

Côte d'Ivoire Security Summary

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Three rockets were fired at 1030hrs on Friday 29 June 2007 at the plane carrying the Ivorian Prime Minister Guillaume Soro after it landed at Bouaké in the north of the country.

Mr Soro was not hurt but initial reports indicate that 4 people have died as a result of the attack. The persons wounded have reportedly been evacuated to Licorne medical centres.

The situation at Bouaké is reported to be calm, and under control of Forces Nouvelles (FN).

No group has so far claimed responsibility, but initial investigations tend to indicate that it was an isolated act.



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All readers are therefore advised to act safely, according to their own capacity and with the latest information

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Guillaume Soro was the head of the northern rebels, known as the *Forces Nouvelles*, who seized the north of the West African country during a brief 2002-2003 civil war.

In March 2007, Government and FN rebels signed a power-sharing peace deal, mediated by Burkina Faso. Under the deal, Guillaume Soro was named as Prime Minister and the military buffer zone, set up in June 2003, was dismantled on 16 April, 2007.

Following the progressive dismantlement of the military buffer zone, aid workers have reported an increase in violence. Nonetheless, the ongoing electoral process has so far not been affected by this reported violence. No date for elections has yet been clearly set.



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Analysis/Recommendations

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- ✓ **It is too early to assess the impact of this attack on the ongoing electoral process. Increased tensions can still be expected along the former military buffer zone. How the situation will develop greatly depends on the statements and actions of key political leaders both within Côte d'Ivoire and in the wider region.**
- ✓ **Investigations to identify the perpetrators of this attack is also a potential source of tensions, particularly if there is suspicion that the investigation is being either blocked or manipulated.**
- ✓ *Actors with a permanent presence/operations in Côte d'Ivoire, and more specifically along the former military buffer zone, are therefore advised to remain vigilant and reduce their movements during the coming days.*
- ✓ *Safety protocols should be reviewed and be ready to be implemented in the event the situation deteriorates. These protocols should include, amongst others aspects, "in extremis" communications procedures in order to ensure that vital information is swiftly reported and shared amongst humanitarian actors operating in the country.*
- ✓ *Humanitarian actors are also advised to monitor local media specially those which are seen to be representing the views of the factions involved in this conflict. Many of the newspapers in Côte d'Ivoire have associated websites, such as "Le Patriote" (www.lepatriote.net) and Fraternité Matin (<http://news.abidjan.net/presse/fratmat.htm>)*

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The logo for Safer Access, featuring the word "saferaccess" in white lowercase letters on a green rounded rectangular background. A faint world map is visible behind the text.

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Our work is first and foremost beneficiary-focused, innovative and aims to have an impact across the aid sector. Our belief is that the best way to ensure continued access to beneficiaries in even the most complex and fluid situations is for organizations to institutionalize effective security planning and procedures from the outset. Our intent is always to teach and facilitate best practises – practices which both safeguard staff security while also enabling access to those most in need. Our passion is to help enable safer and more effective operating practices, from those employed in management to those used by the teams in the field

We understand and are experienced in the challenges that aid workers, both national and international, face everyday. Safer Access is a platform for the collection and distribution of expertise and information to those that need it most. To that end, we are committed to the free and open sharing of critical information – including analysis and best practices – amongst humanitarian and development organisations so as to enable them to better manage their operating risks.

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