



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Cote d'Ivoire - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 9 September 2013

Information on Laurent Gbagbo including present location and reasons for arrest in April 2011

In May 2013 *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

“Gbagbo was arrested on April 11, 2011, and ultimately transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), where he remains in custody while judges decide if there is enough evidence to try him for four counts of crimes against humanity” (Human Rights Watch (21 May 2013) *Côte d'Ivoire: 2 Years in, Uneven Progress*).

A report issued by *BBC News* in June 2013 states that:

“...the ICC announced the case against the former president of the Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo, had been adjourned because of "insufficient evidence". The judges said the evidence against Mr Gbagbo presented by prosecutors was not strong enough to allow the case to move to trial, but not weak enough for them to throw out the charges” (BBC News (3 June 2013) *ICC delays cases of William Ruto and Laurent Gbagbo*).

This document also states:

“Mr Gbagbo faces four charges of crimes against humanity relating to the violence that followed disputed presidential elections in 2010” (Ibid).

A document issued in 2013 by the *International Criminal Court* points out that:

“Laurent Gbagbo allegedly bears individual criminal responsibility, as indirect co-perpetrator, for four counts of crimes against humanity:
•a) murder, b) rape and other sexual violence, c) persecution and d) other inhuman acts, allegedly committed in the context of post-electoral violence in the territory of Côte d'Ivoire between 16 December 2010 and 12 April 2011” (International Criminal Court (2013) *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo*).

In February 2013 *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“Laurent Gbagbo is the former President of Côte d'Ivoire. He has been charged by the International Criminal Court (ICC) with four counts of crimes against humanity: murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, other inhumane acts, and persecution. The crimes were allegedly committed by forces under his control during post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire, between November 28, 2010 and mid-May 2011. He has been charged as being responsible for these crimes as an indirect co-perpetrator or, in the alternative, because he contributed to the commission or attempted commission of crimes “by a group of persons acting with a common purpose.” Gbagbo was captured by Ivorian authorities on April 11, 2011. He remained in custody in Côte d'Ivoire until he was transferred to The Hague, the seat of the ICC, on November 29, 2011, following the issuance of an arrest warrant by the

court” (Human Rights Watch (12 February 2013) Q&A: *Laurent Gbagbo and the International Criminal Court*).

Reuters in June 2013 notes:

“Gbagbo, 68, the only ex-head of state to have appeared at the court, is accused of plunging his country into civil war instead of relinquishing power after losing elections in 2010...The judges said prosecutors could refine their case in six areas, including looking more closely at the organizational structure of pro-Gbagbo forces during the conflict and at alleged cases of sexual violence” (Reuters (3 June 2013) *ICC takes more time to build case against Ivory Coast’s Gbagbo*).

In August 2013 *BBC News* states that Gbagbo:

“is currently in The Hague facing charges of crimes against humanity” (BBC News (8 August 2013) *Ivory Coast’s Laurent Gbagbo son Michel calls for peace*).

References

BBC News (8 August 2013) *Ivory Coast’s Laurent Gbagbo son Michel calls for peace*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23612701>
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

BBC News (3 June 2013) *ICC delays cases of William Ruto and Laurent Gbagbo*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22762283>
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

Human Rights Watch (21 May 2013) *Côte d’Ivoire: 2 Years in, Uneven Progress*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/cote-divoire-2-years-uneven-progress>
This is a subscription database
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

Human Rights Watch (12 February 2013) Q&A: *Laurent Gbagbo and the International Criminal Court*
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/2013_CotedIvoire_IJ.pdf
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

International Criminal Court (2013) *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo*
http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/situations%20and%20cases/situations/icc0211/related%20case/s/icc02110111/Pages/icc02110111.aspx
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

Reuters (3 June 2013) *ICC takes more time to build case against Ivory Coast’s Gbagbo*
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/03/us-ivorycoast-icc-gbagbo-idUSBRE9520W120130603>
Accessed Monday 9 September 2013

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints.

This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld