



## **Cote d'Ivoire - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 10 September 2013**

### **Information on the FRCI/Republican forces including modus operandi**

In November 2012 a report issued by *Human Rights Watch* includes the following description of:

“...the country’s military, the Republican Forces of Côte d’Ivoire (known as the FRCI)...” (Human Rights Watch (18 November 2012) “*A Long Way From Reconciliation*”, *Abusive Military Crackdown in Response to Security Threats in Côte d’Ivoire*, p.3).

This report also states that:

“President Ouattara signed a decree on March 17, 2011 that created the Republican Forces of Côte d’Ivoire...comprised primarily at the time of members of the Forces Nouvelles rebel group” (ibid, p.15/footnote 3).

*Amnesty International* notes in a publication released in March 2013 that:

“In March 2011, the new government of President Alassane Ouattara established the FRCI, with the aim of creating a unified army composed of the New Forces and the national army, Forces Armées Nationales de Côte d’Ivoire (FANCI), which supported Laurent Gbagbo. In fact, the new FRCI was mostly composed of personnel of the New Forces who retained the main positions of command” (Amnesty International (20 March 2013) *Communities Shattered by Arms Proliferation and Abuse in Côte d’Ivoire*, p.26).

A report published by *Freedom House* in January 2013 points out that:

“While the security situation slowly stabilized in 2012, some serious problems remain. Ouattara’s government has made progress in purging the FRCI—now reconstituted as the national army—of irregulars who had joined during the crisis, returning soldiers to their barracks, and prosecuting indiscipline in the ranks. Nevertheless, the FRCI remains corrupt, and soldiers are frequently implicated in human rights violations” (Freedom House (January 2013) *Freedom in the World 2013 - Côte d’Ivoire*).

Commenting on events of 2012, a report published in April 2013 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“The Republican Forces of Cote d’Ivoire (FRCI), the country’s military, were responsible for extrajudicial killings, acts of torture, and arbitrary detentions” (United States Department of State (19 April 2013) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012, Cote d’Ivoire, Executive Summary*).

A document issued in March 2013 by *Amnesty International* states:

“...that the FRCI forces have taken on their own prerogatives in terms of law enforcement” (Amnesty International (1 March 2013) *Côte d'Ivoire: The Victors'Law - The Human Rights Situation Two Years after the Post-electoral Crisis*, p.16).

This report also notes:

“Throughout 2012, the military police and the FRCI proceeded, without any arrest warrant and at any time of the day or night, to arrest individuals in their home, in public places or in their workplace” (ibid, p.19).

*Amnesty International* in April 2013 notes:

“The Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI, Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire, the national army) and the military police have been responsible for numerous human rights violations after arresting and detaining individuals outside any legal framework and often on the base of ethnic and political motivations. These exactions were made possible by the multiplication of unrecognized places of detention” (Amnesty International (9 April 2013) *Oral Statement By Amnesty International, Item 4: Human Rights Situation in Africa*, p.2).

## References

Amnesty International (9 April 2013) *Oral Statement By Amnesty International, Item 4: Human Rights Situation in Africa*

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

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