

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/cote-d-ivoire-no-newspapers-on-sale-as-a-result-11-03-2011,39778.html>

Africa - Côte d'Ivoire

Back on the stands

Newspapers on sale for first time in three days

14 March 2011

Newspapers were on sale again today as a result of a decision by the country's sole print media distributor, Edipresse (a subsidiary of the French company Presstalis), to resume operations. [It had suspended distribution after being raided by soldiers three days ago.](#)

Distribution resumed this morning following talks between the National Press Council, which regulates the print media, and two members of Laurent Gbagbo's cabinet, interior minister Emile Guiriehoulou and communication minister Ouattara Gnonzié.

Reporters Without Borders is nonetheless still deeply concerned about the media situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the continuing incidents. Yesterday, around 10 members of the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) raided the offices of the daily *Nord-Sud* and carried out a search.

11-03-2011- No newspapers on sale as a result of political crisis

No newspapers were distributed today in Côte d'Ivoire, where the protracted political impasse is creating an extremely grave if not impossible situation for journalists and news media. As the country seems to head steadily towards civil war, with casualties every day, journalists are being exposed to threats, arrests and reprisals, and often have to risk lives to report in some neighbourhoods.

Members of the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) loyal to Laurent Gbagbo raided the offices of country's sole newspaper distributor, Edipresse, at around 5 a.m. today and prevented employees from distributing newspapers that support Gbagbo's rival, Alassane Ouattara, regardless of the lack of any order from the National Press Council, which regulates the print media.

A subsidiary of the French company Presstalis, Edipresse decided jointly with its retailers not to sell any newspapers at all today in protest against the raid and as a safety measure.

Reporters Without Borders has also learned that the Abidjan headquarters of the *Abidjan.net* website decided to suspend operations after receiving threats.

Two journalists are currently detained in Côte d'Ivoire, while one media worker has been killed in the past two weeks. The detainees are **Abou Sanogo** and **Gnahoré Charly** of *Télé Notre Patrie (TVNP)*, who were arrested on 28 January and are being held in the main Abidjan prison.

Marcel Legré, a printing press worker at La Refondation, the company that publishes the pro-Gbagbo daily *Notre Voie*, was hacked and clubbed to death on 28 February in the south Abidjan district of Koumassi.

Photo : AFP
