

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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AUGUST 31, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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- 1. *Gbagbo's FPI accuses the Ivorian government of using attacks as pretense for crackdown***
- 2. *73 people charged over recent attacks, military prosecutor Ange Kessi says***
- 3. *Papers say ex-first lady Simon Gbagbo's whereabouts remain unknown***
- 4. *Communication Minister Diakite Coty commits to ensuring decisions of the press forum are implemented***

1. Gbagbo's FPI accuses the Ivorian government of using attacks as pretense for crackdown

The party of former president Laurent Gbagbo yesterday accused the Ivorian government of using the recent attacks on the army as a pretense to harass the opposition. According to FPI's interim president Sylvain Miaka Oureto, Gbagbo's FPI has become the scapegoat in what he said is nothing but "a war for position among the regime's supporters." ***Le Temps (pp. 6-9)*** published the full transcript of the statement Mr. Miaka made yesterday in Abidjan. "Beating, extortion, torture to force confession, arbitrary arrests based on far-fetched accusations have become common for our partisans," he said. "We have done nothing wrong...It is Ouattara who has become the real problem in this country, not the FPI," he said, adding that the party was still ready for dialogue with the government.

Notre Voie (p. 2) noted that the FPI has once again shown its commitment to democracy despite the government's allegation of a coup being prepared by partisans of the ex-leader and its vain efforts to depict FPI leaders as the new villains.

Pro-government papers responded differently to the FPI's call for dialogue. For ***Nord Sud Quotiden (p. 2)*** the FPI is backing down and is even considering joining the government. "If

Ouattara thinks we can serve, we are open," the paper reported Mr. Miaka as saying. "We need to sit down to discuss," he added.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 5) for its part sees a hidden trick in the FPI's move. In a rather skeptical analysis, the paper cast doubt on the real motive behind the u-turn of the party which, the paper said, has in repeatedly declined government proposals for dialogue.

2. 73 people charged over recent attacks, military prosecutor Ange Kessi says

Seventy three people, including nineteen military staff, are being detained for their alleged links to the recent attacks on the Ivorian army. The information was released yesterday by military prosecutor Ange Kessi who said the individuals have been charged with disturbing public order, violating state security and murder. Providing details, **Le Patriote (p. 3)** noted that a court in Abidjan is to rule on the case next month.

This development came as an article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)** noted that diplomats serving in Cote d'Ivoire have recently voiced concerns about the security situation. According to the daily several cases of incidents and violations of the Vienna convention have been reported recently. The paper noted that in at least two cases, diplomats were stopped at police checkpoints and were victims of harassment. Ivorian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Daniel Kablan Duncan said measures are being taken to ensure the issue is addressed, the paper said.

Still on security, **L'Inter (p. 6)** noted that an arms cache was recently discovered in the north eastern city of Bondoukou. The cache included shell-type ammunitions, the paper said.

3. Papers say ex-first lady Simon Gbagbo's whereabouts remain unknown

An article in **Notre Voie (p. 5)** alleged that former president Laurent Gbagbo's wife Simon has been transferred to neighboring Burkina Faso. According to the daily which cited Gbagbo's one-time aide Alain Toussaint, the whereabouts of the ex-first lady who has been under house arrest in Odienne since April 2011 are currently unknown.

L'Inter (p. 3) carried a similar account.

4. Communication Minister Souleymane Diakite Coty commits to ensuring decisions of the press forum are implemented

The press forum dubbed "Etats Généraux de la Presse" opened yesterday in Yamoussoukro. **L'Inter (p. 14)** noted that in his opening address, the Ivorian Minister of Communication Souleymane Diakite Coty said that the recommendations of the summit will be implemented. "I am committed to ensuring the recommendations of the forum are implemented for a positive change in the Ivorian press," he reportedly said.



AUGUST 30, 2012

- 1. The Ivorian army to be reinforced to curb insecurity**
- 2. Peace commission chairman Charles Konan Banny calls for dialogue amidst rising tension**

3. A court in Ghana to rule on extradition of Gbagbo's former spokesperson Katinan Kone

4. Press forum kicks off today in Yamoussoukro

1. The Ivorian army to be reinforced to curb insecurity

Tuesday the National Security Council decided to reinforce the capacity of the armed forces. According to **Le Patriote (p. 2)** the move is meant to reduce insecurity and came in response to the recent series of violence incidents.

An article in **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** noted that the recent attacks on the Ivorian army sites have brought to light the shortcomings of the defense forces. "They lacked almost everything to carry out their mission," the paper cited an insider as saying, the source added that the army could soon be equipped with combat aircraft, four-wheel drive vehicles and telecommunication equipment.

For **Notre Voie (p. 2)** it looks like the Ouattara regime is preparing for another war while the country is in a dire need of reconciliation. According to the paper, this arms buildup came as the 2004 UN arms embargo remains in place. The paper denounces the silence of the UN special envoy in Cote d'Ivoire on the issue.

2. Peace commission chairman Charles Konan Banny calls for dialogue amidst rising tension

Charles Konan Banny, the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) called on President Alassane Ouattara to extend the hand of dialogue to all. In an interview yesterday with the French wire service AFP, Mr. Banny said "the Ivorian nation is in danger". "I expect President Ouattara - the president of all Ivorians- to take the initiative to ease the atmosphere of hate, violence and intolerance," **Notre Voie (p. 2)** reported him as saying. "It is not too late for a candid dialogue between the government and the opposition," he added. "All must agree to come to the table for dialogue in complete honesty, freedom and sincerity," he said further.

Mr. Banny's plea came as Charles Ble Goude, the leader of the pro-Gbagbo movement "the young patriots" said he remains committed to dialogue. According to **L'Inter (p. 3)** the fugitive calls on the government to stop its Orwellian policy towards the opposition. "Our country has no other option than peace and dialogue," he reportedly said. "I call on the government to champion efforts with regards to this instead of fueling tension," he added as he denied links with the recent wave of violence.

3. A court in Ghana to rule on extradition of Gbagbo's former spokesperson Katinan Kone

Arrested in Ghana over the last weekend, Justin Katinan Kone, Gbagbo's former spokesperson and one-time budget minister is to appear before a court in Ghana on Friday. The information was reported by **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** which noted that the complexity of the Ghanaian legal system could delay the process.

Notre Voie (p. 6) for its part argued that under the Ghanaian constitution, there is no way Mr. Katinan could be extradited. According to the daily, in an emerging democratic country like Ghana, the rights of political refugees are secured by the rule of law.

4. Press forum kicks off today in Yamoussoukro

As announced, the press forum dubbed "Etats Généraux de la Presse" is to start today in Yamoussoukro. According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**, the forum, organized by the Ministry of Communication, is meant to propose solutions to challenges plaguing the Ivorian press. Opposition papers have finally decided to take part in the forum, the daily said. These papers initially threatened not to attend the event following the attack on pro-opposition publishing company CYCLONE and sanctions imposed on some papers by the CNP, the country's media regulatory body.

AUGUST 29, 2012

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Today's Top Stories

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- 1. To curb insecurity in Cote d'Ivoire, President Ouattara presides over National Security Council meeting**
- 2. Opposition leader accused of "breach of the peace"**
- 3. Lawyer for former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo to challenge ICC competence again**
- 4. Conference to explore problems facing the Ivorian media set to start tomorrow in Yamoussoukro**

1. To curb insecurity in Cote d'Ivoire, President Ouattara presides over National Security Council meeting

With a photo of President Alassane Ouattara meeting with Ivorian top military brass, **Fraternite Matin** carries a banner headline reading: "To put an end to the wave of violence, the National Security Council met yesterday." "I've summoned an emergency meeting of the National Security Council in order to evaluate the security situation and to see what measures have worked effectively and how these measures should be improved and reinforced," the paper (**p. 5**) quotes President Ouattara as saying. The paper (**p. 4**) also publishes a statement issued at the end of the closed door meeting which, it says, was held to find ways of "reinforcing the security," throughout the country by providing "additional means" to the different security forces. It further says that the meeting offered the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire the opportunity "to reiterate their commitment to fight the enemies" of the country and "to assure the security of the population."

A front-page headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien** says that the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire are to provide the government's forces with "significant resources." The National Security Council has hammered out "a strategy to counter the assailants," reads a prominent headline in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan**, while another front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** announces that President

Ouattara is to be “tough” following the series of armed attacks on government forces’ positions. “To foil the coup attempts, Ouattara wants the FRCI to become stronger,” says a banner headline in **Le Patriote**, which also reports (p. 4) that government forces have increased patrols in the economic capital Abidjan.

On a different development, **Fraternite Matin** (p. 5) quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, who has called for “brotherhood” among the security forces. According to the paper, the minister was speaking after one police commissioner was killed while another one was attacked in different areas of the country. The minister reportedly announced that the soldiers who are suspected of committing these crimes have been “arrested and will be punished” according to the law.

Reporting on the same two incidents, an article in **Nord-Sud Quotidien** (p. 2) suggests that the police commissioner for the Treichville district of Abidjan, Kouadio Amani, was picked up near the town of Sikensi, north of Abidjan, by a military patrol claiming to belong to a contingent under the command of Kone Zakaria. The article further explains that the body of the deceased police officer was later found in a morgue with two gunshot wounds on his body. In a related development, a report in **L’Inter** (p. 3) says that President Ouattara has demanded a probe of the death of the police officer and has warned government military forces.

With more on the security situation in Cote d’Ivoire, a report in **L’Inter** (p. 7) quotes the prefect of the southwestern Cavally region, Adolphe Yao N’Dri, as warning that “a rebellion is being prepared in the west.” Another article on the same page of this paper wonders whether the Ivorian pro-opposition youth leader, Charles Ble Goude, would be launching a “rebellion” from western Cote d’Ivoire. “Will Charles Ble Goude follow in Guillaume Soro’s footsteps?” asks the paper, which quotes a recent report in **Fraternite Matin** as saying that the youth leader is “putting together a rebellion from Liberia” similar to the one that was launched on September 19, 2002 by former student leader Guillaume Soro, now the speaker of the National Assembly.

2. Opposition leader accused of “breach of the peace”

A front-page headline in **Soir Info** says that top opposition official Laurent Akoun, who was arrested over the weekend, has been formally charged with “breaching the peace.” According to the paper (p. 3), the opposition leader, who being held at MACA – a prison in Abidjan, is expected to appear before a court on Friday.

In a related development, **L’Inter** (p. 1) quotes Silvain Miaka Oureto, the chairman of the opposition FPI party, who expressed his “dismay” following the arrest of the leaders of the party both at home and abroad. Another front-page headline in this paper says that a Ghanaian court will decide on Friday whether Mr. Justin Katinan Kone, a former minister in charge of the budget in ex-president Laurent Gbagbo’s government, who was arrested Sunday in Accra, should be released or extradited to Cote d’Ivoire. Meanwhile, the youth wing of the opposition FPI party has announced plans to stage sit-in demonstrations in front of foreign embassies in Abidjan to press for the release of the party’s officials, reports **L’Inter** (p. 5).

The case of Mr. Justin Katinan Kone is the subject of a prominent headline in **Le Temps**, which reports that Ghana is committed to “respect the law” against what the paper (p. 3) describes as “political maneuvers” being orchestrated by the authorities in Cote d’Ivoire. Reporting on what it sees as “a legal battle” opposing the Ivorian authorities and their Ghanaian counterparts, **Le Nouveau Courrier** (p. 1) quotes the lawyer of Mr. Kone as saying, “We’ve got assurances from the Ghanaian authorities.”

3. Lawyers of the former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo to challenge ICC competence again

“Gbagbo’s lawyers challenge the competence of the ICC,” says a front-page headline in **Notre Voie**, which carries a prominent photo of the former president who is facing trial at The Hague on charges of crimes against humanity. According to the paper (**p. 2**), the lawyers for Mr. Gbagbo have appealed a previous decision by the International Criminal Court’s judges that the court is competent to try their client.

4. Conference to explore problems facing the Ivorian media set to start tomorrow in Yamoussoukro

Ivorian Minister of Communication Souleimane Diakite Coty said that a conference on the state of the media in Cote d’Ivoire due to kick off tomorrow in Yamoussoukro will mark “a milestone” in media development in Cote d’Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 23)**. According to the paper, the minister stated this yesterday during a meeting with the steering committee that has worked on draft recommendations designed to resolve problems facing the media in this country.

In a related development, a front-page headline in **Notre Voie** says that following their meeting with the Minister of Communication, members of JV11, a pro-opposition press advocacy group who had threatened to boycott the media conference, have decided to participate in the discussions.

AUGUST 28, 2012

Today’s Top Stories

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1. Legal battle over the extradition of a former Ivorian government minister arrested in Ghana
2. The response from the opposition FPI after key members of the party are arrested
3. Efforts to improve the security situation in Cote d’Ivoire following recent attacks on government forces’ positions
4. The reopening of the universities in Cote d’Ivoire

1. Legal battle over the extradition of a former Ivorian government minister arrested in Ghana

“Katinan to be released,” reads a front-page headline in **Notre Voie**, which hints that Mr. Justin Katinan Kone, a former minister in charge of the budget in ex-president Laurent Gbagbo’s government, who was detained Sunday in Accra, Ghana, could be released today. According to the paper (**p. 2**), a court in the Ghanaian capital is expected to render its verdict today following a writ filed by the government of Cote d’Ivoire seeking the extradition of the former minister who is also the spokesman for the former Ivorian president. The paper also quotes sources saying that “the court is likely rule in favor of Mr. Kone.” The article explains that under the Ghanaian

constitution, the extradition of a political refugee is “illegal.” The paper also claims that Mr. Kone is living in Ghana as a registered political refugee.

“The extradition of Katinan is over!” says a banner headline in **L’Inter**, which suggests that the political and diplomatic battle between Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire over the extradition of the former minister is likely to be in “favor” of the Mr. Kone. The paper (**p. 6**) says that the former minister, who appeared yesterday before a court in Accra, could be freed.

“Before his extradition, Katinan is tried in Ghana,” reads a front-page headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien**. According to the paper, the Ghanaian authorities have set up a special High Court tasked with ruling on whether or not the former Ivorian minister should be extradited to his country. While the legal battle continues, **Le Patriote** carries a front-page headline explaining why the former minister should be tried in Cote d’Ivoire. The paper (**p. 3**) believes that the Ghanaian authorities must “cooperate” in extraditing Mr. Kone, who allegedly “looted” the Central Bank of West African States during last year’s post-electoral crisis in Cote d’Ivoire.

2. The response from the opposition FPI after key members of the party are arrested

A front-page headline in **Notre Voie** says that the leadership of the opposition FPI party yesterday named Mr. Michel Amani N’Guessan as the acting secretary general of the party. According to the paper (**p. 2**), the decision is contained in a statement issued yesterday by the party following the arrest of secretary general Laurent Akoun by the gendarmerie. The statement also denounces “continuous harassment” that the party’s leaders are being subjected to, reports the paper, which describes accusations of “offenses against national security” leveled against Mr. Akoun as “unfounded.”

According to a front-page story in **Le Patriote** suggests that after the arrests of opposition party leaders including Mr. Akoun and Mr. Alphonse Douati, a former minister arrested earlier this month on charges of “violating state security,” other cadres of the FPI could be targeted for alleged “plots against the government.”

3. Efforts to improve the security situation in Cote d’Ivoire following recent attacks on government forces’ positions

A front-page headline in **L’Intelligent d’Abidjan** says that President Alassane Ouattara is scheduled to preside over a crucial National Security Council meeting designed to address the increasing insecurity in the country. According to the paper (**p. 6**), commanders of government security forces, including the army, gendarmerie and the police, are expected to take part in this meeting.

As the National Security Council is scheduled to meet, **L’Inter** carries a front-page headline speculating about the possible security reforms to be implemented, including the replacement of the Chief of Defense Staff, General Soumaila Bakayoko. Another prominent headline in this paper blames the recent attack on a military base in Abidjan on some “weaknesses” in the security system, while another headline highlights how the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, who was formerly the Defense Minister, “coordinated the reaction” of government forces.

Meanwhile, a report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 10)** says that the European Union has pledged to support the authorities in Cote d’Ivoire in addressing the insecurity problems in the country. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by a top EU official in Abidjan after a meeting with Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. The report also quotes the EU official as

saying that the assistance will cover other domains such as the reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire and the justice system.

4. The reopening of the universities in Cote d'Ivoire

A front-page story in **Le Nouveau Reveil** says that for the next academic year, scheduled to begin on September 3, the universities in Cote d'Ivoire will accommodate "119,000 students."



AUGUST 27, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. President Alassane Ouattara vows to address security issues upon his return yesterday
2. Ghanaian police arrest former president Gbagbo's spokesperson Katinan Kone
3. Top FPI official Laurent Akoun arrested over alleged links to recent violence
4. Opposition papers decline to participate in press summit

1. President Alassane Ouattara vows to address security issues upon his return yesterday

President Alassane Ouattara vowed yesterday upon his return from a two-week trip to Saudi Arabia and France to address security issues in the country. The information was reported by **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** which noted that the Ivorian leader said he was concerned by the recent outbreak of violence. "I condemn these attacks and I have asked the army for the appropriate measures to be taken in order to boost security throughout the country," he reportedly said. According to the daily, the Ivorian leader has called for an emergency meeting this Tuesday to assess the security situation and ensure efforts are being made to put an end to rising tensions. "Hatred and violence are not acceptable," he reportedly said, adding, "Our country must regain its position on the continent and in the world."

The Ivorian leader's move came as an exchange of gunfire between FRCI soldiers and unidentified individuals at an army checkpoint close to Grand-Lahou, a town 100 miles west of Abidjan, resulted Saturday in the deaths of at least six people, including one FRCI soldier. The information was reported by **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 6)**. This was the latest in a series of assaults on Ivorian army sites, the paper said.

2. Ghanaian police arrest former president Gbagbo's spokesperson Katinan Kone

Katinan Kone, former president Laurent Gbagbo's spokesperson and onetime budget minister was arrested last Friday in Ghana where he has been registered as a refugee since last year. The information was reported by **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** which noted that his arrest was based on a warrant from the Ivorian authorities. Tagged as one of Gbagbo's hardliners, Mr. Kone's arrest does not bode well for dignitaries of the former regime in exile in neighboring Ghana, the paper said, adding that the Ivorian government has recently vowed to put an end to the activism of the exiles.

Notre Voie (p. 2), for its part, argued that the Ivorian authorities attempted, in vain, to kidnap Mr. Katinan Kone at Accra's international airport when he arrived on a flight from South Africa. The paper alleged that the failed operation was jointly designed with Interpol agents who have thus discredited the international police body.

Le Temps (pp. 4-5) carried a similar account, arguing that the operation is a diplomatic setback for the Ivorian government.

3. Top FPI official Laurent Akoun arrested over alleged links to recent violence

Mr. Kone Katinan's arrest came as papers reported today that Laurent Akoun, the secretary general of former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party, was arrested yesterday by the Ivorian police. **Soir Info (p. 3)** noted that Mr. Akoun is accused of involvement in the recent attacks on the Ivorian army. He is currently detained at the police station in Abidjan, the paper said.

L'Inter (p. 3), for its part, noted that Mr. Akoun was arrested in Adzope, a town 100 miles east of Abidjan where he had held a political meeting with FPI partisans.

4. Opposition papers decline to participate in press forum

An article in **Notre Voie (p. 7)** noted that pro-Gbagbo newspapers including **Notre Voie, Le Temps, Le Quotidien d'Abidjan** and **Le Nouveau Courrier** will not participate in the national press forum scheduled for August 30 and 31. The move is meant to protest the recent attack on the offices of the publishing company Cyclone, publisher of Le Temps and LG Infos, and recent sanctions imposed on opposition papers by the Conseil National de la Presse, Cote d'Ivoire's print media regulator, according to a statement by opposition newspaper spokesman Cesar Etou.

AUGUST 17, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. New details on armed attack and mass prison break in Dabou
2. Ivorian and Liberian authorities say the UN must help monitor security along their common border
3. Gender-based violence still calls for action, woman rights activist says
4. South Africa-based airline company to resume activities from Abidjan

1. New details on armed attack and mass prison break in Dabou

More details have emerged on the attack yesterday on Ivorian security forces stationed in Dabou, a town 35 miles west of Abidjan. According to **Soir Info (p. 3)**, at least three civilians were killed in the overnight raid. An outpost of the Ivorian army, known as the FRCI (Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire), the police station and the gendarmerie camp of the town were simultaneously attacked, the paper said, adding that the assailants also broke into the main prison of the town,

allowing more than 100 inmates to escape. "The town is now under control and we are conducting clean-up operations," the paper reported an FRCI commandant as saying after additional troops were sent from Abidjan to counter the attack.

Still on the issue, **L'Inter (p. 4)** noted that violent clashes were also reported in the neighboring towns of Jacqueville and Grand Lahou, where the gunmen reportedly retreated.

This attack, the latest of a series targeting defense and security forces since early August, underlines the volatile security situation in the country more than a year after the post-electoral conflict, the paper said. In a separate development, the daily noted that internal tensions and mistrust among members of the Ivorian army are noticeable. Thus, the paper said, there are on the one hand elements said to be close to former president Laurent Gbagbo and on the other hand FRCI contingents mainly made up of soldiers from the former rebel movement known as the New Forces. Cooperation between the two entities remains tense. This situation, the paper argued, does not bode well for cohesion needed within a republican army.

With more on the attacks, the daily noted that the French government said it was concerned by the deteriorating security situation and has called for calm. The statement also called on the government to take as a priority the issue of disarmament and security sector reforms and to champion the reconciliation process.

2. Ivorian and Liberian authorities say the UN must help monitor security along their common border

Still on security, Ivorian and Liberian authorities said they will both request more efforts from the United Nations to monitor security along their common border. The announcement, according to **Le Patriote (p. 7)**, was made Tuesday following a discussion via telephone between President Alassane Ouattara and his Liberian counterpart, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The move, the daily said, is meant to address more efficiently security challenges along the zone where several deadly cross-border attacks have been reported since the end of the post-electoral crisis.

In a related development, **L'Inter (p. 7)** noted that Ivorian Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko had a meeting yesterday with a delegation from the Liberian parliament. Discussions, the paper said, focused on security along the two countries' border. According to Mr. Alfred Koiwood, in charge of security issues at the Liberian parliament, the move is meant to assess the situation at the border and consequently allow the parliament to authorize additional funds to monitor security in the area. On the occasion, Mr. Koiwood recommitted the Liberian authorities to taking measures to avoid Liberia being used as a base to destabilize Cote d'Ivoire. "Not even an inch of the Liberian territory will be used to destabilize Cote d'Ivoire," he reportedly said at a press briefing after the meeting.

3. Gender-based violence still calls for action, woman rights activist says

According to Mrs. Josiane Adoubi, the National Coordinator of the PAIMSC, a government-sponsored task force set up to fight against gender-based violence, efforts are still needed to address the issue. Speaking in the course of an interview with **Notre Voie (p. 6)**, Mrs. Adoubi argued that though achievements have been made over the past decade, the recent political and social unrest have exacerbated the issue of gender-based violence nationwide; hence her plea for continued support from the government and international partners in the fight against the phenomenon.

4. South Africa-based airline company to resume activities from Abidjan

Having suspended operations here in the wake of the violence that followed the 2010 presidential election, South African Airways, a South Africa-based airline company, has decided to resume operations in Cote d'Ivoire according to a report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 21)**. The announcement was made by company manager Mrs. Nzimela Sizakele who met yesterday in Abidjan with Ivorian Minister of Industry Moussa Dosso. According to Mrs. Sizakele, the country is an important market now that the security situation is gradually improving. The company will offer two direct flights a week between Abidjan and Johannesburg, the paper said.

AUGUST 16, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Christians and Moslems call for dialogue and reconciliation
2. More security concerns in Cote d'Ivoire after recent attacks on Ivorian government forces
3. ICC competent to try ex-Ivorian leader
4. To finance the 2012 budget, the government is to launch a treasury bond

1. Christians and Muslims call for dialogue and reconciliation

A front-page story in ***Fraternite Matin*** says that Muslims and Christians, who both celebrated holidays on Wednesday, used the opportunity to underscore the importance of dialogue in the reconciliation process underway in Cote d'Ivoire. "Dialogue is the weapon of strong and not feeble persons," the paper (**p. 14**) quotes Vatican Ambassador Monsignor Ambrose Madtha as saying during an Assumption Day mass. Speaking during the Night of Destiny, the President of the High Council of Imams, Cheick Aboubacar Fofana, said that reconciliation can be achieved only through "patience and a hard work," reports ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8)**. "Muslims and Christians pray for peace," reads a prominent headline in ***Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 1)**.

2. More security concerns in Cote d'Ivoire after recent attacks on Ivorian government forces

ONUFI FM in its news bulletin reported heavy gunfire early this morning in the southern town of Dabou, near Abidjan. "Since last night, we've been hearing heavy gunfire as if two factions are fighting," the radio quotes a resident of Dabou as saying. The report also quotes another resident as saying that "the sporadic gunfire seems to be coming from the base of the government's FRCI forces," forcing the population "to remain indoors."

In a related development, ***Le Nouveau Reveil*** carries a front-page headline announcing that the southeastern region along the Ivorian-Ghanaian border could be targeted by gunmen close to the former president Laurent Gbagbo. Supporters of the former president, according to the paper (**p. 2**), are planning to establish the fiefdom of their rebellion in this region. With a prominent headline on alleged plans designed "to destabilize" Cote d'Ivoire, ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 13)** quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, who disclosed that "Militias are being financed by political exiles living in Ghana and other countries in the region." The newspaper also quotes (**p. 9**) the Ivorian ambassador to Ghana and Togo, Bernard Ehui-Koutouan as saying, "Some 9,700 Ivorian refugees are still living in Ghana and 5,423 in Togo." The ambassador also reportedly

disclosed that "People have crossed the borders into Cote d'Ivoire and managed to get to the western region in order to organize themselves to destabilize the country."

A front-page headline in **L'Inter** suggests that the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, has now "resumed his role a military commander" following the series of attacks on government forces. An article in this paper (**p. 6**) says that Mr. Soro, who was the leader of the New Forces [former rebel movement] and President Ouattara's Defense Minister in the first administration, has become virtually "indispensable" in the country's security apparatus. "With eight years of experience as a rebel leader and five years as a prime minister during the time of permanent conflict, Soro has experience to spare," comments the paper which, however, questions the "checks and balances" principle that upholds the functioning of state institutions in Cote d'Ivoire.

A banner headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 1)** denounces what it sees as "a secret government" set up by President Ouattara's ruling RDR party following the recent attacks. The paper (**p. 3**) finds "curious" the move by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, to step in while the president is away from the country, meeting military commanders including Chief of Defense Staff General Soumaila Bakayoko. The paper also believes that the speaker is "progressively taking over the command of the army"; a situation which, according to the paper, could pave the way for "an RDR shadow cabinet" ahead of any potential crisis.

While Ivorian authorities are struggling to restore security in Abidjan and elsewhere across the country, a banner headline in **Le Patriote (p. 1)** announces that "Six pro-Gbagbo militia members have been arrested in Liberia." In a related development, **Notre Voie** carries a front-page headline denouncing the "terror" that is unfolding in the Abidjan suburb of Yopougon, where more than 3,000 personnel were reportedly deployed to bolster security after unidentified gunmen attacked a police station several days ago.

3. ICC competent to try ex-Ivorian leader

A front-page story in **Soir Info** says that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has ruled Wednesday against a writ filed by ex-president Laurent Gbagbo's lawyers challenging its jurisdiction to try him for crimes against humanity. "ICC declares itself competent to try Gbagbo," reads a prominent headline in this paper (**p. 1**).

4. To finance the 2012 budget, the government is to launch a treasury bond

The government is to launch today a treasury bond in an effort to support the 2012 budget, reports **Soir Info**. According to the report (**p. 9**), the government is targeting some FCFA 60 billion (about US \$113 million) that will be used to finance important projects.



AUGUST 14, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Fresh population exodus along Ivorian-Liberia border after gunmen attack the western town of Toulepleu

2. Gbagbo's supporters stage a demonstration at The Hague to press for his release
3. Government-worker discussions get underway
4. Primary and secondary schools to resume class on September 17

1. Fresh population exodus along Ivorian-Liberia border after gunmen attack the western town of Toulepleu

"The population is fleeing en masse after an FRCI post along the Ivorian-Liberian border was attacked," reads a front-page headline in **Notre Voie**.

"Toulepleu is gripped by panic as the population is fleeing the town," a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** quotes an inhabitant of this western town as saying after unidentified gunmen, allegedly from neighboring Liberia, yesterday attacked the positions of the government's FRCI forces. A journalist with a community radio station in Toulepleu is also reported as saying that the town was almost empty a few hours after the attack. "However, after the broadcast of the prefect's peace message, some inhabitants have started returning to the city," the local journalist is reported as saying.

In a related development, another report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** says that two government military commanders yesterday briefed the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, on the current situation in the western regions of Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the briefing was held a few hours after the attack near Toulepleu. The report also says that Presidential Affairs Minister Mr. Brahim Ouattara also attended the security briefing during which the two commanders gave more details on the turn of events in Toulepleu and measures that have been taken to reverse the situation.

"Toulepleu attacked and liberated yesterday," reads a prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil**. The newspaper quotes Mr. Diarra Karim, the prefect of Toulepleu as saying, "The security has been reinforced and the situation is under control." "We've taken back the border post that was attacked," the paper (**p. 3**) also quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying. The minister also thanked the authorities in Liberia for their "cooperation" that enabled Ivorian security forces "to repulse the enemies but also to take control of the border post that was unfortunately attacked."

Another prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 1)** accuses UN forces in both Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia of "refusing to protect the civilian population," while another headline (**p. 3**) asks: "What were the blue helmets doing during the time of the attack?" The article claims to express the opinion of Ivorians who, according to the paper, believe that the 8,000 UN peacekeepers deployed in the country do not constitute "a real security guarantee for them."

But a front-page report in **Le Patriote** says that UN military jets have been sent to the region to back government forces. The paper attributes this information to the minister in charge of defense who was speaking yesterday on the state-run broadcaster RTI1. "We're collaborating with UNOCI... and we've obtained results," Mr. Koffi reportedly said.

In the wake of the events in Toulepleu, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan** carries a front-page headline suggesting that President Alassane Ouattara is confronted with "a rebellion" launched by supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo. According to the paper (**p. 2**), supporters of Mr. Gbagbo are planning to "replicate" the attacks launched against the former president's regime in

September 2002. The paper also discloses that the newly-formed National Security Council, which was announced by President Ouattara in his recent address to the nation, met before the president's trip abroad.

Speaking on the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire, Ivorian opposition leader Mamadou Koulibaly has disclosed that "nearly 100,000 guerilla fighters are threatening Ivorians," reports **L'Inter (p. 6)**. Prof. Koulibaly, who is the leader of the opposition Lider party, is reported as saying that these guerilla fighters are essentially made up of pro-Ouattara and pro-Gbagbo supporters who have been abandoned after fighting for both sides. "The first group is composed of frustrated and disappointed FRCI forces who have been promised a military career," the paper quotes Pr. Koulibaly as saying. The report also quotes the opposition leader as saying that "out of 32,000 soldiers of the New Forces [former rebel movement] who were dreaming of joining the army, only 9,000 have been recruited in the new Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI)." According to Prof. Koulibaly, "the second group is made up of 36,000 back-up-forces of the FRCI who were recruited during the post-electoral crisis," while the third group that is threatening the security in Cote d'Ivoire today is made up of "some 38,000 persons mostly from self-defense and militia groups close to the former regime."

Meanwhile, a front-page headline in **Soir Info** quotes a leading member of the ruling RDR party as saying that "No coup d'etat can prosper" in Cote d'Ivoire today. Mr. Amadou Soumahoro, according to the paper (**p. 5**), was speaking yesterday in Abidjan during a meeting with members of the Young Patriots, a group close to the former regime, now reported to be rallying behind President Ouattara's reconciliation program.

In a related development, a report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)** says that the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, yesterday held talks with Ghanaian Minister of Communication Haruna Idrissu over bilateral issues, including security along the Ghanaian-Ivorian border. "We'll help you stabilize your borders," the paper quotes the Ghanaian minister as saying after the meeting.

2. Gbagbo's supporters stage a demonstration at The Hague to press for his release

With a picture of Mr. Laurent Gbagbo on its front page, **Notre Voie** carries a prominent banner headline saying that supporters of the former president have organized a mammoth rally at The Hague to press for his release. According to the paper (**p. 6**), the rally was organized yesterday following the postponement of a hearing for the former president who has been incarcerated at the International Criminal Court for his alleged involvement of crimes committed during the post-electoral crisis last year in Cote d'Ivoire. "Hundreds of Ivorians yesterday at The Hague to demand the release of Gbagbo," reads a front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier**.

3. Government-worker discussions get underway

The government has engaged in a "frank and responsible dialogue" with workers in order to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the country, says a front page story in **Fraternite Matin**. Dubbed "Social Dialogue and Economic Recovery," the three-month discussion opened yesterday during a ceremony that was presided over by Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. The paper (**p. 36**) also reports that the ongoing discussions will help the government pave the way for "a consensus with workers."

4. Primary and secondary schools to resume class on September 17

The Minister of the National Education has set September 17, 2012 as the date for the reopening of primary and secondary schools in Cote d'Ivoire, reports ***Fraternite Matin*** (p. 14). According to the paper, the announcement was made Monday by an official from the ministry.

AUGUST 13, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Reports say Western diplomats meet President Ouattara over the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire
2. Ivorian authorities move to improve the security situation
3. The general political situation after the recent attacks
4. Reports say Ivorian opposition supporters stage a demonstration in Washington to denounce human rights abuse in Cote d'Ivoire
5. Government-worker discussions to begin today
6. President Ouattara's official visit Saudi Arabia

1. Reports say Western diplomats meet President Ouattara over the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire

A front-page story in the weekend issue of ***L'Inter*** said that President Alassane Ouattara met on Thursday with Western diplomats in Abidjan over the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. The security situation in Cote d'Ivoire, according to the paper (p. 3), has become "unsafe and alarming" following a series of attacks last week on the Akouedo military base, a police station in the Abidjan suburb of Yopougon, and a government forces position in the eastern town of Abengourou. The report also said that the Western diplomats included Ambassador Phillip Carter III, his British and French counterparts as well as the UN boss in Cote d'Ivoire. "We talked about the different resolutions of the UN Security Council and how to apply them," French Ambassador George Serre was quoted as saying after the meeting. The report further said that the UN boss in Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders, earlier met with Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko and the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi. "We talked about security. We've also emphasized that our mission is to support Cote d'Ivoire."

2. Ivorian authorities move to improve the security situation

State-run broadcaster ***RTI*** carried footage of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro, holding talks with the interior minister over the weekend. "Our country was confronted with very serious events and I thought that it was necessary to brief him on the situation and provide him with more details since he was, for some years, the minister in charge of defense. We got his point of view and advice for the management of this important issue," Hamed Bakayoko was reported as saying. "We're in the process of acquiring helicopters," a front-page headline in the weekend issue of ***Soir Info*** quotes the interior minister as saying. According to the paper (p. 2), the minister said the helicopters will be used by the police to provide "aerial support for troops on the ground during operations and sweeps."

With more on security issues, a front-page story in today's issue of **Fraternite Matin** says that the army has launched a vast exercise designed to monitor security at key points in the Ivorian economic capital Abidjan. According to the paper (**p. 8**), the Banco National Park, which is located at the heart of the city, has been cordoned off by a joint security patrol made up of the government FRCI forces, members of the gendarmerie and the national police. The paper also quotes insiders as saying that the Ivorian army could seek support from the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) air force.

While the army is struggling to monitor security in Abidjan and elsewhere in the country, **Le Nouveau Reveil** carries a banner headline reading: "Bassam attacked." According to the paper (**p. 10**), an attack on the southern city of Grand-Bassam was foiled over the weekend as government forces cracked down on assailants attempting to seize an assortment of arms and ammunition. Another prominent headline in this paper suggests that the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire should consider "closing the border" with neighboring Ghana, arguing that the common border along the two countries has become "the launching pad" for "the enemies of the Republic."

The security situation along the Ivorian and Ghanaian borders is also the subject of a front-page story in **Nord-Sud Quotidien** which reports that the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire have asked their Ghanaian counterparts "to be more firm" on this issue. According to the paper (**p. 3**), the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, disclosed this over the weekend during an army graduation ceremony. "The army will relentlessly fight the enemies of the Republic," **Le Patriote** (**p. 2**) quotes Mr. Koffi as saying. Reporting on this ceremony, **L'Inter** (**p. 3**) says a total of 127 officers joined the government forces following their graduation.

A front-page story in **L'Inter** announces that an aide to the former Ivorian youth leader Charles Ble Goude has been arrested in connection with the series of attacks carried out a week ago. Mr. Kouadio Noel, according to the paper (**p. 2**), was arrested in Yamoussoukro and is being detained by the police.

3. The general political situation after the recent attacks

"We'll launch the offensive," a front-page headline in **Soir Info** quotes the opposition FPI party's youth leader Koua Justin as saying. Mr. Koua, the paper (**p. 2**) says, was speaking at a press conference over the weekend in Abidjan, and is reported as saying, "We're ready for the battle." According to the report, Mr. Koua was reacting following "the arrest" of some FPI comrades in connection with investigations into the recent attacks. "We're not kamikazes but we'll fight the regime... democratically," the paper quotes "a radical" youth leader as saying. Mr. Koua's picture hits the front page of **Le Nouveau Reveil** which quotes him as saying: "I'm eager to see this regime fall." A front-page headline in **Notre Voie** reports Mr. Koua announcing a big conclave that will bring together youths from all walks of life on August 25th "to launch the democratic offensive." "The terror reinforces our determination," says a front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier**, which attributes this statement to the opposition FPI party's youth leader.

In another development, a front-page article in **Nord-Sud Quotidien** says that the youth wing of the opposition FPI party has expressed its hope to form an alliance with Mr. Kouadio Konan Bertin, leader of JPDCI, the youth wing of the PDCI-RDA party. The PDCI-RDA is a member of the RHDP, the ruling coalition in Cote d'Ivoire. This was announced over the weekend by FPI youth leader Koua Justin at the press conference, reports the paper.

4. Reports say Ivorian opposition supporters stage a demonstration in Washington to denounce human rights abuse in Cote d'Ivoire

"Ivorians besiege Obama's office," reads a banner headline in **Notre Voie**. According to the paper (**p. 2**), the demonstration was held in the front of the White House in Washington by Ivorians living in the United States "to denounce Ouattara's dictatorship." "You have made a serious mistake by backing Ouattara," demonstrators are quoted as telling President Obama.

5. Government-worker discussions to begin today

A report in **Fraternite Matin** says that the government is to launch today a social forum to engage in discussions with workers. Dubbed "Social Dialogue and Economic Recovery," the conference will be presided over by Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio and brings together leaders of workers unions, reports the paper (**p. 13**). According to the paper, the three-month discussion will help find solutions to grievances of workers from both the public and private sectors.

6. President Ouattara's official visit Saudi Arabia

A front-page story in **Fraternite Matin** says that President Ouattara left Abidjan Sunday for Saudi Arabia to attend the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

AUGUST 10, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Report by government-sponsored commission on post-electoral violence triggers mixed reactions
2. Responses to recent attacks on an army base and police station in Abidjan
3. Chinese investors to partner with the Ivorian government
4. President Alassane Ouattara to attend funeral of late Ghanaian President John Atta Mills

1. Report by government-sponsored commission on post-electoral violence triggers mixed reactions

The National Commission of Inquiry (*Commission Nationale d'Enquête*), which was tasked with investigating the violence that followed the 2010 presidential election, presented its findings to President Alassane Ouattara on Wednesday, August 8. The information was reported by **Le Patriote** (**p. 4**) which noted that the event was overshadowed by the attack on the country's military base at Akouedo. According to the paper, the commission has reported a total of 13,464 violations, including cases of murder, torture and rape. Both forces loyal to the country's then strongman Laurent Gbagbo and presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara are responsible for the violence, the report suggested. According to the daily, this move is likely to pave the way for justice as the Ivorian leader has vowed to bring to justice all perpetrators, irrespective of their political allegiance.

Notre Voie (**p. 2**) argued that the government-sponsored commission produced a biased report. According to the daily, forces loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo are once again identified as the scapegoats responsible for most of the post-electoral violence. The paper states that the report contradicts an initial account by former ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo suggesting that forces

loyal to President Alassane Ouattara committed greater crimes during their assault to oust his rival. The daily called on the government to ensure that criminals from the Ouattara's camp are held accountable for their crimes.

An article in *L'Inter* (pp. 4-5) reported that, following the official release, a debate on whether or not the report will be made available in its entirety to the public was raised by analysts at the *Washington Post*. The daily reports that, on the one hand, human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch have argued that the report be released entirely. Citing Human Rights Watch researcher for West Africa Matts Wells, the paper suggested that such a move will ensure transparency and allow the truth to triumph. However, this assessment was rejected by Ivorian government officials, namely Ivorian Minister of Human Rights, Gnenema Coulibaly on the grounds that the security of witnesses and other insiders could be endangered if the full report is released.

2. Responses to recent attacks on an army base and police station in Abidjan

"Together, we will enhance security throughout the country," *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) reported UN Special Representative in Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders as saying after his meeting yesterday with Ivorian Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio. According to the daily, the two men met to discuss measures to be taken to ensure that security issues are addressed following the recent deadly attacks on police stations and a military base in Abidjan. On the occasion, Mr. Koenders recommitted the UN to supporting the Ivorian authorities in line with its mandate in Cote d'Ivoire.

In a separate development, the paper noted that, according to UNOCI spokesperson Kenneth Blackman, the mission has decided to put on alert its military contingents and has increased its patrols nationwide. "Our forces are ready for action," he reportedly said yesterday in his address at the mission weekly briefing.

In response to the attacks of the country's major military base at Akouedo, the Ivorian army has carried out security operations which, according to *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3), have so far resulted in the arrest of suspects and the discovery of an arms cache in Yopougon.

Moreover, the government has decided to remove military personnel in charge of security within the Akouedo camp. The move was fiercely criticized by *Notre Voie* (p. 3) which argued that President Alassane Ouattara should instead fire Hamed Bakayoko and Paul Koffi Koffi, in charge of Interior and Defense respectively.

3. Chinese investors to partner with the Ivorian government

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 25) the recent visit by Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara to China is paying off already. The daily noted that a few days after this trip, Chinese businessmen decided to explore investment opportunities in the country. An important delegation recently met with President Ouattara and government officials in Abidjan to discuss investments and Chinese support for the country's economic recovery.

4. President Alassane Ouattara to attend funeral of late Ghanaian President John Atta Mills

Finally, according to *Soir Info* (p. 4) President Alassane Ouattara will attend today in Accra, Ghana the funeral of the late Ghanaian President John Atta Mills who passed away last month. John Mahama Dramani was sworn in as Ghanaian interim president until new elections are held, the paper added.

AUGUST 9, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Congressional Staffer holds talks with Ivorian Prime Minister on Cote d'Ivoire-U.S. bilateral relations
2. Commission of inquiry submits report on crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire
3. New developments in recent attacks on an army base and police station
4. Government announces new university registration fees
5. Results of Baccaureate exams released

1. Congressional Staffer holds talks with Ivorian Prime Minister on Cote d'Ivoire-U.S. bilateral relations

"Simpkins at the Prime Minister's office," says a prominent headline in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 8)**. According to the paper, Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio held talks yesterday with U.S. Congressional Staffer Gregory B. Simpkins on political and economic relations between the United States and Cote d'Ivoire. "We met the Ivorian Prime Minister to talk about ties between our two countries. The goal is to see how we can help Cote d'Ivoire, which is coming out of crisis, overcome challenges both at the local and regional level," the paper quotes Mr. Simpkins, who was accompanied by Ambassador Phillip Carter III, as saying. The U.S. Congressional Staffer also reportedly congratulated the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire for "progress made on national reconciliation." Mr. Simpkins, the report says, highlighted the series of consultations that the prime minister held with the political parties and reassured him of his country's engagement to support Cote d'Ivoire.

"Reconciliation and security: The United States supports Ivorians," writes ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3)**, while ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 5)** quotes Mr. Simpkins as saying, "We can bring our contribution" to help Cote d'Ivoire tackle issues such security, dialogue and national reconciliation.

2. Commission of inquiry submits report on crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire

A prominent picture on the front page of ***Fraternite Matin*** shows the chairperson of the commission of inquiry, Mrs. Paulette Badjo presenting the final report on crimes committed during the 2011 post-electoral crisis to President Ouattara while Prime Minister Ahoussou Kouadio looks on. Figures contained in this report make readers "shed tears," says a prominent headline in this paper which quotes **(p. 4)** President Ouattara as saying, "all those who committed reprehensible acts will be held accountable." Speaking on crimes that were committed during the wave of violence that swept across Cote d'Ivoire during the crisis, the report mentions "summary executions, abductions, rape, torture, looting, massive and arbitrary arrest of women and children

based on either their political or ethnic affiliation." According to the chairperson of the commission, "more than 2,000 people were summarily executed," reports the paper. The paper also quotes Mrs. Badjo who blames "soldiers, gendarmes, police personnel, members of self-defense groups and traditional hunters also known as Dozos" for these crimes.

The report is also the subject of a front-page headline in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan** which informs readers that "1,452 people were killed by supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo, while 700 people were killed by the government's FRCI forces." Another front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** says that "more than 1,000 people were summarily executed by the former defense and security forces, 500 by the FRCI and 200 by the Dozos." A report in **Le Patriote (p. 7)** says that the commission of inquiry has blamed "former defense and security forces, mercenaries loyal to Gbagbo, FRCI and Dozos" for crimes that were committed during the 2011 post-electoral violence in Cote d'Ivoire. **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)** carries a similar a headline with a comment reading, "Everybody is guilty."

In the wake of the publication of the report, **Le Nouveau Courrier** calls the government's commitment to fight impunity "a joke" saying that figures released yesterday by the commission of inquiry were nothing but "a pure lie." The paper (**p. 5**) believes that the commission has conducted its investigations in "a little transparent" manner and that its conclusions "lack clarity." The article also suggests that the commission's objective was "to demonize" former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo.

3. New developments in recent attacks on an army base and police station

"After Yopougon, Akouedo and Abengourou, the mysterious commando hits Agboville," says a front-page headline in **L'Inter**. A report in this paper (**p. 4**) says that a soldier was seriously wounded yesterday after unidentified gunmen raided the position of government forces in a village near Agboville. The report also states that the population has fled the village as result of this attack and quotes a resident as saying, "We're leaving because the FRCI forces have accused us of being responsible for the attack against their base."

Speaking about the recent attacks on government security forces, Ivorian opposition leader Mamadou Koulibaly is reported by **L'Inter (p. 1)** as saying, "this was foreseeable." According to Mr. Koulibaly, what is going on is "a guerilla war." The opposition leader, who said this in a statement issued on Cote d'Ivoire's Independence Day, is reported as saying that these attacks are the result of many "frustrations" that people experience under President Ouattara's regime.

"This is foreseeable as impunity has become a method of governance," a front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** quotes Mr. Koulibaly, the leader of LIDER party as saying about the recurrent attacks on government's forces. "Ouattara's regime supports repression," says another prominent headline in this paper, which accuses government forces of "harassing, abducting and torturing" the population after a series of attacks that killed 10 soldiers since the weekend in Abidjan.

In a related development, a report in **Notre Voie (p. 3)** accuses Ivorian Interior Minister, Hamed Bakayoko of trying to sow the seed of "division within the army." The article is in reaction to the minister's statement alleging that "supporters of the former president, Laurent Gbagbo, were behind the series of attacks on an army base and police stations in Abidjan and the eastern region of Abengourou." "This is not serious," **Soir Info (p. 6)** quotes the president of the opposition FPI party, Silvain Miaka Oureto as saying about the minister's statement.

Meanwhile, a front-page banner headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** quotes Mr. Bakayoko who identified yesterday the presumed gunmen who attacked the Akouedo military base near Abidjan over the weekend. "11 assailants have been arrested and nearly a hundred weapons, which were stolen, have been recovered."

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan carries a front-page picture of Herve Ble, who was reportedly identified yesterday by the Interior Minister as the mastermind behind the attack against the Akouedo military base. "Hamed Bakayoko unveils a plot," reads a banner headline in **Le Patriote**. The paper also quotes the interior minister who vowed to fight "relentlessly" against people who are planning "to destabilize" Cote d'Ivoire.

4. Government announces new university registration fees

A front-page story in **Fraternite Matin** says that the government has reduced the registration fees at the state universities from FCFA 100,000 (about US \$184) to FCFA 30,000 (about US \$55). The decision was made yesterday at the Council of Ministers meeting that was presided over by President Ouattara, reports the paper, which indicates that the new fees will be applicable for the coming three years.

5. Results of Baccalaureate exams released

With more on education issues, **Fraternite Matin (p. 1)** reports that the results of the Baccalaureate exams, which were released yesterday, are "poor." According to the results, only 25.22 percent of students have passed their exams.



AUGUST 8, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Ivorian authorities blame attack of army base on pro-opposition supporters and announce the arrest of assailants
2. President Ouattara pledges to uphold justice and restore security in Cote d'Ivoire as the country marks its 52nd Independence Day

1. Ivorian authorities blame attack of army base on pro-opposition supporters and announce the arrest of assailants

A prominent headline in **Le Patriote (p. 1)** quotes the Interior Minister, Hamed Bakayoko, as saying that "supporters of the former president, Laurent Gbagbo, were behind the series of attacks on an army base and police stations in Abidjan and the eastern region of Abengourou" over the last weekend. "I think this has been planned from Ghana by former defense and security forces loyal to Gbagbo," the paper quotes the interior minister as saying during an interview with French International Broadcaster RFI.

"Attacks on Akouedo, Yopougon and Abengourou: The FPI kills 12 within 24 hours," reads a front-page banner headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil**. The paper (**p. 5**) also quotes the interior minister as

saying that “militias and soldiers loyal to former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo were behind a series of attacks that killed 10 soldiers since the weekend in Abidjan.”

In the wake of the series of attacks that **L’Inter (p. 1)** blames on “an invisible commando,” the paper carries a front-page headline suggesting that “Ouattara’s regime is threatened.” The paper (**p. 2**) claims that this commando is yet to be identified and questions whether the gunmen who raided a military base and a police station in Abidjan were “militias, pro-Gbagbo mercenaries, disgruntled government forces or former security forces.” The paper also quotes eyewitness reports saying that there were approximately “100 gunmen” who were able to make away with “200 guns.”

A front-page headline in **Notre Voie** states that a man calling himself “General Timothe Sekongo” has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Akouedo military base. The paper (**p. 7**) carries a statement issued by the opposition FPI party “condemning the attacks on the Akouedo military base and the police station in Yopougon by unidentified gunmen.” According to the paper, the statement continued: “The FPI exhorts the government to identify those responsible for these crimes and bring them to justice.”

Another article in **Notre Voie (p. 6)** however denounces the government’s “premature accusations” against supporters of the former president, adding that by doing so the minister of interior is exposing supporters of Laurent Gbagbo to “any sort of abuses.” In a related development, the paper (**p. 7**) reports that one of the lawyers of the former president was briefly detained shortly after the weekend’s attacks. Another report on the same page claims that Mr. Mady Bouabre, a former MP believed to be close to the former first lady, has been arrested and detained by the police.

Le Nouveau Courrier carries a prominent front-page headline describing the series of attacks that killed 10 soldiers since the weekend in Abidjan as “a humiliation” for the authorities in Cote d’Ivoire

A front-page headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien** says that “the brains behind the attack on the Akouedo army base have been arrested,” while a front-page headline in **Fraternite Matin** says that “25 militia members have been arrested in connection with the Sunday attacks.” According to the paper, government forces are still searching for other gunmen.

According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**, President Alassane Ouattara met on Monday with Minister of Security Hamed Bakayoko, Minister in Charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi, and the army commanders to discuss the recent attacks in Abidjan. Speaking after the meeting, the interior minister reportedly said that “the president has given instructions to remain firm with people who are trying to disrupt the peace of the Ivorian people.” This “urgent meeting” was summoned by the president in order “to assess the situation after the recent events,” Mr. Bakayoko reportedly said.

2. President Ouattara pledges to uphold justice and restore security in Cote d’Ivoire as the country marks its 52nd Independence Day

During an address to the Nation televised on state broadcaster **RTI1** on the eve of Cote d’Ivoire’s Independence Day on August 7, President Ouattara stated: “we will not accept any chaos or injustice that grow as a result of impunity.. “We’ve reinforced security throughout the entire the national territory,” President Ouattara said. He however recognized that there are “some pockets of insecurity” that “we’re working on.” “I’ve given instructions for a merciless fight against those

whose goal is to create mayhem and a feeling of insecurity in the country," the president said. President Ouattara vowed "to make sure that security prevails throughout the country." He therefore announced "reforms" in the security sector with the creation of "a National Security Council" that will be tasked with "overseeing the disarmament, the disbandment and the reintegration of all ex-combatants."

On the reconciliation process, President Ouattara reiterated "his firm will for reconciliation," adding "my duty is to assemble all Ivorians." The president also pledged "to continue his fight against corruption" and promised to take measures in order to bring under control the price of food commodities.

On the festivities marking the celebration of the Independence Day, state TV footage showed President Ouattara in a command car ahead of the military parade in the Ivorian economic capital, Abidjan. A front-page headline in *Fraternite Matin* says that the national day celebration marks "a new beginning" for Cote d'Ivoire.

AUGUST 6, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. At least four soldiers reportedly killed by gunmen at police stations in Abidjan
2. Western diplomats visit Duekoue to assess security in the region
3. ICC postpones hearing for former Ivorian leader
4. Abidjan court rejects demand for the release on bail of officials of the former regime
5. Pro-opposition newspaper suspended
6. President Ouattara launches a multi-million dollar road construction project

1. At least four soldiers reportedly killed by gunmen at police stations in Abidjan

A prominent report on the *Abidjan.net* website states that at least four soldiers were killed and many others were wounded over the weekend as unidentified gunmen attacked a police station in the Yopougon neighborhood of Abidjan. The report quotes eyewitnesses, who said that the police station was attacked by a commando team made up of five or six people. The report further states that the assailants escaped after the attacks.

2. Western diplomats visit Duekoue to assess humanitarian situation in the region

A report in the weekend issue of *Soir Info (p. 3)* said that Western diplomats including Ambassador Phillip Carter III visited on Thursday the western town of Duekoue in order "to assess the humanitarian situation" in the region. According to the paper, the coordinator of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the region stated that the purpose of the visit was to enable the Western diplomats together with their South African counterpart to have a clear idea

of the needs of the aid organizations that are working to restore peace and promote reconciliation in the region.

In a related development, **Le Patriote** carried a front-page headline saying that the displaced persons camp in Nahibly near Duekoue, which was recently attacked, was “infested by pro-FPI militias.” The paper attributed this statement to local leaders in the region

3. ICC postpones hearing for former Ivorian leader

A prominent headline in **L’Inter** said that lawyers for former president Laurent Gbagbo have welcomed the decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to postpone the hearings of the Ivorian ex-leader. An article in this paper (**p. 4**) said that the court has postponed an August 13 hearing for the former president pending a decision on whether he is healthy enough to appear. The report also quoted a statement issued by the court that “at the request of defense lawyers, three doctors have been appointed to assess Mr. Gbagbo.”

Meanwhile, **Notre Voie** carried a front-page headline claiming that “Gbagbo was tortured” during his detention in the northern town of Korhogo in Cote d’Ivoire before his transfer to The Hague on November 29, 2011.

4. Abidjan court rejects demand for the release on bail of officials of the former regime

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** stated that an Abidjan court has rejected a demand seeking the release on bail of 18 officials of the former regime who have been detained for their alleged involvement in the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Cote d’Ivoire. The report quoted the court as saying that the detainees cannot be released because investigations are still underway. In a related development, the paper carried a separate report on the same page announcing that the hearings of former first lady, Simone Ehivet Gbagbo, who is being detained in the northern town of Odienne for similar accusations, could take place in October this year.

5. Pro-opposition newspaper suspended

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 16)** said that the pro-opposition newspaper *Le Temps* has been suspended for one month by the CNP, the state-run print media regulatory body. The report also stated that Simplicie Allard, a journalist with *Le Temps*, has been suspended for the same period. According to the paper, the decision was a result of an article carried last Tuesday by the paper with a headline reading, “Macabre vampire delights in the blood of his compatriots.”

6. President Ouattara launches a multi-million dollar road construction project

With a front-page picture of President Alassane Ouattara holding a pickaxe while Chinese officials look on, **Fraternite Matin** carried a headline reading, “Ouattara transforms the dream to reality.” The paper (**p. 4**) carried another picture of the president launching the construction of the multi-million dollar road project. The planned highway, the paper said, will connect Abidjan to the southern town of Grand Bassam and facilitate the movement of people and goods between Cote d’Ivoire and the neighboring Ghana.



AUGUST 3, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. ICC postpones former president Laurent Gbagbo's hearing
2. Ivorian Finance Minister Charles Koffi Diby outlines incentives offered by the World Bank debt relief program
3. Higher Education Minister Cisse Bacongo's right-hand man fired over financial scandal
4. President Ouattara to kick off the building of a coastal highway
5. The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to support the Ivorian media
6. Nine dead in an outbreak of rabies

1. ICC postpones former president Laurent Gbagbo's hearing

According to a report on ***Abidjan.net***, the trial of former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo has been postponed. Slated for August 13, 2012, the hearing of the man accused of human rights abuses and blood crimes and whose refusal to cede power after losing the 2010 presidential election led to a violent power struggle that claimed the lives of 3,000 people has been put off again. "The Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court postponed the confirmation of charges hearing in the case against Laurent Gbagbo until the issue of Mr. Gbagbo's fitness to take part in it is resolved," the court said in a statement. No details on the medical condition of the accused were released.

2. Ivorian Finance Minister Charles Koffi Diby outlines incentives offered by the World Bank debt relief program

According to Ivorian Minister of Finance Charles Koffi Diby, the country's admission under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) will offer wide-ranging incentives likely to support the recovery of the economy. Speaking yesterday to media businessmen, Mr. Diby said that under the World Bank-sponsored program, the country's financial credibility will be restored. A recap in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5)*** suggested that the country's GDP will be boosted and foreign debts will be brought down.

Fraternite Matin (p. 5) carried a similar account, adding that besides the debt relief package, the country will benefit from additional incentives offered by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Paris Club.

3. Higher Education Minister Cisse Bacongo's right-hand man fired over financial scandal

According to an article in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 4)*** President Ouattara fired yesterday Mr. Adama Meite, the right-hand man of Ivorian Minister of Higher Education Cisse Bacongo. The daily noted that the decision came amidst allegations of embezzlement and corruption surrounding the rehabilitation of the country's public universities. The daily argued that a total of FCFA 40 billion (approximately US \$80 million) has reportedly been embezzled. Mr. Meite, an official from the Ministry of Higher Education in charge of the rehabilitation of Abidjan campuses is also accused of insider trading and mismanagement, the paper added.

Still on the issue, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** for its part noted that this financial scandal unveils a malaise within the Ivorian government. "Something is rotten in Ouattara's house," the paper said in a banner headline, adding that Mr. Meite is nothing but a scapegoat in this matter. According to the daily, the move could also be a pretense to postpone the reopening the country's public universities slated for next month.

4. President Ouattara to kick off the building of a coastal highway

According to an article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)** President Alassane Ouattara is to kick off today the construction of a new highway to connect Abidjan with Grand Bassam. The project, the paper said will pave the way for more commercial opportunities and facilitate the movement of people and goods.

5. The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to support the Ivorian media

According to an article in **L'Inter (p. 14)** the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is committed to supporting the Ivorian media. The information was given by the UN special envoy in Cote d'Ivoire Bert Koenders who met yesterday in Abidjan with the Ivorian Minister of Communication, Souleimane Diakite Coty. "The situation in Cote d'Ivoire calls for journalists to be at the front line to organize debates to help people shape their own opinions," Mr. Koenders reportedly said. "Together, we have discussed ways to build Ivorian journalists' capacities and the liberalization of the audiovisual sector," he added. According to Mr. Koenders, incidents such as the attack on the IDP camp in Duekoue last month could have been prevented if community radio stations operating in the region were efficiently used. He argued that these radio stations must be at the very heart of the reconciliation process, hence UNOCI's decision to support their rehabilitation nationwide.

6. Nine dead in an outbreak of rabies

According to a report in **Notre Voie (p. 6)** nine people have so far lost their lives in 2012 as a result of an outbreak of rabies in Cote d'Ivoire. Speaking yesterday at a conference in Abidjan, Professor Tiembre Issaka from the Anti-rabies Institute of Abidjan said a total of 4,718 cases of the infection have been registered nationwide since January. He called on people to ensure that they are immunized against the disease.



AUGUST 2, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Independent paper comments on Secretary Clinton's trip to Africa
2. Government suspends new university registration fees and taxes on rice importation
3. France and Cote d'Ivoire sign deals for new defense projects
4. Clash between Dozos and local population in Sinfra
5. Justice Minister meets with detained former regime officials

6. President Ouattara to attend funeral of the late Ghana president

1. Independent paper comments on Secretary Clinton's trip to Africa

"Why is Hillary Clinton travelling across Africa?" asks a headline in **L'Inter (p. 7)**. The commentary notes that six months after her trip to Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Sierra Leone, Secretary Clinton is back in Africa to deliver a speech that mainly focuses on democracy, economic growth and security. The writer asks whether, by these trips, "The United States can do better than China in Africa." The writer recalls that, during the just-ended China-Africa Cooperation Forum held in Beijing, President Hu Jintao "doubled China's aid to Africa, increasing it from US \$10 billion to US \$20 billion." "As if this is not enough, China has also pledged, among other things, to train 30,000 leaders and grant scholarships to students from Africa, while 1,500 Chinese health personnel are to be sent to the continent." Against this background, the writer opines that it would be difficult for Secretary Clinton "to convince" African leaders who are "overwhelmed by many Chinese gifts," that the U.S. has something better to offer.

2. Government suspends new university registration fees and taxes on rice importation

A banner headline in **Fraternite Matin (p. 1)** says that "new university registration fees and taxes on rice importation have been suspended in order to defuse tension" in the country. These major decisions were taken yesterday during the meeting of the Council of the Ministers that was presided over by President Alassane Ouattara, reports the paper (**p. 4**). Speaking to journalists after the meeting, government spokesman Bruno Kone reportedly said that the government has decided to suspend taxes on rice importation for "three months" because "rice is a very important food in Cote d'Ivoire and for some time now, parts of the population have been complaining about the high cost living." Regarding the new university registration fees that triggered uproar among the population, Kone said: "In reality, the decision was to improve the quality of education in Cote d'Ivoire... But the President of the Republic, given the current level of poverty in the country, has demanded that the decision be suspended," Kone said.

"Increase of registration fees at state universities: Ouattara says no!" says a prominent headline in **Nord-Sud Quotidien**. "This decision is not in line with my program," a front-page headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** quotes President Ouattara as saying; while **Le Nouveau Courrier** carries a front-page headline calling the government's decision to overrule the increase of the registration fees at state universities "a Machiavellian-style comedy." "Ouattara backs down in the face of public anger over the new university registration fees," reads a front-page headline in **Le Temps**.

3. France and Cote d'Ivoire sign deals for new defense projects

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** says that French Ambassador Georges Serre and the Ivorian Minister in Charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, yesterday signed a FCFA 1.5 billion (about US \$3 million) convention for the implementation of four defense projects in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the convention has been signed in the framework of the new defense agreement signed between France and Cote d'Ivoire in January 2012. Under the terms of this convention, France will support Cote d'Ivoire's army reforms and train army officers. Reporting on the same issue, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan** carries a front-page headline reading, "France is to open two war colleges in Zambakro after Ouattara's visit to France."

4. Clash between Dozos and local population in Sinfra

A front-page report in **Soir Info** says that at least one person has been killed, many others wounded and houses have been burned down during a clash between traditional hunters known as

Dozos and the local population in the central town of Sinfra. "After the Duekoue massacre, Dozos have again sown mayhem in Sinfra," reads a prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Courrier**. "One dead and many seriously wounded as Dozos attack a village near Sinfra," says a front-page headline in **Notre Voie**.

In another development, **Notre Voie** carries a front-page picture showing Amade Oueremi, a presumed warlord based in western Cote d'Ivoire, wearing the uniform of the government's FRCI forces. The paper (**p. 4**) carries another picture showing the controversial warlord standing with government authorities in the region. The paper is reacting to a statement by the Chief of Defense Staff, General Soumaila Bakayoko, who reportedly described Amade Oueremi as "a militiaman." The so-called warlord is also the subject of a front-page headline in **L'Inter** which informs readers that "Amade Oueremi is being hunted down in Mont Peko by government forces."

5. Justice Minister meets with detained former regime officials

A report in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** says that the Minister in Charge of Justice, Loma Cisse Matto has visited former regime officials detained in the northern town of Bouna. According to the paper, the visit was part a routine tour of the departments that fall under the administration of the minister. The report also quotes the minister as telling the detainees, including opposition FPI leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan that "I'm personally here to inquire about your health and living conditions in order to help improve them if necessary."

6. President Ouattara to attend funeral of the late Ghana president

Fraternite Matin (p. 7) announces that President Ouattara is expected in Accra on August 10th to attend the funeral of the late Ghanaian President John Evans Atta Mills who died on July 24th. According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**, the Ivorian leader was formally informed about the death of the president by a Ghanaian official delegation that called on him yesterday in Abidjan.



AUGUST 1, 2012

Today's Top Stories

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1. Ivorian Chief of Defense Staff vows to clean up the western region
2. Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali are to reinforce security along their borders
3. "UN calls on the government to end impunity," reports an opposition daily
4. President Ouattara's commitment to good governance
5. "Cote d'Ivoire needs FCFA 10 million to fight HIV/AIDS," says Health Minister
6. The next local elections in Cote d'Ivoire
7. President Obama's statement on the occasion of Ramadan

1. Ivorian Chief of Defense Staff vows to clean up the western region

The Ivorian Chief of Defense Staff, General Soumaila Bakayoko, has said that the army is to launch an exercise dubbed "Operation Mont Preko" designed to clean up this region in western Cote d'Ivoire reputed to be a den of militia groups, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 1). The exercise will help restore security and enable displaced people to return to their villages, the paper (p. 6) reports General Bakayoko as saying. The Ivorian army commander reportedly said that some 800 soldiers will be deployed and this contingent is enough to patrol the region.

With more on the security situation in the western Cote d'Ivoire in the wake of the deadly attacks near Duekoue, *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) quotes a government official as saying that "President Ouattara has decided to send a battalion to Duekoue." Minister of Employment and Social Affairs Gilbert Kafana Kone, who was at the head of a government delegation to the region, also said: "It's an operation that will take place without delay."

2. Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali to reinforce security along their borders

Experts from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali have met in Abidjan to develop plans aimed at monitoring security along the borders of these countries, reports *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5). The meeting was also designed to hammer out a mechanism that will help foster the free movement of people and goods in the West Africa region.

3. "UN calls on the government to end impunity," reports an opposition daily

"Impunity in Cote d'Ivoire: UNOCI steps up pressure on Ouattara," reads a front-page headline in *Notre Voie*. "The UN Special Representative has called on the government to make sure that the commissions of inquiry tasked to investigate different cases should be able to do their work," the paper (p. 3) quotes a statement released by the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire as saying after a meeting with the Minister in Charge of Justice Mattoh Cisse. "The UN is demanding the release of the conclusions of the inquiries ordered by the government," reads a headline in *L'Inter* (p. 2).

4. President Ouattara's commitment to good governance

A front-page headline in *L'Inter* suggests that President Ouattara is exercising "strong pressure" on members of his cabinet in order to ensure that they abide by good governance principles. According to the paper (p. 4), the president has put in place a strategy that enables him to monitor the performance of his ministers and state financial bodies including direct landlines to check when officials report to work.

5. "Cote d'Ivoire needs FCFA 10 billion to fight HIV/AIDS," says Health Minister

"We're looking for FCFA 10 billion (about US \$19 million) to provide care for patients," *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8) quotes the Minister of Health and the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Professor Therese N'Dri-Yoman as saying. According to the paper, the minister was speaking at the 19th International Conference on AIDS that kicked off last Sunday in Washington, DC. On the question of what the government is doing to meet the Millennium Challenge Corporation's criterion related to health, the minister said: "We need to increase the immunization rate for children to 95 percent and hence reduce the mortality rate" for the same age group. She also disclosed that she had met PEPFAR officials who, she said, have pledged to help train Ivorian health personnel.

6. The next local elections in Cote d'Ivoire

A prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil** claims that the municipal and regional elections, which were scheduled for November 2012, are likely to be postponed to 2013. The paper (**p. 2**) suggests that the local elections could be delayed in order to respect the will of President Ouattara who “needs enough time to settle certain issues” in order to facilitate “inclusive” elections. Through these elections, the head of state wants to give the national reconciliation process underway in Cote d’Ivoire another chance, writes the paper which, however, stresses that “the move is not to surrender to the FPI’s grievances.”

7. President Obama’s statement on the occasion of Ramadan

“Islam is part of our Nation,” a front-page headline in **Islam Info** quotes President Obama as saying in a statement issued by The White House on the celebration of Ramadan.

Media affiliation and circulation

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

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

