



UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 21 November 2005

International Bureau Circular

**369**

Côte d'Ivoire (Rep.) – Illegal issues of  
postage stamps

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **CÔTE D'IVOIRE (REP.)** asks me to inform you of the following:

"We informed you in IB circular 63 of 23 February 2004 of the piracy carried out against Côte d'Ivoire Post through the issue and sale of illegal postal stamps.

"This is to inform you once again of the trafficking of illegal postage stamps carried out against Côte d'Ivoire Post, particularly on the Internet.

"We are shocked and horrified by the fraudulent issue of a series of postage stamps commemorating Pope John Paul II, aimed at philatelists and disseminated by unscrupulous individuals.

"Most of them are presented in perforated formats comprising six stamps ranging in value from 100 to 500 FCFA, and miniature sheets with a value of 1,000 FCFA.

"As the only body authorized to issue, disseminate and sell postage stamps under Ivorian law, Côte d'Ivoire Post cannot ignore this attempt to usurp its rights and blatantly violate UPU agreements.

"We therefore denounce and condemn these reprehensible actions which undermine the reputation of our country, and the financial and economic standing of our administration.

"We also call on the solidarity of all Union stakeholders in tackling this phenomenon, which has a disastrous effect on our sector of activity.

"We should also point out that, since 2002, all our postage stamps have been registered and can be viewed on the UPU website ([www.wnsstamps.ch](http://www.wnsstamps.ch)).

"Philatelists wishing to purchase stamps should contact:

Abidjan Philatelic Centre  
Production Directorate  
Côte d'Ivoire Post  
01 B.P. 4056 ABIDJAN 01  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE (REP.)

Fax: 225 20 25 29 82

Our official representative in France:

Théodore Champion SA  
68, Rue d'Hauteville  
F. 75010 PARIS  
FRANCE

Tel: 01 42 46 07 38 (Mail order customers)

Tel: 01 42 46 70 32 (Business and retail customers)

Fax: 01 48 24 08 27"

Yours faithfully,

K J S MCKEOWN  
Director of Markets