

Cote d'Ivoire: Containing the Crisis?

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(Reposted from sources cited below)

Editor's Note

The UN Security Council on November 15 voted to impose an arms embargo on all parties in Cote d'Ivoire. The measure was strongly supported by African leaders who fear not only new violence in the West African country, but also setbacks for peace in the surrounding region. Few observers have any confidence in the potential for France to promote reconciliation in its former colony. But even fewer believe that Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo is willing to abandon the effort to crush his opponents by force, including recourse to hate appeals targeting not only the French but also the rebels and other West Africans.

While the prospects of resuming the stalled and now interrupted peace process are not high, the rapid international consensus signals a felt urgency to contain the effect of the crisis as much as possible. This AfricaFocus Bulletin contains several short press statements and background reports, from UN agencies, Human Rights Watch, and the All Africa Conference of Churches. For additional background and links see <http://www.africafocus.org/country/cotedivoire.php>

Cote d'Ivoire, for which the UN has received only 18% of its modest 2004 humanitarian appeal of \$61 million, is one of the "forgotten crises" noted in last week's launch of the 2005 UN humanitarian appeal for \$1.7 billion for crises around the world, not including the Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Colombia. Another AfricaFocus Bulletin today contains the section of that appeal for West Africa. As of this month, the full 2004 consolidated appeal for \$3.4 billion is only 55% funded.

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