



International Criminal Court (ICC)

The Prosecution vs. Charles Blé Goudé

President: Antone Qasir



President's Letter

Dear Advocates,

It is with immense pride and excitement that I welcome you all to the International Criminal Court at Montessori Model United Nations. This committee stands as one of the most powerful symbols of justice a place where truth, accountability, and courage meet.

As President of the ICC, I am deeply honored to witness each of you step into the shoes of those who uphold justice, challenge wrongdoing, and give voice to those who have been silenced. MUN is not just about debating laws or following procedure. It's about empathy understanding the complexity of human choices, the weight of evidence, and the stories behind every case. In this court, you will not only analyze facts but also explore morality, ethics, and the very meaning of justice in our world. Every argument you make, every witness you call, and every objection you raise will remind us that justice is never static it is something we must actively protect.

To the advocates: let your words be grounded in truth but fueled by passion. To the witnesses: embody the humanity behind each testimony. And to the judges: let fairness and reason guide your verdicts. Each of you plays a vital role in shaping not only the outcome of your case but also the spirit of this court.

This year's ICC will be intense, emotional, and transformative as justice should be. I

encourage you to think deeply, collaborate fearlessly, and argue with conviction.

Remember, justice is not found in punishment alone, but in understanding, integrity, and courage.

I am beyond proud to lead a committee that challenges its members to think, feel, and act with purpose. Together, let us make this session one to remember not just for its outcomes, but for the ideals it represents.

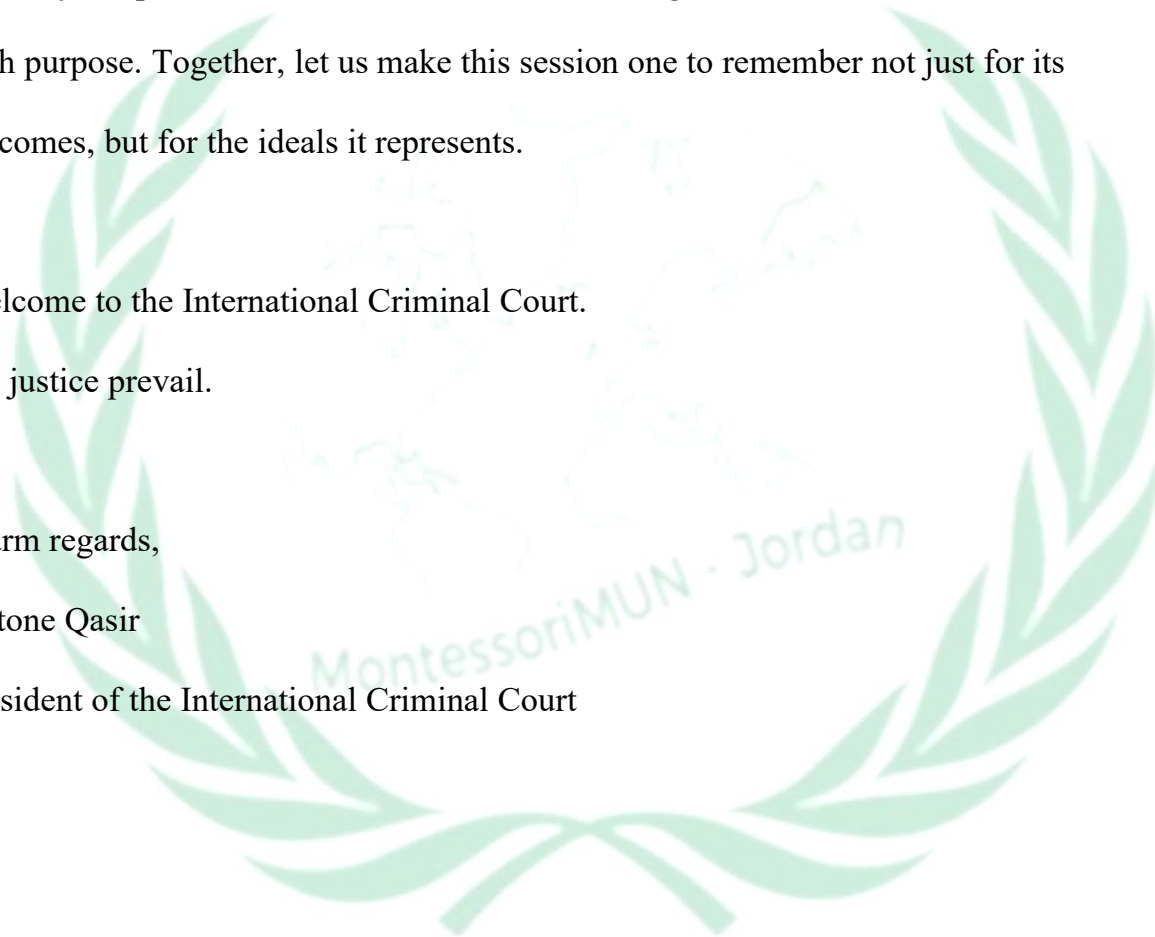
Welcome to the International Criminal Court.

Let justice prevail.

Warm regards,

Antone Qasir

President of the International Criminal Court



Terminology

- **Mobilization:** The act of organizing and rallying people for a political cause (which sometimes led to violent action).
- **Incitement:** When someone encourages or provokes people to commit violent acts.
- **Propaganda:** One-sided messaging (through news, speeches, etc.) used to influence what people think and to fuel anger against the other side.
- **Crackdown:** When authorities use force to violently suppress protests or shut down opposition.
- **Militia:** An unofficial armed group that supports a political side (not the regular army).
- **Roadblocks:** Barricades set up in the streets to control or block movement, often used to trap people or demand money during unrest.
- **Civilian Population:** Everyday people who aren't fighting; the non-combatants who are directly affected by violence.
- **Escalation:** When a political disagreement or tension gets worse and turns into widespread violence.
- **Mass Protest:** Huge, large-scale public demonstrations where people come together to demand a change (like a leader stepping down).
- **Loyalists:** People or groups who are fiercely dedicated to a specific leader or cause and will strongly support them.

- **Factional Violence:** Fighting and violence that happens between rival political or social groups (Ex: pro-Gbagbo vs. pro-Ouattara groups).
- **Militias:** In this context, these were the armed groups loyal to Gbagbo, who were often accused of carrying out violence against opposition supporters.



General overview

Charles Blé Goudé is an Ivorian political figure and a former militia leader who became influential during the time of the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire between the years of 2010 and 2011. As the leader of Coordination des Jeunes Patriotes and Congrès Panafricain des Jeunes et des Patriotes, better known as the "Young Patriots," a nationalist youth movement, Charles played a pivotal role in supporting Laurent Gbagbo, who was the president of Côte d'Ivoire at that time, especially after an election process that was filled with controversy and corruption.

Charles' group became a powerful force rapidly, they were involved in violent feuds with supporters of Alassane Ouattara, the winner of the 2010 presidential election, and the government forces that were protecting him.

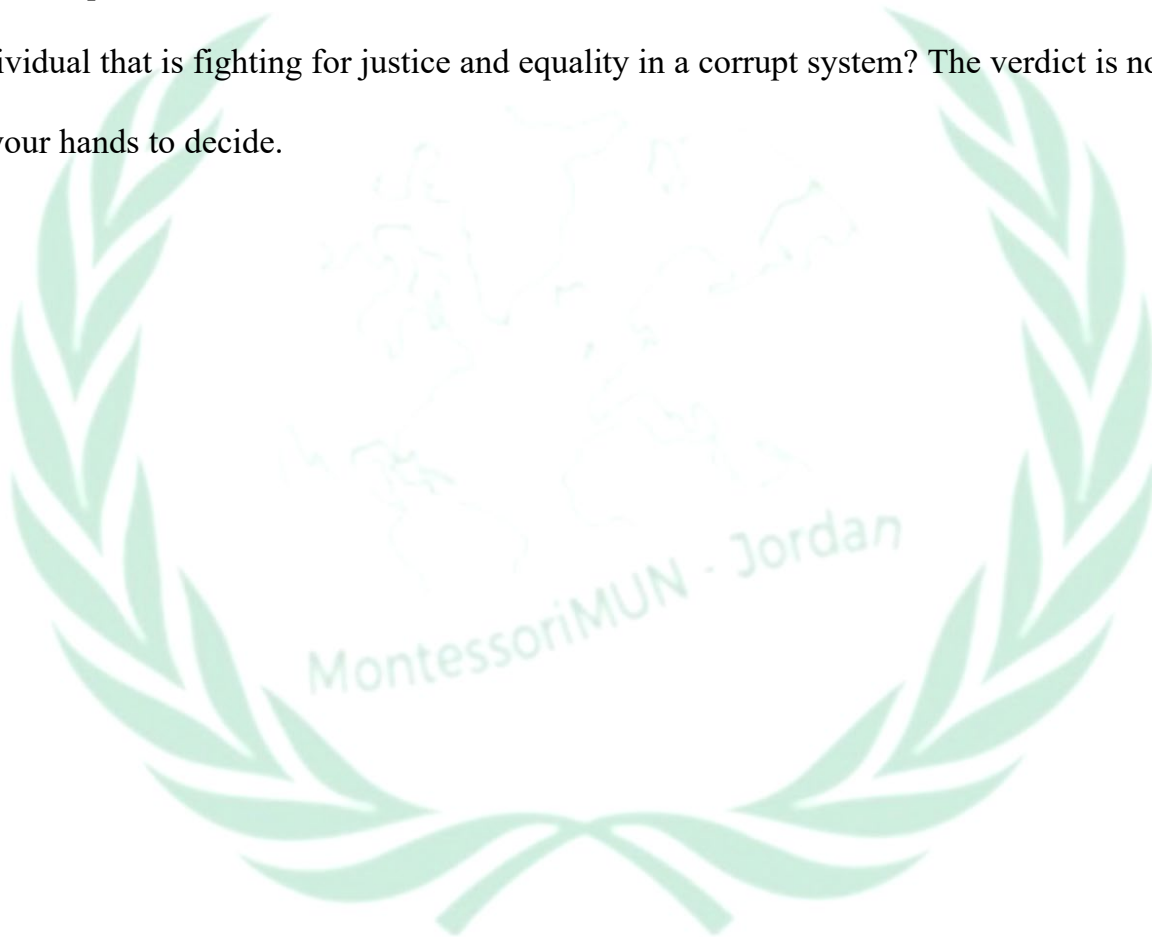
During this time, Charles faced multiple accusations of encouraging violence and supporting serious abuses, such as attacks on civilians, disappearances of activists and journalists, and using fear as a tool to silence those who stood against Gbagbo and the Young Patriots.

The conflict quickly became chaotic and dangerous, with serious human rights violations that were being committed by all parties involved. Charles' forces, who were primarily viewed as supporters of Gbagbo, became known for committing violent acts,

such as, killings, sexual abuse, and mass destruction, especially in Abidjan. These actions made tensions worse, further tearing the country apart.

Finally, in the year 2011, Charles got arrested and transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to face his trial.

Now the question remains, is Charles Blé Goudé a criminal, or is he an innocent individual that is fighting for justice and equality in a corrupt system? The verdict is now in your hands to decide.



Timeline of events

The founding of “The Young Patriots.”

- **2001:** Charles founded the Coordination des Jeunes Patriotes and Congrès Panafricain des Jeunes et des Patriotes “The Youth Patriots”, which are youth nationalist organizations that support Gbagbo’s government.

Presidential election and Ouattara’s victory

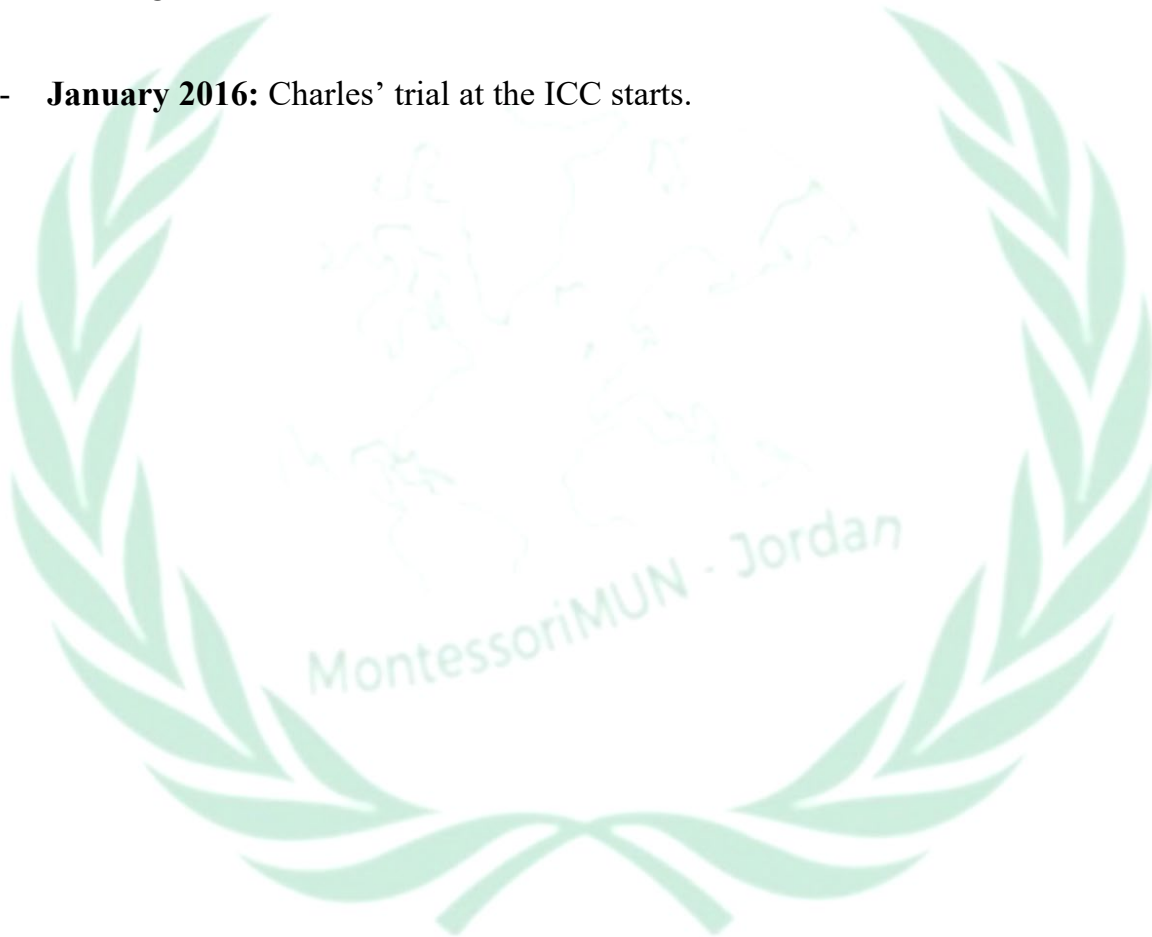
- **October-November 2010:** The first and second round of presidential elections take place in Côte d'Ivoire
- **December 2010:** Alassane Ouattara is announced as the winner of the presidential election.

Post electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire

- **December 2010-April 2011:** After the elections, many violent conflicts broke out and Blé Goudé’s forces got accused of committing crimes against humanity including killings, rape, and persecution in support of Gbagbo against Ouattara’s claimed victory.
- **April 2011:** Following the arrest of Gbagbo, Blé Goudé flees to Ghana.

Arrest in Ghana and transfer to the ICC

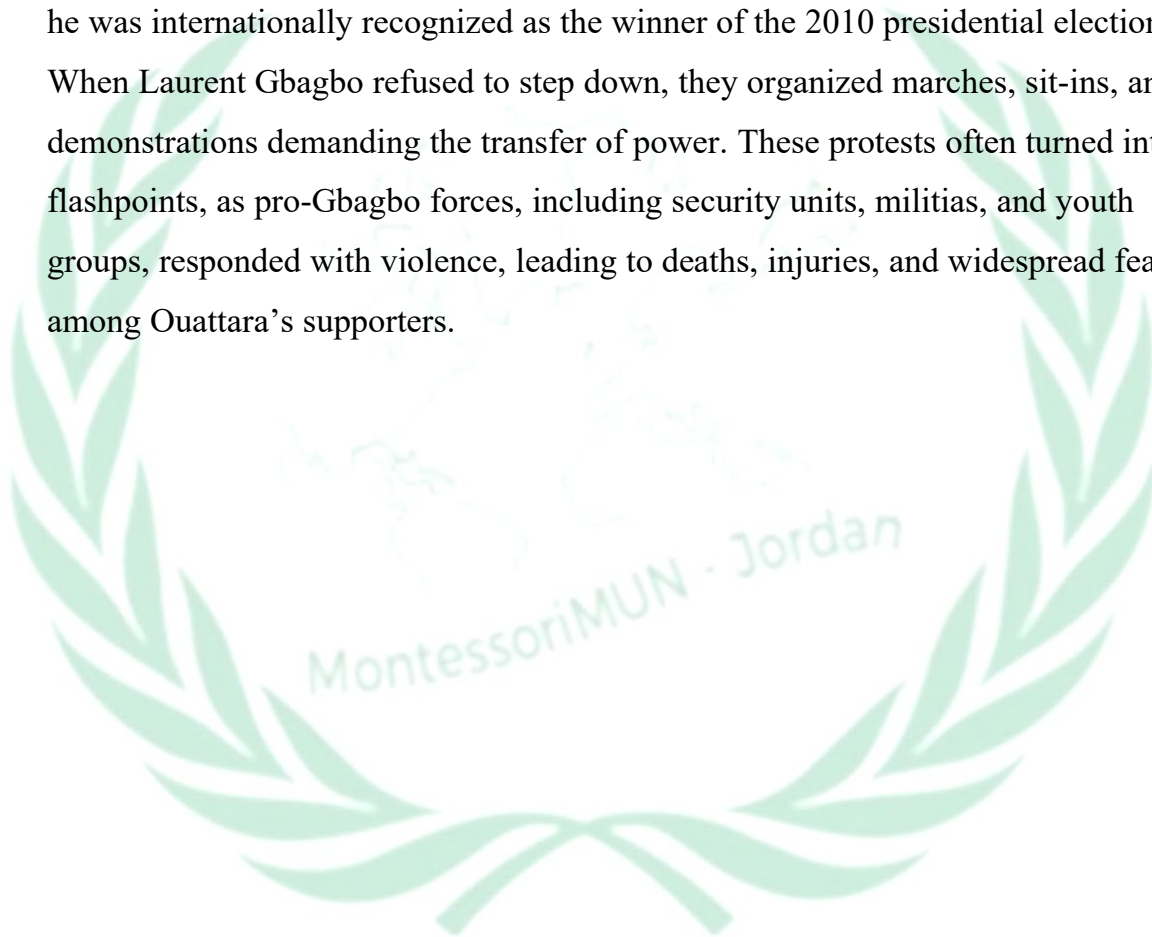
- **January 2013:** Blé Goudé gets arrested in Ghana and is handed over to the Ivorian authorities.
- **March 2014:** Charles is transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in The Hague.
- **January 2016:** Charles' trial at the ICC starts.



Parties involved

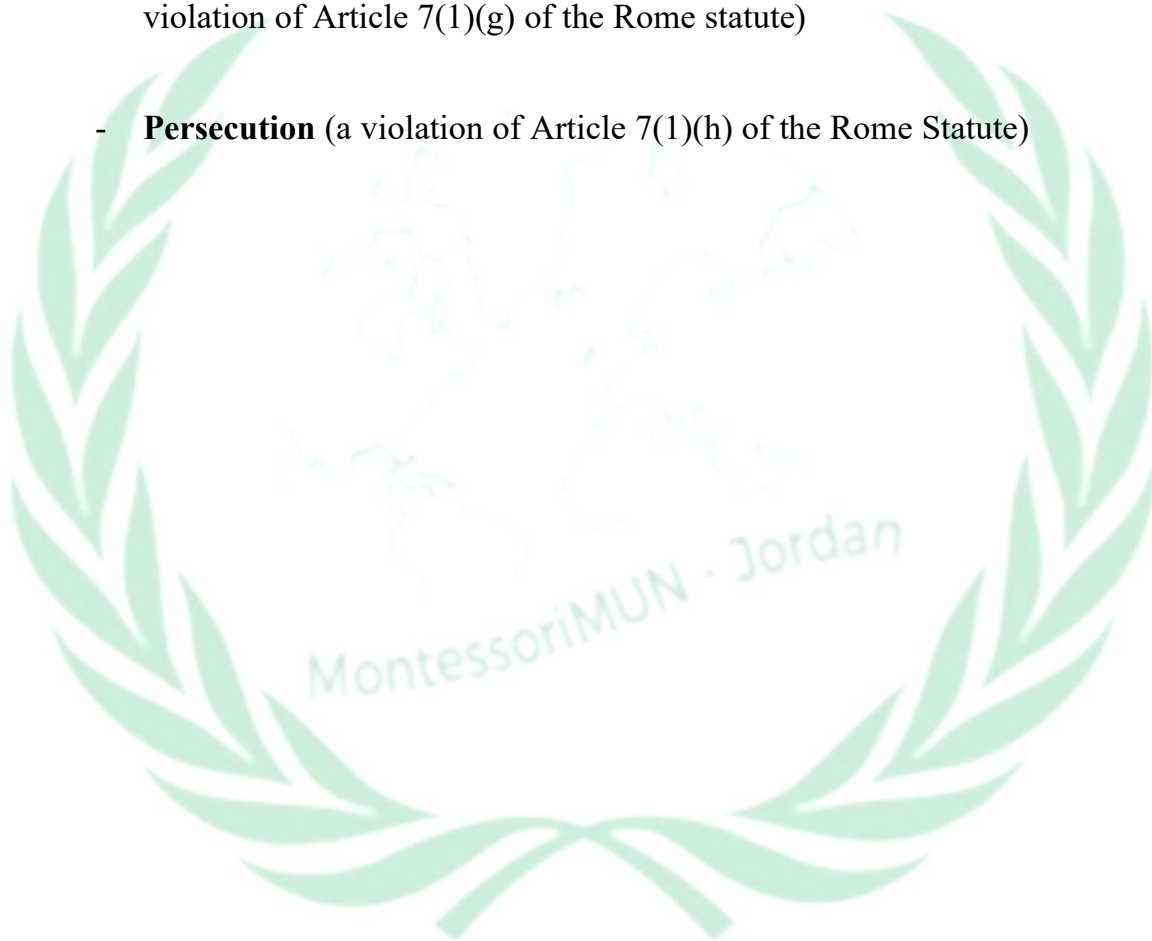
- **Charles Blé Goudé:** Ivorian Minister of Youth and a leader of the Young Patriots. He is an influential figure who was accused of fueling violence during the 2010-2011 post-election crisis. The accusations against him include mobilizing supporters, spreading propaganda, and directing actions that led to violence.
- **Laurent Gbagbo:** was the President of Côte d'Ivoire at the time and a close ally of Blé Goudé. Prosecutors argued that the two men shared a common plan to hold onto power after Gbagbo lost the election. They are accused of using state forces and youth militias to suppress their opposition. (their cases were joined together by the ICC in 2015 because the judges found that the charges against both men arose from the same events during the post-election crisis, and that trying them together would ensure efficiency, avoid duplicate evidence, and give victims a clearer and more complete trial process.).
- **The Young Patriots (Les Jeunes Patriotes):** A nationalist youth movement led by Blé Goudé that strongly supported President Gbagbo. They were accused of organizing rallies, setting up roadblocks, and carrying out violent acts against people who supported the opposition.

- **The Ivorian Popular Front (FPI):** The political party of Laurent Gbagbo. It was the central group for the pro-Gbagbo camp, and Blé Goudé aligned his efforts with the party's interests during the crisis.,
- **Pro-Ouattara Protesters and Opposition Supporters:** Ordinary citizens, political activists, and community groups who supported Alassane Ouattara after he was internationally recognized as the winner of the 2010 presidential elections. When Laurent Gbagbo refused to step down, they organized marches, sit-ins, and demonstrations demanding the transfer of power. These protests often turned into flashpoints, as pro-Gbagbo forces, including security units, militias, and youth groups, responded with violence, leading to deaths, injuries, and widespread fear among Ouattara's supporters.



Charges against Charles Blé Goudé

- **Crimes Against Humanity** (article 7 of the Rome statute): Charles was charged with Crimes Against Humanity because his groups “The Young Patriots” allegedly committed:
 - **Murder** (a violation of article 7(1)(a) of the Rome statute) -Rape (a violation of Article 7(1)(g) of the Rome statute)
 - **Persecution** (a violation of Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute)



Helpful resources

Note: These resources cannot be used for evidence, only for background information.

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/cdi/gbagbo-goude>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26757787>

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/past/unoci/elections.shtml>

[https://www.voanews.com/a/former-ivorian-youth-leader-ble-goude-arreste d-in-ghana-reuters/1586153.html](https://www.voanews.com/a/former-ivorian-youth-leader-ble-goude-arreste-d-in-ghana-reuters/1586153.html)

https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/CR2014_10023.PDF

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/itemsDocuments/2021-03-31-gbagbo-ble-goude-judgment-faq-eng.pdf>

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/cdi/gbagbo-goude>

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/charles-ble-goude-transferred-icc>

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CaseInformationSheets/gbagbo-goudeEng.pdf>