



**U.S. Embassy Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire**

## **Daily Ivoirian Press Review Archive November 2010**

This daily press review is compiled by the Information Section of the Public Affairs Office of the American Embassy in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. For questions regarding this service, please contact: Mr. Teko Folli in the Public Affairs Press Office, [TekoFX@state.gov](mailto:TekoFX@state.gov).

**November 30, 2010**

Reports in Tuesday's Ivorian press quote UN Special Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire Y.J. Choi as saying that Sunday's run-off vote in this country was conducted democratically despite isolated violence and disruptions. The dailies also look at the political atmosphere in the country as the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has started announcing the results of the vote. On American-Ivorian bilateral issues, a daily carries a report on a conference jointly organized recently by the US Embassy and the Hubert H. Humphrey Association to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this program.

1. "Despite incidents, the second round of the election was generally conducted in a democratic climate," says a front-page story in **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin***, which attributes this statement to UN Special Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi. According to the paper, the UN boss was speaking yesterday at a press briefing in Abidjan, the first time since Sunday's run-off vote that opposed incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, the Ivorian opposition leader. As Ivorians await results of Sunday's presidential election, Choi reportedly said: "the moment has come to safeguard the results." "I have no doubt that the will of the Ivorian people, as expressed the day of the vote, will be respected. I also have no doubt that no candidate will resort to undemocratic means to express his position on the results of the poll," the paper quotes Choi as saying. He also reassured Ivorians that "the transportation of the tally sheets is going on normally despite countless rumors, suspicion and false alarms," the paper further reports. ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** carries a banner headline claiming that Choi has validated the second round of the presidential elections.

2. In a related development, ***Fraternite Matin*** also quotes the head of the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS - election observers, Prof Theodore Holo, who expressed "satisfaction" on the conduct of Sunday's vote. "The second round of the presidential election was conducted in an acceptable atmosphere of freedom and transparency," the paper quotes the ECOWAS diplomat as saying yesterday in Abidjan. Holo is also reported as saying that the November 25 TV debate between the two candidates contributed "to the détente of the climate at the end of the campaign." However, another report in ***Fraternite Matin*** says COMISCA, an NGO of African civil society, has expressed doubt about "the credibility" of the vote in the northern provinces of Korhogo, Mankono and Seguela, where "the vote was marred with serious irregularities." According to the paper, this was contained in a statement issued yesterday by the observer group, which said that "ballot boxes were transported by men in uniform" in the three areas.

3. Meanwhile, a prominent report in ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** says "the opposition RDR party wants to stage an electoral hold-up." The paper attributes this statement to the Chairman of the ruling party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who was speaking yesterday at a press briefing in Abidjan. Affi N'Guessan reportedly said that in the zones under the control of the government, the population was able to freely cast their vote as well as the polling agents. However, reports the paper, conditions for a free, fair and transparent election were not met in the Central, Northern and Western

regions under the control of the New Forces. A banner headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling party)** claims that based on preliminary figures, the candidate of the Ivorian opposition cannot win Sunday's elections; the paper goes on to say that Bedie's supporters ignored his call to vote for Ouattara during the second round. The paper also quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying during his press conference that "in the northern regions of Cote d'Ivoire polling agents were forced to sign voting documents at gun point."

4. Reporting on the same issue, **Fraternite Matin** quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying that the ruling party will demand that "the vote in the Central, Northern and Western regions, especially in the Savanes, Denguele and Worodougou provinces, should be invalidated because it was not transparent." The paper further quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying that "based on figures the party has collected so far, the incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo cannot be defeated. He is in a better position to win this election and we'll do everything possible to defend the results that come from the ballot box despite the fraud." **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** carries a prominent headline suggesting that there is no doubt about President Gbagbo's victory.

5. Meanwhile a prominent headline in **Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)** reads: "Run-off vote: Alassane Ouattara has shattered Gbagbo's dream." According to the paper, preliminary results of the second round seem not in favor of the candidate of the ruling party. "Results of the presidential election: Alassane Ouattara, the big champion," says a banner headline that runs across **L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)**. The paper, which also carries an archive picture depicting Ouattara and Bedie in a mood of celebration, explains how the former Ivorian president has saved Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, supporters of the former president voted "massively" for Ouattara, who received support from the RHDP, the Ivorian opposition coalition, during the second round. **Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)** carries a prominent headline suggesting that Bedie has helped Ouattara to win Sunday's vote; and that the Ivorian "new president" has already started working on his cabinet. With a campaign picture of the four leaders of the opposition RHDP, **Le Mandat (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA)** says "well-done" to the four leaders whom it characterizes as "the true heirs of Felix Houphouet-Boigny." **Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)** prominently publishes the first results announced yesterday by the Independent Electoral Commission. According these results, Ouattara garnered 59.97 against 40.03 per cent percent of the oversea votes.

6. While Ivorians await the results of Sunday's crucial run-off, **L'inter** prominently reports that the population is gripped by fear. The paper devotes its front page to inform readers about the situation on the ground, especially in the central city of Sinfra where, it says, a score of persons were killed during post-electoral clashes, while the inhabitants are fleeing the city. According to the paper, houses in the central city of Gagnoa were vandalized and set ablaze, and supporters of the ruling party are being chased out from their houses. In Abidjan, reports the paper, supporters of the opposition RHDP have been beaten up.

7. On American-Ivorian bilateral issues, ***Soir Info (an independent daily)*** carries a report on a conference jointly organized recently by the US Embassy and the Hubert H. Humphrey Association to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this program. The paper quotes US Ambassador Phillip Carter III, who underscored that the USG is proud of the achievements of the Hubert H. Humphrey Association in Cote d'Ivoire and promised to support cultural and education projects in Cote d'Ivoire.

## November 29, 2010

Reports in today's national press exclusively focused on the run-off held yesterday in Cote d'Ivoire. Most dailies devoted large columns to the prevailing atmosphere during the poll and reported on mutual accusation of harassment and bullying noted in various localities of the country as the population is awaiting the outcome of the poll.

1. "The end of a long and uneven road" or "the end of a gloomy tunnel:" these are words some people used to refer to yesterday's vote in Cote d'Ivoire where Ivorians were called to elect their president to close the sad chapter of an eight-year long crisis. The poll came four weeks after the first round and opposed incumbent President Gbagbo and opposition heavyweight Alassane Ouattara. However, contrary to the first round, which was generally depicted as peaceful, the atmosphere of yesterday's poll was rather tense and even violent in some areas. A situation report in ***Fraternite Matin (a state-owned daily)*** underscored that two people lost their lives in the central western city of Daloa following clashes between rival groups and reported on the sabotage of vote materials and harassment of voters in other regions of the country. Both camps blamed each other for the troubles and denounced the different incidents. Thus, for pro-governmental papers such as ***Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***, ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** and ***Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***, opposition parties, the RDR and the coalition known as the RHDP, used intimidation and coercion on voters in the northern part of the country under the control of the New Forces. On their part, pro-opposition papers such as ***Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR Party)***, ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party)*** and ***Le Mandat (a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party)***, said that the ruling FPI party has tried to alter the results of the poll by preventing people in the western central and southwestern part of the country and even in Abidjan to freely participate in the vote. According to ***Le Patriote***, militia bands and other armed individuals bullied opposition voters in various localities said to be favorable to the opposition.

2. Another distinctive pattern of the second round could be the relatively low turnout. According to most dailies, the high turnout noticed during the first round is not likely to be duplicated this time. For the opposition, the controversial curfew is partly to be blamed for the relatively lower participation, as it scared voters. Partisans of the ruling FPI, on their part, argued that the night curfew has in no way impacted on the turnout and remains a security measure to stamp down troubles.

With more on the issue, ***Le Patriote*** indicated that, in the course of his brief visit on Saturday, the Facilitator of the Political Agreement of Ouagadougou, President Compaore, managed to have a review on the curfew. Unfortunately, the Ivorian leader did not amend the measure. In a separate paper, the daily published a joint statement made by the two candidates in which they called on their partisans to commit to a peaceful poll.

3. In a statement made yesterday, the cabinet of the Ivorian Premier has denounced a report of the Ministry of Home Affairs on incidents which have marred yesterday's poll. Providing details, **Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)** indicated that, for Mr. Meite Sindou, the Ivorian Premier's spokesperson, the report is biased and partial and is likely to endanger the process. [Notes: In a statement broadcast by the national TV channel RTI, the Ministry of Home Affairs blamed the New Forces for incidents in zones under their control.]

In a related story, **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** criticized the attitude of the Ivorian Premier and noted that Mr. Soro is creating total mayhem in the northern part of the country by trying to minimize incidents reported in the northern zone.

4. Finally, the statement issued by the US Embassy in Abidjan and calling for a peaceful poll was reported by **Le Mandat**. The US government urges Ivoirians to accept the results of a free, fair election and to work together to turn the page on the past and bring about a bright future for Cote d'Ivoire, the paper said.

**November 26, 2010**

The electoral campaign, which reached its climax in the live face-to-face debate between President Gbagbo and opposition heavyweight Alassane Ouattara made major headlines in today's national news. A presidential decree imposing a night curfew to stamp down potential electoral violence; as well as technical arrangements made by the Independent Electoral Commission ahead of the run-off were other major subjects reported on.

1. The very first ever televised *face à face* political debate in the history of Cote d'Ivoire opposed yesterday incumbent President Gbagbo and opposition leader Alassane Ouattara. The historical live debate was widely reported and/or commented on in most dailies today. The common patterns in most reports highlighted the good quality of the two and a half hour gentlemen's discussion between the two rival candidates for the presidency. Thus, ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** carried a banner headline reading: "*Gbagbo and Ouattara gave the tone for a peaceful poll.*" In a prominent report, the daily noted that the two bidders engaged a courteous and rather well-mannered interaction and committed to a fair and peaceful poll. "I have prayed God to make this debate smooth and avoid giving angst to the Ivorian people," the paper reported President Gbagbo as saying in his foreword. "I am sure that the run-off will go smoothly (...) If I fail, this will not be a problem. It is God who establishes power," opposition challenger Ouattara reportedly said as he took up the speech.

Similarly, ***L'intelligent d'Abidjan (an independent daily)*** underscored that, on the occasion, the two political leaders addressed wide-ranging issues related to home affairs, the economy and national cohesion. Each candidate, the paper said, went on proposing reforms and policies to be implemented if elected to foster the economy of the country and strengthen national cohesion. The debate was concluded by a hand-in-hand greeting of the two men. A symbol which could help cooling down the rather violent turn the vote campaign has slid into recently, the paper commented.

Both camps also claimed victory over the debate. Thus, for the pro-government daily ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***, "*The historian has taught economics to the economist.*" According to the daily, incumbent president Gbagbo was much more focus-oriented in his replies than Mr. Alassane to questions related to economy.

"*The tutor vs. the schoolboy*" this was the headline of the pro-opposition daily ***Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR Party)*** in reference to opposition leader Alassane Ouattara and incumbent president Gbagbo. According to the daily, which was supported by other media outlets such as ***Le Mandat(a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party)*** and ***Le Nouveau Reveil(a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party)***, Mr. Alassane was well above his rival throughout the debate.

2. Announced by President Gbagbo in the course of the live debate yesterday, a nationwide curfew will be effective as of Sunday 28. According to ***L'intelligent d'Abidjan (an independent daily)*** the measure is diversely regarded. For incumbent

President Gbagbo, this is part of a series of security measures to ensure the poll is conducted in a peaceful atmosphere with regards to recent violent incidents involving partisans of both camps and which have claimed the lives of two so far. To Mr. Alassane, the curfew could add more pressure to the volatile situation.

***Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)*** for its part underscored that the curfew imposed on the night of the voting day could be an alibi to alter the outcome of the poll and deceive the Ivorian people.

3. With just two days before D-day, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) is taking the last measures to ensure the poll is conducted in a credible and fair way. ***Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)*** noted that new technical measures are being taken to that end. Thus, the paper said, voting materials will be secured and intensive capacity building sessions for voting agents are being held. Technical meetings with electoral observers are also on the agenda, the paper added.

## November 24, 2010

Reports in today's Ivorian press say the two presidential hopefuls are increasingly trading accusations against each other ahead of Sunday's run-off election. The dailies also express concerns about the tense political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire and reports on media-related issues in connection with the November 28 vote.

1. A front-page story in **Soir Info (an independent daily)** says that the presidential campaign in Cote d'Ivoire is turning violent. The paper devotes a full-page to reporting on a series of clashes that occurred during the campaign in Williamsville and Abobo, both located in the district of Abidjan, and violent clashes that opposed supporters of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and those of opposition leader Alassane Ouattara on Monday in the Western province of Man. "Verbal rhetoric, acts of violence...: Who wants to burn down Cote d'Ivoire?" asks **L'inter (an independent daily)**, which publishes a comment from an Ivorian lawyer, who has also raised the concern by asking: "Do they want a Rwanda in Cote d'Ivoire?" The paper goes on to warn that, with only four days to go to the polls, the political atmosphere in this West African nation is increasingly tense. It denounces what it calls hate messages and the projection of a film depicting war atrocities. To bring down the tension, the paper calls on the international community, especially the facilitator in the Ivorian peace process, Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore, and the religious leaders to work together in order to save the country from what it terms "mayhem with uncalculated consequences."

2. Meanwhile, a banner headline in **L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)** carries a banner headline reading: "Gbagbo is a putsch sponsor," a statement the paper attributes to opposition candidate Alassane Ouattara, who was speaking yesterday during a gathering in Abidjan. Addressing a rally in the eastern region of Cote d'Ivoire yesterday, Gbagbo raised his voice, reports **Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)**, which quotes the Ivorian president as saying about his challenger in Sunday's competition: "The woe that he imposes on Cote d'Ivoire is quite enough." "Do everything possible to eliminate the most dangerous and keep the lesser dangerous," reports **the state-owned Fraternite Matin** quoting President Gbagbo, who was talking yesterday to the population of Abengourou.

3. Reporting on Gbagbo's rhetoric during the same rally **Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)** quotes the incumbent president as saying: "Sunday's election is to put an end to war sponsors." Another prominent report in this paper says the New Forces – the former rebel movement – have expressed concerns and called on both candidates "to refrain from physical and verbal violence." According to the paper, delegates of the New Forces meeting yesterday in Abidjan denounced reports that the population in northern Cote d'Ivoire is subject to harassment and intimidation during the electoral process.

4. While a banner headline in **Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** reports that a supporter of the ruling FPI party was killed in the central city Sakassou, and blames the RDR party led by Ouattara for political violence, a prominent story in **Le**

**Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)** alleges that the opposition candidate escaped an attack yesterday. The paper goes on to denounce hate messages, tribal attacks, destruction of properties and to illustrate its comments, carries a picture of Gbagbo with a caption reading: "Supporters of Laurent Gbagbo are, for some time now, engaging in violence." The paper carries another prominent headline wondering: "Who can stop the hate machinery and violence of the LMP [The Presidential Majority]."

5. "Diegonefla: RDR's Mercenaries kill a young man," writes **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party,)** which carries a banner headline alleging that the opposition leader Alassane Ouattara is preparing a coup. "Who killed Robert Guei?" asks **Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)** which publishes a two-page report documenting massive killings, mass graves and violations of human rights allegedly committed in Cote d'Ivoire and goes on to call the report "Gbagbo's 10-year achievements." The paper also accuses the ruling party of preparing an armed confrontation and quotes reliable sources as saying that guns have been distributed to members of the FESCI – Cote d'Ivoire's Students Federation. **Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)** carries a front-page story alleging that "a series of assassinations are under preparation in Abidjan and Anyama [located in the outskirts of Abidjan]," while a prominent story in **Le Mandat (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)** alleges that 500 mercenaries were recently deployed in the south-western city of San Pedro. The paper carries another story calling Gbagbo's party "a monster with a blood-stained hand."

6. According to a banner headline in **Fraternite Matin**, the two presidential hopefuls have accepted a TV debate set for November 25. The two-hour-and-15-minute program will be organized by the CNCA, which regulates broadcast media, and will be televised by the state-owned broadcaster RTI-TV. The paper also hints that the two candidates will be talking about a variety of issues, such as defense and security, economy, foreign policy and social-related questions.

7. Still on media issues, **Fraternite Matin** quotes Ivorian Communication Minister Ibrahim Sy Savane as urging media outlets "to avoid extreme utilization of war images" during the political campaign underway in the country. The minister, the paper says, was speaking yesterday during a conference organized by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) to stress the role of the media in democratic elections. The Head of ONUCI, Y. J. Choi, used the opportunity to exhort journalists to put aside any partisan spirit that could cause them to deviate from the code of ethics, reports the paper. In another development, **Fraternite Matin** reports that *TV Notre Patrie, an illegal TV station based in Bouake* – former stronghold of the New Forces – has resumed broadcasting political programs.

## November 23, 2010

Reports in today's Ivorian press say the Cote d'Ivoire Government has started deploying the army throughout the country in a bid to bolster security ahead of Sunday's run-off election. The dailies also echo messages from the country's religious leaders who are calling for peace.

1. Under a banner headline that says "Security during the run-off election: 1,500 Defense and Security Forces deployed in the Central, Northern and Western regions," **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** shows a group picture of Ivorian troops ready to embark for their new assignment. The paper also carries a strong warning from the Ivorian Chief of Defense Staff, Gal Philippe Mangou, who told the soldiers that the mission "is not to resume the hostilities." "You must collaborate with your brothers of the New Forces Armed Forces, the elements of the gendarmerie and the police who are already on the ground under the supervision of the Integrated Command Center (CCI)," the paper quotes Gal Magou as telling the soldiers before they left Abidjan yesterday. The paper notes that the deployment of the Ivorian troops is done in accordance with a presidential decree signed on November 14 calling out the army to reinforce security during the second round of the presidential elections. "You must ensure that nobody complains of being prevented from voting or being punished for voting for one candidate or the other," the paper quotes the Ivorian army commander as telling the troops. The paper further quotes the head of the gendarmerie, who announced the deployment of its troops as part of the government's efforts to boost security throughout the country during the run-off election.

2. In a related development, ***Fraternite Matin*** publishes a statement issued yesterday by Cote d'Ivoire's Army high command warning: "We don't want death, violence and destruction of properties anymore." "To all who are lurking in the shadows plotting against the peace, the Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire would like to remind you that they will be merciless with anyone caught in the act of disruption, physical threat or public disturbance," the paper quotes the statement as saying.

3. While the army is being deployed to beef up security across the country, ***Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)*** carries a prominent story saying: "To maintain Gbagbo in power, they want to kill Bedie and Ouattara." The paper claims that the ruling party is planning to call in the army to interfere with the electoral process in case the first results coming from the polling centers are not in favor of its candidate. The plan, the paper alleges, is to stage violence and have some zealous soldiers accuse former President Henri Konan Bedie and Alassane Ouattara of being the brains behind the uprising, a situation that will lead to their arrest and the suspension of the announcement of the results of the run-off election.

4. ***Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** allegedly reports that Ivorian opposition leader Alassane Ouattara is planning "a coup" to disrupt the electoral process. The paper also claims that the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is maneuvering for the defeat of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo during the transportation of the ballots by the UN peacekeepers.

5. Meanwhile, a prominent report in ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** says the electioneering campaign has been scarred by violence in Man, where a score of people were injured and properties destroyed. The paper also reports that there have been incidents in Williamsville (a suburb of Abidjan), Korhogo, and Boundiali in the Northern provinces. The paper goes on to quote the head of a rights group saying: "We're not far from the Rwandese and Kenyan syndromes." "A prominent story in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** warns that the campaign is sliding into violence and asks: "Who wants war again" in Cote d'Ivoire?

6. Another front-page story in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien*** says Ivorian religious leaders have expressed concerns about the political situation and called on the country's political actors to refrain from mixing up politics with ethnocentrism, tribalism, regionalism and religion. "The election should not be the consecration of a religion, an ethnic group or a region," the paper quotes a statement issued yesterday by the religious leaders as saying. "Religious leaders call on Gbagbo and Ouattara for peace," writes ***L'inter***, which also publishes the statement. "Religious leaders sound the alarm bell," says a prominent story in ***Fraternite Matin***, which also quotes Cheick Al Islam Idriss Koudouss urging the two candidates "to refrain from recalling certain painful events" that happened in Cote d'Ivoire, as they campaign for Sunday's run-off. "Our aspiration is have a president who does not favor any groups," the paper quotes Arch-Bishop Jean-Pierre Kutwa as saying after a meeting yesterday with the Ivorian Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro.

## November 22, 2010

Today's and the weekend's press review will focus on the electioneering campaign that was officially launched Saturday ahead of November 28's run-off vote set to oppose incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, the Ivorian opposition leader. We will also look at the general political atmosphere in this West African country, especially the tone of the messages being delivered by the two candidates, Friday's clashes between supporters of the two candidates as well as the latest developments relating to the electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire.

1. With the pictures of the two candidates on its front-page, **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** today carries a banner headline warning that tension is growing, as Gbagbo and Ouattara officially launched their presidential campaign on Saturday. "My opponent is the sponsor of the December 1999 coup-d'etat," the paper quotes the incumbent president as saying during one of his meetings over the weekend. "You staged an electoral coup-d'etat against general Guei in 2000," the paper further quotes Ouattara as responding to his rival ahead of the November 28 run-off elections. ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** in today's edition sounds the alarm bell and carries a prominent headline reading: "Gbagbo Attacks, Ouattara Retaliates." "It's a battle between democrats and putsch organizers," the paper quotes Gbagbo as saying, "When you don't have any program, you shut up," Ouattara is reported as responding to his rival. "Ouattara threatens Gbagbo," reads a prominent story in ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** which quotes the Ivorian opposition leader as telling his rival: "If you continue, you'll hear from me." "The father of the rebellion cannot work for the welfare of the people of the Baoule tribe," the paper also quotes Stephane Kipre, leader of Union des Nouvelles Generations, a party close to the ruling FPI party, as saying at a rally over the weekend in the central region of Tiebissou.

2. "Ouattara Castigates Gbagbo," says a banner headline on the front page of ***L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)*** which carries another prominent headline accusing the incumbent president of promoting "mass graves, the use of machetes in school and death squadrons" during his regime. Reporting on Ouattara's campaign over the weekend, ***Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)*** quotes the Ivorian opposition leader as saying: "You are a man of violence and coups-d'etat... You are the one who killed Robert Guei." ***Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***, which is also reporting on Gbagbo's message over the weekend, quotes the Ivorian president as saying: "We cannot hand over the country to people who are violent." The paper also carries another prominent story alleging that Ivorian opposition leader Alassane Ouattara is planning to stage a coup-d'etat before November 28. With a picture depicting the opposition leader in a desperate mood, the paper carries a headline reading: "Ouattara refuses to watch the crimes he committed."

3. Earlier over the weekend, ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** carried a banner headline reading: "Ouattara has brought violence to Cote d'Ivoire," a statement that the paper attributed to President Gbagbo, who was addressing a rally Friday in Abidjan. "I'm happy to be Alassane Ouattara's challenger, because I am against

those who support coups-d'état. I'm happy because here comes the time for him and me to tell Ivorians and for them to understand once and for all who brought war to Cote d'Ivoire."

4. In another prominent story, **Notre Voie** quotes the Chairman of the ruling FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who described the November 28 run-off elections between Gbagbo and Ouattara as a competition between "the guardians of the Republic against the father of the armed rebellion." Affi N'Guessan, who was speaking on Friday at a press conference in Abidjan, reportedly said: "God has decided that in a bid to decide on the fate of Cote d'Ivoire, the future of the country, there should be a competition between a man who believes in democratic games and the one who believes in political conspiracies..., the one who was attacked on September 19, 2002 and the one who perpetrated the attack, the victim and the torturer..." In a related development, **L'inter** in its weekend's issue also reported Affi N'Guessan's speech, quoting the Ivorian political figure as saying that voting Ouattara into power will be "a reward for political violence; set a dangerous precedent and pave the way for interminable violence, because violence calls for violence." According to the paper, when asked if his statements do not contrast with the spirit and the letters of the Code of Good Conduct signed by the political parties, the Ivorian political figure responded: "They want to play with our conscience and to impose on us a torturer. That is the reason why they are talking about the Code of the Good Conduct..."

5. A prominent headline in the weekend edition of **Nord-Sud Quotidien** said that the electioneering campaign for the November 28 run-off vote has been scarred with blood, as youth supporters of the opposition RHDP coalition and elements of FESCI – Cote d'Ivoire's Students' Federation – clashed on Friday in Abidjan. "Violence calls for violence," the paper quoted Kouadio Konan Bertin, one of the opposition youth leaders as saying. "FESCI and RHDP supporters clash at the headquarters of the PDCI-RDA," said a prominent headline in **L'inter**, while a banner headline in **Notre Voie** said: "RHDP attacks students." "FESCI sets ablaze the headquarters of RHDP," said another prominent story in **Le Mandat (a daily close to the PDCI-RDA party)**. According to **Fraternite Matin**, the clashes left more than 20 people wounded. "FESCI and the police attack RHDP's supporters with machetes and clubs," said a prominent story in **Le Jour Plus**, which in today's edition quotes Gnamien Konan, the leader of the opposition Union Pour la Cote d'Ivoire party, vowing: "We'll flush FESCI out of the Ivorian school." "We'll impose order and discipline in the school," **Fraternite Matin** also quotes Konan, whose party has rallied behind the opposition alliance, as telling a gathering over the weekend.

6. **Le Quotidien (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** in its weekend's issue carried a prominent story alleging that French war ships have been patrolling in Cote d'Ivoire's territorial waters. The paper went on to comment that the killers of November 2004 are again at our doorstep.

7. Meanwhile, a front-page story in today's **Fraternite Matin** hints that Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore is expected in Cote d'Ivoire "to try to bring down the socio-political tension." According to the paper, the Burkinabe leader, who is also the mediator

in the Ivorian peace process, may arrive in Cote d'Ivoire before the run-off elections set for November 28.

8. Another report in the weekend issue of ***Fraternite Matin*** said that the Head of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the body tasked with organizing the presidential elections, Friday called for "a peaceful electioneering campaign." The paper published the text of a statement signed by Youssouf Bakayoko who called for "tolerance and mutual understanding" during the electoral process.

9. With a few days to go to the polls in Cote d'Ivoire, ***Fraternite Matin*** informed readers that the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has announced special measures aimed at fast-tracking vote tabulation and the announcement of the results after the run-off elections. According to the paper, the UNOCI and the electoral commission have reached an agreement to announce the results of the second round of the elections as soon as they are transferred to the electoral commission. The assurance was given by the Head of the UNOCI, Y. J. Choi, last week in Abidjan, reported the paper.

10. Finally, a report in Monday's issue of ***L'inter*** says the CNCA, a body which regulates broadcast media in Cote d'Ivoire, has cracked down on a pirate TV station in Abobo, a suburb of Abidjan. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by the head of the CNCA, Franck Anderson Kouassi, during an interview with RTI-TV, the state-run broadcasting corporation.

## November 19, 2010

The run-off slated for November 28 was the major highlight featured in today's national press. Dailies reported on the meeting between the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission and the campaign managers of the two bidders for the presidency. The call of the Facilitator of the Political Agreement of Ouagadougou inviting the two candidates to commit to a peaceful and democratic process; as well as political consultations and activities ahead of the vote campaign made news as well. Activities commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in Cote d'Ivoire were reported on as well.

1. With just a few days before the official opening of the electoral campaign, the two rival candidates vying for the presidency received yesterday specimens of electoral materials. Providing details, **Fraternite Matin (a state-owned daily)** noted that a total of 50,000 samples of ballot papers and 100,000 posters were handed over to Dr. Malick Coulibaly and Mr. Ahoussou Jeannot, respectively campaign managers of incumbent president Laurent Gbagbo and opposition leader Alassane Ouattara -the two candidates qualified for the run-off. On the occasion, the paper added, the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), Mr. Youssouf Bakayoko, indicated that the vote campaign ahead of the run-off will officially start on November 20 and called on the two bidders to commit to the code of good conduct they have ratified in order to safeguard a peaceful atmosphere throughout the process.

With more on the ceremony which took place at the headquarters of the Commission in Abidjan, **L'Inter (an independent daily)** added that Mr. Bakayoko has announced that more security measures will be taken to ensure the credibility of the poll.

In a separate development, **Soir info (an independent daily)** noted that the transportation and dispatching of voting materials such as voting booths and ballot boxes will start as of today. According to the paper, the announcement was made by UNOCI Chief Electoral Officer Ahmedou El Becaye in the course of the mission weekly press briefing held yesterday at its headquarters in Abidjan. Mr. Seck recommitted the UN to support the process underway by providing assistance in the transmission of the different materials.

2. In a statement made yesterday, the facilitator of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA), President Blaise Compaore, called on the two bidders for the presidency and the different political actors to work continuously for a successful outcome of the peace and electoral processes. **L'intelligent d'Abidjan (an independent daily)** published the full statement in which President Compaore congratulated the different actors for achievements made during the first round and stressed the necessity to correct the shortcomings for a peaceful and credible poll.

3. Ahead of the official campaign period, incumbent President Gbagbo and opposition leader Alassane Ouattara are already in the field in quest of votes. According to **Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)**, the Ivorian leader was yesterday in the

central city of Sakassou. On the occasion, the paper said, some 2500 traditional chiefs gathered to welcome the Ivorian leader.

Similarly, *Le Mandat* (a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party) informed readers that opposition leader Alassane Ouattara met yesterday in Abidjan with a youth union.

4. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in Cote d'Ivoire, a program was jointly organized yesterday by the US Embassy and the Hubert Humphrey Association in Cote d'Ivoire. The information was reported by **Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the former ruling PDCI-RDA party)**.

Addressing a topic related to cultural cooperation between the USA and Cote d'Ivoire, US Ambassador Phillip Carter III underscored that the two countries have a long history of fruitful cultural cooperation, adding that the US Government is proud of its Ivorian alumni. However, the paper added, without democratic elections in the country, cultural cooperation cannot be extended. The chairman of the Hubert Humphrey Association Anastasie Sepou and members outlined to the audience benefits of the US- sponsored program, the paper further said.

[Notes: The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries throughout the world. Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or private sector. It should also be noted that the paper misquoted Amb Carter, in that scholarship programs will continue, although other forms of cultural collaboration may be limited without successful elections.]

## November 18, 2010

The political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire ahead of the November 28 run-off elections features prominently in today's press. The electioneering campaign for the second round of the presidential election that will oppose incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, the Ivorian opposition leader, as well as preparations underway for the polls are the other major issues in the newspapers.

1. With barely 11 days to go to the polls in Cote d'Ivoire, a front-page story in ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** suggests that the run-off elections scheduled for November 28 could be threatened, as the western city of Bangolo came under heavy gunfire yesterday. According to the paper, a movie show organized by President Gbagbo's campaign team in the region has triggered the tension. The paper quotes eyewitnesses' reports saying that the ruling FPI party's youth supporters were gathered to watch the film when armed men, believed to be elements of the New Forces serving in the Center of the Integrated Command (CCI), took the film watchers by surprise and shot, creating a stampede. It's in reaction to this gun fire that the ruling FPI party's youth supporters went berserk, bringing activities in Bangolo to a standstill, reports the paper.

2. Reporting on the same incident, ***the state-owned daily Fraternite Matin*** says the population in Bangolo went on a rampage yesterday after elements of the CCI shot to stop a film show. The report also says the demonstrators set up barricades throughout the city and took position at the main entrance of the town. The paper quotes one Sergeant Cisse Amidou, believed to be an element of the CCI who led the shooting expedition, as saying: "You think the war is over. The rebellion is still alive. We'll kill you like you see it in the film that you have just watched."

3. "Before the second round, the rebels shot erratically in Bangolo," writes ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***; while another front-page story in ***Soir Info (an independent daily)*** reads: "Gun fire in Bangolo." The paper carries another prominent article saying that unidentified gunmen yesterday attacked Gbagbo's campaign headquarters in Abidjan.

4. Telling its side of the story, a banner headline in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** says a film that promotes hatred has sparked mayhem in Bangolo. The paper goes on to call the organizers of the film show "arsonists who are trying to set the country ablaze." According to the report, the film depicts atrocities committed in Bangolo during the September 19, 2002, military revolt, and blames the Ivorian opposition leader Alassane Ouattara for the killings. The paper warns that by showing this film as part of the ongoing electioneering campaign, the ruling party is just trying to turn the knife in the wound and hence jeopardize peace that is prevailing in Cote d'Ivoire since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, the deal that paves the way for the long-delayed presidential elections.

5. On the electoral process, a report in ***Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)*** says the preparation of the November 28 run-off contest was high on the

agenda yesterday during a meeting between the Head of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, and Youssouf Bakayoko, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI). "We have taken stock of challenges that we came across during the first round. As we prepare for the second round, we are trying to find solutions to those challenges in order to ensure that the run-off elections take place in good conditions," the paper quotes Choi as saying after the meeting. The head of the UN mission also reportedly said that the remaining challenges include technical and logistic problems as well as the issue of how "to preserve the results." A report in **Soir Info** says Choi and Bakayoko are committed to correct irregularities that were noted during the first round.

6. Meanwhile, a prominent story in **Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)** suggests that the incumbent president is negotiating for the delay of the run-off elections officially set for November 28. The paper also alleges that President Gbagbo has tasked the Head of the UN Mission in Cote d'Ivoire to obtain from Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore, the mediator in the Ivorian peace process, a delay of the polls.

7. On issues relating to the media coverage of the ongoing presidential campaign, **Le Nouveau Reveil** accuses the state-run Broadcaster RTI (Radiodiffusion Television Ivoirienne) of playing what it sees as a "dangerous" game. The paper publishes an article written by an independent contributor who sees recent TV programs as designed to spread falsehoods and manipulate the population. The writer cites footage of a series of programs that show opposition supporters defecting from the opposition groups and calling on people to vote for the incumbent president. In a related development, **L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)** calls RTI "Radio Mille Collines," in reference to the Rwandan radio station that was accused of playing a key role in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

8. With more on the media coverage of the electoral process underway in Cote d'Ivoire, a report in **Fraternite Matin** says the French media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders, has called on President Gbagbo and his challenger in the run-off, Allassane Ouattara, to ensure that the media outlets that support them respect the press code of ethics.

9. In another development, **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** today carries a front-page story alleging that Col Yao N'Guessan, an Ivorian army officer, who is facing trial in the US on a charge of arms smuggling, has been freed. The paper, which withholds the source of the information, recalls in a recent televised state address, President Gbagbo promised that Col N'Guessan would be released soon; adding that the Ivorian leader has given instructions that legal procedures should be taken to enable the Ivorian army officer to be released. According to the paper, a San Jose federal court hearing the case had in its November 15 ruling that Col N'Guessan should be released on bail. Later the same day, reports the paper, Col N'Guessan left the Santa Clara prison to join an Ivorian official delegation led by Cote d'Ivoire's Ambassador to the US Koffi Yao Charles. **Notre Voie** also publishes the same story and attributes it to one Laurent Kouame, an Ivorian diplomat.

10. With a front-page picture of the Ivorian opposition leader in a pensive mood, **Notre Voie** says Alassane Ouattara is embroiled in a turmoil, as “his friend” Viktor Bout, a former Soviet airforce officer, was arrested and charged with arms trafficking arms and terrorism charges in a US court.

## November 17, 2010

The election campaigning underway in Cote d'Ivoire and the special peace message delivered by Ivorian Moslem leaders on the occasion of Tuesday's Eid-ul-Adha ahead of the November 28 run-off vote are the subjects of prominent stories in the Ivorian press. The dailies also report on the government's decision to deploy Defense and Security Forces across the country in order to beef up security in the country during the elections, the UN mission's approval of the results of the first round of the Ivorian presidential elections, the results of Sunday's presidential run-off in Guinea (Conakry) and a recent visit of US Ambassador in Abidjan Phillip Carter III to the central and western regions of Cote d'Ivoire.

1. A banner headline in **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** says incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and Ivorian opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, who both qualified to contest the November 28 run-off elections, have already launched their campaigns before the official opening of the electioneering campaign. Gbagbo took his campaign trail to the western provinces of Man and Guiglo over the weekend, while Ouattara was in Yamoussoukro, where he was officially presented as the candidate of the opposition RHDP coalition, reports the paper. "The race is not yet over," the paper quotes Gbagbo, who is seeking re-election, as telling the gathering. Flanked by the four leaders of the opposition coalition RHDP, including former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie, Ouattara said the four leaders are committed "not to be divided again" but to work together "to restore peace" in Cote d'Ivoire, the paper says.

2. Reporting on Gbagbo's pre-campaign, ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** carries a prominent story saying that the incumbent President has taken control of the western provinces. ***Soir Info (an independent daily)*** also carries a prominent story quoting Ouattara, who warned the incumbent president: "Don't try to seize power." And the Ivorian opposition leader said to reassure the gathering: "Don't be afraid of Alassane Ouattara. Ouattara is a man of peace and dialogue. I'm not fighting to rule Cote d'Ivoire in order to replace churches by mosques."

3. As the two candidates are getting ready for the November 28 run-off elections, a front-page story in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister)*** says Cheikh Boikary Fofana urged them to accept the results of the coming elections. "That you're elected or not is not the end of the world," the paper quotes the Ivorian Moslem leader as saying on the occasion of Tuesday's Eid-ul-Adha in Abidjan. According to ***Fraternite Matin***, Cheikh Boikary Fofana also called on Gbagbo and Ouattara "to control their message so as to enable Ivorians to pass through peacefully the dangerous U-turn of the second round." El Hajj Traore Mamadou, another Moslem leader called on the Ivorian political parties to run "a civilized" campaign, says another story in ***Fraternite Matin***, which carries a prominent headline reading: "Moslems are singing in unison the peace anthem."

4. On security issues in the run-up to the second round of the presidential elections, a front-page story in ***Fraternite Matin*** says the government is to deploy Defense and

Security Forces across the country. The paper publishes a decree signed on November 14 by President Gbagbo calling out Cote d'Ivoire's National Armed Forces (FANCI). Art 1 of the decree says: "In order to ensure to security during the presidential run-off, the elements of Cote d'Ivoire's National Armed Forces have been called out and deployed throughout the entire national territory, particularly in the Central, Northern and Western zones." Art 2 of the decision says: "This deployment will be carried under the supervision of the Center for Integrated Command (CCI)," while Art 3 says: "The Defense Minister, the Interior Minister and the Minister of Economy and Finance have been tasked to see to the execution of the present decree to be published in the gazette of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire."

5. In its November 13-16 edition, ***Fraternite Matin*** carried a banner headline saying that government forces, the New Forces Armed Forces, UN troops and La Licorne (Abidjan-based French contingent) vowed to work together in order to guarantee security during the November 28 run-off elections. According to the paper, the heads of the four contingents made the pledge on Friday at an important meeting in Yamoussoukro. "We've met to evaluate the conduct of the October 31 presidential elections and to solemnly announce that there have been both satisfaction and deception. Now there is no time to wait, we're working to meet the deadline of the November 28 run-off vote; and we want to make sure that more security prevails," the paper quotes Gal Nicolas Kouakou, the Commander of the CCI, as saying after the meeting.

6. Meanwhile, a front-page story in ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)*** says the son of the head of the local electoral commission in the southwestern city of San-Pedro was killed. According to the paper, the 12-year old boy was beheaded by unidentified persons. The paper also alleges that an MP for the opposition PDCI-RDA escaped death in the central city of Lakota, as he was campaigning for his opposition coalition. But ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** tells readers a different story. According to the paper, the MP was caught when he was trying to spread falsehoods amongst the people of the Baoule tribes in the region.

7. With more on the electoral process underway in Cote d'Ivoire, a report in the weekend issue of ***Fraternite Matin*** said that the head of the U.N. mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, approved the results of October 31's first-round election on Friday, saying "minor irregularities that have been noticed could not have affected the outcome." "After a thorough analysis and evaluation of the final results of the first round, I have arrived at the conclusion that the process leading to the proclamation of the final results was determined through a fair and transparent process," Choi was reported as saying at a news conference in Abidjan.

8. A day after the announcement of the results of the presidential run-off in Guinea (Conakry), ***Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** invites Ivorians to learn the lessons from the Guinean experience. The paper suggests that voting patterns in the Guinean elections show that Ivorians who voted for the defeated

candidates during the first round may decide not to vote for any candidate that their leaders are now supporting in the November 28 run-off elections. Meanwhile, a front-page report in ***Fraternite Matin*** says the Guinean veteran opposition leader, Alpha Conde, who won November 7 presidential run-off in Guinea with 52.52 percent of the total votes counted, against 47.48 percent for his rival Cellou Dalein Diallo, created an unprecedented “surprise.” The paper recalls that during the June 27 first round of the polls, Conde secured only 18 percent of the total votes counted, while his opponent Diallo was far ahead with 43 percent.

9. Finally, ***L’inter*** in today’s edition says the US Ambassador to Cote d’Ivoire last week visited cocoa plantations in the central province of Daloa. According to the paper, the visit affords the US diplomat a chance to understand the process of cocoa production and an opportunity for him to stress the importance of good governance and methods that ban the use of child labor in the cocoa plantations.

## November 12, 2010

News reported in today's press again highlighted reports on the presidential election and arrangements underway ahead of the run-off slated for November 28. The general political atmosphere and a meeting between the UN Special envoy in Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Choi, and opposition heavyweights Alassane Ouattara and Henri Konan Bedie were reported on as well. US Ambassador Phillip Carter III's recent upcountry tour in the western region of Man to call for a peaceful electoral process made news as well.

1. As the two rival parties are preparing for the run –off, **Fraternite Matin (a state-owned daily)** carried an analytical factsheet highlighting the respective strength and weakness of the two bidders for the presidency. According to the daily, incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, who secured 38.04% of the ballots, could count on his slight advance and his relatively broader electorate. However, the paper said, efforts will still be needed to improve his score in the central part of the country. On his part, the leader of the RDR party, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, credited with 32.04% of the votes, is in theory at an advantage with his alliance, the RHDP, which unites opposition parties such as the PDCI, which came up third with some 25% of ballots, the UDPCI and MFA. However, the paper underscored, the alliance is weakened by internecine hangovers, making it challenging to predict its success on the ground.

2. In a related story, the daily, in yesterday's edition, noted that the leader of the RDR Party, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, was officially presented yesterday as the candidate of a coalition of opposition parties known as the RHDP.

3. The campaign for the second round of the presidential poll is due to start on November 20. Providing details, **L'Inter (an independent daily)** noted that the information was given by the spokesperson of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), Mr. Yacouba Bamba, in the course of a press statement. The campaign, the paper said, will be open through November 26. Mr. Yacouba called on the two bidders to commit to a peaceful campaign to ensure social cohesion, the paper added.

4. The UN Special Envoy in Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Y. J. Choi, met yesterday with opposition leaders Alassane Ouattara and Henri Konan Bedie. The information was reported by **Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)**, which noted that the meeting was to assess and exchange ideas on the results of the first round of the poll. "We have discussed the poll and measures to be taken to correct shortcomings noticed during the poll," the paper reported Mr. Choi as saying. The consultation, the paper added, was part of the regular meetings the UN Envoy holds with Ivorian political actors.

In a related report, **Soir Info (an independent daily)** added that the security issue ahead of the run-off was also addressed by the UN Envoy on the occasion.

With more on security measures ahead of the run-off, **L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)** in yesterday's edition, informed readers that Prime Minister Soro Guillaume chaired yesterday in Abidjan a meeting with the different forces tasked to ensure security during the forthcoming poll. According to the daily, Prime Minister

Soro has given a go-ahead to an increase in law enforcement staff in the western and the northern parts of the country during the poll. Logistical support will also be reinforced, the paper further said.

5. US Ambassador Phillip Carter III was recently in the western region of Man. According to **Soir Info**, the US Ambassador wanted to have first-hand information on how the second round of the presidential election is being prepared in the region. "I came to interact with all the components of civil society in order to obtain their views on the elections and the democratic process," Ambassador Carter reportedly said, adding that he was pleased with the turnout of the polls on October 31. Ambassador Carter also called for a peaceful atmosphere during the run-off, the paper further added.

## November 10, 2010

Reports in Wednesday's Ivorian press say that the government, after consultation with the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), has set the run-off elections on November 28, a week later than previously announced by the Constitutional Council. Today's press review will also look at the political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire ahead of the crucial second round of the presidential elections.

1. "Gbagbo-Ouattara: Duel Set for November 28," says a front-page story in ***the state-owned daily Fraternite Matin***. According to the paper, the new date of the run-off elections was announced yesterday by Prime Minister Guillaume Soro following an extraordinary Council of Ministers held in Abidjan under the chairmanship of President Laurent Gbagbo. "After consultation with the CEI and based on its proposition and after consultation with the Constitutional Council, the President of the Republic has signed a decree, in accordance with Art. 48 of the Constitution, allowing the Council of Ministers to fix the date of the second round of the presidential elections on November 28, 2010," the paper quotes the Prime Minister as saying yesterday. Soro, the paper reports, also explained that "for practical, technical and logistics reasons, the electoral commission has demanded [and obtained] another week-long deadline to ensure that the second round of the elections takes place in good conditions." The paper also publishes a statement issued at the end of Wednesday's extraordinary Council of Ministers announcing that "the electorate of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is summoned to take part in the second round of the presidential elections scheduled for Sunday, November 28, 2010. The vote will start at 07:00 and close at 17:00."

2. ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)***, quotes the same statement as saying that the date for the beginning of the electioneering campaign will be announced later by the CEI. Meanwhile, the paper hints that the presidential campaign could start on November 20 and end a week later.

3. Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Abidjan, incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo vowed: "I'm ready for the battle," says a banner headline in ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***. Gbagbo, who was speaking for the first time since the announcement of the results of the first round of the presidential elections, told journalists that "I'm the only candidate who has a genuine national electorate;" but invited his team "to continue to campaign in order to ensure his victory." Reacting to rumors of violence perpetrated against some communities after the October 31 elections, Gbagbo said: "No Baoule has been beaten in any region."

3. Gbagbo's "conviction" to win the crucial run-off vote is also the subject of a banner headline in ***Fraternite Matin*** which carries a picture of the Ivorian leader speaking to the press yesterday in Abidjan. According to the paper, the incumbent president used the occasion to tell his fellow citizens that "I'm the only candidate capable to heal the wounds" caused by almost 10 years of political and armed conflicts suffered by Cote d'Ivoire. Reacting to the recent decision by the principal Ivorian opposition alliance RHDP [Note: RHDP also includes the PDCI-RDA party of former Ivorian President Henri Konan

*Bedie*] to rally behind Allassane Ouattara, his challenger in the second round, Gbagbo had this to tell Bedie's supporters: "If you like Bedie, you must vote for he who helped him to return from exile and not for the one who forced him into exile. You must therefore vote Gbagbo," reports the paper.

4. "Despite Bedie-Ouattara alliance, I'll win," ***Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** quotes Gbagbo as saying yesterday at the press conference. According to the paper, the incumbent president is "happy to have Ouattara as his challenger," a man he denied calling "a foreigner," reports ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)***. "I've never said Ouattara is a foreign candidate," the paper quotes President Gbagbo as saying. With more on the rumors of violence being committed against certain communities, Gbagbo reportedly said: "By tomorrow [today], I will give instructions to the gendarmerie to chase, arrest and bring to justice those who want to set Cote d'Ivoire ablaze through fanciful rumors."

5. A day after the government set the date for the second round of the presidential elections; ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** sounds the alarm bell warning that the run-off vote is likely to slide into violence. Considering the ambition of Gbagbo and Ouattara, comments the paper, the run-off could turn to a fierce battle between the two Ivorian political heavyweights who are not prepared to accept defeat. Ouattara who had been barred from contesting previous presidential elections for holding "dubious nationality," will spare no effort to achieve his objective this time around, comments the paper which quotes the Ivorian opposition leader a few days ago accusing Gbagbo for "rigging the first round of the presidential elections." The paper goes on to echo some concerns expressed by political observers, who are said to believe that Ouattara was just trying to prepare his supporters to contest the results of the run-off elections. The paper further says that against Ouattara, there is the incumbent president whose ambition is to keep his seat by all means. "It's a blessing for me to participate in this duel (...) I will win these elections, I tell you I will win," the paper quotes a confident-Gbagbo as saying yesterday in Abidjan.

6. ***L'inter*** carries another story in which it quotes Patrick N'Gouan, head of the Ivorian Civil Society Convention, who deplored that the campaign for the run-off elections has started with messages that call for tribalism and regionalism. "At this crucial stage in the electoral process, there is a need to preserve unity and national cohesion...", the paper quotes N'Gouan as saying. In a related development, ***Nord-Sud Quotidien*** carries a banner headline reading: "Baoule, Wake-up!" and goes on to denounce what it characterizes as "tribal drifts" in the electioneering campaign. The article suggests that the Baoule people, who are reputed to be supportive of former President Henri Konan Bedie, have virtually become a war instrument in the hands of the two candidates who are qualified for the run-off elections. The paper then appeals to the Baoule people to refuse to become what it terms as "electoral livestock" for any of the presidential aspirants.

7. Talking about messages that encourage tribalism, ***Le Quotidien (a daily close to ruling FPI party)*** allegedly accuses the opposition RDR party for distributing leaflets

inciting the population in Yamoussoukro to violence. **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** publishes an article from an independent contributor with headline reading: "Voting for Alassane is supporting the rebellion," while another story in the paper calls the opposition leader "a tribal candidate." Under a banner headline that says "To kick Gbagbo out, we will all vote Ouattara," **Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)** says supporters of the opposition RHDP coalition have come together ahead of the November 28 run-off elections; and carries another story calling the incumbent president "the man of all treason."

## November 9, 2010

The question over the date of the second round of the presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire and reactions following calls from the opposition coalition RHDP demanding Ivorians to vote massively for the opposition candidate, Alassane Ouattara, during the run-off elections are the major issues in Tuesday's Ivorian press.

1. **The state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** carries a banner headline wondering whether the date of November 21, set by the Constitutional Council, is tenable for the second round of the presidential elections. According to the paper, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) – the body in charge of organizing the vote – prefers the date of November 28 in accordance with its previous electoral calendar. According to the paper, Ivorian Prime Minister Guillaume Soro the general overseer of the electoral process, will be meeting national and international stakeholders today in order to find a common strategy aimed at guaranteeing the success of the final stage of the electoral process. The meeting, the report says, will bring together officials from the electoral, the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the representative of President Blaise Compaore, the facilitator in the Ivorian peace process, among others. The paper also hints that after today's meeting, the electoral body will submit to the President of the Republic a bill setting the date for the second round on November 28.

2. ***Fraternite Matin*** also explains that the decision by the Constitutional Council to announce November 21 as the date of the run-off was done in accordance with Cote d'Ivoire's Constitution, which stipulates that the run-off shall take place two weeks after the official announcement of the final results of the first round. The paper further comments that though the Constitutional Council's decision was seen as "interference" in the functioning of the electoral commission, the truth is that it will be impossible for the electoral body to meet the November 21 deadline in view of the immense tasks to be completed before the vote can take place. The paper also indicates that the electoral commission needs time in order to implement recommendations that were made after the October 31 presidential elections.

3. In a related development, ***Fraternite Matin*** publishes recommendations from GERDESS-CI – a non-profit organization promoting democracy and development, which demands the electoral commission to pay up the allowances of voting agents to avoid problems that could result from this situation. In a statement, the group also demands the electoral body to find a solution to the problem relating to the deployment of electoral documents; to improve the collect and transmission of voting results and to ensure that the results are published on time to forestall rumors.

4. A banner headline in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** says the premier congratulates Ivorians for "their exceptional mobilization" during the first round of Cote d'Ivoire's "historic" presidential elections. "The 80 percent turnout during the vote proves that the people of Cote d'Ivoire are committed to upholding democracy," says the statement. As preparations are underway for the run-off, "the Prime Minister urges all the parties, key political stakeholders who signed the

Ouagadougou Political Agreement, especially the two candidates who are qualified to contest the second round to continuously support democracy and to have confidence in the Independent Electoral Commission...," says the statement.

5. For the run-off to take place in a peaceful atmosphere, the President of the National Election Observers called for the respect of the Code of the Good Conduct signed by the parties, reports ***Nord-Sud Quotidien***. Traore Wodjo Fini, who was speaking yesterday in Abidjan at a press conference, deplored the fact that some supporters of the presidential candidates were subject to intimidations and reprisals, the report says.

6. Meanwhile, a report in ***L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)*** says PDCI-RDA's supporters again staged a demonstration yesterday in Abidjan to protest the results of the October 31 presidential elections. According to the paper, the protesters were backed by supporters of Alassane Ouattara, the leader of the opposition RDR party, who will be facing the incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo in the run-off.

7. With more on the results of the first round of the Ivorian presidential elections, ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the PDCI-RDA party)*** allegedly reports that the Deputy Head of the UNOCI, Abou Moussa, might have played "a key role" in what the paper describes as "massive fraud" denounced by PDCI-RDA, the party of former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie who came third according to the official results. The paper claims that the UN official, who is in charge of the transport and security of the ballot boxes, is "a friend" to President Gbagbo. In another story entitled: "Does UNOCI support FPI's fraud?" the paper deplores the fact that the UN mission has kept silence over the issue.

8. ***Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** also alleges that a member of the electoral commission, who spoke on condition of anonymity, denounced "a deal" between Alassane Ouattara and the UNOCI. The paper quotes the source as saying that the UN mission plays a part in helping the opposition leader to obtain "big scores" in Cote d'Ivoire's Northern provinces.

9. A prominent report in ***L'inter (an independent daily)*** says that a party close to the presidential camp has demanded the recomposition of the electoral commission. According to the paper, the Union for the New Generations (UNG) led by Stephane Kipre, yesterday issued a statement demanding the restructure of the electoral body to ensure that the two candidates, who are qualified for the second round, have equal representatives in the commission.

10. Finally, a prominent headline in ***L'inter*** says some cadres of the PDCI-RDA, a member of the opposition coalition RHDP, reject the alliance's call to vote massively for Ouattara during the run-off elections. The paper also quotes the Chairman of the ruling FPI party who called on Ivorians "not to follow blindly" this decision, but "to make a good choice for the country."

## November 8, 2010

Ivorian newspapers continue to comment on the provisional results of Sunday's presidential elections. The political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire in the wake of these elections and a meeting between President Laurent Gbagbo and the US Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Phillip Carter III, on the political situation in neighboring Guinea are the other major news.

1. A front-page story in **the state-owned *Fraternite Matin*** quotes the UN Special Envoy to Cote d'Ivoire, Y. J. Choi, demanding that the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) "reduce the time between the closing of the polling stations and the announcement of the results." According to the paper, this was contained in a statement issued yesterday by the UN operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The statement also said: "UNOCI reiterates its continued support to the CEI," reports the paper. The document also said that "it is now the time for the Constitutional Council to receive complaints, study them and announce the final results of the October 31 presidential elections," and called on the parties to use "legal and democratic channels" to contest the provisional results.

2. In a related development, a report in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** says the European Union observation group has demanded that the electoral commission consider its recommendations as it prepares for the second round of the run-off. According to the paper, this was said in a report published by the European Union, which noted "some weaknesses" in the electoral process after Sunday's presidential elections. ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (an independent daily)*** also quotes the European Union's report as saying that "the mission has not noted any irregularity that could justify a dispute over the results of the elections."

3. ***Fraternite Matin*** informs readers that the opposition PDCI-RDA party, whose candidate Henri Kona Bedie came third in Sunday's presidential elections, is to refer its case to the Constitutional Council after the party denounced "irregularities" during the vote counting. The paper also announces that the Constitutional Council will announce the final results of the presidential elections tomorrow. ***Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)*** publishes an interview with Mr. Choi, who said: "I have the mandate to certify the results of the elections" in Cote d'Ivoire.

4. Meanwhile, a front-page story in ***Soir Info (an independent daily)*** says supporters of the opposition PDCI-RDA party took to the streets yesterday to protest against the results announced by the CEI. According to the report, the demonstrators also demanded that the electoral commissioner step down.

5. Regarding the political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire after Sunday's presidential elections, ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)*** carries a front-page story alleging that the Baoule people living in the province of Haut-Sassandra are being subject to "reprisals for not voting for President Gbagbo." The paper also reports that the LMP – an alliance of political parties supporting President Gbagbo --

is sending out an SMS "to incite the population to violence." The paper quotes excerpts of the text message as saying: "Proud Ivorians, our country is not for sale, save your country by voting for Cote d'Ivoire during the second round. Join your brothers for the 'Tout Sauf Ouattara [All But Not Ouattara]' campaign, the father of the rebellion...."

6. Under another prominent headline that says: "Tout Sauf Gbagbo [All But Not Gbagbo]," **Le Nouveau Reveil** carries a picture of a triumphant-looking Alassane Ouattara, and calls on all supporters of the opposition RHDP coalition to rally behind the Ivorian opposition leader, who came second after Sunday's presidential elections.

7. **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** also carries a banner headline reading: "After setting the north of Cote d'Ivoire ablaze, Ouattara wants ethnic clashes in the west;" and goes on to warn about what it calls "tribal drifts." The paper also allegedly accused the RDR, the party of the Ivorian opposition leader, for sending out SMS "inciting the Baoule people against Gbagbo." The paper quotes excerpts of the text message as saying: "Dear Baoule brothers and sisters, the time is grave. Already the FPI has started chasing out our parents from their plantations in Bouafle, Issia, Gagnoa and Daloa. Don't forget your root because it was the FPI that pushed Houphouet, our father, to death...."

8. While Ivorians are preparing for the second round ballots, **L'inter (an independent daily)** ponders the chances of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara to win the elections. According to the paper, the results of Sunday's vote have set the stage for what it calls "a duel" between the two Ivorian political figures. The paper suggests that through his campaign message "La Solution [The Solution]," Ouattara, the former Ivorian Prime Minister under the late Houphouet Boigny's regime has succeeded in making himself popular and confirmed his supremacy over Cote d'Ivoire's northern regions. However, the paper opines that Ouattara's control of the north could be detrimental to him during the run-off. According to the paper, President Gbagbo could start celebrating victory owing to his 38-percent-score secured during the first round; but the paper is quick to point out that the majority of Ivorians voted against him for the difficult social situation in Cote d'Ivoire. However, the paper speculates that possible defections within the opposition groups, before the run-off, could be to Gbagbo's advantage.

9. Finally, a report in **Fraternite Matin** says that the socio-economic situation and the second round of the presidential elections to be organized Sunday in neighboring Guinea (Conakry) was high on the agenda during a meeting yesterday between President Gbagbo and US Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Phillip Carter III. Ambassador Carter III, the reports says, met with the Ivorian leader to seek his support to push for a peaceful run-off scheduled for November 7 in Guinea. "I hope that the whole international community and member countries of the Mano River Organization will do everything possible for a smooth election in Guinea.... President Gbagbo and I are speaking with one voice...," the paper quotes the US diplomat as telling reporters after the talks.

## November 4, 2010

The final provisional results of Sunday's presidential elections, which were released yesterday by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), are the major issue in today's Ivorian press.

1. In the wake of the announcement of the provisional results of Sunday's presidential elections, **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** carries a blue, orange and green picture of Cote d'Ivoire showing the scores of the three top candidates. The blue represents the score of the 65-year-old incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, who secured 38.06 percent of the votes counted, followed by opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, whose orange is the dominant color in northern Cote d'Ivoire, with 32.26 percent of the votes. The green represents the score of former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie, who got 25.01 percent of the votes, mostly in the central and south-western provinces of Cote d'Ivoire. Pictures of Gbagbo and Ouattara are also prominent on the front page of the paper, which announces that a second round run-off will oppose the two political rivals. Meanwhile, another front-page report in this paper says the PDCI-RDA, the party of Bedie, has denounced what it saw as "election rigging" and demanded that the votes be re-counted. "Our victory in certain provinces like Daoukro, Tanda, Yamoussoukro and Soubre have been stolen and we demand a new count of the votes because we are not prepared to accept any election rigging," the paper quotes a cadre of the PDCI-RDA party as saying.

2. "They've stolen his victory," says a banner headline in ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the PDCI-RDA party)*** which reports that Bedie has rejected the provisional electoral results. The paper also publishes a statement issued yesterday by the party of Bedie referring to "substantial elements that make the announcement of the results suspicious." "The PDCI-RDA demands that the announcement should stop for the new count of the ballots," the paper quotes the statement as saying.

3. Meanwhile, a prominent story in ***L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)*** says the Ivorian former president, who secured 25.01 percent of the votes, will play a key role in who qualifies to be the next president of Cote d'Ivoire. The paper calls Bedie "the king-maker"; and suggests that despite possible vote-swing in the run-off, Ouattara, who has become the de facto flagbearer of the opposition RHDP coalition, could count on the majority of the electorate who rallied behind Bedie during the first round. Under a banner headline "Gbagbo-Ouattara: The beautiful final," ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Ivorian Prime Minister)*** comments that the first round of the ballots was a test for the three top candidates. The paper goes on to wonder whether members of the opposition RHDP coalition will live up to their promises to rally behind a candidate of the coalition who qualifies for the run-off.

4. "Here comes the time of political maneuvers," says a front-page story in ***Soir Info (an independent daily)***, which predicts "a battle of survival" between the incumbent president and Ouattara. Another report in the paper says Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore, the facilitator in the Ivorian peace process, has called on the Ivorian leaders

to accept the results. According to the paper, Compaore's message was delivered by his representative, who held a series of talks with the Ivorian political leaders yesterday in Abidjan.

5. In a related development, a report in ***Fraternite Matin*** says foreign diplomats in Cote d'Ivoire also called on the parties to respect the verdict. According to the paper, the call was made yesterday in Abidjan after a meeting with President Laurent Gbagbo. "Cote d'Ivoire has projected a very good image to the whole world and has shown a good example for the sub-region," the paper quotes the Vatican Envoy to Cote d'Ivoire, Monsignor Ambroise Madtha as saying following the meeting. According to the paper, Monsignor Madtha was speaking on behalf of French, Japan, American, Chinese and German Ambassadors to Cote d'Ivoire. According to ***L'inter (an independent daily) and Le Nouveau Reveil***, the diplomats also met with Mr. Bedie and Mr. Ouattara to push for the respect of results of Sunday's presidential elections.

6. Another report in ***L'inter*** says the UN Security Council yesterday welcomed the holding of the presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire on 31 October 2010 and "encouraged the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to continue its assistance in connection with the peace process in case of a run-off in Cote d'Ivoire." This was said yesterday by UN Special Representative in Cote d'Ivoire Y. J. Choi, during a videoconference from Abidjan yesterday, reports the paper.

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## November 3, 2010

The first provisional results of Sunday's presidential elections, which were released yesterday by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), have sparked mixed reactions in pro and anti-government newspapers today.

1. A prominent banner headline in ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)*** says the incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo, opposition leader Alassane Ouattara and Henri Konan Bedie, the former Ivorian President, are running neck-and-neck, as the electoral commission announced Tuesday the first batch of provisional results of Sunday's "historic" presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper also quotes French Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Jean Marc Simon, who said that the electoral system is "sufficiently reliable, making any attempt for fraud impossible." According to the paper, the French diplomat was speaking yesterday in Abidjan after talks with Mr. Bedie, a candidate in Sunday's presidential elections.
2. "Results of October 31 presidential elections: Gbagbo is leading," says a prominent story in ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)***. The paper suggests that in view of the provisional results that have been reported so far, Gbagbo and Ouattara are heading towards a run-off. Though more results are to be announced by the electoral body, the paper strongly believes that nothing could change this trend, and adds that these results have vindicated recent opinion polls conduct ahead of the vote.
3. ***Soir Info (an independent daily)*** also believes that a second round will be necessary to determine who between Gbagbo or Ouattara should become the next president of Cote d'Ivoire. The paper also critically looks at the first results released by the electoral body and concludes that the incumbent president keeps hold of the Ivorian economic capital Abidjan, while the Ivorian opposition heavyweight Alassane Ouattara imposes his supremacy over the northern regions. With more on the voting trends, a prominent story in ***Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)*** suggests that the first results of Sunday's votes have shown that Gbagbo's performance goes beyond ethnic considerations.
4. Commenting on the provisional results, ***Nord-Sud Quotidien (a daily close to the Prime Minister)*** indicates that the three big candidates – Gbagbo, Ouattara and Bedie – have maintained control over their strongholds. Another report carried by this paper quotes Ivorian Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, the general overseer of the electoral process, calling on the electoral commission to announce the results as they are collected. According to the paper, the Prime Minister made the call during a meeting yesterday with religious leaders over the electoral process.
5. The publication of the first provisional results is also the subject of a front-page story in ***the state-owned daily Fraternite Matin***, which also quotes the Prime Minister, who demanded that the electoral commission not to wait for the last voting report before announcing the results. Another report in this paper says that the European Union has denounced the delay in the publication of the results. "We regret the delay in the

declaration of the results,” the paper quotes the head of the European Union’s Observers group as saying.

6. A report in ***L’inter (an independent daily)*** says the UN Special Representative in Cote d’Ivoire yesterday met with President Gbagbo, Mr. Bedie and Mr. Ouattara over Sunday’s presidential elections. According to the paper, the UN boss used the occasion to call again on the three major candidates to respect the results of the votes. It also reports that the UN boss met with the Ivorian Prime Minister and the chairman of the electoral commission over “some difficulties” facing the electoral process. Though the UN boss did not elaborate on these difficulties, the paper quotes sources close to the electoral commission as saying that the difficulties have to do with disagreements between representatives of the parties sitting on the electoral body over the hand count of the ballots.

7. Finally, a prominent report in ***Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** says that the Ivorian Army Commander, Gal Philippe Mangou, yesterday reassured the Ivorian population to go about their business. According to the paper, this assurance came after activities in Abidjan and its surroundings were virtually brought to a standstill following rumors that the announcement of the electoral results could spark violence in the country.

**November 2, 2010**

President Obama's message, on the eve of Sunday's "historic" presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire, is again the subject of a prominent story in an Ivorian daily today. Calls from the international community for the respect of the verdict, the mood across the West African nation while the population awaits the results of the vote and news that a retired Ivorian Army Officer has been arrested are also prominently featured in the press.

1. In the wake of Sunday's presidential elections, **Le Temps (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** carries a banner headline reading "Obama talks to Ivorians," together with a photo gimmick of the American president addressing cheerful-looking Ivorians. The paper further says that, though President Obama did not directly address the Ivorian population, he did send them a message to express the solidarity of the US with the Ivorians as they were preparing to elect their president. The paper quotes part of the message as saying: "The Ivoirian government, the candidates, their supporters, and all political actors have an obligation to ensure that the long-delayed presidential elections are held in a peaceful and transparent manner." The paper also highlights sections of the statement saying that "these elections are a critical step to rebuilding Cote d'Ivoire. The United States stands with the Ivoirian people as they prepare for long-awaited democratic elections and move closer to lasting peace and prosperity in Cote d'Ivoire."

2. Calls from the international community demanding Ivorian political leaders to respect the results to be announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) are the major issue on the front page of the state-owned **Fraternite Matin**. The paper carries the pictures of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and French President Nicholas Sarkozy, with a banner headline saying the two leaders have called upon the candidates in Sunday's presidential elections to "respect the results of the polls." According to the paper, the UN Secretary General on Monday called on all parties and candidates "to help maintain a calm environment and urged them to accept the proclaimed and certified results and to file any complaints through the legally-established mechanisms." Ban Ki-moon, the report further says, pledged "UN continued support for the peace process in the country." In a related development, the paper revealed that President Sarkozy yesterday phoned President Gbagbo and opposition leaders – Henri Konan Bedie and Alassane Ouattara – to commend them for "Sunday's peaceful elections,...A vote which showed the commitment of the people of Cote d'Ivoire to democracy and peace," the paper quotes Sarkozy as saying.

3. Another report in **Fraternite Matin** says former Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor, who was speaking Monday in Abidjan, said: "I must say that the vote took place in a disciplined, peaceful manner. We sat through the count at the polling station, where we found the presiding officer and his supporters all very professional." According to the paper, Kufuor, who was speaking as the head of the election observers' delegation from the Carter Center, said: "The last stage consists of publishing the results," and added: "We hope this important stage in the process will take place peacefully."

4. As Ivorians await the announcement of the provisional results, a prominent story in **Le Mandat (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)** says the Ivorian economic capital Abidjan is gripped by fear. **Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)**, carries a similar headline and claims that this situation could lead to post-electoral violence, while a banner headline in **Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)** says that, the more the electoral commission is holding back the results, the more the Ivorians are suffering. According to the paper, the delay in the release of the results could be linked to the manual vote counting, which the paper described as an “old-fashioned and dangerous method.”

5. Meanwhile a prominent story in **Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the PDCI-RDA party)** speculates about the vote trends, saying that incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo cannot win the elections but going on to wonder whether the Ivorian former President Henri Konan Bedie is not leading. **L'Expression (a daily close to the opposition)** also speculates that the first results of Sunday's elections show opposition leader Alassane Ouattara leading and calls Sunday's election “a vote of change.” According to **Le Jour Plus (a daily close to the opposition)**, which quotes a French newspaper, a run-off is likely to oppose Gbagbo and Ouattara. With more on the results, a prominent story in **Fraternite Matin** says that results coming from the Diaspora show Ouattara and Gbagbo in a very good position.

6. Finally, many Ivorian dailies today report that a retired Ivorian Army Officer has been arrested. According to **Fraternite Matin**, Col Oulatta Gaoudi, RDR's campaign manager for the Bangolo region, has been arrested for allegedly possessing arms. According to the paper, the RDR, the party of Ouattara, has denounced the arrest and called for his release, while **Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)** described the arrest of the Army Officer “an intimidation.”

## November 1, 2010

Reports in today's Ivorian press say that voters in Cote d'Ivoire are waiting for the results of Sunday's peaceful presidential elections, aimed at resolving a 10-year political crisis.

1. A front page story in **the state-owned daily *Fraternite Matin*** says that international observers hail the peaceful conduct of the presidential elections yesterday in Cote d'Ivoire. "According to the information gathered, the vote was conducted peacefully. No major incidents were reported," the paper quotes the head of the European Union's observers as saying. Another prominent report in this paper also notes that Ivorians turned out in mass yesterday and goes on to wonder about who among the three top candidates – incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, former Ivorian President Henri Konan Bedie and opposition leader Alassane Ouattara – would take advantage of this large turnout.

2. In the wake of the presidential elections, ***Notre Voie (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** carries a picture of President Gbagbo casting his vote with a banner headline reading "truly, there is nothing in the way." The paper also quotes the Ivorian leader who urged his rivals to "respect the verdict."

3. In the absence of official electoral results from the Independent Electoral Commission, the body in the charge of the presidential elections, ***Le Nouveau Reveil (a daily close to the opposition PDCI-RDA party)*** speculates about the voting trend, saying that Gbagbo, Bedie and Ouattara are running neck-to-neck. According to the paper, a second round is unavoidable, but warns that the run-off could be marred with violence.

4. "At long last the page has been turned," says a prominent headline in ***Le Patriote (a daily close to the opposition RDR party)***. In a related development, the paper quotes the head of the electoral commission, Youssouf Bakayoko, who described Sunday's elections as "a historic moment." "The first thing I would like to say is to congratulate the electoral commission and mainly those who are on the ground. I am also delighted to see that our fellow citizens are taking part in this vote peacefully and with serenity... I think this is an historic moment. We have not participated in this type of exercise for some years now. I believe that everyone is confident that everything will be fine and that Cote d'Ivoire will be like what it used to be," the paper quotes Bakayoko as saying in an interview yesterday just after casting his vote.

5. ***Le Nouveau Courrier (a daily close to the ruling FPI party)*** again published in its November 1 edition excerpts of President Obama's message on the presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire. "The people of Cote d'Ivoire deserve a secure environment for elections, and for their choice to be accepted by all candidates. These elections are a critical step to rebuilding Cote d'Ivoire," wrote the paper, which published the full text of the statement its October 30-31 edition.