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1. Introduction

1.1 This Bulletin has been produced by the Country Information and Policy Unit, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Home Office, to identify information about Côte d'Ivoire obtained from a wide variety of recognised sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.

1.2 This Bulletin has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The information it identifies is not exhaustive. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum / human rights claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The Bulletin is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 This Bulletin is intended to cover major developments that have taken place in Côte d'Ivoire since publication of the Country Bulletin in March 2003 and must be read in conjunction with that.

1.5 This Bulletin and the accompanying source material are publicly disclosable. Where sources identified in the Bulletin are available in electronic form the relevant link has been included. The date that the relevant link was accessed in preparing the Bulletin is also included. Paper copies of the sources that are not available in electronic format have been distributed to nominated officers in Asylum Caseworking Directorate and all Presenting Officer Units.

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2. Geography

2.1 The Republic of the Côte d'Ivoire (République de Côte d'Ivoire) is situated on the west Africa Atlantic coast. Land borders are shared with Ghana to the east and Liberia and Guinea to the west, and Mali and Burkina Faso to the north. [1a] (p328) [11] (p2) Côte d'Ivoire covers an area of 322,462 sq. km (124,503 sq. miles). [1a] (p340) [2c] (p1) [11] (p2)

2.2 The political and administrative capital is Yamoussoukro. [1a] (p340) [2c] (p1) [11] (p4) Most government departments remain in the former capital and port of Abidjan, which is still the country's economic centre. [2c] (p1) [11] (p4) Other principle cities include Bouaké, Daloa, Korhogo, San-Pédro, Man and Gagnoa. [1a] (p340) [2c] (p1) The United Nations (UN) officially estimated the population of Côte d'Ivoire to be 16.6 million. [13a] According to US Department of State, a 2003 estimate put the population at 18,100,000, including immigrants. [2c] (p1)

2.3 According to the US Department of State report of October 2003, the population of Côte d'Ivoire consists of more than sixty ethnic groups deriving from five main ethnic groups. [2c] (p1,2) The Akan family comprised more than forty-two percent of the citizenry; the largest Akan ethnic group, and the largest ethnic group in the country, was the Baoulé. The Volta ɔue family accounted for another nineteen percent of the population, and the Senoufou were the largest Volta ɔue group. Approximately seventeen percent of citizens belonged to the Mandé du nord family, of which the Malinké were the largest group. Approximately eleven percent of citizens belonged to the Krou family, of which the Bété were the largest group. Approximately ten percent belonged to the Mandé du sud family, of which the Yacouba were the largest group. One percent of the population are Naturalised Ivoirians and another one percent belong to another ethnic group. (See section on 'Ethnic Groups' for more information) [2a] (p29) According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "At least 26 percent of the population was foreign, and of that group, 95 percent were other Africans". [2a] (p29) Côte d'Ivoire has seventy-seven living languages. French is the official language and the main local languages are Dioula, Baoulé and Bété. The main religions in Côte d'Ivoire are Muslim (Sunni), Christianity (Catholicism) and traditional indigenous beliefs. [1a] (p349) [2b] (p1)

For further information on geography, refer to Africa South of the Sahara, source [1a]

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3. Economy

3.1 As documented in several sources Côte d'Ivoire has a market based economy, which is highly dependent upon agriculture and related activities, which engage roughly sixty-eight percent of the population. [2a] (p1-2) [11] (p6) According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) world factbook, Côte

d'Ivoire is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm oil. [11] (p6) The CIA world factbook also noted that "Consequently, the economy is highly sensitive to fluctuations in international prices for these products and to weather conditions". [11] (p6) According to the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004, the economic growth that Côte d'Ivoire had benefited from during the beginning of 2002 was completely overturned by the outbreak of civil conflict in September 2002. [3c] (p10) The United Nations Security Council report added

"The Country's gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by approximately 2.7 per cent in 2003, according to recent estimates. The slump in economic activity cuts across all sectors, with the noticeable exception of the cocoa, oil and gas subsectors. For the first nine months of 2003, compared to the same period in 2002, the production of cash crops fell by 40 per cent for coffee, 13 per cent for palm oil and 6.8 per cent for pineapples... On the other hand cocoa production increased by 43 per cent and gas production by 1.3 per cent. However, gold extraction declined by 62 per cent due to the closure of the main goldmine". [3c] (p10)

"The economic situation in the areas controlled by Forces nouvelles is dire. The formal economy has collapsed, and livelihoods have disappeared with businesses and banks closed, the civil service administration almost non-existent and social services practically at a standstill, while thousands have lost their jobs and means of livelihood. Nationwide the situation is worrisome. Some estimated 44 per cent of the population is now estimated to live below the poverty line, compared with 38 per cent before the September 2002 crisis". [3c] (p11)

3.2 In October 2003, Transparency International (TI) ranked Côte d'Ivoire 118th out of 133 countries in its Corruption Perceptions Index (1 being the least corrupt and 133 the most corrupt country). [34] (p5)

3.3 The currency used in Côte d'Ivoire is the franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine (CFA). [1a] (p342) [11] (p8) There are 100 centimes to 1 CFA. [1a] (p342) The exchange rate on 22 April 2004 was £1 sterling to 983.621 CFA (XOF). [21]

For further information on economy, refer to Africa South of the Sahara, source [1a]

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4. History

Post-Independence background since 1960

4.1 According to several reports, Côte d'Ivoire gained independence on 7 August 1960, under Dr Felix Houphouët-Boigny. [1a] (p328) [2c] (p3) [7a] (p1) His party, the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire-African Democratic Rally (Parti

démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire – Rassemblement démocratique africain, PDCI-RDA), was the sole legal party post-independence and Houphouët-Boigny stood unopposed at every election until 1990. [1a] (p328) [7a] (p1) Following Houphouët-Boigny's death on 7 December 1993, Henri Konan Bédié assumed the presidency, until he was ousted in a coup on 24 December 1999. [1a] (p329-331) [7a] (p1 -2) This brought the former military chief of staff Brigadier - General Robert Gue?to power. [1a] (p331) [7a] (p2) Bédié fled to the French Embassy soon after. [1a] (p331) Gue? remained in power until the end of the October 2000 elections. [1a] (p332)

Presidential Elections, 22 October 2000

4.2 Several reports noted that Gue?introduced a new constitution, which was approved by referendum on 23 July 2000. [1a] (p331-332) [7a] (p2) Under the terms of this constitution, Dr Alassane Dramane Ouattara, leader of one of the main opposition parties, Rally of Republicans (Rassemblement des républicains, RDR) was banned from running for president under a clause that demanded that all candidates should be of Ivorian nationality and parentage. [1a] (p331) [13a] [13b] [13c] Ouattara's opponents claimed that he was Burkinabé. [13a] [13b] The elections finally went ahead on 22 October 2000, after originally being postponed. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2)

4.3 A number of documents stated that after initial reports that his political rival, Laurent Gbagbo, had an early lead, Gue?suspended the Independent Electoral Commission and declared himself the winner. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) Gbagbo's party, the Ivorian Popular Front (Front populaire ivoirien, FPI) and other political parties, including the RDR, took to the streets in protest. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) Violent confrontations occurred between the security forces and the civilian demonstrators until 25 October 2000, when several units of the army, including the Presidential Guard, and the Gendarmerie, came out in favour of Gbagbo. [1a] (p332) Gue? fled the country, and the reinstated Independent Electoral Commission declared Gbagbo the winner with 59.4 percent of the vote. (See Annex D) [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2)

4.4 several documents noted that Ouattara demanded that the election be re-run, allowing him to be a candidate. Gbagbo's refusal added to the tensions between the political factions. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) [13c] There were several weeks of violence largely between northerners and southerners. Churches and mosques were destroyed and many people were killed. [7a] (p2) It was at this time, immediately after the October 2000 elections, when the Youpougon (Yopougon) massacre (Charnier de Youpougon) occurred. The bodies of fifty-seven people were found in Youpougon on 27 October 2000. [4a] (p9) [14a] (p1) According to a Human Rights Watch report of August 2003, "A United Nations inquiry into the massacre concluded that the responsibility for the massacre rested squarely with members of the gendarmerie, yet those responsible for the killings and other election-related violence have yet to be properly investigated and brought to justice". [4a] (p9) The April 2001 trial of eight paramilitary gendarmes was acquitted due to the 'lack of evidence.' The Human Rights Watch report added that "Although the Government of Côte

d'Ivoire stated its intention to reopen the investigation, this initiative has been put on hold since the start of the war began in September 2002". [4a] (p9)

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Legislative Elections, December 2000/January 2001

4.5 As documented in several reports, following the Presidential elections in October 2000, legislative elections were held on 10 December 2000. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) In twenty-six constituencies the elections were delayed until 14 January 2001 due to civil unrest. [1a] (p332) [2c] (p6) The RDR boycotted the elections in protest at Ouattara's exclusion. [1a] (p332) However, a 'moderate group' splintered from the RDR, and ran in certain constituencies winning five seats. The FPI won the greatest number of seats in the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) with 96. [1a] (p332) This did not give the FPI an overall majority. [7c] (See Annex A)

Municipal Elections 25 March 2001

4.6 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2004 reported that under international pressure to widen participation in the democratic process, and to improve human rights, the RDR agreed to contest the commune elections in March 2001. [1a] (p332) The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2004 added "The RDR took control of 64 of the country's municipal areas, not only in north but also in several districts in the south, west and centre, including Gbagbo's home town of Gagnoa". [1a] (p332) (See Annex A)

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National Reconciliation Forum

4.7 A number of reports noted that in an attempt to establish unity and halt the slide of Côte d'Ivoire into ethnic and political instability, President Gbagbo announced that a reconciliation forum would be held to encourage national debate regarding the problems facing the country. [1a] (p332) [4a] (p9) The forum, which ran from 9 October 2001 until 18 December 2001, was chaired by Seydou Elimane Diarra and attended by some seven hundred political representatives and leaders from religious and civil society groups. [1a] (p332) Former leaders Bédié, Gueï, President Gbagbo and former Prime Minister Ouattara, who were collectively known as the 'big four', were all invited to participate. [31a] (p2) Although, Gueï and Ouattara did not attend the main proceedings, they returned in time for the closing ceremony in December 2001. [1a] (p332)

4.8 Several documents stated that following the conclusion of the reconciliation forum the 'big four' attended a joint conference in Yamoussoukro on 22-23 January 2002. [1a] (p332) [31a] (p2) In line with the recommendations of the reconciliation forum, three of the participants, Gbagbo, Gueï and Bédié invited the fourth, Ouattara, to re-apply for Ivorian citizenship. [14b] Ouattara was granted citizenship in late June 2002, although

he remained barred from contesting the presidency, as a result of his having held Burkinabè citizenship. [1a] (p333)

4.9 According to an Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) news report dated 20 February 2002, in accordance to the reconciliation forum, the four also agreed to a ban on undemocratic means of gaining power, including coup d'états. There were other recommendations that were adopted following the meeting. These included a granting of a conditional amnesty on those who committed crimes during the recent political upheavals, the condition being that they first had to go before the justice system. Additionally, an establishment of a national body to oversee land disputes was made and notably, the setting up of a Government of National Reconciliation. The 'big four' added several further points to the reconciliation Forum's list, which included an establishment of a national electoral commission, proportional state-assisted funding of political parties the recognition of the legitimacy of the incumbent Government and the introduction of national identity cards. [14b]

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District (Departmental) Elections, 7 July 2002

4.10 Several reports noted that political tension erupted in the run up to the 7 July 2002 district election, particularly in Daloa, where fighting broke out between supporters of the RDR and the FPI. [1a] (p333) [4a] (p9) [7a] (p2)

4.11 According to a news report by IRIN on 10 July 2002, the voter turnout was low, at an estimated 30 percent. [14c] The report noted that "Opposition parties said a large number of eligible voters were not in possession of the required voting documents, namely the 'green' national ID card or a certificate of identity". [14c] A BBC news report of 3 July 2002 added "Mr Ouattara says he is concerned that up to 40% of voters could be disenfranchised because they have not yet been issued with new identity cards". [13d] However, the FPI and the PDCI-RDA won the largest number of seats. [1a] (p333) [14c]

RDR join the Government

4.12 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 observed that on 5 August 2002, RDR members filled four ministerial posts in the 'Government of National Unity'. [1a] (p333) A news report by the BBC stated that despite previous efforts by President Gbagbo to entice the RDR into his cabinet, this was the first time that RDR members formed part of President Gbagbo's government. [13e] However, Africa South of the Sahara noted that opposition parties, including the Union for Peace and Democracy in Ivory Coast (Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix de Côte d'Ivoire, UDPCI), the Ivorian Worker's Party (Parti Ivoirien des Travailleurs, PIT) and the PDCI-RDA, expressed their dissatisfaction at the overruling of their preferred candidates for ministerial appointments by Gbagbo. [1a] (p333)

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September 2002: The Attempted Coup to Civil War

4.13 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 stated that on 19 September 2002, while Gbagbo was on a state visit to Italy, a new rebellion by military groups broke out in Abidjan. [1a] (p333) According to the Human Rights Watch report of August 2003, “It soon emerged that the uprising was initiated by soldiers who had been recruited into the army by Guei and feared demobilization under President Gbagbo, and that the ‘mutiny’ was in fact an organized rebel movement, the Patriotic Movement of Côte d’Ivoire (Mouvement Patriotique de Côte d’Ivoire, MPC) whose origin was rather less spontaneous than it first appeared”. [14a] (p9)

4.14 As documented in a number of reports the Minister of State for the Interior and Decentralisation, Emile Boga Doudou, and the Minister of State for Defence and Civil Protection, Moïse Lida Kouassi, as well as Guei and his wife were all killed in Abidjan. [1a] (p333) [4a] (p9) [7a] (p2) The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 noted that due to the increase in violence directed at northern Muslims and immigrants and following an attack on his residence, Ouattara sought refuge in the German embassy, before moving to the French embassy and later Gabon. [1a] (p333)

4.15 Several reports noted that the Government response to the tension was to send gendarmes into the immigrant shanty towns (‘quartiers précaires’) near Abidjan, where they burned and destroyed homes, killing hundreds of immigrants and northerners. [1a] (p333) [4a] (p9-10) The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) responded to the crisis by negotiating a cease-fire between government and the MPC on 17 October 2002 in Lome, Togo. [4a] (p10) [7a] (p2) [28] (p1)

4.16 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 observed that in early November 2002, the Government announced an amnesty for the rebels and the acceptance of their eventual reintegration into the National Armed Forces of Côte d’Ivoire (Forces armées nationales de Côte d’Ivoire, FANCI). However, the negotiations between the Government and the MPC broke down later in November and the four RDR representatives of the Government resigned in protest at alleged human rights abuses by the government forces. [1a] (p333)

4.17 According to several reports the situation became more complex in October 2002 with the emergence of two new rebel forces in the west, the Ivorian Popular Movement of the Far West (Mouvement Populaire Ivoirien du Grand Ouest, MPIGO) and the Movement for Peace and Justice (Mouvement pour la justice et la paix, MJP) in October 2002 [1a] (p333-334) [4a] (p11) [28] (p1) Collectively the rebel forces are now known as the ‘Forces nouvelles’ (New Forces). [4a] (p50) [28] (p1)

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Linac-Marcoussis Agreement

4.18 According to several reports, in mid January 2003, all Ivorian political parties and the Forces nouvelles attended Round Table discussions in Paris where they produced the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement (also known as the Marcoussis Accords). [1a] (p334) [7a] (p2) [22] (p1) President Gbagbo accepted the agreement at a summit in Paris on 25 – 26 January 2003, which was attended by ECOWAS Heads of State and representatives of the wider international community. [7a] (p2) The Linas-Marcoussis addressed the key issues underlying the crisis such as:

- citizenship, national identity and the status of foreign nationals;
- the electoral system;
- land tenure laws;
- the media;
- rights and freedoms of the individual;
- economic recovery and social cohesion and;
- disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration;
- Human rights concerns. It requires the immediate creation of a national human rights commission, the establishment of an international inquiry into grave breaches of human rights and international humanitarian law, and demanded an end to the impunity of those responsible for summary executions, in particular the death squads. [3a] (p3) [7a] (p2) [22] (p3-7)

4.19 According to an IRIN news article dated 19 January 2004, “It [the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement] called for a ceasefire and the formation of a broad-based government of national reconciliation to implement a series of political reforms and lead Cote d'Ivoire to general elections in 2005. The government was to be headed by a ‘consensus’ minister and ministerial posts were to be distributed among nine political parties and three allied rebel groups: the Patriotic Movement of Cote d'Ivoire (MPCI), the Movement for Justice and Peace (MJP) and those of the Ivorian Popular Movement for the Great West (MPIGO)”. [14v] (p1) Seydou Elimane Diarra was officially inaugurated as Prime Minister on 10 February 2003. [1a] (p334) In March 2003, Prime Minister Diarra formed a government of national reconciliation. [1a] (p334) [2a] (p1) [14d] Although its announcement and first cabinet meeting occurred in the absence of the RDR and Forces nouvelles, representatives from the ruling party, opposition parties and Forces nouvelles, began meeting regularly from April 2003. [1a] (p334) [2a] (p1) [3a] (p2) [14d] According to an FCO letter dated 14 June 2004 “whilst the LMA [Linas-Marcoussis Agreement] identifies the areas that need to be addressed, it does not specify the exact way in which they should be resolved, leaving room for negotiation (and friction) later. Nor does the LMA supersede the constitution”. [7c]

4.20 The signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement sparked a violent reaction among Government supporters in Abidjan. [1a] (p334) [4a] (p11) [7a] (p2) [28] (p31) Many of the demonstrations involved the ‘young patriots’ (jeunes patriotes). [4a] (p11) [28] (p31)

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End of Conflict and Political Situation since May 2003

4.21 As documented by several reports, a comprehensive ceasefire was signed on 3 May 2003 by FANCI and the Forces nouvelles. [3a] (p1) [31a] (p3) The United Nations Security Council report of August 2003 noted that “Under the terms of that agreement, the French Licorne forces and the forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) deployed to the western region of Côte d’Ivoire jointly with FANCI and the Forces nouvelles on 24 May [2003], to create a weapons free zone of confidence, extend the cease-fire line to the border between Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia, and disarm or expel armed Liberian elements from that area”. [3a] (p1) The report added that “As a result of the deployment of troops, the security situation in the western region of the country significantly improved, resulting in the return of displaced villagers and the resumption of humanitarian activities”. [3a] (p1)

4.22 Several reports noted that on 4 July 2003, military chiefs from FANCI and the Forces nouvelles signed a declaration proclaiming the official end of the war almost ten months after fighting erupted. [2] (p1) [3c] (p3) [13f] [13g] [31a] (p3) Both sides pledged their support to the President and vowed to work for the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR). [2a] (p1) [31a] (p3)

4.23 According to the United Nations Security Council report of 6 January 2004, “During the period April to early August [2003], the new Government made encouraging progress towards implementing the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, including the elaboration of a draft programme for the implementation of the agreement, the development of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the establishment of a National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and a National Reunification Committee, as well as the adoption of an amnesty law”. [3c] (p3)

4.24 Several IRIN reports mentioned that the amnesty law, as required by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, was adopted by the National Assembly on 6 August 2003. The amnesty law covered all civilians and military personnel who sought to overthrow the government after the controversial presidential elections of 2000. [14e] [14f] However, the amnesty excluded people guilty of serious human rights abuses or economic crimes during the conflict. [14f] According to a news report by IRIN dated 12 August 2003, in the week following the approval of the amnesty law, the government released 54 political prisoners (16 military personnel and 38 civilians) from prison in Abidjan. [14e]

4.25 As documented by several reports, President Gbagbo announced the appointment of René Amani, a retired civil servant, and Bleou Martin, a human rights activist, to fill the controversial positions of Minister of State for Defence and Minister of State for Internal Security respectively on 12 September 2003. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3) Despite opposition from the Forces nouvelles and RDR the two Ministers were sworn in on 13 September 2003. As a result of the appointments, and because of the government’s failure to fully implement the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, eight of the nine ministers from Forces nouvelles suspended their participation in the Government of

National Reconciliation on 23 September 2003. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3) [14f] [14i] [14j]
They also withdrew from the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration and the Commission on National Reunification. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2)

4.26 The United Nations Security Council reports of November 2003 and January 2004 noted that following the departure of the Forces nouvelles from the Government of National Reconciliation, the security situation deteriorated in Côte d'Ivoire. The streets of Abidjan and Bouaké saw an increase in the number of demonstrations and political rallies. [3b] (p3) [3c] (p3) Several reports observed that in addition there were concerns about militias and youth groups, such as the 'young patriots' and the Group of Patriots for Peace (Groupement des Patriotes pour la Paix, GPP). [3b] (p4) [3c] (p3) [4c] (p1)

4.27 As documented in a number of reports, on the 16 October 2003, in a meeting of the Council of Ministers, a decision was taken to impose an immediate three-month ban on public demonstrations and marches. [3b] (p4) [14f] [14i] The government also ordered the immediate disbanding of the GPP. [3b] (p4) [13h] [14f]

4.28 Several reports, however, stated on 29 November 2003, a large group of 'young patriots' accompanied by about one hundred soldiers from FANCI attempted to break through the ceasefire line controlled by the French Licorne troops (French peace-keeping force), south of the Forces nouvelles stronghold Bouaké. As a result the two sides exchanged fire and several government troops were injured. [8a] (p1) [3c] (p3) [14g] In November 2003, the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 noted that "a group of FANCI soldiers forced their way into the Ivorian national television station in Abidjan and broadcast a statement demanding the withdrawal of the Licorne forces from the zone of confidence to allow the Government forces to fight the Forces nouvelles and "reunite" the country". [3c] (p3) The soldiers also demanded the resignation of the army chief of staff, General Mathias Doue, and other senior military officers. [3c] (p3) [8a] (p1) [14g] [14h] Then in early December 2003, several hundred 'young patriots' violently demonstrated outside the French Licorne base in Abidjan demanding that the French troops leave the country. [3c] (p4) [8a] (p1) [14g] [14h]

4.29 A number of reports noted that a meeting chaired by President Gbagbo between senior military officers of the FANCI and Forces nouvelles, with the participation of representatives from Licorne and ECOWAS mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ECOMICI), as well as United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (Mission des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire, MINUCI), took place on 4 December 2003. [3c] (p4) [8a] (p1) As a result of the meeting, both parties withdrew forces from the zone of confidence and on 7 December 2003 the Forces nouvelles released 40 military personnel that had been held in detention since the beginning of the conflict. [8a] (p1) [30a]

4.30 According to the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004, "A follow up meeting was held in Bouaké on 10 December [2003] at which FANCI and the Forces nouvelles decided to begin dismantling their

checkpoints and withdrawing heavy weapons from the zone of confidence to specific quartering locations. In addition, they reaffirmed their decision to implement the cantonment of their respective troops at 17 previously identified sites". [3c] (p4)

4.31 Nevertheless, several news reports documented on 12 December 2003 a group of armed assailants attempted to attack the building of the national television & radio (RTI). The gendarmerie guarding the building, exchanged fire with the assailants and nineteen people were killed as a result. [8a] (p2) [32] According to an Agence France-Presse (AFP) report of 12 December 2003, the clashes were the bloodiest in Abidjan since the ceasefire was declared. [32]

4.32 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) situation report of 2 January 2004 advised that the "Withdrawal of heavy artillery from the cease-fire line by both sides, and dismantling of dozens of checkpoints took place during 13-24 Dec, comforting the national and international opinion that the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) will start without further delays". [8b] (p1)

4.33 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation reports of 20 January 2004, 18 February 2004 and 1 March 2004 noted that throughout January and February 2004 ethnic clashes continued in the west, particularly in villages around and between Zou, Bangolo, Blolèquin and Guiglo, located within and south of the zone of confidence. [8c] (p1) [8e] (p1) [8f] (p1) The French Licorne forces found a number of bodies of people killed as a result of ethnic clashes. [8c] (p1) According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report 18 February 2004, one of the Forces nouvelles leaders was shot dead by unknown assailants on 7 February 2004. [8e] (p1) In the northern and northwest, factions of the Forces nouvelles continued to clash which resulted in several deaths. [8d] (p2) The Forces nouvelles and the local authorities in Bouaké spent the week during 8 to 13 March 2004 sensitising their troops and the population on the DDR process. [8g] (p2)

4.34 An IRIN news report dated 6 January 2004 stated that on 6 January 2004 seven of the eight Forces nouvelles ministers returned to the Government of National Reconciliation. Guillaume Kigbafori Soro, the leader of Forces nouvelles and (former) Minister of State for Communications, however, did not attend the first cabinet meeting since the Forces nouvelles boycotted the Government. [14j]

4.35 According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report dated 1 April 2004, "Political tensions culminated on Thursday the 25th March when the protest march planned by opposition parties pushing for the full implementation of the Linas Marcoussis peace accord, was violently disrupted by President Gbagbo's security and defense forces". Opposition parties claimed that between 350 to 500 people were killed by government security forces whereas government authorities reported that 37 were killed including two police officers. [8h] (p1) [14k] [14l] A leaked report by UN human rights investigators, nevertheless estimated that at least 120 people

were killed during and immediately after the banned demonstration. [14m][14q] The most severely affected districts of Abidjan included Abobo, Port Bouet, Youpougon, Adjamé and Koumassi. [8h] (p1) [4d] The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 1 April 2004 reported that "Security forces opened fire on non-armed demonstrators and used MI 24 helicopters to spread teargas over the crowds". [8h] (p1)

4.36 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report added, "On the 25th March [2004] Demonstrations also took place in Bouaké, Korhogo and Yamoussoukro. In Yamoussoukro 25 people were wounded and one killed. Forces Nouvelles decided to pull out of the demonstration in Abidjan to show that it had no intention of staging a coup d'etat as warned by Government authorities. The Forces Nouvelles are on alert, have reinforced their troops and have reportedly approached the 'zone of confidence'. Demonstrations continued in Man and Korhogo. On the 31st March [2004] the French forces became the target of demonstrations in Korhogo". [8h] (p1)

4.37 Several reports noted that in response the Forces nouvelles and RDR announced on 25 March 2004 that they would suspend their participation in the Government of National Reconciliation. [4d][8h] (p2) [13h] The other main opposition party the PDCI withdrew from the government earlier in March. [8h] (p2) [14u] The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 14 April 2004 noted "This mass walkout has left independent Prime Minister Seydou Diarra with only 15 of his 41 ministers still at their posts and has brought Côte d'Ivoire's peace process to a standstill". [8i] (p1) However, on 20 May 2004, President Gbagbo sacked three ministers from the Forces nouvelles, including the leader, Guillaume Soro. [13n] [14y] [14z]

4.38 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 17 May 2004 stated that "On 13th May [2004] supporters of Laurent Gbagbo, the FESCI (Fédération étudiante et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire [Student and School Federation of Côte d'Ivoire]) organised a sit-in in front of the UN peacekeeping missions (UNOCI) headquarters in Abidjan to protest against the report, which mentions that FESCI took part in the violent exactions in March, and to demand the immediate disarmament of the Forces nouvelles". [8k] (p1)

4.39 According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 1 April 2004 during March 2004, there was also a significant rise in the number of organised hold-ups and robberies in Bouaké. [8h] (p2) The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report added "In response to this situation the Forces Nouvelles have increased their search operations and arrested numerous youths, many of whom are addicted to drugs". [8h] (p2)

4.40 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 14 April 2004 advised that "On 4th April [2004], MINUCI officially became ONUCI (council resolution 1528), integrating 1400 ECOWAS troops already deployed in Côte d'Ivoire as part of the 6240 UN peacekeeping troops". [8i] (p1)

4.41 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 14 April 2004 noted that “President Laurent Gbagbo continues to press for negotiations to be held with opposition parties, however the SG [secretary general] of Parti Democratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), the main opposition party, refuses to meet with the President unless he provides security, freedom of expression and acknowledges of the number of deaths that have taken place”. [81] (p1-2)

4.42 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report added that “In response to the many reports of exactions in the poorer neighbourhoods of Abidjan, committed by police forces and unidentified ‘parallel uniformed forces’, the government has requested international military forces (LICORNE and UNOCI) to conduct mixed patrols alongside the Ivorian armed forces to help maintain law and order”. [81] (p1)

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5. State Structures

The Constitution

5.1 Last revised in 2000, Côte d'Ivoire's constitution was approved in a referendum in July of the same year. [1a] (p345) [2a] (p25) [2c] (p3) According to ‘Africa South of the Sahara’, Articles 1 to 28 of the Constitution stipulates that

“The State guarantees the implementation of the Constitution and guarantees to protect the rights of each citizen. The State guarantees its citizens equal access to health, education, culture, information, professional training, employment and justice. Freedom of thought and expression are guaranteed to all, although the encouragement of social, ethnic and religious discord is not permitted.

Freedom of association and demonstration are guaranteed. Political parties may act freely within the law, however, parties must not be created solely on regional, ethnic or religious basis. The rights to free enterprise, the right to join a trade union and the right to strike are guaranteed”. [1a] (p345)

Citizenship and Nationality

5.2 According to the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) report of March 2001, “Birth within the territory of Cote d'Ivoire does not automatically confer citizenship. The only exception is a child born to unknown parents”. [33]

5.3 Citizenship maybe obtained by a child based upon at least one of the parents being a citizen of Côte d'Ivoire, regardless of the child's country of birth. [33]

5.4 The OPM report added “Citizenship of Cote d'Ivoire may be acquired upon fulfillment of either of these conditions:

- Person has resided in the country for at least five years.
- Person has made a significant investment in the country or rendered a special service”. [33]

5.5 Dual citizenship is recognised in Côte d'Ivoire. [33]

5.6 A report by IRIN news dated 6 January 2004 noted that “Since the beginning of the 1990s, the question of national identity has been a serious bone of contention in Ivorian politics”. [14e] In 1994, Bédié launched a policy of “ivorité” or Ivorianness. [28] (p6) According to the International Crisis Group (ICG) report of November 2003, “This included the promulgation of a new electoral code, thus essentially creating two types of citizen: those of “pure” Ivorian origin, and those of “mixed heritage” (which supposedly disqualified Ouattara from running for president, as his father was alleged to be from Burkina Faso). A number of Muslim northerners subsequently lost their government positions, sowing the seeds of a north-south, Muslim-Christian divide, and many immigrants were forced to leave the country”. [28 (p6) (See [section on 'Ethnic Groups' for more information](#))

5.7 The ICG report of November 2003 added “The issue of national identification became especially heated under Gbagbo. In Houphouët's time, many Ivorians had seen little need to become citizens formally, but with the enactment of a new rural land law in 1998 that made citizenship a condition of owning land, this changed. After the mid-1990's, and particularly after the fall of the military junta in 2000, holders of resident's cards and Ivorians with northern names were often the victims of systematic police harassment and humiliation. For northerners, establishing citizenship was extremely difficult, and was accompanied in many southern cities with suspicion from officials”. [28] (p7) The FPI announced programme of national identification in November 2001. [28] (p7)

5.8 The Linas-Marcoussis Agreement included aspects relating to citizenship, national identity and the status of foreign nationals. [3a] (p3) [22] (p3-4) The United Nations Security Council report of August 2003 noted “In the National Assembly, the FPI has severely criticized the Government's draft programme for the implementation of the Agreement, particularly those aspects relating to the sensitive issues relating to citizenship, national identity and the status of foreign nationals, which lie at the core of the political crisis in the country”. [3a] (p4)

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Political System

5.9 According to Africa South of the Sahara, Articles 29 to 33 of the Constitution stipulates that “Côte d'Ivoire is an independent and sovereign republic” that “is indivisible, secular, democratic and social”. [1a] (p345) The

publication added that sovereignty belongs to the people, and is exercised through referenda and the election of representatives. [1a] (p345) The Constitution and Electoral Code provide for right to vote freely by a single and secret ballot to all citizens over the age of eighteen years. [1a] (p345) [2a] (p23) According to the US Department of State report of 2003 “The Constitution provides for the right of citizens to change their government peacefully through democratic means; however, significant violence and irregularities marred presidential elections held in October 2000 and legislative elections held in December 2000”. [2a] (p23) (See paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5 for more information)

5.10 The executive is personified in the President, elected for a five-year term, which is renewable only once. [1a] (p345) [15] (p6) The President is the Head of State, Commander in Chief of the armed forces, may negotiate and ratify certain treaties, and may submit a bill to a national referendum or to the National Assembly. [1a] (p345) [2c] (p3) [15] (p6 -10) The President may not hold any other office or be a leader of a political party. [1a] (p345) The current president is Laurent Gbagbo, who was sworn into office on 26 October 2000 Gbagbo came to power after winning the controversial elections of 2000, defeating the military ruler Brigadier-General Robert Gue? [1a] (p332, 345) (See paragraphs 4.2 to 4.4 for more information)

5.11 The President selects the Prime Minister, who is the Head of Government. The President appoints the Government (Council of Ministers) on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. [1a] (p345) [2a] (p3) [15] (p8) The Council of ministers are responsible to the President. [1a] (p345) [2a] (p3) On 25 January 2003 Gbagbo appointed a new Prime Minister, Seydou Diarra, who was officially sworn in on 10 February 2003. Diarra named a new government of national reconciliation on 13 March 2003. [3e] [28] (p59)

5.12 The Ivorian Popular Front (Front populaire ivoirien, FPI) is the ruling party. [1a] (p332) The FPI won the legislative elections held in December 2000 as the largest single party, who obtained ninety-six seats in the National Assembly. [1a] (p332) The main opposition political parties in Côte d'Ivoire are the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (Parti Democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire, PDCI) and the Rally of Republicans (Rassemblement des Republicaines, RDR). Numerous other smaller political parties also operate in Côte d'Ivoire. [2c] (p1) (See Annex B)

5.13 The legislature is the unicameral National Assembly, which is composed of 225 members. [2c] (p3) National Assembly deputies are elected by direct popular vote to serve five-year terms concurrently with the President. [1a] (p346) [2c] (p3) Except in exceptional cases, deputies have legal immunity during the period of their mandate. [1a] (p346) The US Department of State background notes of October 2003 advised that “It [The National Assembly] passes on legislation typically introduced by the President, although it also can introduce legislation”. [2c] (p3)

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Judiciary

5.14 Article 101 of the Constitution stipulates that the judiciary shall be independent from the Executive and Legislative powers. [15] (p17) Article 104 of the Constitution states that “The President of the Republic shall be the guarantor of the independence of the Judiciary”. [15] (p17) According to the US Department of State report of 2003, “The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary; however, in practice the judiciary was subject to executive branch, military, and other outside influences. Although the judiciary was independent in ordinary criminal cases, it followed the lead of the executive in national security or politically sensitive cases. Judges served at the discretion of the executive, and there were credible reports that they submitted to political pressure and financial influence. The judiciary was slow and inefficient”. [2a] (p9)

5.15 The US Department of State report added “The law provides for the right to public trial, although key evidence sometimes was given secretly. The Government did not always respect the presumption of innocence. During the year, there were no reports that defendants were not allowed to be present at their trial. Those convicted have the right of appeal, and although higher courts rarely overturned verdicts, it has occurred. Defendants accused of felonies or capital crimes have the right to legal counsel. The judicial system provides for court-appointed attorneys; however, no free legal assistance was available, except infrequently when members of the bar provided pro bono advice to defendants for limited periods”. [2a] (p10)

5.16 The United Nations Security Council addendum of February 2004 noted that “National and international human rights organizations reported problems of impunity with regard to human rights violations and other criminal acts, and judicial personnel in some Government-controlled regions have complained that they find themselves powerless in the face of criminal acts committed by members of the security forces. A weak justice system unable to protect the rights of disenfranchised groups, or to hold perpetrators accountable, was highlighted by many as a core contributor to the continuation of the conflict”. [3d] (p2)

Court Structure

5.17 The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) report of August 2002 informed that “The judiciary is composed of a lower courts system (tribunaux), the Court of Appeal (Cour d'Appel), the Court of Cassation (Cour de Cassation), the Conseil d'Etat, and the Cour des Comptes. The Ivorian legal system is primarily based on French law and, as such, makes a distinction between administrative courts and civil and criminal courts. The Court of Cassation is the final instance for civil and criminal cases and reviews questions of law and not questions of fact in appeals from the Court of Appeal. The Conseil d'Etat is the highest court of appeal for cases concerning administrative acts. The Cour des Comptes controls matters related to the finances of the state”. [16] (p3)

5.18 The International Commission of Jurists report added “Under Title IX, the Constitution provides for a High Court of Justice (Haute Cour de Justice). The High Court is composed of members of the National Assembly and is headed by the President of the Court of Cassation. The High Court of Justice is the only jurisdiction competent to deal with cases of high treason against the President of the Republic. The High Court, under Article 110 of the Constitution, has jurisdiction over crimes committed by members of the government in the exercise of their functions”. [16] (p3)

5.19 The International Commission of Jurists report added “The Constitutional Court, under Articles 88-100 of the Constitution, has jurisdiction over matters arising under the Constitution or involving its interpretation. It is also competent to consider matters related to the presidential and legislative election disputes. The Constitutional Council decides on the eligibility of certain candidates and ratifies the election results. It may question the conformity of international treaties with the Constitution and monitors the referendum process. The Constitutional Court is composed of former presidents of the republic, and of six judges. The President of the Republic nominates the President of the Constitutional Court and three of the judges, and the National Assembly nominates the other three judges. The Court’s decisions are binding on all administrative and public authorities and there is no possibility of appeal against them. Under Article 96, every citizen can question the constitutionality of a law during a trial and before any competent jurisdiction. Article 77 stipulates that officially registered human rights organisations can also challenge the constitutionality of legislation regarding fundamental rights before the Court. The rulings of the Constitutional Court are not subject to appeal”. [16] (p4)

5.20 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted “In August [2003], the newly constituted Constitutional Council took over from the earlier Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court in determining the eligibility of presidential candidates. In August, President Gbagbo appointed the seven members of the Constitutional Council, without consultation with the Government. President Gbagbo tasked the Council with, among other things, the determination of candidate eligibility in presidential and legislative elections, the announcement of final election results, the conduct of referendum, and the constitutionality of legislation. Gbagbo named three advisors to the Constitutional Council for 3-year terms, three other advisors to 6-year terms, and a president. At year’s end, Tia Kone remained president of the Supreme Court. The Constitution grants the President the power to replace the head of the court after a new parliament is convened”. [2a] (p10)

5.21 The International Commission of Jurists report of August 2002 noted that “The Constitution, under Article 113, provides also for an Economic and Social Council (Conseil Economique et Social) that gives advisory opinions on legislation concerning economic and social issues”. [16] (p4)

5.22 The US Department of State report added “Military courts did not try civilians. Although there were no appellate courts within the military court

system, persons convicted by a military tribunal may petition the Supreme Court to set aside the tribunal's verdict and order a retrial". [2a] (p10)

Traditional Courts

5.23 The International Commission of Jurists report of August 2002 stated that "In many rural areas, traditional courts are operative, especially in the handling of minor matters and family law". [16] (p3) The US Department of State report of 2003 explained that "In rural areas, traditional institutions often administered justice at the village level, handling domestic disputes and minor land questions in accordance with customary law. Dispute resolution was by extended debate, with no known instance of resort to physical punishment. The formal court system increasingly was superseding these traditional mechanisms. The Constitution specifically provides for a Grand Mediator to bridge traditional and modern methods of dispute resolution. The President appoints the Grand Mediator, who since his nomination by the Bedie Government, has been Mathieu Ekra". [2a] (p10)

Courts Operated by the Forces Nouvelles

5.24 The US Department of State report noted that "There was little available information on the judicial system used by the NF [Forces nouvelles] in the northern and western regions; however, there have been several credible reports that rebels have executed suspected looters on the spot without detention or trial. In November 2002, a French press article described rebel military police bringing suspected thieves and racketeers to a 'judge' dressed in fatigues who, in a quasi-judicial process, pronounced sentence, including imprisonment in the local jail. The rebels reported that they have imprisoned several dozen persons as common criminals in Bouake". [2a] (p10)

5.25 According to the United Nations Security Council addendum of February 2004, "The judicial system has also ceased functioning in the north and in the zone of confidence as a result of the conflict. Areas of the Government-controlled western and central parts of the country that are under the jurisdiction of courts situated in the north have also suffered a breakdown in the administration of justice". [3d] (p2)

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Legal Rights / Detention

5.26 Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution forbids arbitrary arrest and detention. [2a] (p6) [15] (p4) However, the US Department of State report of 2003 noted that in practice arbitrary arrest and detention remained common. [2a] (p6)

5.27 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that "Under the Code of Penal Procedure, a public prosecutor may order the detention of a suspect for 48 hours without bringing charges, and in special cases, the law permits an additional 48-hour period. According to members of the jurists' union, police often held persons for more than the 48-hour legal limit without bringing

charges, and magistrates often were unable to verify that detainees who were not charged were released. A magistrate could order preventive detention for up to 4 months but also had to provide the Minister of Justice with a written justification on a monthly basis for continued detention... The DST [Directorate for Territorial Security] has the authority to hold persons for up to 4 days without charges; however, human rights groups stated there were numerous cases of detentions exceeding the statutory limit". [2a] (p7)

5.28 Article 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to which Côte d'Ivoire has acceded, states that everyone has "The right to be tried within a reasonable time by an impartial court or tribunal" [5a] (p19)

5.29 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that "Despite the legal limit of 10 months of pretrial detention in civil cases and 22 months in criminal cases, some detainees were held in detention for many years awaiting trial". [2a] (p7)

5.30 The US Department of State report added "Defendants do not have the right to a judicial determination of the legality of their detention. A judge may release pretrial detainees on provisional liberty if the judge believed that the suspect was not likely to flee. Although the law prohibits it, police restricted access to some prisoners. There were reports that police and the DST denied detainees access to a lawyer or to their families... There were many instances during the year [2003] in which gendarmes or other security forces arbitrary (sic) arrested persons". [2a] (p7)

5.31 The Constitution stipulates that "No one shall be detained arbitrarily. Everyone charged of a crime is presumed innocent until its guilt be established in a court of law that offers indispensable guarantees for his defense". [15] (p4)

5.32 The US Department of State of 2003 advised that "Those convicted have the right of appeal, and although higher courts rarely overturned verdicts, it has occurred. Defendants accused of felonies or capital crimes have the right to legal counsel. The judicial system provides for court-appointed attorneys; however, no free legal assistance was available, except infrequently when members of the bar provided pro bono advice to defendants for limited periods". [2a] (p9)

Death Penalty

5.33 Under the terms of the new constitution that came into force on 23 July 2000, the death penalty was abolished for all crimes. [5b] [5c] (p5) [16] (p2) According to the International Commission of Jurists report of August 2002 "Article 2 of the Constitution stipulates that 'All penalties resulting in the deprivation of human life are prohibited', and therefore, the courts can no longer hand down death sentences". [16] (p2) However, there have been no executions since independence in 1960. [5c] (p5)

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Internal Security

Government Forces

5.34 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "Security forces under the Ministries of Defense and Interior include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Republican Guard, Presidential security force, and the Gendarmerie, a branch of the armed forces with responsibility for general law enforcement". [2a] (p1) According to the United Nations Security Council addendum of February 2004 "The responsibility for internal security in Côte d'Ivoire lies with the National Police and the Gendarmerie, which have a strength of 12,000 and 8,500 officers respectively". [3d] (p1) The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 stated that at 1 August 2002 "There was also a 1,500-strong militia, and reserve forces numbered 10,000 men". [1a] (p356)

5.35 The United Nations Security Council report continued "There is a functioning National Police Training School in Abidjan with a capacity to train 1,200 cadets per course. Its facilities are severely strained, however, as it was originally constructed to accommodate a maximum of 300 cadets per intake. Some 140 instructors are permanently attached to the school and a large number of other police and civilian experts are engaged for training purposes on a non-permanent basis. There are also two training schools for the Gendarmerie, in Abidjan and in Toroguhé, in the south. Both training schools have been in operation throughout the conflict. There are no police or gendarmerie training facilities in northern Côte d'Ivoire and many stakeholders, including the Forces nouvelles, proposed that donors should be approached to assist in establishing such a facility there, which would help in the restoration of effective policing in the area". [3d] (p2)

Forces nouvelles

5.36 The United Nations Security Council addendum of February 2004 noted that "Following the outbreak of the conflict in September 2002, most of the National Police and the Gendarmerie left the northern provinces and withdrew to the Government-controlled area south of the zone of confidence. In the south, the National Police are currently operating in only eight prefectures, while the Gendarmerie is divided into two legions. The few law enforcement personnel who remained in the north were either imprisoned by or joined the Forces nouvelles as combatants. In the six military zones in the northern part of the country, law enforcement and policing activities are carried out by the 'interim structures' established by the Forces nouvelles. These consist of largely untrained 'volunteers' led by former members of the National Police and the Gendarmerie who chose to remain in the north. Police infrastructure in the Forces nouvelles-controlled areas was severely damaged during the conflict". [3d] (p1-2)

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Prisons and Prison Conditions

5.37 The United Nations Security Council addendum of February 2004 advised that “The prison system is administered by the Ministry of Justice and headed by a Director of Prison Administration. Historically, the national prison system, comprising 33 prisons, has been a low priority, resulting in serious underfunding and related problems. There are reports of prisoners held in violation of the law for three or more years without trial. The current conflict has aggravated the conditions in prisons in the south and resulted in the collapse of the system in the north. The Forces nouvelles have reopened 2 of 11 prisons in the north, but the prisoners held there have not been subject to proper judicial procedures. Government funding for the operation of prisons in the north has been withdrawn”. [3d] (p2)

5.38 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated “Conditions were poor and in some cases life threatening in the country's 33 prisons, largely because of inadequate budgets and overcrowding. In November 2002, the main Abidjan Arrest and Correction Center (MACA) prison housed 5,200 detainees; it was built for 1,500. There were credible reports that prisoners frequently brutalized other prisoners for sleeping space and rations; however, there were no reports that guards brutalized prisoners. The daily food allowance per prisoner in the MACA was \$0.12 (80 CFA francs), the cost of one serving of corn meal mush. In other prisons, the daily allowance was \$0.18 (120 CFA francs). Families frequently supplemented the food ration and at some prisons inmates grew vegetables to feed themselves. The Red Cross helped feed prisoners with no family. Doctors Without Borders [Médicines sans frontières] supplemented the prison system's inadequate medical facilities. Several small national and international charities also helped some prisoners. There were press reports of a flourishing drug trade and prostitution in the MACA”. [2a] (p5-6)

5.39 The US Department of State report added “The Ministry of Justice reported that 39 prisoners died in MACA during the year [2003] due to malnutrition and poor conditions. On November 13 [2003], fighting between inmates and guards broke out in MACA because of a 3-day water shortage due to faulty plumbing. Prisoners injured a prison guard during the fighting. In October [2003], eight prisoners escaped from MACA prison. At least one guard was badly beaten during the escape. Several of the escaped prisoners had been serving 20-year prison sentences for robbery”. [2a] (p6)

5.40 The US Department of State report continued “Men and women were held separately in prisons. Male minors were held separately from adult men, but the physical barriers at the main MACA prison were inadequate to enforce complete separation. Prison conditions for women and children remained particularly difficult. Female prisoners were segregated in a separate building under female guard. There were continued reports that female prisoners engaged in sexual relations with wardens to get food and privileges. There were no health facilities for women. Pregnant prisoners went to hospitals to give birth and then returned to prison with their babies. Some women prisoners were pregnant before being jailed. The penitentiary accepted no

responsibility for the care or feeding of the infants; the women received help from local NGOs". [2a] (p6)

5.41 Moreover, the report noted that "During the year, BICE [International Catholic Office for Children, Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance] conducted its annual study on youths in prisons, which revealed that 576 males under 18 were held in the Center for Observation of Minors in Abidjan during the year. Some of the 387 boys that were released during the year went to a rehabilitation center called 'Herb Alois'. BICE also helped conduct physiological tests to determine the age of some inmates who had no identification papers. There were 36 females in detention under the age of 18. BICE helped release 31 of these girls during the year. BICE also taught juvenile prisoners trades, such as sewing, carpentry, gardening, house painting, and drawing". [2a] (p6) The report added that "Pretrial detainees were held with convicted prisoners". [2a] (p6)

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Military Service

5.42 According to a War Resisters' International report of September 1998 military conscription exists in Côte d'Ivoire. Men over the age of twenty-one are selected for military service, which lasts for eighteen months. However, the report stated that it is evident that not all men over the age of twenty-one are actually recruited. There is no legal provision for conscientious objection and no substitute service. Failure to perform military service may lead to the loss of civil rights. [10]

Medical Services

5.43 According to the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004, "The public health system, including the provision for safe water and sanitation, has been severely disrupted. Eighty per cent of health facilities that existed before the outbreak of the conflict in September 2002 in the north and west of the country have closed or operate at best with minimal facilities. Health facilities in the south are overstretched due to the influx of internally displaced persons in need of medical attention. The outbreak of measles and cholera poses serious health problems. The provision of preventative and reproductive health care has also been negatively affected by the crisis". [3c] (p9)

5.44 Several aid agencies were present in Côte d'Ivoire. They included the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Ivorian Red Cross, Medecins Sans frontières, Action Internationale Contre le Faim (AICF), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). [6a] [8c] (p4) [14n] [30b]

5.45 The US Department of State Consular Information Sheet of February 2004, stated that "In Abidjan, privately-run medical and dental facilities are adequate but do not fully meet U.S. standards... Pharmacies are well-stocked with medications produced in Europe, though newer drugs may not be available. Medical care in Cote d'Ivoire outside of Abidjan is extremely

limited". [2e] (p3) The FCO travel advice of May 2004 added that "Medical treatment of a reasonable standard is available, but can be expensive". [7b] (p2)

HIV/AIDS

5.46 The United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 stated that "Côte d'Ivoire is the country in West Africa that is most severely affected by HIV/AIDS pandemic. The prevalence rate is currently estimated at 10.5 per cent, compared to average of 5 to 8 per cent in the subregion, with peaks of 15 per cent in some of the areas affected by the conflict". The report noted that the increase of HIV/AIDS was due to continued sexual abuse and violence. [3c] (p9) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report of May 2004 noted that an estimate one million people were infected with HIV in Côte d'Ivoire. [20] (p1)

5.47 The British Embassy in Abidjan advised that treatment for HIV/AIDS is available in Côte d'Ivoire, in the form of anti-retroviral drugs. [6a] [6b] A article by IRIN news dated 3 June 2004 reported that "The government of Côte d'Ivoire has announced plans to slash the price of anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment for thousands of people living with AIDS with the help of a US\$41 million grant from the United States". [141] The article added that "Patients will now only be required to pay 5,000 CFA francs (\$10) for a three month supply of ARV drugs...The health minister has also announced a new subsidised 2,500 CFA franc (\$5) consultation fee for people seeking treatment for infectious diseases. [141] The report continued to inform that the government aims to provide ARV therapy to 77,000 people living with AIDS at a cost of 20,000 CFA francs (\$40) to the patient per year by 2008. [141]

5.48 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 30 January 2004 stated that "IRIN reports that more than half the patients tested in a hospital in the FN [Forces nouvelles] held zone are HIV positive. A recent informal study of 60 patients admitted to the Korhogo hospital, showed that 35 were positive. Korhogo is a major FN military base and market centre for the north and thus also a centre for prostitution. Reports have been made that about 2000 girls aged between 12 and 15 have taken up prostitution in the FN controlled zone, since schools there have been closed. These factors paired with the scarcity of condoms are believed to be the explanation behind the rise of HIV positive patients". [81] (p4-5)

5.49 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 26 April 2004 stated that "Doctors at the hospital of Bouna report that out of 66 consultations of girls between 10 and 18 years of age around 35% have been infected with STD. The lack of information, education and sensitisation on STD's and HIV/ AIDs in this zone has been stated as the main cause". [81] (p5)

5.50 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report of 20 January 2004 noted that "CARE [Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc] is currently involved with four projects for the fight against AIDS. The target areas for their AIDS sensibilisation projects include the

precarious zones of Abidjan as well as the city and surrounding rural areas of Boauké”. [8c] (p4)

Cancer

5.51 The British Embassy in Abidjan advised that in the south, treatment for cancer was available at one major centre in Abidjan. However, it was, in general, only available to those who can afford to pay or have adequate medical insurance. [6a]

Tuberculosis

5.52 The British Embassy in Abidjan noted that there was, in general, adequate provision for the treatment of Tuberculosis. There were, for example, two main centres for treatment in Abidjan, each of which dealt with five thousand to six thousand patients annually. There were also centres dispersed throughout the country, although they frequently lack both adequate supplies of medicines and properly trained staff. Twenty-four centres in the north and the west have been closed since September 2002, with treatment being provided by the Red Cross. Although treatment is available in Côte d'Ivoire, the cost can be a considerable sum. However, those who could not afford treatment, pay a proportion of the costs depending on their income and no one diagnosed with Tuberculosis would be denied treatment simply because they could not afford it. [6c]

Vaccination Projects

5.53 According to several reports, vaccination programmes against measles, meningitis, typhoid, yellow fever and polio took place in Côte d'Ivoire during 2003 and 2004. [8g] (p5) [29] [14o]

5.54 However, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 15 March 2004 stated that “There has not yet been an extensive vaccination campaign against measles in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire. UNICEF led vaccination three campaigns (sic) against measles in 2003 and early 2004 which covered central and northwestern regions of the country, and reached over 1 million children from 6 months to 14 years of age”. [8g] (p5)

5.55 An IFRC report dated 1 April 2004 added “The national polio vaccination campaign began in western Cote d'Ivoire on 24 March, 2004 but experienced difficulty in Abidjan due to political and security constraints when demonstrations prohibited by the government turned violent, resulting in thirty seven deaths and many injured”. [29]

Mental Health

5.56 According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Profiles on Mental Health Resources 2001, Mental Health Policy is available in Côte

d'Ivoire together with a National Mental Health Programme. Therapeutic drugs are available at the primary health care level. [17]

Persons with Disabilities

5.57 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The law requires the Government to educate and train persons with physical, mental, visual, auditory, and cerebral motor disabilities, to hire them or help them find jobs, to design houses and public facilities for wheelchair access, and to adapt machines, tools, and work spaces for access and use by persons with disabilities; however, wheelchair accessible facilities for persons with disabilities were not common, and there were few training and job assistance programs for persons with disabilities". [2a] (p28)

5.58 The report added that "The law also prohibits the abandonment of persons with mental or physical disabilities and acts of violence directed at them. Adults with disabilities were not specific targets of abuse, but they encountered serious difficulties in employment and education. The Government supported special schools, associations, and artisans' cooperatives for persons with disabilities, but many persons with physical disabilities begged on urban streets and in commercial zones. Persons with mental disabilities often lived in the streets". [2a] (p28-29)

5.59 The report continued "There were several demonstrations during the year [2003] by persons with disabilities... In November [2003], the Organization For the Social Insertion of the Handicapped (OIHPA) in the Department of Adzope began a credit fund for persons with disabilities. OIHPA President Emmanuel Kouadio stated that the fund was intended to alleviate the poverty and education levels of persons with disabilities. OIHPA released statistics indicating that 98 percent of the country's persons with disabilities had only had minimal education. The fund is estimated to have more than \$30,000 (15 million CFA francs)". [2a] (p29)

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Educational System

5.60 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 noted that "Education at all levels is available free of charge. Primary education, which is officially compulsory for six years between seven and 13 years of age, begins at six and lasts for six years". [1a] (p356)

5.61 The US Department of State report of 2003, nevertheless, advised that "The Government strongly encouraged children to attend school; however, primary education was not compulsory. Primary education was tuition free but usually ended at age 13. In principle, students do not have to pay for books or fees; however, in practice some still must do so. In addition, they must pay for some school supplies, including photocopying paper. In at least one school, students had to bring their own bench to sit on. Poverty caused many children to leave the formal school system when they were between the ages of 12

and 14. Research in 2002 showed that 67 percent of children 6 to 17 years old attend school: Boys 73 percent, girls 61 percent. The WFP [World Food Programme] has worked with the Government to establish a countrywide system of school canteens that provided lunches for \$.04 (25 CFA francs). Pupils no longer were required to wear a uniform to primary schools". [2a] (p27)

5.62 The US Department of State report added "Secondary school entrance was restricted by the difficulty of the exam, which changed each year, and the Government's ability to provide sufficient spaces for all who wished to attend. A student who fails the secondary school entrance exams does not qualify for free secondary education, and many families cannot afford to pay for schooling. Parental preference for educating boys rather than girls persisted, particularly in rural areas. The Minister of National Education stated that almost one-third of the female primary and secondary school dropout rate of 66 percent was attributable to pregnancies". [2a] (p27)

5.63 The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003 noted that there were three universities in Côte d'Ivoire. "The Université de Cocody (formerly the Université Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire) has six facilities, and there are two other universities, at Abodo-Adjamé (also in Abidjan) and at Bouaké". [1a] (p356)

5.64 The United Nations Security Council report of August 2003 stated that "More than 1 million children have had their school year disrupted by the conflict. In Government-controlled areas, schools continue to function, and over 60,000 internally displaced children are attending supplementary schools established to receive the overflow. In northern zones, schools have been officially closed because of insecurity, although unofficial education activities supported by religious organizations and civic groups, as well as UNICEF, through the School for All programme and WFP through school canteen programmes". [3a] (p10)

5.65 The United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 added "Despite pressure from international partners, the Government was slow in validating school-year initiatives taken by local authorities and communities in the north and west during 2003. Private institutions, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations have also undertaken informal educational initiatives. An estimated 1.6 million children do not have access to formal primary education countrywide, some 532,000 of whom are in areas controlled by the Forces nouvelles". [3c] (p9)

5.66 Several reports noted that schools in the north of Côte d'Ivoire were due to be reopened in February 2004, however the vast majority remained closed due to a lack of infrastructure, teaching materials and teachers. [8j] (p5) [14p] According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 26 April 2004 the Forces nouvelles estimated that 96 percent of all schools remained closed in their zone. [8j] (p7) The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 14 April 2004 stated "The redeployment of local administration has been slow and teachers have been reluctant to return to their posts". [8j] (p5) Nevertheless, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 26 April

2004 noted "While the education situation since the second school start on the 2nd February 2004 has been bad in the central and north -north-eastern regions, the education sector in the west has gradually improved". [8j] (p6) The schools were reopened once again on 19 April 2004 in the northern zone. [8j] (p7)

5.67 According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 17 May 2004, "The education sector continues to suffer, particularly in rural areas and the northern zone. The various indicators provided by the Ministry of Education (DREN) and NGO's vary, while some figures are optimistic other (sic) are grim. A major concern is that some teachers have been registered as redeployed, but have not actually returned to the schools. It has been reported that some have registered only in order to retrieve their salary and then leave again". [8k] (p6)

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6. Human Rights

6.A Human Rights Issues

General

6.1 According to Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003, the Constitution stipulates that “The State guarantees the implementation of their Constitution and guarantees to protect the rights of each citizen”. [1a] (p345) However, the US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “The Government’s human rights record remained poor; although there were some improvements in a few areas, serious problems remained. In the beginning of the year [2003], the Government and New Forces (NF) committed serious abuses, and there were credible reports of pro-government death squad activity, extrajudicial killings, and disappearances. Security forces frequently resorted to lethal force to combat widespread violent crime and at times beat detainees and prisoners. Prison conditions improved, but remained harsh and sometimes life threatening. Arbitrary arrests and detention were common; numerous persons, including opposition members, journalists, and military officers, were detained for long period periods with trial”. [2a] (p2)

6.2 According to the US Department of State of report of 2003, “Discrimination and violence against women, abuse of children, and female genital mutilation (FGM) remained serious problems. There were incidents of violent ethnic confrontation; societal discrimination based on trafficking in children and women also persisted”. [2a] (p2) The US Department of State report also stated that “The targeting of Muslims suspected of rebel ties diminished somewhat during the year [2003], although Muslims and practitioners of indigenous religions were subject to discrimination. The Government allowed investigations into the human rights situation by Amnesty International (AI), Human Rights Watch (HRW) and observers from the UN Commission for Human Rights (UNCHR)”. [2a] (p2)

6.3 A report by Human Right Watch dated 20 May 2004 noted that “The conflict in Cote d’Ivoire nominally ended in July 2003, but the country is intensely divided. It is effectively split in two with government-held areas in the south and territory controlled by rebels in the north. Civilians continue to suffer at the hands of both sides and their associated militias”. [4g] (p3)

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Freedom of speech and the media

6.4 The US Department of State report of 2003 observed that “The Constitution provides for freedom of expression; however, the Government restricted this right in practice. The September 2002 rebellion triggered significant self-censorship and a deterioration of press freedom. However, the situation improved somewhat during the year [2003]”. [2a] (p15)

6.5 The US Department of State report of 2003 continued to state that “Private newspapers frequently criticized government policy. The arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment of journalists decreased from the previous year. Nevertheless, members of the press continued to receive death threats and suffer physical intimidation from groups of aligned with the ruling FPI party. Journalists continued to practice self-censorship”. [2a] (p15)

6.6 According to the Human Rights Watch report of August 2003, “Côte d’Ivoire is home to a plethora of media: at least a dozen daily newspapers have wide circulation in the capital and major towns around the country”. [4a] (p9) The US Department of State report of 2003 explained that “The only remaining government-owned daily newspaper, Fraternalite Matin, which had the greatest circulation of any daily, rarely criticized the government policy. There are a number of private newspaper: approximately 20 dailies; 30 weeklies; 5 semi-monthlies; and 10 monthlies”. [2a] (p15)

6.7 The US Department of State report of 2003 added “The government-owned broadcast media company, RTI, owned two major radio stations; only the primary government radio station broadcast nationwide. Neither station offered criticism of the Government; both government-owned stations frequently criticized opposition parties and persons critical of the Government”. [2a] (p16)

6.8 The report observed that “There were approximately 50 community radio stations authorized under government regulations. They had limited broadcast range and were allowed no foreign language programming, no advertising, and only public announcements limited to the local area”. [2a] (p16)

6.9 The US Department of State report also documented that “The Government owned and operated two television stations (RTI 1 and RTI 2) that broadcast domestically produced programs. Only one broadcast nationwide. Neither station criticized the Government’s actions, but they frequently criticized the opposition or persons who opposed the Government’s actions. There were two satellite television broadcasters; One French (Canal Horizon/TV5, and one South African (DS TV)”. [2a] (p16)

6.10 Moreover, the report noted that “Because of low literacy rates, radio was the most important medium of mass communication. Newspaper and television were relatively expensive”. [2a] (p15)

6.11 The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 stated that “Local and international radio programs have a wide audience, and both Ivorian and international television programs are available in Abidjan and in many large and small towns. Yet the variety of media available to Ivorians, probably unmatched in any other country in the region, has not guaranteed access to objective news coverage for two main reasons. First is the politicization of the Ivorian media, particularly the print media, which almost entirely lacks independence, given its links to the main political parties. Each major political party has a newspaper that acts as its mouthpiece, voicing its policy and

propaganda. Since most of these newspapers lack objectivity, their audience receives at best partial, and at worst, false and inflammatory impressions of events. Second, while the Ivorian literacy rate is above average for the region, it remains below 50 percent, 29 particularly in the rural areas, where radio remains the principal source of information”. [4a] (p12)

6.12 According to the Human Rights Watch report “When the ‘mutiny’ began, the government moved quickly to ensure that Ivorians could no longer access independent media. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Radio France Internationale (RFI) programming on FM frequencies were cut within a week of September 19, 2002, thereby eliminating access for the vast majority of rural villagers to independent radio coverage of the conflict. Television soon followed—by October 7, 2002, the French channel TV5 was taken off the air. The combined blocks on both radio and television cut access to independent media programming for the majority of the Ivorian population”. [4a] (p13)

6.13 The report added “The government simultaneously began a campaign to vilify the international press and their coverage of Côte d’Ivoire, not only by cutting audience access, but in some cases through intimidation of individual journalists. Local opposition media also suffered badly, with repeated attacks on the offices and persons of particular opposition papers. The lack of objective coverage by local media worsened with the onset of the conflict in September 2002 and the increase in ‘patriotic’ fervor”. [4a] (p13)

6.14 The United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 noted that “The inflammatory tone of reporting by some media outlets in Abidjan has moderated somewhat, although there are continuous fluctuations of political tensions rise and fall... Furthermore, the Young Patriots on more than one occasion have destroyed retailers’ stock of newspapers judged to be too close to the Forces nouvelles. At the same time, journalists’ associations have undertaken initiatives designed to promote peace and national reconciliation, such as the national press week for reconciliation and peace, organized in November [2003], by the Union nationale des journalistes of Côte d’Ivoire”. [3c] (p8)

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Treatment of Journalists

6.15 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that “A journalists association, the Observatory of Press Liberty and Ethics (OLPED), frequently wrote public letters to criticize government interference and harassment. On April 11 [2003], OLPED released a statement claiming various abuses by authorities against journalists, including: The harassment on several occasions of journalists from the PDCI-owned Nouveau Reveil; the preferential treatment granted to national television to the detriment of other public and private press organizations; and intimidation of the international press”. [2a] (p16)

6.16 It was reported in the Reporters sans frontières (RSF) annual report of 2004 that “An Ivorian journalist was killed at the beginning of 2003 and a foreign press correspondent was gunned down by a policeman in October [2003]”. [9a] (p1) The murdered foreign press correspondent, Jean Helene worked for Radio France Internationale (RFI) and was a French citizen. The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “Helene was unarmed and was shot once in the head, and there were reports that he was beaten prior to his shooting. President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Diarra, and most other major politicians issued statements severely criticizing the killing. Several newspapers accused Gbagbo and other politicians of creating a ‘climate of hatred’ that allowed the killing to occur”. [2a] (p16) According to several reports Guy-Andre Kieffer, a Franco-Canadian journalist believed to be investigating the revenue of cocoa exports, disappeared on 16 April 2004. [7c] [39] [40] According to a new report by Le Monde dated 27 May 2004, the French judiciary has implicated members of President Gbagbo’s entourage in his disappearance. [39]

6.17 It was noted in the Reporters sans frontières report of 2004 that “A significant part of the blame lay with central government. Despite many appeals from organisations that defend freedom of expression and international bodies such as the United Nations and the European Union, neither President Laurent Gbagbo nor the government of national reconciliation that was established in 2003 took sufficient measures to ensure respect for press freedom and the safety of journalists”. [9a] (p1) However, the report goes on to say that “Most regrettable of all was the role of the certain Ivorian news media themselves in encouraging the climate of hostility that developed in Cote d’Ivoire towards journalists, especially foreign correspondent”. [9a] (p1)

6.18 Moreover, it was noted in Reporters sans frontières report that “These two tragic events encapsulated the situation for journalists working in Cote d’Ivoire – a complete lack of security underpinned by the impunity enjoyed by both the regular security forces and the many rebel movements and militia present in the country”. [9a] (p1) The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) released a report entitled Attacks on the Press 2003, in which it was stated that “After Helene’s murder, foreign correspondents in Abidjan asked for a meeting with Gbagbo to find out what guarantees he could offer for journalists’ security. The president said that although he was shocked by Helene’s death, he was equally shocked by the way the foreign press had ‘gone crazy’ in its reporting on Ivory Coast. He insisted that he would never expel or imprison a journalist but suggested that they show more self-restraint”. [34] (p2)

6.19 The US Department of State report of 2003 explained that “There were several reports that security forces beat journalists. For example, on July 5 [2003], gendarmes detained a journalist from independent local newspaper 24 Heures when he arrived to cover the demolition of a shantytown Abidjan neighborhood”. [2a] (p17) The US Department of State report continued to state that “There were credible reports that security forces continued to harass journalists. For example, in January [2003], Denis Kah Zion, publisher of Le Nouveau Reveil, which is close to the PDCI party, told the press that he had

received several threats from death squads because of his newspaper's frequent criticism of President Gbagbo". [2a] (p17)

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Freedom of Religion

6.20 As stated in the US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report of 2003, "The Constitution provides for freedom of religion and the Government generally respected that right; however, after September 19 [2002], the Government targeted persons perceived to be perpetrators or supporters of the rebellion, who often were Muslims". [2b] (p1) The report added that "Strong efforts by religious and civil society groups have helped prevent the crisis from becoming a religious conflict... The establishment of a Ministry of Religion in March highlights the Government's efforts to deal with religious strains". [2b] (p1)

6.21 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The law requires religious groups desiring to operate in the country to register; however, registration is granted routinely". The report also stated that "Although nontraditional religious groups, like all public secular associations, were required to register with the Government, no penalties were imposed on groups that failed to register" [2a] (p21)

6.22 Furthermore, the US Department of State report of 2003 stated that "There was no state religion; however, for historical as well as ethnic reasons, the Government informally favoured Christianity, in particular the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church leaders had a stronger voice in government affairs than their Islamic counterparts, which led the Marcoussis Accord, and 10 of the 41 ministers, along with the Prime Minister, as Muslims". [2a] (p21)

6.23 The US Department of State International Religious Freedom report of 2003 observed that "Relations among the various religious groups have become strained at times since the onset of the national crisis; there is some societal discrimination against Muslims and followers of traditional indigenous religions". [2b] (p1)

Religious Groups

6.24 The US Department of State International Religious Freedom report of 2003 explained that "Religious groups in the country include Islam, the Roman Catholic Church, Protestant churches, and traditional indigenous religions. Major Protestant groups include the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Assemblies of God, the Southern Baptist Church, the Autonomous Church of Celestial Christianity of Oschoffa, the Union of the Evangelical Church of Services and Works of Cote d'Ivoire, the Unification Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Harrist Church (an African Protestant denomination founded in the country in 1913 by a Liberian preacher named William Wade Harris), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Protestant

Methodist Church of Cote d'Ivoire, the Coptic Church, the Pentecostal Church of Cote d'Ivoire, the Interdenominational Church, the Yoruba First Church, the Church of God International Missions, and the Baptist Church Missions. Other religions include Buddhism, the Baha'i Faith, the Church of the Prophet Papa Nouveau (a syncretistic religion founded in the country in 1937 that combines Christian doctrine, traditional indigenous rituals, and practical concern for social, political, and economic progress for Africans), the Messianic Church, Bossonism (the traditional religious practices of the Akan ethnic group), the Limmoudim of Rabbi Jesus (a small Christian group, the origins of which are unknown), the Eckankar religion (a syncretistic religion founded in 1965 in Nigeria that sees human passion as an obstacle to uniting a person's divine qualities), and the Movement of Raelis. Many religious groups in the country are associated with American religious groups". [2b] (p1)

6.25 The report added "The published results of the most recent national census, conducted in 1998, indicated that Muslims make up approximately 38.6 percent of the country's resident population; Catholics, 19.4 percent; practitioners of traditional indigenous religions, 11.9 percent; Protestants, 6.6 percent; other Christians, 3.1 percent; practitioners of other religions, 1.7 percent; Harrists, 1.3 percent; and persons without religious preference or affiliation, 16.7 percent. Among citizens, 27.4 percent are Muslim, 20.8 percent are Catholic, 15.4 percent practice traditional indigenous religions, 8.2 percent are Protestant, 3.4 percent are of other Christian affiliations, 1.9 percent practice other religions, 1.6 percent are Harrist, and 20.7 percent are without religious affiliation. Foreigners living in the country are 70.5 percent Muslim and 15.4 percent Catholic with small percentages practicing other religions". [2b] (p1-2)

6.26 According to the US Department of State International Religious Freedom report of 2003, "Muslims are found in the greatest numbers in the northern half of the country, although they also are becoming increasingly numerous in the cities of the south, west, and east due to immigration, migration, and inter-ethnic marriages. In 1998 Muslims composed 45.5 percent of the total urban population and 33.5 percent of the total rural population. Catholics live mostly in the southern, central, and eastern portions of the country, though recently some animists in the north have converted to Catholicism. Practitioners of traditional indigenous religions are concentrated in rural areas of the country's north, west, center, and east. Protestants are concentrated in the central, eastern, and southwest regions. Members of the Harrist Church are concentrated in the south". [2b] (p2)

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Muslims

6.27 The US Department of State report of 2003 reported that, "Following the conflict in September 2002 and during the year [2003], there were credible reports of military and security forces committing abuses, including reprisal killings, against presumed rebel sympathizers, which included many Muslims. There were credible reports that the government forces and unknown

assailants linked the Government detained and questioned several Muslims leaders. There were no reports of persons detained solely on religious grounds; however, there were reports of beatings". [2a] (p21) The US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report of 2003 added that "During the current crisis, according to credible reports, government forces, along with unknown assailants, have killed several Muslim leaders". [2b] (p4) However, the US Department of State report of 2003 stated that "The targeting of Muslims suspected of rebel ties diminished somewhat during the year [2003]". [2a] (p21)

6.28 Moreover, the US Department of State report of 2003 stated that, "There have been several reports of religious violence and increased Christian/Muslim tensions, generally in the north and west regions". [2a] (p22) Additionally, the US Department of State report noted that, "In July [2003], military forces living near a mosque beat the muezzin at the Yopougon Mosque to stop his call of prayer. The military men also entered the mosque and told the worshippers to stop praying". [2a] (p21)

6.29 In the view of the US Department of State International Religious Freedom report of 2003, "Muslims often have had to struggle for state benefits that came more easily to practitioners of other religions. For example, Catholic and Protestant schools are regarded as official schools supervised by the Ministry of Education and subsidized by the Government. The Government allows Islamic schools that follow an official curriculum but does not subsidized them" [2b] (p4)

6.30 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The Government has taken some positive steps to promote interfaith understanding. The Government has created a Ministry of Religion to promote interfaith understanding". [2a] (p22) However, the US Department of State International Religious Freedom report of 2003 noted that "Nonetheless, some Muslims believe that their religious or ethnic affiliation makes them targets of discrimination by the Government with regard to both employment and the renewal of identity cards". The report added "Due to the tense political situation in the country and the ethnic and religious divisions along which political party lines are drawn, some Muslims are scrutinized more closely in the identity card application process. As most Muslims share names, style of dress, and customs with several of the country's predominantly Muslim neighboring countries, they sometimes are wrongly accused of attempting to obtain nationality cards illegally in order to vote or otherwise take advantage of citizenship. The Marcoussis agreement calls for the resolution of the national identity question and improved implementation of naturalization laws to ensure the granting of citizenship in an equi table manner to those qualified". [2b] (p4)

6.31 The US Department of State International Religious Freedom report explained that several human rights groups report that relations between Muslims and Christians, specifically Catholics, improved during 2003. The report stated that "There have been many examples of interfaith cooperation during the crisis. Since October 2002, Cardinal Bernard Agre and El Hadj

Idriss Koudouss Kone, two of the country's most prominent religious leaders, have met once a week and regularly participate in the celebration of each other's main religious events". [2b] (p6)

6.32 Furthermore, the US Department of State International Religious Freedom report observed that "The Forum of Religious Confessions, created by the Research Group in Democracy and Social and Economic Development of Cote d'Ivoire (GERDDES-CI), a democracy and civic education group, includes the leaders of many of the country's religious faiths, including Catholics, Muslims, various Protestant groups, several syncretist groups, the Association of Traditional Priests, and the Bossonists, an association of indigenous Akan religious priests. The Forum is headed by the leader of the Celestial Christian Church, and its objective is to promote dialog, increase understanding, and improve religious leaders' and groups' relationships". [2b] (p6)

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Freedom of Association and Assembly

6.33 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that "The Constitution allows for freedom of assembly; however, the Government sometimes restricted this right in practice. Groups that wished to hold demonstrations or rallies were required by law to submit a written notice of their intent to the Ministry of Security or the Ministry of Interior 3 days before the proposed event. No law expressly authorizes the Government to ban public meetings or events for which advance notice has been given in the required manner. In practice, the Government prohibited specific events deemed prejudicial to the public order; even if authorization was granted, it later could be revoked. There were numerous demonstrations during the year [2003]. There were few instances of police forcibly dispersing demonstrations even when they deemed that public order was threatened; generally they allowed the demonstrations to proceed. However, security forces on occasion used excessive force to disperse demonstrators". [2a] (p19)

6.34 Furthermore, the US Department of State report added that, "The Constitution provides for freedom of association and the Government generally respected this right in practice. The Government allowed the formation of political parties, trade unions, professional associations, and student and religious groups, all of which were numerous. All parties and NGOs must register with the Ministry of Interior before commencing activities. To obtain registration, political parties had to provide information on their founding members and produce internal statutes and political platforms or goals consistent with the Constitution. There were no reports that the Government denied registration to any group, but processing rarely was expeditious. There were more than 100 legally recognized political parties, 7 of which were represented in the National Assembly". [2a] (p20)

Political Activists

6.35 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that “The youth wings of political parties were allowed to organize and were active. The youth wing of the governing FPI party (JFPI) [Jeunesse du Front Populaire Ivoirien, Young Ivorian Popular Front] was a less of a political force than in previous years. JFPI activity was ongoing; however, youth patriot groups conducted most activities during the year [2003]. Many of the members of the JFPI were likely members of some of these patriot groups. After the September 2002 rebellion, on several occasions the JFPI, closely allied with COJEP [Congrès Panafricain des Jeunes Patriotes, Congress of Young Patriots] led by self-declared ‘young patriot’ Charles Ble Goude, and the Patriots for the Total Liberation of Cote d’Ivoire [Union Pour la Libération Totale de la Côte d’Ivoire] (UPLT-CI) led by Eugene Djue, drew tens of thousands of marchers to pro-government, anti-French, anti-Marcoussis, and anti-northerner rallies. The FCO letter of 14 June 2004 added that “the youth groups, in particular the Young Patriots, were actively encouraged to organise and be active. Mrs Gbagbo regularly attends their political rallies. In early June 2004 the Young Patriots were alleged to have barricaded the French Embassy; on being forcibly removed they attacked French expatriates”. [7c]

6.36 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “The youth wings of the PDCI and RDR kept a low profile, especially after September 2002, but staged some activities during the year [2003]... In late June [2003], Prime Minister Diarra and U.N. Special Representative Albert Tevoedjre publicly criticized the youth groups, saying that they were endangering the Marcoussis reconciliation process. President Gbagbo instructed the police to ‘rigorously’ apply criminal law against the militia leaders if they engaged in illegal activities; however, there were no reports of police action control of or action against the militias or patriot groups who continued training openly in various parts of the country”. [2a] (p25)

6.37 A Human Rights Watch news report dated 26 March 2004 noted that in an opposition march in the capital, Abidjan, held on 25 March 2004, “At least 25 people were killed and 45 were wounded in Abidjan yesterday during a protest march organized by an alliance of leading Ivorian opposition parties and former rebel forces to protest the government’s lack of progress in implementing the January 2003 peace accords”. [4d] However, an IRIN news article, published on May 5, 2004 stated that, “At least 120 people were killed by the government security forces and their militia allies after opposition parties in Cote d’Ivoire tried to stage a banned demonstration against President Laurent Gbagbo in Abidjan at the end of March [2004], according to a leaked report by UN human rights investigators”. [14n] According to the FCO letter dated 14 June 2004 “This report was subsequently published, and confirms the involvement of militias in the killings, as well as attributing direct responsibility to President Gbagbo. A UN Commission of Enquiry into Human Rights abuses since September 2002 is about to be launched”. [7c] (See paragraphs 4.35 to 4.37 for more information)

6.38 The Human Rights Watch news report of 26 March 2004 added that “Shortly after the march was announced, President Laurent Gbagbo banned all demonstrations in the capital and mobilized the military to deploy forces

throughout the city, citing fears that opposition groups were 'plotting a coup.' Commanders of the armed forces decreed that the area around the presidential palace would be considered a 'red zone' in which demonstrators would be considered 'enemy fighters and treated as such without warning'". [4d]

6.39 Amnesty International stated in a report dated 8 April 2004 that "On the morning of Thursday, 25 March 2004, very many groups of people demonstrated in the streets, in response to calls from their respective political parties. Demonstrations took place in several districts of the urban periphery of Abidjan, including Abobo, Adjamé, Koumassi and Yopougon. Demonstrators were stopped at barricades manned by the security forces, who made disproportionate use of firearms and tear gas, killing and wounding a significant number of people". [5f] (p4)

6.40 The Amnesty International report further added that "The information gathered by Amnesty International indicates that the march, which President Laurent Gbagbo banned by decree, began peacefully. The security forces nevertheless forcefully repressed unarmed demonstrators, including militants of the former single party, the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), Côte d'Ivoire Democratic Party, who were attacked with tear gas grenades as they tried to leave the party headquarters to attend the demonstration. However, in at least one case, demonstrators also resorted to violence, killing two police officers, and cutting their bodies to pieces with a machete". [5f] (p1)

6.41 Furthermore, the report stated that "All the information gathered by Amnesty International indicates that many people were arrested or killed in their homes, not during the demonstrations, but during the following nights. These nocturnal attacks sowed terror, especially among the inhabitants of Abobo". [5f] (p10)

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Rally of Republicans (Rassemblement des Républicains, RDR)

6.42 According to the Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2003, the RDR was formed in June 1994 by a group of Ouattara loyalists that broke away from the PDCI-RDA. By the end of 1994 the RDR had replaced the FPI as the main opposition party. [1a] (p330) In March 2003, Prime Minister Diarra formed a government of national reconciliation. The RDR were given seven of the 41 ministerial posts, including the Ministry of Justice. [2a] (p1)

6.43 According to the Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 "The cumulative political, economic, religious and ethnic tensions of the 1990s erupted into violence during the presidential elections in October 2000". [4a] (p8) As documented in number of reports, following the introduction of the new constitution in July 2000, Dr Alassane Dramane Ouattara, leader of the RDR, was prohibited from running for president under a clause that stated only candidates of solely Ivorian nationality and parentage could contest. [1a] (p331) [13a] [13b] [13c]

6.44 The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 noted that “Over 200 people were killed and hundreds were wounded in the violence surrounding the October and December elections. Demonstrators were gunned down in the Abidjan streets by the state security forces; hundreds of opposition members, many of them northerners and RDR supporters targeted on the basis of ethnicity and religion, were arbitrarily arrested, detained and tortured, and state security forces committed rape and other human rights violations in complicity with FPI supporters”. [4a] (p8-9)

6.45 The RDR boycotted the legislative elections, held in December 2000 and January 2001, in protest at Ouattara’s exclusion. Nevertheless, a ‘moderate group’ splintered from the RDR, and ran in certain constituencies winning five seats. [1a] (p332)

6.46 As documented in several reports, there was an attempted coup on 8 January 2001, which was believed to have been organised by Muslim northerners with the support of the countries north of Côte d’Ivoire. Many northerners were arrested including leaders of the RDR. [1a] (p332) [31b] (p5) The Human Rights Watch report of November 2001 stated that “Those connected with the RDR, whether leading figures or ordinary members, have been singled out for particularly harsh treatment”. [4f] (p13) The report added “Many have been arrested after being denounced. They are usually asked questions about what they think of the situation, whether they know Alassane Ouattara, whether he financed or organized the “coup,” and about whether they have been sheltering ‘assailants.’ Most have been freed after a couple of days in custody at the various gendarmerie ‘Brigades de Recherches’ (investigation branch). Some have been charged with state security offences. Others seem to have been arrested yet their relatives have had no news of them since their arrest and have been unable to trace them”. [4f] (p13)

6.47 According to the Human Rights Watch report of August 2003, members of the RDR have been targeted by government security forces during 2002. [4a] (p19) The report continued “Human Rights Watch also documented summary executions of civilians, particularly members of the RDR, by government armed forces in other western towns under government control, including Bangolo, Duékoué and Guiglo... Human Rights Watch also heard allegations that in Guiglo, the municipal authorities ‘made a blacklist of one hundred forty people’ with the names of leaders and members of the UPDCI and RDR, and that “the objective was to kill all the people on the list”. [4a] (p20)

6.48 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “Several members of the opposition party Rally of Republicans (RDR) were missing at year’s end [2003]. RDR activist Ibrahim Bakayoko reportedly has been missing since December 2002, shortly after ‘armed men in military fatigues’ came looking for him. He reportedly was warned and eluded the ‘military men;’ however, his family reported him as missing ever since”. [2a] (p4)

6.49 The US Department of State report also noted that “During the year [2003], security forces continued to arrest and usually release persons of northern origins, RDR party members and officials, and those thought to be

loyal to former junta leader General Guei... In response to an alleged coup attempt in mid-October [2003], police made large-scale arrests, including the detention of 11 RDR party members, who later were released". [2a] (p7 - 8)

6.50 The report added "Early in the year, the RDR and UDPCI members reportedly detained by the Government in 2002 in what opposition parties deemed a 'witch hunt' were released". [2a] (p8)

6.51 According to the US Department of State report "There were credible reports describing serious abuses committed by armed forces working in complicity or in coordination with youth groups in the central and western parts of the country. Human Rights Watch reported that in many attacks on civilians by paramilitary groups in Daloa, Duekoue, Guiglo, and Monoko-Zohi, local villagers from ethnic groups close to the Government provided names of foreigners, RDR members, northerners, and other alleged rebel supporters to the security forces". [2a] (p13)

6.52 The report added "The youth wings of the PDCI and RDR kept a low profile, especially after September 2002, but staged some activities during the year". [2a] (p25)

6.53 The Human Rights Watch report of March 2004 noted "that dozens of people were rounded up and arrested by state security forces today [26 March 2004] and in the days preceding the march. These round-ups occurred in the poorer neighborhoods inhabited primarily by West African immigrants and northern Ivorians, often perceived as supporters of the Rally of Republicans (Rassemblement des Républicains, RDR) opposition party". [4d] In response to the violence, the RDR suspended their involvement in the government. [4d] [8h] (p2) [13h]

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Forces nouvelles (New Forces)

6.54 According to several sources, the Forces nouvelles (New Forces) are made up of the former rebel groups; the MPCl, the MPIGO and the MJP. [4e] [28] (p1,2) A report by IRIN news on 24 December 2002 explained that the MPCl was created in late September 2002. [14x] The ICG report of November 2003 added that "On 28 November 2002, two new insurgent groups – the Mouvement Populaire du Grand Ouest (MPIGO) and the Mouvement pour la Justice et la Paix (MJP) – appeared in the west, below the ceasefire line". [28] (p1) The Human Rights Watch report of January 2004 noted that "The north and most of the west of the country remained under the control of the three former rebel groups, called the Forces Nouvelles, while the government retained control of the south". [4b] (p1)

6.55 In March 2003, Prime Minister Diarra, selected nine members of the Forces nouvelles to represent the newly formed government of national reconciliation [2a] (p1) The US Department of State report of 2003 continued, "On July 4 [2003], the National Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FANCI) and NF

military signed an 'End of the War' declaration, pledged their support for President Gbagbo, and vowed to work for the Marcoussis Accord and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR). On September 13 [2003], President Gbagbo named neutral Defense and Security Ministers, after consulting with the political parties. The NF lacked confidence in the new ministers and citing continuing personal security concerns and accusing President Gbagbo of too slowly implementing the Marcoussis Accords suspended their participation in the national reconciliation government and the reunification committee and boycotted the DDR program. By mid-December [2003], the NF and government military forces took steps toward DDR, including pulling back heavy weapons, moving to cantonment sites, and releasing prisoners, and the NF ministers noted they would attend the first government meeting in 2004". [2a] (p1)

6.56 According to the US Department of State report, "The NF's human rights record was extremely poor. The rebels in the north summarily executed persons, killed numerous civilians, arbitrarily arrested and detained persons, and conducted arbitrary ad hoc justice". [2a] (p1) The report added "In rebel-controlled territory, the NF also arbitrary arrested and detained many persons thought to be loyal to President Gbagbo. In the north, AI [Amnesty International] and others reported that rebels arrested and mistreated persons based on a neighbor's denunciation or suspicion that an individual's sympathies were with the Government". [2a] (p9) However the report continued "On December 7 [2003], NF freed 40 FANCI military personnel and handed them over to the ICRC at Korhogo and Bouake. The ICRC reported that it has had access to all persons held in the country in connection with the rebellion". [2a] (p9)

6.57 It was reported in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 30 January 2004, "In the northern and northwestern parts of Cote d'Ivoire a situation of insecurity prevails as clashes between Forces Nouvelles fractions persist and the intimidation of local populations continues". [8d] (p1) The report continued "Residents in Man reported that a week-long outbreak of shooting between rival rebel fractions in the town only came to an end on 27th January after a force of 600 combatants was sent by FN leadership from other parts of the North to restore order. The shooting and heavy movements of troops over the last week scared civilians and kept businesses closed. In Korhogo, internal conflicts between FN leaders, led to a violent exchange and four deaths on the 22nd January. The incident was a result of disputes over the ownership of a tanker truck". [8d] (p2)

6.58 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report of 15 March 2004 noted that "Political tensions have heightened as a result of FN's (Forces Nouvelles) announcement that it would not disarm until elections scheduled for Oct 2005 are conducted". [8g] (p1)

6.59 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that "In NF controlled territory, there were numerous demonstrations throughout the year [2003], usually organized by the MPCJ and in support of the NF and against President Gbagbo". [2a] (p20)

6.60 Nevertheless, an African News Agency (Afol) article dated 26 March 2004 “The Forces Nouvelles joined the PDCI opposition party in arranging the anti-Gbagbo protest march” in March 2004. [36a] An Amnesty International report dated 4 May 2004 stated that “A few days before the demonstration, President Laurent Gbagbo issued a decree banning all marches until the 30 April 2004, and the security forces warned they would use all the means at their disposal to prevent any demonstrations from taking place”. [5g]

6.61 An Afrol news article dated 26 March 2004 reported that “After yesterday's violent demonstrations in Abidjan, killing at least 25, the ex-rebels and three more opposition parties have left Côte d'Ivoire's national reconciliation government”. The article added “Guillaume Soro - Secretary-General of the Forces Nouvelles and until now Minister of Infrastructure - today said the 'barbarian repression' of the peaceful rally had forced his ex-rebels to leave the government. Mr Soro held that President Gbagbo's security forces had no right to attack the manifestations of fellow signatories of the Marcoussis accord”. [36a]

6.62 However, a report by IRIN news on 20 May 2004 stated that “President Laurent Gbagbo has dismissed three opposition ministers from Cote d'Ivoire's broad-based government of national reconciliation, including Guillaume Soro, the leader of rebel forces occupying the north of the country”. [14z] The FCO letter dated 14 June 2004 stated that “This was subsequently confirmed”. [7c]

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Employment Rights

Positions of Trade Unions

6.63 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that “The Constitution and the Labor Code grant all citizens, except members of the police and military services, the right to form or join unions, and worker (sic) exercised these rights in practice. Registration of a new union required 3 months. The three largest labor federations were the General Union of Workers of Cote d'Ivoire (UGTCI), the Federation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Cote d'Ivoire, and Dignite, which became inactive. Unions legally are free to join federations other than the UGTCI”. [2a] (p30)

6.64 The US Department of State report further noted that, “Only a small percentage of the workforce was organized, and most laborers worked in the informal sector that included small farms, small roadside and street side shops, and urban workshops. However, large industrial farms and some trades were organized. There was an agricultural workers union. The law prohibits anti-union discrimination. There have been no known prosecutions or convictions under this law, nor have there been reports of anti-union discrimination. Unions were free to join international bodies, and the UGTCI was affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions”. [2a] (p30)

6.65 The report further noted that “The law protects persons working in the formal sector (approximately 1.5 million workers or 15 percent of the workforce) from employer interference in their right to organize and administer unions, and this was observed in practice”. [2a] (p30)

The Right to Strike

6.66 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, “The Constitution and statutes provide for the right to strike, and the Government generally protected this right in practice. However, the Labor Code requires a protracted series of negotiations and a 6-day notification period before a strike may take place, making legal strikes difficult to organize. Workers in the private and government sectors continued to strike over working conditions and terms of employment, and the Government generally tolerated the strikes, which rarely resulted in violence. There were several strikes during the year [2003]. For example, on April 25 [2003], hundreds of former employees demonstrated at the National Identification Office (NIO), formerly the Security Identification Center, demanding 25 months in salary arrears. Despite continued meetings between former employees, labor inspectors, and NIO management, the former employees had not received their salary arrears by year’s end [2003]”. [2a] (p30)

6.67 Moreover, the US Department of State report of 2003 noted that, “There were no developments in the cases of security forces who forcibly dispersed strikes in 2002 and 2001”. [2a] (p30)

Conditions of Work

6.68 With regard to acceptable conditions of work, the US Department of State report of 2003 stated that “The Government administratively determined monthly minimum wage rates, which last were adjusted in 1996. In 2002, President Gbagbo promised a comprehensive pay raise; however, only the police received an increase. Minimum wages varied according to occupation, with the lowest set at approximately \$70 (36,000 CFA francs) per month for the industrial sector; this wage was not sufficient to provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. A slightly higher minimum wage rate applied for construction workers. The Government enforced the minimum wage rates only for salaried workers employed by the Government or registered with the social security office. The majority of the labor force worked in agriculture or in the informal sector where the minimum wage did not apply. According to a Labor Ministry survey, workers in the agricultural and fishing sector received an average of \$1,460 (726,000 CFA francs) a year”. [2a] (p32)

6.69 Moreover, the US Department of State report of 2003 stipulated that, “Working conditions did not improve during the year [2003] and in some cases declined. Government labor inspectors could order employers to improve substandard conditions, and a labor court could levy fines if the employer failed to comply with the Labor Code. However, in the large informal sector of the economy, the Government enforced occupational health and safety regulations erratically, if at all. The practice of some labor inspectors

accepting bribes was a continuing problem, and observers believed that it was widespread. Workers in the formal sector had the right to remove themselves from dangerous work situations without jeopardy to continued employment by utilizing the Ministry of Labor's inspection system to document dangerous working conditions. However, workers in the informal sector ordinarily could not absent themselves from such labor without risking the loss of their employment".
[2a] (p32)

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People Trafficking

6.70 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that "The law does not prohibit trafficking in persons, and although the Government continued its anti-trafficking efforts, trafficking in persons remained a problem. Unlike in the previous year [2002], there were no reports that the Government prosecuted traffickers using existing laws against the kidnapping of children. With the continuing crisis, the Government, U.N. agencies, and international humanitarian agencies concentrated on child soldiers and children displaced because of the war, but it was difficult to distinguish trafficked children. The country was a source and destination country for trafficking in women and children". [2a] (p32)

6.71 The US Department of State report added that, "After September 2002, minimal law enforcement continued in government-held territory. The military fronts that divided the country inhibited northern workers from reaching the cocoa, coffee, and other rich agricultural zones in the south where labor demand is high. Furthermore, the Governments of Mali and Burkina Faso closed their borders with Cote d'Ivoire. The border with Burkina Faso reopened in September [2003]". The US Department of State report stated that, "In September [2003], there were news reports that a Bamako court convicted two Malian men of child trafficking for trying to smuggle five minors to Cote d'Ivoire to work on plantations. Unlike in the previous year [2002], authorities did not intercept persons involved in trafficking. There was no good overall estimate of the number of children intercepted or repatriated during the year [2003]". [2a] (p33)

6.72 In addition, the US Department of State report stated that "The regular trafficking of children into the country from neighboring countries to work in the informal sector in exchange for finder's fees generally was accepted. Children were trafficked into the country from Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Mauritania for indentured or domestic servitude, farm labor, and sexual exploitation. In previous years, there were reports that children, some as young as 6 years of age, were trafficked from Benin to work as agricultural laborers and maids; however, there were no such reports during the year [2003]. Women principally were trafficked to the country from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, and Asian countries. A local NGO estimated that 58 percent of the female prostitutes in Abidjan were not citizens and reported that a small number of Ivoirian women were trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for

prostitution. Women and children were trafficked from the country to African, European, and Middle Eastern countries". [2a] (p33)

6.73 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The survey research, released in 2002, revealed that most children who were working in the cocoa sector worked on the family's farm (approximately 70 percent) or beside their parents. Of the 625,000 working children, 96.7 percent had a kinship relation to the farmer. Others, most frequently the children of extended family members or persons well known to them, indicated their or their family's agreement to leave their respective countries to work on farms in the country to earn money or in search of a better life. The research suggested that perhaps 5,000 to 10,000 children were trafficked to or within the country to work full or part time in the cocoa sector. It also showed an estimated 5,100 children employed as full-time permanent workers, approximately 3,000 of whom were from Burkina Faso. The survey found another 12,000 children working part time on cocoa farms who had no family ties with the farmer. The research showed that approximately 109,000 child laborers worked in hazardous conditions on cocoa farms in the country in what the study described as the worst forms of child labor. The studies estimated that 59 percent were from Burkina Faso, 24 percent were citizens, and the others were from Mali or other countries to the north". [2a] (p33-34)

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Freedom of Movement

6.74 As noted in the US Department of State report of 2003, with regard to the "Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation", "The Constitution does not provide specifically for these rights, and the Government restricted freedom of movement during the year [2003]. The Government generally did not restrict internal travel. However, security forces and water, forestry, and customs officials frequently erected and operated roadblocks on major roads, where they demanded that motorists or passengers produce identity and vehicle papers and regularly extorted small amounts of money or goods for contrived or minor infractions. Extortion was particularly high for those intending to travel north from government-controlled areas to NF territory. During the year [2003], security forces or local civilian 'self defense committees' erected numerous roadblocks and harassed and extorted travelers, commercial traffic and truckers, foreigners, refugees, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) workers, and others; however, there were fewer such reports by year's end. Uniformed forces and civilian committees demanded payment at each roadblock, sometimes reportedly beating and detaining those who could not pay". [2a] (p22)

6.75 Furthermore, the US Department of State report added "On May 10 [2003], the Government lifted the nationwide curfew, which had been in effect since September 2002. Persons living under NF authority regularly faced harassment and extortion when trying to travel between towns, and to the government-controlled south. Local military authorities regularly sold passes they required of travelers. There were no reports during the year [2003] that

opposition party members reported that they feared being arrested at the airport if they attempted to leave the country". [2a] (p22)

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6.B Human Rights: Specific Groups

Ethnic Groups

6.76 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, “The country's population was ethnically diverse”. [2a] (p30) The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 stated that “Ethnically, Côte d'Ivoire can be described as a crossroads, with most of the major ethnic groups migrating from neighboring countries over the centuries. While there has been substantial mixing of these populations geographically, particularly in Abidjan, Daloa and other urban centers, the country remains roughly divided into regional blocs. The center and east are mainly occupied by the Baoulé and Agni, both part of the Akan migration from Ghana. The north is largely home to two main ethnic groups: the Malinké and Dioula (part of the northern Mande group) who migrated from Guinea and Mali, and the Senaphou and Lobi people (part of the Gur group) who migrated from Burkina Faso and Mali. The west is populated by the southern Mande group largely the Dan or Yacouba and Gouro ethnic groups, who migrated from southern Guinea and Sierra Leone. Finally, the southwest is home to the Krou peoples, including the Bété and Wê (a sub-group of whom are known as the Gueré) who are believed to be among the earliest migrants from the southwestern coast”. [4a] (p7)

6.77 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “Some ethnic groups included many noncitizens, while other ethnic groups included few noncitizens. There were societal and political tensions between these two sets of ethnic groups. This cleavage corresponded to some extent to regional differences. Members of northern ethnic groups that were found in neighboring countries as well as in the country often were required to document their citizenship, whereas members of formerly or presently politically powerful ethnic groups of the south and center reportedly were not required to do so”. [2a] (p29)

6.78 As documented in several reports Côte d'Ivoire was largely stable for more than three decades after independence under the leadership of President Felix Houphouët-Boigny. [4a] (p6) [13a] [28] (p5) However, the Human Rights Watch report of 2003 observed that “The death of Houphouët-Boigny in 1993 marked the onset of overt political tension in Côte d'Ivoire and the end of the fragile ethnic balance he had maintained. Candidates representing the key major ethnic groups, including Houphouët-Boigny's Baoulé successor, Henri Konan Bédié of the PDCI, Laurent Gbagbo the Bété leader of the Popular Ivorian Front (Front Populaire Ivoirien, FPI), and Alassane Dramane Ouattara of the Rally of Republicans (Rassemblement des Républicains, RDR) began vying for the presidency in the run-up to the 1995 elections. Bédié's 1995 campaign was based on an ethnic platform aimed at undermining support for Bédié's main rival: Ouattara, a former prime minister under Houphouët-Boigny and the candidate of the largest opposition party, the heavily northern-supported RDR. The RDR boycotted the election after Ouattara's candidacy was barred on the grounds that he held Burkinabé nationality and was not a native Ivorian, and Bédié won the election”. [4a] (p7)

6.79 An article published in The Guardian on 21 January 2003 reported that, “For a decade, Ivory Coast's rulers have been stirring ethnic hatred to rally their supporters. Henri Konan Bedié - who became president in 1993 - started the rot by introducing a policy of ‘Ivoirité’ to strip the migrants - mostly Muslims and northerners, including many resident in Ivory Coast for generations - of property and voting rights. The incumbent president, Laurent Gbagbo, won a violent election in 2001 from which 14 of the initial 17 candidates were barred on ethnic grounds. Mr Gbagbo's gendarmes now harass everyone apart from his own Bété people. ‘Ivoirité,’ says one commentator, now refers exclusively to the president's tribe”. [35]

6.80 The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) report of May 2004 observed that “Power struggles over the presidential seat, ethnic tensions, and xenophobia brought Cote d'Ivoire into a state of civil unrest and widespread violence in 2002”. [25] (p2) The report added “Xenophobia and ethnic tensions have forced half a million people, predominately Burkinabe, Malian, and Guinean migrant workers, to flee Cote d'Ivoire as of May 2003. Many of the ethnically Burkinabe women and men living in Cote d'Ivoire, one of the largest immigrant communities have been victimized by discrimination and xenophobia in the host country, but have never been to Burkina Faso and do not have direct contact with family members there”. [25] (p3)

6.81 The United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 explained that “Media campaigns against so-called foreigners accused of being allied to the Forces nouvelles and opposition political parties have continued, often on the basis of ethnicity, religion or region of origin, and fuel ethnic tensions, violence and harassment of specific communities and ethnic groups”. [3c] (p7)

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Ethnic Violence

6.82 According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) report of 2004 “Problems of discrimination and ethnic tension have been exacerbated by the concept of 'Ivoirite', which many see as divisive and favouring the largely Christian south. Tensions that have existed since the December 1999 coup became increasingly serious following the outbreak of the current crisis”. [7a] (p5) The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 stated that civilian victims were targeted based on ethnic grounds. “In many cases, the victims' names alone were considered grounds for arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture and executions, based on the identification of the name as a potential northerner or immigrant or political opposition member”. [4a] (p14)

6.83 The US Department of State report of 2003 also noted that “Police routinely abused and harassed noncitizen Africans residing in the country... Ethnic tensions led to fighting and deaths, especially in the western areas of the country. During the year [2003], We and Yacouba ethnic groups in the west continued fighting, and hundreds reportedly were killed”. [2a] (p30)

6.84 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 26 April 2004 stated that “Ethnic tensions are escalating in the west of Côte d'Ivoire. While some IDPs are seemingly ready and eager to return for the start of the agricultural season, others are not, likewise some communities would like immigrants to return while others are far from ready... The conflict between the of Dozos [traditional hunters originating from Burkino Faso and northern parts of Côte d'Ivoire] from Duoekpé and the Guéré from Diéouzon (26km northeast of Bangolo), on the 20th April has led to the displacement of 357 villagers of the Guéré ethnic group from Diéouzon and 158 from Duoekpé, who have fled to Bangolo”. [8j] (p1)

6.85 As documented in several news reports, a number of ethnic clashes have occurred during 2004. [14r] [14u] [14s] [14t] An IRIN news report dated 7 January 2004 reported that “Since Cote d'Ivoire plunged into civil war in September 2002, there have been repeated ethnic clashes between the Guere and immigrants from other parts of the country and from neighbouring West African states, who have settled in the area to grow cocoa. This violence has continued despite a ceasefire which has held firm in the rest of the country since last May [2003] and despite the presence of large numbers of French peacekeepers in the area”. [14t]

6.86 According to an IRIN news report dated 18 February 2004, “At least 35 people, mainly Burkinabe, were killed in a series of ethnic clashes in villages near Bangolo, just to the north of Duekoue, in late December [2003] and early January [2004]”. [14r] An IRIN news report dated 13 January 2004 stated that “The French peacekeeping force in Cote d'Ivoire urged the government army and police to send reinforcements to help it maintain order in the troubled west of the country on Tuesday after reporting that 18 people had been killed there in two weeks of ethnic clashes”. [14s]

6.87 The IRIN news report dated 18 February 2004 also reported that two Burkinabe immigrants were killed and seven others seriously injured by youths of the Guere tribe in Duekoue. The report continued “The attacks occurred on Tuesday and early on Wednesday morning despite the presence of French peacekeeping troops in the small town 500 km northwest of the commercial capital Abidjan. These assaults represent the latest in a series of bloody clashes between Guere tribesmen and settlers from Burkina Faso, Mali and other parts of Cote d'Ivoire. They were triggered by the outbreak of civil war in September 2003 (sic - 2002)”. [14r] A report by IRIN news, dated 5 March 2004, stated that 11 people were killed in ethnic clashes between local Bété villagers and immigrants from other parts of Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa in Broudoume near Gagnoa in March 2004. [14r]

6.88 Several reports observed that government forces have targeted people belonging to the Dioula ethnic group. [4a] (p14,19,31,40) [13i] [26] [13j] A news report by Angola Press dated 29 March 2004 stated that “According to the secretary general of the New Forces, the killings and abductions committed Thursday in Abidjan in the wake of the bloody suppression of a protest march essentially targeted northerners of the Dioula ethnic group”. [26]

Dioula

6.89 The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 explained that “The term ‘Djoula’ or ‘Dioula’ is actually a Senoufo word for trader. It also refers to a small ethnic group from the northeast, however it is most commonly used to refer to people of several ethnicities from northern Côte d’Ivoire, including Malinké and Senaphou, who are in fact not ethnic Dioula but may speak a colloquial form of the language. The pidgin form of the Dioula language has become widely used by many Ivoirians—whatever their origin—as the language of trade and commerce, particularly in the market culture of Côte d’Ivoire, which is dominated by northerners and immigrants”. [4a] (p10)

6.90 The report also noted that “The tensions between north and south, between the largely Muslim Dioula and the largely Christian southerners, and between native Ivoirians and immigrants are the most evident symptoms of the crisis shaking the fabric of the society”. [4a] (p41)

6.91 As documented in several reports the Dioula ethnic group was closely associated with both the MPCJ and the RDR. [4a] (p10) [13j] [13k] According to the Human Rights Watch report “By the end of September 2002, the MPCJ rebels, composed mainly of “Dioula or northerners of Malinké, Senaphou and other ethnicities, some Burkinabé and Malien recruits, and the ‘dozos,’ were in control of most of northern Côte d’Ivoire (approximately 50 percent of the country), including Bouaké, Korhogo and Odienné towns”. [4a] (p10)

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Women

6.92 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, “The Constitution and the law prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; however, women occupied a subordinate role in society. Government policy encouraged full participation by women in social and economic life; however, there was considerable informal resistance among employers to hiring women, whom they considered less dependable because of their potential pregnancy. Some women also encountered difficulty in obtaining loans, as they could not meet the lending criteria established by banks such as a title to a house and production of a profitable cash crop, specifically coffee and cocoa... In rural areas, women and men divided the labor, with men clearing the land and attending to cash crops such as cocoa and coffee, while women grew vegetables and other staples and performed most household tasks”. [2a] (p27)

Domestic violence

6.93 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “Representatives of the Ivoirian Association for the Defense of Women (AIDF) stated that spousal abuse (usually wife beating) occurred frequently and often led to divorce. Female victims of domestic violence suffered severe social stigma and as a result often did not discuss domestic violence”. [2a] (p26) The report

added “The courts and police viewed domestic violence as a family problem unless serious bodily harm was inflicted, or the victim lodged a complaint, in which case they could initiate criminal proceedings. However, a victim's own parents often urged withdrawal of a complaint because of the shame that attached to the entire family. The Government did not collect statistics on rape or other physical abuse of women”. [2a] (p26)

6.94 The US Department of State also advised that “The Civil Code prohibits, and provides criminal penalties for, forced or early marriage and sexual harassment, but contains nothing about spousal abuse, and the Government had no clear policy regarding spousal abuse”. [2a] (p26)

6.95 Moreover, the report stated that, “Women's advocacy groups continued to protest the indifference of authorities to female victims of violence. The groups also reported that victims of rape or domestic violence often were ignored when they attempted to bring the violence to the attention of the police. ADF and the Republican Sisters, another women's NGO, continued to seek justice on behalf of rape victims but had made no progress by year's end [2003]. AIDF ran a house for battered girls and wives, which reportedly received approximately 18 battered women per week”. [2a] (p26)

Rape and Sexual Abuse

6.96 As documented in several reports, both Government forces and Forces nouvelles were responsible for frequent cases of sexual abuse, including sexual slavery and rape. [3c] (p7) [4c] (p3) [5e] (p1) [25] (p3,4) According to the Human Rights Watch report of August 2003, ‘Human Rights Watch documented several cases of rape committed by the rebel forces and believes that the actual incidence of rape was far higher given that rape tends to be underreported by victims due to the social stigma attached to the crime. In some instances, it is unclear which rebel group was responsible, but it is likely that members of all three rebel groups committed rape and other forms of sexual violence. For instance, when the rebels returned to the Man area in late-December [2002], a number of young women were taken ‘as wives’ by the rebels, probably by members of the MPCI and MJP groups”. [4a] (p28)

6.97 The UNIFEM report of May 2004 stated that “Some of the attacks were linked to ethnic affiliation as rebels shot Burkinabe men and raped Burkinabe women and girls. Girls as young as twelve were assaulted at gunpoint”. [25] (p3) The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 also noted that “The incidence of rape appears to have increased when the three rebel groups moved into the traditionally pro-government Guéré territory around Toulepleu and Bangolo, where the rapes were sometimes, although not necessarily always, based on ethnic affiliation”. [4a] (p29)

6.98 The report added “Rape and sexual slavery also occurred on a regular basis by Liberian fighters on both sides. In some cases it appears that rape was used specifically as a weapon of war, with the aim of terrorizing and humiliating the civilian population. Human Rights Watch was told that around rebel-occupied Zouan-Hounien, ‘there's so much rape, it's normal, we don't

even talk about it. The rebels rape in front of the husband, make him watch, and then force him to thank them on his knees.' In areas occupied by the government-allied Liberian forces, there were also regular incidents of rape and sexual slavery by the MODEL [Movement for Democracy in Liberia] Liberian fighters, who, 'take your wives and rape them in front of you.' Older women were often forced to cook and do other chores by the Liberians on both sides". [4a] (p36)

Prostitution

6.99 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "Prostitution is not illegal as long as it occurred between consenting adults in private. Soliciting and pandering were both illegal and the Morals Squad sometimes enforced the law". [2a] (p26)

6.100 The US Department of State report added that, "A local NGO estimated that 58 percent of the women prostitutes in Abidjan were not citizens. Women from nearby countries sometimes were trafficked the country, including for prostitution". [2a] (p26)

6.101 According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 15 March 2004, "The Division of Human Rights, MINUCI has brought attention to the serious problem of sexual exploitation of women and young girls in Boauké, who are reported to be the primary victims of the crisis - be it through female circumcision, rape or forced prostitution. The girls forced into prostitution become increasingly younger of age. It has also been uncovered that there is an organised network of prostitution. Sources report that women originating from other CEDEAO countries (Mali and Nigeria) are brought to Côte d'Ivoire under the false pretence that they will be given a good job, only to find themselves forced to prostitution. In Korhogo young girls are brought in from Man and Danané. The consequence of increased sexual exploitation is a steady increase in the spread of STDs and HIV/ AIDS throughout the region. It is also a concern that many soldiers currently stationed in the larger towns and exposing themselves to prostitution will bring back these diseases to their villages multiplying the risk contamination". [8g] (p3-4)

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Employment

6.102 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that "Women in the formal sector usually were paid at the same rate as men; however, because the tax code did not recognize women as heads of households, female workers frequently paid income tax at a higher rate than their male counterparts". [2a] (p27) Furthermore, the US Department of State report noted that "In December 2002, the Minister of Family, Women, and Children's Affairs presented Prime Minister Diarra with a Women's National Action Plan (PNAF) that was being drafted since 1998. The specific objectives assigned in the PNAF were to increase women's income by 20 percent by 2007, as well as

increase the proportion of women in decision-making structures from 6 percent in 2001 to 20 percent in 2007". [2a] (p25)

6.103 The report also stated that "Women held 19 of 225 seats in the National Assembly. The first vice president of the National Assembly was a woman. Women held 7 of the 41 ministerial positions in the cabinet. Of the 41 Supreme Court justices, 4 were women. Henriette Dagri Diabate served as Secretary General of the RDR, the party's second ranking position, and is also the Minister of Justice". [2a] (p25)

Female Genital mutilation (FGM)

6.104 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "FGM was a serious problem. The law specifically forbids FGM and imposes on those who perform it criminal penalties of imprisonment for up to 5 years and a fine of approximately \$690 to \$3,800 (360,000 to 2 million CFA francs); double penalties apply to medical practitioners. FGM was practiced primarily among the rural populations in the north and west and to a lesser extent in the center. The procedure usually was performed on young girls or at puberty as a rite of passage, with techniques and hygiene that did not meet modern medical standards. According to WHO and the AIDF, as many as 60 percent of women have undergone FGM. Many families from the cities went back to their villages to have their daughters circumcised. The practice was declining in popularity, but persisted in many places. In August, newspapers reported that a family fled their home in Abidjan so their only daughter did not have to undergo FGM, which was being forced on them by their extended family". [2a] (p26)

6.105 The US Department of State report on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or Female Genital Cutting (FGC) of 2001 noted "The practice is prevalent among Muslim women and is also deeply rooted in traditional Animist initiation rites in western, central and northern Cote d'Ivoire. It crosses ethnic and socioeconomic lines. Some believe the practice seldom occurred among the original population but was imported by immigrants from neighboring countries...Generally speaking, this practice occurs among two often overlapping groups: Muslim women and women undergoing Animist initiation rites. Muslim groups include the northern Mande (Malinke, Foula, Bambara, Dioula) and some members of the Voltaic groups (Senuofo, Tagwana, Djimini, Lobi, Birifor, Koulango) of the north. The southern Mande of the west (Dan, Yacouba, Toura, Gouro), many of whom are not Muslim, the We from the Krou group and Baoule in some villages surrounding the central city of Bouake also practice FGM/FGC. Some Muslim leaders condemn it as not taught by the Quran". [2d] (p1)

6.106 The report of 2001 added "Before the adoption of the 1998 law, the possibility of enforcing a law at the village level, where the practice is most likely to take place, was almost nil. The powerful association of this practice with religion and witchcraft made reporting and prosecuting excisors virtually impossible. Furthermore, the government had no interest in imposing the existing laws on unwilling families and antagonizing village elders and chiefs

who are the guardians of tradition.... Following the adoption of the law in 1998, the government and the various NGOs and institutions fighting this practice gave themselves some time to pursue information and education campaigns before requesting the enforcement of the law. In 1999, AIDF launched an intensive campaign aimed at informing the population, law enforcement authorities and local government officials of the existence of the law. ... The Minister also initiated a basic management training and small economic projects implementation program for excisors willing to abandon the practice. The first beneficiaries of this program were women from Bangolo in the west and women from Kaniasso in the north". [2d] (p3)

6.107 The report continued "As a result of this campaign, several excisors were arrested for performing this procedure in the north during 2000. Prior to these arrests, the arrest and prosecution of parents or of excisors only occurred following the death of the excised person. Two excisors from Guinea were arrested in Abobo on May 6, 2000 and jailed following the death of a young Burkinabe girl who had been excised. On July 12, 2000, two Ivoirian women were arrested in Kongasso and jailed in Seguella, in the north, for having excised girls aged 10-14". [2d] (p3)

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Children

6.108 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The Ministries of Public Health and of Employment, Public Service, and Social Security sought to safeguard the welfare of children, and the Government also encouraged the formation of NGOs such as the Abidjan Legal Center for the Defense of Children". [2a] (p27)

Health

6.109 The US Department of State report of 2003 advised that "The Ministry of Health operated a nationwide network of clinics for children, infants, and prenatal care staffed with nurses and doctors who served the local residents, whether citizens or noncitizens, free or at low cost. The Health Ministry also conducted a nationwide vaccination program for measles, yellow fever, meningitis, and other diseases and publicized 'well baby' contests. Rotary Clubs sponsored a polio vaccination campaign throughout the country. There were no reported differences in the treatment of boys and girls". [2a] (p27-28)
(See section on 'Medical Services' for more information)

Education

6.110 The United Nations Security Council report of November 2003 added "WFP is using feeding programmes in schools and institutions in northern, western and central areas to gain direct access to vulnerable children and to encourage regular school attendance. UNICEF and non-governmental organizations are providing educational support to displaced and refugee children in towns in the north and west, and in Abidjan. Their efforts have

enabled over 100,000 children to benefit from informal educational activities”. [3b] (p6) (See section on ‘Education System’ for more information)

Street Children

6.111 The US Department of State noted that “There were large populations of street children in the cities. In 2002, the government newspaper, *Fraternite Matin*, reported 215,000 street children in the country, of whom 50,000 were in Abidjan. According to the AIDF, the BICE, the Ministry of Family, Women, and Children's Affairs, and press reports, some children were employed as domestics and were subject to sexual abuse, harassment, and other mistreatment by their employers... A forum of 15 NGOs worked with approximately 8,000 street children in training centers, similar to halfway houses. The NGOs paid the children a small subsistence sum while teaching them vocational and budgeting skills. The Ministry reported that many street children were reluctant to stay in training centers where they earned no money and were subject to strict discipline”. [2a] (p28)

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Sexual Violence

6.112 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted that “In a study released in March [2003], the NGO SOS Sexual Violence surveyed 500 schoolchildren in Abidjan and its suburbs and reported that 27 percent of children had been victims of sexual abuse; 74 percent of the victims were girls and 26 percent boys. Approximately 33 percent had been raped, 15 percent had been the victims of attempted rape; 42 percent had been fondled, and 11 percent were victims of sexual harassment. An estimated 74 percent of the assailants were men. When the sexual abuse occurred in the family, 54 percent of the assailants were male cousins, 11 percent were female cousins, 5 percent were guardians, and 3 percent were the brothers and sisters”. [2a] (p28)

6.113 Many of the sexual partners of female students were teachers, to whom girls sometimes granted sexual favors in return for good grades or money. The penalty for statutory rape or attempted rape of either a girl or a boy aged 15 years or younger was a 1- to 3-year prison sentence and a fine of \$190 to \$1,900 (100,000 to 1 million CFA francs). [2a] (p27)

Child Soldiers

6.114 The US Department of State report added “In May [2003], U.N. Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict visited Abidjan and said that conflicts, poverty, and education disruptions were putting children in danger. A knowledgeable U.N. representative reported that in government-held territory, it was common for pro-government militias to recruit children, both on a voluntary and a forced basis”. [2a] (p28)

6.115 Several reports advised that both government and Forces nouvelles have actively engaged in the recruitment and use of child soldiers. [2a] (p2,28) [4a] (p36) [5d] [37] The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers report of January 2004 noted that “United Nations (UN) officials, peacekeeping forces and residents reported that government armed forces continued to recruit young Liberians from refugee camps in the western part of the country”. [37]

6.116 The Human Rights Watch report of August 2003 stated “Western observers of conditions in the rebel areas told Human Rights Watch that among every Liberian unit of five or six fighters linked to the MPIGO there would usually be at least one child soldier, often as young as ten to twelve-years-old, armed with machine guns”. [4a] p36)

6.117 The Human Rights Watch report added “As the conflict continued in the west, a growing number of Ivorian children were recruited. A number of young Yacouba reportedly joined the rebels after the ethnic reprisal attacks started, and were reportedly receiving training in a camp near Bin Houyé as of March 2003. The government-allied Liberians also apparently requested that the chiefs of the Gueré villages around Toulepleu give them children for training”. [4a] (p37)

6.118 The US Department of State report of 2003 noted “There were credible reports that the rebel forces that controlled the north and the west used child soldiers who they recruited and armed after September 2002. NGOs reported that in the west, rebel forces were actively recruiting child soldiers from refugee camps and other areas. In the north, many rebel soldiers volunteered at ages 15 or younger”. [2a] (p28)

6.119 The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers report of January 2004 stated “Save the Children and UNICEF negotiated with the MPCl, which agreed in principle to demobilize children currently bearing arms. Other armed opposition groups agreed to a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process for child soldiers, coordinated by UNICEF. However, the DDR plan did not include Liberian opposition groups operating in the west and it was not clear whether it would include Liberians who were still involved in Ivorian government and opposition forces”. [37]

Homosexuals

6.120 According to the Internal Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) and Behind the Mask World reports, homosexual acts are legal in Côte d'Ivoire. [18] [19] The Behind the Mask report also stated that Côte d'Ivoire had no sodomy laws and homosexuality was not mentioned in the law. [18]

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6.C Human Rights – Other Issues

Humanitarian Situation

6.121 According to the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004,

“Notwithstanding the progress that has been made in recent months in terms of humanitarian access, the political stalemate has aggravated some aspects of the humanitarian situation. Issues of protection, health and education are currently the key concerns of the humanitarian community in Côte d’Ivoire. The protection needs of those caught in inter-ethnic conflicts or in clashes between national and foreign communities, as well as those returning populations, have largely not been addressed and require urgent attention”. [3c] (p9)

6.122 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 20 January 2004 stated that

“The humanitarian situation remains precarious in numerous places in Côte d’Ivoire, as a direct consequence of the political crisis. The number of IDPs and refugees continues to rise, as does the demand for basic needs (food and shelter) and public services in the health and education sector. Humanitarian organisations continue to address these areas of concern”. [8c] (p2)

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Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

6.123 Côte d’Ivoire featured as one of the ten worst displacement situations, on the Global IDP Project report of February 2004. [8e] (p2) [12b] (p8) According to the United Nations Security Council report of January 2004 “There are an estimated 500,000 internally displaced persons, 69,000 refugees and thousands of affected host communities in the country”. [3c] (p9) The US Committee for Refugees (USCR) report of May 2004 added, “An estimated 50,000 or more immigrants who lived in Côte d’Ivoire also fled the country during the year [2003]”. [24] (p1) However, the UNHCR report of January 2004 noted that “As a result of the volatile security situation, it is reported that at least 750,000 Ivoirians are internally displaced, while some 50,000 sought refuge into neighbouring countries, mostly Liberia and Guinea. Additionally, about 40,000 Liberian refugees who were spontaneously settled in Côte d’Ivoire were forced to return to Liberia under less than ideal conditions”. [23] (p4)

6.124 The Global IDP Project report of November 2003 stated that “Before the current civil unrest that followed a failed military coup in September 2002, thousands of civilians were already being threatened, persecuted, harassed and evicted from their lands and houses. Large-scale displacement continued after September 2002 mainly as a consequence of the government’s policy of

destruction of shantytowns populated by immigrants and fighting between rebel and the government forces... Many civilians fled the rebel-held areas in the north and west, to government-held ones in the south". [12a] (p5)

6.125 The US Department of State also observed that "Thousands of persons, mostly noncitizens, remained displaced during the year [2003] following the Government's destruction of shantytowns in 2002. The Government razed one shantytown during the year [2003]". [2a] (p22-23)

6.126 According to an IRIN news report dated 19 January 2004, in November 2003 "Several hundred Malians, Burkinabe and settlers from other parts of Cote d'Ivoire were forced to flee their homes in the cocoa-growing region of Gagnoa, 300 km west of the commercial capital, Abidjan, after land ownership disputes triggered a series of clashes with the villagers of the local Bete tribe to which President Gbagbo belongs. The violence has been particularly extreme in the village of Mahinadopa, in the Ouragahio region, where around 500 Malians reportedly fled as their shacks and houses went up in flames". [14v] (p7)

6.127 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report of 26 April 2004 observed that "In the western Côte d'Ivoire tensions are heightened due to the premature return of IDPs to their areas of residence. Humanitarian organisations are receiving mixed reports from IDPs and host villages regarding their return. It is clear that while some communities and IDPs may be ready to be reunited others are not". [8j] (p3)

6.128 The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs situation report of 2 January 2004 noted that the "IOM [International Organisation for Migration] during April to June [2003] repatriated 7,281 persons, mostly Burkinabés from the western part of the country and Abidjan to their countries of origins. This repatriation programme was interrupted because it became very sensitive politically, following the expulsion of approximately 6,700 people from their communities around Guiglo into overcrowded transit centres. It became clear that the repatriation was no longer voluntarily". [8b] (p2)

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Treatment of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Humanitarian Agencies

6.129 According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "A number of domestic and international human rights groups, including LIDHO [The Ivoirian Human Rights League, (Ligue ivoirienne des droits de l'homme)], MIDH [Ivoirian Human Rights Movement, (Mouvement Ivoirien pour les Droits de l'Homme)], Justice Action, and the Committee of Victims of Cote d'Ivoire [le Collectif des victimes en Côte d'Ivoire] (CVCI), generally operated without government restriction, investigating and publishing their findings on human rights cases. Government officials generally were cooperative and responsive to their views. The Government occasionally met with some of these groups. One human rights group had its offices ransacked by unknown assailants

during the year [2003]... There were no reports that the Government suppressed international human rights groups or denied them visas; however, on occasion the Government has restricted their access to certain areas that the Government deemed sensitive and often denigrated their work". [2a] (p25)

6.130 The report added "During the year, the Government regularly permitted access to the World Food Program (WFP), the ICRC, and other international humanitarian organizations. Eleven U.N. agencies, including the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), were resident and active throughout the year". [2a] (p26)

The United Nations Security Council in its report of January 2004 observed that "In spite of the highly volatile political environment, the parties to the conflict have recognised the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence that govern the activities of the humanitarian and development actors, and access has generally been granted throughout the country". [3c] (p9)

According to the US Department of State report of 2003, "The Government permitted access to prisons by local and international NGOs including the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), MSF [Medecins Sans frontieres], World Doctors, and International Prisons' Friendship. However, none of these NGOs monitored human rights conditions". [2a] (p6)

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Treatment of Returned Failed Asylum Seekers

6.131 According to the USCR report of 2004 "Continued warfare and human rights violations forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes during early 2003. Although major fighting ended mid-year, poor security prevented most internally displaced person from returning home. An estimated 50,000 or more became refugee and asylum seekers, primarily in Liberia during the year [2003]". [24] (p12)

6.132 The UNHCR report of January 2004,

"UNHCR is of the opinion that the question of return failed asylum seekers should be approached with caution.

The report added "As regards individuals originating from Abidjan, where a relative level of security has been established, such persons may be returned there, provided that family members have been identified, to avoid creating a situation of internal displacement.

With regard to individuals originating from outside Abidjan, where uncontrolled armed elements continue to pose a serious threat to the security of the population and private property, return to Côte d'Ivoire

should be avoided, lest it may increase further the number of internally displaced persons and/or their physical safety is put in jeopardy". [23] (p4)

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Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers from Neighbouring Countries

6.133 The US Department of State report of 2003 stated that "The Constitution does not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status to persons who meet the definition in the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The law includes refugees but does not specify a separate legal status for them; however, in practice the Government provided protection against refoulement. The Government also cooperated with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in assisting refugees. The Government maintains an entity within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs charged with assisting refugees and stateless persons". [2a] (p23)

6.134 The report added "The Government also provides temporary protection. In the second half of the year, the Government assisted with the resettlement of more than 4,000 at-risk Liberians. There were an estimated 67,000 refugees in the country, the vast majority of whom were Liberians. During the year [2003], the Government has continued to allow in new Liberian refugees". [2a] (p23)

6.135 However the report mentioned that "According to the Burkina Faso Minister of Social Action, 350,000 Burkinabes fled the country since the September 2002 rebellion to escape harassment and abuse. The Burkina Faso Government launched a program in February to help 125,000 of its returning citizens. The border with Burkina Faso reopened in September. In addition, in the months following the September 2002 rebellion, 1,000 Nigerians, Malians, and Guineans left the country. Various West African governments complained about the harassment their citizens faced in the country. The U.N. and other international organizations documented abuses against foreigners in Abidjan that included arbitrary arrest, beating, and theft of money and valuables. These complaints diminished during the year [2003]". [2a] (p23)

6.136 The report added "Security officials often did not honor identity documents issued to refugees by the UNHCR. There were frequent reports that security officials stopped refugees to ask for identity documents. When the refugee produced only a UNHCR document, the security officials often also demanded money. There also were credible reports that security forces destroyed refugees' identity documents, arbitrarily detained, and occasionally beat refugees. Unlike in the previous year, there were no reports that security forces harassed UNHCR. The identity card law included provision for the issuance of identity cards to refugees; however, the ID cards were not issued by year's end [2003]". [2a] (p23)

6.137 The USCR report of 2004 noted that “About 74,000 refugees from other countries remained in Côte d'Ivoire at year's end [2003], the vast majority from Liberia. Nearly 40,000 new Liberian refugees arrived in Côte d'Ivoire during 2003, while others repatriated because of violence in Côte d'Ivoire”. [24] (p1)

6.138 The report added “The outbreak of war in 2002 and its continuation during 2003 intensified popular sentiments against the estimated 4 million African immigrants and migrant workers residing in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly the estimated 2 million from Burkina Faso. Ivorian government officials charged that Burkina Faso supported rebel forces, provoking widespread suspicions among Ivorians against virtually all foreigners... The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted some 7,000 third-country nationals return home during the year. Ivorian authorities harassed, physically harmed, and demanded bribes from migrants leaving Côte d'Ivoire in IOM convoys. The harassment delayed convoys for many hours, including on isolated highways and during darkness. [24] (p2)

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Burkinabe

6.139 The Human Rights Watch report of 2003 noted that “Burkinabé are the majority of the immigrant population in the west and southwest of Côte d'Ivoire, alongside significant communities of Baoulé internal migrants”. The report added that, “The MPCl rebels captured Vavoua on October 7, 2002. This event brought the war into the west for the first time and prompted fears among the local population of further advances. Reports that the MPCl had killed a number of gendarmes in Bouaké, combined with the fact that the television and print media continued to show images of Burkinabé and northerners as ‘captured assailants,’ caused groups of young Gueré militants, armed with machetes, hunting rifles and other weapons, to storm Burkinabé villages and encampments north of Duekoué”. [4a] (p44)

6.140 The Human Rights Watch report stipulated that “Thousands of Burkinabé fled without any of their possessions, sometimes even losing children in their panicked flight. Their homes were burned and destroyed, their livestock and crops were looted. Many fled to Duékoué. Displaced Burkinabé told Human Rights Watch that in many instances, the Gueré militias deliberately destroyed their documents, including the local receipts of their land purchases and the state documents attesting to their official usage of the land. Several Burkinabé said, “When the Guerés started attacking the houses, they destroyed the papers. They ripped up our identity cards and papers for the fields”. In addition to the destruction of documents, homes and villages, Human Rights Watch documented several killings of Burkinabé by Gueré youths, who stopped them at the checkpoints erected around each village and at the road junctions”. [4a] (p44-45)

6.141 Furthermore, the Human Rights Watch report noted that, “Burkinabé were also targeted in other locations of the country, such as the south-west and in Abidjan. Older Burkinabé are physically identifiable and thus easily

targeted due to the patterns of facial scarring used by the Mossi ethnic group. The custom of facial scarification has been decreasing over the past decades. A number of younger Burkinabé who escaped violence and lacked these facial scars told Human Rights Watch that they had been able to pass as members of other ethnic groups while in government controlled territory and believed that they would have been killed had they had the traditional facial scars". [4a] (p45)

6.142 The report also stated that, "While there are unconfirmed reports that some Burkinabé armed and joined the rebel forces, and some may have been responsible for attacks on Guéré civilians, Human Rights Watch research indicates that the vast majority of attacks on civilians were initiated by Guéré militias against Burkinabé civilians". [4a] (p45)

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Annex A

Chronology of Events

- 1960** Côte d'Ivoire gained independence in August 1960, Dr Felix Houphouët-Boigny becomes President. [1a] (p328) [2c] (p3) [7a] (p1) [28] (p53)
- 1990** Opposition parties legalised; Houphouët-Boigny wins Ivory Coast's first multiparty presidential election, beating Laurent Gbagbo of the FPI. [28] (p53)
- 1993** Henri Konan Bédié becomes president following the death of Houphouët-Boigny. [1a] (p329) [7a] (p1 -2) [28] (p54)
- 1995, October** Bédié re-elected in a ballot that is boycotted by opposition parties in protest at restrictions imposed on their candidates. [1a] (p330) [28] (p54)
- 1999, June** The FPI expresses its concern over the handling of the situation by the Government. FESCI announces the suspension of its strike action in all schools, colleges and universities. The press laws are changed by Parliament to replace some custodial sentenced with fines.
- 1999, July** Alassane Ouattara, who had returned to Côte d'Ivoire in July, and who had acquired a certificate confirming his Ivorian identity, was selected as the RDR's presidential candidate. His plan to challenge Bédié splits country along ethnic and religious lines, with opponents saying he is a national of Burkina Faso, not Côte d'Ivoire. [1a] (p331)
- 1999, September** Investigation initiated into Alassane Ouattara's identity papers. Clashes occurred in Abidjan between the police and supporters of Ouattara. [1a] (p331)
- 1999, October** A court in Dimbokro cancelled Ouattara's nationality certificate, which prompted further violence in Abidjan. A number of senior RDR leaders are arrested. [1a] (p331)
- 1999, December** A warrant is issued for Ouattara's arrest while he was in France. [1a] (p331) Bédié is overthrown in a military coup led by Robert Gueï. [28] (p55) Bédié flees to France. [1a] (p331)
- 2000, January** A new transitional government is announced. [1a] (p331)
- 2000, July** Soldiers mutiny in Abidjan and other major towns. Referendum approves the constitution, with 86.53 per cent in favour and 56 per cent participation. [1a] (p331-

- 332,345) [2a] (25) [2c] (p3) [28] (p55) he death penalty is approved under the new constitution. [5b] [5c] (p5) [16] (p2)
- 2000, October** Gueï proclaims himself president after announcing he has won presidential elections, but is forced to flee in the wake of a popular uprising against his perceived rigging of the election result. [1a] (332) [7a] (p2)
- 2000, October** Laurent Gbagbo, believed to be the real winner in the presidential election, is proclaimed president. Opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, excluded from running in the poll, calls for a fresh election. [1a] (p332)
- 2000, October** Fighting erupts between Gbagbo's mainly southern Christian supporters and followers of Ouattara, who are mostly Muslims from the north. [1a] (p332) [28] (p56)
- 2000, December 10** Legislative elections take place. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) President Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) emerges as the biggest single party in parliamentary elections - though on a low turnout of thirty-three percent. [28] (p56)
- 2001, January** Attempted coup fails. [1a] (p332) A witch hunt against RDR leaders and supporters is undertaken, while many soldiers are arrested or go into exile. [28] (p56)
- 2001, March** The RDR gains control of 64 of the municipal areas, in the north, south, west and centre, in municipal elections. [28] (p56)
- 2001, July 23** Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan is elected to replace Laurent Gbagbo as head of the ruling FPI. [1a] (p332)
- 2001, August 3** A military court acquits eight gendarmes of the massacre of fifty-seven men following the October 2000 Presidential elections. [1a] (p332)
- 2001, October** President Gbagbo sets up a National Reconciliation Forum. General Gueï refuses to attend in protest against the arrest of his close aide Captain Fabien Coulibaly. UN insists on reconciliation before it will resume aid. [28] (p56)
- 2001, November** Opposition leader Alassane Ouattara returns to Côte d'Ivoire, ending a year-long exile in France and Gabon. [1a] (p332)
- 2002, January 22-23** The 'Big Four' of Ivorian politics – Bédié, Gueï, Ouattara and Gbagbo meet. [28] (p56)
- 2002, May – June** Nine people are convicted of involvement in the coup attempt of January 2001 and sentenced to terms of 20 years' imprisonment. A further 19 defendants are

	acquitted. [1a] (p332)
2002, June	The national identification operation begins under which foreigners must register for new resident's cards, and Ivorians confirm their nationality. The RDR and leading intellectuals from other parties protest, claiming hundreds of thousands of Ivorians will. [28](P56)
2002, June 29	Ouattara as granted a citizenship certificate. Protests follow from pro government supporters. [1a] (p333) [28] (p56)
2002, July	Numerous inter-ethnic clashes and violence between supporters of the RDR and FPI mar the local elections in mid July. [1a] (p333) [28] (p56)
2002, August	Ouattara's RDR opposition party is given four ministerial posts in the new government. Two days later Gueï's party leaves the government accusing Gbagbo of bad faith. [1a] (p333) [13e] [28] (p56)
2002, September 19	Mutiny in Abidjan. The government says a coup attempt was foiled and accuses Gueï, who, with his wife and entourage, is killed. At least 400 people die including Minister of the Interior Boga Doudou. Having failed to take the commercial capital Abidjan, rebelling soldiers retreat to Bouaké and later announce formation of an insurgent group, the Mouvement patriotique de la Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI - Côte d'Ivoire Patriotic Movement). [28] (p57)
2002, September	French Licorne forces and ECOWAS troops sent to Côte d'Ivoire as a peacekeeping force. [28] (p57)
2002, October	ECOWAS mediation attempt fails and fighting breaks out in Bouaké. People start fleeing rebel held areas. Loyalist rebels recapture Bouaké 48 hours after it is taken by rebels. [28] (p57)
2002, October 17	A ceasefire is brokered by the Senegalese President, Abdoulaye Wade. The ceasefire line runs from east to west, dividing the country in half. French forces sent to police it. [28] (p57)
2002, October 22	First direct talks between government and rebels begin in Lomé, Togo. [28] (p57)
2002, November	Government accepts principle amnesty and reintegration of rebel forces into the army. [28] (p57)
2002, November 28	Two new insurgent groups appear the Mouvement Populaire de Grand Ouest (MPIGO) and the Mouvement pour la Justice et la Paix (MJP). [28] (p58)

- 2002, December 18** ECOWAS summit in Dakar, many key players absent. [28] (p58) The meeting is attended by Gbagbo, the Senegalese president and ECOWAS chairman Abdoulaye Wade, as well as the presidents of Burkina Faso and Cape Verde. Other countries are represented by senior officials.
- 2003, January 6** Rebels attack French peacekeepers in the western town of Duékoué, 30 rebels are killed, nine French injured. [28] (p58)
- 2003, January 13** A ceasefire is signed in Lomé between the government and the MPIGO, to enable the participation of the latter's delegations at the subsequent peace talks in Marcoussis, but fighting continues throughout the talks and the following months. [28] (p58)
- 2003, January 15-24** Agreement is reached to establish a Government of National Reconciliation. [28] (p58)
- 2003, January 25-26** A summit of Heads of State in Paris results in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. [28] (p58)
- 2003, January 26-29** A peace accord is reached, ratified by President Gbagbo and other West African leaders in Paris. Youth groups attack French buildings, businesses and private homes in Abidjan. [28] (p59)
- 2003, February 2003** The MPCJ announce that their movement is called the Forces nouvelles. [28] (p59)
- 2003, March 7/8** The parties at Marcoussis are re-united in Accra, under the leadership of ECOWAS President, Ghanaian President John Kufor, to seek a solution to the problems of nominating ministers in the Reconciliation Government. The rebels renounce claims to defence and interior. A National Security Council of fifteen members, including all the parties to the peace accords, is to name these two ministers 'by consensus'. [28] (p59)
- 2003, March** Political parties and Forces nouvelles agree on new government to include nine members from rebel ranks. 'Consensus' prime minister, Seydou Diarra, tasked with forming cabinet. [28] (p59)
- 2003, May 3** A comprehensive ceasefire was signed by FANCI and the Forces nouvelles. [3a] (p1) [28] (p59) [31a] (p3)
- 2003, May 24** Joint operation involving the government and Forces nouvelles as well as French and ECOWAS peacekeepers, deployed to the western region to create a weapons free zone of confidence, extend the cease-

- fire line to the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and disarm or expel armed Liberian elements from that area. [3a] (p1)
- 2003, June 18** The government and Forces nouvelles agree to move forces back from frontline positions and exchange prisoners. [28] (p59)
- 2003, June 30** MPCl leaders declare a state of emergency and announce they will block access to territory they control following rejection of the disarmament program supposed to start on 1 August 2003. [28] (p60)
- 2003, July 4** Military chiefs from FANCI and the Forces nouvelles sign a declaration proclaiming the official end of the war. [28] (p60)
- 2003, August 6** Parliament approves an amnesty for all civilians and military personnel who sought to overthrow the government after the controversial presidential elections of 2000. [14e] [14f] [28] (p60)
- 2003, August 12** The government released 54 political prisoners (16 military personnel and 38 civilians) from prison in Abidjan. [14e] [28] (p60)
- 2003, September 2** The government announces detention of eighteen people for questioning about an alleged plot to assassinate President Gbagbo, his wife and several senior officials. [28] (p60)
- 2003, September 10** Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso re-open their common border. [28] (p60)
- 2003, September 12** President Gbagbo announced the appointment of René Amani, a retired civil servant, and Bleou Martin, a human rights activist, to fill the controversial positions of Minister of State for Defence and Minister of State for Internal Security. The two Ministers were sworn in on 13 September 2003. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3)
- 2003, September 23** Eight of the nine ministers from Forces nouvelles suspended their participation in the Government of National Reconciliation. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3) [14f] [14i] [14j]
- 2003, October 4** Tens of thousands march in Bouaké in response to a large anti-rebel protest two days before in Abidjan. Guillaume Soro, the Forces nouvelles leader, calls for Gbagbo's resignation. [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3) [28] (p60)
- 2003, October 16** In a meeting of the Council of Ministers, a decision was taken to impose an immediate three-month ban on public demonstrations and marches. [3b] (p4) [14f] [14j]
- 2003, October 21** Jean Hélène, correspondent of Radio France

- Internationale (RFI) in Côte d'Ivoire, is shot dead by a policeman while he waits outside the police headquarters in Abidjan to interview political detainees. [28] (p60)
- 2003, November** A group of FANCI soldiers forced their way into the Ivorian national television station in Abidjan and broadcast a statement demanding the withdrawal of the Licorne forces from the zone of confidence to allow the Government forces to fight the Forces nouvelles and 'reunite' the country. [3c] (p3)
- 2003, December** Several hundred 'young patriots' violently demonstrated outside the French Licorne base in Abidjan demanding that the French troops leave the country. [3c] (p4) [8a] (p1) [14g] [14h]
- 2003, December 7** As the result of a meeting that took place on the 4 December, both parties withdraw forces from the zone of confidence and the Forces nouvelles released 40 military personnel who had been held in detention since the beginning of the conflict. [8a] (p1) [30a]
- 2004, January 6** Seven of the eight Forces nouvelles ministers return to the Government of National Reconciliation. Guillaume Soro, the leader of Forces nouvelles and Minister of State for Communications, however, do not attend the first cabinet meeting since the Forces nouvelles boycott the Government. [14j]
- 2004, March 25** Violent and fatal clashes are triggered by a banned demonstration against President Gbagbo. [8h] (p1) [14k] [14l]
- 2004 March** The Forces nouvelles, RDR and PDCI all withdrew from the government. [4a] [8h] (p2) [13h]

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Annex B

Political Organisations

According to Africa South of the Sahara, in mid 2003 there were more than 102 registered political organisations in Côte d'Ivoire.

Main Political Parties:

Alliance pour la paix, le progrès et la souveraineté (APS)

Founded in 2003 by former members of the UDPCI. President Hilaire Digbeu Ani. [1a] (p348)

Front populaire ivoirien (FPI) Ivorian Peoples Front

Founded in 1990, socialist. President Pascal Affi N'Guessan; Secretary-General Sylvain Miaka Oureto. [1a] (p348)

Parti démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire – Rassemblement démocratique africain, (PDCI-RDA) Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire-African Democratic Rally

Founded 1946 [1a] (p348) PDCI-RDA was the sole legal party post-independence and Houphouët-Boigny stood unopposed at every election until 1990. After the death of Houphouët-Boigny and undermined by internal conflicts, the PDCI-RDA, split into two: the RDR of Alassane Ouattara and the PDCI-RDA of Konan Bédié. [28] (p51) President Henri Konoan Bédié; Secretary-General Alphonse Djédjé Mady. [1a] (p348)

Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) Rally of Republicans

Formed in 1994, following split from PDCI-RDA. Officially boycotted general election of 2000, except for a faction of some sixty candidates, led by Alphonse Oulaï Tousséa; President Dr Alassane Dramane Ouattara; Secretary-General Henriette Dagri-Diabaté. [1a] (p348)

Union Démocratique et Citoyenne (UNCY), Democratic Civic Union.

Formed in 2000 following a split from the PDCI-RDA. [1a] (p348) A small party which obtained one ministry in the Reconciliation Government set up by the Linas-Marcoussis agreements. [28] (p51)

Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix de Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI), Union for Peace and Democracy in Ivory Coast

Founded in 2001 following a split from the PDCI-RDA by supporters of General Robert Gueï. President Paul Akoto Yao; Secretary-General Alassane Salif N'Diaye. [1a] (p348) Inaugurated on 25 February 2001 and later led by General Robert Gueï. [28] (p51)

The Africa South of the Sahara publication of 2004 stated "Following the outbreak of civil conflict in northern Côte d'Ivoire, which subsequently spread to the western regions, three 'politico-military' rebel groups emerged. Following the signature in early May 2003, of a cease-fire that was intended to

apply for all rebel groups operating in Côte d'Ivoire, these groups were generally referred to as the 'forces nouvelles'. In accordance with the Marcoussis Accords, agreed in late January 2003, the following groups were allocated posts in the government of National Reconciliation that was formed in March of the year:"

Mouvement patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI) Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire

Formed in 2002. Secretary-General Guillaume Soro. Based in Bouaké. [1a] (p348)

Mouvement Populaire Ivoirien du Grand Ouest, (MPIGO) Ivorian Popular Movement of the Far West

Formed 2002 by supporters of the late former military leader, General Robert Gueï. Leader (vacant). Based in Man. [1a] (p348)

Mouvement pour la justice et la paix,(MJP) Movement for Peace and Justice

Formed 2002 by supporters of the late former military leader, General Robert Gueï. Leader Commander Gaspard Déli. Based in Man. [1a] (p348)

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Annex C

Prominent People – Past and Present

Amani René	Filled the controversial position of Minister of State for Defence on 12 September 2003. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3)
Bakayoko Ibrahim	RDR activist reportedly has been missing since December 2002, shortly after ‘armed men in military fatigues’ came looking for him. [2a] (p4)
Bédié Henri Konan	Became President on 7 December 1993 following Houphouët-Boigny’s death. He was ousted in a coup on 24 December 1999. [1a] (p329-331) [7a] (p1-2)
Bleou Martin	A human rights activist who filled the controversial position of Minister of State for Internal Security on 12 September 2003. [2a] (p1) [3b] (p2) [3c] (p3)
Diabate Henriette Dagri	Secretary General of the RDR, the party's second ranking position, and was also the Minister of Justice. [2a] (p25)
Diarra Seydou Minister	Prime Minister - Officially inaugurated on 10 February 2003. [1a] (p334) A Muslim from the north of Côte d’Ivoire. [131]
Doudou Emile Boga	Former Minister of State for the Interior and Decentralisation. Killed in Abidjan on 19 September 2002. [1a] (p333)
Doe General. Mathias	Army chief of staff. [3c] (p3)
Ekra Mathieu	Grand Mediator in the judicial system. Ekra has held the position since the Bédié Government. [2a] (p10)
Gbagbo Laurent	Formerly in opposition as leader of the FPI, Gbagbo was one of the first to oppose President Felix Houphouët Boigny in the 1980s, as soon as multiparty politics was permitted. In 1982 he sought exile in Paris, returning six years later to attend the founding congress of the FPI. Gbagbo then became the main political rival to Henri Konan Bédié. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2) Won the presidential elections of 22 October 2000 with 59.4 percent of the vote. [1a] (p332) [7a] (p2)

Gueï General. Robert	Became President after Bédié was ousted in a military coup on 24 December 1999. Gueï remained in power until the end of the 2000 elections. [1a] (p331-332) Led the attempted coup on 19 September 2002 and was shot and killed, along with his family, in Abidjan on the same day. [1a] (p333) [4a] (p9)
Helene Jean	French journalist working for Radio France Internationale who was gunned down by police in October 2003. [2a] (p16) [9a] (p1)
Houphouët-Boigny Dr Felix	Became Côte d'Ivoire's first President in 1960. [1a] (p328) [2c] (p3) [7a] (p1) His party, PDCI-RDA, was the sole legal party post-independence and Houphouët-Boigny stood unopposed at every election until 1990. [1a] (p328) [7a] (p1) Stayed in power until he died in December 1993. [1a] (p329-331)
Kouassi Moïse Lida	Former Minister of State for Defence and Civil Protection. Killed in Abidjan on 19 September 2002. [1a] (p333)
Ouattara Dr Alassane Dramane	Leader of one of the main opposition parties, RDR. Ouattara, a Muslim, was banned from running for president under a clause that demanded that all candidates should be of Ivorian nationality and parentage. [1a] (p331) [13a] [13b] [13c]
Soro Guillaume Kigbafori	Leader of Forces nouvelles and former Minister of State for Communications. [14j] Sacked from the government of national reconciliation in May 2004. [14z]

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Annex D

Election Results

Presidential Elections, 22 October 2000:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage of Votes
Laurent Gbagbo (FPI)	1,065,597	59.36
Robert Gueï (Ind.)	587,267	32.72
Francis Wodié (PIT)	102,253	5.70
Théodore Meï-Eg (UDCY)	26,331	1.47
Nicholas Dioulo	13,558	0.76
Total*	1,795,006	100.000

* Excluding invalid votes (25,413).
[1a] (p347)

Legislative Elections, December 2000 / January 2001:

Party	Total Seats Won
Ivorian Popular Front - (FPI)	96
Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI-RDA)	96
Ivorian Workers Party (PIT)	4
Democratic Union of Côte d'Ivoire (UDCI)	1
Movement of the Forces of the Future (MFA)	1
Rally of Republicans (RDR)	5
Independent candidates	22
Vacant	2

[1a] (p347) [38]

Municipal Election, 25 March 2001:

Party	Number of Communes Won
Rally of Republicans (RDR)	64
Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)	59
Independent candidates	38
Ivorian Popular Front (FPI)	33

[36b]

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Annex E

Glossary of Acronyms

BAE	Brigade anti-émeutes, Anti-Riot police force. Created by the Ivorian government to control attempts at insurrection. Sent with the FANCI to 'clean up' the city of Man in December 2002. [28] (p50)
ECOMICI	ECOWAS Mission to Côte d'Ivoire (English acronym of MICECI). [28] (p50)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States. [28] (p50)
FANCI	Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire, National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire. [28] (p50)
FESCI	Fédération étudiante et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire, Student and School Federation of Côte d'Ivoire. Very active student movement established in April 1990. [28] (p50)
FPI	Front populaire ivoirien, Ivorian Popular Front. [28] (p50)
GPP	Groupement des Patriotes pour la Paix Group of Patriots for Peace. Militias that appeared in southern Côte d'Ivoire from September 2002. [28] (p50)
JFPI	Jeunesse du Front Populaire Ivoirien, Young Ivorian Popular Front. A student movement inside President Gbagbo's party. [28] (p50)
LURD	Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy. A Liberia-based rebel group opposed to Charles Taylor's government, created in 1999 in Sierra Leone. [28] (p50)
MINUCI	Mission des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire, United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire [28] (p51)
MJP	Mouvement pour la justice et la paix, Movement for Peace and Justice [28] (p51)
MODEL	Movement for Democracy in Liberia. Liberian rebel group formed in March 2003. Composed of veteran anti-Taylor fighters, refugees and asylum seekers predominantly based in Côte d'Ivoire. [28] (p51)
MPCI	Mouvement Patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire, Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire [28] (p51)
MPIGO	Mouvement Populaire Ivoirien du Grand Ouest, Ivorian Popular Movement of the Far West [28] (p51)
PDCI	Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire. Together with the RDA (below) formed the state party during the rule of President Houphouët-Boigny. [28] (p51)

RDA	Rassemblement Démocratique Africain, African Democratic Rally. From 1960 to 1990, Côte d'Ivoire was ruled by the state party, the PDCI-RDA led by President Houphouët-Boigny. [28] (p51)
RDR	Rassemblement des républicains, Rally of Republicans. [1a] (p331)
UDCY	Union Démocratique et Citoyenne, Democratic Civic Union. [28] (p51)

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