IVORY COAST: THE PACE INTENSIFIES

Posted on March 30, 2011 by Eddie

Category: Africa

It is very hard to keep up with the news from Ivory Coast, today. Things are moving very quickly and there is a lot of claim and counter-claim on twitter which makes it hard to sort out the wheat from the chaff. However, this article seems to sum up things fairly well.

> *After waiting four months for Laurent Gbagbo to step down, armed forces aligned to president-elect Alassane Ouattara have decided they have waited long enough and are marching from the north of CÃ´te d'Ivoire to Abidjan. Coincidentally, the Gbagbo camp would now like to be friends with African Union again. By SIPHO HLONGWANE.*
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> *Throughout the CÃ´te d'Ivoire post-election crisis, Laurent Gbagbo had one slim lifeline available to him: Alassane Ouattara promised him a peaceful resolution and a government of national unity if Gbagbo acceded to the wishes of the people of CÃ´te d'Ivoire. Ouattara made this proposal to the five-president AU panel sent to the country to mediate the crisis, and they accepted it. Gbagbo rejected the proposal and continued to hold on to power - albeit with increasing shakiness*
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> *The Ouattara camp has had enough now. According to AFP, the â€œpeaceful resolutionâ€ is now off the table. The army aligned to Ouattara is now moving towards Abidjan to deliver in person the invitation to Gbagbo to step down.*

Immediately after posting this, I found a very good article on whether the international community should engage with Ivory Coast in the way they have done in Libya. The whole thing is worth a read, but this little phrase captures the attitude of the West so well.

> *Finally, is it politically palatable? Much as it hurts me to say this: No.Â A 13 percent increase in the price of cocoa is not going to get Defense Secretary Robert Gates' Meet the Press threshold for vital interests. It's just not.*