



CSRS SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR N°17-11

Thursday, 6th October 2011 (Norbert behi Lecture Hall, CSRS, Km 17 Adiopoudoumé) 01 : 00 pm

Theme: Dealing with the Past in post-conflict Cote d'Ivoire: building reconciliation between antagonist youths mobilized in civil war from 2002 to 2011

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Abstract

The decade of civil war [2002-2011] in which Cote d'Ivoire has been embarked was characterized by deadly clashes between young activists closed to the two representative political coalitions (LMP *vs* RHDP): so-called *young patriots*, youthful nationalist supporters of the former regime of Laurent Gbagbo run by LMP were opposed to young activists closed to the RHDP. This massive and brutal involvement of youth in political arena has deeply divided the national cohesion from bottom. Weakening of the social fabric at national level has been exacerbated by post-electoral crisis that has resulted in several damages: widespread lootings, destruction of private and public properties, numerous rapes, thousands of gunshot wounds, one million IDPs, three thousand and fifty (3050) deaths including eight hundred (800) people killed in the range of only a single day in the cocoa culture city of Duékoué. After this wave of violence particularly focalized in Abidjan and Duékoué, national reconciliation becomes the key condition for Cote d'Ivoire to regain its "peaceful and stable" reputation that has been attributed under the leadership of charismatic first president, Houphouët-Boigny [1960 to 1993]. Appropriately, the new authorities at the head of state since April 2011 have put the reconciliation at the heart of their priorities by establishing the "Commission Dialogue, Vérité et Réconciliation (CDVR). The main goal we seek through this research is to to foster reconciliation between young people across the rival political coalitions (LMP *vs* RHDP) by mobilizing two complementary approaches: the Autodidactic Learning for Sustainability (ALS) approach and the "Dealing with the Past (DwP) approach.

Key words: reconciliation, LMP, RHDP, Cote d'Ivoire.



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south

swiss
peace