFQjCNGILA3LExFd2ZweXqxjplxLwpOCQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.africanbusinessreview.co.za/business_leaders/online-retailer-jumia-expands-to-ivory-coast&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAGOAZA29S0jgVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=ZYLQYBdA2Dw&usg=AFQjCNGILA3LExFd2ZweXqxjplxLwpOCQ)Online retailer JUMIA expands to

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.africanbusinessreview.co.za/business\\_leaders/online-retailer-jumia-expands-to-ivory-coast&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAGOAZA29S0jgVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=ZYLQYBdA2Dw&usg=AFQjCNGILA3LExFd2ZweXqxjplxLwpOCQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.africanbusinessreview.co.za/business_leaders/online-retailer-jumia-expands-to-ivory-coast&ct=ga&cad=CAEQAhgBIAAoATAGOAZA29S0jgVIAVAAWABiBWVuLVVT&cd=ZYLQYBdA2Dw&usg=AFQjCNGILA3LExFd2ZweXqxjplxLwpOCQ)

[YLQYBdA2Dw&usg=AFQjCNGILA3LExFd2ZweXqxjjplxLwpOCQ](#)Ivory Coast

African Business Review

West-Africa's number 1 online retailer, JUMIA, has launched its e-commerce services in the Ivory Coast. The company starts trading in the country from today providing customers with a wide range of products online – including fashion, consumer

[Former CEO of London-Based Company Sentenced to 41 Months in Prison in ...](#)

Imperial Valley News

Trafigura hired RDI as a consultant in crisis management after two Trafigura executives were captured and imprisoned in the Ivory Coast while visiting there for the purpose of determining the company's next steps to address an environmental issue ...

[BIN Pregnant With Tension - Border Units Threaten to Abandon Duty](#)

AllAfrica.com

The "special stipend" was allegedly given to the Government of Liberia by the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) President Alhassane Quattarra of the Ivory Coast as "special operation fund" for the Liberian officers

[Nigeria: West African Leaders Seek Anti-Piracy Force](#)

AllAfrica.com

Piracy in the region needed to be tackled with "firmness", Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara, said at a meeting of the regional leaders. There are now more pirate attacks off West Africa than off Somalia, maritime groups said. Patrols by ...

[Mobile Money delight for Ivory Coast poor](#)

Biztech Africa

In Ivory Coast, a country boasting 16 million mobile subscribers and a 92% mobile penetration rate, where only 10% of the 22 million people have bank accounts, the mobile money system has come as a relief for many impoverished communities. Technology ...

[UN Applauds Ghana's Efforts At Peacekeeping](#)

GhanaWeb

In a ceremony held in Ivory Coast on Friday, 28 June 2013, serving personnel of Ghanaian Contingent in La Cote d'Ivoire, made up of Infantry Battalion (Ghanbatt)18, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ben Nyarko; Ghana Medical Level 2 Hospital (Ghanmed ...

[Mano River Countries Tackle Cross-Border Arms](#)

Voice of America

... ministers from Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone met with the secretary-general of the Mano River Union (MRU), the president of ECOWAS and representatives of the United Nations and African Union in Dakar to discuss trans-border threats.

## 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