

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, August 05, 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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Citing security reasons

Since the detention of Chief Sam Hinga Norman by the Special Court in Sierra Leone, there had been legal bombardment from both counsels, the defence team of the detainee and the prosecution.

The war of legal words between these two groups of legal luminaries reached its magnitude. The detainee himself, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, has equally joined them in dispatching correspondence here and there.

This has put the Special Court in a state of dilemma and in some cases not knowing what to do especially when allegations of corruption, bias and other vices had been levied against the

court by the detainee

Whether the action Chief Sam Hinga Norman since his detention to date is a way of intimidating the court or

to present a case for both the local and international communities to come to the realization that the Special Court in Sierra Leone is in-

significant or not, is still left to be decided.

However, the latest action of Chief Hinga Norman, requesting the supreme court for permanent injunction against the forthcoming SLPP convention scheduled to take place this month in Makeni, has not only disorganized the focus of the Special Court, but has succeeded in creating division within the rank and file of the SLPP.

While some members of the party have viewed his

action as appropriate, other have perceived the inditee as a trouble shooter.

With all these pushing and pulling taking place both in the Special Court and the SLPP as a result of the action of an individual the Special Court Acting Registrar in a letter dated 29th July 2005 has responded strongly to the request of Chief Sam Hinga Norman to attend the SLPP convention on the 19th and 20th.

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Special Court denies Norman's

FROM PAGE 1

The Acting Registrar, having catalogued the activities of the indicatee and the embarrassment faced by the court as a result of his action, has out rightly denied his request to proceed or take part in the SLPP convention.

The Registrar cited paragraph 13 under the Detention Rule 41, "Your request that arrangement be made for you to attend the SLPP conference on the 19 and 20 August 2005 in Makeni is denied," and went

on, "The security concerns which would arise from your temporary release from the Detention Facility to travel and attend the conference in the country are of such magnitude that it is not in the interest of the court for your request to be granted." Sources at the Special Court have intimated this press, that there are plans underway to relocate Chief Sam Hinga Norman to one of the neighbouring countries in the sub-region should he continues creating what they

described as "problems and embarrassment for the court". The source claimed that at anytime from now such a request would be made by the Acting Registrar "from the cells of one of the neighbouring country he would be airlifted to Sierra Leone to attend sitting." The source concluded

It is not known when such arrangement would be materialized and if it does, whether or not the government of president Kabbah would accept this new decision.

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29 July 2005

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman
Detention Facility
Special Court for Sierra Leone
REF: REG/218/2005

Dear Mr. Norman

RE: Your letter to the Registrar dated 27 July 2005

I refer to your letter dated 27 July 2005.
I confirm that two copies of your letter dated 15 July 2005 addressed to the National Chairman and the National Secretary-General of the SLPP were delivered on 26 July 2005. A copy of an acknowledgement receipt is enclosed.

I refer to paragraph 6 of your letter. The Acting Registrar's letter does not approve, tacitly or otherwise, the communication by you of your letters dated 15 July 2005 to the media. For the avoidance of doubt, you are not entitled to rely on the Acting Registrar's letter as approval for you to communicate your letters dated 15 July 2005 to the media.

Your specific requests for visits and other arrangements to be made are considered in turn.
Paragraph 9

Your request under Rule 42 (A) to be visited by representatives of the media is denied under Rule 42 (B). The grounds for my decision are set out below.

Since our detention, you have made a number of unauthorized communications to the media (either directly or indirectly) attacking the Court. In particular, I refer to the following instances:

1. The most serious instance resulted in the order of Trial Chamber I on 25 July 2005 that you be prosecuted for contempt under Rule 77 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. The Trial Chamber concluded that your letter dated 13 October 2004 to a potential witness and its wide knowledge and willful intention to a potential witness and its wide distribution to the public was "prima facie evidence of our knowledge and willful intention to interfere with the Court's administration of justice through intimidating and interfering with potential witnesses."
2. Your letter dated 3 June 2005 to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General was subsequently published on 20 June 2005 in the "Concord Times". Your letter was copied to various persons including "SLAJ (for National and International Press)", "CDF (Ex-combatants) and all detainees. In your letter you asserted that the Special Court is full of bias, injustice, impunity and corruption, that the Bench and Bar are 'hell-bent on processing us to inevitable guilt and conviction against all odds; and warned of "SCSL judicial impunity"
3. The message from you, Mr. Fofana and Mr. Kondewa to "All South Easterners of Sierra Leone" and others, published in the "Standard Times" on 30 May 2005, sought to link the CDF proceedings with the political motivations of Presidential Kabbah and Vice President Berewa.

4. You have also caused to be published numerous letters or opinions in the Press in which you have suggested (either expressly or by clear implication) that the proceedings against you do not comply with the rule of law, are not transparent or impartial or that you are being denied justice. I refer to the publications of your letters dated 20 September 2004 to the Principal Defender your opinion piece which appeared on 1 October 2004 in the "Standard Times" and your letter to the principal Defender dated 5 October 2005.

Clearly, you are entitled to raise your concerns about the proceedings against you in the appropriate forum, which is the Trial Chamber or Appeals Chambers. However, you have chosen to make public a number of your concerns through unauthorized communications with the media. You have tacked the integrity of the Court using inflammatory and emotive terms.

Your use of the media has the potential not merely to undermine public confidence in the Court, but to generate active hostility among some sections of the population towards the Court. There is a real risk that the security environment in which the Court operates in Freetown has worsened.

Furthermore there is the risk that witnesses have been and continue to be discouraged from coming forward.

I believe that there is a real risk that you will use the proposed visits from representatives of the media to make further attacks on the Court.

Based on these matters, I have reasonable grounds to believe that the proposed visits could prejudice or undermine the outcome of the proceedings against you or the other detainees, or could be used by you to interfere with the administration of justice or frustrate the mandate of the Special Court.

Further, I believe that your use of the media may have influenced the attitude of the other detainees towards the Court. Based on this, I have reasonable grounds to believe that the proposed visits could disturb the maintenance of the security and good order of the Detention Facility.

You make several references in your letter to your desire to participate in the political processes in the country. Your right to the presumption of innocence and your guaranteed human rights and freedoms, particularly your right to freedom of expression, are undisputed. However, the law clearly recognizes that limitations on a detainee's right to freedoms may be necessary. In the context of your request, the limitations on your rights and freedoms and the reasons for them are set out in Rule 42 (B).

Paragraph 10

I have no objection to the proposed visit to you by the National Chairman and National Secretary General of the SLPP. However, the normal procedures for visits established by the Chief of Detention under Rule 41 must be followed.

Paragraph 13

Your request that arrangements be made for you to attend the SLPP Party Conference on 19 and 20 August 2005 in Makeni is denied.

The security concerns which would arise from your temporary release from the Detentions Facility to travel to and attend the Conference in the country are of such magnitude that it is not in the interest of the Court for your request to be granted.

Your release would present an opportunity for any number of people to attempt to prevent your return to Detentions Facility. The arrangements required to protect against this threat would present many difficulties in terms of the level of complexity of the arrangements and the resources available to the Court.

Paragraph 14

It is not possible for you to leave the Detention Facility to make your Declaration of Intent as I have the same security concerns as outlined above.

Further, it is not possible to make any arrangements for you to make your Declaration on the premises of the Special Court as I believe that this would disturb the maintenance of security and good order in the Detention Facility.

You may proceed to make your Declaration by correspondence. You must of course meet the conditions for sending correspondence which have been established by the Chief of Detention under Rule 40 and the requirement under Rule 55 that all correspondence be inspected.

Robert Kirkwood

Acting Registrar

Cc Barry Wallace, Chief of Detention

Vincent Nmehele, Principal Defender

Kabbah calls for Taylor to be brought to S/Leone

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has joined the leaders of Liberia and Guinea to demand a review of Charles Taylor's asylum deal in Nigeria. There have been several accusations that onetime warlord Taylor, currently in Nigeria, has been violating the terms of his exile agreement by interfering in Liberian politics and engaging in activities that have perceived as dangerous to stability in

Kabbah calls for Taylor to be brought to S/Leone

from page 1 Leone's capital, Freetown, last week. The Special court for War Crimes wants Taylor on 17 counts of crimes against humanity perpetrated during the civil war, which officially ended early in 2002. Taylor is believed to have backed the Revolutionary United Front that committed several atrocities during the war. Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo on the other hand has refused to hand

West Africa. "We agreed to suggest to the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that there may now be need for a review of the terms of the temporary stay granted to Charles Taylor," Liberian interim leader Gyude Bryant, Guinean Prime Minister Cellou Diallo and Sierra Leone's President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah said in a joint statement. The three leaders met in Sierra

over Taylor claiming that the international community was part of the asylum deal granted to Taylor.

There have been mounting pressure in the US Senate for the US government to put pressure on Nigeria to hand over Taylor but there has been a lukewarm reaction from president George Bush and his government.

Reports say Taylor has two influential men who are lobbying for him in Washington

For di People. Friday August 5, 2005.

RECENT ATTEMPTS to sue the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party by the detained Civil Defence Forces commander and former Internal Affairs Minister, Sam Hinga Norman, have been dismissed by the party's Secretary General, Dr Prince Harding, as being too juvenile and minor but maintained that the ruling party will legally counter such a move by the Norman legal defence counsel.

SLPP vs Norman

From Front Page Norman, who is currently facing a UN-backed tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity, last week through his defence counsel, Dr Bubuaكية Jabbie, filed a writ of summon at the Supreme Court for a permanent injunction against the scheduled SLPP convention to be held in Makeni on the 19-20 August.

Harding, who is also the second defendant in the matter, was reacting to the legal challenge

last Saturday prior to the vigil of murdered For Di People newspaper editor (Harry Yansaneh) when he told journalists about the implications of the action undertaken by the CDF chief and noted Norman's failure to solve a simple 'family problem within the family itself'.

Dr Harding said he was expecting that the

detained CDF boss would have sought an internal resolution of any impasse using the framework of the party constitution instead of going to a legal court for redress.

The Secretary General, however, maintained that the threat of court action by Norman's defence counsel would in no way postpone the forthcoming national delegates conference scheduled to take place in about two weeks time.

He said despite the behaviour displayed by the former Internal Affairs

Minister, the detained CDF chief will not be isolated by the party.

"We continue to regard him as one of our family members and that stand will remain in spite of his present action," Harding noted, while denouncing speculations that Norman's legal move will bring disunity within the rank and file of the SLPP.

Also, in another related issue, the Secretary

General made a courtesy call at the Africanus Road residence of the deceased editor of For Di People newspaper, Harry H Yansaneh, to sympathize with the parents and relatives. He was welcomed at home by the late editor's mother, elder brother from the US and several relatives.

Dr Harding said though not very close to the deceased, yet maintained that he was shocked by the news of his death, especially

the circumstances in which he died. He said that government through cabinet had earlier met the very day the editor died to consult on assisting the deceased to be flown abroad for treatment. He left with the family Le100,000 as his own little contribution to burial expenses and promised to help in the education of the late editor's son.

UNMIL To Provide Security For Special Court

By Alfred Turay

Special Representative for the Secretary General of the United Nations in Sierra Leone (SRSG) Ambassador Daudi N. Mwakawago disclosed this week that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will be providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone when the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) would have completed its drawdown plan by the end of December this year.

Ambassador Mwakawago made the disclosure during a working lunch at Balmaya Art Centre, Congo Cross in the west end of Freetown.

The lunch which was organised by UNAMSIL, attracted senior journalists mainly from the print media in Sierra Leone. The Ambassador further said that UNAMSIL which is presently providing security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone

has been given a final six months extension by the UN security council starting from June 30 this year.

He further disclosed that the Security Council had adopted a new resolution (1610) which allows the creation of a follow up mission that will focus on good governance, human rights, security and the general development of the country.

Ambassador Mwakawago said that the new mission would be called the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL).

He further noted that the new mission would not have a military component, adding that only a small number of military advisers and military police advisers (MILOPs) will remain in the country. The Ambassador said that the role of

these military advisers would include the provision of technical support to the country's security agencies. He added that UNIOSIL, which is going to have as its headquarters at Mammy Yoko, Aberdeen in Freetown would have 300 staff members in the country.

The Ambassador went on to say that the new mission would have an initial life span of twelve months, adding that another twelve months extension according to its performance.

Earlier in his speech, Ambassador Mwakawago said that he was impressed by the development of the print media in the country. He said many newspapers are making effort to maintain objectivity in their reportage, adding that some of them are now publishing 'twelve good quality pages'. The ambassador however appealed to the newspaper editors to build on the peace already achieved in the country. He added that editors should give hope and confidence to the people by their publications.

Various contributions were made by senior journalists among them, was the president of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo.

Peep. Friday August 5, 2005.

Margai loses in Moyamba election

Charles Margai will be one vote short at the upcoming SLPP Convention in Makeni.

He failed to win the mandate to serve as a delegate from Moyamba (South) as he lost 7-6 to Joseph Hubbard. Ironically it was Mr Margai, a framer of the SLPP's 1995 constitution, who insisted on constituency elections to select delegates to the Convention.

"We take our loss in good spirit; we believe in democracy," a supporter of Mr Margai told the press.

He explained that Mr Margai's defeat had nothing to do with his popularity. "It's entirely due to local rivalries and political manipulation by one of his opponents". Though our source would not commit himself to the record, "I'm a local businessman and I don't want to be victimised", he strongly hinted that vice-president Solomon-Berewa was behind the manipulation which led to Mr Margai's defeat.

In related developments, over 160 constituency delegates (*two per constituency*) have been chosen as far. In total over 400 delegates will select the new SLPP leader and presidential candidate on August 19-20.

As we go to press however we've learned that Dr Bubakai Jabbie, counsel for Special Court indicted chief Sam Hinga-Norman, has filed an injunction to prevent the Sierra Leone Peoples Party from going ahead with the convention.

Chief Norman's lawyer says that his client should be given equal rights to contest for SLPP leadership. He's currently in detention at the Special Court's facilities.

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Nigeria: Harassment of a human rights defender and unlawful arrest and detention of three others in their campaign to bring Charles Taylor to justice

Amnesty International and Open Society Justice Initiative today expressed grave concern at the continuing harassment of a human rights defender and the unlawful arrests and detentions of three others by Nigerian authorities.

On Monday 1 August 2005, operatives of Nigeria's State Security Service (SSS) arrested Steve Omali and Michael Damisa at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja for being in possession of copies of the Interpol arrest warrant for Charles Taylor issued on 4 December 2003. Charles Taylor is facing charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

On Tuesday, Mathew Damisa, the brother of Michael, visited the SSS headquarters and was arrested and subsequently detained. The same day, two officers of the State Security Service visited the office of Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI). They summoned in absentia Chidi Odinkalu, the Africa Programme Director of OSJI, for questioning at the SSS headquarters.

The Coalition Against Impunity, consisting of up to 300 African and international civil society groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), has been campaigning for Charles Taylor to face justice for the crimes that he committed against African men, women and children in Sierra Leone.

"The unlawful arrest and detention of innocent citizens and harassment of human rights defenders constitute a flagrant violation of the Nigerian constitution and international standards, including the African Charter on Human and People's Rights to which Nigeria is a party. It is ironic that the Nigerian government, instead of turning over Charles Taylor, a man indicted for crimes against humanity, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in fact turns against its own citizens and arrests them unlawfully," said Kolawole Olaniyan, Africa Programme Director at Amnesty International.

The two organizations call on the Nigerian government to:

- release immediately Steve Omali, Michael Damisa and Matthew Damisa, who are still being unlawfully detained;
- stop further harassment of Mr Chidi Odinkalu or other human rights defenders;
- surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in line with Nigeria's human rights obligations under the African Union Constitutive Act and other international standards to which Nigeria is a party.

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Nigerian secret police hunt for activist over Liberia's Taylor

Xinhua General News Service

August 4, 2005 Thursday

Nigerian secret police have issued a summons against a human rights defender campaigning for former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to face justice and detained three people, human rights groups said Thursday.

Two officers of the State Security Service (SSS) visited the office of the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) Tuesday and summoned its Africa director Chidi Odinkalu for questioning at the SSS headquarters, Amnesty International and the OSJI said in a joint statement.

On Monday, police arrested Steve Omali and Michael Damisa at Abuja international airport for carrying copies of the Interpol arrest warrant for Taylor issued in December 2003, the statement said.

Mathew Damisa, the brother of Michael, visited the SSS headquarters in following day and was also arrested and subsequently detained.

"The unlawful arrest and detention of innocent citizens and harassment of human rights defenders constitute a flagrant violation of the Nigerian constitution and international standards," Kolawole Olaniyan, Amnesty's Africa director, said in the statement.

"It is ironic that the Nigerian government, instead of turning over Charles Taylor, a man indicted for crimes against humanity, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in fact turns against its own citizens and arrests them unlawfully," he said.

The two organizations called on the Nigerian government to release immediately the detainees and stop further harassment of Odinkalu or other human rights defenders.

Taylor, who is now in exile in the southeastern Nigerian city of Calabar, is indicted by the UN-backed war crimes court on 17 counts of crimes against humanity for his role in supporting the 1991-2002 Sierra Leonean civil war.

His quit in 2003 helped end 14 years of Liberia's civil war when rebels besieged the country's capital Monrovia.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Oluyemi Adeniji had said last month that his government would release Taylor only to an elected government in Liberia which is expected to take place in October.

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/_news

Special Court to be protected by UNMIL
Friday August 5, 2005

By Tamba Borbor reporting from Freetown

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) to Sierra Leone- Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago has disclosed that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will be charged with providing security for the Special court after UNAMSIL's exit in the country. This he said would form part of an extended mandate. The SRSG revealed this at a working lunch with journalists.

Ambassador Mwakawago disclosed that after UNAMSIL leaves on the on the 31st December 2005, a new UN agency which he said would serve as a "follow on mission" would be established. This he said would be called- the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL). He explained that this new office will lack a military component, though it will have 10 Military Advisers and 20 International Civil Police officers who will advice and serve as a mentor to the Sierra Leone Police.

UNMIL the SRSG said will make available a company of soldiers to take over security from UNAMSIL who are presently charged with the responsibility of guarding the Special Court. The UNIOSIL he explained further will have a life span of a year with a maximum of 2 years. The Head of UNIOSIL would no longer be the SRSG he said but an executive representative whose actual nomenclature has not been disclosed yet by New York. He will however be the premier UN personnel in the country who will be coordinating all UN programs and act in the capacity of the UN Resident Representative, as well as the UN Humanitarian Coordinator.

All of this the SRSG explained, is contained in resolution 1610 which gave the final date of withdrawal of UNAMSIL as 31st December 2005. SRSG Mwakawago urged journalists to assure the people of Sierra Leone of the United Nations continued presence in the country even after UNAMSIL leaves, as long as Sierra Leone is a member of the UN family. UN missions in Liberia and Ivory Coast he disclosed have been upgraded to adequately respond to any security threats in Sierra Leone. He assured journalists that border patrols being undertaken by UNAMSIL, will continue to be carryout by the UN force in the sub-region.

TEXT OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, AUGUST 02, 2005) Federal News Service August 3, 2005 Wednesday

STEPHANE DUJARRIC:

-SNIP-

In a report that is out on the racks today, in fact, an addendum to the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the Secretary-General outlines his recommendations for the proposed integrated United Nations office in Sierra Leone and his ideas for security arrangements for the Special Court. The integrated office, which would be established when the United Nations peacekeeping mission ends its work in Sierra Leone at the end of this year, would be headed by an executive representative, who would also work as a representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Security Council has scheduled consultations on Sierra Leone for August 10.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 Aug 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Nigeria detains rights activists over Taylor row: Amnesty**

LAGOS, 4 Aug (AFP) - Nigerian secret police have detained three human rights activists campaigning for their government to hand former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to a war crimes tribunal, Amnesty International said Thursday. The international pressure group said that Steve Omali and Michael Damisa were arrested on Monday at Abuja international airport by officers of the State Security Service, who found them carrying a copy of Taylor's Interpol arrest warrant. On Tuesday's Damisa's brother Michael was also detained when he visited SSS headquarters to ask what had happened, the group said. All three men remain in custody.

International Clips on West Africa**COTE D IVOIRE: Diplomats say Gbagbo laws comply with peace deal**

ABIDJAN, 3 Aug 2005 (IRIN) - Controversial law reforms promulgated by Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo last month comply with the country's peace agreements, despite criticism from opposition parties and rebels, diplomats told IRIN on Wednesday.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at kontehk@un.org.