

# Press Release

## **Giving effect to the democratic mandate of the people of Ivory Coast & Africa**

It is with positive anticipation that we, women of Africa congratulate Mr. Allassane Dramene OUTTARA for his victory at the recently concluded democratic elections in Ivory Coast.

After ten years of political uncertainty 54% of the people decided according to legitimate results, to give Mr Outtara the mandate to govern Ivory Coast for the next term of democratic governance according to the people's Constitution; thus bringing to an end the economic hardship and insecurity that go hand in hand with political uncertainty in most countries of the world and in particular in the Ivory Coast.

It is therefore worrying that Mr Laurent Gbagbo who presided over the country's period of political instability for ten years up to the time of the recent democratic elections should refuse to honour the mandate of the people of Ivory Coast.

Mr. Laurent Gbagbo's refusal amounts to his bringing the integrity of African leaders to disrepute and we therefore call upon him to step down and allow the country's democratically elected President Mr. Allassane Outtara to govern according to the wish of the people of Ivory Coast and Africa for his due term in office.

We have followed development in Ivory Coast with great anxiety bearing in mind that Mr. Gbagbo has our children as his standing army prepared to kill and be killed in his intent to continuously keep Ivory Coast in the state of WAR. We condemn this action and call on all those bent on holding the mandate of the people of Ivory Coast to step down and allow Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to stand alone in his fight to keep Ivory Coast in perpetual state of war and uncertainty and to be dealt with by legitimate force instead of allowing him to continue holding the people hostage in their country.

We, the women of Africa are working to reform Africa in order to bring to an end the negative imaging and behaviours of the past, where political leaders who loose elections refuse to give effect to the people's democratic mandate. It is unlawful, disloyal to Africa and the African people. Most of all, it is grossly undisciplined and amounts on keeping Africa as the backward partner amongst her equals in the League of Nations.

Why should the unlawful behaviour of individuals be allowed to pollute Africa's democracy, sense of discipline and respect for the very country they dig their teeth into?

Women of Africa will not continue to remain silent whilst our children are being used as body armour for corrupt African leaders. We therefore called on President Barack Obama of the United State to support our call to ask Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to step down with immediate effect.

We salute the efforts of the African Union for taking a stand to give effect to the democratic wishes of the people of Ivory Coast and by asking Mr. Gbagbo to vacate his office with immediate effect or, face removal by the very force he represents.

We salute ECOWAS for all that they are doing to support our efforts to reform Africa by asking Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to step down or, face removal. We recognise that removal by force would mean further blood shed but, unless Mr. Gbagbo sees reason and step down peacefully, how else can the people's mandate be given effect?

We appeal to all those acting as body armour to Mr. Gbagbo to step away so that he can see reason or, get his own family to act as his body armour. However, all those around him have a right to decide to remain with him, just as the 54% who voted both at home and abroad for Mr. Gbagbo to step down have a legitimate right to defend their political mandate given democratically to Mr. A. D. Outtara to govern them.

We are calling on the UN to continue to keep the peace until such time that Africa restores political harmony in Ivory Coast through the legitimate actions of the African Union and ECOWAS.

We, the women of Africa condemn the practice of political power sharing led by the losing party in any democratic election. Africa Needs Reform and African women are poised to lead the process as we are equal stakeholders in Africa Affairs and Africa's future.

We call on the European Parliament; the British Government and all world governments to support our call for the restoration of the people's democratic mandate in the Ivory Coast and our efforts to reform Africa for sustainable world peace, socio-economic development and achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the eradication of all forms of oppression and abuse of women in Africa and the world at large.

**Make this a decade of women's right and gender equalisation for world stability.**

Human rights abuses and violence against women is no country's CULTURE anywhere in the world. The principles of democracy are the same for Africa and the rest of the world. Those who for personal gain refuse to obey the wishes of his or, her people any where in the world should be judged by the people of the world and held responsible for the chaos they create around them and in the countries where they are acting with impunity.

**We call on every woman, man and respecters of the rights of human beings worldwide to join efforts with Women Of Africa to give effect to the democratic mandate of the people of Ivory Coast and Africa for the reasons stated above.  
Support our effort to reform Africa.**

**Thank you for supporting democratic Rights of the people of Ivory Coast and African women**

Call Alice Ukoko on ++44 (0) 793 937 705 today to make your contribution towards Africa's REFORM.