

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, June 13, 2005

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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We Yone . Mon 13th June, 2005 .

BEREWA OVER RAPS ON SPECIAL COURT

By Jarrah Kawusu-Konte

Ever since Vice President Solomon Berewa declared his bid for the leadership as well as his desire to succeed President Kabbah in 2007, he has not stopped creating embarrassing situations for the SLPP as opportunity after opportunity given to him has been squandered due to his knack to

over rap and misfire.

The latest over rapping following those of Kono, Bo and Moyamba, is the chance afforded him by the Awoko newspaper to dilate on the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to try those bearing the greatest responsibility for the violations

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Berewa... Talks Too Much

of human rights in the country's decade old devastating war.

The SLPP government fought a brutal war using the same tactics employed by the RUF rebels to instil fear and defeat in their victims with horrific scenes of head-castations, heart and liver chewing like a bubble gum and many other cannibalistic outrages by both rebels and Kamajors as revealed at the Special Court.

To imagine now that VP Berewa can come out ready to swear on oath that he and President Kabbah didn't know that the CDF or Kamajors could be potential candidates for the Special Court trials is either not only dishonest or unprofessional of a government headed by lawyers but absolutely naïve. The havoc and atrocities unleashed by the Kamajor militia on innocent civilians was indeed not unknown to the SLPP government because when we look at the reporting system at the time and how effective it was, one is left wondering whether in fact the deputy minister of defence, Chief Hinga Norman, even though the co-ordinator of the CDF, including the Kamajor militia, should be indicted without roping the Minister of Defence who is actually the substantive authority in the ministry.

How can VP Berewa declare that he was unaware of the atrocious campaign launched by the Kamajors such as the Black December in 1997 when in actual fact the Kamajors were entirely funded by the SLPP government in whose interest they were fighting? Which true Sierra Leonean will accept such balderdash when it is clear that president Kabbah was the Minister of Defence and was expected to be receiving regular updates of the operations of his ministry including the activities of the kamajors? Who will really truly accept this lie that is being crammed down our throats by a man that has been

regarded as pivotal in coining the noun "collaborator" during the course of the AFRC interregnum? The notorious word that the SLPP used to victimise and eliminate thousands of their opponents.

Could it be that the true reason for the indictment of the Kamajor leadership was because some individuals within that group had become politically too strong for the convenience of the SLPP leadership? It is not clearly certain if the defence put up by VP Berewa is actually not geared towards reducing the negative effects the Kamajor issue and in particular the arrest of Chief Norman is having on his campaign. The VP is trying to reduce the effectiveness of Charles Margai's campaign with the lie that if he had known he wouldn't have agreed for the establishment of the Special Court, considering the calamitous effects of Chief Norman's incarceration is having on the VP's campaign trail.

If Berewa believes that if he had known that the Kamajor militia outfit was to be roped, he wouldn't have supported the idea of creating the court to try parties to the conflict for gross human rights violations, then I wonder what kind of criminal lawyer he is. From the day VP Berewa started opening his mouth for the SLPP leadership, he has not stopped over rapping and misfiring some would say like an old exhaust pipe. I want to make a candid plea to the VP to forget about ruling this country after 2007 because we've had enough of his over rapping and misfiring. Who would really truly believe VP Berewa that he knew nothing of the atrocities committed by Kamajors when Berewa and his government did everything they could (even if it meant governing fowls) to come back from exile in Guinea? I personally think the VP is a dishonest leader and a liar to the marrow. VP Berewa should keep quiet or else the SLPP will continue to be badly represented by this 'man of God.'

11/12/05 . Mon 13th June, 2005 .

SPECIAL COURT BANS HINGA NORMAN

The acting Registrar of the Special Court, Robert Kirkwood has issued an order banning the former Kamajor boss and minister of Internal affairs, Sam Hinga Norman, from receiving telephone calls and visitors including family members for a period of 28 days. The ban which came into effect last Tuesday is in reaction to Hinga Norman's admission to being one of the authors of a letter written to SLPP supporters not to support President Kabbah

and Vice President Berewa. The letter, published in several newspapers, is in violation of the rules of detention at the Special Court and the order banning Norman from receiving visitors is in line with Rule 47 of the Rules of Detention that set restrictions on detainees.

This is the second time that such restrictions have been set on the former Kamajor boss and he is expected to appeal the court's decision.

The Exclusive. Mon 13th June, 2005.

New York Times Editorial

Prosecuting Charles Taylor

CHARLES TAYLOR has done for West Africa what Slobodan Milosovitch did for the former Yugoslavia. Yet while Mr. Milosovitch is on trial in the The Hague on charges including genocide, Mr. Taylor, Liberia's former president, is enjoying the
Contd. page 3

Prosecuting Charles Taylor

From front page

lush life in a Nigerian government guest house.

WHEN MR. TAYLOR was under siege by rebel forces in 2003, the United States, Britain and Nigeria arranged for him to get asylum in Nigeria, figuring that his quick exile would cut down on the bloodshed. So Nigeria, gave Mr. Taylor a safe harbour on the condition that he stops behaving as West Africa's warlord in chief. **IT WAS** not a perfect solution. The Nigerians interpreted the deal as preventing them from turning Mr. Taylor over to a United Nations-backed war crimes court, where Mr. Taylor is wanted on 17 counts of crimes against humanity.

A NEW report by the coalition for international justice, however, supports the argument that Mr. Taylor can be prosecuted because his crimes are continuing. He is using cellphones, computers and the riches of his many lieutenants to destabilize Liberia, influence the coming election there and build a regional army. He is even accused of attempting to assassinate the president of Guinea.

NIGERIA NOW must do what American troops should have done in 2003: turn him over to the Special Court.

AFRICAN LEADERS, mindful that their hands are less than clean, are nervous about turning over a former fellow president to a serious tribunal. The United States had also not pushed Nigeria until recently. Late last month, Washington endorsed surrendering Mr. Taylor based on the new information that he is still an active threat. Washington has spent some \$800 million on the Special Court and on attempts to rebuild Liberia. Neither effort will fully succeed until Charles Taylor is behind bars.



FIND

FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DIGNITY

Motto: Dignity Beyond Borders

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2005: On June 7, Mr. David Crane, Special Prosecutor of the Special Court in Sierra Leone honored Liberia's Foremost and Veteran Human Rights Crusader, Samuel Kofi Woods, II.

Mr. Woods who also serves as the Regional Representative of the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) with Regional Offices based in Sierra Leone was presented a plaque of appreciation by the prosecutor for his towering efforts in promoting the work of the court and ensuring that faith and confidence is restore in the rule of law.

In presenting the plaque of appreciation to Mr. Woods, Mr. Crane recalled the historic role Mr. Woods played in the growth and development of the Special Court and his tireless campaign to ensure that sanity returns to the West African Sub-region through the revival of institutions that will guarantee respect for the rule of law and ensure respect for human dignity.

Speaking to reporters in Freetown, Mr. Woods said the journey of exorcising the vicious cycle of impunity in the Mano River Sub-region was punctuated by the establishment of the Special Court and praised Mr. Crane and his colleagues at the Court for their relentless commitment to ensure justice and due process in a region decimated by institutionalized violence and state criminality.

He said the court should not only be judged by how many indictments were issued but by its will and capacity to inaugurate a new chapter in a region where peace would become possible because

justice was done. He said the indictment of Charles Taylor and other principle indictees were important victories in demystifying the erroneous perception of leadership in our region where autocracy and tyranny reigned unchecked. The Court has done its work effectively; it is now left with the conscience of those who continue to shield and conspire with those indicted to be judge by their citizens and universal public opinion. "We are certain that they will not escape judgment" Mr. Woods said.

It can be recalled that after many professional engagements in Sierra Leone, Mr. Woods returned to Freetown in 2001 as head of the International Human Rights Law Group now Global Rights where he was part of discussions relating to the development of transitional justice mechanisms in Sierra Leone. His knowledge and experience helped strengthen the role of civil society organizations in the process.

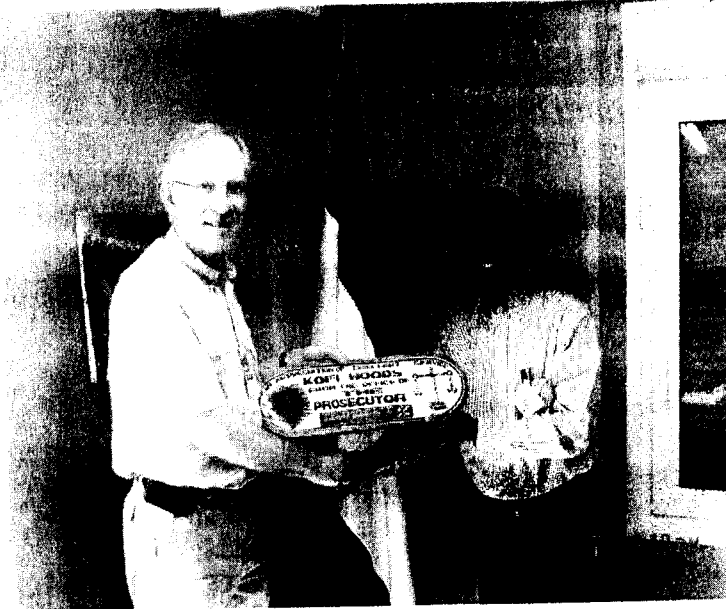
Mr. Woods later founded the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) in 2002 where he initiated a regional approach to human rights promotion and protection in the

Mano River Union. FIND now have offices in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. Several regional programs on human rights protection have been implemented.

Mr. Woods has also received several international awards including the Reebok Human Rights Award, the Benemenrenti Award from the late Pope John Paul II among others.

Signed: _____

Alex V.O.A. Pratt
Regional Finance Office



Cocorioko website

HINGA NORMAN SAYS HE IS GOING ON HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL HE DIES

Monday June 13, 2005

War crimes indictee Chief Hinga Norman has threatened to go on a hunger strike until he dies , according to a letter from the Civil Defence Force (CDF) Coordinator sent to COCORIOKO last evening by the Spokesman of the force, Rev . Alfred SamForay.

The letter is addressed to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, with copies sent to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Vice-President Solomon Berewa and international organizations including ECOWAS, The African Union, The European Union and all diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Sierra Leone. Rev. Samforay told COCORIOKO yesterday that the letters have already been served on intended recipients.

In the letter, Chief Norman levied serious accusations of Bias, injustice, impunity and corruption against the Special Court for Sierra Leone, though he did not detail examples to substantiate his claims. But the former Minister of Defence protested bitterly in the letter against the "humiliating" way he was arrested on March 10, 2003 by the Sierra Leone Police in his office in Freetown.

Mr. Norman outlined conditions which he said must be met by July 4, 2005 or he will go on hunger strike until he dies.

READ THE LETTER BELOW :

Special Representative of the (UN) Secretary General
UNASMIL Headquarters
Mammy Yoko Hotel
Aberdeen, Freetown

3rd June, 2005

Dear Sir,

VERY URGENT PLEA - RE: CDF TRIALS

I write to thank Your Excellency for the delegation of two persons you sent to see me and my other unfortunate and suffering colleague detainees who are still being held in appalling, inhuman conditions and DENIED JUSTICE WITH IMPUNITY TO DATE.

I make bold to inform you that the whole Special Court operation across ADMINISTRATION, BENCH and BAR is full of:

- a) BIAS
- b) INJUSTICE
- c) IMPUNITY
- d) CORRUPTION

I am appealing through your good offices to the people of Sierra Leone and the international community, to intervene now, without delay, to avert pending problems if the SC-SL is allowed to conclude by confirming my fears of BIAS, PARTIAL and UNJUST TRIAL to end in conviction.

To begin with, on the 10th of March, 2003, I was rudely arrested, handcuffed and dragged in the most humiliating manner from my Ministerial offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Freetown to a SLAVES DUNGEON, in Bonthe; a treatment given to me by my own government in the persons of my own brothers (President Tejan Kabbah and Vice President Solomon Berewa), a kind of treatment which the French, British and Americans (US) never meted out to such as Generals Montgomery, De Gaul, Eisenhower at the Nuremburg Trials in the names of crimes against humanity when the Allied Forces defeated the Nazis if only in the name of justice to those who suffered brutalities (RAPE, MURDERS, DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN PROPERTIES, etc.) by soldiers of the Allied Forces. Did I need to be treated with such indignity as a mere suspect or accused who is imbued with the presumption of innocence throughout the trial?

A few weeks after my arrest, I was requested by my first counsel a written Statement of Restraint to the Civil Defence Forces, to my huge supporters and sympathizers across Sierra Leone and the world to patiently and peacefully WAIT and give JUSTICE a chance. I wrote that restraining statement in complete good faith and sincerity, which was then broadcast on the radio and published in various newspapers and THANK GOD! Peace and restraint have indeed right up until now.

However, since the 10th of March, 2003, the date of this letter, I have suffered from serious inhuman Treatment at the hands of the Administration (of the Special Court) and I am still suffering from a VERY SEVERE DENIAL OF JUSTICE. The situation of ill-treatment by ADMINISTRATION, BENCH and BAR is now unbearable and intolerable.

As for the Bench and Bar at the SCSL, it is now clear that they are both hell-bent on processing us to inevitable guilt and conviction against all odds. Even as a layman, I can now see that legal niceties are adopted to neutralize and defeat even the most formidable submissions in my favour, until I am delivered cool and stiff on their platter of guilt. I am particularly worried about this since the SCSL has only a two-tier judicial system and no third Chamber for ultimate and final appeal.

I am, therefore, appealing to you, your human conscience and morality, to send as a matter of urgency, an international and national team of neutralists including Judges, Lawyers, Reporters, Human Rightists, etc. (NOT INCLUDING ANY UN WORKERS) to meet me and other detainees and the Defense Counsel separately to investigate these allegations and submit its findings whether:-

- a) To continue the present SCSL judicial setup; or
- b) To forward my appeals to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone; or
- c) Setup a committee of neutral judges of the international community, not including UN judges; or
- d) To transfer my case to the ICC where I expect nothing but justice.

For the sake of democracy in Sierra Leone, I stood-up in virtual self-sacrifice and challenged the guns of my compatriots - the coupist soldiers and my brothers and sisters of the RUF rebels. Now in the face of INJUSTICE and SCSL judicial impunity, in Sierra Leone, I am prepared to until death against the type of BIAS, PARTIALITY and impunitive INJUSTICE presently being practiced at the Trial and Appeals Chambers and Detention Center of the so-called Special Court for Sierra Leone.

It is with greatest respect and humility that I inform your Excellency that thirty-one (31) days effective the date of this letter without satisfactory response I shall consider my restraining letter referred to above withdrawn and I shall embark on a peaceful protest of HUNTER STRIKE until I die.

Your Humble Defendant (First Accused),

Samuel Hinga Norman - JP.

CC:

H.E. President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah
Hon. Vice President, Solomon Berewa
Chairman, African Union
Chairman, European Union
Chairman, ECOWAS
Secretary General, The Commonwealth
Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.
Trial and Appeals Chambers, SCSL
The Attorney General and Minister of Justice (GoSL)
President and Members of the Bar Association of Sierra Leone
Hon. Speaker and All Members of Parliament
Registrar - SCSL

Principal Defender - SCSL

Prosecutor - SCSL

All Defence Counsels (CDF, RUF and AFRC)

All Diplomatic and Consular Corps near Freetown for the Governments

All Unions (Workers, Teachers, Students, etc)

CDF (Ex-combatants)

SLAJ (for National and International Press)

Norman Defense Teams at Home and Abroad

All Detainees - SCSL

All Investigators

File

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 June 2005

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

06/10/2005 11:54:42

Taylor and Liberian Election

Lagos, Jun 10, 2005 (Daily Champion/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Nigeria has lately been under intense pressure to turn over Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor, to the United Nations supported Human Rights Violation court currently sitting in Sierra Leone. But the Nigerian government insists, and rightly so, that yielding to such pressure detracts heavily from credibility and ethics in the matter of foreign policy given the circumstances under which Taylor came to Nigeria.

Local Media – Newspapers

Special Court Honors Liberian Rights Campaigner

(The Inquirer and The News)

- The Special Court for Sierra Leone this week presented a plaque of appreciation to prominent Liberian human rights campaigner Samuel Kofi Woods for his efforts in promoting the work of the court and ensuring that faith is restored in the rule of law.

Source: Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA)

Date: 10 Jun 2005

U.S. gives 15 million for Liberian fighters' reintegration

Monrovia (dpa) - The United States has contributed 15 million dollars towards the rehabilitation and reintegration programme for fighters in the Liberian conflict, which stalled by lack of funding.

Announcing this in Monrovia Friday, U.S. Ambassador John Blaney said the process had stalled because the number of fighters being demobilised was much higher than anticipated.

The projection of 36,000 turned out to be much lower than the actual 100,000 disarmed, meaning a financial shortfall in money needed for all ex-combatants get their RR benefits.

Acting special representative of the U.N secretary Abou Moussa said 10 million dollars was still required to complete the RR component of the programme.

Blaney said Washington was keen on seeing exiled former president Charles Taylor appear before the special court for Sierra Leone and face the charges against him, and was engaging the Nigerian and Liberian governments, U.N, ECOWAS and the African Union on this. dpa tas sc

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Amb. Booth Makes Strong Pledges

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 10, 2005

Posted to the web June 10, 2005

Vows To Fight Corruption, Impunity In Lib.

The United States Ambassador-Designate to Liberia, Donald E. Booth has pledged to encourage his government to prevent a relapse of violence and instability in Liberia, and to promote good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law in the rebuilding of a new Liberia.

Ambassador-designate Booth, who appeared before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Wednesday, said if confirmed, he would focus efforts on helping Liberians break the culture of corruption and impunity which has so harmed both Liberian and US interests.

He talked about accountability for the human rights of their countrymen. In this regard, Mr. Booth said the US strongly believes that Mr. Charles Taylor must appear before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Mr. Booth reminded the Senate Committee that the October Elections in Liberia would be a historic opportunity for Liberians to chart a new course towards an accountable government and the rule of law.

He said Liberia's future depends on the legitimacy of the elections and the character of leadership elected to serve the people.

He said his priority would be security and also for America to help Liberia hold free and fair elections and to promote a private sector led economic growth.

Ambassador-designate Booth also told the Senate Committee that the new Liberia cannot be built solely or mainly with US and other assistance.

He said, "Sustainable development requires sustainable resources," and such resources can only come from productive economic activities.

Mr. Donald E. Booth is a career diplomat, with 29 years in the Foreign Service, four of which he spent on protecting US interests and trying to secure peace and stability in Liberia.

From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Booth served as Director of the Department of State's Office of West African Affairs, where he worked to put an end to the conflicts in West Africa that were fueled in part by the regime of Mr. Charles Taylor.

Before his nomination, Mr. Booth worked as Director of the State Department's Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing for Mr. Booth was attended by Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, Charles Minor; Deputy Chief of the Liberia Mission in the US, Abdullah Dumbar; and Liberia's Assistant Foreign Minister for American Affairs, S. Yabah Browne.

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Imagine 15 billion dollars
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Africa At 'Very Critical Crossroads,' U.S. Senator Warns

United States Department of State (Washington, DC)

NEWS

June 9, 2005

Posted to the web June 10, 2005

By Charles W. Corey
Washington, DC

Ambassadors-designate to Mali, Liberia, Ghana and Cape Verde testify

"Africa is at a very critical crossroads" and in need of a "comprehensive strategy" for its long-term development, the new chairman of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Africa, Republican Senator Mel Martinez, said June 8.

Martinez, presiding over his first hearing as subcommittee chairman, said he is pleased to see an increasing international focus on Africa, as well as "significant leadership advancing â-oe from the people of Africa." He praised both the United States and Africa for "moving in the right direction" on development.

The chairman noted that on June 7 he sat down with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was visiting with President Bush at the White House, to discuss Britain's perspectives on Africa as the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, approaches.

In a written statement, Martinez also praised President Bush's plan to send an additional \$674 million in humanitarian relief to African nations: "I support the president's action today and echo his call to the international community to increase support for emergency humanitarian needs in Africa. While working to improve the economic growth of these countries, we must also support the humanitarian needs required today."

Martinez cited statistics that place sub-Saharan Africa as the only region of the world that has gotten demonstrably poorer in the last generation. Although the region holds 13 percent of the world's population, it accounts for 28 percent of world poverty, he said, adding that "the region's HIV/AIDS epidemic, rising maternal and child mortality rate, recurrent conflicts, health, education and security challenges" only add to the problems.

For that reason, he said, we need a "comprehensive strategy" for Africa that focuses on democracy and governance, institution building, human rights, and sustainable economic growth. That strategy, he said, must seek to bring "lasting positive change" to the people of Africa by fighting the causes of poverty: poor institutions and poor economies that hinder economic growth and development.

Martinez made his comments during the subcommittee's review of the nominations of four U.S. ambassadors-designate to countries in West Africa: Roger D. Pierce for Cape Verde; Terence P. McCulley for Mali; Donald E. Booth for Liberia; and Pamela E. Bridgewater for Ghana.

Roger D. Pierce, who has been named to represent President Bush in Cape Verde, noted the longstanding relationship Cape Verde has with the United States, and called it one of West Africa's "success stories" with an "unbroken tradition of civilian rule since independence."

"The last [Cape Verdean] presidential election, in 2001, was decided by a total of 12 votes," he recalled. "Yet despite the close outcome, the results were accepted without bloodshed or civil unrest."

Moreover, he said, "In recognition of its good governance, Cape Verde was one of the 16 countries to become eligible to receive funding from the Millennium Challenge Account's 2004 appropriation," and is expected to sign a compact soon with the Millennium Challenge Corporation for approximately \$110 million over five years to address rural economic expansion, infrastructure development, policy reform, strategic planning, and trade capacity building.

Terence P. McCulley, ambassador-designate to Mali, told the committee that a new democratic consensus is taking place in Africa and "Mali, building on its rich cultural traditions, has been at the vanguard" of that movement.

He credited Mali with launching itself on the path to multiparty democracy in 1992 and encouraging nations in the region to follow its example.

But despite such progress, he cautioned, Mali's economic development has not matched its political evolution. McCulley pledged, if confirmed, to maintain the "strong partnership" between the United States and Mali, which is working in pursuit of common goals like good governance, the consolidation of Mali's democratic institutions, and the sustainability of Mali's economic development.

Donald E. Booth, nominee as ambassador to Liberia, acknowledging the uniqueness of the U.S.-Liberia relationship, told the lawmakers that despite its sad history of violence, Liberia has the "chance for a new beginning."

Booth, who served in Liberia in 1980 during the coup d'etat that "heralded the end of the old Liberia," was also director of the State Department's Office of West African Affairs from 2000 to 2002. During that period, he worked to bring an end to conflicts in West Africa that were fueled by the regime of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, whom, he said, the United States "strongly believes ... should face the Special Court for Sierra Leone sooner rather than later."

If confirmed, Booth said he hopes to help Liberians build a "new Liberia." The elections scheduled for October in Liberia represent a "new opportunity" to chart a course toward accountability and the rule of law, he added.

Pamela E. Bridgewater, the U.S. ambassador-designate to Ghana, called that country a "success story worth telling." Bridgewater, formerly U.S. ambassador to Benin, said Ghana has already established itself as a positive example for other nations, turning away from violent unrest and discord to dialogue and democracy.

She praised Ghana as a country that welcomes U.S. business and visitors. "Its selection for the Millennium Challenge Account is proof positive that it is truly open for business and able to take

advantage of our administration's most important policy initiative for transforming African economies."

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David Crane Honors Kofi Woods

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

June 10, 2005

Posted to the web June 10, 2005

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Mr. Woods has also received several international awards including the Reebok Human Rights Award, the Benemenrenti Award from the late Pope John Paul II among others, a release issued by the National Program

Coordinator of FIND, Sam E. Hare, Jr. Said.

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