

Sociogenesis and dynamic of speakers of parliament's "professionalization" in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

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In response to the outbreak of the armed rebellion led by MPCCI movement against his power in September 2002, the regime of Laurent Gbagbo, in Côte d'Ivoire, organized a counter-insurgency movement in the southern half part of the country. Members of this emerging group called themselves "young patriots" aiming to protect their country against attacks from outside. Those young patriots mobilize people through micro-spaces of debates locally known as "parliaments", "Congress" and "Senates". One of the most famous of these spaces of debate is called "Sorbonne" in reference to the University of Paris (Banégas Richard, 2007; Aghi Bahi, 2003). From 2002 to 2006, 45 "parliaments" could be recorded in the city of Abidjan. The flowering of such spaces that McAdam (1996) termed as "micro-mobilization contexts" produced the phenomenon we called "speaker of parliament by profession".

This paper highlights the genesis of this phenomenon of "job of speaker of parliament", its evolution in time and space in connection with the contingency of political, social and economic context. Our argument relies on a series of questions: (1) How did this phenomenon of parliament speaker emerged and evolved in Abidjan? In which extend the emergence of this type of job is link to the competitiveness in the national political arena? (2) What are the social and professional profiles of speakers of parliament? What are their various learning itineraries? (3) When and why speaking in "parliament" became a job for "young patriots"?

Keywords: Côte d'Ivoire, counterinsurgency movement, fragile state, speaker of parliament, young patriot.

