

## NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW (DECEMBER 2-30, 2013)

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review December 30, 2013

#### Today's Top Stories

1. **U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley pledges to support electoral commission**
2. **Opposition FPI party calls on government to stop population census**
3. **Primary school teachers want better working conditions and salary increase**
4. **29 Ivoirian soldiers return home from exile; 100 Ivoirian refugees expected home from CAR**
5. **Government announces construction of three new highways in 2014**
6. **Jury declares no award for best journalist this year**

#### 1. U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley pledges to support electoral commission

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483234.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483231.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11265-élections-2015-sem-terence-p-mcculley-assure-la-cei-de-lappui-des-etats-unis>

On Friday, U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley met with the head of the National Electoral Commission (CEI), Youssouf Bakayoko, to discuss the presidential elections in 2015. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6), the Ambassador said, "The electoral commission is a very important institution for the future of the electoral process and the consolidation of democratic institutions in Cote d'Ivoire."

The two discussed the voter register and the renewal of the electoral commission. "I've assured the president that the government of the United States and the American people will support the process," the paper quotes the Ambassador as saying. "We believe that it is important for the people of Cote d'Ivoire to have a peaceful and all inclusive election in 2015."

Opposition paper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 4), says that the U.S., through its Ambassador, wants to see a complete restructure of the electoral commission. The paper believes that the U.S. government is demanding the departure of the current chairman, Bakayoko. It also alleges that the electoral commission is made up of people loyal to the current president, Alassane Ouattara, and that it cannot guarantee free and fair elections.

#### 2. Opposition FPI party calls on government to stop population census

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483236.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483270.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483301.html>

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11288-côte-d'ivoire-le-parti-de-laurent-gbagbo-s'oppose-au-rqph>

A report in today's issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** quotes the opposition party FPI as saying, "The ongoing population census launched by the government is illegal and untimely." The paper says that this came from a statement over the weekend by FPI spokesperson Laurent Akoun. Among the reasons for the demand, Akoun cites the massive population displacement, both inside and outside the country, and the "growing insecurity" and "hunting" of supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo. **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4)**, says that the FPI is against the census and has called on the government to suspend the operation. The paper says that the FPI has also called on the international community, including the EU, the U.S. and France, not to support this project.

In a related story, former Ivoirian prime minister under President Gbagbo, Gilbert Marie Ake N'Gbo, has called for forgiveness and reconciliation, says **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**. According to the paper, N'Gbo was speaking over the weekend at a rally held in his hometown of Anyama. "Regardless of what we went through, we should forgive each other and not seek revenge," the paper quotes N'Gbo as saying.

### **3. Primary school teachers want better working conditions and salary increase**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483361.html>

A report in **Notre Voie (p. 9)** says that school teachers are demanding that the government increase their salaries. A general assembly was held on Friday in Abidjan where the teachers deplored the fact that, "for the last 30 years," they have not received an increase in pay.

**L'Inter (p. 7)** reports that the teachers are also demanding a housing allowance as part of reforms, which would be the first of its kind in "more than 20 years." **Soir Info (p. 6)** quotes the spokesperson for the teachers, Theodore Zadi Gnagna, as saying "for the past two months, more than 500 teachers have not received their salaries on the grounds that they have not been evaluated by their supervisors."

### **4. 29 Ivoirian soldiers return home from exile; 100 Ivoirian refugees expected home from CAR**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483319.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483360.html>

**Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** quotes the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying that 29 military soldiers have voluntarily returned home from Ghana, Togo, Benin and Liberia. The minister also said that more soldiers are expected in the near future.

**Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**, reports that President Ouattara has decided to "rescue" Ivoirians living in the Central African Republic. According to the paper, approximately 100 Ivoirians are expected home today. President Ouattara made the decision to send a plane to Bangui to rescue Ivoirians there as a result of the ongoing violence and conflict in the country.

### **5. Government announces construction of three new highways in 2014**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483357.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483368.html>

The Ivoirian government will be constructing three new highways across the country in 2014 reports today's issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)**. The announcement was made over the weekend by the head of the road construction department, Siendou Fofana. These highways will link regional hubs Yamoussoukro to Bouake, Abidjan to San Pedro and Abidjan to Abengourou. According to Fofana, the government is also planning the construction of another bridge in Abidjan, in the neighborhood of Yopougon. He also said that the government will be spending more than CFA 200 billion (\$419 million) on these projects.

**L'Inter (p. 10)** reports that Fofana also announced that tolls will now be taken at the toll booth between Abidjan and Yamoussoukro along the highway opened earlier this month.

### **6. Jury declares no award for best journalist this year**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483362.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483316.html>

The national journalism awards ceremony was held on Saturday evening reports **Notre Voie (p. 6)**. At the ceremony, there was no winner announced for the country's top journalism prize, the Ebony Award. The jury decided to not award the prize to anyone for 2013 said head of the jury, Yacouba Kebe, because, "No journalist received high enough scores to secure the award."

**Fraternite Matin (pp. 28&29)** says that the jury, through the decision, is making a statement to journalists on the need to improve their performance and the standards of journalism in the country. In an editorial, the paper blames the decision on the poor performance of the print media, which "leaves much to be desired."

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

[Africa a surprising new market for luxury cars](#)

China Post

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast -- Porsches, Range Rovers and even Maseratis ... luxury cars are no strange sight weaving through the old bangers that rumble ...

[Federal Court Gives Go-Ahead for Africans to Sue Nestle in U.S. ...](#)

AllGov

... court in 2009 claiming they were forced as children to work without pay and were abused at Ivory Coast plantations that supplied Nestle with cocoa.

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### **American Embassy's National Daily Press Review December 27, 2013**

#### Today's Top Stories

1. Defense Minister denies arrest of senior member of Gbagbo's Defense and Security Forces
2. Trial of top military commander loyal to Gbagbo postponed
3. Bedie to discuss with Ouattara conditions for RHDP single candidacy in 2015
4. More than 2,500 businesses created in Cote d'Ivoire in 2013

#### **1. Defense Minister denies arrest of senior member of Gbagbo's Defense and Security Forces**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483197.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483195.html>

The Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, on Thursday denied the allegations that a senior member of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo's Defense and Security Forces, Colonel Boniface Konan, was detained for questioning in regards to a coup plot. The story is reported in numerous papers today. **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** quotes Koffi Koffi as saying, "These allegations are false and came from the imagination of those who reported them." He added, "The objectives of the newspapers that reported this story was to create doubt and confusion in the mind of the population and to discourage former military officers still living in exile to return home."

**Le Patriote (p. 2)** says that Colonel Konan could not have been detained as he is currently on training in China. Opposition paper, **Notre Voie (P.6)** contradicts its earlier report on the

detainment, confirming that a member of Konan's family has said that he is in China for ten months.

## **2. Trial of top military commander loyal to Gbagbo postponed**

<http://www.fratmat.info/politique/item/11235-justice-le-procès-en-cassation-de-dogbo-blé-reporté-en-février-2014>

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p.3)** says that the appeal over the sentence of a military commander under former president Gbagbo has been delayed. In October, the former commander of the Republican Guard, General Bruno Dogbo Ble, was sentenced to 15 years in jail for kidnapping and for the assassination of a retired colonel in March 2011, during the post-electoral crisis.

**Le Temps (p. 5)** says that the postponement of the trial was announced by Dogbo Ble's attorneys to allow them more time to prepare their appeal. According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, the attorneys did not object to the decision by the court to postpone the judgment.

## **3. Bedie to discuss with Ouattara conditions for RHDP single candidacy in 2015**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483136.html>

<http://www.rti.ci/actualite-5212-rhdp-b-di-veut-des-conditions-pour-une-candidature-unique-a-la-pr-sidentielle-2015.html>

An article in today's **L'Inter (p. 2)**, says that former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie supports a plan by the ruling RHDP coalition to back a single candidate, incumbent president Alassane Ouattara, in the 2015 president elections. However, the report quotes Bedie as saying that there is a need "to discuss" Ouattara's single candidacy. "We have the conditions set for a single candidacy. There will be a lot of meetings and I will be meeting with my brother, Alassane Ouattara, to discuss the issue." However, the paper says that Bedie's PDCI party is divided over the decision.

**Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** features a similar story.

## **4. More than 2,500 businesses created in Cote d'Ivoire in 2013**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483204.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483219.html>

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)** says that 2,535 new businesses were created in Cote d'Ivoire this year. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by Emmanuel Esmel, the director of the Center for Investment Promotion in Cote d'Ivoire (CEPI-CI), during a press conference. Esmel said, "These businesses have all registered with the government to allow for their creation." He added, "Private investment for 2013 has accounted for more than CFA 500 billion (just over \$1 billion) and could reach as much as CFA 1 trillion in 2014."

**Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9)** quotes Esmel as calling on the government to implement measures to accelerate business growth in Cote d'Ivoire.

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

[Hillyer learned from travel experiences](#)

Lethbridge Herald

A United Nations disarmament camp for ex-combatants in Ivory Coast was one of the stops, he explained during an end-of-year interview. It's where a ...

[Recent Study: Cote d'Ivoire Infrastructure Report Q1 2014](#)

SBWire (press release)

Boston, MA -- (SBWIRE) -- 12/26/2013 -- We are maintaining our positive outlook for growth in Cote d'Ivoire's construction sector over the medium term

[Anadarko Petroleum Corporation \(APC\): Anadarko Advances ...](#)

Tullow Oil plc (Tullow) announces that the Paon-2A appraisal well in the CI-103 licence offshore Cote d'Ivoire has determined the down-dip extent of ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**DECEMBER 26, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. [Attending Christmas Eve mass, Ivoirian First lady calls for the protection of children](#)
2. [Ivoirian bishop warns against division within Ivoirians](#)
3. [Former president Laurent Gbagbo's military chief summoned by the police over allegation of a coup plot](#)
4. [Three new police stations to be built in Abobo](#)

**1. Attending Christmas Eve mass, Ivoirian First lady calls for the protection of children**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483096.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/v/14227.html>

At a Christmas Eve mass at the St. Peter Cathedral in downtown Abidjan, Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara called for better protection of children. According to ***Fraternite Matin (p. 4)***, Ouattara said, "As we are celebrating Christmas, my prayer is that no child suffers in Cote d'Ivoire." Father Eric Norbert Abekan commended the first lady for her work on behalf of children, especially those less fortunate and those engaged in child labor.

***Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)*** says that the first lady held a Christmas party for children in the Abidjan neighborhood of Koumassi where 100 kids were given gifts. The first lady is the chair of an organization called Foundation Children of Africa. Other papers carried similar accounts.

**2. Ivoirian bishop warns against division within Ivoirians**

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20131225-monseigneur-antoine-kone-eveque-odienne>

According to ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p.6)***, Bishop Antoine Kone said that reconciliation is "not working" as expected in Cote d'Ivoire and that it cannot be achieved with "mere words." His comments came as part of an interview with French broadcaster RFI.

***L'Intelligent (p. 6)*** quotes Bishop Kone as saying that religious leaders have a more important role to play in promoting the reconciliation process, but that they are not doing as much as they should. He called on other religious leaders to avoid engaging in partisan politics and hateful speech. Kone also denounced the arrest of opposition figures as a "setback" to reconciliation.

**3. Former president Laurent Gbagbo's military chief summoned by the police over allegation of a coup plot**

<http://goo.gl/5qAYDs>

Opposition paper ***Le Temps (p. 3)*** says that Commandant Boniface Konan and several other military officials were detained by the police for questioning about a potential coup plot on Tuesday. President Alassane Ouattara's chief of staff for the Army, Diomande Vaguondo, is reported as ordering the action.

Another opposition paper, ***Notre Voie (p. 4)*** notes that Commandant Konan was summoned with four others, including members of the Air Force, Special Forces and infantry.

**4. Three new police stations to be built in Abobo**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483127.html>

Interior and Security Minister Hamed Bakayoko announced on Tuesday that three additional police stations will be established in the Abidjan neighborhood of Abobo to improve security. According **Le Patriote (p. 10)**, Bakayoko made the announcement while inaugurating the Christmas lights display in the community. He was joined at the event by the mayor of Abobo, Adama Toungara, where he also announced the donation of four, four-wheel drive vehicles for police, along with ten others to come in the future. "Abobo has given so much to Cote d'Ivoire," the minister is quoted as saying, "So now it is time for Abobo to receive."

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

[Gasol's US\\$116mln Côte d'Ivoire deal will utterly transform the ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

Gasol (LON:GAS) has unveiled an utterly transformational US\$116mln deal that will render the group profitable and gas generative. It is acquiring ...

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

**DECEMBER 24, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **Ivoirian authorities tighten security measures ahead of holidays**
2. **"We will discuss arrangements on President Ouattara's single candidacy," PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie says**
3. **Former president Laurent Gbagbo's spokesperson Justin Katina denies contacts between the former leader and Interior Minister**
4. **President Ouattara to hand over ECOWAS chairmanship**

#### **1. Ivoirian authorities tighten security measures ahead of holidays**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483024.html>

The government will have more police in place in both Abidjan and outside of the city to ensure security during the holidays says **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)**. Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko made the request for the additional security measures to the Chief of the Police, General Bredou Mbia. Police will be stationed at strategic sites such as the main intersections in the city, around banks and in shopping centers. According to an unnamed police official, "Our men are on the ground to prevent petty thieves from using the holidays to commit crime." The same paper (**p. 4**) features an interview with the Prefet of Abidjan, Sidiki Diakite, who says that they are monitoring all public events planned for the holidays to ensure security. The newspaper also quotes police officials as encouraging drivers to abide by the rules of the road to avoid accidents in the heavy holiday traffic.

**L'Inter (p. 11)** notes that gendarmes will be used as back up to the police in case they are needed.

In a related story, **Soir Info (p. 4)** reports that during a recent security patrol, a cache of weapons was found in Yopougon, where a police station was recently attacked by armed men. The paper says that 38 people have been arrested so far in suspicion of having a role in hiding the weapons.

#### **2. "We will discuss arrangements on President Ouattara's single candidacy," PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie says**

PDCI party president, former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie says in an interview with **Le Patriote (p. 5)** that his party will consider the possibility of a single candidacy for the ruling RHDP

coalition for the 2015 presidential elections. However, he notes that there will be conditions. "We have established conditions so that this can take place and the PDCI is adamant that these are met," Bedie said, without elaborating on what the conditions are.

***Fraternite Matin (p. 7)*** carries a similar story, saying that Bedie's party agrees to the single candidacy in principle, but that they need to have discussions to make sure it works smoothly. The paper adds that many members of the ruling coalition support the idea of a single candidacy for President Alassane Ouattara.

### **3. Former president Laurent Gbagbo's spokesperson Justin Katina denies contacts between the former leader and Interior Minister**

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483028.html>

According to ***Le Temps (p. 3)***, the former spokesperson for former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, Justin Katina, issued a statement yesterday saying that there is "no link" between the former president, now in prison at the International Criminal Court, and current Interior Minister Bakayoko. The statement is in response to the minister stating recently that he and Gbagbo are in contact. However, Katina says that this is "a lie" being used for political purposes and that there is no contact, either direct or indirect, between the two men. The story adds that Gbagbo is still "committed to dialogue" to aid the process of reconciliation.

A similar story appears in ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)*** which reports that the minister is trying to "manipulate public opinion" by saying that the two are in contact.

### **4. President Ouattara to hand over ECOWAS**

**chairmanship**<http://news.abidjan.net/h/483001.html>

***L'Intelligent (p. 2)*** reports that President Ouattara will be handing over the chairmanship of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at a meeting planned for February in Yamoussoukro. The information comes from a "diplomatic source" who adds that three countries have already expressed an interest in vying for the chairmanship, Senegal, Ghana and Liberia. Ouattara has served two one-year terms as chairman of ECOWAS, taking the chairmanship in February 2012. The paper reports that Ouattara's tenure as chair of the West African bloc has been marked by the crisis in Mali and the coup in Guinea Bissau, where ECOWAS worked to return both countries to stability. The paper goes on to say that among the challenges facing the next chair will be the establishment of a regional monetary system. Ouattara was the first Ivoirian president to hold this seat.

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

[From Stateless to State Official, Ivorian Helps Others Gain Nationality](#)

AllAfrica.com

Yamoussoukro — For most of his life, elected official Bere Tassoumane had trouble proving his existence. In his native Côte d'Ivoire, his name did not ...

[Follow Mandela's example in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

The Globe and Mail

Côte d'Ivoire was once an African beacon of prosperity and peace, but following a decade of election-related violence, it descended into civil war after ...

[Mars Chocolate Releases Gender Assessment Regarding Women ...](#)

Sacramento Bee

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

[Australia announces USD300,000 aid programme](#)

GhanaWeb

The High Commission is also working with alumni of the Australia Awards programme in Côte d'Ivoire to train disadvantaged and disabled women in ...

[Gasol Suspended As It Buys Into Ivory Coast Licence With Acquisition](#)

London South East

LONDON (Alliance News) - Gasol PLC shares were suspended Monday after the company said it will pay up to USD116.1 million to buy Ivory Coast ...

[Ghana Police arrests 106 illegal foreigners prospecting for gold](#)

Ghana Business News

gold-bars A total of 106 foreigners from Guinea, Mali, Niger and Ivory Coast have been arrested by the Northern Regional Police Comman

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review  
December 23, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. [Government spokesperson speaks on national issues](#)
2. [UDPCI party pledges to support President Ouattara's candidacy in 2015 elections](#)
3. [Opposition FPI leader meets in supporters in northern town of Bouna](#)
4. [Interior Minister meet with youth loyal to former president on reconciliation](#)

**1. Government spokesperson speaks on national issues**

***Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5)** features a long interview in today's paper with government spokesperson, Bruno Kone, where he discussed a wide variety of issues. Regarding the dialogue between the government and opposition, Kone says that the discussions are continuing. "The goal set by President Ouattara through this dialogue is to bring together Ivoirians to talk about peace, security and how to improve living conditions for the population." He also said that this dialogue will improve the image of Cote d'Ivoire abroad.

Kone also referenced the national forum suggested by the opposition FPI party. He said that this would "not add anything" to the process of reconciliation. Regarding the trial of imprisoned aid to former president Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Ble Goude, Kone says that the government has not yet decided if they will allow Goude to be transferred to The Hague to face charges of war crimes by the International Criminal Court or if they will try him in-country. In his words, "For each case, we need to make sure the person is tried in a way that is transparent and credible and that their security is guaranteed during the proceedings."

**2. UDPCI party pledges to support President Ouattara's candidacy in 2015 elections**

The president of the UDPCI party, Albert Mabri Toikeusse, said after the party's congress last week that the ruling coalition, RHDP, will "remain united" during the 2015 presidential election. According to ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**, he said, "I hope that the RHDP will support President Alassane Ouattara's candidacy. We are together and we know our interests and what we

need to do for Cote d'Ivoire." He also called on other members of the ruling coalition, including the PDCI, MFA and President's Ouattara's RDR party to support the president, as well. According to **Le Mandate (p. 4)**, Toikeusse said, "[Former president Henri Konan] Bedie will support Ouattara's single candidacy." **L'Intelligent (p. 5)** reports that President Ouattara welcomed the decision by the UDPCI to support his candidacy in 2015 and spoke with the party president to congratulate him.

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/482948.html>

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/482920.html>

### **3. Opposition FPI leader meets in supporters in northern town of Bouna**

According to opposition paper, **Notre Voie (2)**, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, president of the opposition FPI party, accused the ruling government of "putting political opponents in jail." He said this during a political rally in Bouna in northeastern Cote d'Ivoire on Saturday. The opposition leader also visited the prison in Bouna, where he was detained for two years after the post-electoral crisis of 2011.

Another opposition paper, **Aujourd'hui (p. 6)** said Affi N'Guessan visited his colleagues who are still in jail in Bouna, where he spent two years from 2011 to 2013. At a public event, he thanked the population of the town for supporting him while he was in jail and urged them to join the reconciliation process.

The international criminal court is "demanding that President Ouattara hand over his political supporters for crimes committed during the 2011 political crisis," **L'Inter (p. 2)** quotes Affi N'Guessan of saying during the trip. The paper says he also called for the restructure of the Independent Election Commission (CEI) in advance of the 2015 elections.

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/482954.html>

### **4. Interior Minister meet with youth loyal to former president on reconciliation**

Over the weekend, Ivorian Minister of Interior, Hamed Bakayoko, spoke at a rally of pro-opposition youth. According to **Le Patriote (p. 4)** says Bakayoko urged the youth to support the peace process. He also is reported as saying that "No one will benefit from fighting." He says further, "I am here to show you that, despite our political differences, we can still come together to work for the country."

Reporting on the same issue, **L'Inter (p. 6)** says that the youth used the opportunity to demand that the Minister of Interior release former youth leader Ble Goude.

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/482978.html>

### **5. Unknown attackers disrupt FPI rally in Port Bouet**

A story in **Notre Voie (p. 4)** reports that a group of unknown people disrupted a rally organized by the opposition FPI party on Sunday in Port Bouet, a suburb of Abidjan. The paper quotes an eyewitness as saying that unidentified assailants wielding batons and clubs attacked the crowd gathered for the event.

In a related story, **Le Temps (p. 6)** reports on a similar attack carried out last week in Doropo before an FPI rally with Affi N'Guessan that was allegedly organized by a former Com'Zones known as "Wattao." The paper says that Wattao claims to not have had any knowledge of the incident and that he was not informed about the FPI leader's visit to the region, but that it was evident that he was involved.

<http://news.abidjan.net/h/482908.html>

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[China, Cote d'Ivoire sign 16 million USD loan agreement](#)

Xinhua

ABIDJAN, Dec. 20 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire and China have signed an economic cooperation agreement of 8 billion CFA Francs (about 16 million U.S. ...

[Local Militias Hold Sway in Cote d'Ivoire's Lawless Duekoue](#)

Inter Press Service

DUÉKOUÉ, Dec 22 2013 (IPS) - In Cote d'Ivoire, traditional hunters known as Dozos are accused of human rights abuses and extortion. But in several...

[APM Terminals Signs Abidjan Terminal 2 Project \(Ivory Coast\)](#)

Dredging Today

The APM Terminals-led consortium formally signed the agreement with the Government of the Ivory Coast on December 19, 2013 for the construction...

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

MarketWatch

... long-term potential should start getting some exposure to four countries in west Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast).

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

**DECEMBER 20, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **"Despite strides forward, challenges remain in Cote d'Ivoire" U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley says**

According to U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley, there are reasons to be optimistic on the future of the country despite challenges yet to be addressed. Ambassador McCulley made the statement during a meeting yesterday with Ivoirian reporters. **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)** notes that the U.S. envoy says he has been impressed by the government's efforts to rebuild the country's economy and infrastructure. "I have been amazed by what the Ivoirian people are doing and hope these efforts will be sustained to advance reconciliation," he is reported as saying.

Speaking about the 2015 presidential elections, Ambassador McCulley said this will be an important point to assess the progress of democracy in Cote d'Ivoire, arguing that the Ivoirian press has a crucial role to play to promote national cohesion. He recommitted the U.S. government to supporting a free and responsible press and to advance human rights, justice and democracy in Cote d'Ivoire.

**Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** carries a similar account, adding that McCulley called for fair and inclusive elections. He hailed the dialogue initiated between the government and the opposition FPI party, arguing that peace, justice and security are needed to bring investors to the country. Still on the issue, opposition papers, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)**, **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 4)** and **Le Temps (p. 4)** say Ambassador McCulley called for an end to the double-standard of justice prevailing in Cote d'Ivoire.

2. **The Ivoirian government to implement a general health insurance plan in 2015**

The Ivoirian government said it will launch its general health insurance plan in January 2015. The information is reported by **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)** which notes that the decision was made in a cabinet meeting yesterday in Abidjan. According to government spokesperson Bruno Kone, arrangements are being made to allow the plan - which will provide health care insurance to

Ivoirian and non-Ivoirian citizen living in Cote d'Ivoire –to be realized. The project was one of President Ouattara's electoral promises, the paper adds.

**Le Patriote (p. 2)** and **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** carry a similar account, adding that the move will help those less fortunate.

### 3. **The National Assembly passes FY 2014 budget**

According to a report in **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 5)**, Ivoirian deputies passed yesterday the country's FY 2014 budget. With the passage of the budget, projects initiated by the the country's strategic development scheme, the National Development Program (PND), could be extended, the paper notes, adding that the budget was made in anticipation of an estimated 9.1 percent growth.

### 4. **FPI dignitaries discuss the return of party supporters in exile with Interior Minister**

Dignitaries from the FPI met yesterday with Ivoirian Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko. The information is reported by **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2)** which notes that the meeting was to discuss arrangements to facilitate the return of exiled FPI supporters. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, FPI official Michel Amani said that although the government has agreed to work for the return of all, the party needs guarantees. "We want words like 'arrest warrant' to be removed from the government vocabulary," the paper reported Amani as saying. For his part, Interior Minister Bakayoko said the President has given instructions to assist all those willing to come back and that security measures have been taken to facilitate their return.

**Notre Voie (p. 2)** carries a similar account.

### 5. **On a visit in northern Cote d'Ivoire, FPI president faces hostility**

FPI party president Pascal Affi N'Guessan was reportedly forced to call off a meeting in the town of Doropo in northeast Cote d'Ivoire this week. The information made news in most opposition newspapers. According to **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, the delegation of the FPI president was stopped by an angry mob of young men armed with bats and machetes as they were entering the city. Opposing Affi's meeting in their city; the demonstrators burned tires on the site where the meeting was to be held. The paper alleges that the episode was led by FRCI commandant Issiaka Ouattara, a.k.a Watao, a native of Doropo.

**Le Temps (5)** carries a similar account denouncing animosity that would plague reconciliation efforts.

### 6. **Bollre Africa to build a state-of-the-art terminal on the Abidjan port**

According to an article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**, the Ivoirian government and Bollre Africa Logistics signed yesterday an agreement which will pave the way for the building of a state-of-the-art container terminal at the Abidjan port. The consortium of Africa Logistics, APMT and Bouygues were the successful bidder for the project, the paper adds. "The massive project is in line with the President's development vision to make Cote d'Ivoire an emerging country," the paper reported Bollre chief Dominique Lafont as saying. A total of CFA 260 billion (US \$ 541 million) will be mobilized for the implementation of the project, the paper notes, adding that the terminal will be operational by 2018.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[China, Cote d'Ivoire sign 16 mln USD loan agreement](#)

Xinhua-4 hours ago

ABIDJAN, Dec. 20 (Xinhua) -- Cote d'Ivoire and China have signed an economic cooperation agreement of 8 billion CFA Francs (about 16 ...

[Air Côte d'Ivoire Firms Bombardier Q400 Order](#)

Aviation Today (subscription)

Air Côte d'Ivoire has firmed its purchase agreement with Bombardier for two Q400 NextGen, a \$69 million order at current list prices. The order ...

[Côte d'Ivoire takes bolder step into the global AIDS arena](#)

UNAIDS (press release)-Dec 18, 2013

In a strong demonstration of commitment to the global response to HIV and to UNAIDS, the President of Côte d'Ivoire Alassane Ouattara has

[Ivoirian refugees in Ghana and Togo fear reprisal](#) IRINnews.org

ABIDJAN, 19 décembre 2013 (IRIN) - Fear of reprisal is preventing thousands of Ivoirians from returning to Cote d'Ivoire from Ghana and Togo, where ...

[IFC Supports Ivorian SMEs With \\$2m](#) Ventures Africa

Although Côte d'Ivoire is one of the strongest and most diversified economies in West Africa, a statement released by the World Bank asserts that its ...

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

**December 19, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **UDPCI's congress opens in Yamoussoukro**
2. **New Vatican Ambassador presents his credentials**
3. **More than 20,000 former combatants return to civil life**
4. **Court proceedings crippled as court clerks on strike**
5. **Prime Minister Duncan gives recipe to state TV to overcome challenges**
6. **Government announces construction of two power plants**
7. **U.S. Embassy donates equipment to journalism school**

**1. UDPCI's congress opens in Yamoussoukro**

The congress of the Union for Democracy and Peace in Cote d'Ivoire (UDPCI) party underway in Yamoussoukro and the general political landscape in the country feature prominently in the press today.

UDPCI's president Albert Mabri Toikeusse has called on Ivoirian political stakeholders to exercise restraint in order to promote national reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire, reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 9)***. According to the paper, Toikeusse said this yesterday at the opening ceremony of the party's congress. Toikeusse also said that the congress will try to find solutions to challenges facing the party and issues relating to the ruling RHDP alliance, the 2015 presidential elections as well as the question of nationality.

Reporting on the congress, ***L'Expression (p. 4)*** indicates that Toikeusse has called his party to rally behind President Alassane Ouattara and former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie, leader of the PDCI-RDA party.

"UDPCI supports President Ouattara's candidacy for the 2015 presidential elections," ***Le Patriote (p. 7)*** quotes the party's leader as saying. Commenting on the political landscape in Cote d'Ivoire ahead of the 2015 presidential elections, the paper ***(p. 2)*** indicates that for the RHDP alliance to survive, its members should agree on a single candidate.

In a related development, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)** suggests that President Ouattara and his ally Bedie, the two heavyweights in the ruling RHDP coalition, could sign a deal seeking to create a post of vice-president in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper also claims that the idea was brought up during PDCI-RDA's congress held in October this year. The paper also quotes insiders as saying that President Ouattara could be RHDP's single candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections.

## **2. New Vatican Ambassador presents his credentials**

Monsignor Joseph Spiteri is the new Vatican Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. According to the paper, Monsignor Spiteri presented his credentials yesterday to President Ouattara. The article also says that Monsignor Spiteri has been appointed by the Vatican to replace Monsignor Ambrose Madtha who was killed in a car accident last year. The president also yesterday received the credential letters of the new Ethiopian Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Himebrat Mersha Kassa.

## **3. More than 20,000 former combatants return to civil life**

More than 20,000 former combatants have been disbanded and returned to civilian life, reports **Le Jour Plus (p. 6)**. According to the paper, this was announced by Karna Soro, an official of the Authority for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (ADDR). Soro, speaking at a ceremony, also disclosed other projects that seek to repatriate former Ivoirian combatants who have sought refuge abroad, to return home.

With more on the reintegration process, a report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** says the ADDR has launched a training session for 850 former combatants in the northern town of Odienne.

## **4. Court proceedings crippled as court clerks on strike**

A strike launched by court clerks to protest their working and living conditions has brought proceedings in different courts across the country to a standstill, reports **Notre Voie (p. 6)**. According to the paper, workers from other departments of the country's judicial system are supporting the three-day strike.

## **5. Prime Minister Duncan gives ideas to state TV to overcome challenges**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)** says Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan yesterday proposed ideas aimed at helping the state-run television RTI to live up to challenges of the future. Duncan was speaking at a ceremony organized to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the television station. Among these solutions, Duncan called on the management of the state broadcaster to find ways to reduce expenses. "The usage of archives, the diversification of programs emphasizing on the country's cultural heritage and programs that involve Ivoirians living abroad," are some of the other ideas that the prime minister shared with the journalists.

## **6. Government announces construction of two power plants**

On Wednesday, the Minister of Petroleum and Energy Adama Toungara signed an agreement with Star Energy to increase the national electricity capacity by 416 megawatts by 2020 in constructing two power plants, reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**. The goal is to finish construction on the two plants by 2018. The total amount for the construction is CFA 300 billion or \$150 million, 25 percent of which will come from the Ivoirian government and 75 percent from the West African Development Bank (BOAD) and the ECOWAS Investment and Development Bank (BIDC).

## **7. U.S. Embassy donates equipment to journalism school**

A report in **Le Mandat (p. 10)** says U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley yesterday donated equipment to the Institute of Science and Techniques of Communication (ISTC), the country's largest journalism school. Ambassador McCulley pledged to support the school while ISTC's director Dr. Alfred Dan Moussa said the school's ambition is to become "a leader in communication and journalism training in the region."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Tullow Oil will plug, abandon an Ivory Coast well](#)

MarketWatch

LN) on Wednesday said that the Paon-2A appraisal well in the CI-103 license offshore Ivory Coast didn't encounter oil, reducing the upside volume ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **Leaders of the Entente Council agree to finance regional infrastructure**
2. **ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda summoned to provide additional charges against former president Laurent Gbagbo ahead of his trial**
3. **The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to deploy drones in the west and reduce its military personnel**
4. **Former Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade calls on young lawyers to advance the rule of law**
5. **A coalition of MPs lobbies for President Ouattara ahead of the 2015 presidential race**
6. **Five inmates of the Abidjan MACA prison reportedly die of food poisoning**

**1. Leaders of the Entente Council agree to finance regional infrastructure**

Gathered yesterday in Niamey, leaders of the Entente Council agreed to work to revive the regional institution. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin (p. 6)* which notes that President Alassane Ouattara and his counterparts from Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso and Togo have given their go-ahead to a massive rail road project aimed at connecting the five countries. Construction is due to kick off in 2014, the paper says, adding that the delegation also agreed to take collective measures to counter arms and narcotics trafficking in the region.

**2. ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda summoned to provide additional charges against former president Laurent Gbagbo ahead of his trial**

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Fatou Bensouda must submit no later than January 13, 2014 any additional charges and evidence she might have against former president Laurent Gbagbo. The information is reported by *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2)* which notes that the move is meant to allow for the legal process to move forward with the hearing for the confirmation of charges against the ex-leader.

*Le Temps (pp 6-7)* notes that the ultimatum given by ICC judges appears to be a setback for ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. The paper alleges that Mrs. Bensouda has nothing but fake evidence against the ex-leader and opines that in light of this, there is no reason to maintain Mr. Gbagbo in detention.

*Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)* carries a similar account while *L'Inter (pp 4-5)* reports that FPI president Pascal Affi has accused the ICC of maneuvering against the ex-leader.

**3. The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to deploy drones in the west and reduce its military personnel**

According to an article in *L'Inter (p. 3)* the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) will deploy military aircrafts and drones to monitor security along the border with Liberia. The decision, the paper says, came as the UN Security Council recently ordered the reduction of UNOCI military forces. The total troop strength will be reduced by 3,000, the paper says, citing an official from the UN mission. The unmanned aircrafts and MI-24 helicopters will help secure the volatile western region of Cote d'Ivoire, the paper notes, adding that the reduction in force is to allow the deployment of additional UN troops to conflict areas like Mali and the Central African Republic. A similar account appears in *Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)* and *Soir Info (p. 5)*.

#### **4. Former Senegalese president Abdoulaye Wade calls on young lawyers to advance the rule of law**

Former Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade was the special guest of a union of young African lawyers - FAUJA (Federation Africaine des Associations et Unions des Jeunes Avocats). The information is reported by **Soir Info (p. 2)** which notes that the group held its second annual meeting in Abidjan. Addressing the young lawyers, Mr. Wade, a veteran lawyer before entering politics, called on the young lawyers to help advance the rule of law. "You must commit to justice," he reportedly said, arguing that it is their duty to fight for freedom.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** for its part notes that Mr. Wade used the occasion to denounce a witch-hunt against his family

#### **5. A coalition of MPs lobbies for President Ouattara ahead of the 2015 presidential race**

A coalition of deputies from the PDCI, the RDR and the MFA yesterday called on their peers to support President Ouattara as he seeks a second term as the sole RHDP candidate. The information is reported by **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)** which notes that the 25 MPs argue such a move will strengthen the RHDP collation and ensure peace. "Today only a political coalition can win elections," the paper reported the spokesperson of the coalition, Louis Abonouan, as saying.

#### **6. Five inmates of the Abidjan MACA prison reportedly die of food poisoning**

According to **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)** food poisoning reportedly killed five inmates in the Abidjan MACA prison. The information, the paper says was culled from koaci.com, a local online news agency. The incident reportedly happened on Sunday night, the paper notes, adding that hundreds of people have been admitted to hospital as a result of the poisoning

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[ICC judges uphold decision to demand more evidence against ...](#)

Fox News

... Alassane Ouattara in the aftermath of 2010 elections. Ivory Coast authorities surrendered him Gbagbo to the Hague-based court in November 2011.

[Cote d'Ivoire Telecom set to be privatised](#)

Telecompaper (subscription)

Ivory Coast's government plans to privatize national telecommunications operator Cote d'Ivoire Telecom, among other companies. The state currently ...

[UN Panel Identifies Security Risks in Liberia](#)

AllAfrica.com

"Those weapons too had been brought into Liberia when the mercenaries retreated from Côte d'Ivoire early in 2011. The pistols have not been turned ...

[Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan on the Henri Konan Bedie ...](#)

World Finance

The Henri Konan Bedie toll bridge, named after Cote d'Ivoire's former leader who was ousted from power in 1999, is the focal point of the country's ...

[ECOWAS promises 'significant improvements' in power supply for ...](#)

Panapress (subscription)

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (PANA) - Citizens of West African countries that benefitting from a US\$108-million regional emergency energy programme will ...

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**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review  
December 17, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions after ICC uphold decision to demand more evidence against Gbagbo
2. Women protest against detention of their husbands
3. President Ouattara pledges support to fight HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire
4. National Assembly adopts bills on good governance
5. President Ouattara heads to Niamey to attend Entente Council Summit
6. ECOWAS minister meeting in Abidjan on challenges facing the region
7. Media practitioners discuss role of the press in reconciliation
8. News publishers propose new price for newspapers

**1. Reactions after ICC uphold decision to demand more evidence against Gbagbo**

The ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to uphold its decision to not yet confirm crimes against humanity charges against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, giving prosecutors more time to gather evidence features prominently in the press today.

A prominent headline in pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 1)** says "ICC has rejected Fatou Bensouda's appeal." The paper also believes that by upholding its decision not to confirm crimes against humanity charges against Gbagbo and demanding the ICC chief prosecutor provide more evidence is a "new victory" for the former Ivoirian leader.

Another prominent headline in **Aujourd'hui (p. 1)** describes the decision as "a big victory" for Gbagbo over the lead prosecutor, Bensouda. Here at home, the paper (**p. 4**) quotes Pascal Affi N'Guessan, president of Gbagbo's FPI party, as telling supporters, "Get ready, Gbagbo is on the way back home."

**Le Temps (p. 1)** calls the decision a "bombshell" with a picture of Gbagbo acknowledging cheers from supporters during his presidency on its front page. A cheerful picture of Gbagbo is also featured on the front page of **Le Nouveau Courrier** which calls the court's decision a "setback" for the ICC's chief prosecutor. With yesterday's ruling, **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan** draws the conclusion that, "There is no evidence" to try Gbagbo for crimes against humanity.

Independent newspaper **Soir Info (p.3)** also reports on the ICC's decision saying that Bensouda's appeal has been turned down. **L'Inter (p. 3)** carries a similar headline but wonders whether the ICC would have to reconsider charges leveled against the former Ivoirian president.

While a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** says the ICC has adjourned the confirmation of charges against the former president; **Le Patriote (p. 1)** suggests that Gbagbo will not be tried until 2015. The paper (**p. 4**) reports that following its decision to uphold the confirmation of charges against the former president, the court will have to come up with a new calendar. The paper also indicates that the chief prosecutor could be granted another six-month extension to bring more evidence.

**2. Women protest against detention of their husbands**

A report in **L'Inter (p. 2)** says scores of women yesterday inundated the courtyard of the Abidjan tribunal to protest against the long detention of the husbands in connection with the 2011 post-electoral violence in Cote d'Ivoire. "Our husbands have been detained for the past three years;

some have never been interrogated by a judge,” the paper quotes one of the protesters as saying. According to the local organization of women whose husbands are being detained, “About 780 people are being detained for trial and 500 have been tortured,” reports the paper.

***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 1)** carries a similar story.

### **3. President Ouattara pledges support to fight HIV/AIDS in Cote d’Ivoire**

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 11)** reports that President Ouattara yesterday presided over the meeting of the national council fighting against HIV/AIDS. The president, according to the paper, expressed optimism about Cote d’Ivoire’s objective to become an HIV-free country by the year 2020. The president has also pledged to \$1million to ONUSIDA, the United Nation’s arm to fight HIV/AIDS, to support its efforts against the disease, reports the paper.

### **4. National Assembly adopts bills on good governance**

A report in ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 6)** says the National Assembly yesterday adopted a bill seeking to establish a code of transparency in the management of public funds in Cote d’Ivoire. The bill was jointly presented by the Minister in Charge of Economy and Finance Kaba Niale, and the Minister in Charge of Budget Abdourahmane Cisse. Reporting on the same issue, ***L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* (p. 5)** reports that the lawmakers have called on government institutions to conform to the country’s constitution.

### **5. President Ouattara heads to Niamey to attend Entente Council Summit**

According to ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**, President Ouattara is expected today in Niger’s capital Niamey to participate in the Entente Council’s Heads of State Summit. The conference, which is set to kick off today, will bring together heads of state from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger and Togo. The report also says that projects aimed boosting integration among the region will be high on the agenda.

### **6. ECOWAS minister meeting in Abidjan on challenges facing the region**

Ministers from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are meeting this week in Abidjan in an attempt to find solutions to problems confronting the region, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**. According to the paper, the challenges range from good governance, industrialization, climate change to ways to create jobs for the youth in the region.

### **7. Media practitioners discuss role of the press in reconciliation**

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 15)** says media experts have made recommendations on how the press can contribute to the reconciliation process in Cote d’Ivoire. This was during a seminar that brought together media practitioners from Mali, Guinea and Senegal as well as their counterparts in Cote d’Ivoire. They called on the Ivoirian media to uphold the campaign for social cohesion.

### **8. News publishers propose new price for newspapers**

A report in ***L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* (p. 3)** says members of GEPCI, the Ivoirian news publishers association, have made recommendations seeking to increase the price of newspapers from FCFA 200 (about 40 cents) to FCFA 300 (about 60 cents). According to the paper, this decision may take effect in January 2014. In a related development, a statement issued by GEPCI and published by ***Aujourd’hui* (p. 5)** calls on President Ouattara to allow the allocation of government subsidies for print media outlets.

International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

[Ivory Coast plans post-default return in \\$500M sale](#)

BusinessDay

Ivory Coast plans to sell \$500 million of bonds in the first half of next year, returning to international markets three years after defaulting on \$2.3 billion ...

[Ouattara promises more credible electoral process in 2015](#)

Daily Times Nigeria

The President of Cote d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, has promised to put in place a credible electoral body to ensure a free and fair presidential election ...

[Ivory Coast to issue \\$1 bln Eurobond](#)

Independent Online

Ivory Coast plans to issue a new \$1 billion Eurobond in the country's first venture onto the international debt market since a 2011 default, President Alassane ...

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## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

December 16, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Political landscape in Cote d'Ivoire ahead of 2015 presidential election**
2. **Opposition FPI sets conditions to join government**
3. **Search for Common Ground on campaign for peace and reconciliation**
4. **U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley visits religious radio stations**
5. **President Ouattara reacts to U.N. report**
6. **National Assembly adopts bill on 2014 budget**
7. **Ivoirian lawmakers discuss gender-based violence**

### 1. Political landscape in Cote d'Ivoire ahead of 2015 presidential election

The President of the Constitutional Council, Francis Vangah Wodie, has called on Ivoirian political stakeholders to work towards peaceful elections in 2015, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9). Wodie, speaking at a conference over the weekend, also told political players that, "It's now time to think about ideas and solutions to problems that could come up," ahead of the forthcoming presidential elections. The paper further quotes Wodie as explaining that the role of the institution is to ensure that election results reflect the will expressed by the citizens.

Another article on the same page of *Fraternite Matin* says the Ivoirian Workers Party (PIT) has proposed "a large consultation" between key political stakeholders in the run-up to the 2015 presidential elections. Dubbed "Minimal National Consensus," the consultation, PIT's president Daniel Aka Ahizi is reported as saying, will serve as a forum for the government and opposition parties to "discuss the organization of the 2015 presidential elections."

The 2015 elections and the ruling RHDP coalition also feature prominently in *Le Nouveau Reveil*. "We have to reinforce the RHDP as well as the cohesion and the solidarity within the alliance," the paper (p. 8) quotes former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie as saying. According to the paper, Bedie said this in a message sent to President Alassane Ouattara during his visit to last week to Yamoussoukro and the surrounding regions.

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8) says that during his visit, President Ouattara once again called on the opposition FPI party to continue the dialogue with the government.

### 2. Opposition FPI sets conditions to join government

*Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) reports that the FPI party's youth leader Justin Koua said recently that the opposition party will not join the government. According to the paper, Koua was reacting to President Ouattara's recent announcement that the party of former president Laurent Gbagbo would be doing so soon.

Meanwhile, an article in the weekend issue of *Le Temps* (p. 6) outlined conditions set by Gbagbo's party to join Ouattara's government. According to the paper, these conditions include the release of all political detainees, the return of all refugees, reform of the security sector,

restructure of the Independent Electoral Commission, unfreezing of banks accounts and the release of houses belonging to the party's supporters.

### **3. Search for Common Ground on campaign for peace and reconciliation**

A report in today's issue of *L'Inter* (p. 6) says NGO Search for Common Ground is urging Ivoirian community leaders to support the peace and reconciliation process. On Friday, Search for Common Ground organized a seminar for community leaders from regions most affected by the 2011 post-electoral conflict and encouraged the participants to use methods and techniques learned during the session to reinforce social cohesion in their regions.

### **4. U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley visits religious radio stations**

U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence P. McCulley on Friday visited Radio Frequence Vie and Radio Espoir, two religious radios stations in Abidjan, reports *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3) in its weekend edition. Ambassador McCulley used the opportunity to encourage journalists with both stations to support peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire, reports the paper.

### **5. President Ouattara reacts to U.N. report**

Dailies are reporting on President Ouattara's reaction after a report documented by a UN panel accused authorities in Cote d'Ivoire of sending squads to abduct and kill exiled supporters of former president Gbagbo living in Ghana. "Ouattara threatens UN experts," reads a prominent article in *Le Temps* (p. 5). "These so-called experts will have the response they deserve," the paper quotes President Ouattara as saying during his recent visit to Yamoussoukro. "This report is wrong," an article in *Le Quotidien* (p. 3) quotes President Ouattara as saying.

### **6. National Assembly adopts bill on 2014 budget**

The National Assembly's economic and financial commission has adopted a bill on Cote d'Ivoire's 2014 budget reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 17) in its weekend edition. The bill was adopted on Friday following a long debate over the budget presented by Budget Minister Abdramane Cisse. According to the paper, the budget is estimated at FCFA 4248 billion (about US \$8.5 billion), an increase of 9.1 percent over the previous year's budget.

### **7. Ivoirian lawmakers discuss gender-based violence**

Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children Anne Desire Ouloto has called on lawmakers to support laws against gender-based violence, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 15). Ouloto made the call over the weekend during a training organized for members of the National Assembly in order to reinforce their capacities to understand national and international laws on gender issues and gender-based violence.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Nestlé opens experimental farm in Côte d'Ivoire](#) IngredientsNetwork.com

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

[Ivory Coast to privatise 15 companies including banks, telecom](#) Reuters

ABIDJAN Dec 13 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast plans to sell its stakes in 15 companies, including the national telecoms operator, banks, agribusiness and a gold mine ...

[Ghana, others to raise \\$50m seed money for Abidjan-Lagos corridor ...](#) Ghana Business News

In agreeing to raise the funds at a meeting in Yamoussoukro December 10, 2013, the five ECOWAS Member States including Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Benin ...

[Belgium: European Parliament approves EU, Cote d'Ivoire fishing pact](#) Afrique en Ligue

Brussels, Belgium - The European Parliament has approved a new fishing agreement between the European Union and Cote d'Ivoire, which came into force on ...

[Ivory Coast Plans Post-Default Return in \\$500M Sale](#) Bloomberg

Ivory Coast plans to sell \$500 million of bonds in the first half of next year, returning to international markets three years after defaulting on \$2.3 billion of debt.

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

**DECEMBER 13, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. On a visit to Tiebissou, President Ouattara hails the RDR-FPI meeting
2. Papers speculate on a possible participation by the FPI in the government
3. Ivoirian Minister discusses youth council with MPs
4. Human Rights Watch warns against a double standard of justice in Cote d'Ivoire

**1. On a visit to Tiebissou, President Ouattara hails the RDR-FPI meeting**

President Alassane Ouattara on Thursday hailed the meeting his RDR party had Monday with former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party. The information is reported by **Soir Info (p. 3)** which notes that the Ivoirian leader said during a visit to the city of Tiebissou that this could lead to greater political tolerance. "We need to build this country together in peace without which there can never be development," he reportedly said, calling on people still in exile to "come back home." According to the daily, the Ivoirian leader said discussions to find common ground with the FPI are being conducted by former prime minister Jeannot Ahoussou and he remains upbeat these talks will be successful. He recommitted on the occasion to addressing the city's challenges to achieve development.

**Fraternite Matin (p. 4)** carries a similar account, adding that Tiebissou, once a buffer zone between the government controlled south and the zone under the control of the former rebellion has suffered from the decade-long crisis. Officials from the city said they are honored by the presidential visit and hope to see major changes in the town.

**2. Papers speculate on a possible participation by the FPI in the government**

The meeting Monday between the ruling RDR party and the FPI continues to generate speculation in the press. Citing insiders, **L'Inter (p. 3)** says discussions on the possible participation by the FPI in the government, the release of FPI dignitaries as well as a national forum advocated by the FPI in a bid to facilitate reconciliation were on the agenda of the meeting. Overall, the move is meant to ease the strained relationship between the two political parties, the paper says, adding that the meeting came after pressure by international partners on the Ivoirian government.

**Aujourdu'hui (p. 4)** argues that President Ouattara has no alternative other than reaching out to the FPI and the opposition. The daily notes that ahead of the 2015 election, a unity government inclusive of the FPI will definitely help the Ivoirian leader as he seeks a second term. However, the paper warns the FPI on the potential trap this "charm offensive" could hide.

**3. Ivoirian Minister discusses youth council with MPs**

Alain Lobognon, the Minister of Youth addressed yesterday Ivoirian deputies on the government's policy regarding youth. The information is reported by **Le Patriote (p. 6)** which notes that the government is on the verge of setting up a youth council tasked with defining strategies to empower Ivoirian youth. Dubbed CNJCI (National Counsel of Youth of Cote d'Ivoire), the council will come out with legal provisions to govern youth associations. It will be chaired by an elected president and will include all youth initiatives except those involving partisan politics, the paper reported Lobognon as saying.

**4. Human Rights Watch warns against a double standard of justice in Cote d'Ivoire**

According to Human Rights Watch researcher Matt Wells, a "double standard" of justice could bring back violence in Cote d'Ivoire. The information is reported by **Notre Voie (p. 3)** which notes that

the rights group said President Ouattara must ensure his rhetoric against impunity is materialized. Wells commended the government for opening trials against supporters of former president Gbagbo who are accused of crimes but denounced the fact that no similar legal action has been taken against pro-Ouattara forces said to have been engaged in similar violations. "Impunity was at the heart of the decade long crisis in Cote d'Ivoire and must be addressed," he concluded.

***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)*** carries a similar account, adding that FRCI, the Ivoirian regular armed forces since President Ouattara came to power, have been engaged in all sorts of crimes and illegal trafficking.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Cote d'Ivoire political tension eases, opposition joining gov't possible](#)

Global Times

After over a decade of strained political relations, the Rally of Republicans (RDR, ruling party) and the Cote d'Ivoire Popular Front (FPI, of ex-president Laurent ...

[Crucial Decision Looms for Ivorian Government's Justice Promises](#)

Huffington Post

In November 2010, a contested presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire sparked six months of violence in which at least 3,000 people were killed. After the crisis ...

[Abidjan-Lagos road corridor project](#)

Afrique en Ligue

The Steering Committee agreed at its just-ended third ministerial session in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, that the money would help fund preparatory activities ...

[300 Homes to Get Electricity Before Christmas](#)

Liberian Daily Observer

... December 10, began pole to house connections six months after the electricity was tested upon crossing over to Liberia from neighboring La Côte d'Ivoire

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

**DECEMBER 12, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara says opposition parties will join the government soon**
  2. **The World Bank supports exports in Cote d'Ivoire while the EU is poised to finance the rehabilitation of roads**
  3. **U.S. Ambassador says addressing human rights issues remains a challenge in Cote d'Ivoire**
  4. **Exiled FPI officials say evidence exists that the government has sent squads to kill opponents in Ghana**
- 
1. **President Ouattara says opposition parties will join the government soon**

According to an article in **Le Patriote (p. 2)**, President Ouattara yesterday called for an inclusive government. "Our brothers from the opposition will join us soon," he reportedly said, arguing that unity is needed for a collective approach in addressing the country's challenges. The announcement, the paper adds, was made during President Ouattara's visit to the city of Didievi, the first stop of his tour of the Belier region in central Cote d'Ivoire that kicked off yesterday. However, former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party said it has not been informed of this. In a telephone interview yesterday, FPI president Pascal Affi N'Guessan said the party had no knowledge of the unity government. This development, the paper adds, came few days after a meeting was held - the first of the kind since 2010 - between the ruling RDR party and the FPI. Papers speculate that the move was meant to discuss arrangements ahead of possible participation by the FPI in the government. Other papers suggest that it is part of political maneuverers of the ruling RDR party to appear inclusive.

**Soir Info (p. 5)** carries a similar account, quoting FPI official Michel Amani.

## 2. **The World Bank supports exports in Cote d'Ivoire while the EU is poised to finance the rehabilitation of roads**

According to a report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 10)**, the World Bank awarded CFA 26 billion (approximately US \$52 million) to the Ivoirian government as part of efforts to support agricultural activities in rural areas and streamline the production of export goods including cocoa and coffee. Speaking Monday at a press conference, Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said the government is committed to working to achieve development in the interior of the country and facilitate access. For his part, World Bank Director for Cote d'Ivoire Madani Tall said the funds have been made available to support the work of the Ivoirian government in modernizing the agribusiness sector. **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 10)** carries a similar account.

This update came as **Le Patriote (p. 11)** says that the European Union has made available CFA 43 billion (approximately US \$86 million) to finance the rehabilitation of road infrastructure in northern Cote d'Ivoire. The grant, the paper says, was officially signed yesterday in Yamoussoukro and brought together the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Finance Niale Kaba, Infrastructure Minister Patrick Achi and EU chargé d'affaires Fabio Distefano. The latter called on the government to invest in the country's infrastructure and to take the necessary steps to ensure the funds offered are used efficiently.

## 3. **U.S. Ambassador says addressing human rights issues remains a challenge in Cote d'Ivoire**

According to U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley, human rights remain a major issue in Cote d'Ivoire where 47 percent women have been subjected to violence. The information is reported by **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)**. Speaking at a conference hosted yesterday by the U.S. Embassy to observe the International Day of Human Rights, Ambassador McCulley recommitted the U.S. to supporting human rights in Cote d'Ivoire. "We must be on the right side of history," he is reported as saying, calling on the Ivoirian government. According to the daily, the human rights situation has worsened over the past two years in Cote d'Ivoire with the arrest of hundreds of supporters of former president Gbagbo and many more people are in exile.

## 4. **Exiled FPI officials say evidence exists that the government has sent squads to kill opponents in Ghana**

In a recent statement, FPI party dignitaries in exile in neighboring Ghana said there is evidence that the Ivoirian government has killed or attempted to kill opponents in exile. The statement came a week after a UN report alleged that Ivoirian authorities have sent squads to silence opponents who have sought refuge in Ghana after the political crisis. **Le Nouveau Courrier** publishes verbatim the statement signed by FPI coordinator and spokesperson in Ghana, Assoa Adou.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast To Sell as Much as \\$67 Million in Banks and Mine \(1\)](#)

Businessweek

Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, plans to sell stakes in 15 companies including banks in the first half of next year to reduce the burden on the ...

[Nestle inaugurates experimental farm in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

MarketWatch

The ceremony was attended by Cote d'Ivoire's Prime Minister Daniel Kablan ... welcomed by the Cote d'Ivoire's Minister of Agriculture, Sangafowa Coulibaly, ...

[West Africa optimistic about funding for corridor road project](#)

AfricanBrains

Donors have shown tremendous interest to fund the project, dubbed the Abidjan-Lagos highway corridor, which will link some major cities of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire ..

[One in three children do not officially exist, UNICEF reports](#)

UN News Centre

10-year old Kangbe holds her birth certificate at her primary school in Côte d'Ivoire. Photo: UNICEF/NYHQ2011-2488/Asselin. Print. 11 December 2013 – Nearly ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review  
December 11, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Obama's speech at Mandela's funeral hits front page**
2. **U.S. Embassy organizes panel on Human Rights**
3. **UNOCI deplores mistreatment of prisoners in Cote d'Ivoire**
4. **Ivoirian civil society calls on President Ouattara to tackle corruption**
5. **NDI delegation proposes conditions for transparent elections in 2015**
6. **President Ouattara to inaugurate a multi-billion FCA motorway today**
7. Prime Minister Duncan launches a multi-billion project in San Pedro

**1. President Obama's speech at Mandela's funeral hits front page**

With a picture of U.S. President Barack Obama, pro-opposition newspaper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 1) writes, "Obama slams African dictators." The paper (p. 4) carries an article on President Obama's speech yesterday in Soweto at the memorial service of former South African President Nelson Mandela, highlighting a portion of the speech that says, "There are too many leaders who claim solidarity with Madiba's struggle for freedom, but do not tolerate dissent from their own people."

“Barack Obama slams irresponsible Heads of State,” writes **Notre Voie (p. 6)**. “Obama smashes Ouattara,” says a prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 1)** which reports President Obama as saying yesterday, “Around the world today, men and women are still imprisoned for their political beliefs, and are still persecuted for what they look like, and how they worship, and who they love. That is happening today.” The paper **(p. 5)** claims that this situation described by President Obama in his speech “perfectly matches” with President Alassane Ouattara’s policy. President Obama’s speech also hit the front page of pro-government **Nord-Sud Quotidien** which quotes him calling on “African leaders to serve as role models.” A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 19)** says President Obama was in the limelight as the world paid tribute yesterday to “a giant of history.”

## **2. U.S. Embassy organizes panel on Human Rights**

**Le Quotidien d’Abidjan (p. 2)** and **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 8)** both announce that the U.S. Embassy is organizing a panel discussion today to mark the celebration of International Human Rights Day. The discussion will bring together U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley and representatives of three local and international organizations on human rights.

## **3. UNOCI deplores mistreatment of prisoners in Cote d’Ivoire**

A report in **L’Inter (p. 4)** says the UN has deplored mistreatment of prisoners in Cote d’Ivoire. According to the paper, Bakayoko Abdramane, a UN expert on human rights, speaking yesterday at a ceremony marking International Human Rights Day, called for “the rights of the people who are being detained to live in good health conditions.”

Reporting on the same event, **L’Expression d’Abidjan (p. 5)** says the National Human Rights Commission of Cote d’Ivoire (CNDHCI) is calling for better respect for the rights of young girls. The report says as part of the 65<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day, CNDHCI organized yesterday a ceremony to advocate for the rights to education and health for girls.

## **4. Ivoirian civil society calls on President Ouattara to tackle corruption**

**L’Intelligent d’Abidjan (p. 8)** publishes a document released by Cote d’Ivoire’s civil society calling on President Ouattara to step up efforts to fight corruption in Cote d’Ivoire. According to the paper, the eight-point document was signed by four local human right organizations also in connection with the celebration of International Human Rights Day. The document encourages the president to, among other things, take into consideration competence, integrity and credibility before appointing members of the Anti-Corruption High Authority.

## **5. NDI delegation proposes conditions for transparent elections in 2015**

The fact-finding mission of the National Democratic Institute’s (NDI) delegation to Cote d’Ivoire in the run-up to the 2015 presidential elections features prominently in the press today. “Conditions for acceptable elections in Cote d’Ivoire have not yet been met,” a prominent story in **Notre Voie (p. 1)** quotes the head of the delegation, Brian Atwood, as saying after a meeting with leaders of the opposition FPI party yesterday. The paper **(p. 4)** also reports Atwood as saying that the conditions include, “The return of refugees, the freeze of assets and the restructure of the Independent Electoral Commission.”

A report in **L’Expression (p. 4)** says that NDI’s fact-finding mission is currently in Cote d’Ivoire on the demand of President Ouattara to evaluate the situation in preparation for the 2015 presidential elections. The article says that the delegation also yesterday met with members of the ruling RDR party. The paper reports Atwood as saying that the delegation is meeting with Ivoirian political stakeholders to discuss issues such as the structure of the electoral commission, the register of voters and other issues that have not been “solved” since the 2010 presidential elections.

## **6. President Ouattara to inaugurate a multi-billion FCA motorway today**

A report in **Le Patriote (p. 3)** says President Ouattara will today inaugurate the Abidjan-Yamoussoukro highway as part of his official visit to the region. According to the paper, the

construction and renovation of portions of the highway have cost the government about FCFA 2 billion (\$4 million).

#### **7. Prime Minister Duncan launches a multi-billion project in San Pedro**

The government has launched a FCFA 29 billion (\$58 million) series of construction projects aimed at rehabilitating public infrastructure and other social amenities in the Ivoirian port city of San Pedro and its surroundings, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 17). According to the paper, the project was launched by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. The projects will help improve facilities such as potable water, street lights and the rehabilitation of schools.

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

**December 10, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

- 1. Ruling and opposition parties hold ice breaking meeting**
- 2. Government and proximity radios work together to improve communication**
- 3. Hospital acquires incinerator with PEPFAR assistance**
- 4. British Queen Elisabeth II expected in Cote d'Ivoire**

#### **1. Ruling and opposition parties hold ice breaking meeting**

A meeting yesterday between Cote d'Ivoire's ruling Rally of Republicans (RDR) party of President Alassane Ouattara and the opposition Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party of former president Laurent Gbagbo, two years after the bloody post-election crisis, features prominently in the press today.

In the wake of the meeting that brought together top officials from the two rival parties, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) wonders whether the move should be seen as "a step towards reconciliation." Speaking on topics discussed at the meeting, FPI's chairman Pascal Affi N'Guessan said his delegation again brought forward issues such as "direct dialogue and the organization of a national forum," two proposals that according to Affi N'Guessan are "the pillars for national reconciliation" in Cote d'Ivoire. The report however says RDR's priority during this meeting was to "continue the government-opposition dialogue." Though nothing concrete came out of this meeting, the paper comments that the fact that the meeting took place was a good sign for the future of the country.

Meanwhile, pro-RDR newspaper *Le Patriote* (pp. 2&3) sounds skeptical about the meeting, mentioning the gap between the two factions on many issues including the proposal from Gbagbo's party for a national forum to discuss problems confronting the nation. The paper claims that this meeting initiated by the opposition party was a "pure diversion" designed to "throw dust" in the eyes of Ivoirians and to tell the international community that they were acting in "good faith." On the opposition side, *Notre Voie* (p. 2) sounds more composed in its tone saying that the meeting was an opportunity for the FPI to present its project of a national forum to the ruling party. The paper also notes that the two sides showed a lot of interest in the discussions. An article in the independent daily *L'Inter* (p. 5) stresses the need to encourage and continue this dialogue between the two parties in order to bury any "acrimony or enmity" between the two main actors in the 2011 post-electoral conflict.

"We invite you to accept the hand extended to you by the head of the state," a report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) quotes RDR's secretary general Amadou Soumahoro as telling the FPI delegation. "The destiny of Cote d'Ivoire remains in our hands," Affi N'Guessan responded.

#### **2. Government and proximity radios work together to improve communication**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 18) says that the office of the Ivoirian prime minister is working with proximity radio stations in order to improve government communication on national issues. This was announced after a meeting between the head of Cote d'Ivoire's proximity radio

network, Bamba Karamoko and the head of the communication department at the prime minister's office, Noel Yao. Through this partnership, the office of the prime minister is seeking to better inform the population on government's projects.

### **3. Hospital acquires incinerator with PEPFAR assistance**

A report in *Le Mandat (p. 9)* says the U.S. Embassy has provided an incinerator to a hospital in Toumodi, in north Abidjan. According to the paper, the incinerator was presented to Ivoirian health officials yesterday as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's (PEPFAR) assistance in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire.

### **4. British Queen Elisabeth II expected in Cote d'Ivoire**

The Queen of England Elisabeth II is expected in Cote d'Ivoire in November of 2014, *Fraternite Matin (p. 15)* quotes head of an Ivoirian organization as announcing. The Queen will be coming to Abidjan to promote the programs of the organization whose activities focus on the youth.

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

**December 9, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara's RDR and Gbagbo's FPI parties to meet today
2. Cote d'Ivoire marks 20 years since Houphouet Boigny death and mourns Mandela
3. UN urges probe into human rights abuses by traditional hunters in Cote d'Ivoire
4. Six bodies found in a mosque
5. Disbanded former fighters receive training for reintegration
6. Tripartite commission meets on repatriation of Ivoirian refugees in Togo
7. Ivoirian and Ghanaian experts discuss ways to eradicate child labor in cocoa farms
8. IMF grants US \$74 million to support economic reform in Cote d'Ivoire
9. Media endowment fund supports press groups

### **1. President Ouattara's RDR and Gbagbo's FPI parties to meet today**

A meeting scheduled between leaders of President Alassane Ouattara's RDR and former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI parties features prominently in the press today. "For the first time since the end of the post-electoral crisis, the RDR and FPI are set to talk," reads a prominent headline in **Le Patriote (p. 1)** which announces that the meeting is due to take place today at the headquarters of the RDR in Abidjan. While **Le Patriote (p. 5)** speculates that issues to be discussed during this meeting could range from "the reconciliation and peace process to development issues and the 2015 presidential elections," **Notre Voie (p. 3)** suggests that "the FPI's proposal for a national forum" to discuss issues confronting the country would be high on the agenda.

According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)**, today's meeting will bring together RDR's general secretary Amadou Soumahoro and Pascal Affi N'Guessan, the president of the FPI. The paper also says that the discussion would focus on the reconciliation process and issues of national interest. A prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 1)** describes the meeting as "crucial" and that it could help "defuse" political tension in the country. The paper also quotes FPI's spokesperson Laurent Akoun as saying, "We must resolve disputes resulting from the electoral crisis and put on the table all issues that are important for us." From RDR's point of view, "This meeting is symbolic," the paper quotes RDR's spokesperson Joel N'Guessan as saying. "The world should know that the government is not against dialogue."

## **2. Cote d'Ivoire marks 20 years since Houphouet Boigny death and mourns Mandela**

While the two major parties are set to meet in Abidjan in a bid to diffuse political tension in the country, a Roman Catholic cleric has called for "reconciliation between Ouattara and Gbagbo and for peace to return to Cote d'Ivoire," reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)**. According to the paper, Bishop Marcellin Kouadio said this on Saturday during a mass to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the country's first president, Felix Houphouet Boigny, in Yamoussoukro. The report (**p. 2**) also quotes President Ouattara as calling on citizens to "reflect on the works and ideals of the country's founding president."

Bishop Kouadio's call for reconciliation between President Ouattara and former president Gbagbo also features prominently in **Notre Voie (p. 2)** while prominent headlines in **Soir Info (p. 1)** and **L'Inter (p. 1)** describe the cleric's call as "a truth" for the country's political stakeholders. "Nanan (the tribal name of the founding president) helps us to recover peace," **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** quotes Bishop Kouadio as saying during the event.

Over the weekend, Ivoirian dailies also joined in to mourn former South African president Nelson Mandela who died on Thursday. "Mandela is a world icon," a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 21)** quotes African Integration Minister Ally Coulibaly as saying. President Ouattara pays tribute to the former South African president by calling him, "A model and a statesman," in a report in independent newspaper **Abidjan 24 (p. 5)** which also features pictures of Mandela and Houphouet Boigny on its front page.

## **3. UN urges probe into human rights abuses by traditional hunters in Cote d'Ivoire**

A report released by the United Nations on Friday calling for investigation into serious human rights abuses committed in Cote d'Ivoire by traditional hunters also called Dozos features prominently in the press. The report says that Dozos are accused of killing hundreds over a period of four years beginning in March 2009.

A report in the weekend issue of **Notre Voie (p. 5)** describes the report as a "setback" to President Ouattara's government's human rights record. A report in **L'Inter (p. 2)** quotes the report as accusing Dozos of killing 228 people.

## **4. Six bodies found in a mosque**

A report in **Notre Voie (p. 2)** says six bodies have been found in a mosque in the Abidjan neighborhood of Adjame. According to the report, the bodies were found last week following an investigation conducted by a government's investigation unit.

## **5. Disbanded former fighters receive training for reintegration**

A report in today's issue of ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 11)** says the country's program on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration has launched a program aimed at training 500 former combatants on recycling plastic bags. The program, launched on Saturday in the western town of Guiglo, is part of the disbandment of former combatants.

#### **6. Tripartite commission meets on repatriation of Ivoirian refugees in Togo**

A tripartite commission made up of government entities from Cote d'Ivoire and Togo, as well as and the UN High Commission on Refugees, met last week in Abidjan to work on ways to repatriate Ivoirian refugees living in Togo, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 12)**. The story also indicates that out of 6,000 Ivoirians who sought refuge in Togo following the 2011 post-electoral crisis, more than 2,000 refugees have yet to return home. The meeting focused on how members of the commission can work efficiently through "Go and See" and "Come and Tell," two programs designed to encourage refugees to return home.

#### **7. Ivoirian and Ghanaian experts discuss ways to eradicate child labor in cocoa farms**

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 14)** says cocoa stakeholders from Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana have discussed ways to work together in order to eliminate the worst forms of child labor on cocoa farms in both countries. The meeting, organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO), was aimed at reinforcing the capacity of government agencies and partners taking part in the campaign against child labor.

#### **8. IMF grants US \$74 million to support economic reform in Cote d'Ivoire**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has granted US \$74 million to Cote d'Ivoire in support of the economic reforms underway in the country, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 15)**. According to the paper, this grant came following the fourth review of the country's economic performance.

#### **9. Media endowment fund supports press groups**

A report in ***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 8)** says the government-run Endowment Fund for Support and Development of the Press (FSDP) has provided financial support to four news publishers and 31 proximity radios. Estimated at US \$ 1.5 million, the fund was presented by the Minister of Communication, Affoussiata Lamine Bamba and will help the media organizations to acquire equipment.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[U.N. calls for investigation of rights abuses in Ivory Coast](#)

UPI.com

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 6 (UPI) -- The United Nations Friday called for an investigation into human rights violations perpetrated for years in Ivory Coast by ...

[IMF Executive Board Completes Fourth Review under the ECF ...](#)

HispanicBusiness.com

ABIDJAN , Cote d'Ivoire, December 9 , 2013/ African Press Organization (APO)/ -- The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today ...

[Ivory Coast cogeneration plant expansion to include German air ...](#)

Cogeneration & On-Site Power Production Magazine

As part of a 255 MW expansion, a cogeneration power plant in Abidjan, Ivory Coast is set to receive a 120 MW air-cooled condenser and 18 fan units from ...

[Ouattara Urges Ivoirians to Reflect on Houphouët-Boigny's Ideals](#)

Daily Times Nigeria

Cote d'Ivoire's President, Alassane Ouattara, has called on citizens to reflect on the works and ideals of the country's Founding President, Felix ...

[IFC, SocGen to provide \\$300m loan for refinery in Ivory Coast](#)

Energy Business Review

IFC, SocGen to provide \$300m loan for refinery in Ivory Coast ... Generale (SocGen) have decided to provide up to \$300m loan for a refinery in Ivory Coast.

[Cote d'Ivoire: 30 killed, over 50 injured in two road accidents in the ...](#)

The Muslim News

Majority of Cote d'Ivoire citizens complained of "a bloody weekend" due to the high number of victims who died on the country's main highway ...

['Tropicalize' the ICC, Says Ivorian Expert](#)

AllAfrica.com

Cote d'Ivoire: 'Tropicalize' the ICC, Says Ivorian Expert. 5 December 2013. Kenyans' varying attitudes towards the International Criminal Court compete for ...

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

**DECEMBER 6, 2013**

1. Wednesday incident in Yopougon was a planned attack, papers say, reporting the death of a FRCI soldier
2. President Ouattara says he could run for a second term as part of a deal with allies
3. Ivoirian and Ghanaian authorities meet to discuss border issue
4. Accused of rape, four teachers to be tried
5. Ivoirian papers pay tribute to Nelson Mandela

1. **Wednesday incident in Yopougon was a planned attack, papers say, reporting the death of a FRCI soldier**

Providing updates on Wednesday's incident in Yopougon, papers say the episode was part of a planned attack by unidentified men. *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)* says the individuals who attacked a police headquarter in Yopougon were heavily armed and were partly dressed in military camouflage. One FRCI soldier was killed in the exchange of fire, the paper adds. According to the daily, communication did not work properly within the FRCI chain of command and the incident was at first reported as a police operation to arrest drug dealers operating in the vicinity of the police compound.

*Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6)* says the assault on the police barracks and the operation launched by the police anti-drug unit are two separate events. The information, the paper adds, was later

given by Paul Koffi Koffi, the Ivoirian Minister in charge of defense. "At first there was an operation against drug dealers which resulted in the arrest of five individuals but shortly after, an armed gang attacked the post, possibly in retaliation for the arrest of these people," Mr. Koffi said, adding that law enforcement agents fired back and the assailants retreated. Five additional people were arrested during sweep operations and a large arms cache was found.

Skeptical of this version, *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 5) says the incident underscores the government's failure to provide security.

## 2. **President Ouattara says he could run for a second term as part of a deal with allies**

According to an article in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 6) President Alassane Ouattara said yesterday that he will be pleased to run for a second term as the single candidate of the RHDP coalition. The announcement, the paper adds, was made during an interview President Ouattara had with French radio service RFI. "If the RHDP makes this decision, I will definitely be pleased," he reportedly said.

*Le Patriote* (p. 2) carries a transcript of the interview.

## 3. **Ivoirian and Ghanaian authorities meet to discuss border issue**

Committed to settle peacefully their border issue, Ivoirian and Ghanaian authorities met yesterday in Abidjan. The information is reported by *Le Patriote* (p. 10). According to the daily, the Ivoirian Minister of Oil and Energy Adama Toungara used the occasion to recommit the Ivoirian government to working to strengthen the relationship with Ghana. "Our meeting is meant to find common ground on how to efficiently manage our natural resources," he said. For her part, Ghanaian Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources Barbara Serwa Asamoah commended the decision by the two countries to peacefully address the issue. A border dispute between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire erupted when a huge oilfield was discovered along the two countries' border, the paper adds.

## 4. **Accused of rape, four teachers to be tried**

Four Ivoirian teachers have been arrested after being accused of sexual assaults on schoolgirls. The information is reported by *Le Patriote* (p. 11) which notes that the information was made public yesterday by the Ivoirian Minister of Education. Speaking at a press conference, Mrs. Kandia Camara said the incidents were reported in Duekoue, San Pedro, Nassian and Dabou. The alleged perpetrators are in custody awaiting trials, she added.

*Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 11) carries a similar account, adding that administrative and disciplinary actions have been taken against the accused.

## 5. **Ivoirian papers pay tribute to Nelson Mandela**

The death of South Africa's former president and anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Mandela A.K.A. Madiba is reported in the Ivoirian press. With a poster of the ex-leader, *Fraternite Matin* (pp.1-5) salutes the leader who impacted generations of leaders including President Barack Obama. In an emotion-led reaction yesterday, the U.S. President said "Madiba transformed South Africa and moved all of us."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[In Côte d'Ivoire, ensuring adolescents living with HIV have the care ...](#)

UNICEF (press release)-14 hours ago

NGOs like OFACI can mean the difference between total isolation and care and support, for adolescents living with HIV in **Côte d'Ivoire**.

[IFC and Socié@t@ G@n@rale Trade Facility Supports Energy ...](#)

PR Newswire (press release)-18 hours ago

Washington — IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and Société Générale have co-arranged a \$300 million facility for **Cote d'Ivoire's** only ...

[AfDB Board approves \\$28.92 million in support to Côte d'Ivoire...](#)

AllAfrica.com-20 hours ago

On Wednesday, December 4, the Board of the African Development Bank Group approved US \$28.92-million in budget support composed of a ...

['Tropicalize' the ICC, Says Ivorian Expert](#)

AllAfrica.com-Dec 5, 2013

**Cote d'Ivoire:** 'Tropicalize' the ICC, Says Ivorian Expert. 5 December 2013. Kenyans' varying attitudes towards the International Criminal Court compete for ...

[Cote d'Ivoire to inaugurate key road 10 Dec.](#)

African Manager-Dec 4, 2013

**Cote d'Ivoire** to inaugurate key road 10 Dec. Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara will officially inaugurate the northern motorway that links the economic capital ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

DECEMBER 5, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. At summit in France, President Ouattara says Africa is experiencing economic growth
2. FPI president says achieving reconciliation will pave the way for peaceful election in 2015, reiterates call for a national forum
3. RDR official picked as head of the union of Cote d'Ivoire's mayors
4. U.S. Ambassador McCulley meets with Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro
5. Unidentified gang confronts policemen and gendarmes in Yopougon

### 1. **At summit in France, President Ouattara says Africa is experiencing economic growth**

President Alassane Ouattara is in France where he is scheduled to attend a peace and security summit. Speaking at a conference held on the margin of the summit yesterday, the Ivoirian leader said Africa is experiencing development. According to ***Fraternite Matin (pp.4-5)***, President Ouattara argued that the continent has the highest growth rates and that by 2030 its total share of the global economy will go from four to seven percent, ultimately reaching 12 percent by 2050. Calling for more investment in Cote d'Ivoire, he underscored achievements made recently in the country and described the environment as "upbeat." "Africa needs France as much as France needs Africa," he is reported as saying as he commended French President François Holland for reaching out to the continent. Senegalese President Macky Sall and Tanzania leader Jakaya Kikwete were part of the discussions as well, the paper adds.

### 2. **FPI president says achieving reconciliation will pave the way for peaceful election in 2015, reiterates call for a national forum**

President of the former ruling FPI party Pascal Affi Nguessan said yesterday that the Ivoirian government must give due consideration to his party's proposal for a national forum. Speaking at the FPI headquarters in Abidjan, ***Le Temps (pp. 6-7)*** says Affi argued that this is the only way to peaceful elections. At the summit, called "General State of the Republic," Affi is reported as saying, "Elections will not be possible if we do not achieve reconciliation and the summit will help us with this."

***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)*** notes that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has become a hot potato in the hands of the Ivoirian leader who now appears to be reluctant in cooperating with the court. "This summit will offer him (President Ouattara) a way out," Affi said.

### 3. **RDR official picked as head of the union of Cote d'Ivoire's mayors**

Gilbert Kafana Kone, the mayor of Yopougon and member of the RDR party, was chosen as the head of the union of Ivoirian mayors known as UVICOCI (Union des Villes et Communes de Cote d'Ivoire). The information is reported by ***Fraternite Matin (p. 7)*** which notes that the two other challengers, Paulin Danho and Seraphin Yao, withdrew shortly before the vote. In his address, Kone commended the RHDP coalition and its leaders, President Ouattara and PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie, for their vision and commitment to working to strengthen the union. For ***Le Temps (p. 9)***, his election stemmed from maneuvers by the Ouattara administration to have one of their supporters in this position.

### 4. **U.S. Ambassador McCulley meets with Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro**

U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley met yesterday in Abidjan with President of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro. The information is reported by ***Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)*** which notes that the two men discussed the role of the National Assembly as one of the country's highest profile institutions. "The National Assembly plays an important role in consolidating democracy," Ambassador McCulley reportedly said, qualifying Soro as a "committed president and a friend to the United States."

### 5. **Unidentified gang confronts policemen and gendarmes in Yopougon**

According to several papers, the situation was tense yesterday in Yopougon where an unidentified armed gang reportedly confronted policemen and gendarmes in an attempt to take control of a police station. **L'Inter (p. 7)** says the individuals were armed with AK-47 type rifles. No casualties have been reported so far, the paper says, adding that the incident forced inhabitants of the area to remain in their homes.

**Le Patriote (p. 7)** says that this was not an attack but a routine law enforcement operation carried out by the police and FRCI soldiers to disband a drug house. According to the daily, the information was given later by the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi who spoke to reporters on French wire service RFI.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ghana says Ivory Coast sent agents to kill exiles.](#)

defenceWeb

Supporters of Laurent Gbagbo. Ghana told a U.N. panel in July that Ivory Coast sent hit squads earlier this year to attempt to abduct or kill exiled supporters of ...

[Cote d'Ivoire to inaugurate key road 10 Dec.](#)

African Manager

Cote d'Ivoire to inaugurate key road 10 Dec. Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara will officially inaugurate the northern motorway that links the economic capital ...

[AfDB Board Approves Combined 2013-2017 Country Strategy ...](#)

HispanicBusiness.com

It will also contribute to the promotion of regional integration to restore Cote d'Ivoire's regional leadership and make it into a key intra-regional trade hub.

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

**DECEMBER 4, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. "We are not engaged in partisan politics" Francis Wodie, the head of the Ivoirian constitutional council says
2. Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro meets with American Legislator
3. Corruption: Transparency International says the situation has worsened in Cote d'Ivoire
4. U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley visits Islamic radio station

1. **"We are not engaged in partisan politics," Francis Wodie, the head of the Ivoirian constitutional council says**

According to Francis Wodie, head of the Ivoirian constitutional council which is the body tasked with overseeing the country's legal efforts to ensure compatibility with the constitution, the institution is in no way engaged in "partisan politics." According to **Nord Sud Quotidien (pp. 2-3)** Wodie made the announcement yesterday during a conversation with the media initiated by officials from the council. In a wide-ranging interview, Wodie argued that the role of the legal institution is to ensure that the "voice of the people" is respected and that democratic values prevail in the country. Wodie insisted that the council must be held responsible for its decisions and act responsibly.

**Le Patriote (p. 2)** notes that on the occasion, Wodie stated that there is legal basis should the president decide to bypass the parliament and use decrees to pass laws. The issue was recently the subject of heated debates the paper says.

Opposition paper **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)** says for its part that Wodie called on Ivoirians to reach out to the constitutional council should they have a concern about any law conflicting with the constitution.

## 2. **Ivoirian speaker Guillaume Soro meets with American Legislator**

President of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro met yesterday in Abidjan with New York State Senator Bill Perkins. The information is reported by **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)** which notes that Soro said he and State Senator Bill Perkins are "close friends." On the occasion, Soro commended the U.S. for conducting capacity building for Ivoirian deputies. For his part, Senator Perkins said he is impressed by the resilience of the Ivoirian people and promised to lobby for more support to the country. "We will work to see how the U.S. government and President Obama can better help the country, through something like a Marshall plan which will take into account the needs of the Ivoirian people and Africans in general," he is reported as saying.

**Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** carries a similar account, adding that the two men met in 2002 while Soro was on a visit to the U.S.

## 3. **Corruption: Transparency International says the situation has worsened in Cote d'Ivoire**

According to a recent report by Transparency International, corruption remains a major obstacle in Cote d'Ivoire. Its latest rankings have the country falling six places to 136. The information is reported by **Aujourd'hui (p. 2)**. The report, the paper says, suggests that corruption has worsened under the administration of President Alassane Ouattara. Abuses by authorities, secret transactions, bribes and other secret payments have become common practices, the paper says, citing an excerpt from the report. It is estimated that a total of CFA 300 billion is being lost annually in Cote d'Ivoire as a result of the problem, the paper adds.

Other opposition papers including **Notre Voie (p. 7)**, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)** and **Le Temps (p. 5)** carry a similar account while independent paper **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 11)** says the report contradicts an assessment made public last month by a task force working on Cote d'Ivoire's admission to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). In that report, the paper says, the country was commended for efforts made to fight against corruption. According to the daily, the level of corruption is measured differently by the two groups.

## 4. **U.S. Ambassador Terence McCulley visits Islamic radio station**

U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley visited Islamic radio station Radio Al Bayane last week. The information is reported by **Islam Info (p. 7)** which notes that the visit was part of courtesy call initiated by the U.S. envoy to Cote d'Ivoire. On the occasion, Ambassador McCulley recommitted the U.S. government to supporting free press and the freedom of speech in Cote d'Ivoire. "Al Bayane has a large audience and its programs are in line with reconstruction efforts," Ambassador McCulley is reported as saying in an interview with the radio.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Security agencies of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire urged to collaborate](#)

GhanaWeb

Security Agencies of Ghana and *Cote d'Ivoire* have been urged to collaborate and share intelligence information to combat cross-border crimes ...

[Data for development: revolution kicks off in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

TrustLaw (blog)

Orange is now in talks with universities and ministries in *Côte d'Ivoire* about following up with a closer analysis of some of that data. It is also ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

DECEMBER 3, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Ivoirian government denies sending agents to target opponents in Ghana**
2. **ICC asks Ivoirian government to hand over former youth leader Charles Ble Goude**
3. **In a bid to revive the economy, the government takes steps to streamline individual and corporate loans, redefine mining code**
4. **Japanese investors eye the Ivorian market**

### 1. **Ivoirian government denies sending agents to target opponents in Ghana**

The Ivoirian government denied yesterday allegations that it had sent a "hit squad" to neighboring Ghana in an attempt to capture or kill opponents. The information is reported by **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** which notes that government spokesperson Bruno Kone addressed the issue yesterday during a press briefing. "This is not our methods...we are in no way engaged in these type of activities," he is reported as saying, denouncing "inadequacies" in the UN report. "The report itself says the experts are not in a position to independently verify the information given by the Ghanaian government," he added, arguing that the Ivoirian government does not give much credit to the report.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)** says supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo, who have been hostile to and skeptical of the UN since the 2011 post-electoral crisis, are now commending the UN for publishing the report.

### 1. 2. **ICC asks Ivoirian government to hand over former youth leader Charles Ble Goude**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) said Monday that it wants the Ivoirian government to work to transfer the former youth leader and Gbagbo ally Charles Ble Goude to the Hague-based court. According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, the court has been putting pressure on the government since last September when it issued an arrest warrant against Ble Goude for crimes against humanity, murder, rape and inhumane treatment. According to the daily, the court urged the government to reconsider the arrest warrant and submit observations no later than January 13 to allow the process to move ahead. **Le Patriote (p. 6)**, **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** and **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** carry similar accounts while opposition paper **Aujourd'hui (p. 3)** suggests that in fear of possible backlash, the Ivoirian government has been reluctant to send the youth leader to the ICC.

### 3. **In a bid to revive the economy, the government takes steps to streamline individual and corporate loans, redefine mining code**

According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (pp. 4-5)**, the Ivoirian government says it will take the necessary steps to facilitate better access to loans for individuals and companies. The information came from a cabinet meeting held yesterday in Abidjan. Government spokesperson Bruno Kone said the measures aimed at streamlining procedures to obtain loans will ultimately improve the business climate in Cote d'Ivoire. "The economy thrives when all resources available are used efficiently," he said, adding that the credit to ratio GDP in Cote d'Ivoire is 14.9% while other countries like France, South Africa and Morocco are at 108 %, 145% and 77% respectively. The Ivoirian government also endorsed yesterday a new draft mining code. The information is reported by **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** which notes that the new law would guarantee better revenue for the government, ensure profitability for businesses and have economic and social impacts on the population, as well.

Still on the cabinet meeting, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** notes that the Ivoirian government is on the verge of privatizing 15 state companies. The move, the paper says, is similar to in 1990

when then Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara sold several state-run companies. Insider trading and opacity were reported at that time and it is likely that the same scenario is happening again, the paper alleges.

#### 4. **Japanese investors eye the Ivorian market**

President Ouattara met yesterday in Abidjan with Japanese business leaders interested in investing in the country. The information is reported by ***Fraternite Matin (p. 15)*** which notes that the Japanese delegation, led by Kouno Akira, an official from Japan Foreign Ministry, said investors are coming back to Cote d'Ivoire now that the country is at peace. For his part, President Ouattara said there are a lot of business opportunities in the mining sector, in infrastructure and in the agro-industry, among others.

In a related development, ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3)*** says that the Japanese government awarded approximately CFA 3.1 billion (US \$ 62 million) to Abidjan. The grant is to support the implementation of digital cartographic project in the city.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast poised at a crossroad](#)

Radio Netherlands

In times of a global economic downturn, Ivory Coast is a rare case. Not only does the country have a positive GDP growth for 2012, but the numbers exceed ...

[Ivory Coast to issue \\$1.67 bln of debt on regional market in 2014](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN Nov 28 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast plans to issue sovereign debt worth around \$1.67 billion on the West African regional market next year, its treasury ...

[Ivory Coast and Europe make deal to boost health services](#)

Public Finance International

Ivory Coast has struck a €18m deal on debt reduction with France and the European Commission in order to improve maternal and child health services over the ...

[UNHCR exceeds 2013 repatriation target for Ivorian refugees in ...](#)

TrustLaw

As of last weekend, UNHCR had assisted 16,232 refugees to return home, mainly to locations in western Côte d'Ivoire. The return figure for 2013 is more than ...

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

**DECEMBER 2, 2013**

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara says Cote d'Ivoire's presidential election set for October 2015**
2. **UN report says Ivoirian government targeting followers of former president Laurent Gbagbo in exile in Ghana**
3. **U.S. government committed to supporting Cote d'Ivoire in the fight against HIV/AIDS**

### 1. **President Ouattara says Cote d'Ivoire's presidential election set for October 2015**

Speaking at a press conference in Bouake last week where he concluded his visit to the region, President Alassane Ouattara said a presidential election will be held in October 2015. The information is reported by ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**. "Elections are set for 2015 and political leaders had better prepare," President Ouattara is reported as saying. According to the Ivoirian leader, much time was lost during the post electoral crisis in 2011 and Ivoirians want to see substantial improvements in their daily lives.

This update came as dignitaries from former ruling FPI party commemorated over the weekend the second anniversary of the transfer of former president Laurent Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court. According to ***L'Inter* (p. 3)**, FPI official Aboudramane Sangare said on the occasion that Gbagbo has been unfairly detained and is the victim of a political machination. He called on supporters to remain mobilized, arguing that, "Sooner or later the truth will triumph." Still on the political situation, ***Soir Info* (p. 7)** says that a coalition of Ivoirian civil society groups dubbed Organisation de la Société Civile or OSC said measures must be taken to ensure the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the Ivoirian body tasked with organizing general elections, is independent and fair. Speaking Saturday at a conference, Fernand Julien Gauze, OSC spokesperson, said these steps must be taken now to avoid future crises.

### 2. **UN report says Ivoirian government targeting followers of former president Laurent Gbagbo in exile in Ghana**

According to a report in opposition paper ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3)**, the Ivoirian government has sent a "hit squad" to neighboring Ghana to hunt down followers of former president Gbagbo. The daily alleges that the information stems from a UN report in which Ghanaian authorities say they have "foiled" at least two missions this year by Ivoirian agents to kill or abduct Gbagbo associates in exile in Ghana since the end of the 2011 electoral crisis. The report, the paper says, also suggests that the Ivoirian government has been reaching out to Liberian mercenaries accused of carrying cross border attacks along the country border with Liberia. Payments were reportedly made by the Ivoirian government to collect information from these individuals and discourage them from conducting further attacks, the report says.

### 3. **U.S. government committed to supporting Cote d'Ivoire in the fight against HIV/AIDS**

"Zero new HIV/AIDS infections and zero HIV/AIDS-related stigma" was the motto of this year's celebration of World AIDS Day in Cote d'Ivoire. The information is reported by ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 13)** which notes that the event, held yesterday in Koumassi, brought together Ivoirian Minister of Health Raymonde Goudou-Coffie with national and international partners involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In her address, Dr. Goudou called on youth to act responsibly to avoid contracting HIV. "Abstinence and the use of condoms for those engaging in sexual intercourse are crucial," she is reported as saying as she called on people to get tested against the epidemic. For his part, U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley said that the U.S. government has spent CFA 509 billion in Cote d'Ivoire to fight the disease. He called for joint efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire, the paper adds.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[I.Coast to hold next president polls Oct 2015: Ouattara](#)

AFP

Bouaké (Ivory Coast) — Ivory Coast will hold its next presidential polls in October 2015, said President Alassane Ouattara, whose election in 2010 touched off a ...

[Security agencies of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire urged to collaborate](#)

GhanaWeb

Security Agencies of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have been urged to collaborate and share intelligence information to combat cross-border crimes ...

[Endeavour Mining pours first gold at Agbaou Mine in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Proactive Investors Australia-

Endeavour Mining (TSE: EDV, ASX: EVR, OTCQX:EDVMF) has poured first gold from the Carbon In Leach and Gravity gold circuits at its ...

[New Cotton Regulator Formed In Côte d'Ivoire](#)

spyghana.com

The CCA will also oversee plans to double annual production of seed cotton to 600,000 MT by 2016. Côte d'Ivoire has struggled to regain its ..

[IP World Summit excites AGN president](#)

Nigerian Tribune

"I also have the pleasure to inform you that World Intellectual Property Organisation , WIPO, will organize, in collaboration with Cote D'ivoire, a Ministerial ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Data for Development - Revolution Kicks Off in Cote d ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

Orange is now in talks with universities and ministries in Cote d'Ivoire about following up with a closer analysis of some of that data. It is also planning to repeat ...

### **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