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### AN EVALUATION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA: THE CASE OF NATIONALITY AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IN COTE D' IVOIRE

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#### ABSTRACT

Cote d' Ivoire was the most peaceful State in the West African sub-region until the death of Houphouet Boigny and the end of his government in 1993. Succeeding regimes in 1993-2010 coined the concept of "Ivoirite" or "Ivorianness" or "true Ivorian" with the intention of excluding potential opponents. The major aim of this paper was to find out whether the nationality and political rights of the northern Ivorians were violated in Cote d' Ivoire between 1993 and 2011. To achieve this aim, the paper adopted historical method of analytical inquiry and interrogated relevant sources of information. It traced the origins of most of the ethnic groups making up the Ivorian nation and highlighted the relevant provisions of the international law prohibiting violation of the rights vis-à-vis the political struggles of the northerners. It was revealed, among other things, that peoples from various parts of Africa had migrated and settled in what is now called Ivory Coast or Cote d' Ivoire and that the Court and the Constitution of Cote d' Ivoire were used to deny the northerners the rights to rule his country as president. The paper concluded that the nationality, citizenship and political rights of the people had been violated as they were discriminated against in their country. The paper recommended that African leaders should respect the rights of their fellow citizens as a panacea for sustainable peace and development in the continent.

*Keywords:* Nationality, Citizenship, Discrimination, Civil Rights, Conventions.