

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:

Thursday, April 29, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914

Security Council unanimously votes to keep WMDs out of terrorist hands

28 April 2004 – The United Nations Security Council today unanimously approved a binding resolution criminalizing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by such private parties as terrorists and black marketers.

The Council decided that "all States...shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them."

Governments were prohibited from aiding any private actors seeking to make or acquire such weapons.

The resolution fell under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which gives the 15-member Council the power to enforce certain decisions through tribunals, embargoes, or military force after all peaceful means of persuading delinquent Member States have been exhausted.

In the public debate last week to suggest amendments to the text, several speakers cautioned that the most important aspect about the resolution was not enforcement. They emphasized that the Council would have to get separate approval for the means of enforcement.

Today's text directed Governments to establish effective accounting for and domestic controls of material that could be used to make nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. They should also establish and maintain effective border and trans-shipment controls and appropriate law enforcement.

The Security Council would establish a committee to monitor for the next two years the implementation of the resolution and would expect all States to present reports on their efforts to execute the provisions within six months.

LIBERIA: All weapons will be turned over, warlords promise



© IRIN

Sekou Conneh, leader of LURD

MONROVIA, 28 Apr 2004 (IRIN) - Leaders of Liberia's three former warring parties announced on Wednesday that all of their weapons, including heavy artillery, would be turned over to UN peacekeepers in the on-going disarmament process.

Sekou Conneh, the leader of the main rebel group, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) told IRIN on Wednesday that he had instructed all of his fighters and top commanders to hand over all arms to the peacekeepers wherever they were.

"Keeping arms and heavy weapons to do what with them?" he enquired. "The war is over and all of my men are aware of my orders a few days ago that no one should hide any gun - be it light or heavy weapon. War is not on our minds no more".

The country's second rebel group, Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), through its leader Thomas Nimely Yaya - now Foreign Minister in the transitional government - told IRIN that none of its arms and ammunitions would be left over during the exercise.

"MODEL is not interested in amassing weapons. We do not have anything to hide and in due course all of our weapons we used during the war will all be turned over to UNMIL. This disarmament process must be successful. The time of holding up to guns are over," the softly spoken warlord said.

Nimely denied that his group was ferrying back all of its artillery into neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire, which has been described by diplomats as the main backer of the rebel group and which is still caught up in its own internal crisis.

Diplomats in Monrovia made similar comments about LURD earlier this year when they expressed fears that LURD rebels were attempting to withdraw their heavy weapons to Guinea - their military backer.

Roland Duo, general commander of the former government forces, which the two rebel groups opposed during the last four years of civil conflict in Liberia, said that most of their main heavy weapons have already been handed over to the UN peacekeepers.

"We have been cooperating with UNMIL. Even the largest artillery pieces that we used the Four Barrel mortar, 106 howitzers, BZT were turned over to the peacekeepers. They have record of them. All of our former fighters are now fully prepared to turn over any weapons in their possession," Duo declared.

The warlords' pronouncements came four days after the commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in Liberia, General Daniel Opande, warned all warring groups that hiding weapons during the war torn country's disarmament program would constitute a criminal offence.

"UNMIL will not allow anyone to hide weapons and let this be a clear message for LURD, MODEL and former government fighters," Opande had warned.

His warning came amidst reports that some fighters were turning in few weapons at disarmament sites and harbouring others.

On Friday, former government fighters are to begin their disarmament at the VOA cantonments north of the Liberian capitol, Monrovia.

The VOA camp will be the fourth disarmament camp opened to host disarmed combatants since the disarmament process was re-launched on April 15. The other three are in territories formerly controlled by the LURD and MODEL rebel groups.

The executive director of Liberia's disarmament commission, Dr Moses Jarbo, said last week that plans are being made to open an additional six camps in rural Liberia to allow more combatants to disarm more quickly

[ENDS]

[\[Back\]](#) [\[Home Page\]](#)

[Click here](#) to send any feedback, comments or questions you have about IRIN's Website or if you prefer you can send an Email to Webmaster

The material contained on this Web site comes to you via IRIN, a UN humanitarian information unit, but may not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its agencies. If you re-print, copy, archive or re-post any item on this site, please retain this credit and disclaimer. Quotations or extracts should include attribution to the original sources. All graphics and Images on this site may not be re-produced without the express permission of the original owner. All materials copyright © UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2004

newsroom

< FULL ARTICLE >

FBI Checking Terrorists' Conflict Diamond Involvement in Liberia

(April 29, '04, 10:37 Albert Robinson)

A team of FBI financial specialists has visited war-torn Liberia late last year to look into accusations of terrorist involvement in the West African diamond trade.

Agents from the FBI's counter-terrorism division visited Liberia to examine a possible terrorist involvement in the shadowy trade in conflict diamonds.

The investigation is continuing and interim conclusions have not been released to the public.

A State Department official recently told a congressional panel there was no solid evidence so far one way or the other about the accusations.

Counter-terrorism officials believe it will be difficult to confirm the accusations that trading is taking place in conflict diamonds to finance terrorism since any trail will be difficult to follow.

Accusations that Osama Bin-Laden's al Qaeda network along with other terrorist groups were trading in diamonds to help finance their activities and the hunt for suspicious money transactions began following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.