



Côte d'Ivoire: Oral intervention at the 23rd session of the UN Human Rights Council (27 May – 14 June 2013)

AI Index: AFR 31/008/2013
11 June 2013

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Mr President,

Two years after the end of the post-electoral crisis which resulted in almost 3,000 deaths, Côte d'Ivoire continues to be home to serious human rights violations committed in nearly total impunity against known or suspected supporters of former President Laurent Gbagbo. These violations have been committed allegedly in response to an increase in armed attacks on military and strategic objectives which have created a climate of general insecurity.

The Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI, the national army) and the military police have been responsible for numerous human rights violations after arbitrarily arresting and detaining and torturing suspected supporters of former President Gbagbo; often on the basis of ethnic and political motivations.

Impunity also prevails in regard with the July 2012 attack and destruction of a camp of internally displaced persons in Nahibly near the city of Duékoué (450 km from Abidjan). This attack was carried out by local people supported by Dozos - a militia of traditional hunters sponsored by the state - and FRCI members. The abuses and human rights violations included arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. Almost one year after this incident and despite the opening of enquiries, none of the alleged perpetrators have been identified and prosecuted, and the victims and their families are still waiting for justice and reparation.

Amnesty International urges the Ivorian authorities to break this cycle of human rights violations committed with impunity by state agents or militias, including the Dozos, receiving the state's support.

Amnesty International also urges the Independent Expert to pay particular attention to the question of impunity, regardless of the identity or allegiance of the perpetrators of the violations. This Council must encourage immediate measures for justice and control of the security forces, in support of reconciliation and to avoid a future where Côte d'Ivoire is marked by successive political crises.

Thank you Mr. President.