

Africa

## **Ivorian Rebels Warn France Against Offensive**

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast -- Ivory Coast's rebel factions warned France yesterday that an attack by the former colonial ruler on rebel positions would trigger an all-out offensive.

Two days after French troops blasted three rebel pickup trucks that were attacking a town in the west, the rebel groups met in Bouake, the stronghold of the main Patriotic Movement of Ivory Coast faction, to discuss forming an alliance.

Frightened refugees fled the scene of the latest clashes, joining tens of thousands already forced from their homes by a war that has increasingly split Ivory Coast along ethnic lines since a failed coup attempt on Sept. 19.

Reuters

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