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## Protesters Storm Abidjan Airport as French Citizens Leave

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ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Jan. 31 — Several hundred young Ivoirians stormed the international airport here early this morning as groups of French citizens were seeking to leave the country, hurling stones at the French soldiers charged with protecting them.

An estimated 800 French citizens took off today on commercial flights and planes chartered by French companies here. Ivoirian protesters snatched luggage from some of them and broke car windows in the airport parking lot. A smaller group rushed onto the tarmac, trying to prevent planes from taking off, according to a French Army spokesman, Lt. Col. Philippe Perret. He said two French soldiers were wounded by the stone-throwing mob. There were no arrests or other reported injuries.

Ivoirian government loyalists are angry about a French-brokered peace accord to end this country's four-month-old civil war. In it, rebels who have been seeking to oust President Laurent Gbagbo were promised a power-sharing arrangement. Mr. Gbagbo's supporters accuse the French of supporting the rebels, who control the north, and of forcing their president, who controls the south, to agree to the accord.

Loyalists have called for a mass demonstration for Saturday.

"Those rebels who came in and attacked our country, we don't want them in the government at all — definitely not," said Charles Blé Goudé, leader of a group called Young Patriots. "To do so is promoting terrorism and killing democracy."

In centrally situated Bouaké, the seat of the largest insurgent group, rebel leaders have said they will not renegotiate the peace deal. Rather, the group, the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire, said today that it was "ready to restore order to Abidjan." The French Embassy here advised its citizens to stay indoors, and a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris urged all citizens "whose presence is not essential" to leave the country, once a jewel in the French colonial empire.