IVORY COAST - IN BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE

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Categories: Africa, Politics

It seems like we get to hear a lot of news in the British media. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say we get to hear the same news over and over again..... There are lots of things happening in the world that just don't seem to make the headlines in the UK, especially things in Africa.

So it is good to be able to access articles on the Internet from publications in countries all over the world which seem to report more of what's happening in Ivory Coast for example than our papers do. Have a look at this article: 'Ivory Coast finds itself in war-and-peace limbo' from the International Herald Tribune. This year has seen yet another 'peace deal' - this time resulting in the New Forces leader (aka Rebel leader) Guillaume Soro being appointed Prime Minister. As this article explains, there is some disarmament going on, but the country has some way to go to achieve real peace and reconciliation between the two sides. War always leaves a legacy.....

The President of the Ivorian League for Human Rights, Patrick N'gouan, describes how their headquarters in Abidjan was attacked in May by a pro-government group - the mob ransacking the building, hauling off computers, breaking windows etc "...all within sight of police officers who allowed the rampage to happen."
"They acted with total impunity," N'gouan said. "There was no one to check their rampage. "Is this the society in which we live now? Where thuggery is just accepted as the mode of life?"

Things are generally moving in the right direction, but there's a long way to go.