

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**  
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Friday, April 23, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## UN Security Council condemns recruitment of child soldiers

22 April 2004 – The United Nations Security Council today condemned the recruitment of child soldiers and called on Secretary-General Kofi Annan to create a monitoring mechanism, preferably within three months, "to provide timely objective, accurate and reliable information on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law."

The 15-member Council, by a unanimous vote, said it would take appropriate action to curb linkages between armed conflict, its prolongation and the smuggling of natural and other resources, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and cross-border abduction, all of which intensify the negative impact of war on children.

It asked Mr. Annan to propose effective measures to control such illicit trade and trafficking.

All governments should note the commitments they have made to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other UN entities involved with ensuring the well-being of children and cooperate fully with these bodies in implementing their pledges.

On a case-by-case basis, the Council would make sure that child protection advisers (CPAs) were included in peacekeeping missions and "requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the need for and the number and roles of CPAs are systematically assessed during the preparation of each United Nations peacekeeping operation."

It called on States and the United Nations system "to recognize the important role of education in conflict areas in halting and preventing recruitment and re-recruitment of children contrary to the obligations of parties to conflict."

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)

Ref. No.: UNAMSIL/PIOR 116 /2004

22 April 2004

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UNAMSIL HANDS OVER SECURITY PRIMACY OF NORTHERN SIERRA LEONE TO SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT**



**Freetown** – The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has today handed over security primacy of the Northern Province to the Government of Sierra Leone at a colorful ceremony attended by the Vice President Hon. Solomon Berewa, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Governance and Stabilization, Mr. Alan Doss, the UNAMSIL Force Commander Maj. Gen Sajjad Akram, Government Ministers including the Deputy Defense Minister Joe Blell and Members of Parliament from the region. The ceremony was climaxed by an emotional symbolic transfer of control of security in a region that has five of the country's 12 provincial districts, when the UNAMSIL Commander of Sector Centre in charge of the north, Brig. Gen. Shafiq Uzzaman handed over a red-ribboned file to the Regional Commissioner of the Sierra Leone Police, Christopher John.

Speaking at the ceremony at the Wusum Grounds in the provincial headquarter town of Makeni, Vice President Berewa said the “significant, moving and sad moment” of transfer was a manifestation that “UNAMSIL have accomplished their mission”. He praised the peacekeepers’ “immense contribution in the return of peace to Sierra Leone” as well as their humanitarian and other social assistance to the communities. “The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Sierra Leone Police are prepared to take up the security challenges after UNAMSIL” he assured, saying that a number of command post exercises had been held in all districts, which had tested the Army’s capacity to ward off any threat from outside and the Police’s ability to ensure internal

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security and law and order. “The national security apparatus is more reliable now” he assured, adding “the people of the north have nothing to fear. Your security is guaranteed”. The Vice President urged all Sierra Leoneans to cooperate with the security forces in ensuring their security.

Handing over security primacy, the DSRSG congratulated the people of the area for this “very important and momentous occasion [which]...is a tangible sign of this nation’s return to peace and stability, and evidence of the growing confidence in the ability of the country’s security agencies to uphold the rule of law.” He recalled his first visit to Makeni some three years ago when the area was deserted without any police. Now, he said, the SLP had expanded both in size and quality engendered by training and professionalism, with support from UNAMSIL and the Commonwealth. He added that with the help of the International Military Training team (IMATT) “the RSLAF is becoming a more operationally focused guardian of national sovereignty.” He applauded the “substantial progress, made [by] the Office of National Security, in forming the Provincial and District Security Committees (the PROSECs and DISECs).”

The DSRSG reminded his audience of the recent UN Security Council resolution for an “extended drawdown of UNAMSIL, but emphasized that this should not lead delay the Government’s assumption of its responsibility for security throughout the country. “It is reassuring to know and see here today that the Sierra Leonean people are well on the way to assuming full responsibility for their own security and their own destiny. We will continue to do all we can, in partnership with Sierra Leone, to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibility over these coming months.” He urged the RSLAF and the SLP to work together as “effective cooperation...is vital for Sierra Leone”. He called on the people to reinforce the efforts of the security forces in ensuring security, notably during the up-coming local government election, saying “when you work together, miracles can indeed be achieved”.

The host Paramount Chief, PC Bai Shebora Kasanga 11 said they were happy that their region was deemed mature enough to be handed over and expressed the region’s Paramount Chiefs’ commitment to the consolidation of peace. He expressed confidence in the Army and Police and appealed for the Army to be given the capacity to be able to carry out such humanitarian assistance as was done by the UNAMSIL peacekeepers.

Also present at the ceremony were the Chief of Defense Staff of the RSLAF, Maj. Gen. Sam Mbomah, the Inspector General of Police, Brima Acha Kamara, the IMATT Commander Brigadier Simon Porter, UNAMSIL Sector Commanders and Paramount Chiefs from the various districts in the north.

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*Alerting Humanitarians to Emergencies***FROM THE FIELD**

22 Apr 2004 17:56:00 GMT

**Demobilization in Liberia: Cash Payments to Child Ex-Combatants Misguided***Sarah Martin***Refugees International - USA****Website: <http://www.refugeesinternational.org>**

April 21, 2004

Contact: Sarah Martin [ri@refugeesinternational.org](mailto:ri@refugeesinternational.org) or 202.828.0110

Demobilization in Liberia: Cash Payments to Child Ex-Combatants Misguided

One of the first major challenges of most peacekeeping missions is to disarm and demobilize the combatants as a first step toward restoring peace and stability. In Liberia, the population has demanded that the United Nations Mission (UNMIL) and the National Transitional Government of Liberia begin the disarmament and demobilization program immediately. Despite the reservations of humanitarian organizations in Liberia about the lack of preparation, UNMIL began the program on April 15, 2004. This second attempt so far represents a significant improvement over the earlier effort in December 2003, which had to be halted as conditions in the country were not stable enough to go forward. Nonetheless, the program in Liberia to date has been a case study of how not to do demobilization.

The issue of immediate concern is the decision by UNMIL and the Liberian National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Rehabilitation (DDRR) to make cash payments of US\$300 to all youths being demobilized from the various armed forces. The payment of cash allowances to children and adolescents is against their best interests.

To its credit, UNMIL had agreed that priority processing be given to children and adolescents in the demobilization program. They will not spend longer than 72 hours in the demobilization camps and they will be separated from adult combatants. They will then transfer to Interim Care Centers and from there they will begin the road home to their families and communities. To ensure that child and adolescent ex-combatants can reintegrate into their communities, the DDRR process is supposed to provide access to interim care, family tracing services, education and skills training, as well as providing for a safe return without risk of further recruitment. These programs --- not cash --- are needed for youthful ex-combatants.

Cash allowances to combatants under the age of 18 will undermine this system. The cash is unlikely to be used for productive investments in education or economic opportunity. Many of these children are still in thrall to the commanders who abducted them or hooked them on drugs. There is no way to prevent the cash from being turned back over to commanders, in effect encouraging them to recruit more children. Further, providing cash, in essence, rewards children who took part in the conflict and the parents who allowed them to do so.

The cash allowances may also put these children at risk. One humanitarian organization that works with child combatants in Liberia told Refugees International that when these adolescents received the initial \$75 payment in December at the first failed DDDR attempt, they used it for marijuana and other drugs that are plentiful in Liberia. In addition, representatives of a local organization that has been working since September to identify and "rescue" female child soldiers told RI of the difficulties they had breaking the bonds between these adolescent girls, many of whom were mothers but with the maturity of girls, and their commanders, who abused them and commanded their loyalties. Rather than cash, these former combatants need increased access to trauma counseling, educational services, and help reintegrating back into society.

RI, like operational agencies focused on child protection such as Christian Children's Fund and Save the Children, is concerned about the precedent that paying child soldiers will establish in West Africa, where children are easily "recycled" from one conflict to another. Will DDDR in the Ivory Coast, for example, inevitably involve cash payments to children?

Beyond the problem of cash payments to adolescent ex-combatants, there is also concern that UNMIL has been focusing on the "DD" (disarmament and demobilization) part of the process at the expense of the "RR" (reintegration and rehabilitation). An NGO representative recently told RI, "[Special Representative of the Secretary General Jacques Klein] places a lot of emphasis on the DD but not much on the RR. What's the plan? ... They [ex-combatants] spend 2-3 weeks in the DD program and then where will the fighters go? Where will they integrate to?" SRSG Klein denies this and maintains that there is a detailed plan for rehabilitation and reintegration. However, when RI asked for a copy of the plan in early March, he said it was still in draft form and would be released to everyone when it is finalized. UNMIL has still not released the plan as of this writing.

The disarmament and demobilization part of the program is relatively easy because it's largely a matter of planning and logistics. The reintegration and rehabilitation component is vastly more difficult because it involves programs for protection and skills training for traumatized people who have basically been denied access to formal education. Implementing long- and short-term skills training, education for younger ex-combatants, and psychosocial assistance for traumatized ex-combatants and civilian populations, and meeting the special needs of traumatized women and children represent serious challenges even under more stable conditions than those prevailing in Liberia.

Effective reintegration programs also necessarily involve sensitizing civilian populations to accept the ex-combatants in their communities. This is particularly crucial for the reintegration of child soldiers. Home communities may shun child soldiers if they believe that they committed atrocities. In Sierra Leone, many humanitarian organizations had good results by encouraging communities to develop "purification" rituals to promote community acceptance. While there are some bridging projects possible to help ex-combatants immediately after they leave the cantonment camps, most of these projects are long-term in nature.

RI is concerned because short of an initial payment to ex-combatants when they leave the camps, there are almost no programs set up to assist ex-combatants in finding jobs and reintegrating them into communities. Since most are young men, who have lived by taking what they need by the point of a gun, they are likely to return to that life if other alternatives are not available. They will likely return to overcrowded IDP camps or to Monrovia.

Therefore Refugees International recommends that:

- The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations immediately instruct SRSK Klein to cease payment of cash allowances to all child ex-combatants until he has met with UNICEF and other child protection agencies to better address the issue.
- Reintegration packages for children should support families and communities, and be based on a set of services, not cash. UNMIL should re-work these cash payments as educational vouchers or other non-cash items that will encourage the reintegration of children into Liberian communities rather than encouraging their exploitation.
- Donors and UNMIL immediately begin to identify short- and long-term reintegration and rehabilitation programs based on the needs of the ex-combatants to transition successfully from combat to productive and peaceful civilian lives. Projects that address the short term needs must be started immediately so that there are "RR" programs available for ex-combatants immediately upon release from the cantonment sites.

RI Advocate Sarah Martin recently returned from a humanitarian assessment mission to Liberia

*[ Any views expressed in this article are those of the writer and not of Reuters. ]*



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## UN: Disarmament Campaign in Liberia Off to Slow Start

Carrie Giardino

Abidjan

22 Apr 2004, 14:00 UTC



Listen to Carrie Giardino's report (RealAudio)

Giardino report - Download 278k (RealAudio)



AP

**Former LURD fighter, right, hands over weapon to UN peacekeeper in Gbarnga**

The United Nations is reporting that only half of the combatants participating in the disarmament campaign in Liberia are handing in weapons. This is renewing fears that rebel leaders have collected guns to be shipped to other West African nations.

In the first six days of the relaunched disarmament campaign in Liberia, nearly 1,800 former combatants from the rebel groups, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, or LURD, and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia, MODEL, were disarmed. But according to the United Nations, less than 800 weapons had been collected.

The international community has expressed concern that the weapons that are not being handed in by the combatants are being shipped back to home countries, which could lead to further instability in the region.

The weapons collected during the disarmament campaign are to be destroyed.

The director of the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Rehabilitation, Moses Jarbo, says the combatants must have weapons or ammunition in order to participate in the program.

"They must have weapons, and some of those who do not have weapons, they will be identified by their commander that they are part of their organization, and they must have at least some ammunition," he said.

Mr. Jarbo says the process is going smoothly, especially with MODEL combatants in the coastal city of Buchanan. He says the MODEL organization is much smaller than LURD, and the commanders have been available to assist with identifying the combatants.

One of the commanders with MODEL, General Boi Blehju Boi, says he was the first to hand over his weapon in Buchanan. He also strongly denies rumors that MODEL fighters were supported by the government in Ivory Coast.

"The Ivorian government and the president of Ivory Coast has his own problems," he said. "We have no connection with the Ivorians, neither have we any contact or relation with the government of that place. MODEL was organized by Liberians and headed by Liberians and operated by Liberians."

General Boi concedes that some of the combatants in MODEL are from Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. He says they were displaced by civil wars in those countries, and joined the already established MODEL movement.

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**AFRICA**

## Where are Liberia's weapons going?

Monrovia, Liberia

22 April 2004 23:59

The United Nations said on Wednesday nearly 1 800 former combatants reported for demobilisation during the first week of its relaunched disarmament programme in Liberia, but fewer than half of them handed in a gun.

This revived fears that many of the weapons used in Liberia's 14-year civil war are being hidden or have been spirited away across the border into neighbouring countries.

Officials of the UN Mission in Liberia (Unmil) told reporters that 1 789 former combatants from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (Lurd) and Movement for Democracy for Liberia (Model) rebel movements have registered for disarmament between April 15 and 20 at the two cantonment sites opened so far.

However, only 782 weapons have been handed in, they added.

There have recently been reports of Model disarming many of its own fighters in order to send their weapons over the border to Côte d'Ivoire.

Diplomats say Côte d'Ivoire is the main backer of Model and it is an open secret in both countries that many Model fighters previously fought with pro-government militia groups in Côte d'Ivoire's own civil war.

Earlier this year, diplomats and UN officials in Monrovia expressed fears that Lurd was trying to withdraw much of its heavy weaponry into Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Moses Jarbo, the executive director of the National Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation Commission, said on Wednesday he had received reports that some Model fighters in the port city of Buchanan have complained that their arms were taken away from them by senior commanders well before the start of the UN disarmament process.

"We are aware of this information from those fighters, about their arms taken away," Jarbo said. "Let it be clear that the movement of arms outside of Liberia is a serious violation of the comprehensive agreement and this is a serious matter and we are monitoring it."

Model's chief military commander, General Boi Blehju Boi, denied point blank that his organisation has returned these weapons to Côte d'Ivoire.

"This is frustrating and unfortunate news which I heard myself," he said.

"We took arms from our fighters a few months back because of cries by some citizens in southeastern Liberia of harassment by our fighters. We did this to minimise our men from roaming with arms," the general said.

Boi said Model has reissued these weapons to its fighters so that they could hand them over to the UN peacekeepers.

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"Those were the same arms that some of our fighters are handing over to Unmil," he said.

Former combatants must hand over a weapon or ammunition if they are to be admitted to the cantonment centres already operating in Buchanan and the northern town of Gbarnga.

Two more cantonment sites are due to open next week on the outskirts of Monrovia and at Tubmanburg, 60km north of the capital. Each one is due to process up to 250 new admissions per day.

The former combatants undergo a week of screening at the cantonment sites, during which they receive medical treatment and therapy to help them get over the horrors of war. They are also asked what kind of training they want to help them get a new job in civilian life.

They receive \$150 in cash upon their discharge, with a second payment of \$150 promised three months later once they have returned to their home community.

Jarbo said the process, which began in Gbarnga last week and was extended to Buchanan on Tuesday, is progressing smoothly.

He revealed that Unmil is looking at opening several new cantonment sites.

"In fact, we are looking at opening six additional cantonment and disarmament sites in other parts of the country, which will add up to the four sites we already have. This would enable more fighters to disarm," Jarbo said.

Unmil said just more than 15% of those disarmed so far were child soldiers. During the first week, 275 youths under the age of 18 reported for disarmament, of whom 37 were girls.

The 1 514 adult soldiers reporting for demobilisation included 91 women.

Weapons surrendered included rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, mortars, pistols and hand grenades.

Unmil officials stressed the importance of collecting ammunition too. So far, 114 mortar rounds, 353 rocket-propelled grenades and 86 hand grenades have been handed in.

In February, at a meeting of UN officials in Dakar, Senegal, Jacques Klein, the UN special representative to Liberia, estimated there were about three weapons per combatant floating around Liberia.

But Unmil disarmament experts say privately that even in the most successful disarmament campaigns, only half the total number of weapons in circulation get handed in. -- Irin

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## Scale of African slavery revealed

**The trafficking of human beings is a problem in every African country, says the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).**

The report, which covers 53 African nations, says children are the biggest victims in what is a very complex phenomenon.

It describes how they are forced into slavery, recruited as child soldiers or sold into prostitution.

In Africa, children are twice as likely to be trafficked as women.

### Trade

The BBC's Imogen Foulkes in Geneva says the report found that 89% of the countries had trafficking to and from neighbouring countries, but 34% also had a human trade to Europe.

Poverty, traditional migration and conflict are blamed for the traffic.

The trade in people is frequently regional.

Of the countries surveyed, 26% said trafficking was taking place to the Middle East.

And the trade is often in both directions.

Nigeria, for example, has received trafficked people from 12 African countries, but trafficked Nigerians have been found in a dozen countries too.

### Complicity

Much of this trade in children often has the tacit collaboration of the victims' own families where it is seen not so much as criminal activity but as a way for a large family to boost its poor income.

The story of Joseph in Benin is fairly typical.

When he was 13 years old, a stranger arranged with his parents for him to go to neighbouring Togo for a better life.

However, he was put to work from 0500 to 2300 each day as a domestic help and was regularly beaten.

It took him three years of saving money to be able to phone home and be rescued by an uncle. Now 16 years old, he is back in school.

"I was so happy to see my little brother again when I returned home to Benin," he says.

### Complexity

The report's director, Andrea Rossi, says trafficking is a complex issue with many causes.

"Trafficking can start as slavery, children and women are sold, but it can also start as a migration process where children want to move.

"The only way they have to move - because for example it's illegal, because you cannot move, or it's difficult - the only option they have is to go through trafficking patterns."

There are no reliable figures for just how many people are trafficked in Africa, but it is likely to run into the millions.

Unicef is presenting its report to a meeting of African ministers in Benin.

The hope is to adopt an action plan to combat trafficking, one which will place the rights of the child at the centre of all future policy.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/3652021.stm>

Published: 2004/04/23 08:38:01 GMT

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*Africa News April 21, 2004 Wednesday*

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Africa News

**April 21, 2004 Wednesday**

**LENGTH:** 390 words

**HEADLINE:** Libya;  
**British Government Risks 'Selling Out Its Principles On Arms Sales'**

**BYLINE:** Oxfam International

**BODY:**

Oxfam today (Wednesday 21st April) accused the government of undermining its own **arms** policy by pushing for the lifting of the EU **arms** embargo on Libya. Oxfam criticised the government at today's meeting of the Quadripartite Committee- a committee of MPs examining government **arms** exports.

Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien announced the government's decision to lift the embargo in Libya yesterday (Tuesday) during a trip to promote British companies.

Ed Cairns, Senior Policy Analyst at Oxfam, who today gave evidence to MPs, said "The government should be ashamed of its decision to push for the lifting of the EU **arms** embargo on Libya. Using **arms** as a diplomatic bargaining chip smacks of the bad old days of British **arms** policy.

This is a heinous example of political expediency overruling concern for human rights."

The lifting of the EU **arms** embargo is part of a package of measures designed to reward Libya for abandoning its WMD programmes.

"Rewarding dictators for abandoning one weapons program by promising to sell them other weapons seems bizarre in the extreme. While it is undoubtedly a good thing that Libya has said it will stop producing WMD, it is conventional weapons that kill most people.

Indeed, the number of people killed every year by conventional weapons is more than the total killed in the nuclear bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined." Said Mr Cairns.

In recent years Colonel Gaddafi has been accused of **selling** weapons to countries from Somalia to Sierra Leone. Just six months ago Libya was accused of **selling** weapons to indicted war criminal Charles Taylor in Liberia.

"Weapons **sales** to these war torn countries cost hundreds of thousands of people their lives. While Colonel Gaddafi may have signalled he's willing to play ball on WMD, there has been no such progress on regulating conventional **arms sales**.

Gaddafi has made Libya into one of Africa's biggest and most unscrupulous **arms** dealers. If we sell weapons to Libya how could we stop them from being sold on to deadly African war zones to which Gaddafi has regularly sold weapons in the past?

Tony Blair said Africa was a scar on his conscience. Unless he commits himself to the highest possible international standards on **arms sales, he risks** allowing this scar to open into a festering wound." Said Mr Cairns.

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*Africa News April 22, 2004 Thursday*

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**Africa News**

**April 22, 2004 Thursday**

**LENGTH:** 289 words

**HEADLINE:** East **Africa**;

EA Countries Discuss Anti-Terror Strategy

**BYLINE:** The Monitor

**BODY:**

A US sponsored anti-terror conference got underway yesterday to discuss ways of averting **terrorism** in East **Africa**.

The meeting, sponsored by the **State Department's** Counter **terrorism** office, has drawn officials from the East **Africa** Counter **Terrorism** Initiative (EACTI).

The Minister of State for Information, Mr James Nsaba Buturo, told The Monitor that the meeting is meant to map out strategies against **terrorism**.

"We are trying to put our heads together to see how we can fight **terrorism** that has become a threat to the entire region," he said.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda and the US Ambassador, Mr Jimmy Kolker were slated to officiate at the opening of the conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo last evening.

In a brief on the conference on the **State Department's** website, the Associate Coordinator Counter **terrorism**, African section, Mr Karl Wycoff said the initiative is aimed at strengthening **Africa's** efforts against terror.

"The ability of most African states to effectively participate in the campaign against **terrorism** is getting stronger with US help," Wycoff said on [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

In June 2003, President George Bush announced a \$100 million boost for the EACTI. Wycoff said the fund is meant to strengthen the capability of US partners in the region to combat **terrorism** and foster cooperation among governments.

The fund will cater for military training of border and coastal security, a variety of programmes to strengthen control of the movement of people and goods across borders and aviation security capacity building among others.

In East **Africa**, Kenya and Tanzania have borne the brunt of **terrorism**. In 1998, US embassies were bombed in the two countries.

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