

Cote d'Ivoire: Reactions Following the Attack On a Displaced Persons Camp in Western Cote d'Ivoire
By All Africa
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"Massive killings and impunity in Cote d'Ivoire: U.S., EU and UN threaten Ouattara," says a prominent headline in *Le Temps* (p. 6). Reacting to last week's attack that reportedly left 13 people dead in the troubled western town of Duekoue and the surrounding area, the paper suggests that the U.S. government, through its embassy in Cote d'Ivoire, is not happy about "the negligence" and the "incapacity" of the government of President Alassane Ouattara "to ensure security" for the people of Cote d'Ivoire. "The U.S. government has called for an immediate investigation into the causes of these violent incidents and for the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to hold responsible parties accountable," the paper quotes a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan as saying.

"Massacre in a refugee camp in Duekoue: U.S., EU and Switzerland are unhappy," writes *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5). According to the article, the U.S. government has "strongly condemned" the violence that occurred Thursday and Friday in western Cote d'Ivoire in the town of Duekoue, and in the Internally Displaced Persons camp in Nahibly near Duekoue. The report also says the U.S. government has called on the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) "to take immediate action to ensure the protection of civilians in the region."

With a headline reading "Ouattara's total unresponsiveness," *Notre Voie* (p. 2) calls the recent event in Duekoue "a drama" and accuses traditional hunters, widely known as Dozos, and government FRCI soldiers allegedly backed by youths from the Malinke ethnic group of "setting ablaze" the internally displaced persons camp in Duekoue. The paper also claims that more than 200 people, mostly from the We ethnic group, were killed during the event. "Curiously, the Ivorian Head of State, Alassane Dramane Ouattara, looks unconcerned about this tragedy and quietly continues his trip outside the country while the UN and the U.S. are calling for investigations into the matter," comments the paper. "They have the license to kill," reads a front-page editorial in this paper, which quotes (p. 3) an unidentified soldier claiming that "government forces have massacred more than 60 youths from the We ethnic group."

A front-page story in *Soir Info*, however, says that the government has taken "urgent measures" to reinforce security in the region. According to the paper, the decision was taken during an emergency meeting following the killings in Duekoue. Another front-page headline in this paper says that the Ivorian government and the UN are "blaming" each other for failing to protect the refugee camp.

A front-page headline in *Le Patriote* quotes President Ouattara, in a statement issued by the Ministry of Defense, as saying that "the perpetrators will be brought to justice," while Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio has called for "calm."

Meanwhile, a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 2) says that the government met with UN officials over the weekend in an effort to find ways to address the security concerns in western Cote d'Ivoire. "We've discussed with the Prime Minister the ways and means to guarantee security and restore peace to enable the population in Duekoue to live a normal life in this region," the paper quotes the deputy head of the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire, Arnauld Akodjenou, as saying after the meeting. Another article in this paper (p. 3) quotes Mr. Akodjenou, who announced that the UN has put in place measures to facilitate the activities of aid workers. On the situation on the ground, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 2) explains how the Ivorian western regions have become "a powder keg" where different communities are finding it "difficult to live together."