Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale

PRESS RELEASE

Unsealing of the arrest warrant against Charles Blé Goudé

"Government must cooperate and transfer him to The Hague"

Abidjan, 1 October 2013 – For immediate release

The Ivorian Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CI-CPI) has learned that the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 12 December 2011 against Charles Blé Goudé was unsealed on 30 September 2013 by Pre-Trial Chamber I.

The arrest warrant covers four counts of crimes against humanity, including: killing, rape, persecution and inhumane treatment.

Reacting to the news, **Mr. ALI Ouattara**, President of the CI-CPI, stated:

"The work of the ICC helps to fight against impunity and we want Côte d'Ivoire to fully cooperate with the Court in the execution of this other arrest warrant. Ivorian authorities claimed, regarding the arrest warrant against Mrs. Simone Gbagbo, that local justice could judge crimes falling under ICC jurisdiction. We believe the Ivorian judiciary has not yet shown its capacity to try offenses such as those with which Mr. Blé Goudé was charged.

The ICC must continue its investigations with impartiality and fairness in order to ensure the prosecution of all alleged perpetrators of serious crimes in Côte d'Ivoire whatever their political affiliation.

The CI-CPI also urges ICC prosecutions against pro-government forces that have committed serious crimes, as the ICC Prosecutor highlighted in the early stages of the investigation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The CI-CPI attaches great importance to non-discriminatory prosecutions for the credibility of the Court. Reconciliation and the return of lasting peace in Côte d'Ivoire must include equity in criminal prosecutions".

The former chief of the "Young Patriots" was arrested on 17 January 2013 in Ghana and transfered to Côte d'Ivoire, where he has been detained. After Laurent Gbagbo and his wife, he is the third suspect subject to an arrest warrant in the Ivorian situation.