

LOME Agreements

Spokespersons for peace at Lomé: Here is the text of the first Agreement on the liberation of civilian and military prisoners

The Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI);

Determined to progress the present negotiations in order to restore peace and enable a return to normal life in Côte d'Ivoire;

Reaffirming their desire to resolve their differences through dialogue and in a spirit of brotherhood, in accordance with the recommendations of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of Government and CEDAO on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, which took place in Accra on September 29, 2002;

Condemning the capture by their respective forces of numerous civilian and military prisoners of war and wishing to end the suffering of these people;

Agree as follows:

1. The civilian and military prisoners captured during the hostilities which began on September 19, 2002, shall be released by each of the parties holding them.
2. A Committee in charge of the liberation of civilian and military prisoners of war shall be established, presided over by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and made up of the commander of the CEDEAO Force for monitoring the cessation of hostilities or his representative, or the commander of the Licorne Operation pending the establishment of the West-African Force, representatives of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI), and other relevant agencies from the United Nations and NGOs.
3. The Committee responsible for the liberation of civilian and military prisoners of war shall start work immediately by contacting the competent authorities of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and qualified representatives of the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire, to order to proceed to the immediate release of civilian and military prisoners of war.

Done at Lome, November 1, 2002

For the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent DONA-FOLOGO

For the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr Guillaume SORO

For CEDEAO, Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Executive Secretary