

**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:**

Monday, September 27, 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

# Special Court Is Illegal

The Coordinator and spokesman for the Hinga Norman CDF Defence Fund and member of the Sierra Leone Working Group, Rev. Alfred M. Sam Foray, has stated that "the Agreement signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations establishing a Special Court for Sierra Leone and for the Court to act in accordance with the provisions of the present statute, Article 8 (2) placing

the Special Court above all the national courts of Sierra Leone is unlawful, illegal, invalid and unconstitutional. He stated in a recent document that "the purported ratification of the Agreement by the Parliament of Sierra Leone is ultra vires the Constitution and therefore, null and void.

"Parliament did not follow the laid down procedure which is entrenched in the Constitution," Rev. Foray stated, adding that, "Parliament should have saved the

## - Says Hinga Norman's Spokesman

United Nations and the contributing countries, the embarrassment and waste of money and spared the accused persons the humiliation and... Contd. page 2

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The Exclusive

### Special Court Is Illegal

*From front page*  
 detection by the so-called Special Court." -  
 The Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, he said, is presently considering a motion by Mr. Aliou Kondewa, an indigee of the Special Court, through Counsel on the constitutionality of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.  
 Rev. Foray states: "We are keenly aware that the Supreme Court faces a Catch-22 dilemma of the highest magnitude. If the court rules that the ratification of the Special Court is lawful and the Agreement establishing the Special Court is therefore legal, then the Supreme Court declares itself subordinate and, therefore, inferior to the UN established court. If the Supreme Court rules that the ratification of the Special Court is unconstitutional, then the Special Court to which the Government of Sierra Leone acceded essentially seizes to exist."  
 "Need we remind the honorable justices of the Supreme Court that the choice they make here will be debated in public for years to come either as a sell out of the people of Sierra Leone

or a stand for justice and principles?" he queried.  
 The Coordinator and Spokesman stated that "whatever the ruling of the Supreme Court, we propose in this article that the manner in which the so-called Special Court was established was a violation of the Section 108 (1), (2) & (8) of the Constitution of Sierra Leone and consequently, the action under Article 8 (2) constitutes TREASON and a crime against the State.  
 Buttressing his argument, Rev. Foray states:  
 "To wit:- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, Parliament may alter this Constitution. (2) A Bill for an Act of Parliament under this section shall not be passed by Parliament unless before the first reading of the Bill in Parliament, the text of the Bill is published in at least two issues of the Gazette:  
 "Provided that not less than nine days shall elapse between the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette and the second publication and the Bill is supported on the second and third readings by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the Members of Parliament."  
 (3) "Any suspension, alteration, or repeal of this Con-

stitution other than on the authority of Parliament shall be deemed to be a treason. (The Constitution of Sierra Leone)."  
 The Coordinator also argued that "we find no where that the Bill establishing the Special Court for Sierra Leone was published in the Gazette or where Parliament authorized the Executive to circumvent the above stated provisions of the Constitution."  
 He called the attention of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and the people of Sierra Leone, to the fact that an official of the Government of Sierra Leone, who signed the Agreement establishing the Special Court Statute containing Article 8 (2) which usurped the powers of the Judiciary and Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, committed an unlawful and treasonable act against the people and Republic of Sierra Leone and should be charged and brought to justice immediately.  
 "This official is none other than the former Attorney General of Sierra Leone, Mr. Solomon E. Berewa," the Coordinator charged.

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Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2004

# NORMAN'S LAWYER CORNERS WITNESS



Hinga Norman

## Controversy Over Witness

the AFRC/RUF abandoned the town.

The witness told the court that the fearful-looking Kamajors carried guns and machetes and were firing in the air when they entered. He informed the court that the Kamajors went to the police barracks asking for police officers, a situation which the witness said forced him and his colleagues to take cover in a nearby bush.

The witness told the court that he was later captured in the bush and forwarded to a Kamajor Commander where he was subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatments but could not recall the name of the commander.

He testified that he was captured by Kamajors for the second time when he attempted to escape and taken to another Kamajor CO who gave orders to kill him. He testified that he and three colleagues were taken behind a house to be killed and he was made to lie down on the ground.

"They put a knife on my neck with my head downwards," he said, adding that his body was mutilated with a knife. "I know the CO and I first met him when he stole a cassette in the town", the witness told the court. He said two officers were murdered by the Kamajors though he said he was not present when they were killed.

The 40-year-old witness who testified in Mende through an interpreter in English quoted the first accused Samuel Hinga Norman as ordering Kamajors to kill all police officers in Blama.

The witness mentioned an operation, code-named "Pay Yourself" which according to the witness was initiated by the AFRC/RUF forces during their last days in power to loot civilians.

Describing himself as a CID officer, the witness said that he joined the Sierra Leone Police Force in 1990.

Asked by counsel Jabbi to describe the relationship that existed between AFRC forces and civilians in the town during that period, the witness said that the relationship was cordial.

Asked whether he worked with AFRC soldiers during that period, the witness replied, no.

When counsel further put it to the witness whether he wanted the court to believe that AFRC looted Blama only when they were about to leave the town, the witness replied that that was what he knew.

Meanwhile, the 1st and the 2nd accused, Samuel Hinga Norman and Moinima Fofana were absent in court on Friday.

The trials continue.

*By Mohamed Mansaray*  
*is the name of the Kamajor CO (commander) who asked whether you knew him, Mr. Witness?" was the question by Dr. Bu-Buuki Jabbi, a court appointed counsel for Hinga Norman. It was a question that divided the prosecution and the defence teams at Special Court Room No. 11 in Freetown over the weekend.*

near Korbondo in the Bo district by Kamajors threatened to kill him, when they took over the town.

But Dr. Jabbi insisted that an answer to his question would be of immense assistance to the defence in the carrying out of what he described as "their own personal investigations into the testimony given by the witness."

Presiding Judge Benjamin Itoe immediately adjourned sessions for about two hours and further informed the court that the afternoon proceedings would be held in closed sessions.

In his examination-in-chief earlier, the witness recalled on February 15, 1999 when Kamajors occupied Blama four days after

*Salone Times*  
*Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2004*

# STANDARD TIMES

Monday September 27, 2004

Le500



## **Chief Norman states conditions**

From page 1  
 act in an eventuality by  
 he Prosecutor.  
 any time the above-men-  
 tioned conditions are judi-  
 cially addressed, I shall  
 be myself available. But  
 if then, may this letter  
 please serve as instruction  
 to my Standby Counsel  
 to appear in my absence  
 nor do they have my  
 authority to participate in  
 ongoing proceedings in  
 my absence until the  
 stipulated legal conditions  
 are fully met.

My highest regards,

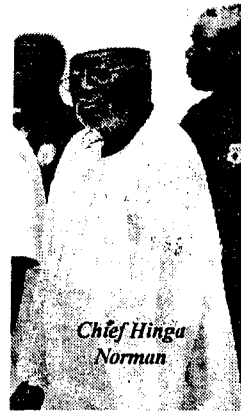
Mr. Hinga regards,  
  
 Samuel Hinga Norman J.P.  
 Self-Declared Accused

- Cc.  
 Standby/All CDF Defence  
 Counsel  
 Judges of the Trial Chamber  
 for the CDF Accused  
 The Registrar  
 Norman Defence Teams at  
 Home and aboard  
 Family, Press and File.

# **Chief Norman states conditions**

The Principal Defender  
 Defence Unit  
 Special Court for Sierra Leone  
 Freetown  
 20th Sept. 2004  
 Dear/Mdm;  
 Judicial Protest  
 This is to inform you that  
 after the morning session of

the Trial Chamber's Sitting  
 of the case of a Joinder Trial  
 of the Accused, Samuel  
 Hinga Norman and Two  
 others on Monday, 20 Sep-  
 tember 2004, until the fol-  
 lowing conditions are ful-  
 filled, and judicial ORDERS  
 are FULLY complied with  
 and necessary actions in the  
 interest of TRANSPARENT  
 JUSTICE are taken: 1, the 1st  
 Accused, (Samuel Hinga  
 Norman) have decided NOT  
 to appear before the Trial  
 Chamber of the Special  
 Court composed of their  
 Honours, Justice Itoe Pre-  
 siding and justices  
 Thompson and Boutet  
 Members,



- a) The Joinder Indictment SERVED on the Accused pursuant to Rule 52 of the Rules
- b) Arraigned Accused to

- enter a Plea, pursuant to Rule 61 (iii) of the Rules of Procedure
  - c) Remove the Protective ORDER so that witness who are not to sexually assaulted could TESTIFY in FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC in order to discourage the giving of lie TESTIMONIES that the Prosecution has been paying Prosecution Witnesses to give under hidden identity.
  - d) That the Single Indictment AGAINST me alone, Date 7th March 2003 be quashed, so that it could not be used as a fall-back
- Continued back page*

# Halloran Retutes Teenage Sex

United Nations backed Special Court Australian Police investigator in Sierra Leone Peter Halloran has in his statement to the police out rightly denied allegation of sexually abusing a 13 year old girl.

In his statement to the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police, investigator Halloran said he did not sleep with a 13 year old girl employed as a nanny at the Australian's house in Wilberforce, Freetown. He admitted that he was expecting his baby child to be Sierra Leone on June 4, this year and needed someone to take care of the child.

Halloran said the second accused, Sheka brought the girl to his residence

to work as a nanny. He said he taught the girl how to

## NaCSA Forges Ahead In The South

The people of the Southern region have expressed delight with what they see as the giant strides NaCSA is taking in developing communities in Bo, Pujehun, Moyamba and Bonthe.

Speaking to The markets and Regional Coordinator Abdul Sheriff said so far about twenty five sub-projects in education, health,

communicate with a computer in his room but never did it alone.

Halloran told the police that he never slept with the little

girl, not to talk of tampering with her.

Second accused, Sheka who was also working for Halloran is a brother of the 13 year girl. He is charged with

the Southern Region has organised workshops for animators and project management committees so that they will be able to built up there capacity in order to manage their various communities, help to manage conflict resolutions in a bid to

procuring a girl under 13.

Abdul Fofanah's crime was that he wrote a letter of apology to Halloran and copied the chief security office of the Special Court. Both letters are now in the custody of the high court.

prevent the country not to reverse to war again."

According to Sheriff, NaCSA in the South is also engaged in a bid to create job opportunities for school dropouts and young people to rebuild damaged structures in there

Cont. page 3

Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004

# Police officer testifies in Peter Halloran's case

*By Ngozi Obi* assault case involving assault against the  
A Police Officer, Special Court accused, Peter Halloran.  
attached to the Family investigator, Peter After his arrest, the  
Support Unit at Ross Halloran. Led in evidence Special Court  
Road Police Station, by State Counsel, Robin Investigator made a  
Constable Vandt has Mason, the Police Officer voluntary statement to the  
testified at the told the court about a Police in which he denied  
Freetown High Court in report, which was made the allegations levied

## Police officer testifies in Peter Halloran's case

*From Front Page* and told the Police that knowing the girl before the  
against him. He however his sister had instead incident. He told the Police  
confirmed knowing the been employed as a that his friend Sheka had told  
girl but denied that she nanny to the accused him that the first accused had  
ever slept in his bedroom. daughter. According to promised to take care of  
According to the Police Constable Vandt. Sheka Kadie's fees to tertiary level and  
Officer, reports however told the Police that his that she would be given Le.250,  
proved that she had been sister had indeed slept in 000 monthly. According to  
indecently assaulted. the bedroom of the first Constable Vandt, the 3<sup>rd</sup> accused  
Constable Vandt said he accused. Third accused, had written a letter of apology  
arrested the second Abdul Fofanah, the to the 1<sup>st</sup> accused, asking for  
accused, Sheka Koroma, Police Officer said was forgiveness on the said issue,  
an older brother of Kadie. arrested on the 17<sup>th</sup> of which they suspected was a  
for conspiracy. Sheka he August for the same motive to free the first accused  
said denied this charge charge but denied of blame.

*Adw No Newspaper*  
*Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2004*

# Peter Halloran Denies Allegation

## ...I Did Not Sleep With Kadie For 2 Nights

By Bellewa Bakarr

Australian-born Special Court Investigator Commander, Peter Halloran, last Friday denied allegation that he spent two

nights with the under-aged girl Kadie at his residence, according to his statements read in court.

Detective Police Corporal 1540 Joseph Senesic Vandi

of the Family Support Unit (FSU), 'A' Divisional Headquarters, George Street, Freetown, who was on detachment at the Po-

Cont'd. page 2

## Peter Halloran Denies Allegation

From front page

lice Headquarters, identified the first accused, Peter Halloran, in relation to the matter of sexual assault on Kadie.

The Detective Police said that the first accused made statement to him in English, which was recorded after it had been proofread, confirmed and signed by the accused, with one P. C. 458 Rogers as the witness.

The first accused in his statement admitted that he employed Kadie as a nanny after an arrangement between him and Kadie's elder brother, Sheka Fofanah.

The accused also admitted that Kadie entered his bedroom on Sunday 30th June, 2004, and taught her sign language for just 15 minutes whilst his computer was on, adding that on the following day he drove off Kadie and

her brother Sheka Fofanah halfway to school.

Earlier, detective woman police, Sergeant 4543 Janet Tommy, who was led in evidence by prosecuting lawyer, O. V. Robin Mason, at the High Court No. 1 presided by Hon. Justice Samuel Ademosu, identified the first accused and Kadie, who she said came to know through an investigator at the Special Court, Mrs. Mandi Cordwell. Testifying, the detective woman police recalled that while on duty at the Special Court on secondment, she received a telephone call from Mrs. Mandi Cordwell at about 8:30 a.m. requesting her to come with a statement pad for an interview with the first accused at Sea View, No.1 Scan Drive, Spur Road, in Freetown.

The detective woman police said that when she arrived at Sea View, she met three

sons, namely, Mandi Cordwell, Ralph Lapiere and Kadie.

She further explained that Mandi gave her some information about the first accused and Kadie, adding that thereafter she conducted an interview with Kadie.

The detective woman police said Kadie made a statement in Krio which she recorded in English, which she said was not different from the information that was given by Mandi.

The police woman explained that after she had obtained the statement from Kadie, she advised that the girl be taken to a hospital for a medical examination.

She however said that Mandi objected and instead advised that they take the girl to her relatives at Lombard Street Fourah Bay, Freetown.

The matter comes up

The Exclusive

Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2004



**ABC Online**

**Sierra Leone court sets bail for Aust police officer. 25/09/2004. ABC News Online**

[This is the print version of story <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200409/sl206888.htm>]

**Last Update:** Saturday, September 25, 2004. 6:15am (AEST)

## **Sierra Leone court sets bail for Aust police officer**

A court in Sierra Leone has set bail of nearly \$100,000 for a senior Australian police officer accused of sexual assaulting a minor.

Peter Halloran, 56, was detained in August and is facing charges that he had an illegal sexual relationship with a 13-year-old girl he allegedly hired to work in his home.

The Victorian police officer, employed by the UN-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Judge Samuel Ademusu agreed to release Peter Halloran, 56, on bail but asked that a Sierra Leone surety should serve as a guarantor to ensure that he does not flee the country.

His passport will remain in the hands of the police.

Prosecution arguments continued with testimony from two Sierra Leone police officers, one of whom took a statement from Halloran on July 3 denying he had any improper relationship with the young girl.

His housemate and colleague Mandy Cordwell, who first filed the complaint against Halloran, was called by the prosecution.

She told the court that she first saw the young girl on May 31 and learned from Halloran that he had engaged her to work as a nanny for his girlfriend's toddler who was to arrive in the coming months on a visit.

Three days later she saw the girl in Halloran's room, sitting on the bed eating a bowl of rice.

"I asked the girl how long she had been there and she replied two days," Ms Cordwell testified, adding she had broached the subject with one of the other court employees who also shared the house.

"I was concerned that the girl was still in the room on June 3 so I went upstairs and found her making the bed. I later collected a pair of black shoes, a blue school uniform and blue jeans from Halloran's room."

Ms Cordwell said she presented her concerns to the Special Court's chief of investigations Allan White.

Halloran is on a year long UN contract serving as a prosecution investigator for the tribunal charged with trying those who bear the "greatest responsibility" for atrocities committed during the west African



state's decade of civil war that ended in 2001.

In custody at Freetown's maximum security prison since last month, Halloran has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The girl's two brothers also face charges of procurement, according to the indictment.

-- **AFP**

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## Girl 'told of sex acts' with police officer

By Gavin Simpson

Freetown, Sierra Leone

September 25, 2004

A key prosecution witness in the sex abuse trial of former Victorian homicide squad chief Peter Halloran yesterday said the alleged child victim revealed the pair had engaged in sexual relations after she was seen sitting beside Halloran's bed.

Former Tasmanian detective Mandy Cordwell, 37, told the High Court of Sierra Leone that she had a 10-minute talk with the 13-year-old girl on June 3, after having seen her in Halloran's bedroom the night before, and then making his bed that morning.

Ms Cordwell, who shared a house with Halloran in Freetown, said she was "surprised to see (the girl) sitting beside (Halloran's) bed" on the night of June 2 when she entered his room to check on a faulty water pump in his bathroom. She said she did not see the girl leave the house that night.

The former detective sergeant was working alongside Halloran, who is on 12 months' leave from Victoria Police, as an investigator in the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone, a war crimes tribunal based in Freetown.

Halloran, 56, who has been charged with four child-sex offences, appeared in court. He is being held at the notorious Freetown Central Prison.

The trial, by judge alone, got under way amid speculation that the girl would claim that she was told by Ms Cordwell to concoct the story of abuse. Under cross-examination, Ms Cordwell said that notion was "completely untrue".

Ms Cordwell told the court that she was introduced to the girl as a younger sister of her Sierra Leonean housekeeper, Sheka Fofanah - who with his brother-in-law, Abdul Fofanah, has been charged with criminal conspiracy to procure a girl under the age of 14 for sex.

Ms Cordwell said she obtained a statement from the girl when they met in the kitchen of the house on June 3. She then had a "five to 10-minute discussion" with the girl in her bedroom, during which the girl indicated that Halloran had engaged in sexual acts with her. Ms Cordwell then asked another Special Court colleague and a Sierra Leonean police sergeant to join her and the girl at a Special Court safe house, where the girl gave a further statement.

Ms Cordwell did not allege that she had seen Halloran and the girl together. The trial is continuing.

- with agencies

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# The Courier-Mail

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## Witness called in sex case

25sep04

AN Australian policewoman has been called as a witness to open the case against a senior Victorian police officer facing child sex charges in the African nation of Sierra Leone.

Superintendent Peter Halloran, a former head of Victoria's homicide squad working in Africa as a UN war crimes investigator, has been indicted on four counts of sex crimes involving a 13-year-old schoolgirl hired to work in his home.

Prosecutors in the High Court in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, opened their sexual assault case against Halloran by calling Tasmanian police officer Mandy Cordwell as their first witness.

Cordwell was working under Halloran as a war crimes investigator, and with her husband shared a house with the Victorian in Freetown. She filed the complaint against Halloran, 56.

She told the court she first saw the teenager on May 31, and learned from Halloran that he had engaged the girl to work as a nanny for his girlfriend's toddler, who was to arrive in coming months on a visit.

Three days later she saw the girl in Halloran's room, sitting on the bed eating a bowl of rice.

"I asked the girl how long she had been there and she replied two days," Cordwell testified, adding that she had broached the subject with one of the other employees who also shared the house.

Cordwell, 37, a detective sergeant in Tasmania before resigning to work in Sierra Leone, said she presented her concerns to the Special Court's chief of investigations, Allan White.

Court spokesman Peter Andersen said in August the war crimes tribunal had investigated the matter and found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Halloran has been charged with unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault and procuring a girl under 14 years.

The Victorian, in custody at Freetown's maximum security prison since last month, has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

The girl's two brothers also face charges of procurement.

Halloran's lawyer has said he faces two years' jail if found guilty, but other reports have said he could receive up to 15 years.

*Agence France-Presse*

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

Terms: **liberia; bryant expresses fear about renewed violence** ([Edit Search](#))

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*Africa News September 24, 2004 Friday*

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Africa News

September 24, 2004 Friday

**LENGTH:** 300 words

**HEADLINE:** Liberia;  
**Bryant Expresses Fear** About **Renewed Violence**

**BYLINE:** The Inquirer

**BODY:**

Chairman **Bryant** said past events in the country, show that because people were not properly cared for, the country returned to chaos, stressing that this might be repeated if the ex-combatants in the immediate past conflict are not properly demobilized, rehabilitated and cared for.

The NTGL Chairman was speaking Wednesday evening in Washington DC, USA, when he addressed the General Assembly of the world body on the Liberian peace process as well as the situation unfolding in the country.

In his address, Chairman **Bryant** expressed his great worries over the plight of ordinary Liberians and the total rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants in the Liberian civil crisis.

He stressed the need for the creation of job opportunities for disarmed fighters, stressing that to adequately create such opportunity, the world body should now see reason to lift the sanctions imposed on the country.

He said the sanctions were imposed by the United Nations because the world body felt that **Liberia** under the immediate past regime of Charles Taylor was involved in gun-running and illicit diamond trade.

According to Chairman **Bryant** the sanction is hurting the nation, emphasizing that the reasons for which the sanctions were imposed no longer exist because as he put it, the incumbent government is no longer buying guns or arms nor involved in any illicit diamond trade and gun-running.

Rather, Chairman **Bryant** added that his government is actively involved with the process of disarmament and is at the moment taking the guns from the hands of the fighters.

Chairman **Bryant** added the NTGL is cooperating with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions to put in place sound financial policies to ensure accountability and transparency in government.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 24, 2004

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Date/Time: Monday, September 27, 2004 - 6:18 AM EDT



**Build. Your business.**

## **UN, Ecowas, NTGL Raise Crucial Issues On Liberia**

**The Inquirer (Monrovia)**

NEWS

September 24, 2004

Posted to the web September 24, 2004

The United Nations (UN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), have raised a number of concerns relative to the Liberian peace process.

The three bodies released their respective positions on a number of crucial issues relating to the Liberian peace process during the first meeting of the Coordination Mechanism held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 20th.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, the three bodies recognized the many formidable challenges that lie ahead, stressing that a very pressing challenge is the lack of adequate funding for the reintegration and rehabilitation of ex-combatants as well as the return of refugees and the resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The meeting noted that any delay in the reintegration and resettlement of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) would impede recovery efforts including the efforts to rebuild the communities outside Monrovia, something which the three groups said is highly necessary so that demobilized combatants can be reintegrated.

The communiqué further noted with concern that such delays may affect the timetable for the reintegration of voters for the upcoming 2005 October elections, the preparation of which they said should be based on realistic and comprehensive benchmarks.

The three groups also expressed concern at the slow pace at which donor funds to the country is being made for the country's reconstruction and recovery.

According to the communiqué, up to date, only the amount of US\$3million has been received from the US\$520million pledged by donors during February's donor conference on Liberia.

The meeting urged donors to contribute the necessary funds in a timely manner for the reintegration of ex-combatants as well as the return of refugees and the resettlement of IDPs.

They also called on the donors to disburse funds pledged to the country on an urgent basis.

At the same time, the meeting resolved on the issue of calling on the NTGL to demonstrate transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

The communiqué also said the meeting was concerned about the limited capacity of the NTGL to deliver basic services to the population and the continuing disputes over government posts which have made it difficult for the NTGL to function effectively..

The meeting also expressed concern that the peace process continued to be threatened by some members of the former armed factions who are not fully committed to the peace implementation of the CPA but are rather continuing to obstruct further progress. They called on the parties to put the interest of the nation first, above their personal interest and reaffirm their commitment to the peace process.

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