The Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire

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The 2010 presidential election between incumbent Laurent Gbagbo and opposition member Alassane Ouattara resulted in a political stalemate and violent conflict after Gbagbo refused to honor the results that declared Ouattara the winner. As of April 2011, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported that over 1000 civilians had died as a result of clashes, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees stated that more than 500,000 Ivorians were forcibly displaced, and 94,000 Ivorians fled to neighboring Liberia out of fear of violence. Forces loyal to both Gbagbo and Ouattara were failing to protect civilians and were accused of gross human rights violations that could amount to crimes against humanity. In an effort to protect the people of Côte d'Ivoire from further atrocities, a military operation began on 4 April following a statement by the UN Secretary-General in which he instructed UN Operations in Côte D'Ivoire (UNOCI) to “take the necessary measures to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population.” Gbagbo’s hold on power ended on April 11, 2011 when he was arrested by Ouattara’s forces after days of fighting with involvement of UNOCI and the French military.

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for presidential candidates Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, took populations as 160,000 Ivorians are residing within the West African state. Côte d'Ivoire now are still approximately 200,000 IDPs in western Côte d'Ivoire, with an additional 175,000

President Ouattara to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. Amnesty called on both men to issue clear instructions to all their armed forces to stop committing human rights abuses. In its report, the European Council issued a statement reminding “all parties of their responsibility to protect all populations in Côte d'Ivoire, including the civilian population.”

The United States, France, and the United Kingdom, formally rejected a letter from ECOWAS to the UN Security Council that rejected the UN’s 2010 resolution 1970. The letter was rejected as violating the sovereignty of Côte d'Ivoire and the African Union’s authority.

ECOWAS appointed former Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, as Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The regional body issued a resolution on 29 December 2010, focused on reports of human rights violations by Gbagbo supporters and reiterated its call for Ouattara to assume the presidency.

UNOCI was mandated to conduct a preliminary examination into the allegations of crimes committed during the crisis. The team of independent experts was asked to dispatch an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate the allegations of gross human rights abuses that occurred since the start of the political crisis with the adoption of Resolution 1973.

The UN Security Council unanimously voted on January 19, 2011 to pass a resolution on the civilian population. He noted that Gbagbo loyalists launched targeted attacks against civilians. The UN Secretary-General called on all parties to respect the rights of civilians.

On December 20, 2010, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution that extended the mandate of UNOCI through June 30, 2011 and passed a resolution on the civilian population. He noted that Gbagbo loyalists launched targeted attacks against civilians.

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