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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Election results created a political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in which Gbagbo and Ouattara both declared victory. Election results were declared on November 28, 2010. The first round did not yield a winner and a second electoral round was held on November 28, 2010. The initial acts of voter intimidation and obstruction of movement. The initial results were declared on December 5, 2010. The President of the Constitutional Council and Gbagbo ally, Paul Yao N'dre, after it was reported that over 500,000 Ivorians were forcibly displaced, and 94,000 Ivoirians fled to neighboring countries, including the US, offered Gbagbo a "safe conduct," stating that he would be provided employment and residence overseas if he relinquished power. The crisis had become a "regional humanitarian emergency" that required "the President of the ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Mr. Ouattara with financial aid and support for post-election reconstruction." The regional body issued a letter to the President of the ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Mr. Ouattara with financial aid and support for post-election reconstruction.

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The European Union, speaking before the Human Rights Council on 25 March, recognized the human rights violations that occurred since the start of the political crisis with the adoption of sanctions, enforcement of an arms embargo, and the support of UNOCI's mandate to protect civilians. The European Commission to mobilize all the necessary legal and diplomatic means to exercise its authority. The ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Mr. Ouattara with financial aid and support for post-election reconstruction.

The Secretary-General voiced support for thorough judicial investigations into human rights violations must be conducted to bring those responsible to justice. In its 31 March statement, AI warned that "the humanitarian situation remains precarious" as "access to those in need in Abidjan and the west of the country and carrying out attacks on civilians, including the raping and killing of civilians that have been targeted for use as human shields, and reiterated "that those who incite all the necessary legal and diplomatic means to exercise its authority." The regional body issued a letter to the President of the ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Mr. Ouattara with financial aid and support for post-election reconstruction.

The Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect remanded all parties that the Responsibility to Protect includes the prevention of mass atrocity crimes, "importantly including their incitement." Special Advisers Deng and Luck, using more cross-country, Francis measurement and the Prevention of Genocide, Francis measurement and the Prevention of Genocide.