

2014-02-07

## Fråga-svar

### **Elfenbenskusten. Om organisationen Congrès Panafricain des Jeunes et des Patriotes (COJEP) aktiviteter**

#### **Fråga:**

Har COJEP deltagt i våldsamheter under perioden 2002-2011 og hur såg deras politiska agenda ut under denna tid?

#### **Svar:**

Sammanställning av information:

Om organisationen Congrès Panafricain des Jeunes et des Patriotes (COJEP), den politiska agendan, deras mål og mening:

Landinfo (2012):

Congrès Pan-Africain des Jeunes et des Patriotes (COJEP), vanligvis kalt Jeunes Patriotes ("Unge patrioter"), er en ungdomsbevegelse som samlet ulike krefter som arbeidet til støtte for Gbagbo fra 2002 og frem til Gbagbos fall i 2011. Jeunes Patriotes besto av tre store føderasjoner, Alliance des jeunes patriotes pour le sursaut national (AJPSN), ledet av "general" Charles Blé Goudé, Union pour la libération totale de la Côte d'Ivoire (UPLTCI), ledet av "marskalk" Eugène Djué og Coalition nationale des résistants de Côte d'Ivoire (CONARECI), ledet av Damana Adja Pickass. Flere væpnede militsgrupper (hvorav den viktigste militsen var Groupement des patriotes pour la paix, GPP) var knyttet opp til paraplystrukturen Jeunes Patriotes. I tillegg til bymilitsene, besto Jeunes Patriotes av en rekke mindre "selvforsvarsgrupper" i distriktene, som ble finansiert av de sentrale styresmaktene. Jeunes Patriotes var Gbagbos viktigste forbindelse til patriotisk innstilte ungdoms-

grupper i sør. Gruppen inkarnerte for mange kampen mot ”angriperne” fra nord (Forces Nouvelles) etter kuppforsøket i 2002 og hadde evnen til å mobilisere store ungdomsmasser under demonstrasjoner og folkemøter (Banégas 2010).

Jeunes Patriotes sto gjennom hele 2000-tallet bak en nasjonalistisk, voldelig retorikk hvor de gikk til angrep på tidligere kolonimakt Frankrike, og kom med hatefulle utsagn mot personer med opprinnelse i nord. Jeunes Patriotes sto også gjennom sine væpnede militsgrupper bak angrep på personer med antatt opprinnelse fra nord under krisa etter valget i 2011 (HRW 2011a). Det øverste lederskapet i Jeunes Patriotes er i dag i eksil i utlandet, mens mange mellomledere og ”mobilisatorer” (lederskikkelser med stor mobiliseringskraft lokalt, som gjerne sto i et klientelistisk forhold til viktige politikere, som ofte finansierte aktivitetene deres) fortsatt befinner seg i Elfenbenskysten. Mange som kjempet i militsgrupper ble drept under kampene med FRCI og ulike militsgrupper som kjempet for Ouattara våren 2011 (HRW 2011a).

Alle de ulike gruppene som støttet Gbagbo og som ledet an i mobiliseringen av ungdom gjennom 2000-tallet, er i dag så svekket at de ikke lenger utgjør noen militær trussel mot sittende myndigheter (Internasjonale Røde kors, møte i Abidjan mars 2012; HRW 2012). (s. 9-10)

Human Rights Watch (2008):

The outbreak of civil war in September 2002 helped spawn a number of pro-government youth groups and armed militias, both urban and rural...Together, these groups are often referred to in national discourse as “the patriotic galaxy.”

At the center of the “patriotic galaxy” is former FESCI leader Charles Blé Goudé...Blé Goudé played a crucial role in mobilizing the “young patriots” in Abidjan during and after the war...(s. 31)

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At the height of the crisis, members of the “patriotic galaxy” often congregated around “agoras” or street parliaments, where hundreds of individuals assembled to listen to orators who rallied the crowd with ultranationalist, anti-colonialist, and pro-FPI rhetoric.<sup>59</sup> Diatribes were directed at the perceived enemies of the FPI-led government, which, over the course of the Ivorian crisis, have alternated between the rebels,

political opposition parties such as the RDR, the French, and the United Nations.<sup>60</sup> Many of the “patriotic” speakers who have animated the agoras are or have been members of FESCI. (s. 32)

Utrikesdepartementet (UD) 2007:

Jeunes Patriotes är en del av en relativt lös allians, "mouvement patriotique", som graviterar runt presidentens parti FPI men inte formellt är en del av detta.

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Ledarna finansieras av presidentlägret/FPI. Jeunes Patriotes har bl.a. lockat till sig arbetslösa ungdomar. En viktig morot har varit att betala dem för deltagande i upplopp och demonstrationer.

BBC (2007):

Charles Ble Goude, f.d. ledare för COJEP, i ett uttalande från 2007:

...the sole objective of all our meetings and demonstrations was the reunification of Cote d'Ivoire and the reconciliation of all the sons of this country.

Landinfo (2006):

Another worrying aspect of the situation is the appearance of a large number of armed militia groups, especially in the southern part of the country – so-called jeunes patriotes (young patriots). These groups often consist of unemployed or underemployed young men, they set up roadblocks in the areas controlled by president Gbagbo (both roads in the countryside and thoroughfares in Abidjan and other cities) – allegedly to stop rebels from creating trouble and smuggling weapons into this region. By placing youth who are easily manipulated in armed positions of power, the circle around president Gbagbo has created a tool which may become difficult to control, and which undermines the efforts of more moderate forces on a ground level – like village councils and similar structures traditionally used for mediation in conflicts between different groups on a local level in the countryside.

Amnesty International (2011):

The militias supporting Laurent Gbagbo were a nebulous group of many diverse organizations. (s. 16)

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These urban groups included :

The *Congrès des Jeunes Patriotes* (COJEP), Congress of Young Patriots led by Charles Blé Goudé

The *Groupe des Patriotes pour la Paix* (GPP), Group of Patriots for Peace.

In this report, we refer to these militias under the generic term of Young Patriots. (s.17)

Våldshandlingar begångna av COJEP (Young Patriots):

Amnesty International (2011):

"13 Moreover, in January 2011, the RTI broadcasted the registration numbers of 41 private vehicles rented by UNOCI, exposing UN personnel to controls at roadblocks guarded by security forces and militias close to Laurent Gbagbo, generally known under the name of Young Patriots.

These verbal attacks led to a number of physical assaults on UNOCI troops, who were also prevented from investigating locations where human rights violations had allegedly taken place. (s.14)

On 25 February 2011, security forces and Young Patriots attacked the Lem mosque, in Yopougon, a neighbourhood of Abidjan. They vandalized and looted the mosque buildings, then set fire to the premises, including the Conseil national islamique (CNI, Islamic National Council) office in Yopougon. Then they set fire to a shed behind the mosque and broke down the door of the mosque to look for worshippers. A victim who survived that assault told Amnesty International:

"They began to hit us with their rifle butts. Others punched and kicked us with their boots. One of them threw a Koran he had set alight at me. Then they told us to strip and continued to hit us. (s. 21)

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...on 19 March 2011, the security forces and militia members killed another Imam and his mother in a house adjoining a mosque in the neighbourhood of Williamsville. (s. 21)

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Young militiamen known as Young Patriots were armed and trained under the former government. Many carried out identity checks at roadblocks they erected around Abidjan, often beating or killing those they suspected of supporting President Alassane Ouattara. (s. 36 bildtext)

U.S. Department of State (2011):

There were credible reports that members of the Congres Panafricain des Jeunes et des Patriotes (COJEP), commonly known as the Young Patriots (a youth movement supporting Gbagbo and the FPI party) committed extra-judicial killings.

The Young Patriots were responsible for summary executions in previous years and continued to operate with impunity. (sektion 1a.)

Human Rights Watch (2013):

In May 2003 a ceasefire agreement formally ended active hostilities between the government and the Forces Nouvelles, though occasional breaches of the ceasefire continued through 2005. The country was split in two—as it would remain through 2010—with the Forces Nouvelles controlling the north and the Gbagbo government and security forces controlling the south. Severe human rights violations against civilian populations continued in both parts of the country. On March 25, 2004, Gbagbo's security forces indiscriminately killed more than 100 civilians in response to a planned march by opposition groups; some 20 more people were victims of enforced disappearances.<sup>10</sup> Violent, pro-Gbagbo militia groups including the Student Federation of Côte d'Ivoire (Fédération Estudiantine et Scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire, FESCI) and the Young Patriots (Jeunes Patriotes) supported security forces in intimidating, extorting, and committing acts of violence against northerners, immigrants, and other people perceived to support the opposition.<sup>11</sup> (s. 20)

UN Human Rights Council (2011):

36. In February, the Young Patriots were increasingly involved in the killing of nationals from some West African States. In a recurrent pattern, they attacked Burkina Faso and Malian nationals, beat them and burnt them alive in the middle of streets. On 3 February, in Bingerville, a Burkina Faso national was burnt alive by Young Patriots who accused him of being a "rebel". Between 28 February and 5 March, they burnt to death three Malian nationals in the Yopougon neighbourhood in Abidjan. On 24 February in Loviguié (22 km from Agboville), a Burkina Faso community leader was attacked by a mob of villagers and burnt to death in retaliation for the death of one of their kin from the village, who was killed in the clashes in Abobo PK 18. This incident led to a massive exodus of Burkina Faso populations from the area. (s. 12)

Human Rights Watch (2007):

Abuses by Pro-Government Militias and Groups Pro-government militias and groups regularly intimidated, harassed, and at times attacked and sexually abused perceived opposition party members and rebel sympathizers. The groups most often associated with these attacks were the Young Patriots and a student group, the Students' Federation of Côte d'Ivoire (FESCI), which committed serious abuses, including torture, against students perceived to support the opposition. (s. 3)

All Africa (2005):

In the past week, members of the Young Patriots have carried out a heavy-handed raid on the headquarters of the public television and radio broadcaster to force it to broadcast an address by their leader, spent a day roaming the Abidjan streets using violence and vandalism to censure the print media, and ambushed and beat up an opposition newspaper journalist.

"The militia led by Charles Ble Goude has used brutality, threats and vandalism to impose its law in Abidjan all week," Reporters Without Borders said.

National Public Radio (NPR) (2004):

One part of the ongoing conflict in Ivory Coast is a group called the Young Patriots. They're a group of militants, mostly young and mainly unemployed. In a divided nation, they support the government, and they are blamed for much of the violence in the government-controlled southern part of the country. They remain a significant group even though the government just banned the kind of street demonstrations that the Young Patriots have been forming in the capital city. NPR's Ofeibea Quist-Arcton reports on a violent group and its leader.

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Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

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