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The Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire
Electoral Process

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The 2010 presidential election between incumbent Laurent Gbagbo and opposition member Alassane Ouattara resulted in a political stalemate and violent conflict after Gbagbo refused to honor the results that declared Ouattara the winner. As of April 2011, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported that

over 1000 civilians

had died as a result of clashes, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees stated

that more than 500,000 Ivoirians were forcibly displaced, and 94,000 Ivoirians fled to neighboring Liberia out of fear of violence. Forces loyal to both Gbagbo and Ouattara were failing to protect civilians and were accused of gross human rights violations that could amount to crimes against humanity. In an effort to protect the people of Côte d'Ivoire

from further atrocities, a military operation began on 4 April following a statement

by the UN Secretary-General in which he instructed UN Operations in Côte D'Ivoire (UNOCI) to "take the necessary measures to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population." Gbagbo's hold on power ended on April 11, 2011 when he was arrested by Ouattara's forces after days of fighting with involvement of UNOCI and the French military.

I. 2010 Political & Humanitarian Crisis



Human Rights Watch (HRW) has documented the impact of the crisis on the civilian population. HRW reports that the conflict has led to the displacement of millions of people and the loss of lives and property. The organization has also documented human rights abuses, including the killing of civilians, the destruction of property, and the denial of basic needs. HRW has called for an end to the violence and for the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement.

The United Nations Security Council has also been involved in the crisis. In 2003, the Security Council passed Resolution 1528, which called for a ceasefire and the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement. The Security Council has also established the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to monitor the ceasefire and assist in the implementation of the peace agreement. UNOCI has been criticized for its limited effectiveness in maintaining the ceasefire and protecting civilians.