I. 2010 Political & Humanitarian Crisis

a. The Electoral Process

b. Post-Election Violence: Human Rights Violations Reach RtoP Threshold

II. Responding to the Crisis

a. The UN Response

b. The African Regional and Sub-regional Response

c. Responses from the European Union and Foreign Governments

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III. Post-conflict Rebuilding and Reconciliation

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 Ivoirians were forcibly displaced, and 94,000 Ivoirians 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.
III. Responding to the Crisis

The International Community

The Security Council of the United Nations met on 21 December 2010 to discuss the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. In its resolution 1962, the Security Council unanimously called for an immediate, concrete, and joint international response to the ongoing crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Council also requested the United Nations Secretary-General to establish a truth and reconciliation commission, to be led by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Dr. Alfred G. Gakushana, and his team, in order to identify what preventive and protective measures to use and who could best implement them.

On 15 January 2011, the Security Council met again to discuss the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. In its resolution 1963, the Council called on the parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities and to enter into immediate and unconditional negotiations. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to immediately deploy an additional 2,000 UNOCI forces in the country. The Security Council met again on the issue of Côte d'Ivoire on 7 February 2011, to discuss the situation in the country. In its resolution 1965, the Council called on all parties to the conflict to adhere to the ceasefire agreed upon on 5 February 2011 and to respect human rights and international humanitarian law.

The European Union

The European Council issued a statement on 12 April 2011 in which the organization declared that “peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire are vital for the whole of West Africa.” The statement also called on the international community to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. The European Union also supported the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for. The Secretary-General called for the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.

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The World Bank

The World Bank issued a statement on 12 April 2011 in which the organization declared that “peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire are vital for the whole of West Africa.” The statement also called on the international community to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. The World Bank also supported the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.

Human Rights

Amnesty International (AI) issued several statements calling on the international community to ensure that those responsible for gross human rights violations were held accountable. The organization also called on the international community to support the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.

The International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a statement on 12 April 2011 in which the organization declared that “peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire are vital for the whole of West Africa.” The statement also called on the international community to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. The ICC also supported the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.

The Special Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire

The Special Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, which was mandated to evaluate the crisis and formulate a solution, issued a statement on 12 April 2011 in which the organization declared that “peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire are vital for the whole of West Africa.” The statement also called on the international community to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. The Panel also supported the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.

The African Union

The African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) issued a joint statement on 12 April 2011 in which the organization declared that “peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire are vital for the whole of West Africa.” The statement also called on the international community to ensure that there was no retaliation against Gbagbo supporters. The AU and ECOWAS also supported the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced support for.