



UNOCI

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Editorial

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have within the past months assumed the task of assisting in preserving the stability of the Ivorian/Liberian border in the wake of the 2010 presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire. A meeting which took place on Wednesday August 17 between the security forces of Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire in Monrovia and which was attended by the UN Missions in the two countries was in line with demands aimed at exploring ways and means of cooperating between the four forces in order to ensure security during the forthcoming referendum in Liberia and parliamentary election in Cote d'Ivoire. If not well managed, the consequences of the security situation could go far beyond the scope of the two countries. Recent happenings in the sub region have

gone to confirm the necessity to encourage countries of the sub region to exercise solidarity and be proactive. At the level of Cote d'Ivoire, the security question has been highlighted as unavoidable at a moment when all eyes are on the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) which is charged with organizing parliamentary election. "The Electoral Commission is about to fully resume its activities and would be in a position, after examining the situation, to inform the government about a possible date for the legislative election," the IEC Chairman Youssouf Bakayoko told the press after a meeting with the Ivorian Head of State, Alassane Ouattara on August 11, 2011. The meeting followed the signing of a presidential decree appointing members of the central commission of the IEC. The IEC Chairman is at present waiting for the official transmis-

sion of the decree by the Secretary-General of Government before swearing in the new central commissioners before the Constitutional Council. Certain preconditions must be fulfilled before the holding of parliamentary election which would permit Cote d'Ivoire to put in place all the institutions worthy of a democratic state and to concentrate on other tasks. At the level of the post crisis environment, the situation has clearly improved as people begin to realize that "it was possible". Another sensitive point, human rights remains top on the agenda with varying interpretations at times. With regard to this subject, there is unanimity as to the question of putting an end to impunity and UNOCI continues without reserve to support the Ivorian government in this direction as well as other efforts aimed at leading the country to a lasting return to normality.

1 *UNOCI in action*

• SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BIDS FAREWELL TO BURKINA PRESIDENT BLAISE CAMPAORE

The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General Y.J. Choi visited Ouagoudou on Thursday 18 August for a meeting with President Blaise Campaore, Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian dialogue. Mr. Choi informed Mr. Campaore of UNOCI's efforts to assist the government overcome the effects of the post-electoral crisis such as the construction of military camps to help solve the security problems. Mr. Choi announced after his meeting that "there were good signs for the return of peace in Cote d'Ivoire and said he thought the new authorities should give priority to the establishment of

order and stability and national reconciliation as well as organize parliamentary election scheduled for end of year." He was accompanied by the new Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General, Arnauld Akodjenou. Mr. Choi also used the occasion to bid farewell to the Burkina President with whom he had worked for four years to find a lasting solution to the Ivorian crisis. It should be noted that Mr. Choi ends his term of office on 31 August 2011 as Head of UNOCI and would be replaced by Bert Koenders.



• UNOCI'S NO. 2 DISCUSSES WITH PRESIDENT OF LIDER

Also on 17 August, Deputy Special Representative Arnauld Akodjenou met with the president of the Liberte et Democratie pour la Republique (LIDER) party, Mamadou Koulibaly. After the courtesy visit, Mr. Akodjenou said the meeting was an opportunity for him to explain his role at UNOCI and the objectives of the UN mission. On his part, Mr. Koulibaly presented the problems faced by the National Assembly and the role his party intends to play in the political life of Cote d'Ivoire. The Deputy Special Representative said he had "expressed our concern to see political actors take part in forthcoming elections and Mr. Koulibaly made me understand that his party would take necessary steps to play the role it had assigned itself." Mr. Koulibaly also said he was satisfied that UNOCI was willing to increase



its contribution to accelerate the return to normality in Cote d'Ivoire.

• DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETS DELEGATION OF FPI PARTY.

The Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Arnauld Kodjenou paid a courtesy call, on the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI) led by its Secretary-General Laurent Akoun in Abidjan on 17 August 2011. Mr. Akodjenou said the visit was within the framework of making contact with the political, economic and civil society actors, especially stakeholders in the crisis-resolution process. He said he had retained three main points of the visit including the need to dialogue, close a chapter and work for the future so that solid and respectable institutions accepted by all are established in the country as well as the role FPI intends to play in collaboration with UNOCI. "We are willing to continue playing the role assigned to us, to work for the consolidation of the peace process so that national reconciliation can be effective and the security of persons and property are guaranteed," Mr. Akodjenou concluded.

On behalf of FPI, Mr. Laurent Akou said he was pleased to discuss issues related to the electoral process, the security of persons and property and the organization of open, just and transparent elections such that a credible opposition that counterbalances the regime in power



can exist. Regarding the return of exiles, Mr. Akou said "it was all one and the same and we hope the new authorities accept that we sit down and discuss in order to reduce the tension in the country and that every one resumes his normal activities to produce wealth that would be redistributed."

• UNOCI LENDS SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY RETURNEES IN NIABLY

UNOCI has been assisting 81 displaced families who had taken refuge in the Catholic Mission in Duekoue to return to their homes in Niably village. According to Commander Mebtoul Mohammed, officer in charge of civilian-military affairs in the UN Moroccan battalion, UNOCI's assistance was at several levels including regular day and night patrols to ensure the security of returnees. The Moroccan battalion offers free medical consultations and treatment every week and distributes drinking water two to three times per week to the needy. These utilities would continue to be provided until NGOs and humanitarian agencies can take over. These 81 families comprising 525 persons decided

to quit the precarious situation in their place of refuge to return to their village in order to harvest their crops. Even though all is not yet in place to provide their needs, the returnees decided to use the Government primary school premises as a temporary abode, using the homes of teachers as kitchen and the classrooms as dormitories. While waiting for their houses to be rehabilitated, the organizing committee has asked each household to maintain cleanliness in the premises. Natives of another village, Toa-Zeo on the Duekoue-Bagohou highway have addressed a request to the Moroccan battalion to provide assistance in food and non food items to facilitate the return of their own displaced persons.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Together we say **NO!**

To impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence



Let's advance on the road to peace

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2 UNOCI meets the press :

Mr. Ndolamb Ngokwey, Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire and Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator of the UN system fielded questions at UNOCI's weekly press conference last Thursday at the UN mission's HQ. He made a review of his recent visit to the West of the country accompanied by the Minister of State in charge of Employment, Social Affairs and Solidarity, Gilbert Kafana Kone and the Minister of Family, Women and Children's Affairs. Raymonde Coffie Goudou. Before he took the floor, the mission's spokesman Hamadoun Toure gave a rundown of the mission's activities. Excerpts:

« The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Y.J. Choi was in Ouagadougou on Thursday 18 August to brief the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian dialogue, Burkina Faso President Blaise Campaore.

Mr Choi took the opportunity of the visit to say farewell to the Burkinabe President with whom he had worked closely for four years to find a lasting solution to the Ivorian conflict.

UNOCI's Force Commander Gnakoude Berena led a UNOCI delegation to Liberia for a four-party conference on strengthening security along the Ivorian- Liberian border.

UNOCI continued its sensitization programme through its grassroots visits dubbed ONUCI Tour. »

Humanitarian situation

« 44323 internally displaced persons returned to their



homes in the Moyen Cavally region and the Montagnes area while at Toulepleu, 30% of displaced persons did likewise.

The humanitarian situation remains a cause for concern as there is continual movement of people requiring protection.

30079 displaced persons are spread over 48 refugee camps throughout the country while 171362 Ivorian refugees are still in Liberia.

The humanitarian community continues to respond to the best of their ability to the situation under the coordination of the UN NGOs and also the government with an increasing presence of more active Prefects.

Food insecurity is on the rise with 30% of households

i.e. 31400 persons exposed to this critical situation.

The end of the post-electoral crisis is not the end of the humanitarian crisis. The ongoing trend for displaced persons to return to their homes should be encouraged because in reality every returnee is an ambassador of peace, an ambassador of reconciliation because to return in security and to return in dignity is a message to others to also return and that the situation has improved.

3 *Sensitization :*

- **Kombolokoura Sensitised on Reconciliation and the Right of the Child by UNOCI**

The population of Kombolokoura, 603 km north of Abidjan on Tuesday 16 August received a UNOCI delegation which had come to promote reconciliation and the respect of the rights of the child. After presenting the objectives of the UN mission, Desire Dago of the Public Information Office enlightened the people on the values of the culture of peace such as democracy, non violence and the respect of the environment and human rights. Magloire Agoua of the Child Protection Office reiterated the rights of the child and called on the population to turn their backs on harmful practices such as female circumcision, child labour and forced marriages.



- **UNOCI Contributes to Success of International Youth Day**

UNOCI on 12 August 2011 took part in festivities marking the International Youth Day. Celebrations were held in the Abidjan district of Cocody and the National Assembly on the theme: "Mutual understanding and professional training for youths, a guarantee for the



acceptance of peace and sustainable development." In Cocody, the International Association Africa Survive took the initiative to organize the event in collaboration with the Commission for youth, education and employment of the Ivorian Convention of Civil Society (CSCI). The occasion, presided over by the Director of Social Cohesion, Mrs. Laurence Kouassi brought together some 500 participants from several youth movements and associations as well as representatives of the UN system and the Ivorian administration. CSCI's General coordinator, Patrick Ngouan launched an urgent appeal to the youths: "Each and every one of you should in his or her own way contribute to the ongoing reconstruction process in Cote d'Ivoire. For her part, Mrs. Kouassi gave useful advice to the youths and urged them to lead a life that is free from violence and to encourage mutual understanding. Two discussion panels on the contribution of the youths to the promotion of human rights and democracy constituted the second part of the celebration.

Five talks were given by representatives from UNOCI, UN Development Programme, and the Ivorian Commission for Human Rights, the research centre for peace of the Houphouet Boigny Foundation and the Agency for Studies and Promotion of Employment. Rosalie Botti, president of the National Confederation of Food stuff Sector and Vianney Koffi a young entrepreneur who runs a security agency made stimulating presentations of their professional and social success. Simultaneously at the National Assembly, a workshop was organised for young parliamentarians of Côte d'Ivoire on the theme:

"The commitment of the youths to a peaceful post crisis environment". The representative of the President of the Assembly, Kra Kouakou called on the young parliamentarians to work resolutely for national reconciliation, asking them to gain knowledge from the workshop and be true messengers among their peers. During workshop, Marguerite Yoli Bi Kone and Djeneba Kouassi Dosso of UNOCI's Civil Affairs Office educated the youths on their role and responsibilities towards the strengthening of social cohesion and national reconciliation.

• Bongouanou youths celebrate peace and reconciliation

Bongouanou, 217 km north of Abidjan, was the scene of a grassroots campaign organised by the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) that centred around two football matches held to mark the International Youth Day. In view of forthcoming parliamentary election, Cécile Senghor of UNOCI's Public Information Office in Yamoussoukro had a word of advice for the youths; "What is important is to vote and to accept the verdict of the polls." She pointed out that acceptance of the results is a sign of fair play as recommended in sport regulations. UN Police Commander Alex Mudekereza, after having presented the objectives of UNPOL, reminded the population that Côte d'Ivoire was now in the era of reconciliation. On his part, the Mayor of Bongouanou, Jean Kouame Allou told the youths that they were the driving force in society and that they should be part of the campaign for peace and social cohesion and not remain on the fringes of the peace and reconciliation policy. On behalf of the youths, Pacome Akesse asked his comrades to draw lessons from the painful events the



country had gone through and from which, he said, no family was spared. "If we love our country, if we struggle for ourselves and future generations, it is imperative that we live together," he said. He called on the youths to comb the hamlets and villages and spread the message of peace, concord and social cohesion.

• UNOCI supports tournament of reconciliation in Gregbeu

A UNOCI delegation comprising the Human Rights Office and Public Information Office as well as the Formed Police Unit of the Jordanian Special Force took part in a reconciliation tournament held on



Saturday 13 August 2011 organised by the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) in Gregbeu. The youths of the area who were the main target of the event attended while administrative authorities including the sub Prefects of Gregbeu, Zoukougbeu and Daloa boosted the tournament with their presence. The Gregbeu sub prefect lauded the initiative which she said contributes to consolidating social cohesion. Mr. Prosper Shabanni who led the UNOCI delegation said he was pleased to take part in the tournament. "If UNOCI accepted to be with you, it is because sport promotes the values of fair play. Besides, football is a sport which brings people together and contributes to social cohesion. Gifts, including footballs and sandals were made to the two teams which played the final. Although Benkadi team won the game by one-nil, the real winner was peace.

- **The population of Datta sensitized on social cohesion and peaceful environment**

More than 70 people including community and religious leaders on 12 August assembled at the youth centre of Datta village in sub prefecture of Divo, 189 km from Abidjan to participate in a sensitization programme dubbed ONUCU Tour which focused on the promotion of social cohesion and the preservation of a peaceful environment. After a word of welcome by the village chief, Jean Pierre Kokou, Joseph Wabatinga of the Public Information Office in Divo called on the community leaders to sensitise their various areas to cultivate a spirit of tolerance, fair play and freedom of opinion in order that the forthcoming parliamentary election would be conducted in peace. Natalie Patricia Sarafian stressed the need to cultivate solidarity in diversity so as to consolidate social cohesion and ensure the development of Datta. She urged the community leaders to be impartial because their words and deeds could encourage social cohesion but could also destroy entire lives if poorly managed. Jean -Pierre Mbayahaga of the regional electoral office in Divo encouraged them to sensitise the youths on the need to let everyone to express him or herself freely during the election because, as he reminded them, freedom of expression is a factor of democracy in a country." Several obstacles to social cohe-



sion were raised by the population who regard them as a drawback to social cohesion in Datta village. These include a rise in boundary disputes, intolerance towards members of certain political parties and the fate of those enrolled in the electoral register but who did not obtain national identity and voting cards. On behalf of the community, Venoraud Kouame promised to do everything to ensure that the forthcoming election takes place in peace and expressed the wish to increase activities that promote of peace.

- **UNOCI Awards prizes to students of Lycee Relais of Daloa**

UNOCI was part of a ceremony to award prizes to the best students of the Relais Lycee of Daloa on 12 August 2011. Some 30 best students from form one to upper sixth received various gifts from UNOCI. Speaking on the occasion, Fatou Thiam of the Human Right Office encouraged the students who had worked under very difficult conditions. "Despite the loss of your belongings and loved ones, you did not allow yourself to be discouraged and had persevered in your studies to obtain good results." Addressing volunteer teachers, she congratulated them for having given their time and knowledge in order that the education of the child which is a fundamental right is respected. Abdourahman Ganda of UNOCI's Civil Affairs Office gave a talk on the importance of social cohesion for students. "You cannot realize your dreams if there is no peace and there cannot be peace if there is no social cohesion and there cannot be social cohesion if there is no reconciliation. You need this peace, this social cohesion and this reconciliation so that your dreams can become reality," he elaborated. Evidently pleased, the students thanked UNOCI for the initiative while some of them read messages of peace to participants. The regional Director of Education in Haut Bassandrea, Georges Dogbo explained that the Lycee Relais was born at the outbreak of the post-elec-



toral crisis in November in Duekoue in November 2010. More than 2000 students fleeing the fighting took refuge in the quieter zones such as Daloa. Other students from the Centre, North and Western zones also enrolled in the Lycee. Following a return to calm, a greater part of them have returned home to Man, Odienné, Touba, and Duekoue while 200 have remained in Daloa to continue their studies.

- **Two Hundred Children sensitized by UNOCI on values of peace**

About 200 children between the ages of 6 and 16 taking part in a holiday camp at the Catholic centre in Balouzzon were sensitized by UNOCI on the values of peace. The theme for this third edition of the holiday camp, Father Joseph Adeoko said was: "Peace is me, it is you, and it is each one of us." The campaign conducted by UNOCI's Public Information

Office in Daloa was aimed at sowing the grain of peace in the minds of the youngsters, the adults of tomorrow. Mrs. Coulibaly Fatoum of the Public Information Office conducted an interactive discussion consisting in asking questions on the topics of peace, national reconciliation and social cohesion. The campaign continues next week on the topic of HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.



4 *Messages of peace...*

Amos Tueche Albin of UNOCI's Electoral Assistance Office (UNOCI Tour)

« At a time Côte d'Ivoire is gradually emerging from the crisis, our role consists in supporting you to maintain and preserve peace in reconciliation. »

Cecile Senghor of Public Information Office in Yamoussoukro (Reconciliation tournament in Bongouanou)

« What is important is to vote and after the vote, accept the verdict of the polls by avoiding quarrels and useless palaver. »

Pacome Akese, spokesman of Bongouanou youths

« If we love our country and if we are struggling for ourselves and future generations, it is imperative that we live together. »

Ntakpe Marilyne (Workshop for young parliamentarians)

« I think that each and every one of us has directly or indirectly been affected by the crisis but we should overcome our frustrations and achieve real peace and concretize reconciliation. »

Tchouhou Lou Yoro Fabiola, form 3 student (Prize giving ceremony to best students by UNOCI)

« In order to reconcile Côte d'Ivoire, we the youths must cultivate tolerance, respect, willingness to serve and to help, hospitality and love. »

Francoise Simard, official of UNOCI's Human Rights Office (Reopening of Abidjan main prison rehabilitated with contributions from UNOCI)

« This is an important step forward with regard to the rule of law and the revival of the functioning of state institutions. We must congratulate the Ivorian government for its determination to reopen the prison. »

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ONUCI FM's FREQUENCIES

ABENGOUROU 94.7 • ABIDJAN 96.0 • ADZOPE 96.0 • BANGOLO 91.1 • BONDOUKOU 100.1 • BOUAKÉ 95.3 • BOUNA 102.8 • BOUNDIALI 90.0 • DABAKALA 93.9 • DALOA 91.4 • DANANÉ 97.6 DAOUKRO 94.7 • DUEKOUÉ 91.1 • FERKESSEDOUGOU • 104.4 • GUIGLO 93.7 • KORHOGO 95.3 • MAN 95.3 • ODIENNÉ 101.1 • SAN-PEDRO 106.3 • SEGUELA 101.8 • TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93.7 • YAMOUSSOUKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

5 Postelectoral situation :

Abidjan's main prison (MACA) was reopened on 16 August 2011 following an extensive rehabilitation and renovation work undertaken by the government with the support of UNOCI. UNOCI's contribution included the rehabilitation of the administrative block and the provision of registers and computers. During the post-election crisis, 17 out of 37 jurisdictions and 22 out of 33 prisons in Côte d'Ivoire were looted and damaged. Twelve thousand inmates escaped prison and none has been captured till today. UNOCI through its Rule of Law Office very rapidly helped the Ministry of Justice to take stock of the damage and through its Quick Impact

Projects could assist the government to rehabilitate the prisons in Abidjan, Agboville, Daloa, Dimbroko and Tiassale and to equip the magistrate's court in Yopougon. As of today, four prisons have been reopened: Boundiali, Bouna, Katiola and Abidjan and the first three had not been affected by the recent crisis. They had been destroyed in 2002 but were rehabilitated thanks to financing by the German government obtained through UNOCI. They were equipped by the Ivorian government and reopened last July. At the reopening ceremony of the MACA, the Minister of Justice announced his intention to reopen those of Dimbroko, Daloa and Agboville very soon.

6 Portrait : Ali Ouattara, driver-translator, UNOCI's Human rights Office in Korhogo

"Besides the work of driver or field assistant, we are messengers of human rights and show the example every day in our respective communities. The people should cultivate the respect for human rights so that real peace is restored."

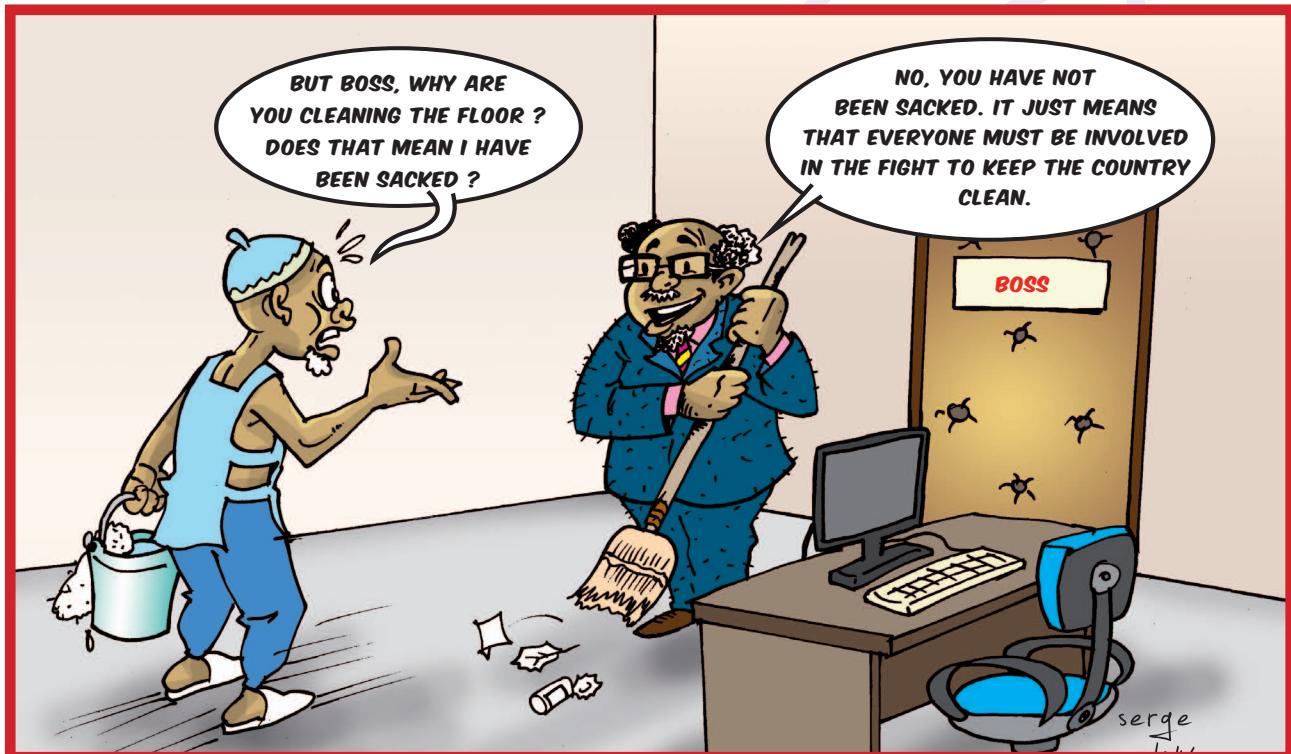
Just as in every professional corps at UNOCI, field assistants and drivers contribute in their own way to the implementation of the mandate of the UN mission. Everyone is concerned with the quest for peace. Ali Ouattara, driver-translator at UNOCI's Human Rights Office in Korhogo recounts the contribution of a field assistant. Discretion, rigour in work and the constant desire to cultivate oneself, according to Ali, are the qualities expected of a field assistant. This father of three joined the UN mission in 2008 and has been criss-crossing the villages, hamlets and towns of the Savanne region with officials of the Human rights Office to sensitise the population on the respect of human rights.

With regard to following up cases related to violations of human rights, he leaves the task to specialists, follows up files and acts as interpreter to the Malinke speaking population who have problems understanding the French language during discussions.



The secret of the success in this task is his willingness to learn with the aid of documents of the Human Rights Office and on the internet as well as seeking clarifications on complex issues from human rights officers of his department. By so doing, he believes he is contributing to the return of peace in his country and to the inculcation of the respect of human rights among the population who are largely illiterate in a region where female circumcision, forced marriages and the violation of the rights of women is rife. "Besides the work of driver or field assistant, we are messengers of human rights and every day we set the example in our respective communities," he explained. He wishes Ivorians a leap forward so that lasting peace would be restored and life comes back to what it was several years ago. "It is important for Ivorians to learn to live together again because one of the qualities of his people is the ability to overcome division and to work for the well-being and development of the nation," he said with conviction.

7 Image of the week



8 What's new on ONUCI FM ...?

ONUCI FM the Radio for peace whose aim is to inform Ivorians of the peace and reconciliation process is proposing the following programmes beginning from Friday 19 August 2011 with a special report at 7h40 on bomb clearance and removal of toxic wastes. At 9h10 Unity in Diversity shares with you the expectations of the population regarding the new administration.

On Saturday 20 August we bring you our Special Guest at 8h112 and at 9h10 the Review of the Week. In the afternoon, Zikculture at 17h05 and Destination musique at 18h06 for your relaxation.

On Sunday August 21, we'll be coming on live from 8h to 12h and from 16h we bring you our sport magazine Dimanche Sport with a spotlight on Afrobasket currently taking place at Madagascar.

On Monday August 22 at 7h40 ONUCI ACTION FM Reportage talks about the return of life in the Carrefour quarter of Duekoue. At 8h50 Parlons de la Paix focuses

on a student living in fear of being captured by militiamen. At 9h40 Garbadrone sensitizes the audience on the dangers of bleaching the skin.

On Tuesday August 23 ONUCI ACTION FM with the NGO Nourriture pour Tous in Odienne to showcase the fight against hunger. At 9h40 ONUCI FM Reportage takes a look at the difficulties Moslem families are facing during this period of fasting. At 10h30 ONUCI Reportage takes us to Siranna to note the return of economic activities in this north-west frontier zone of Côte d'Ivoire. And on Wednesday 24 August at 7h40 ONUCI FM Reportage will be in Man where an agricultural cooperative in the mountainous West provides jobs for young people through labour intensive projects.

At 8h50 Parlons de Paix will be examining the mechanisms of conflict management and reconstruction. At 10h30 Enfant en Action tells us how students prepare for end of year exams.

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