



Weekly Report

Côte d'Ivoire

Anna Du Vent

**MARCH 25-31,
2014**

1 Côte d'Ivoire hands youth leader to ICC to face charges of crimes against humanity

2 7 new judges for ECOWAS Court of Justice

Côte d'Ivoire hands youth leader to ICC to face charges of crimes against humanity

- Côte d'Ivoire transferred Charles Ble Goude, a youth leader who headed the Young Patriots street militia, to the ICC to face charges of crimes against humanity linked to a 2011 post-election civil war. Ble Goude was a close ally of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo.
- Known as "the street general" for his fiery speeches and ability to draw thousands of supporters on to the streets, Ble Goude had previously asked to be tried by an Ivorian court and not to be sent to The Hague.
- Nick Kaufman, Ble Goude's lawyer, says the Ivorian government is using the ICC as a tool to get rid of political enemies and that Ble Goude was denied his right to challenge the arrest warrant and extradition process.
- Ble Goude made his first appearance before the ICC on March 27.
- Source: Mail & Guardian
<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-03-22-cote-divoire-hands-laurent-gbagbo-ally-to-icc>

"We are a step closer in helping to unveil the full truth in one of Côte d'Ivoire's worst episodes of mass violence. [...] Those who use violence and commit mass crimes against civilians in pursuit of power must be held accountable."

*- Fatou Bensouda
Chief Prosecutor,
International Criminal Court*

7 new judges for ECOWAS Court of Justice

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Judicial Council has approved the recommendations of an ad hoc committee of 7 new judges
- The incoming judges from Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal will replace judges from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.
- The ECOWAS Court of Justice hears cases of violations of human rights from community citizens regardless of whether or not the complainant has exhausted national remedies.
- Source: Nigerian Tribune
<http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/news-headlines/item/1879-7-new-judges-for-ecowas-court-of-justice>