

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 30, 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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HUMAN RIGHTS MIRROR

A publication of the Fourah Bay College Human Rights Clinic

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Clinic To Monitor Special Court

The International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) has approached the Fourah Bay College Human Rights Clinic, amongst four other local human rights organisations, to participate in a coalition to monitor the trials of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The other organisations are the National Forum for Human Rights; National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights and Network Movement for Justice and Development; and Campaign for Good Governance.

According to the proposal from the ICTJ' contact person, Ms Marieka Weirda; "each organisation is to submit two members who will serve as local monitors of the special court and one organisation will

provide office space but would be adequately reimbursed for that purpose."

Some international moni-

activities of the court. This will entail observing the trial procedures, both during the trial and appeal chambers", the pro-

posal further stated. The monitoring coalition first met on the 7th March 2004 at the office of the National Forum for Human Rights, Waterloo Street, Freetown. At this meeting, it was agreed that the organisations should prepare their Memorandum Of Understanding to be presented to ICTJ.

The process was tentatively set to start at the end of March when Ms. Weirda is expected to return to Freetown.



Clinic members: poised to help the clinic grow more

tors would train these eight local monitors to enable them to be fully equipped with the skills involved in their assignments. "The local monitors together with their international counterpart will monitor the trials of the court and are required to write reports on the ac-

Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [News, Most Recent 90 Days \(English, Full Text\)](#) 

Terms: **warring parties in liberia deny caching weapons** ([Edit Search](#))

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World Markets Analysis April 29, 2004

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**World Markets
Research Centre**

World Markets Analysis

April 29, 2004

SECTION: IN BRIEF

LENGTH: 333 words

HEADLINE: **Warring Parties in Liberia Deny Caching Weapons**

BYLINE: Chris Melville

BODY:

The three '**warring parties**' in **Liberia** have denied allegations that they have been concealing **weapons** or transporting them to neighbouring countries in an effort to avoid handing them over to the UN Mission in **Liberia** (UNMIL), which resumed its official disarmament programme earlier this month (see **Liberia**: 16 April 2004: Few problems as UN Begins Disarmament in Northern **Liberia**). Although disarmament has now resumed smoothly in three of **Liberia's** main cities, UN officials have voiced concerns about the small number of **weapons** submitted relative to the number of fighters seeking registration for the disarmament, demobilisation, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRR) programme (see **Liberia**: 22 April 2004: UN Concerned About **Weapons** Smuggled Out of **Liberia**). In interviews with IRIN, the leaders of the two rebel groups - the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in **Liberia** (MODEL) - echoed commitments from representatives of the former government in **Liberia** (FGL) to honour their obligations under the comprehensive Accra peace agreement, which was signed last October. Roland Duo - a senior battlefield commander of former President Charles Taylor - insisted that his forces had co-operated with UNMIL, and had already turned over their heavy weaponry.

Significance: Although it is not yet clear whether the **warring parties** are indeed transporting their **weapons** to areas beyond the purview of UNMIL peacekeepers, the risk of such an occurrence is present and serious. With all the **warring parties** refusing to provide detailed inventories of weaponry and manpower, there will be no way of knowing how successful UNMIL's disarmament programme has been once it is completed in the coming months. With political tensions liable to rise in the run-up to the scheduled elections in October 2005, the possibility that the main political forces in the country will continue to be effectively armed is a source of immense concern.

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The Washington Times

www.washingtontimes.com

Peacekeeping force planned for Africa

By Bill Gertz

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Published April 30, 2004

The Pentagon and State Department are planning to set up a 75,000-member international peacekeeping force for Africa, senior Bush administration officials told Congress yesterday.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage disclosed the plan during a hearing of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations.

Mr. Armitage said, "What we envision is about a 75,000-person force, starting in Africa, [for] the training of peacekeepers, people to be available for peacekeeping."

The force will cost about \$660 million over five years, with 20 percent of the money coming from State Department funds and the rest from the Defense Department. The program is called the Global Peace Operations Initiative.

"This is an initiative designed to train other countries' forces so that when peacekeeping requirements come up, as they did recently in Liberia, or as we're facing one in Haiti today, there are more capable foreign forces to draw on, so that we're not constantly turning to our military for tasks that could be performed by others," Mr. Wolfowitz said.

The peacekeeping plan first was disclosed by The Washington Post on April 19.

The Bush administration has sought to reduce U.S. military involvement in peacekeeping operations, a marked shift from the Clinton administration, which sent thousands of troops abroad to conduct nonmilitary humanitarian and peace operations.

Mr. Wolfowitz said during the hearing that the heart of the initiative is to find other nations to undertake noncombat missions because peacekeeping operations "don't involve the kind of combat that our forces can do and do very well."

"Many, many countries can provide that capability; many countries do," he said.

Mr. Wolfowitz noted that in Liberia, U.S. forces were used initially because "we were the only people who could get there quickly."

"But we were able to put together an international force, mostly of West African countries, that is doing that job now," he said.

In most cases, the U.S.-funded peacekeeping force would operate under a U.N. mandate, Mr. Wolfowitz said. He added that an international force that could be used for peacekeeping operations would reduce "the stresses" on U.S. forces.

Mr. Wolfowitz noted that the situation in Iraq is one of the cases that "go beyond peacekeeping" and become combat. Such cases are "a job that only the U.S. and a much smaller number of other countries can take on."

Senior Defense Department officials said they have resisted pressure from the Bush

administration's National Security Council to create an Africa Command, similar to other joint U.S. military commands in Europe and the Pacific.

On another issue, Mr. Wolfowitz said although there is no proof Saddam Hussein was involved in the September 11 terrorist attacks, Iraq and al Qaeda "were cooperating with one another."

"If you look at the sealed indictment of Osama bin Laden that was handed down in February of 1998 by the Southern District in New York, I believe, it says that in 1992 to '93 bin Laden and Saddam made an agreement not to attack one another, and that they would cooperate," Mr. Wolfowitz said. "Cooperation doesn't mean they jointly planned September 11."

However, Mr. Wolfowitz noted that one of the eight persons linked to the 1993 World Trade Center attack "escaped to Iraq with the assistance of Iraqi intelligence in Jordan." He was referring to Saddam's regime harboring Abdul Rahman Yasin, who was indicted in the 1993 World Trade Center attack and remains at large.

"This was a regime that supported terrorism," Mr. Wolfowitz said.

Mr. Wolfowitz also defended a Pentagon program to fund the Iraqi National Congress headed by Ahmed Chalabi. The deputy defense secretary said the intelligence from the opposition group "is saving American lives."

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UN Missions Meet to Strengthen Cross-Border Operations in West Africa

Carrie Giardino

Abidjan

29 Apr 2004, 13:07 UTC



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Representatives from the U.N. missions in Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Sierra Leone met in Senegal in a bid to strengthen their cross-border operations.

The meeting has been organized to implement suggestions made last month in New York by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He emphasized the importance of taking a regional approach to West Africa, which has suffered from decades of civil wars.

One of the issues on the table at the talks in Senegal was how to go about coordinating U.N. operations in the region.

An analyst with International Crisis Group, Stephen Ellis, says a regional approach in West Africa is something his organization has been advocating for months.

“The three U.N. missions that exist in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire do their best inasmuch as they try to communicate with each other,” Mr. Ellis said. “But if you were ultimately going to improve coordination between the three, you would have some sort of supreme command of all three missions.”

The U.N. special envoy to Ivory Coast, Albert Tevoedjre, says controlling the border areas is important for maintaining stability in the region.

“Well, we hope to continue to have a joint approach of our work on disarmament, on small arms trafficking and making sure that the borders are secure. It is very important,” he said.

The representatives are also examining the possibility of so-called hot pursuit cross-border operations, which would allow peacekeepers from one nation to cross the borders into another country. The meeting is a precursor to one Friday that will be headed by the U.N. special representative for West Africa, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah.

Friday's meeting is also to include representatives from the Economic Community of West African States and other country representatives.

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'National Security is good'- Kellie Conteh

By Sayoh Kamara

The National Security Coordinator, Rtd. Brigadier Kellie Hassan Conteh has described the state of the nation's security as good in the face of mounting public speculations of a probable spill over of incidents of insecurity from troubled neighbouring countries and the withdrawal of UNAMSIL troops from the country by mid next year.

In an exclusive interview with this press at his State House office Monday, 26th April he indicated that quite a lot have been achieved within the security sector to give assurances that things are improving for the better. He noted improvements in the standards of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed

Forces (RSLAF). The SLP he said have improved in terms of service delivery to the nation as its indicative of its campaign against the mounting armed robberies that had permeated the city after the end of the war. He also noted the improvements made in the areas of vehicles and communication gadgets which has enabled the force to be at potential



Kellie Conteh: National Security Coordinator

trouble spots on short notice. *"These are signs of improvement as far as our internal security is concerned"*, he said. He however noted that more still has to be done for the police in terms of providing housing for the men and women of the force. According to him, government is doing all in its powers in collaboration with its international partners to address this situation.

On the military, the National Security Coordinator noted also that much improvements have been made in the areas of training and the provision of weapons to enhance the conduct of their constitutional role. He indicated

that the ongoing operation PEBU is basically aimed at providing housing for the troops in their deployment areas and pointed out that the soldiers are themselves happy undertaking that project. He acknowledged the role of the IMATT in the training of the military which he said does not only stop at the handling and firing of weapons, but also teaching them about basic human rights and the rule of engagement, humanitarian law and their responsibilities as citizens. Brigadier Conteh however observed that even though certain aspects of the UN benchmarks are yet to be addressed, this does not in any way point to any rea-

son for scepticism. He further observed that government is operating within a very tight budgetary allocation which is the reason for the shortfall. *"This is a concern to government and it is looking at it very seriously in collaboration with its international partners"*, he assured.

He recalled the security situation of the country some four years back which in his words, *"in comparison with is obtaining now is quite different. People are now moving freely about and even daring at night without fear of being ambushed. This should give the confidence in people that we are on track"*, he said.

Brigadier Conteh called on all Sierra Leoneans to take the issue of national security as a responsibility. According to him, it is when people collaborate with the security agencies by way of imparting pertinent information that the forces can be on top of situations at anytime. *"No matter the situation one may find himself, rich or poor, healthy or sick, working or jobless a peaceful environment is what matters. It is when a country is peaceful that issues like development, job, economic growth etc. can be given due consideration"*, he noted.

GUINEA PLANS TO FIGHT SALONE

Yenga, a border village along the Guinea and Liberia borders with Sierra Leone is still a security threat to this nation. Since the Guinean Army established permanent occupation at this village, they have refused to go even after the wars in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. Even after series of meetings with the two countries' authorities, where it was

established that that



H.E. KAIBAH portion of land occupied by the Guinean Army

belongs to Sierra Leone and that only the river that forms the boundary between Sierra Leone and Liberia belongs to Guinea, they still insist that Yenga belongs to Guinea.

80 km inland in Sierra Leone had been



LANSANA CONTE reportedly added to the river and given to Guinea

for landing facilities after crossing the river into Sierra Leone. Now they have ignored all of that and they insist that Yenga and all the surrounding villages, plantations, which our people planted, diamonds and other natural resources

GUINEA PLANS TO FIGHT SALONE

that Yenga and all the surrounding villages, plantations, which our people planted, diamonds and other natural resources - all belong to them.

Latest information from the area now intimate that all the villages in the area have been instructed by the Guinean Government to stop paying taxes to the Sierra Leone Government and pay now to the Guinean Government.

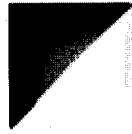
The World Vision went in there with shelter programmes for Sierra Leonean returnees. They were refused

access to the zone. The little worrying. If not put under control, one is tempted to be afraid that it might bring war between Guinea and Sierra Leone like it was between Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula area. The eminent conflict is yet at an early warning stage. It needs to be nipped in the bud. Meanwhile, following Government's assurances of

the citizens of this nation that both the Sierra Leone and the Guinean Governments are working together to settle the border dispute diplomatically, it appears to be on the contrary when you actually visit Yenga Village. Reports gathered by this Press after visiting the area reveal that Sierra Leoneans who have managed to

live in Yenga Village have been subdued to endless harassment in the hands of the Guinean Security forces that now permanently occupy the village. According to findings, Sierra Leoneans who used to occupy this area used to fish in the Moa River, which separates the two countries. They are said to be undergoing serious periodic beaten by the Guinean security forces

and their local fishing gears always destroyed by the Guinean Army whenever they are caught in the river. This harassment is said to have intensified very recently in this dry season when the river got dried and Sierra Leoneans living within the area took the opportunity to go fishing in the river just to get their daily meals. This is more so because they cannot easily get bonga fish into their area and that even when bonga is seen, it must have come from Guinea and it can be very expensive. Now, Sierra Leoneans who managed to stay in Yenga all this while, have decided to quit



THE LEON H. SULLIVAN
SUMMIT DINNER



Sa. Leonean Ambassador Challenges Liberian

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

April 28, 2004

Posted to the web April 29, 2004

Monrovia

The Sierra Leone Embassy accredited near this capital on Tuesday evening, hosted a cocktail reception in commemoration of the 43rd Independence Anniversary of that West African country.

Tuesday made it exactly 43 years since the Republic of Sierra Leone, through constitutional arrangement of Lancaster House of London, gained her independence from her colonial master, Great Britain. Like in most other independent African nations, the hopes and aspirations of Sierra Leoneans for better life and prosperity were ignited.

Unfortunately, Sierra Leoneans' expectations have remained elusive as most of its independent years have been marked with military coup d'etat and bad governance compounded by the just ended 11-year old rebel war.

Speaking during the cocktail reception which was attended by the Vice Chairman Wesley Momo Johnson and other officials of the NTGL, members of the diplomatic corps, UNMIL, members of the business community among others, Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Liberia, Dr. Patrick J. Foyah described the gathering as a joyous event to celebrate another rebirth of his country, Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leonean Ambassador said, when the Liberian civil war broke out in 1989, Sierra Leone did not only welcome its Liberian brothers and sisters with open arms and the traditional hospitalities, but also sent peacekeepers to assist in bringing the war to a quick and peaceful conclusion.

"In 1991 when my country tasted the bitterness of war, we still maintained those hospitalities. According to reports, there are more than eighty thousand Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone, living side by side with their Sierra Leonean brothers and sisters in peace and harmony," Dr. Foyah averred.

He said the reasons for this kind gesture are simple but deeply rooted, noting Sierra Leone and Liberia share common borders, tribes, culture and intermarriages. President Kabbah has always maintained that peace in Liberia is tantamount to peace in Sierra Leone, and for this reason, that country has played a pivotal role in the search for lasting peace in Liberia.

He said because President Kabbah attaches great importance to the peace process in Liberia, he has instructed two experts on conflict resolution, Dr. Francis Kaikai and Mr. Kanja Sesay to assist the Liberian Government in the DDRR process.

"I want to remind all Liberians that this is the best opportunity for lasting peace in Liberia. Not too long ago, Liberia was an envy in Africa. Every Liberian now, at home and abroad, has the responsibility to make Liberia what it ought to be. In this regard, you are obligated to fully support the peace process and make Liberia a better nation not just for yourself but also generation to come," Amb. Foyah cautioned Liberians.

In response to the Sierra Leonean Ambassador's statement, NTGL Vice Chairman Johnson on behalf of Chairman Gyude Bryant and the Liberian people, congratulated the government and people of Sierra Leone on the occasion of their 43rd independence day.

He recounted the long standing relationship between Liberia and Sierra Leone, noting that the NTGL will continue to uphold and cherish the friendly ties between the two counties.

The NTGL Vice Chairman extolled President Kabbah for his unwavering commitment to the attainment of lasting peace in Liberia as evidenced by the sending of two Sierra Leonean experts to work alongside the DDRR program.

Ambassador Foyah's crave for good neighborliness has always been and will always be key in the Tejan Kabbah-led government's foreign policy toward Liberia.



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POLITICS-AFRICA:

Worth the Paper It's Written On?

Joyce Mulama

In the latest attempt to curb the circulation of small arms in Africa, foreign affairs ministers and other representatives from eleven countries signed a protocol on weapons control recently in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. But, the jury is still out on whether this initiative really has the ingredients for success.

NAIROBI, April 28 (IPS) - The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons was signed after a two-day meeting (Apr. 20-21) that brought together eleven states from the Great Lakes area and the Horn of Africa. These regions have some of the highest rates of weapons proliferation in Africa.

Countries present at the talks included Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Tanzania, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Seychelles.

Under the agreement, their governments will be obliged to address the problem of internal conflict, which has served as a magnet for light weapons flowing into central and East Africa.

"The defining characteristic of such conflict is the widespread death and suffering resulting from small arms and light weapons, which are readily obtainable, both legally and illicitly," said Kenya's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kalonzo Musyoka, during a press conference at the meeting.

The protocol requires states to pass laws outlawing the illicit manufacture, trafficking, possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons. But non-governmental organisations have warned that the penalties imposed by these laws need to be equally severe in all countries if the agreement is to have any effect.

"While legislation needs to be country-specific, the trans-national nature of the small arms problem requires that countries work together and that they seek to ensure consistency in particular areas of legal controls on small arms," says a report issued this year by SaferAfrica and Saferworld, civil society groups.

The organisations say that a disparity in laws will simply prompt arms dealers to move their activities to states where weapons trafficking is less frowned upon.

"The implication of having weaker controls in some countries than in others is that the trafficking of arms and other destabilising activities with which it is frequently closely associated, can continue with a high risk of such activities spilling across the national borders within the sub-

region," adds the report by SaferAfrica and Saferworld.

Somalia, which was not represented at the meeting, was cited as a case in point. The country has been gripped by civil strife since the fall of President Siad Barre 14 years ago - and it has yet to re-establish a central government.

Many of the weapons that fuel faction fighting in Somalia have found their way into Kenya, according to Musyoka. He believes that some 60,000 illicit arms have been smuggled into Kenya - an estimate endorsed by the Africa Peace Forum and the Security Research Information Centre, both based in Nairobi.

"Somalia needs total disarmament. There are so many guns being sold in the open, and most buyers are warlords who openly commit crimes using them. Many women and children have been killed by these guns," Asha Abdi, a politician from the country told IPS in a telephone interview in Nairobi.

"The international community as well as neighbouring countries should worry about what is happening in Somalia. They should come to our rescue by telling warring parties attending peace talks to disown selfish interests and put unity of their people first in order to bring peace in the horn of African nation," she added.

Peace talks aimed at restoring order in Somalia opened in Kenya in 2002. Despite being marred by numerous disagreements between faction leaders, the discussions have yielded results. Delegates, who represent a wide social spectrum, are expected to elect members of parliament by June 5 2004. These legislators will then elect a president.

Sudan, which has been embroiled in a 20-year civil war between the Muslim government in Khartoum and Christian and animist rebels in the south, is also said to be in possession of thousands of illicit arms.

"This problem is in Sudan just like it is in other countries in the region. And we are here (in Nairobi) to collectively to find an end to the problem," Ali Abdalrahman Numeri, the country's ambassador to Kenya, told IPS at last week's meeting.

A 2003 report from the Small Arms Survey, a Geneva-based arms research project, says there are about 30 million small arms in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2001, the United Nations adopted a 'Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons', in an effort to help UN member states address the problem. All the countries represented at the Nairobi meeting were signatories to this programme, according to Oyugi Onono, planning and coordination officer at the Secretariat on Small Arms for the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. (The secretariat is based in Nairobi.)

"If nations, and especially those from (the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa) adhere to this programme and implement the Nairobi protocol, proliferation of arms will with no doubt be brought under control in the region," Koffi Koffison, Programme Coordinator of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa told IPS. (END/2004)