

Ivory Coast leaders promote talk of peace

by UPI

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast -- Opposing leaders in the Ivory Coast met ceremonially to signal a new era of peace despite reoccurring violence in the African nation, it was reported Monday. President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro burned a small pile of weapons to symbolize the end to an uprising which split the country in 2002, the BBC reported. "By setting fire to these guns, which were the seeds of destruction, we are marking the end of the war," Soro said. Gbagbo and Soro, who agreed to hold elections in 2008, signed their peace agreement in March. Last month, in what Soro called an assassination attempt, rockets were fired at Soro's plane as it landed at Bouake airport, the BBC said. Gbagb's supporters were tear-gassed by police in Abidjan on Sunday, the BBC said.

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