



Côte d'Ivoire – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 12 August 2011

Are members of the Rassemblement des Republicains (RDR) targeted with violence or other persecutory acts? Are they victims of violence by non state agents or state agents? Are they an opposition party?

An *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* response to a request for information on the Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR) states:

“According to two sources consulted by the Research Directorate, the RDR is a political party founded in September 1994. Its president is Alassane Ouattara, a former Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. The RDR belongs to a coalition of political parties-the RHDP-which includes the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire), the African Democratic Rally (Rassemblement démocratique africain, PDCI-RDA), the Movement of the Forces of the Future (Mouvement des forces d'avenir, MFA) and the Union for Democracy and Peace in Côte d'Ivoire (Union pour la démocratie et la paix en Côte d'Ivoire, UDPCI). This coalition was reportedly founded in France in 2005.” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (9 June 2010) CIV103471.FE – Côte d'Ivoire: *The Rassemblement des républicains (RDR), including its links to the Rassemblement des houphouétistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP), its position in the political arena and the treatment of the RHDP and RDR members by the authorities*)

An *Amnesty International* report on violence in Cote d'Ivoire following the December 2010 presidential election, in a section titled “Spiral of Violence in Abidjan and the West of the Country” (section 2.3), states:

“Just after the proclamation of the electoral results, the security forces and Laurent Gbagbo's supporters began to commit acts of violence. They attacked one of the offices of Alassane Ouattara's party, the Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR, Rally of the Republicans), on 1 December 2010.” (Amnesty International (25 May 2011) *'They looked at his identity card and shot him dead': Six months of post-electoral violence in Cote d'Ivoire*, p.11)

In a section titled “Human Rights Violations Committed By Security Forces Loyal to Laurent Gbagbo” (section 3.1) this report states:

“At least four people were killed by gendarmes on 1 December 2010, during an attack on the office of Alassane Ouattara's party, the RDR, in Wassakara (in the district of Yopougon). An eyewitness told Amnesty International: ‘It was around 10 pm, we were watching TV, some of us were drinking tea when we heard knocking on the door. We did not open because of the curfew and we were told: “Open the door or we'll climb the walls and kill you all.” Then we saw gendarmes in uniform and people in plainclothes that climbed the walls and began to shoot at us. Some of the gendarmes were wearing red caps, others were hooded’. Another eyewitness said: ‘When I saw the gendarmes, I went to the toilet to hide. They broke the door and asked me to raise my hands and lie on the floor. When I was on the floor, they shot me and hit me in the leg. They left me for dead.’” (ibid, p.18)

An *IRIN News* report, in a paragraph headed “Rebuilding”, states:

“Ouattara and Soro now head a broad-based political-military coalition. The RHDP brings together the RDR, the Parti démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire and several smaller parties.” (IRIN News (6 April 2011) *Cote d’Ivoire: A changing of the guard*)

A report from the *UN Security Council*, in a section titled “Update on major developments” (paragraph 17), states:

“On 1 June, President Ouattara announced his new Government, headed by Prime Minister Soro and comprising 36 ministers, including 5 women. The Government includes 14 members of President Ouattara’s Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) party.” (UN Security Council (24 June 2011) *Twenty-eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire*, p.4)

References to members of the RDR being victims of violence since the party entered government were not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

An *Associated Press* report on recent violence in Cote d’Ivoire states:

“The United Nations says 26 people were killed in the last month in Ivory Coast and that residents blame most of the killings on forces loyal to the president, who was sworn into office in May amid promises to guide the nation to recovery after months of postelection violence. Local U.N. Human Rights Chief Guillaume Ngefa said Thursday that the killings happened in parts of the country loyal to former strongman Laurent Gbagbo. He says a 17-month-old child was among those killed. He said that in the west, a pro-Gbagbo tribe attacked and killed locals. In other areas the U.N. reported deadly clashes between forces for President Alassane Ouattara and local youths.” (Associated Press (12 August 2011) *UN: 26 killed in Ivory Coast in last month*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

References:

Amnesty International (25 May 2011) *‘They looked at his identity card and shot him dead’: Six months of post-electoral violence in Cote d’Ivoire*

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International Crisis Group

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Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

Refugee Review Tribunal

UNHCR Refworld