

## NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW AUGUST 1-30, 2013

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

**AUGUST 30, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie seeks a vice-president seat as dissidents oppose him**
2. **Youth council to outline ways to curb unemployment**
3. **A task force to investigate gender-based violence in western Cote d'Ivoire**
4. **Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced in Abidjan**

1. **PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie seeks a vice-president seat as dissidents oppose him**

According to an article in *Soir Info (p. 3)*, former president Henri Konan Bedie, who is also the president of PDCI political party, is lobbying for the creation of a position of vice-president in Cote d'Ivoire. The issue, the paper says, will be a part of discussions during the party's convention, slated for October. According to Bedie, the move will allow for a better system of checks and balances within the executive branch.

The idea, which is reportedly gaining support among Bedie's inner circle, is seen as nothing more than a political maneuver by PDCI dissidents that include PDCI Secretary General Alphone Djedje Mady and PDCI youth branch leader Bertin Konan Kouakou, both of whom have announced that they are running against Bedie in party leadership elections. In a joint press conference held yesterday at the party headquarters, the two men, who have set up what they named, "Alliance pour le Renouveau Democratique du PDCI-RDA," or ARD, called on Bedie to step down and for the party to abide by its established laws.

*Le Patriote (p. 5)* says that there is a possibility that the ARD could turn into a full-scale political party, although Bedie's opponents pledge to remain supporters of the PDCI party.

2. **Youth council to outline ways to curb unemployment**

A three-day workshop focusing on youth unemployment and to identify job opportunities is scheduled from October 28 to November 1 in Abidjan. The information is reported by *L'Inter (p. 6)* which notes that the event will be sponsored by the technical advisor to President Alassane Ouattara on youth issues, Toure Mamadou. In a press conference yesterday in Abidjan, Toure said the gathering will

bring together various experts who will address different challenges facing youth. There will also be discussions on peace and conflict resolution, the paper reports.

3. **A task force to investigate gender-based violence in western Cote d'Ivoire**

According to a report in *Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)*, several human rights and relief groups will be visiting western Cote d'Ivoire for an update on a program on gender-based violence. Financed by the European Union, the program, called PRDF, was put into place last year to advance women's rights in the region. The western region of the country reported a high number of cases of rape and sexual abuse during the post electoral crisis, the paper adds.

4. **Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced in Abidjan**

Several papers today, including *Fraternite Matin (p. 6)*, report that Malian President-elect Ibrahim Boubakar Keita (IBK) is to meet today in Abidjan with his Ivoirian counterpart, President Ouattara. The trip is in part an opportunity to show appreciation for the Ivoirian leader's support during the crisis and the elections in neighboring Mali, the papers say. Keita's swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for September 4, the paper adds.

**International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

[New land tenure, nationality laws major steps towards reconciliation ...](#) UN News Centre

29 August 2013 – The recent adoption by Côte D'Ivoire of two laws on nationality and land tenure – two issues at the heart of the long crisis that has deeply ...

[Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire Combine to Fight Piracy along West African ...](#) THISDAY Live

Minister of Transport, Senator Idris Umar, has expressed the federal government's readiness to collaborate with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire in combating ...

[e-agriculture strategies: the case of Ivory Coast](#) ICT Update

Many African countries have developed national e-governance, e-health and e-education strategies, yet many still lack an e-agriculture strategy. One exception ...

[Ivory Coast takes major step towards national reconciliation](#) Vatican Radio

(Vatican Radio) Ivory Coast's parliament has passed new laws to ease access to citizenship for foreigners and improve state regulation of land ownership.

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 29, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. **After a three day strike, taxi drivers in Abidjan resume work**
2. **Hearing of Charles Ble Goude adjourned**
3. **Kimberly process on Ivoirian diamond sector on track**

**1. After a three day strike, taxi drivers in Abidjan resume work**

Taxi drivers in Abidjan are back to work today after reaching an agreement with Ivoirian authorities on their demands, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10). The drivers launched a movement on Monday to protest illegal taxis from operating. After negotiations yesterday with the striking drivers, Minister of Interior Hamed Bakayoko promised that security forces will take necessary measures to stop the "unfair competition" in the transport sector by arresting illegal taxi drivers. "After the fruitful meeting with Minister Hamed Bakayoko, we call on our comrades to resume work by Thursday, August 29, 2013," the paper quotes the drivers' spokesperson as saying.

Reporting on the same issue, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) says the two sides have also agreed to find ways to put an end to racketeering of the drivers by police.

**2. Hearing of Charles Ble Goude adjourned**

Reports in the press say the hearing of the Charles Ble Goude, a former Ivoirian youth leader and staunch supporter of former president Laurent Gbagbo, has been postponed indefinitely. An article in *Notre Voie* (p. 7) says the judge yesterday in Abidjan blamed the adjournment on Ble Goude's attorney for leaking the information to the media.

Meanwhile, an article in *Le Temps* (p. 5) suggests that the adjournment of the hearing could be linked to "blackmailing maneuvers" on the part of the Ivoirian government. Citing "insiders," the paper speculates that authorities in Cote d'Ivoire are ready to release Ble Goude, detained in connection with crimes committed during the 2010-2011 postelection violence, but on certain conditions. Those conditions, according to the paper, include that Ble Goude must accept to dissolve COJEP, his political organization; commit himself to a peace and reconciliation campaign; and stand as a witness against former president Gbagbo who is at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

**3. Kimberly Process on Ivoirian diamond sector on track**

*Fraternite Matin* (p. 19) reports that discussions are underway for a review of the embargo imposed on the Ivoirian diamond industry for the past ten years. According to the paper, experts tasked with monitoring the application of the Kimberly Process are expected in Abidjan in October to evaluate the situation. This was announced yesterday at a seminar organized for members of civil society on the issue. The paper also reports experts as saying that "significant progress" has been made by Ivoirian authorities. They also commended the government for "its efforts to reform the sector to ensure transparency," the report says.

*L'Inter* (p. 12) quotes an official of the European Union as saying that this week's seminar is being held to, "enable members of civil society to have a say in the reform of the diamond sector."

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

[World Bank Approves Funds to Boost Farm Production of Five Key ...AllAfrica.com](#)

"All five of these crops have excellent market demand prospects, are critical for poverty alleviation in rural areas and will boost Côte d'Ivoire's overall economic ...

[US\\$440 Million to Electrify MRU Countries](#) AllAfrica.com

The Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) energy project was mandated by an ECOWAS Energy protocol that was signed in 1999 with an overall ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

August 28, 2013

### Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador Phillip Carter III bids farewell to President Ouattara
2. Seminar on national security underway in Abidjan
3. Charles Ble Goude to appear before a judge today
4. Constitutional Council incompetent to overrule law on stateless persons

#### **1. Ambassador Phillip Carter III bids farewell to President Ouattara**

The national television station, *RTI1*, yesterday carried footage of United States Ambassador Phillip Carter III bidding farewell to President Alassane Ouattara at a meeting in Abidjan. President Ouattara called the U.S. Ambassador a "friend of Cote d'Ivoire," for his support, advice and his actions during the past three years, especially during the post-election crisis in 2010-2011.

A prominent report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says the president met with the U.S. Ambassador shortly after the president returned from a three-week vacation in France. The report also says that the American diplomat left Abidjan yesterday for his country after three years in Cote d'Ivoire.

Another report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says Ivoirian Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Koffi Diby paid tribute to Ambassador Carter during a farewell dinner offered by the government on Tuesday. The minister described the ambassador as "a freedom fighter, a democrat who is fully committed to fight injustice and gross human rights violations."

A report in pro-government newspaper *Le Patriote* (p. 5) says Ambassador Carter yesterday expressed "optimism" for the future of Cote d'Ivoire before leaving the country. According to the paper, the diplomat said this during the inauguration of a library being named after him in the Abidjan neighborhood of Yopougon.

#### **2. Seminar on national security underway in Abidjan**

A four-day seminar on national security opened yesterday in Abidjan. A report in *Soir Info* (p. 7) says the seminar, which is being organized with the support of the U.S. government, has brought together both security officers and representatives of civil society. The paper also reports that Ambassador Carter said at the opening ceremonies that the training is to ensure transparency in planning of security issues. "Cote d'Ivoire has made significant progress," a report in *L'Expression* (p. 4) quotes Ambassador Carter as saying. It further quotes the ambassador as saying, "a stable and prosperous Cote d'Ivoire will enhance development and stimulate economic growth in the sub-region." A report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) says Ambassador Carter also called for the integration of all components of the government to ensure sound security in the country.

#### **3. Charles Ble Goude to appear before a judge today**

Many Ivoirian newspapers report that Charles Ble Goude, a former Ivoirian youth leader and staunch supporter of former president Laurent Gbagbo, will appear before a court in Abidjan today. According to *Soir Info* (p. 7), Ble Goude, who was extradited from Ghana in January 2013 and detained in connection with crimes committed during the 2010-2011 postelection violence, could be released on bail.

#### **4. Constitutional Council incompetent to overrule law on stateless persons**

A few days after the National Assembly passed a bill enabling non-resident immigrants in Cote d'Ivoire to seek Ivoirian nationality, a report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)* says the Constitutional Council has declared that the bill cannot be overruled. According to the paper, the Constitutional Council's decision came following an appeal filed by the Convention of Ivoirian Civil Society that was trying to challenge the bill.

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

[Côte d'Ivoire to open trade office in Sandton next month](#) BDLive

CÔTE d'Ivoire will open an economic and trade office in Sandton next month, signalling that the West African country is slowly getting back to business.

[SocGen's Ivorian Unit Workers Seek Wage Boost After Profit Jump](#)Businessweek

Workers at Societe Generale SA (GLE)'s unit in Ivory Coast, the biggest bank in the West African nation, are demanding higher wages after the lender posted a ...

[Old debts continue to scupper attempts to sell Warid licence](#)TeleGeography

A long-running financial dispute between the dormant Warid Telecom unit in Cote d'Ivoire and Chinese telecoms vendor Huawei continues to impact on the Abu ...

[Fresh inter-ethnic clashes feared in western Cote d'Ivoire](#) Global Times

There are fears of an outbreak of inter-ethnic clashes between the native and non-native communities living in western Cote d'Ivoire after a youth from one of the

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

AUGUST 27, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. [Taxi drivers' strike disrupts traffic in Abidjan](#)
2. [Peace commission to start gathering testimony from war victims](#)

### 1. Taxi drivers' strike disrupts traffic in Abidjan

A strike by taxi drivers unleashed what one paper called "chaos" for people yesterday in Abidjan. The information is the banner headline in several newspapers today. ***Fraternite Matin (p. 11)*** says the strike was called by various taxi unions to denounce what they called "illegal competition" imposed by vehicles operating unlawfully as taxis. "We are on strike because the government has done nothing so far to stop this ongoing practice," the paper reported an angry driver as saying. The five-day strike comes a few weeks after an agreement was signed between the Ivoirian government and taxi unions banning the use of unauthorized vehicles and minibuses being used as taxis. However, drivers say the new rules are not being enforced on the ground, according to the paper.

According to ***Soir Info (p. 8)***, the strike was widely followed by cab drivers despite the government's efforts to call it off. The paper says frustrated commuters are calling on the government to address the issue quickly and avoid further escalation after reports suggest that the movement has spread as far as Aboisso in the east of Cote d'Ivoire, near the border with Ghana.

### 2. Peace commission to start gathering testimony from war victims

According to ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)***, the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) will soon begin gathering testimonials from war victims. The announcement was made yesterday at a press conference by CDVR spokesperson Franck Sran Kouassi, the paper says. "The CDVR is moving to its next phase and launched last week a nationwide audition of war victims," the paper reported Kouassi as saying. This process is meant to reach out to the population and will seek input from the population on the peace and reconciliation process, the paper adds.

Still on the issue, ***Fraternite Matin (p. 8)*** says the operation is being supported by USAID and the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire. In a separate development (***p. 6***), the paper notes that an Ivoirian civil society group called *Plateforme de la Société Civile* has committed to support the CDVR in its efforts. Dr. Marie-Paule Kodjo, the group president, said that her group will partner with the CDRV to collect testimonials and ensure the operation is carried out peacefully.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

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

4-traders

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

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 26, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. National Assembly passes bills on nationality, land tenure and stateless people
2. U.S. Government funds capacity building training for Ivoirian lawmakers
3. Defense minister of ex-president Gbagbo indicted for breach of state security
4. Program for national cohesion seeks media support to maintain peace

**1. National Assembly passes bills on nationality, land tenure and stateless people**

The National Assembly on Friday passed bills to revise laws on Ivoirian nationality, the status of non-resident immigrants who are living "stateless" in Cote d'Ivoire and to improve regulations on land ownership. According to a report in the weekend issue of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4), lawmakers "overwhelmingly" approved the new laws that will enable thousands to have access to Ivoirian citizenship. The primary beneficiaries of this amendment, reports the paper, are children of foreigners born in Cote d'Ivoire to parents living in Cote d'Ivoire before the country became independent as well as foreigners married to Ivoirians.

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 4) says an amendment proposed by a group of 52 lawmakers giving the President of the Republic the power to refuse a demand for citizenship from anybody of dubious character was defeated.

A report in pro-opposition daily, *Aujourd'hui* (p. 3) accuses President Alassane Ouattara of imposing new laws on Ivoirians. The paper, which describes the new amendments as "blessed bread" offered by the president to foreign nationals, predicts that the new laws will not end the debate on nationality and land ownership in Cote d'Ivoire. A report in *Notre Voie* (p. 5) quotes Ivoirian Labor Party's youth leader as threatening to use every means "to prevent the application of the new laws."

**2. U.S. Government funds capacity building training for Ivoirian lawmakers**

Members of the Ivoirian National Assembly over the weekend received a capacity building training. The US \$ 13.5 million-program is funded by the U.S. government, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). The program is designed to better inform lawmakers on legislative issues and enhance their capacity in making the government accountable and in serving their role as representatives of the population.

**3. Defense minister of ex-president Gbagbo indicted for breach of state security**

Reports in the media over the weekend said Moise Lida Kouassi, defense minister for former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, has been indicted for charges including breach of state security. According to a report in *Soir Info* (p. 4), the former defense minister, who was recently released from jail, was informed about the charges by a tribunal in Abidjan. The paper, however, quotes the attorney of Kouassi as saying that despite the charges, his client has not been detained.

**4. Program for national cohesion seeks media support to maintain peace**

The head of the National Program for Social Cohesion (PNCS), Mariatou Kone, has called on the media to help sensitize the public on the importance of maintaining a durable peace in Cote d'Ivoire. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10), Kone said this Saturday during a session with heads of media outlets in Abidjan. "We need the media to heal the social fabric," Kone said.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast lawmakers pass critical land, nationality laws](#) Reuters

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's parliament on Friday approved new laws to ease access to citizenship for millions of foreigners and improve state regulation ...

[urged to plant 300 hectares annually](#) Coastweek

ABIDJAN, (Xinhua) -- The Cote d'Ivoire government on Wednesday urged forestry developers to start planting at least 300 hectares of trees every year to avert ...

[Ivory Coast cocoa regions get rainfall](#) Business Recorder

Rainfall returned to several of Ivory Coast's key cocoa growing regions on Tuesday and Wednesday, offering some relief to farmers after more than a month of ...

[French tanker believed hijacked off Ivory Coast: International ...](#) NDTV

Kuala Lumpur: The International Maritime Bureau said on Monday that a French-owned oil tanker that went missing off the Ivory Coast over the weekend is ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 23, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Debate on new laws on Ivorian nationality citizenship and land tenure continue
2. Ivorian government streamlines efforts to secure eligibility for MCC
3. Ex-combatants continue to trouble Ouattara Administration
4. Cote d'Ivoire to host summit of African and American mayors
5. President Obama launches scholarship for Young African Leaders

**1. Debate on new laws on Ivorian nationality citizenship and land tenure continue**

The bills on Ivorian nationality, land tenure and the status of non-resident immigrants who are living "stateless" in Cote d'Ivoire are again in the news as the National Assembly is meeting at a plenary session today on these issues. A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) quotes Ivorian Justice and Human Rights Minister Gnenema Mamadou Coulibaly as saying, "These bills will help foster reconciliation" in Cote d'Ivoire. The minister, who was speaking ahead of today's session, also believes that a public referendum on the bills, being called for by some, would be ill-timed. Innocent Anaky Kobena, leader of the MFA party, is reported by *Soir Info* (p. 8) as calling on members of the National Assembly to carry out a vote that will help "strengthen national unity." Meanwhile, an article in *Le Mandat* (p. 5) points out weaknesses in the bills. The article also notes that Ivorian stakeholders are still divided over the exact number of people who do not hold Ivorian nationality.

Pro-opposition newspaper, *Notre Voie* (p.2), suggests that the new laws are likely to aggravate the land tenure issue in Cote d'Ivoire and help President Alassane Ouattara's ruling RDR party provide Ivorian nationality to its supporters.

**2. Ivorian government streamlines efforts to secure eligibility for MCC**

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 7) says the government has launched two economic projects designed to make the country eligible for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). According to the paper, the two projects seek, among other things, to improve the country's economic policy and the law governing the sector. Reporting on the same issue, *Le Patriote* (p. 8) quotes an official from the Ministry of Finance as saying that the projects will also help improve the country's economic trends and encourage more investors into the country.

**3. Ex-combatants continue to trouble Ouattara Administration**

According to a report in *L'Inter* (p. 3), former combatants who backed President Ouattara during the 2010-11 post-election crisis recently held a secret meeting designed to map out a strategy to force the government to improve their living conditions. The report also says the former combatants' demands include the payment of FCFA 5 million (about US \$10,000) and other allowances. Another article in *L'Inter* (p. 2) says that the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire has recently funded projects designed for the ex-fighters costing FCFA 15 million (about US \$30,000) as part of the disarmament program initiated by the government.

**4. Cote d'Ivoire to host summit of African and American mayors**

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) says African and American mayors are scheduled to hold their fourth world summit in Abidjan from April 7 to April 11, 2014. The conference will bring together

more than 300 participants and will serve as a platform for exchange on business opportunities among the countries.

#### **5. President Obama launches scholarship for Young African Leaders**

President Barack Obama has launched a scholarship program for Young African Leaders, reports ***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 9)***. The program will help provide scholarships for 500 youth leaders from the continent to study in the best American universities. The scholarship will also help them develop their leadership in economic growth and in establishing democratic institutions across the continent.

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

[Counterfeit medicine trade targets Africa's poor](#) GlobalPost

From Cameroon to Ivory Coast, Kenya to the DR Congo, traders in counterfeit drugs do a thriving business with the utmost cynicism and sometimes at the cost of ...

[Cocoa Declines on West African Rain Forecast; Coffee Retreats](#)Businessweek

Rain may be seen in northern parts of the cocoa belt in Ivory Coast, the world's top producer, MDA Weather Services, based in Gaithersburg, Maryland, said in ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 22, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Reports say split in Bedie's PDCI-RDA party undermines ruling RHDP coalition
2. Government university officials and students differ over new hostel fees
3. State regulatory body to review print media monitoring

**1. Reports say split in Bedie's PDCI-RDA party undermines ruling RHDP coalition**

The decision by PDCI-RDA's secretary general Alphonse Djedje Mady to contest the chairmanship of the PDCI-RDA political party a few days after the party's Chairman Henri Konan Bedie announced his intention to run again has sparked comment today. An article carried by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) suggests that Mady has finally gone too far by declaring himself a candidate against Bedie and against the results of a delegates' conference organized recently by the PDCI-RDA. The article also notes that Mady has the support of party's heavyweights who were present at his announcement yesterday.

A report in pro-PDCI-RDA newspaper, *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2) sees Mady's candidacy as "treason" but quotes him as saying, "Bedie as a jurist should know that his candidacy is illegal" and that "Bedie will reconsider his decision."

Meanwhile, *Notre Voie* (p. 2) reports political observers as saying that by seeking the chairmanship of PDCI-RDA, Mady's intention is to contest the 2015 presidential elections.

*Le Patriote* (p. 4) accuses Mady and his supporters of setting up what it calls an "anti-Ouattara front" designed to challenge President Alassane Ouattara who has announced his intention to seek reelection in 2015 presidential elections. *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) also calls Mady and his allies a "coalition against Bedie and Ouattara."

An article in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 3) claims that some key members of the PDCI-RDA party are favorable to an alliance with former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party in a bid to undermine the ruling RHDP coalition. "Will Mady offer the PDCI-RDA to FPI for sacrifice?" asks a comment carried by pro-PDCI-RDA newspaper, *Le Mandat* (p. 3).

**2. Government university officials and students differ over new hostel fees**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 12) says that fees in government universities have been increased. Fees for single dormitory rooms have increased from FCFA 3,000 (about US \$6) to FCFA 6,000 (about US \$12) and FCFA 6,000 (about US \$12) to FCFA 10,000 (about US \$20) for double rooms. The paper also reports university officials as saying that the new rooms will open on September 16 and that alcohol, cigarette and drug consumption will be banned on campuses.

Meanwhile, students and parents have protested the decision to increase fees, reports *Soir Info* (p. 10). *Aujourd'hui* (p. 8) quotes Augustin Mian, leader of Ivoirian student group FESCI, as denouncing the high costs of the rooms.

**3. State regulatory body to review print media monitoring**

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 14) says the National Press Council (CNP), the government print media regulatory body, is organizing a two-day seminar this week to review its functioning mechanism and tools for monitoring the print media in Cote d'Ivoire. Speaking at the opening yesterday, Abdoulaye Sangare, representative of the Ministry of Communications, welcomed the initiative that would help the media to become more professional.

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

[Wolverines' Jordan Morgan documents basketball trip to Africa \(with ...](#) Detroit Free Press

Michigan basketball senior forward Jordan Morgan is returning from two weeks spent with the Athletes in Action team in the **Ivory Coast**. One of 10 players on the ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 21, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Split within Bedie's PDCI ahead of party's congress in October
2. West African experts receive training on money laundering
3. State regulatory body lifts suspension on pro-opposition daily
4. Ivoirian publishers express concerns about ban of street newspaper vendors

**1. Split within Bedie's PDCI ahead of party's congress in October**

The results of a delegates' conference organized recently by the PDCI-RDA political party, the party of former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie, continues to be prominently reported upon in the press. "The decisions of the conference are null and void," *L'Inter* (p. 5) quotes the party's youth leader, Bertin Konan Kouadio, as saying. Kouadio was reacting in the wake of the party's decision to endorse Bedie as the party's chairman and as the party's candidate for the 2015 presidential elections. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9), the youth leader, who boycotted the recent delegates' conference, has also maintained his plan to run for the chairmanship of the party at its congress slated for October this year. Kouadio is reported as saying that his decision to run for the PDCI-RDA's leadership is a response to "the need to revitalize the party."

A prominent report in *Le Patriote* (pp. 3&4) says the party's secretary general, Alphonse Djedje Mady, has also announced his intention to contest the chairmanship of PDCI-RDA. The secretary general of the party also called on Bedie to withdraw from the race, reports the paper. However, a prominent article in pro-PDCI newspaper *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 2&3) quotes a leading party member as saying, "Mady has no credential to approve Bedie's candidacy."

Commenting on these new developments, *Soir Info* (p. 4) says the PDCI-RDA is torn. The article also claims that disgruntled party members have vowed to create a new group within the National Assembly.

**2. West African experts receive training on money laundering**

An article in *Notre Voie* (p. 8) says experts from the West African region are meeting in Abidjan this week in a bid to find ways to fight money laundering and funding of terrorism. The aim of the conference is to equip the participants with methods and techniques used to counter money laundering in West Africa.

**3. State regulatory body lifts suspension on pro-opposition daily**

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3) says the National Press Council (CNP), the government print media regulatory body, has lifted the suspension on pro-opposition daily newspaper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan*. The paper was suspended a few days ago for publishing articles deemed libelous. The lifting of the suspension came following an appeal filed by the publisher recognizing that the CNP's decision was "justifiable."

**4. Ivoirian publishers express concerns about ban of street newspaper vendors**

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 12) says Cote d'Ivoire's organization of newspaper publishers, GEPCI, have lodged a complaint against the decision by the Ministry of Interior banning street newspaper vendors. The article says the government has decided to ban hawkers, including

those selling newspapers, on major streets in Abidjan. The decision, the paper quotes a vendor as saying, has resulted in shortfalls in newspaper sales.

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

[Cote d'Ivoire to learn from Chinese experience in health matters](#) People's Daily Online  
ABIDJAN, Aug. 20 -- Cote d'Ivoire's Health Minister Raymonde Goudou-Coffie has cited the Chinese example of mixing the traditional and modern medicine as ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 16, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Released from jail, Ivorian opposition leader meets with U.S. Ambassador
2. Controversy over Speaker Soro's trip to ex-president Gbagbo's stronghold
3. Head of reconciliation commission says public hearing to start soon

**1. Released from jail, Ivorian opposition leader meets with U.S. Ambassador**

Discussions on Wednesday between United States Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Phillip Carter III and Pascal Affi N'Guessan, former leader of the FPI party, features prominently in the press today. Pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 4)**, which describes the meeting as, "an important working session," quotes an official of the party as saying, "It was a courtesy visit." The paper also reports that the opposition leader, who was released from jail last week, was accompanied by other key members of the party including the party's interim chairman, Sylvain Miaka Ouretto. The meeting, the paper also quotes Ouretto as saying, was part "a tour of chancelleries" to discuss "the party's point of view on the political future of Cote d'Ivoire." The paper also announces that N'Guessan will be received today by the French Ambassador in Abidjan.

Commenting on the meeting, another pro-opposition daily, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)**, claims that discussions between Ambassador Carter and N'Guessan marked "the effective come-back" of the former ruling party to the political arena, while hardliners from President Alassane Ouattara's ruling RDR party were calling for its "dissolution."

Pro-FPI daily **Aujourd'hui (p. 2)** quotes N'Guessan as saying, "As long as Gbagbo is not released, FPI will not join the government." However, the paper believes that this meeting marked the party's return to politics in Cote d'Ivoire.

**Soir Info (p. 6)** quotes insiders as saying that the Embassy officials also wanted to know from the FPI's delegation the number of people still in jail and the party's position on the ongoing inter-Ivoirian political dialogue.

Another article in **L'Inter (p. 4)** quotes FPI officials as describing the discussions as "positive." **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 8)** suggests that nothing transpired during the closed door meeting. The paper also suggests that after this meeting, disagreements between the former ruling party and the United States, which backed the victory of President Ouattara during the disputed 2010 presidential runoff, are "over."

**2. Controversy over Speaker Soro's trip to ex-president Gbagbo's stronghold**

President of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro is in the press today as he started a three-day official visit yesterday to the west-central region of Gagnoa, hometown of former president Laurent Gbagbo. Addressing a rally, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 11)** reports that Soro said, "Only reconciliation can help find solutions to the issues of Gbagbo and Ble Goude." A report in **Le Patriote (p. 2)** also quotes the Speaker pleading with the population to, "Pardon one another" because "there is no other alternative."

While a report in **Soir Info (p. 3)** says youth in Gagnoa are calling for the release of Charles Ble Goude, one of Gbagbo's staunch supporters detained in connection with crimes committed during the 2010-2011 postelection violence, a report in **Notre Voie (p. 5)** sees Soro's visit as defiant to the

population in the region. **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)**denounces the heavy deployment of security forces during the trip, saying the Speaker arrived in the region as, “a warlord.”

### **3. Head of reconciliation commission says public hearing to start soon**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** reports the president of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), Charles Konan Banny, has announced that public hearings of the CDVR will begin soon. The paper quotes as Banny as saying, “The commission will listen to perpetrators and victims.” He also refers to this stage of the process as “transitional justice” during which the public will learn the truth.

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

[Ivory Coast to audit no-bid government deals, may cancel some](#) Reuters

ABIDJAN, Aug 14 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast will launch an audit of no-bid public procurement contracts and may cancel those which failed to follow tendering ...

[Nigeria, 19 others to get \\$63.4m grant](#) The Nation

The countries are Benin, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, and Niger, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, and Eritrea, ...

[More Denials - Ex - LURD Rebel General, Others Deny Ivory Coast ...](#)AllAfrica.com

Three of the 18 defendants charged with mercenarism in connection with the cross border attack at the Liberian- Ivorian border in October 2012 that left seven ...

[MTN Ivory Coast adds nearly half million new customers in H1](#)Telecompaper (subscription)

MTN Ivory Coast's EBITDA for the first half increased by 43.3 percent from a year earlier, benefiting from a profit on tower sales. Excluding the tower sales, ...

[Cocoa Rebounds as African Dry Spell May Cut Yields; Sugar Climbs](#)Businessweek

Rain in cocoa-growing areas of Ivory Coast and Ghana, the top producers, will be sparse throughout the week, the forecaster said. The next crop starts Oct. 1.

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 14, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Ivorian opposition leader to be received at the U.S. Embassy
2. Meeting between Speaker Soro and head of UN mission over security issues
3. Government moves towards fighting racketeering in health sector

**1. Ivorian opposition leader to be received at the U.S. Embassy**

A prominent report in opposition paper *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) claims that less than a week after his release from jail, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, former leader of the FPI party, will meet with officials today at the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan. The article says N'Guessan will use the meeting to elaborate on his party's expectations on the ongoing reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire after the 2010-11 postelection conflict. Speculating on the motive behind the meeting between the Ivorian opposition leader and the U.S. officials in Cote d'Ivoire, the paper suggests that after two years of President Alassane Ouattara's tenure of power, the U.S. has decided to distance from the current regime because of, "mismanagement and serious human rights violations." The article further claims that the past two years of President Ouattara's tenure of power have given the U.S. enough time to weigh the political influence of Gbagbo's FPI party that could play the role of "a strong opposition to counter the regime in Abidjan."

*Soir Info* (p. 6) also reports on the meeting today and says the opposition leader is likely to focus on the current socio-political situation in Cote d'Ivoire. According to *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3), this will be the first official meeting for N'Guessan since his release on bail a few days ago.

**2. Meeting between Speaker Soro and head of UN mission over security issues**

A recent meeting between the President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, and the head of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane, is reported on in the press today. *L'Inter* (p. 2) quotes insiders who hint that talks between Soro and Mindaoudou Souleymane mainly focused on security and the disarmament of former combatants. The article also suggests that the UN representative is trying to step up pressure on the Speaker in an effort to bring to an end the recent rash of demonstrations staged by former combatants pressing for better living conditions. In a related story, a report in *Notre Voie* (p. 5) says former rebels have taken to the streets in Korhogo, in northern Cote d'Ivoire, to demand money promised to be paid to them by the current government.

**3. Government moves towards fighting racketeering in health sector**

The Minister of Health and the Fight against AIDS, Raymonde Coffi Goudou, has moved towards fighting racketeering and the illegal selling of drugs in public hospitals, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10). The report says the minister, in a meeting with health personnel yesterday in Abidjan, talked about recent press reports on malpractice and misconduct going on in the hospital and threatened to punish the perpetrators.

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

[Zoo animals recover after Ivory Coast civil war](#) Deutsche Welle

During Ivory Coast's civil war in 2011, Abidjan's only zoo fell into disrepair and many animals died. Now, the facility is getting a makeover, and wants to become ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Victims in Cote d'Ivoire Meet On Right to Reparation](#)AllAfrica.com

Last week, victims' organizations in Cote d'Ivoire joined ICTJ and the ONUCI Human Rights Section for a three-day training session in Abidjan on reparative ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 13, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Speaker urges open debate over land and nationality issues
2. ICC chief prosecutor provides more evidence to strengthen case against ex-president Gbagbo
3. Clash between government forces and population in west Cote d'Ivoire
4. Government and businessmen meet over ban of plastic bags
5. Burglary at Conseil National de la Presse

**1. Speaker urges open debate over land and nationality issues**

The debate over land tenure and nationality in Cote d'Ivoire features prominently in the press today. A report in *Le Jour Plus* (p.3) says that at the opening of debate yesterday, Speaker of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro stressed its "importance" for the country, reports the paper. He said, "Nationality, land tenure and the case of stateless persons have been the main causes of crisis that have torn apart Cote d'Ivoire." The Speaker, according to the report, also urged lawmakers, "to debate the issue without fear," because, "only open debate will help strengthen national cohesion and unity of the country."

An article in a pro-PDCI newspaper *Le Mandat* (p. 5) claims that the Speaker is putting pressure on the lawmakers and *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 6) quotes Soro as calling on the members of the National Assembly to adopt the bills on land tenure and nationality by the end of this parliamentary session. *Notre Voie* (p. 3) predicts a passionate debate in the Assembly due to the "complexity" of the issues at stake. The paper claims that political parties, including President Alassane Ouattara's RDR and the PDCI party of former president Henri Konan Bedie, have different positions over the issue. The paper also says that the debate has started despite a proposal from the PDCI party to consult first with the population over the issues.

**2. ICC chief prosecutor provides more evidence to strengthen case against ex-president Gbagbo**

Reports in the media say International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has provided the court with more evidence in an attempt to strengthen the case against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, who has been accused of crimes against humanity in Cote d'Ivoire's 2010-11 postelection conflict. "The office of the Chief Prosecutor submitted on August 12, 2013 an appeal document containing more evidence in her case against Laurent Gbagbo," *L'Expression* (p. 2) quotes a statement issued by the court in The Hague as saying. Speculating about the evidence, *Le Mandat* (p. 3) calls these new documents, "a bombshell," but quickly adds that attorneys of the former president are preparing to respond.

**3. Clash between government forces and population in west Cote d'Ivoire**

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 2) says four people were wounded following a clash between government forces and the population in Bangolo, in western Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the incident was the result of a dispute between a soldier and the youth during a soccer competition.

#### **4. Government and businessmen meet over ban of plastic bags**

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 11) says the government and heads of companies that produce plastic bags are divided over their ban in Cote d'Ivoire. The report also says that during a meeting yesterday, the government made it clear that it will go ahead with the plan designed to address public health issues. Meanwhile, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13) reports that after the meeting, the government and heads of plastic bag producing companies reached an agreement on the implementation of the ban.

#### **5. Burglary at Conseil National de la Presse**

The office of the National Press Council (CNP), the government's print media regulatory body, was broken into yesterday by robbers, reports *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 10). According to the paper, the thieves made away with items including the computer of CNP's head Raphael Lakpe.

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

[D'Angelo J. Waddington Looks to Start His Unique Television Show ...](#) SBWire (press release)

Waddington and his team are aiming to create a unique television show to give the opportunity to Cote D'Ivoire's most aspiring minds to showcase their ...

[Ghana, model of peace, democracy — Envoy](#) GhanaWeb

Ghana's democratic credentials are worth emulating and a challenge to Cote d'Ivoire, the Ivorian Ambassador to Ghana and Togo, Mr Bernard Ehui-Koutoua, ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**August 12, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Ivorian labor party proposes referendum on land and nationality issues
2. Former combatants protest in Man over living conditions
3. Pro-opposition newspaper suspended
4. Ivoirian delegation attends AGOA Summit in Addis-Ababa

**1. Ivorian labor party proposes referendum on land and nationality issues**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10) says the Ivoirian Labor Party (PIT) has called on the government to organize a referendum as a solution to issues surrounding land tenure and nationality. According to the paper, the party's chairman made the proposal on Sunday at a press conference. "Nothing could justify that the bills on the land and nationality issues be passed in haste," PIT's chairman Daniel Aka Ahizi is reported as saying.

A referendum should be organized on land and nationality issues in "the interest of the nation and to ensure peace in Cote d'Ivoire," an article in *Soir Info* (p. 6) quotes Ahizi as saying at the press conference. The referendum would also help ensure that the opinion of all Ivoirians is part of the decisions made on these issues, Ahizi is further reported as saying.

While the labor party is calling for a referendum, reports in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) and *Le Mandat* (p. 5) announce that Ivoirian lawmakers are due to meet today over legislation concerning land tenure and nationality. A separate report on the same page in *Le Mandat* says that the Ivoirian Convention of the Civil Society (CSCI) and SOS Exclusion, a local human rights group, have expressed concerns over the bill in a joint petition sent to the Constitutional Council.

**2. Former combatants protest in Man over living conditions**

A demonstration organized by former combatants in the western town of Man on Friday to protest poor living conditions features prominently in today's press. A report in *L'Inter* (p. 4) quotes the disgruntled fighters as saying that the protest is to press the government to speed their reintegration process.

**3. Pro-opposition newspaper suspended**

A report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 2) says the National Press Council (CNP), the government print media regulatory body, has suspended pro-opposition daily newspaper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* for 26 publications. The article quotes the regulatory body as saying the decision was made following libelous reports carried by the paper in its recent publications.

**4. Ivoirian delegation attends AGOA Summit in Addis-Ababa**

A report in the weekend issue of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 19) says an important Ivoirian delegation is in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa to attend the 2013 AGOA Forum due to open today. The delegation is made up of officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Handicraft and Ivoirians exporters who will use the occasion to present business opportunities in Cote d'Ivoire.

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

[Ivory Coast: children exposed to online porn](#) Biztech Africa

Children between the ages of eight and 15 watching porn movies and other sexually explicit material at internet cafés is a common sight across Ivory Coast, ...

[ECOWAS railway nears reality](#) GhanaWeb

The proposed ECOWAS railway system is expected to commence soon after years of neglect to connect Nigeria to Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d' Ivoire.

[Three years after bloody election violence in Ivory Coast, tension ...](#) Christian Science Monitor

Côte d'Ivoire has yet to reckon with the crimes committed during the conflict that followed its November 2010 presidential election, in which 3,000 people were ...

[Ivory Coast Seen Selling 60% of Next Cocoa Crop in Survey](#) Bloomberg

Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, already may have sold 60 percent of total output forecast for the 2013-14 season, according to a Bloomberg ...

[Rig issues delay drilling at Espoir offshore Côte d'Ivoire](#) Offshore Oil and Gas Magazine

CALGARY, Canada – Canadian Natural says a light crude oil infill drilling program planned for the Espoir field offshore Côte d'Ivoire has been delayed. This is ...

[SkyVision installs UNACOOPEC's satellite private network with of 97 ...](#) WorldStage

UNACOOPEC is the largest financial institution in Côte d'Ivoire specializing in microfinance, banking, and insurance. As a highly dispersed organization, ...

[Togo arrests 'ivory trade kingpin'](#) BBC News

... says most of the trafficked ivory comes from the West African sub-region, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ghana and Ivory Coast. In July ...

[High African growth rates distort the real development image](#) BDLive

Cote d'Ivoire, finally stabilising after a long-running civil conflict, is ranked at 168. ... Chad, Congo and Cote d'Ivoire are in the bottom 10 of the World Bank's ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**AUGUST 9, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Commemoration of Cote d'Ivoire's independence: President Ouattara defends policy, says he remains upbeat on reconciliation and economic recovery
2. Gbagbo's son Michel calls for peace and reconciliation while FPI president Pascal Affi warns the fight is not yet over
3. Ahead of party congress and amid speculation, PDCI president meets ministers from the party
4. Soro's visit to Gagnoa still debated, papers say

1. **Commemoration of Cote d'Ivoire's independence: President Ouattara defends policy, says he remains upbeat on reconciliation and economic recovery**

Ivoirians commemorated Cote d'Ivoire's independence Wednesday. In a wide-ranging interview broadcast Wednesday night on state television (RTI) and reported in most dailies today, the Ivoirian leader defended actions being undertaken by his government. *Fraternite Matin (p. 4-9)* says president Ouattara recommitted to working to improve living conditions in Cote d'Ivoire and asserted that efforts are being made to overcome challenges facing the country. Addressing the issue of citizenship and land tenure, the Ivoirian leader said the proposed reforms which provide ways to acquire Ivoirian citizenship are meant to mitigate conflicts. "This is definitely not a large-scale naturalization process...we all agreed upon them," he reportedly said, adding that the measures stemmed from the Linas-Marcoussis peace deal signed in 2003.

Still on the issue, *Le Patriote (p. 2-7)* says President Ouattara announces a salary increase for government employees to be implemented next year. According to the daily, the Ivoirian leader also commended efforts being made by the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR). "I hope the CDVR will continue the good work that it does," he said, adding that he will also reach out to the FPI.

With more on the celebration of the Cote d'Ivoire's independence, the opposition *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 8)* says the public events were held amid public indifference.

2. **Gbagbo's son Michel calls for peace and reconciliation while FPI president Pascal Affi warns the fight is not yet over**

Released on bail with 13 other people, the son of former president Laurent Gbagbo said yesterday that he is for peace and reconciliation. According to *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)*, Michel Gbagbo told a *BBC* reporter that the charges against him were politically-motivated as he denied charges of taking part in an armed insurrection, attacks on national defense, plotting against state authority, setting up armed groups and rebellion. "What I can say now is that I am a man who wants to work for reconciliation," he reportedly said.

This announcement comes as FPI president Pascal Affi who was granted bail along with Michel Gbagbo warned that the FPI will continue the fight. "You have proved that the FPI stands firm and remains committed to democracy," he said to a rally yesterday according to *L'Inter (p. 2)*. "Our release is the outcome of the mobilization of FPI supporters...and we are here to put things right," he added, calling on the government to open a candid dialogue with the FPI, arguing that the government must see the FPI as a partner.

### 3. **Ahead of party congress and amid speculation, PDCI president meets ministers from the party**

PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie met yesterday in Abidjan with ministers from the party. The information is reported by **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** which notes that the meeting came ahead of the party's summit scheduled for August 17 in Yamoussoukro. According to Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, discussions focused on arrangements in anticipation of the important meeting. "We went through all pending issues with the president...We are working to boost cohesion within the party after this summit," he reportedly said.

This update comes as **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)** says that besides PDCI youth branch leader Bertin Konan Kouadio, two other party members have decided to compete for the party's presidency. The paper announces that a Kouassi Yao and PDCI secretary general Alphonse Djedje Mady said they will vie for the party's presidency and oppose Bedie should he decide to seek another term. This update triggers speculation, the paper says, adding however that this will not be the first time Mr. Bedie will have to compete with rival candidates over the PDCI leadership.

**Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 7)** says that in accordance with PDCI internal law, Bedie is not allowed to compete for another term.

### 4. **Soro's visit to Gagnoa still debated, papers say**

According to an article in **L'Inter (p. 5)** the visit Guillaume Soro, the president of the National Assembly has announced to Gagnoa is likely to be held as planned. The paper says that Gagnoa's traditional chiefs and dignitaries have finally given their go-ahead for the visit scheduled for August 15 to August 17.

However, a different version by **Soir Info (p. 4)** says that inhabitants from Mama, the home village of former president Laurent Gbagbo, have threatened they will ban access to their village to Soro. "We oppose his coming here...He cannot come here without president Laurent Gbagbo and his longtime friend Ble Goude," the paper reported an insider as saying.

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

### [Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo son Michel calls for peace](#)

The Standard Digital News

The son of **Ivory Coast's** ex-President Laurent Gbagbo has told the BBC he wants peace and reconciliation. Michel Gbagbo, a university lecturer, was arrested along with his father in April 2011 after disputed presidential elections sparked months of ...

### [Cocoa jumps to multi-month highs](#)

Business Recorder

Dealers reported market talk that **Ivory Coast** mid-crop cocoa port arrivals may have been lower than previously believed. Talk also persisted that **Ivory Coast's** forward sales up to the end of July were above expectations. "The vein of this rally in ...

### [FIFA Rankings Put Ivory Coast Ahead](#)

spyghana.com

**Ivory Coast** is still Africa's number one national side, a position the Elephants have held for nearly two years now. However, the Ivorians lost 5 points this time to finish at 18 on the overall rating.

Ghana is Africa's second on the ranking and 24 in ...

### [Drogba back to lead Ivory Coast against Mexico](#)

Ahram Online

Didier Drogba is to return to the **Ivory Coast** national team next week for the first time since the country's calamitous African Nations Cup finals performance at the start of the year. The veteran striker has been named in a 23-man squad for a friendly ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**AUGUST 6, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Bail granted to top aides to former president Laurent Gbagbo
2. Seven inmates injured in a riot in central Cote d'Ivoire
3. Lawyers denounce detention conditions of former youth leader Charles Ble Goude
4. A stalled demobilization and disarmament process impairs security reform

**1. Bail granted to top aides to former president Laurent Gbagbo**

Most dailies report today on the release of loyalists of former President Laurent Gbagbo who were arrested following the country's postelection violence in 2011. According to ***Fraternite Matin (p. 4-7)*** it is a total of fourteen people, including FPI president Pascal Affi Nguessan and Gbagbo's son Michel who have been granted bail by a court in Abidjan. Government spokesperson Bruno Kone said the move is meant to "cool down" the political atmosphere and boost the reconciliation process. "The country must get out of this war-like situation that has been prevailing since the postelection crisis and President Ouattara is committed to the reconciliation of all Ivoirians," he reportedly said.

***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)*** says their release is the achievement of a long process that faced several challenges and setbacks. According to the daily the process was delayed by the activities of extremists from both the ruling RDR party and its PDCI allies as well as the FPI.

In another development, the paper notes that Charles Konan Banny, the chairman of the Peace, Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) commended the decision. In a statement made yesterday, Mr. Banny said the court decision will definitely pave the way for reconciliation. "This is a landmark decision for the country," he reportedly said.

Opposition papers such as ***Le Temps (p. 3)*** and ***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)*** argue the decision was the result of national and international pressure on President Ouattara and his regime. According to these dailies the mobilization of supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo are paying off.

***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3-7)*** underscores that it is twelve and not fourteen loyalists of former president Laurent Gbagbo who have been released. The paper alleges that two of the former detainees are not supporters of the ex-leader. One, the paper says is a pro-Ouattara retired Colonel, Konandi Kouakou and the other is a preacher.

**2. Seven inmates injured in a riot in central Cote d'Ivoire**

At least seven inmates of Bouake prison in central Cote d'Ivoire were injured yesterday during an attempted escape, papers say. According to ***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7)*** detainees confronted prison guards as they tried to force their way out of the detention facility. The angry mob ransacked and burned down the building housing the office of the prison director, before being stopped by a detachment of law enforcement agents, including gendarmes, police officers and FRCI soldiers. It is being rumored that the inmates attempted to escape after hearing of the release of pro-Gbagbo detainees. Government officials will not officially comment on the incident, the paper says, although an insider said the case is being investigated.

**3. Lawyers denounce detention conditions of former youth leader Charles Ble Goude**

According to his lawyers, Charles Ble Goude, former president Laurent Gbagbo's right-hand man is being detained in inhumane conditions. The information is reported by ***Aujourd'hui (p. 6)***, which

notes that Mr. Charles Ble Goude has been held for six months. Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Abidjan, Felix Bobre and Blede Dohora his two legal advisors complained that he is being detained illegally and in unbearable conditions. The two men alleged Ble Goude is held in a secretive place and is denied rights such as medical visits and has only one meal per day. **L'Inter (p. 5)** and **Le Temps (p. 10)** carry a similar account.

#### 4. **A stalled demobilization and disarmament process impairs security reform**

In a recent interview reported by **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 8-10)** LIDER's president Mamadou Koulibaly said he remains skeptical about reforms underway in the Ivorian security sector. According to Mr. Koulibaly recent incidents involving former combatants turned into roadside robbers are blatant evidence that the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process (DDR) has failed. He also denounced nepotism and impunity within the army, alleging that former warlords have been integrated in the country's top military brass.

This update comes as an article in **Le Jour Plus (p. 5)** says that the DDR process is being revised. According to the daily, the profiling of former combatants and the retrieval of weapons are going to be streamlined to allow the process to be held successfully and timely.

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

[Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire sign agreement on Refugees Repatriation](#) Ghana Broadcasting Corporation  
Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on Thursday signed an agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian ...

[Ghana will not allow ex-combatant to destabilize Cote d'Ivoire- Mills](#) Ghana Broadcasting Corporation  
He said those high ranking officials who have been indicted and have returned to Cote D'Ivoire are receiving fair trial including former President Laurent Gbagbo ...

[Ivory Coast frees 14 Gbagbo allies pending criminal trials](#) Virginia Gazette  
ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Judicial authorities in Ivory Coast have ordered the release from prison of 14 top allies of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo, including his son, ...

[Ghana to have another capital city](#) GhanaWeb  
One will be the economic capital and another, the political capitals, as is the case in some neighboring countries like Nigeria and Ivory Coast. The capital of ...

[Drogba returns to haunt Arsenal](#) Bangkok Post  
Didier Drogba returned to haunt Arsenal as the Ivory Coast striker scored both goals in Galatasaray's 2-1 victory in the Emirates Cup on Sunday. Galatasaray's ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

AUGUST 6, 2013

### Today's Top Stories

1. Bail granted to top aides to former president Laurent Gbagbo
2. Seven inmates injured in a riot in central Cote d'Ivoire
3. Lawyers denounce detention conditions of former youth leader Charles Ble Goude
4. A stalled demobilization and disarmament process impairs security reform

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**Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3-7)** underscores that it is twelve and not fourteen loyalists of former president Laurent Gbagbo who have been released. The paper alleges that two of the former detainees are not supporters of the ex-leader. One, the paper says is a pro-Ouattara retired Colonel, Konandi Kouakou and the other is a preacher.

#### 2. **Seven inmates injured in a riot in central Cote d'Ivoire**

At least seven inmates of Bouake prison in central Cote d'Ivoire were injured yesterday during an attempted escape, papers say. According to **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 7)** detainees confronted prison guards as they tried to force their way out of the detention facility. The angry mob ransacked and burned down the building housing the office of the prison director, before being stopped by a detachment of law enforcement agents, including gendarmes, police officers and FRCI soldiers. It is being rumored that the inmates attempted to escape after hearing of the release of pro-Gbagbo detainees. Government officials will not officially comment on the incident, the paper says, although an insider said the case is being investigated.

3. **Lawyers denounce detention conditions of former youth leader Charles Ble Goude**

According to his lawyers, Charles Ble Goude, former president Laurent Gbagbo's right-hand man is being detained in inhumane conditions. The information is reported by ***Aujourd'hui (p. 6)***, which notes that Mr. Charles Ble Goude has been held for six months. Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Abidjan, Felix Bobre and Blede Dohora his two legal advisors complained that he is being detained illegally and in unbearable conditions. The two men alleged Ble Goude is held in a secretive place and is denied rights such as medical visits and has only one meal per day. ***L'Inter (p. 5)*** and ***Le Temps (p. 10)*** carry a similar account.

4. **A stalled demobilization and disarmament process impairs security reform**

In a recent interview reported by ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 8-10)*** LIDER's president Mamadou Koulibaly said he remains skeptical about reforms underway in the Ivorian security sector. According to Mr. Koulibaly recent incidents involving former combatants turned into roadside robbers are blatant evidence that the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process (DDR) has failed. He also denounced nepotism and impunity within the army, alleging that former warlords have been integrated in the country's top military brass.

This update comes as an article in ***Le Jour Plus (p. 5)*** says that the DDR process is being revised. According to the daily, the profiling of former combatants and the retrieval of weapons are going to be streamlined to allow the process to be held successfully and timely.

**International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire sign agreement on Refugees Repatriation Ghana Broadcasting Corporation  
Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on Thursday signed an agreement for the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian ...

Ghana will not allow ex-combatant to destabilize Cote d'Ivoire- Mills Ghana Broadcasting Corporation  
He said those high ranking officials who have been indicted and have returned to Cote D'Ivoire are receiving fair trial including former President Laurent Gbagbo ...

Ivory Coast frees 14 Gbagbo allies pending criminal trials Virginia Gazette  
ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Judicial authorities in Ivory Coast have ordered the release from prison of 14 top allies of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo, including his son, ...

Ghana to have another capital city GhanaWeb  
One will be the economic capital and another, the political capitals, as is the case in some neighboring countries like Nigeria and Ivory Coast. The capital of ...

Drogba returns to haunt careless Arsenal Bangkok Post  
Didier Drogba returned to haunt Arsenal as the Ivory Coast striker scored both goals in Galatasaray's 2-1 victory in the Emirates Cup on Sunday. Galatasaray's ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**AUGUST 5, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. Cote d'Ivoire's Islamic leaders call for peace
2. Ahead of Independence Day celebration, Ivoirian government tightens security
3. Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro's trip to Gbagbo's hometown triggers mixed comments

1. **Cote d'Ivoire's Muslin leaders call for peace**

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13) Ivoirian Islamic leaders have called for peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire. Gathered Saturday night to commemorate the Night of Destiny or *Lailatoul Qadr*, Cote d'Ivoire's imams said the month of Ramadan is an appropriate time for mutual forgiveness and peace. In his sermon, Cheick Al Aima Boikary, the chairman of the High Council of Cote d'Ivoire's Imams (COSIM), insisted that only peace and cohesion can bring prosperity back to the country. He commended President Alassane Ouattara for his efforts towards reconciliation, the paper says.

With more on the issue, *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 9) says President Ouattara attended the night service held at the Golf Mosque. "We all pray for peace in Cote d'Ivoire," he reportedly said in a brief statement after the service.

2. **Ahead of Independence Day celebration, Ivorian government tightens security**

Security has been tightened throughout the country, according to *Soir Info* (p. 11), in advance of Independence Day, August 7. The paper notes that the move is part of the government's efforts to crack down on banditry. Defense and security forces, including gendarmes, have been deployed on the country's main roads to monitor security. According to the daily, these measures are meant to counter the activity of roadside robbers after a recent increase in attacks.

Still on security, *Soir Info* (p. 4) notes that a major military operation is being prepared in western Cote d'Ivoire. The operation, which will include the forested Sio and Guoin-Debe reserves, is meant to help the government retake control of all protected areas in the region. These reserves have been occupied by settlers and militiamen who engage in crime and various trafficking, the paper says.

3. **Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro's trip to Gbagbo's hometown triggers mixed comments**

Guillaume Soro, the president of the Ivoirian National Assembly announced last week a trip to Gagnoa, the hometown of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. According to *L'Inter* (p. 3), Soro's visit is not welcomed by all in the region. The paper cites a dignitary from the region who says that Soro's decision is seen as a "provocation." "We don't want his pity on us," the paper reported the individual as saying.

In another story in the same paper, FPI interim youth leader Nestor Dahi says Soro's move is sarcastic and disrespectful towards Gbagbo's parents. "Today you are powerful enough to laugh at your victims...but be assured Gbagbo will triumph," the paper reports Dahi as saying.

Opposition papers *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) and *Notre Voie* (p. 2) carry similar accounts in their weekend editions.

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

[Cote d'Ivoire: Déjà Vu All Over Again - the Ivory Coast's 2015 Elections](#) AllAfrica.com

Cote d'Ivoire: Déjà Vu All Over Again - the Ivory Coast's 2015 Elections. By Katrin Eder, 1 August 2013. Apart from Gbagbo, the same political heavyweights who ...

[Writer Captures Flavor of Life in Multicultural Ivory Coast](#) Voice of America

PARIS — A series of French comic books set in the West African country of Ivory Coast has captivated readers both in Africa and overseas. Now, the film Aya de ...

[RTI Launches on EnovativeTV's IPTV Platform in North America](#) PR.com (press release)

New York, NY, August 04, 2013 --(PR.com)-- Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI) the premier television channel of the Ivory Coast is launching its service ...

[Chinese Business Delegation Visits Cote d'Ivoire](#) CRIENGLISH.com

A 30-member Chinese business delegation is in Cote d'Ivoire on a four-day visit to seek economic cooperation between the two countries, according to official ...

[Cote d'Ivoire's opposition FPI demands Abidjan prison riot probe](#) Global Times

The opposition Cote d'Ivoire Popular Front (FPI) is pressing for an "international inquiry" into the mutiny that occurred on July 23, when deaths were reported at ...

[Ivory Coast cyber-crime reaches boiling point](#) Biztech Africa

Cyber-criminals in Ivory Coast have stolen over USD10 million (5 billion FCFA) in the past year, according to a recent report compiled by the Plateforme de Lutte ...

[INVESTMENT FOCUS-Extremities of the risk divide win as emerging ...](#) Reuters

Ivory Coast is turning to China for more loans after it secured two loans totalling \$615 million from China's Exim Bank to fund a motorway and hydroelectric ...

[Italian firm to provide surveillance drone for UN in Congo](#) Reuters

UN also hopes to deploy drones in Ivory Coast, South Sudan. By Michelle Nichols. UNITED NATIONS, Aug 1 (Reuters) - The United Nations said on Thursday it ...

[Arla to gauge African milk powder demand with portable packaging ...](#) DairyReporter.com

Depending on the success of the project in the Ivory Coast, the mobile packaging ... Now we are looking at the opportunities that lie in the Ivory Coast, and the ...

[Frank Timis – crowned Emperor of West African resource industry ...](#) Newstime Africa

Two West African countries will soon see a complete overhaul of their socio-economic circumstances, as the Governments in Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso have ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**AUGUST 2, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. New military officers celebrated as reforms are announced
2. Former ruling FPI party calls for probe on last month's attempted escape at Abidjan MACA prison
3. A government task force to audit public procurement procedures, denounces under-the-counter contracts

1. **New military officers celebrated as reforms are announced**

President of the Ivoirian National Assembly Guillaume Soro and First Lady Dominique Ouattara attended yesterday in Yamoussoukro the graduation ceremony for 163 newly-trained military personnel. The information is reported by **Le Patriote (p. 7)** which notes that Soro and Ouattara were accompanied by Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko and Minister in charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi. Seven women are among the new military officers, the paper says.

During the ceremony, **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)** says, Koffi announced major reforms for the military. "In line with President Ouattara's vision for a modern and reliable military, we have drafted proposals to reconfigure the military sector and have designed a new career development plan for military personnel that will come into effect soon," Koffi said, adding that gender-balance will also be better represented in the military.

2. **Former ruling FPI party calls for probe on last month's attempted escape at Abidjan MACA prison**

The former ruling FPI party has called for an international investigation on last month's attempted escape at the Abidjan MACA prison. The information is reported by **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** which says that in a statement made yesterday, FPI interim secretary general Richard Kodjo said at least 50 inmates were killed and many others injured when FRCI soldiers fired live bullets into the detention facility. The government has so far confirmed only three casualties, the paper adds, alleging that the incident was a "government-sponsored scheme" aimed at creating a climate of fear and providing an excuse to crack down on its opponents. The FPI argues an international probe is needed to shed light on this incident.

**Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 7)**, **Notre Voie (p.2)** and **Aujourd'hui (p. 5)** carry similar accounts.

3. **A government task force to audit public procurement procedures, denounces under-the-counter contracts**

The Ivoirian public procurement authority, *Autorité Nationale de Regulation des Marchés Publics* (ANRMP) says it is auditing the government's procurement procedures. The information is reported by **L'Inter (p. 12)** which notes that ANRMP secretary general Olivier Kossonou said two inquiries have so far unveiled procedural irregularities. Speaking to reporters, Kossonou said the bid to select a drug supplier at the country's central pharmacy was "marred with opacity." He also denounced administrative burdens impairing public procurement processes. Results of the audits on under-the-counter contracts will be released early next year, the paper adds.

Opposition paper **Le Temps (p. 3)** says under-the-counter and direct contracts have been largely used by the government during the past two years. According to **Aujourd'hui (pp. 6-7)**, President Ouattara has been using this questionable and often biased process to reward his supporters.

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

[Crocodiles on the streets of Ivory Coast's Abidjan](#) The Observers

Locals in the Ivory Coast's largest city have become the reluctant hosts of a certain reptilian guest: the crocodile. One of our Observers sent us a scary-looking ...

[Arla uses mobile facility to test African markets](#) just-food.com (subscription)

The facility - made out of three 40-foot containers - will be first used in the Ivory Coast, where Arla plans to sell consumer milk powder products. "The aim is to ...

[Refugees Turn Gold Miners in Remote Grand Gedeh County](#) AllAfrica.com

The situation in Ivory Coast for which they were uprooted has subsided to a larger extent, thus necessitating the repatriation of dozens of them, but those who

[Cote d'Ivoire plans digital switchover in June 2015](#) Telecompaper (subscription)

Cote d'Ivoire plans to switch from analogue to digital TV services in June 2015, announced the director general of broadcasting authority HACA, Rene ...

[Sambo: BNC Will Boost \\$2.7 B Nigeria-Cote d'Ivoire Trade](#) THISDAY Live

With the decision by Cote D'Ivoire to diversify her trade relations with Nigeria to the value of \$2.7 billion, Vice President Namadi Sambo has said that the ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**AUGUST 1, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. "The FPI is committed to working toward reconciliation," UN envoy Mindaoudo says
2. Ivoirian Speaker Guillaume Soro announces visit to former president Laurent Gbagbo's hometown
3. World Bank to support project that to allow continued power production in Cote d'Ivoire
4. A decision by ICC judges triggers speculation in the Ivoirian press
5. USAID renovates a cultural center in central Cote d'Ivoire

1. **"The FPI is committed to working toward reconciliation," UN envoy Mindaoudo says**  
UN special envoy to Cote d'Ivoire Aichatou Mindaoudou met yesterday in Abidjan with the leadership of the FPI party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. According to pro-FPI paper **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, this was the first meeting between Mindaoudou and dignitaries of the former ruling party. At the meeting, she underscored that she is in Cote d'Ivoire to support and partner with Ivoirian political and social actors in a bid to bring back cohesion and peace. "I am here for all Ivoirians and have no hidden agenda," she reportedly said. "The FPI is committed to working to achieve reconciliation," she said to reporters after the meeting. FPI interim president Sylvain Miaka Oureto said that the party welcomes "a sister" and is very proud of her outstanding career at the UN. "We hope her insight will help us on the way to peace and reconciliation," he added.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** carries a similar account adding however, that the FPI was initially skeptical about Mindaoudou and alleged that she had a bias against the party.

2. **Ivoirian Speaker Guillaume Soro announces visit to former president Laurent Gbagbo's hometown**

According to an article in **Nord Sud Quotidien (pp. 2-3)**, the president of the Ivoirian National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, met yesterday in Yamoussoukro with traditional chiefs from Gagnoa, the hometown of former president Gbagbo. The meeting, the paper says, was held in the framework of what is termed "traditional diplomacy." The delegation from the southwestern region of the country, a traditional FPI stronghold, had a wide-ranging discussion with the Ivoirian Speaker who announced a visit to the region. "I will be in Gagnoa on August 15...We need to reach out to people there and work together to address issues facing the population," Soro reportedly said.

**Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-5)** said the move is a step forward in the country's reconciliation efforts.

3. **World Bank to support project that to allow continued power production in Cote d'Ivoire**

An article in **Notre Voie (p. 8)** says that the World Bank has agreed to fund the extension of a project aimed at ensuring continued electricity production in Cote d'Ivoire. According to World Bank Director for Cote d'Ivoire, Madani Tall, the bank's support will allow production of gas needed for electricity to continue. Abidjan-based Foxtrot International is the country's company for gas exploration and production, the paper adds.

#### 4. **A decision by ICC judges triggers speculation in the Ivoirian press**

Judges from the International Criminal Court (ICC) said yesterday that ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has been granted a right to appeal the court's June 3 ruling to delay the trial against former president Gbagbo. The information is reported by **Soir Info (p. 3)** which notes that the court, in its June 3 ruling, called on the ICC prosecutor to gather more evidence before the hearing could be held. This update is seen as a "setback" for Gbagbo's lawyers as it can pave the way for his trial for crimes against humanity, the paper says. But according to **Aujourd'hui (p. 2)** the court decision is not likely to change the case.

#### 5. **USAID renovates a cultural center in central Cote d'Ivoire**

The United States Agency for International Development financed the rehabilitation of a cultural center in Sakassou in central Cote d'Ivoire. The information is reported by **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 8)** which notes that the USAID is engaged in a series of development and humanitarian projects in the country.

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

[UN welcomes progress toward peace in Ivory Coast and reduces ...](#) Montreal Gazette

The Security Council on Tuesday welcomed progress toward restoring peace in Ivory Coast following the violent post-election crisis two years ago and reduced ...

[MTN eyes mobile money growth](#) BusinessTech

MTN Group announced on Wednesday (31 July) that MTN Cote d'Ivoire chief ... He has been the CMO of MTN Cote d'Ivoire since 2009, and during this time, ...

[Ukrainian peacekeepers make first flight in Côte d'Ivoire](#) ForUm

Crews of Ukrainian helicopter detachment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire at Mi-24 made the first flight after the relocation to the country, the ...

### **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