

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:48 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Senator Inhofe to defend Gbagbo in public

In case u didn't get

From: Carson, Johnnie
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Yamamoto, Donald Y; Paradiso, Dante X; Adams, David S; Hammer, Michael A; Moody, Kathleen
Sent: Tue Mar 29 20:12:39 2011
Subject: Senator Inhofe to defend Gbagbo in public

Cheryl: This is a heads-up:

Senator Inhofe just called my deputy Don Yamamoto this evening to inform us that:

- 1) He had sent a letter to Secretary Clinton recently and was still awaiting a response. (Comment: We have not seen the letter in the Africa Bureau.)
- 2) The Senator will be sending an editorial or article to the Los Angeles Times as well as other news outlets tonight.
- 3) The Senator's message points are: (a) there is ample evidence of irregularities to demonstrate that opposition candidate Ouattara stole the presidential election; (b) there should be new elections; (c) the increased violence in Cote d'Ivoire is due to OUattara's more violent efforts to consolidate his position through force. (Comment: all the evidence demonstrates that Ouattara won and Gbagbo lost.)

The Senator concluded by saying that he was giving the Africa Bureau a heads up as a courtesy.

Comment: Senator Inhofe has close ties to President Gbagbo, has criticized our Cote d'Ivoire policy and has resisted our previous efforts to get him to call Gbagbo to step aside.

Johnnie