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Editorial

During the past several weeks, Cote d'Ivoire has been going through a zone of turbulence marked by various types of violent attacks, the latest being those against the provisional headquarters of the former ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party and the head office of the press group which publishes pro-FPI newspapers on the 18 and 19 August 2012. The violence and the attendant climate of fear it imposes have taken a toll on the national reconciliation process. In different press releases related to the incidents, the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) reiterated its appeal for calm and restraint especially in this crucial period in which Cote d'Ivoire is engaged on the path of reconstruction through the establishment of an inclusive and constructive dialogue aimed at a lasting solution of the national crisis. UNOCI also encouraged the Ivorian government not only to open an investigation into these violent incidents and to sanction their perpetrators but also to take urgent and concrete measures to propel the national reconciliation process which is indispensable for a return to normality in Cote d'Ivoire. This also entails fighting against the proliferation of arms and the disarming ex-combatants. On this latter point, the creation by presidential decree of a single au-

thority to manage the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is an important act which would permit the identification of all those who took up arms to give them up and be given a chance to be reintegrated into the economic life of the country. The revamping of this process which has gone through ups and downs must take into account those who have been demobilized and those who were about to be demobilised. Over and above all, Cote d'Ivoire is engaged on several fronts such as the reopening of the university academic year 2012/2013 earmarked for 3 September, one year after it was closed. This citadel of learning was for nearly a decade the home of violence which deteriorated during the post-electoral crisis into the deplorable state we all know. Cote d'Ivoire is at a cross-road and expectations among the population are high. On the border areas, vigilance has been stepped up with the help of the Impartial Forces supporting Ivorian forces. But all the components of society must play their role for calm to return, for equitable justice to be established, for the respect of human rights to become a reality, for the re-launch of the economy and development and for health for all to attain smooth sailing.

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1 UNOCI in action :

• BERT KOENDERS ON MISSION TO THE WEST

The Special Representative of UN Secretary-general to Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders paid a 2-day visit to the West and Centre-West of Cote d'Ivoire on 22 August 2012. Apart from discussions with local authorities and different target groups to evaluate the security and humanitarian situation, Mr. Koenders inaugurated the building of the new community radio of Guemon known as <La Voix du Guemon > located in Duekoue, 502 km north-west of Abidjan. A huge crowd of community leaders, economic operators, youth and women's associations, religious leaders and managers of community radios in the Western part of the country who came from Man, Toulepleu, Danane, Daloa, attended the inaugural ceremony. In his welcome address, the Mayor of Duekoue, Paul Mondouho said he was pleased with the presence of the Special Representative who had shown compassion for the families of victims of the recent spate of violence that hit the area. The simultaneous inauguration of the Guemon radio, the cultural centre and the network of radios in the West all contributed in giving weight to Mr. Koender's visit. Giving a rundown of the history of the radio, the Mayor who also happens to be its director, retraced the origins of the station. The Guemon radio began broadcasting in June 2008 but was pillaged during the post-electoral crisis. There was an attempt to rehabilitate it by some businessmen and donors but the house subsequently caught fire. It has now been rehabilitated and would run for the next 3 months thanks to UNOCI. In his inaugu-



ral speech, the Special Representative welcomed the assistance provided to community radios by Internews in the line of capacity building of the staff. With regard to the phenomenon of rumour mongering which is trying to set the daily pace in Duekoue, Mr. Koenders said "the biggest risk to peace comes from rumours," adding: "I would like that this radio to reinforce listeners' groups. The staff of UNOCI is there for all Ivorians without distinction." After a visit of the radio studio and control room, Mr. Koenders went on the air with a message of peace to the people of Duekoue. Before returning to Abidjan, the UNOCI Chief visited man where he met the State Counsel of the Court of First Instance and to Gagnoa for the award of medals to UNOCI's Niger Battalion.

• UNOCI CHIEF REVIEWS IVORIAN SITUATION WITH UN AGENCIES AND NGOS

The Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Cote d'Ivoire, Bert Koenders on Friday 17 August 2012 held a working session with repre-



sentatives of UN agencies and their development partners on the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire. Talking on the recent attacks perpetrated in various parts of the country and which he condemned, Mr. Koenders explained measures taken by the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). "We are working with Ivorians to reduce the risks, to make the country secure and we have launched an appeal for calm, hoping at the same time that the reconciliation process and the security sector reforms would continue," he said. Remarking that it was important "not to underestimate or over estimate the security problems of the country," Mr. Koenders stressed the need for all including the Ivorian actors, all the communities and political parties to direct all energies towards the prevention of conflict, reconciliation in the various towns and villages and to continue to improve the work that remains to be done.

On behalf of the UN agencies, the head of the FAO, Marie-Noelle Koyara welcomed the holding of the meeting which permitted an exchange of information that formed the basis for a review and re-adaptation of the method of intervention in the country in collaboration with its international NGO partners. This concerns, she added, the strengthening of collaboration, attai-

ning better efficiency, and getting better results in the west of the country where problems keep mounting. "It is important that we stand by Cote d'Ivoire in order that the situation returns to normal and that our brothers and sisters who went abroad can return in safety to the country and to resume work on the land and other activities while feeling like Ivorians in their home."

• NEW COMMANDER OF UNOCI'S SECTOR EAST VISITS TROOPS IN KORHOGO

Brigadier-General Mohammad Yousaf, military Commander of UNOCI Force in Sector East paid a 3-day contact visit to Korhogo on 21 August 2012 following his appointment on 10 August. He held a working session with officers and sub officers of the Niger Battalion as well as military observers based in Korhogo and Ferkessedougou. During his tour, the Commander made a firsthand assessment of the condition of work and the difficulties faced by his men in the field. He told the military observers that he hoped their patrols would enable them respond to the concerns of the people through quick impact projects. Before returning to base in Bouake, General Yousaf paid a courtesy visit to local administrative and military authorities of the Ferkessedougou, Boundiali and Korhogo divisions.



2 UNOCI meets the press :

The UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire held its weekly press conference at its headquarters in Abidjan on 23 August 2012 with its interim Spokesman Kenneth Blackman conducting the conference. Here are some excerpts:

• Activities of Special Representative

- Mr. Koenders yesterday (22 August) began a visit to Duekoue. Today he goes to Man and Gagnoa before returning to Abidjan.

- In Duekoue, the Special Representative began his visit with a meeting bringing together youths from the various communities of the division to discuss ways in which they can contribute to peaceful coexistence among all the components of the different communities. He later met with the leaders of the different ethnic groups of the division as well as the administrative authorities and the elites of the region. The Special Representative also met with representa-



tives of political parties.

- The aim of the mission was to take cognizance of the realities of the region, listen to the different actors and the population and to discuss the challenges facing the reconciliation process, how they intend to confront these challenges and what UNOCI can do to support their efforts to achieve reconciliation and social cohesion.

- For the Special Representative and as far as the Mission is concerned, this aspect of reconciliation is of utmost importance because it is indispensable for the establishment of a lasting security for all the inhabitants of the country.

• Security situation

- An important aspect of this is disarmament, demobilization and reintegration coupled with security sector reforms and the fight against the proliferation of illicit arms in the country. In this regard, Mr. Koenders welcomes the decree issued by Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara creating an Authority charged with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). It is a step toward the realization of DDR and UNOCI is ready to give all its support to the new Authority within the limits of its mandate and means.

- Permit me to cite as an example the patrols of the UNOCI Force: a year ago they made an average of 1,200 to 1,400 land and air patrols per week. This year, up till the month of June, the number varied between 1,300 and 1,600 and during the week just ended, it rose to 1,800 land and air patrols including those of the M1-24 helicopter. The aim is to continue to improve measures to protect the civilian population and, in general, the security environment of the country.

• Human rights

- Mr. Koenders also stressed the need to put an end to impunity. This explains why he is today meeting the State Counsel of Man to discuss the need to finalise the investigation into the recent attack on Duekoue. UNOCI has offered its technical assistance and support for the reform of the judiciary.

• Sensitisation Activities

- UNOCI has equally continued its sensitization activities which make it possible to discuss with the population and especially to realize that we all share the same concerns about peace and the development of their communities, villages, towns and nation. The Mission has scheduled sensitization campaigns between 27 and 29 August in Bogohou and Sibably situated between Duekoue and Kouibly; in Diai in the Meo sub prefecture towards Toulepleu; at Minignan in the north-west; then from 29 to 31 August, the town of Grand Lahou will host UNOCI Days that would comprise humanitarian, cultural and sporting activities and an open discussion forum.

3 Sensitisation :

• UNOCI and American embassy train press correspondents in Odiene district

The 16th U.S. President Abraham Lincoln once said “when a people are informed of the facts, the country is protected from danger.” This observation formed the basis for the American embassy in collaboration with the UN Operation in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI) to organize a seminar for media correspondents on 21 August in Odiene. The aim was to improve the reporting and investigative skills of journalists covering the Denguele region with a focus on national reconciliation. According to the American press attaché in Cote d’Ivoire, Philipp Grant, the training falls within the framework of the U.S. government support to Cote d’Ivoire in the area of press freedom as well as press responsibility and duty toward restoring a lasting peace in the country. UNOCI support for the seminar was an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment not only to press freedom but also to stress the important role journalists must play in this period of reconstruction and reconciliation, deepening the roots of democracy and consolidating peace. Fifteen media practitioners including newspaper corres-



pondents and community radio managers attended the seminar conducted by Mr. Teko Folly, information officer at the American embassy and Mr. Kebe Yacouba of UNOCI’s regional Public Information Office. The seminar covered basic journalistic skills as well as principles and ethics of investigative journalism.



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- **UNOCI quick impact projects handed over to the people of Gallea II and Soubre**

The Gallea II primary school was the venue for the handing-over ceremony of three classrooms, two water pumps and a voluntary AIDS testing centre



to serve the people of the Soubre sub prefecture, 343 km west of Abidjan. The classrooms, rehabilitated and renovated by UNOCI, were part of a protocol agreement

signed during UNOCI Days held in Soubre between 21 and 23 March 2012. The handing-over, presided over by the Secretary-general of the Soubre Prefecture, Bonaventure Tiegbe who represented the Prefect of Nawa Region, was attended by administrative, political and traditional authorities as well as a cross section of the population. Mr. Tiegbe said the project will have a positive impact on the population. The classrooms, he said, would “improve the condition of learning for our children while the water pumps would help to protect the vulnerable population from diarrhea.” The president of the management committee of the Gallea Primary School, Mamadou Bamba urged local education authorities and the population to take good care of the renovated building constructed in 2007 but which did not have adequate number of classrooms. The Deputy Mayor of Soubre, Mr. Abdoulaye Bamba also spoke on the same vein. Concluding the event which brought happiness to the inhabitants, the Prefect’s representative, Bonaventure Tiegbe reaffirmed the commitment of Cote d’Ivoire to stand by UNOCI in its efforts to promote peace and social cohesion.



- **UNOCI and the sub Prefect of Goudouko appease the people of Kouassillie village**

During these troubling times that Cote d’Ivoire is undergoing, UNOCI is determined to stand by the Ivorian people and their authorities. This determination was shown on 21 August 2012 on the occasion of the 5th leg of the sensitization tour undertaken by the sub Prefect of Goudouko, Coulibaly Yaya to promote national reconciliation and social cohesion during which he was accompanied by UNOCI to Kouassillie, 248 km west of Abidjan. The sensitization tour came on the dawn of a clash between units of the Republican Forces (FRCI) and the population in which one person died. Addressing the people, Mr. Yaya pointed out that the greatest enemy of social cohesion in the Lakota division was rumours and that it was absolutely necessary to fight against this harmful practice by relaying information through persons capable of handling information in a responsible manner. He urged the people to encourage those who had fled the villages to return home, pointing out that his presence there was aimed at reassuring and appeasing the people. The Chiefs of Gbogoudou and Kouassillie, Adolphe Gnegbe Yao and Gilles Doukoure spoke mainly on the role and powers of village chiefs as auxiliaries of



the administration. They demonstrated that the notions of role and powers have been so mixed up that they have lost the respect of their supposed subjects.

They however reminded the people that they remain veritable interlocutors of the sub Prefect and expressed the wish that the sub Prefect reestablish their position. The sub Prefect gave a favourable ear to their concerns and announced that henceforth, rumour mongers would be handed over to the police and gendarmerie to answer for their crime. UNOCI representatives also used the op-

portunity to make a plea for the hand-over of illicit arms, for social cohesion among the different communities, the respect for traditional authority and elders, the fight against rumours and vengeance and a return to traditional methods of conflict resolution which used to ensure the maintenance of social balance before the post-electoral crisis.

4 Messages of peace...

Bonaventure Tiegbe, Secretary-General of Prefecture of Soubre (Handing-over of UNOCI quick impact projects)

"If you yourself succeed in raising your water pot to your knees, someone will be there to help you place it on your head. Peace is primarily your responsibility before UNOCI comes in to help us."

Coulibaly Yaya, sub Prefect of Goudouko (sensitization in collaboration with UNOCI)

"Reconciliation requires before anything else, the

disarming of hearts; each person should accept the reconciliation process by taking a step on the road to peace."

Bamba Mamadou, President of Gallea Primary School management committee (Handing over of quick impact projects)

"We were strongly encouraged to hate ourselves and then abandoned thereafter. Today UNOCI brings us peace symbolized by 3 classrooms and 2 water pumps."

5 Postelectoral situation :

The crisis-resolution demands the contribution of all the components of the society, all sectors of activities, and the different national and international partners. The problem of rumours in the Guemon region and the town of Duekoue in particular, and the consequences were explained in the previous edition of UNOCI WEEKLY. In order to make a contribution to solving this problem, UNOCI has decided to go beyond sensitization campaigns by donating materials to the community radio of Guemon to permit it function in the first months of its rehabilitation and play a role in sensitizing the people and help fight against rumours.

La Voix de Guemon (the Voice of Guemon) is now broadcasting on FM 101 in the town of Duekoue thanks to the support of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire and to the immense joy of the residents. Through its new programme schedule drawn up with the assistance of partners such as «Search For Common Ground» and capacity-building sessions with «Internews», the radio hopes to put up a fight against rumours, work for social cohesion and national reconciliation in the region. Its objective is to respond to the people's aspirations for peace. It would be recal-

led that the inhabitants have recently been terrorized by an upsurge of violence and it is believed rumours had played a part in provoking the violent incidents. Happily, the response of the authorities, certain NGOs and UNOCI have gone a long way to ease the tension and it is hoped that «la Voix de Guemon» would, like all other community radios in Cote d'Ivoire, through its programmes, support the social cohesion and national reconciliation process especially at the level of the youths of the region.

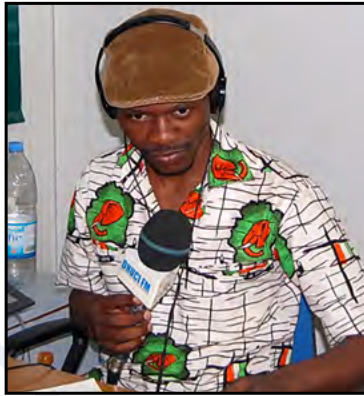
6 *Portrait : Rady Razack Wilfried,*

a passionate broadcaster at the service of peace in Yamoussoukro

“My daily worry is to ensure the audience gets balanced information.

Every day for me is a new challenge in the treatment of information and trying to get the listener hooked to the radio... as such I must find ways of perfecting my performance.” These are the words of Rady Razack Wilfried, radio producer at the UN radio in Cote d’Ivoire, ONUCI FM who is based in Yamoussoukro. He is lean in stature, which is a surprise for some people who do not see a resemblance with the deep voice they often hear saying-

«This is Rady Razack Wilfried». “We have always expected to see a huge man because of the voice!” Well, that’s the magic of radio. At the UNOCI camp in Yamoussoukro, where he has been working since September 2010 everyone agrees that he is always ready to help and respects everybody. He developed a liking for radio at a very young age and had the opportunity to test his talents as a freshman at University of Cocody radio after which he joined Africa No. 1 in Abidjan. This did not however



stop him from pursuing his studies in Modern Letters. After a post-graduate Maitrise, he went in for a License in communication and later enrolled into the Ecole Normale (Higher Teachers’ Training School) where he graduated with a Diploma in Modern Letters. His first posting was to Guiglo where he was once again gripped by his passion for radio. He worked for Guiglo radio while at the same time freelancing as a correspondent for the Ivorian News Agency (AIP). Since 2010, Razack has been working for ONUCI FM and his

capacity to adapt permits him to cover the Belier region while covering the numerous activities in the political capital.

Never the one to grumble about work, Rady Razack does his best to contribute to the reconstruction of his dear country. He would like to tell his brothers that “there is nothing more grand and more beautiful than peace. Peace is like an egg so we must handle it with much caution and care.”

7 *Image of the week*

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born **free** and **equal**
in dignity and rights

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IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE LASTING PREACE**

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

ONU CI FM whose aim is to inform Ivorians about the peace and national reconciliation process will bring you its regular newscasts at 7h, 8h, 12h and 18h and the news in brief at the top of the hour as from 9h.

- Monday 27 August at 7h40 ONU CI FM Culture chats with Brico DJ and Billy Billy about their latest single on peace and reconciliation. At 11h25, we invite you to share a day in the life of prosthetist who explains the beginnings of his career.

- Tuesday Aug. 28 at 7h40 ONU CI FM Culture focuses on oral literature in order to revive interest in folktales in the youth and restore its value. At 11h10 «Comprendre le Foncier Rural» will be explaining the document called attestation of plantation.

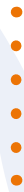
- Wednesday Aug. 29 the radio of peace celebrates the international day of tree planting. At 7h40 ONU CI FM Action presents the NGO «Terre des Jeunes» which works for the protection of the environment. At 14h30 «Espace Enfant» brings you a variety programme for the very young. At 15h Reggaetime.

- Thursday 30 Aug. we celebrate the international day of missing persons. At 7h40 ONU CI FM Action Reportage focuses on the work of UNOCI for the benefit of the people of Bonoua. At 19h10, we invite you to travel through time and learn the history of Cote d'Ivoire in «Histoire d'Ici».

- Friday 31 Aug. the radio of peace focuses on the international day of the blog and the African day of traditional medicine. At 7h40 ONU CI FM Culture presents the artistic troupe «Djarabikan Balafon». At 11h10 discover a school of theatre in ONU CI FM Culture. At 20h rendezvous with Afro-Cuban music in «Caliente».

- Saturday Zik Culture brings you news of the world of showbiz. At 19h «Destination Musique» reviews news of the world musical scene.

- Sunday, «Dimanche Sport» brings you sporting news of Cote d'Ivoire, Africa and the world. At 17h «San Frontiere» magazine takes you on a touristic and gastronomic journey to a given country to also discover its culture and music.



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SEGUELA 101.8 TABOU 95.3 • TOULEPLEU 93.7 • YAMOUSSOUKRO 94.4 • ZUENOULA 95.3

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