

Côte d'Ivoire



header1 Overview

Côte d'Ivoire continues to recover from an armed conflict that ended in 2011. Several root causes of that conflict remain, including ethnic and regional tensions, land disputes, corruption, and impunity. While an outbreak of violence during the 2020 electoral period represented a significant setback, civil liberties have been better protected in recent years, and civil society and the political opposition have operated more freely since that year's election.

header2 Key Developments in 2024

- In May, the African Peoples' Party–Côte d'Ivoire (PPA-CI) designated former President Laurent Gbagbo as its candidate for the October 2025 presidential election, despite the fact that a criminal conviction barred him from participating. The country's main opposition party, the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), was expected to

nominate international banker Tidjane Thiam, who had been elected as party leader in late 2023. It remained unclear at year's end whether incumbent President Alassane Ouattara, 82, would seek a fourth consecutive term as the nominee of the ruling Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP).

- In June, the president issued an executive order that imposed new restrictions on nongovernmental organizations—including a requirement to submit reports on their activities—and empowered the government to dissolve groups that it deems a threat to public order or national interests, among other vague criteria.
- For several weeks beginning in September, a hostile campaign by social media influencers contributed to a series of violent attacks on LGBT+ people, with more than 45 assaults reported in Abidjan by early November.
- Authorities in Abidjan continued to implement a program of forcible evictions and home demolitions during the year, focusing on areas that were determined to be at risk of flooding. Businesses and schools were also destroyed, and human rights groups reported that thousands of people were displaced without adequate notice or compensation.
- The country remained a destination for people fleeing a conflict between Islamist insurgents and the military in Burkina Faso, with more than 60,000 Burkinabe taking refuge in Côte d'Ivoire as of late 2024.

This report has been abridged for Freedom in the World 2025 due to [ongoing budget constraints](#). Freedom in the World is entirely funded by nongovernmental sources such as private foundations, corporations, and individuals like you. Please consider making a [donation](#) to support future editions of this vital resource.

For additional background information, see last year's [full report](#).

PR Political Rights

A Electoral Process

A1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections? | 2.002
4.004

A2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections? | 2.002
4.004

A3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies? | 2.002
4.004

B Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings? | 3.003
4.004

B2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections? | 2.002
4.004

B3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means? | 2.002
4.004

B4 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities? | 2.002
4.004

C Functioning of Government

C1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government? | 2.002
4.004

C2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective? | 1.001 4.004

C3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency? | 1.001 4.004

CL Civil Liberties

D Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media? | 2.002 4.004

D2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private? | 3.003
4.004

D3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination? | 2.002
4.004

D4 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution? | 3.003
4.004

E Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly? | 2.002 4.004

E2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work? | 2.002
4.004

E3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations? | 3.003 4.004

F Rule of Law

F1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary? | 1.001 4.004

F2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters? | 1.001 4.004

F3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies? | 2.002
4.004

F4 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population? | 2.002
4.004

G Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education? | 2.002
4.004

G2 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

2.002
4.004

G3 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

1.001
4.004

G4 1.00-4.00 pts0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

2.002
4.004