

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Côte d'Ivoire Briefing November 2020

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#### Côte d'Ivoire Summary 19 November 2020

*The Conseil Constitutionnel (constitutional council) confirms President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) as victor of Côte d'Ivoire's 31 October presidential election, with 94.27% of votes. Post-electoral violence in opposition strongholds claims dozens of lives and displaces thousands. Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE) (Canada)-listed gold mining firms Endeavour Mining Corporation and Teranga Gold Corp. confirm the conclusion of their merger, worth an estimated \$2 billion, which will see the new entity become West Africa's largest gold producer, with a projected annual output of 1.5 million ounces.*

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#### Ouattara wins a third term ...

The **Conseil Constitutionnel** (constitutional council) on 9 November confirmed President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) as victor of **Côte d'Ivoire's** 31 October presidential election, with 94.27% of votes.<sup>1</sup> Post-electoral violence in opposition strongholds in the centre-east, south and western regions has led to dozens of deaths and displaced thousands of Ivorians. The opposition's non-recognition of Ouattara's electoral victory and the continuation of the national civil disobedience campaign have led to the arrest or house arrest of several oppositions leaders. In an attempt to end the political impasse, Ouattara has initiated direct talks with former president and opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** leader **Henri Konan Bédié** and expressed his desire to pursue dialogue.

Calls by Côte d'Ivoire's main opposition parties to boycott the elections meant that Ouattara's victory was a foregone conclusion, with independent candidate **Kouadio Konan Bertin** his only significant opponent. Leading opposition party candidates, Konan Bédié and **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** both boycotted the election process. The election registered a 53% participation rate.<sup>2</sup>

International observer missions led by the **African Union (AU)** and **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** expressed satisfaction with the organisation of the elections.<sup>3</sup> Côte d'Ivoire's **Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH)** (national human rights council) declared on 2 November that the presidential election took place peacefully.<sup>4</sup> However, the **United States-based Carter Center** and the **South Africa-based Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)** declared in their joint electoral observer mission report that Côte d'Ivoire's political and security context had not ensured that inclusive and competitive elections could take place, concluding that the elections have left the country "*fractured*".<sup>5</sup> The two organisations highlighted the skewed participation rates indicating high voter turnout in ruling party strongholds and low voter participation in opposition supported localities.

Inter-communal violence leading up to the elections claimed several lives and resulted in the vandalism of local **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) offices, despite prior assurances by security minister **Vagondo Diomandé** that voting

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<sup>1</sup> FratMat.info, 9 Nov 2020

<sup>2</sup> FratMat.info, 9 Nov 2020

<sup>3</sup> Abidjan.net, 2 Nov 2020

<sup>4</sup> Koaci.com, 2 Nov 2020

<sup>5</sup> Abidjan.net, 2 Nov 2020

would take place peacefully.<sup>6</sup> Civil society platform **Indigo Côte d'Ivoire** in its election observer report noted that 391 violent incidents took place on election day, despite the deployment of 35,000 security force members across the country.<sup>7</sup>

In response to electoral violence, the government imposed a three-day curfew on 1 November in the **Bélier** region (Centre) and in the autonomous district of the political capital, **Yamoussoukro**, after four people died in **Toumodi**.<sup>8</sup> A convoy carrying electoral ballots and material to Abidjan was attacked at **Morofé**, outside Yamoussoukro. Budget minister **Moussa Sanogo** confirmed that one of his security guards was killed during an attack on his convoy at **Zatta**, outside Yamoussoukro. Communication minister and government spokesperson **Sidi Tiémoko Touré**'s convoy was hit with gunfire while travelling between **Bouaké** and **Béoumi**.<sup>9</sup> Sidi Tiémoko Touré reported that violence during the election period from 10 August until now has led to 85 deaths, including 34 before elections, 20 during elections and 31 after, with 484 individuals injured; police have arrested 225 people, with 167 indicted and 45 issued with an arrest warrant. Violence has taken place in 16 of the 31 administrative regions. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** reported on 10 November that an estimated 8,000 Ivorians have fled to neighbouring countries, including 7,500 to **Liberia**, in the wake of continuing post-electoral violence.<sup>10</sup>

### Opposition launches transition council...

The creation on 2 November of parallel opposition platform **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council) has exacerbated political tension. The CNT does not recognise the electoral result, claiming Ouattara's presidency has ended.<sup>11</sup> The announcement of the CNT's establishment led to deployment of security forces outside the residences of leading opposition members including Konan Bédié, Affi N'Guessan, **Albert Toikeusse Mabri** and **Assoa Adou**.<sup>12</sup>

Justice minister **Sansan Kambile** condemned the establishment of the CNT on 3 November, stating that the government had lodged a complaint with the public prosecutor at the **Tribunal de Première Instance d'Abidjan** (Court of First Instance of Abidjan) of conspiracy against the state.<sup>13</sup> State prosecutor **Richard Christophe Adou** announced on 6 November that investigations would be launched against opposition leaders who started the national civil disobedience campaign and established the CNT.<sup>14</sup> Police subsequently arrested Affi N'Guessan and laid 30 charges against him of undermining state authority. Police also arrested PDCI executive secretary **Maurice Kakou Guikahué**, together with 22 other opposition members, and "*actively searched*" for Toikeusse Mabri. Adou said Konan Bédié had not been arrested due to concerns about his advanced age, while Assoa Adou was placed under house arrest.<sup>15</sup> Former president **Laurent Gbagbo** (2000-2010) reportedly expressed his concern about the house arrest of Konan Bédié, Affi N'Guessan and Adou, amongst others, in a telephone conversation with prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko**.<sup>16</sup>

### ... as Ouattara seeks to defuse conflict

Following the constitutional court's confirmation of his electoral victory, Ouattara delivered a nationally broadcast speech calling for an end to the violence that has engulfed Côte d'Ivoire since August.<sup>17</sup> Ouattara called for the dissolution of the CNT and expressed his desire to have face-to-face

<sup>6</sup> L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, 30 Oct 2020

<sup>7</sup> APA, 1 Nov 2020

<sup>8</sup> FratMat.info, 1 Nov 2020

<sup>9</sup> Koaci.com, 4 Nov 2020

<sup>10</sup> APA, 10 Nov 2020

<sup>11</sup> Koaci.com, 11 Nov 2020

<sup>12</sup> RFI, 2 Nov 2020

<sup>13</sup> Abidjan.net, 3 Nov 2020

<sup>14</sup> FratMat.info, 6 Nov 2020

<sup>15</sup> Abidjan.net, 9 Nov 2020

<sup>16</sup> Koaci.com, 5 Nov 2020

<sup>17</sup> Abidjan.net, 10 Nov 2020

talks with Konan Bédié. On 10 November, during the first cabinet meeting since Ouattara's re-election, Bakayoko reiterated the government's intention to engage in dialogue with the opposition.<sup>18</sup>

Ouattara and Konan Bédié met on 11 November for the first time since August 2018, when the PDCI withdrew from the RHDP.<sup>19</sup> Security forces were withdrawn from outside the residences of leading opposition leaders to facilitate the occurrence of the meeting. Ouattara was accompanied by his director of cabinet, **Fidèle Sarassoro**, while Konan Bédié attended with PDCI vice president **Gen. Gaston Ouassénan Koné** and former prime minister **Charles Konan Banny**.<sup>20</sup> At the end of the meeting, Ouattara and Konan Bédié expressed their satisfaction with the matters discussed and pledged to pursue further efforts.<sup>21</sup>

Ouattara and his government appear to have decided to take active steps to defuse the current situation. Ouattara held a cabinet meeting on 12 November with the ministers from the 16 regions that experienced violence, reportedly criticising them for being out of touch with the youth and not effectively carrying out campaigns in their regions.<sup>22</sup> Ouattara reportedly also expressed his displeasure towards members of government, excluding Bakayoko, for failing to combat misinformation or "fake news" spread by the opposition.<sup>23</sup> Ouattara has acknowledged that the most urgent issues on his agenda include fostering reconciliation with the opposition and the potential return of Gbagbo. Ouattara authorised for Gbagbo to be provided with an Ivorian diplomatic passport.<sup>24</sup>

Leading opposition parties including the PDCI and FPI have agreed in principle to participate in a national inclusive dialogue on condition that the government ends the house arrest imposed on prominent opposition leaders, allows the return to Côte d'Ivoire of political exiles including Gbagbo and exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** president **Guillaume Soro**, and ends judicial proceedings against members of the opposition and military members.<sup>25</sup> However, the possibility of Soro returning to Côte d'Ivoire has become increasingly unlikely following his call for the military to intervene in the ongoing violence in the country, a declaration that reportedly led **French** authorities to request he leave France on 7 November.<sup>26</sup>

The international community has expressed concern over the continuing political crisis. While regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the AU recognised Ouattara's victory alongside bilateral partners such as the **United States**, **United Kingdom (UK)** and France, they have called on the opposition to "respect constitutional order" and for leaders to pursue dialogue. France, through its foreign ministry (**Quai d'Orsay**) and the French presidency (**Elysée**), has been particularly active in this regard. President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) reportedly discussed with Ouattara the need to initiate conciliatory measures with the opposition beyond appointing them to cabinet positions. Macron sent Ouattara a message of congratulations on 15 November, stating his wish for peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and praising Ouattara for hosting the meeting with Konan Bédié.<sup>27</sup> On 10 November, French foreign affairs minister **Jean-Yves Le Drian** called for Ouattara and Konan Bédié to carry out talks. France's diplomatic approach following Ouattara's victory contrasts starkly with its low-key response to the crisis before the elections.

Recent events in the country have damaged Ouattara's image domestically, regionally and on the international stage. Ouattara is likely aware that he underestimated the strong negative reaction to his pursuit of a third presidential term and will do his utmost to pursue reconciliation long overdue

<sup>18</sup> Abidjan.net, 10 Nov 2020

<sup>19</sup> Jeune Afrique, 11 Nov 2020

<sup>20</sup> Jeune Afrique, 12 Nov 2020

<sup>21</sup> Jeune Afrique, 12 Nov 2020

<sup>22</sup> Koaci.com, 12 Nov 2020

<sup>23</sup> Koaci.com, 17 Nov 2020

<sup>24</sup> Koaci.com, 13 Nov 2020

<sup>25</sup> Koaci.com, 13 Nov 2020

<sup>26</sup> Koaci.com, 12 Nov 2020

<sup>27</sup> RFI, 15 Nov 2020

since he assumed office in 2010. Reconciling with the leading political barons Konan Bédié and Gbagbo will be key ahead of the legislative elections scheduled for 2021. Reform of the CEI and electoral code could also be on the agenda.

### Endeavour and Teranga Gold conclude \$2 billion merger

**Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE) (Canada)**-listed gold mining firms **Endeavour Mining Corporation** and **Teranga Gold Corp.** confirmed the conclusion of their merger on 16 November.<sup>28</sup> The \$2 billion transaction will see Endeavour acquire all outstanding shares of Teranga by way of an arrangement plan under the **Canada Business Corp. Act**.<sup>29</sup> Endeavour will hold a 66% share in the merged corporation while Teranga will hold the remaining 34%.<sup>30</sup> Endeavour is now the largest gold producer in **West Africa** and the tenth largest in the world as a result of the merger and intends to list on the **London (UK) Free Trade Stock Exchange** in 2021.<sup>31</sup> The merger could spark greater investor interest in Côte d'Ivoire's gold mining sector.

Endeavour CEO **Sébastien de Montessus** said the merger of Endeavour and Teranga will enhance the company's strategic position in West Africa's highly prospective but underexploited **Birimian Greenstone Belt**.<sup>32</sup> Endeavour has the largest asset portfolio in Birimian Greenstone Belt. Montessus said the consolidation of the two firms will lead to lower production costs, increased synergies and diversification across the three countries where they operate – **Burkina Faso**, Côte d'Ivoire and **Senegal**.<sup>33</sup> Endeavour had already demonstrated its intent to expand its activities in West Africa through its July purchase of Canada-based **Semafo**, which owned gold mines in Burkina Faso.<sup>34</sup>

Teranga president and CEO **Richard Young** acknowledged the support of Teranga shareholders for the deal, which they believe will enhance the firm's scope of activities.<sup>35</sup> Canada-based gold mining giant **Barrick Gold Corp.**, which owns 11.4% of Teranga, also supported the deal.<sup>36</sup> Barrick CEO **Mark Bristow** had reportedly lobbied for the deal in order to push out smaller players in the West African gold market.<sup>37</sup>

As a result of the transaction, Endeavour will operate six mines across Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal and a host of Greenfield projects. Production is estimated to reach 1.5 million ounces per year.<sup>38</sup> Endeavour's leading shareholder, **Egyptian** businessman **Naguib Sawiris**, has committed to invest \$200m into the new entity, through his gold mining holding company, **La Mancha**.<sup>39</sup>

The merger is good news for the Ivorian mining sector, where Endeavour's **Agbaou** and **Ity** gold mines are already operational. **Afema** is set to begin production in 2021 and the **Fetkro** mine is still being developed.<sup>40</sup> According to the **World Gold Council**, in 2019 Côte d'Ivoire was the sixth largest producer of gold in Africa and 22<sup>nd</sup> globally, producing 41.9 tonnes that year.<sup>41</sup> Côte d'Ivoire is already set to surpass its 2019 mark, as it registered output of 28.3 tonnes during the first nine months of 2020, a 20.3% increase compared to the same period in 2019.<sup>42</sup> Endeavour may also view its Côte d'Ivoire operations as a buffer against its comparatively risky operations in Burkina Faso,<sup>43</sup> where

<sup>28</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>29</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>30</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>31</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>32</sup> Mining Weekly, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>33</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>34</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>35</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>36</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>37</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>38</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>39</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>40</sup> Africa Mining Review, 16 Nov 2020

<sup>41</sup> Sika Finance, 27 Oct 2020

<sup>42</sup> Sika Finance, 11 Nov 2020

<sup>43</sup> Sika Finance, 27 Oct 2020

attacks by violent extremist groups operating over the past years could cause stoppages.<sup>44</sup> Burkina Faso was Africa's fourth largest gold producer in 2019.

## Planner

2021 (Côte d'Ivoire) Legislative elections scheduled

## Chronology

19 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. President **Alassane Ouattara** chairs a meeting of the **Conseil Nationale de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) to analyse the security situation from August to October;

19 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Nouveau Reveil*. The **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) is examining the 2021 draft budget in the absence of opposition parties;

19 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president and **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** leader **Henri Konan Bédié** cancels a meeting scheduled with other opposition parties on 20 November;

18 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** criticises a 16 November report published by **United Kingdom**-based non-governmental organisation **Amnesty International** accusing the government of human rights violations against opposition leaders;

18 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. **Godé Dagbo**, lawyer for detained former prime minister and **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** leader **Pascal Affi N'Guessan**, states Affi N'Guessan is doing well, after rumours surfaced that he was being held in isolation during his detention in Abidjan;

18 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** calls on the release from detention of its members who hold elected office including MP **Maurice Kakou Guikahué** and senators **Bassy Koffi Bernard** and **Sery Bi N'guessan**;

17 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. Security forces remove their blockade outside the residence of former prime minister and **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** leader **Pascal Affi N'Guessan**;

17 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Security and civil protection minister **Vagondo Diomandé** announces the extension on the ban on political demonstrations and marches in public spaces;

17 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. During a **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** political council meeting, President **Alassane Ouattara** criticises cabinet ministers for failing to counteract "fake news" and properly communicate the government's achievements during the presidential campaign;

17 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** expresses its support for efforts leading to the re-establishment of peace following a tumultuous electoral cycle;

17 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Nouveau Reveil*. **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** delegation meets with former president and **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** leader **Henri Konan Bédié** to extend the well wishes of former president **Laurent Gbagbo**;

17 Nov 2020 **London (United Kingdom)** *Mo Ibrahim Foundation*. **United Kingdom (UK)**-based **Mo Ibrahim Foundation** in its 2020 **Ibrahim Index of African Governance** awards Côte d'Ivoire a governance score of 53.9 out of 100, ranking it 7th out of 15 **Economic Community of West**

<sup>44</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Nov 2020

**African States (ECOWAS)** members and 18th overall on the continent;

16 Nov 2020 **London (United Kingdom)** *Amnesty International*. **United Kingdom (UK)**-based rights group **Amnesty International** calls on Ivorian government officials to investigate the dozens of killings that occurred during and in the aftermath of Côte d'Ivoire's elections;

16 Nov 2020 **Toronto (Canada)** *Mining Review Africa*. **Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE)**-listed **Endeavour Mining Corporation** and **Teranga Gold Corporation** confirm they have entered into a definitive agreement in terms of which Endeavour will acquire all of the issued and outstanding securities of Teranga for a reported \$2 billion;

15 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** congratulates President **Alassane Ouattara** on his victory in the 31 October presidential elections and expresses satisfaction regarding the meeting between Ouattara and former president **Henri Konan Bédié**;

15 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko** claims that opposition leaders who established the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council) were attempting carry out a coup d'état;

13 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** agree to participate in a national inclusive dialogue on condition that President **Alassane Ouattara** lifts the house arrest imposed on prominent opposition leaders, ensures the return to Côte d'Ivoire of political exiles including former president **Laurent Gbagbo** and former **Assemblée Nationale** president **Guillaume Soro**, and ends judicial proceedings against opposition and military members;

13 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. President **Alassane Ouattara** has reportedly authorised that former president **Laurent Gbagbo** be issued an Ivorian passport, which will open up the possibility of Gbagbo's return to Côte d'Ivoire from exile in **Belgium**;

12 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. President **Alassane Ouattara** instructs cabinet ministers to visit their home regions and spread the message of peace and reconciliation, in a bid to appease ongoing socio-political tensions following the 31 October presidential elections;

12 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko** receives **Assoa Adou**, secretary general of the opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** faction aligned to former president **Laurent Gbagbo**, following the latter's release from house arrest;

12 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. Exiled president of opposition **Congrès Panafricain pour la Justice et l'Égalité des Peuples (Cojep)**, **Charles Blé Goudé**, praises decision by President **Alassane Ouattara** and opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** leader **Henri Konan Bédié** to hold face-to-face talks;

12 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president, opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and CNT leader **Henri Konan Bédié** will chair a meeting with various opposition parties on 13 November, to provide feedback on his meeting with President **Alassane Ouattara**;

12 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **France's** ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, **Jean-Christophe Beillard**, says the meeting between President **Alassane Ouattara** and opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and CNT leader **Henri Konan Bédié** will help to restore serenity and promote reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire;

11 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Government spokesperson **Sidi Tiémoko Touré** says violence during the election period from 10 August until now has led to 85 deaths, including 34 before elections, 20 during elections and 31 after, with 484 individuals injured; police have arrested 225 people, with 167 indicted and 45 issued with an arrest warrant;

11 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Entourage of French President **Emmanuel Macron** has reportedly expressed satisfaction with the meeting between President **Alassane Ouattara** and

former president, opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** leader **Henri Konan Bédié**;

11 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. President **Alassane Ouattara** and former president, opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and CNT leader **Henri Konan Bédié**, meet at l'Hotel Golf in Abidjan, their first meeting since the start of the election period;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Government holds its first cabinet meeting since the declaration of presidential election results, with prime minister and defence minister **Hamed Bakayoko** stating the need for appeasement and reconciliation in the wake of on-going post-electoral violence;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. French foreign affairs minister **Jean Yves Le Drian** calls on President **Alassane Ouattara** and former president, opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and national transition council leader **Henri Konan Bédié**, to pursue dialogue in order to end Côte d'Ivoire's political impasse;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Ivorian media reports suggest that French authorities have asked exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president **Guillaume Soro** to leave France;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. The **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** congratulates President **Alassane Ouattara** for his victory in the 31 October presidential election;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet** expresses concern over the arrest of opposition leaders who are members of the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council);

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** reports that an estimated 8,000 Ivorians have fled to neighbouring countries, including 7,500 to **Liberia**, in the wake of continuing post-electoral violence;

10 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Intercommunal violence in the **M'Batto** area in **Moronou** region (**Centre**) has led to three deaths and 26 injured;

9 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **Conseil Constitutionnel** (constitutional council) confirms President **Alassane Ouattara's** victory in the 31 October presidential election, in which Ouattara obtained 94.27% of votes;

9 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. President **Alassane Ouattara** calls for the dissolution of the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council) and expresses his desire to meet former president, opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and CNT leader **Henri Konan Bédié** for a "frank and sincere" dialogue;

9 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. President **Alassane Ouattara** in a national address condemns the violence that beset the presidential elections as well as the leading opposition parties' national civil disobedience campaign and electoral boycott;

9 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Close to 30 charges have been laid against opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** leader **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** following his arrest on charges of undermining state authority in relation to his membership in the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council), according to his lawyer, **Dagbo Godé**;

7 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** leader **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** is arrested in the **Adzopé** department, 100km outside of Abidjan, and placed in custody at the **Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST)**;

6 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. State prosecutor **Richard Christophe Adou** states that former president, and opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** and **Conseil**

**National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council) leader, **Henri Konan Bédié** was not arrested for his role in the national civil disobedience campaign and CNT, due to his advanced age, but is still under house arrest;

6 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. State prosecutor **Richard Christophe Adou** says opposition **Union pour la Démocratie et pour la Paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI)** leader **Albert Abdallah Toikeusse Mabri** is being “actively searched” as part of the state’s investigations against opposition leaders for purportedly undermining state authority;

6 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** executive secretary **Maurice Kakou Guikahué**, alongside 22 other opposition members, is arrested in connection with his role in the national civil disobedience campaign and the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council);

6 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. State prosecutor **Richard Christophe Adou** launches investigations against opposition leaders who launched the national civil disobedience campaign and established the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council);

5 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. **United Kingdom (UK)** under-secretary of state for **Africa, James Duddridge** expresses condolences to the Ivorian people for the on-going election-related violence and calls on all actors to exercise restraint, promote peace and respect constitutional order;

5 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **China’s** foreign affairs ministry officially recognises the results published by the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) declaring President **Alassane Ouattara** winner of the 31 October presidential election;

5 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. A communiqué issued on behalf of former president **Laurent Gbagbo** states that in a telephone conversation with prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko**, Gbagbo expressed his concern over the house arrest of opposition leaders of former President **Henri Konan Bédié**, **Pascal Affi N’Guessan** and **Assoa Adou** amongst others;

5 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** president **Guillaume Soro** calls on Ivorian defence forces to “act” against President **Alassane Ouattara**, reiterating that the opposition considers Ouattara’s presidency has concluded and a vacancy of power exists;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AIP*. **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)** calls on all Côte d'Ivoire’s political leaders to engage in dialogue to resolve the political crisis;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Diplomatie.gouv.fr*. The **Quai d’Orsay (French** foreign ministry) calls on Côte d'Ivoire’s political parties to end the violence that has followed the declaration of President **Alassane Ouattara’s** victory in the 31 October presidential election;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **United States** ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire **Richard Bell** calls on “competent authorities” to investigate the incidents of violence that have occurred since the 31 October presidential election;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Resident ambassadors of the **European Union (EU)**, **France**, **United States (US)** and **United Kingdom (UK)** meet with former president and opposition leader **Henri Konan Bédié** at his Abidjan residence;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Communication minister and government spokesperson **Sidi Tiémoko Touré’s** convoy is hit with gunfire while travelling between **Bouaké to Béoumi**;

4 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *UN News*. **United Nations** secretary general **António Guterres** condemns the violence in Côte d'Ivoire and calls for respect for constitutional order;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Africanews*. **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** declares incumbent President **Alassane Ouattara** as winner of the 31 October presidential elections with 94.27% of the vote, which saw a 53% participation rate;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AIP*. The **African Union (AU)**, **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** and **United Nations (UN)** call on the Ivorian opposition to respect constitutional order and pursue dialogue with the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)**;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Following the opposition's establishment of the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council), security forces are deployed outside the residences of opposition leaders including former president **Henri Konan Bédié**, **Pascal Affi N'Guessan**, **Albert Toikeusse Mabri** and **Assoa Adou**;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Justice minister **Sansan Kambile** condemns the opposition's creation of the **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council) and says the government has lodged a complaint with the public prosecutor at the **Tribunal de Première Instance d'Abidjan** (Court of First Instance of Abidjan) for conspiracy against the state;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. The **United States Embassy in Abidjan** calls on the opposition to respect the Ivorian constitution and rejects opposition claims that there is a presidential vacancy of power;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **European Union (EU)** indicates it has taken note of the Ivorian presidential election results and calls on all parties to reduce current social tensions and pursue reconciliation;

3 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *UN News*. The **United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)** reports 3,200 Ivorians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries as a result of the ongoing post-electoral violence;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** executive director **Adama Bictogo** calls on the government to put an end to the electoral violence that has engulfed the country;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Liberian** information minister **Ledgerhood J.Rennie** denies rumours that Liberia is involved in the election-related violence taking place in Côte d'Ivoire;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. The opposition platform leading the national civil disobedience campaign announces the creation of a **Conseil National de Transition (CNT)** (national transition council), to be headed by former president **Henri Konan Bédié** and says it will announce a new cabinet in opposition to the 31 October elections, which it does not recognise;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. The **African Union (AU)** and **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** electoral observer missions declare satisfaction with the organisation of the presidential elections, despite a few violent incidents, with ECOWAS suggesting political dialogue should follow the declaration of results;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. **United States**-based **Carter Center** and **South Africa**-based **Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)** declare in their electoral observer mission report that the political and security context in Côte d'Ivoire did not ensure that inclusive and competitive elections could take place, saying the elections have left the country "fractured";

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH)** (national human rights council) declares the presidential election took place peacefully under acceptable conditions thanks to the involvement of the security forces, despite a few violent

incidents;

2 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Budget minister **Moussa Sanogo** reports that one of his security guards was killed in an attack on his convoy at **Zatta**, outside of **Yamoussoukro**, during the 31 October presidential election;

1 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. Electoral violence in 31 October presidential elections has reportedly led to five deaths;

1 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. Ivorian civil society organisation **Indigo Côte d'Ivoire** reveals that its election observer mission registered 391 incidents of electoral violence or voting disruption across the country during the 31 October presidential elections;

1 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Armed individuals attack a motor convoy transporting ballot boxes and other electoral material to Abidjan at **Morofé**, outside the political capital **Yamoussoukro**;

1 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. A three-day curfew is imposed in the **Béliér region** (Centre) and **Yamoussoukro autonomous** district, following the death of four individuals in **Toumodi**;

1 Nov 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** states **Alassane Ouattara's** presidential mandate has come to an end and calls for the establishment of a "civil transition" to create the conditions for a fair and transparent presidential election;

31 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** executive director **Adama Bictogo** blames opposition groups for acts of violence that took place during the 31 October presidential elections;

31 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** states the opposition does not consider that presidential elections took place on 31 October and claims 12 people were killed across different localities as a result of electoral violence, a figure that has not been confirmed;

31 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. President **Alassane Ouattara** commends Ivorians who ignored the opposition's civil disobedience movement and came out to vote in the presidential elections;

31 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan*. Leading opposition parties **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** and **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** boycott the presidential election as voting gets underway, with 7.5 million Ivorians eligible to participate;

30 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan*. Defence minister **Vagondo Diomandé** assures that state security services will be able to maintain peace and security during the 31 October presidential elections;

30 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **United Nations (UN)** electoral observer mission calls on Ivorian authorities to ensure that presidential elections take place in peace and calm;

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *TV5 Monde*. During an interview with **France-based TV5**, former president **Laurent Gbagbo** blames the non-respect of the constitution as the main cause of Côte d'Ivoire's current political impasse and says he shares Ivorians' frustration regarding President **Alassane Ouattara's** pursuit of a third term;

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. **International Criminal Court (ICC)** chief prosecutor **Fatou Bensouda** expresses concern about the violence in Côte d'Ivoire ahead of the presidential elections and calls on political leaders to avoid a repeat of the violence that marked the 2010 presidential contest;

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. An estimated 400,000 Ivorians attend President **Alassane Ouattara's** final campaign rally, in the Abidjan commune of **Abobo**, where Ouattara

called on his supporters to ensure nobody prevents them from voting during the 31 October elections

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Security minister General **Diomandé Vagondo** is appointed interim territorial administration and decentralisation minister, following the death of **Sidiki Diakité**;

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. Prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko** calls on religious leaders to contribute towards promoting and unity in Côte d'Ivoire;

29 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** states the opposition will continue its civil disobedience campaign and does not consider the 31 October elections legitimate, but does not rule out the possibility of an opposition dialogue with the government;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Forces Armées de Côte d'Ivoire (FACI)** (Ivorian armed forces) chief of staff Gen. **Lassina Doumbia** announces the mobilisation of 35,000 security force members to prevent violence ahead of, during and after the elections;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. During an interview with France-based **TV5**, former president **Laurent Gbagbo** calls on political leaders to pursue dialogue and preserve peace ahead of the 31 October presidential elections;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. During a campaign visit to **Ebimpé** on the outskirts of Abidjan, President **Alassane Ouattara** confirms that 16 people died during violent clashes at **Dabou** and expresses his desire to pursue dialogue with the opposition;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'guessan** announces that former **Switzerland-based Credit Suisse** CEO **Tidjane Thiam** has joined the Ivorian opposition, although Thiam has not confirmed the declaration;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AIP*. The opposition **Rassemblement pour la Côte d'Ivoire (RACI)**, previously aligned to exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president **Guillaume Soro**, announces its support for President **Alassane Ouattara**'s re-election bid ahead of the 31 October elections;

28 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouetistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** spokesperson **Kobenan Adjoumani Kouassi** accuses exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president **Guillaume Soro** of manipulating **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** presidential candidate **Henri Konan Bédié** and **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'guessan** to carry out the national civil disobedience campaign;

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **United Nations (UN)** announces suspension of non-essential external missions in Côte d'Ivoire until 15 November;

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. President **Alassane Ouattara** indicates during an interview with France-based **France24** and **RFI** that it will be "practically impossible" for him to be a candidate in the 2025 presidential elections and that he is open to the return of former President **Laurent Gbagbo** to Côte d'Ivoire from exile in **Belgium**;

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. President **Alassane Ouattara** declares during an interview with France-based **France24** and **RFI** that the postponement of the 31 October elections would be a violation of the constitution and expresses his willingness to meet with **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** candidate, former president **Henri Konan Bédié** ahead of the elections;

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *UN News Service*. The **United Nations High Commission for Human Rights** denounces the increasing levels of hate speech witnessed in electoral campaigns

and calls on Ivorian authorities to investigate violence in **Bongouanou** (centre) and **Dabou** (south-east);

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **United States**-headquartered non-profit organisation the **National Democratic Institute (NDI)** expresses concern at the increasing use of hate speech on Ivorian social media platforms in the lead up to the elections;

27 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) office at **Bongouanou** (centre) and **Daoukro** (centre-east) is vandalised;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Security forces use tear gas to disperse protesters in **Abengourou** as part of the civil disobedience campaign launched by the opposition ahead of the elections;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **The United States (US) Embassy in Abidjan** advises US citizens to avoid large gatherings and remain vigilant ahead of the 31 October presidential elections;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** presidential candidate **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** expresses optimism that voting in at least 500 polling stations will be disrupted on 31 October as part of the opposition's civil disobedience campaign;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) reports that it collected 3,084,288 voter cards, equivalent to 41.15% of voters, from 14 to 25 October;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AIP*. The government extends for an additional 72 hours a 72-hour curfew imposed from 22-24 October, following violence between opposition ruling coalition supporters in **M'Bahiakro** (centre-east region);

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. President **Alassane Ouattara** and opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** candidate, former president **Henri Konan Bédié**, are reported to have spoken by telephone on 25 October, ahead of the 31 October presidential elections;

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Unknown perpetrators vandalise **the Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) office in **N'zeczessou** (centre-east region);

26 Oct 2020 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. The **Fonds de Soutien aux Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (FSPME COVID-19)** (Covid-19 small and medium-sized business support fund) has distributed 10 billion FCFA (\$18m) to beneficiaries from May to October;

### About Africa Risk Consulting

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