

**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 19, 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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Ext 7217 / 7216

## Special Court Registrar bids farewell

BY AUGUSTINE BEECHER

Mr. Robin Vincent, the self-confident hard-talking Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, since its inception in 2003 has complete his tour of duty in Freetown and is scheduled to leave the shores of this country soon for a well-earned retirement in his home in the United Kingdom.

This was revealed to the media on Friday September 16th last week at Freetown, where the interim Registrar of the court, Mr. Lovemore Munlo, was also presented to the press, as the replacement for the outgoing Registrar.

A new chief of press and public affairs for the court, Alexandra George, was also introduced to the press at the same meeting.

Mr. Vincent noted that he has been in a tight handover schedule with his

replacement over the past couple of days, meeting with various personalities for the continued operation of the court.

He said in his years at the court, he has always tried to be open and accommodating to all, even though he may not have agreed with everyone.

He commended the support and cooperation the press has given him over the years, and expressed the hope that the same support is accorded his successor, who takes up office on October 1, 2005, adding that he will always love Sierra Leone as he now has Sierra Leone blood in his veins.

He concluded by noting that he was indeed privileged to have had the opportunity of working at the Special Court, and added that he is quite confident that the court is worthwhile as the benefits accrued from it will eventually outweigh the losses.

He admonished all Sierra Leoneans to give full support to the court and its officials, as it is the only way by which impunity could be brought to an end.

Asked whether he had personal reasons for departing, he said he had business reason but was also concerned that he has missed his family a lot over the years and would love to be with them, especially his grandson, who he is yet to find time to know.

Regarding the rights of detainees of the court, who are apparently being incarcerated with little regard for their human rights, Mr. Vincent said he had no feelings as a Registrar for them, and insisted that it is the law that decides what happens to them, while his duty is to manage the affairs of the court effectively.

He said considering the fact that when he came to Freetown, the area

where the court is now located was a barren land, and seeing how much it has been developed in the three years of operation, there was no doubt that the court has made a lot of achievements.

The incoming interim Registrar appealed for support from the media and public for his work to be as successful as that of his predecessor.

Mr. Munlo is a Malawian who is currently deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where he has served since October 2002.

He has also been a minister of justice and Attorney General of Malawi as well as deputy minister of external affairs.

He has a Master's degree in Law from London.

## Special Court Prepares Cell for Taylor

Mr. Robin Vincent, the outgoing registrar of the Special Court has said in Freetown that he does not want Taylor to be brought to Sierra Leone by force but rather of his own will so that he can account for any wrong doing during the war in the country. "I want Charles Taylor to be here

legitimately", he said. "If we are told to collect Taylor anywhere. I can assure you that we will be there to do just that as we have prepared his cell, legal representation and other necessary equipment for his detention and trial" Mr. Vincent said

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## Special Court Prepares Cell for Taylor

### From front page

adding that it would be my saddest moment in life if he does not face trial.

The outgoing Registrar opined that it would be an international disgrace if the former warlord of Liberia and indicted war crime Charles Taylor fails to attend the court to answer to charges of wrong doings during the bloody and brutal civil war in Sierra Leone.

Addressing his last news conference at SLENA last Friday Mr. Vincent maintained that the court executed the investigations, served the indictment and issued a red notice that if Charles Taylor leaves Ni-

geria, he would be arrested. He said within the last eighteen months the Special Court including the Chief Prosecutor and the registrar used all within their powers at every political level at the European Parliament, the House of Representatives and the United Nations to call on the Nigerian President Olusengo Obasanjo to hand over Charles Taylor to the UN backed Special Court. He said another saddest moment during his work was the death of former leader of the revolutionary United Front corporal Foday Sankoh. He said they did everything pos-

sible for Sankoh to receive medical treatment abroad to enable him stand trial for heinous crimes committed but no avail. The happiest moment he said was when the trial itself started. Meanwhile Mr. Robin Vincent's contract ended since June this year and he will be replaced by one Mr. Lovemore Munlo for a three months period as Interim Registrar. Mr. Munlo, from Malawi is currently the Deputy Registrar of the International Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) where he has served since October 2001. He will take up appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

# Special Court Spends US\$104 M

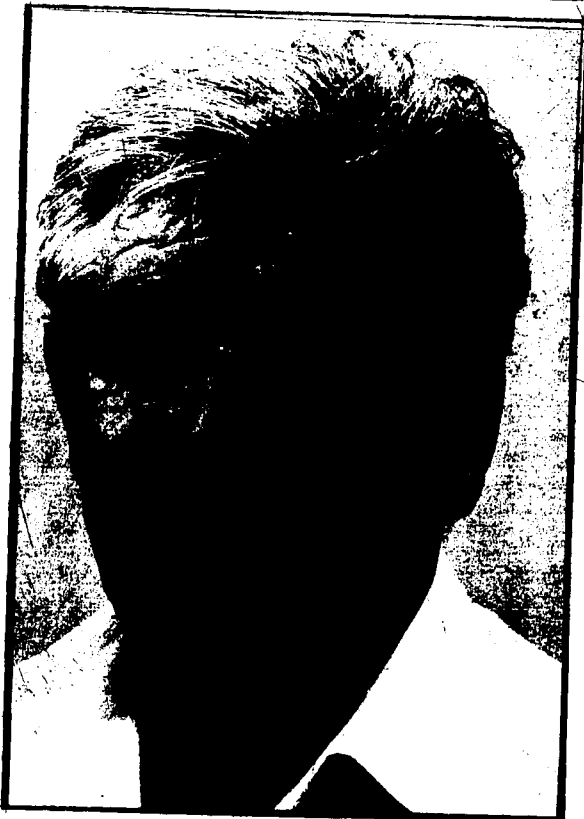
The outgoing Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone Robin Vincent has said in Freetown that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 the Special Court has spent one hundred and four million United States dollars in Sierra Leone, which he said is less than what it took to run the Yugoslavia tribunal for one year.

Mr. Vincent said that the eleven acres of land at New England which the court developed will be left behind as a tangible legacy.

He said US\$3.8m was spent on the construction of the courthouse alone. Mr. Vincent mentioned that the court needs twenty five million dollars to enable it function from July to December 2006.

Because of that he went on, representatives from one hundred and ninety one member states of the United Nations will meet in New York on the 30<sup>th</sup> September where they will make pledges for the remaining US\$25m.

Mr. Vincent who will be leaving Sierra Leone on the 26<sup>th</sup> September for that meeting said, he will explain to the manage-



**Mr. Robin Vincent: Outgoing Registrar**

ment committee a situation report about the operations of the Special Court in Sierra Leone, security and funding.

The outgoing registrar however said that the financial uncertainty for the last six months in 2006 will disappear after the meeting as donors and member states, he said will have to make pledges. After that meeting, he went on, the Secretary General Kofi

Annan will then be able to talk to the security council in November for the remaining money needed by the court to enable it complete its functions.

He noted that the United States of America, which is the biggest contributor, the European Union and private foundations have all pledged their continued support for the court.



# Taylor should be brought legitimately - *Special Court Registrar*

By Betty Milton

Robin Vincent has told members of the Press that he wants Charles Taylor to arrive here

The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone-



*L-R: Mr. Lovemore Green Munlo & Mr. Robin Vincent*

legitimately. Robin Vincent who was speaking at his final Press Conference held at the

Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA) building said, "When justice collides with

politics. Justice far too often comes out second best." He

*Contd. Page 2*

## Taylor should be brought legitimately

*From front Page*

stressed "I can sleep easily in my bed sad as I may be about the delay because there is nothing more that the Court could do other than pay a ransom to someone like Executive Outcomes, to scoop him in a helicopter, take him in a truck and bring him back here and drop him on the air field at Lungi." Mr Vincent maintained that he would not be a party to that, if that were the very last thing to happen when he is registrar. He emphasised "I want Taylor to arrive here legitimately. I am not interested in talk about ransom, nor talk about snatching him, he must come here legitimately. It must be with the will of the international community." He said "we have put in place the modalities behind the scene ...if I receive a telephone call from Nigeria saying come and take Taylor, we will be there within 24

hours... if they say come to Calaba we will be there... if they say come to Abuja we will be there... we have a cell ready for Taylor... we have a Defence Counsel ready for Taylor... we have money in our budget ready for Taylor." he said. The registrar also stated that financial constraints is what they have learned to live with at the Court as they have the smallest budget of any war crimes court, or tribunal in history. The biggest difficulty he said is living with the financial uncertainty, and this is what he faced in terms of administration of the court and its budget. The registrar also noted that his last official act would be in New York so that he will meet for the final time with the Management Committee for him to give them a Situation Report and to update them as to how he leaves the court " and also to talk about security,

funding and also the completion stage." He said "the Secretary General will be hosting a member plenary conference where all 191 member states in UN will be asked to attend and to make their pledges. During this meeting, he said "the Prosecutor and I will hope to meet the Secretary General and the Chairman of the National Committee pleading with people to give us the money, the 25 million dollars that the court will need for 2006." These monies he stressed are not being diverted from the packages of aid from donors to Sierra Leone." Robin Vincent will be leaving as Registrar of the Special Court on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and would be replaced by the Interim Registrar - Mr. Lovemore Green Mumbo of Malawi who is currently Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda (ICTR) where he has served since October 2001.

## Witness told Court

# Pademba Road was broken open because of politicians

Continuing his evidence at the Special Court in the trial of the AFRC, the Prosecution witness TF1-167 also known as Junior Lion, told the Court that the Pademba Road prison was broken into because of certain politicians. In his evidence, the witness said that when the troops invaded Freetown their Headquarters was at State

House. Alex Tamba Brima aka Gullit ordered that the prison be opened in order for them to release the politicians and other soldiers. Junior Lion said " the late president, J.S Momoh, Honourable Victor Foh, Chief Dura, Steve Bio who was the brother of former NPRC Chairman

Maada Bio, Flight Commander Arnold Bangura and some others whose names I have forgotten." He continued, " We were accompanied, by Bazzy, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> battalions. When we arrived, we blasted open the doors and ordered all the people that were  
*Contd. Page 2*

## Pademba Road was broken open

*From Front Page*  
released to report at State House. Some went while others made their escape. Instantly, the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion was deployed there" he said. Junior Lion who was testifying in English noted that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January the troops entered Freetown and the Kissy Police Station was burnt down on the instruction they got from Gullit that all Police Stations be burnt down. The abducted

he said were always in the middle of the troops as they were the ones carrying the arms and ammunition, as well as foodstuff for the troops. The witness also recalled that on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1999, the troops received orders from the Deputy Operation Commander-05 who ordered them to attack up-gun roundabout, which they did. The witness continued to explain that when they

arrived, they met heavy resistance by troops of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) that were deployed at that location, but that the ECOMOG troops were overpowered. "After the attack", the witness went on, "the troops were divided: one went to the quay, another went through Fourah Bay Road", adding he was with the troop that used the Kissy Road.

## \$104 million spent on Special Court: \$40million more needed

Mr. Robin Vincent, the outgoing Registrar of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, past Friday revealed at a conference held at SLENA that a total sum of US\$104 million has so far been spent on the activities of the court since its inception, and that a balance of US\$25million more is needed to carry out its activities to the end of 2006. The Registrar, who will leave the shores of Sierra Leone on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005,

further revealed that out of the US\$104 million spent, US\$3.8 million was used to construct the court premises on the 11 acres land situated at Jomo-Keneyatta Road in Freetown. He however noted that a significant part of the complex would serve as a legacy in Sierra Leone when the court shall have finished its work. This money, Mr. Vincent went on, is not coming from Sierra Leone's development fund rather, he maintained, it is

drawn from the UN's special fund established by the international community in response to President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's appeal to address impunity in the country.

The Registrar, speaking on the general achievements of the Special Court, said the biggest achievement was the putting in motion of the vibrant outreach programme which has been very successful in bringing the objectives of the

court to the understanding of the local people, the local press as well as the international community. "This has been really successful," he noted.

Mr. Vincent also pointed out that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has been able to demonstrate that the cost of setting up a tribunal can be lowered because according to him, "Things are cheaper here and cost effective if compared to costs of other tribunals set

up in other parts of the world." Another achievement, according to him, is that the Special Court for Sierra Leone was able to institute what he referred to as "the biggest protective care for our witnesses". The court, Mr. Vincent further opined, was also able to get the UN Security Council to pass a resolution and also international Ngos to put out press releases demanding the key-players in the decade long Sierra Leone conflict, Charles Taylor, to be extradited to Sierra Leone to face trial for crimes against

humanity. Mr. Robin Vincent, has been in office since 2002, and will be replaced by a Malawian, Mr. Lovemore Green Munlo as the Interim Registrar for the court for a period of two months, starting 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005.

Lovemore Green Mulo is currently the Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where he has served since October 2001. He has a Master's Degree (LLM) in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science since 1989.



# Special Court Goes Broke

*By Umuru S. Jarr*

Outgoing Special Court registrar, Robin Vincent, said Friday that the Court was in dire need of funds - precisely twenty-five million dollars to help it complete majority of its administrative work by 2006.

Speaking during a press briefing at SLENA Mr. Vincent stressed that his departure will create no vacuum at the Court.

saying an interim arrangement was already in place - allowing Lovemore Green Munro from Malawi - to hold

the fort until a substantive appointment was made.

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# Special Court Broke

From Page 1

He called for the immediate extradition of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. "It would be an international disgrace if Taylor is not brought to face justice in Sierra Leone." He blamed the delay in his extradition on politics.

Mr. Vincent highlighted achievements made by the Court so far - among them - the setting up of a successful outreach programme that has gained the admiration of the international community.

Describing the challenges faced by the Court as very significant, the outgoing registrar said he was privileged to serve the people of Sierra Leone citing lack of support from UNAMSIL's civilian wing as, what he called, the only unfortunate thing that happened to them.

He disclosed that by June next year, the Court would have been completed with a total of one hundred and four million dollars spent on it - covering construction of the court house and administrative work.

## U.N. News Centre

17 September 2005

Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor should stay in exile for time being – Nigerian leader 17 September - Liberia's hopes for lasting peace are enhanced if its former Liberian president Charles Taylor, indicted by a United Nations-backed court on war crimes charges, remains away from the country during its early phases of rebuilding, Nigeria's President and current African Union (AU) Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo told the General Assembly today.

In an address to the General Debate of the General Assembly's 60th session, Mr. Obasanjo said Mr. Taylor's return from exile in Nigeria to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone could do more harm than good in the short-term.

The peace process in Liberia "is at its most critical phase," he said, with the first elections since the West African country's long-running civil war ended in 2003 scheduled for next month.

While the AU is optimistic that the elections will lead to a successful transition of power, Mr. Obasanjo stressed that "the diversion of attention through propaganda on issues unrelated to the conduct of the forthcoming presidential elections should be avoided and resisted."

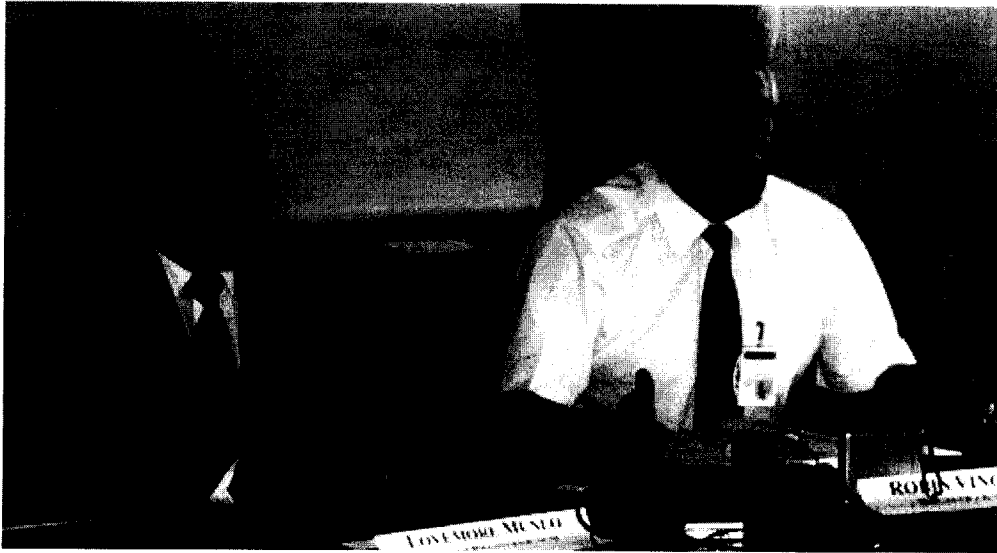
The Special Court and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour have called for Mr. Taylor to be handed over by Nigeria to the court in the interests of justice.

But Mr. Obasanjo said Mr. Taylor was encouraged to step down as president in 2003 and leave his country "to avoid bloodbath... [and] in the interest of Liberia, West Africa, Africa and world peace and security."

Therefore "the cause of peace in Liberia" will be best served if Mr. Taylor is kept away during the transitional and early nation-building phases.

Cocorioko website

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## **ROBIN VINCENT BIDS FAREWELL: MALAWIAN ATTORNEY TAKES OVER**

**Monday September 19, 2005**

**At** Noon at the SLENA building on Friday , Robin Vincent , the Registrar of the Special Court, ( Right ) held his last press conference, where he introduced the new Interim Registrar, Lovemore Munlo ( Left ). Mr Vincent had been Registrar of the SCSL since its inception.

Mr. Lovemore Green Munlo, of Malawi, is currently Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), where he has served since October 2001.

From May 1994 to October 2001, he was in private legal practice as a partner in the law firm Green Munlo & Co. From September 1993 to May 1994, Mr. Munlo served as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Malawi and from January 1992 to September 1993 he served as Deputy Minister of External Affairs.

From 1990 to 1992 he was a Judge of the High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal; from 1987 to 1990 he served as Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 1984 to 1987 as Director of Public Prosecutions in the Attorney-General's Chamber. Prior to that he served in the Attorney-General's Chamber as Senior State Advocate and State Advocate.

Mr. Munlo received a Law Degree from the University of Malawi in 1976 and a Master's Degree (LL.M) in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1989.



Most Popular



What's New



## Surrender Taylor, Rights Groups Task Obasanjo

**This Day** (Lagos)

NEWS

September 15, 2005

Posted to the web September 16, 2005

By Stanley Nkwazema

Lagos

Two human rights groups, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have called on the Federal Government to demonstrate commitment to justice by surrendering former Liberian President, Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Human Rights Abuse in Sierra Leone.

In a letter to President Olusegun Obasanjo who is currently in New York for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly and is scheduled to hold a press conference at the United Nations today, the groups said Taylor, who has been in exile in Nigeria since August 2003, has been indicated by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during Sierra Leone's civil war and should therefore be surrendered for trial.

In the letter dated Friday, September 9, 2005, the two bodies explained that, "More than two years ago, former President Charles Taylor left Liberia after being forced from power in August 2003. We understand that Nigeria initially granted Charles Taylor refuge after extensive consultation with regional and international leaders. However, Charles Taylor has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone on seventeen counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We urge you now to assist in his prompt surrender to the Special Court."

The groups said that the "Special Court for Sierra Leone is best placed to bring justice to the countless African victims of the crimes for which Charles Taylor is accused."

The groups expressed fear that since the Special Court will only operate for a limited time "this valuable window of opportunity to bring the former warlord to book is rapidly closing."

In the letter jointly signed by Richard Dicker, Director International Justice Program Human Rights Watch and Kolawole Olaniyan, Director Africa Programme, Amnesty International and made available to THISDAY, the group feared that Nigeria, given its "aspiration to become a permanent Security Council member, is well placed to show leadership in supporting justice for serious crimes committed around the world."

Nigeria, the letter stated, "should demonstrate its commitment to ending immunity by promptly surrendering Charles Taylor to the Special Court."

The letter further observed that the Security Council has clearly rejected immunity for serious crimes like those committed in Sierra Leone and expressed a strong commitment to promoting justice and the rule of law.

"In this regard, Nigeria has taken noteworthy steps towards promoting international justice, by acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and by urging other states to in supporting the Special Court by serving as a member of its Management Committee," it stated.

The UN panel of experts on Liberia noted that the presence of Taylor who is in exile in Calabar, Cross River State, "is in itself a destabilising factor. The situation of de facto immunity arising from this situation of exile can only undermine respect for international law and thereby lessen its deterrent effect."

The civil war in Sierra Leone was characterised by murders, rapes and other crimes of sexual violence, mutilation and the widespread use of child soldiers. Tens of thousands of individuals were killed, up to one quarter of the population was displaced and thousands more endured limb amputations, sexual violence, forced labour and abduction.

The Special Court has a mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for these crimes.

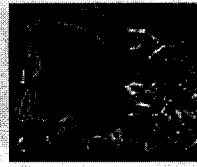
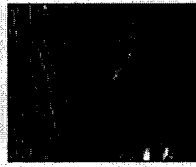
Like the rights groups the US Congress had demanded that Taylor be extradicted to face war crimes trial.

Obasanjo had however repeatedly said that he would only release Taylor to a democratic government in Liberia.

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## Charles Taylor Should Stay in Exile for Time Being - Says Obasabjo

UN News Service (New York)

NEWS

September 17, 2005

Posted to the web September 17, 2005

Liberia's hopes for lasting peace are enhanced if its former Liberian president Charles Taylor, indicted by a United Nations-backed court on war crimes charges, remains away from the country during its early phases of rebuilding, Nigeria's President and current African Union (AU) Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo told the General Assembly today.

In an address to the General Debate of the General Assembly's 60th session, Mr. Obasanjo said Mr. Taylor's return from exile in Nigeria to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone could do more harm than good in the short-term.

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The Special Court and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour have called for Mr. Taylor to be handed over by Nigeria to the court in the interests of justice.

But Mr. Obasanjo said Mr. Taylor was encouraged to step down as president in 2003 and leave his country "to avoid bloodbath [and] in the interest of Liberia, West Africa, Africa and world peace and security."

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**Statement to the United Nations General Assembly  
by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo**

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, President of Nigeria and current Chairman of the African Union, said the United Nations continued to play a pivotal role in the lives of all people. For that reason, Nigeria firmly supported strengthening the Organization and protecting its ideals.

He said efforts in the Sudan had ushered in an era of hope there, and once again appealed to all sides to shed their hard-line approaches to peace negotiations. The situation in Somalia was hopeful, and the United Nations had provided necessary help in promoting the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. The Organization and the European Union needed to provide substantial support to rebuild economies in Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Sierra Leone. **The peace process in Liberia was at its most critical phase, and would be best served if Charles Taylor remained in exile during the upcoming elections and for some time thereafter while the nation rebuilt.**

The failure of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference was regrettable, he continued, but the wide availability of small arms and light weapons posed the greatest danger to peace and security, especially in Africa. The June 2005 agreement on tracing illicit weapons was only a stopgap measure. A legally binding international instrument to regulate the illicit arms trade, including transactions involving non-State actors, was needed. Terrorism should be fought in all its forms and manifestations.

He also urged the Organization to continue its support for all initiatives of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). With poverty endemic in Africa, the renewed commitment of developed countries to fulfil their promises in providing development aid was most welcome. Trade was a pivotal part of economic growth. Developed countries needed to come up with a comprehensive solution to the debt problem of developing countries, as well as drop their trade barriers. He supported establishing a Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the proposed Human Rights Council. That Council needed to adopt a different culture from the Commission it replaced, and should use a consistent standard in resolving cases.

As for expanding the Security Council, he said Nigeria remained faithful to the implementation of the Ezulwini Consensus to increase the number and quality of Africa's membership in the Council.



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### **Dismemberment of ruling SLPP continues , as....**

## **CHIEF NORMAN PROGRESSES WITH PLANS TO FORM POLITICAL PARTY**

Saturday September 17, 2005

Spurning all appeals for reconciliation, splinter groups within the ruling SLPP have continued their plans to form political parties. Chief Hinga Norman , who traversed hills, valleys and mountains to fight for the SLPP during the heady days of the RUF rebels and renegade AFRC soldiers , has now revealed plans to form a broad-based party that combines forces with the RUF and the PLP to defeat the SLPP and APC in the 2007 General Elections.

The Rev.Alfred Samforay , who speaks for the Committee -To-Elect Norman revealed yesterday that the formation of the party could be announced by the end of the month or latest next weekend. The most startling feature of Chief Norman's plans, as revealed by Samforay, is the supposed combination of the Chief's party with the RUF and the PLP. two parties formed by the very men that Chief Norman fought ferociously and tempestuously during Sierra Leone's deadly and bloody war, leading to the war crimes charges against him presently.

The RUF was founded by Sierra Leone's Public Enemy No.1 , the brutal human butcher and rebel leader Foday Sankoh who converted his Revolutionary United Force ( RUF) . a rebel group that hacked off the limbs of innocent people and killed tens of thousands of Sierra Leoneans , into a political party. The RUF contested the May 2002 General Elections with rebel official Alimamy Pallo Bangura as Presidential candidate and fared poorly.

The Peace and Liberation Party ( PLP ) was formed by AFRC Junta leader , Johnny Paul Koroma, whose renegade soldiers joined the RUF to commit horrid atrocities against innocent people after the junta was chased out of power by the multinational force . ECOMOG, which was an alliance of military forces from several West African countries, notably Nigeria.

Samforat's revelation did not go down well with many people and Mr. Sammy Sandi-Gorglei, a highly-respected debater at Leonenet and perrenial Hinga Norman supporter and opposer of the Special Court which is trying Norman for alleged war crimes, quickly shot back :

"This is either a big joke or the worst mistake ever. We all know about RUF. It is definitely a sign of abject depravation to align with RUF to fight SLPP. With the image of RUF, SLPP need not raise a finger to win the fight. PLP??? Who or what is PLP. !

don't think these two parties in themselves or by themselves are capable of posing any threat to anybody."

He went on : "Please! Please! Please! with strategic planning and proper timing, the Chief can cause the SLPP to implode. The broad-based approach suggested in this posting is not needed. In fact, it is not broad-based. I don't consider PLP and RUFPP as having any base."

Opinion-maker John Fomba of New York, who reads Leonet postings through the archives, complained to COCORIOKO yesterday that the information might be a mistake because he could not imagine Chief Norman even entertaining the very thought of aligning himself with the very people he fought so hard that he almost lost his life and whose conquest made him a national hero.

But some Sierra Leoneans this newspaper consulted for their views said that was the essence of politics. It creates strange bedfellows, they averred , asserting that they saw nothing wrong with Chief Norman aligning with his one-time antagonists to fight the very party he battled these forces to protect. Many of them opined that this desperate move by Chief Norman showed the depth of his frustration with the SLPP.

With Charles Margai, the son of former Prime Minister, Sir Albert, also soon to form his own party, some concerned citizens have started calling for reconciliation and forgiveness in the ruling SLPP. At least three of the Sierra Leoneans consulted by COCORIOKO yesterday warned that the dismemberment of a huge party like the SLPP did not augur well for peace during the 2007 Elections. "There is too much bad blood in the party and if things do not go the way of some of these feuding parties, they could resort to violence to address their grievances ", Samuel Lavalie warned.

READ SAMFORAY'S RELEASE YESTERDAY :

### **NORMAN CONTEMPLATES BROAD-BASED PARTY FOR ALL SIERRA LEONEANS**

We are reliably informed that the Committee to Elect Hinga Norman will make a formal declaration for a new political party by the end of September and as early next weekend. Mustapha Vonu, Western Area Chairman of the Steering Committee, says consultative meetings are ongoing through tout the country and that the consultants have been given until next weekend to come up with a firm commitment and framework for the new party

There are also strong indications that the new party will present a united front with the People's Liberation Party (PLP) and the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFPP) to challenge the ruling SLPP and the opposition APC. PLP leader, Rev. Dennis Morrison, is said to be in consultations with the Norman campaign. There presently appears to be no collaboration between the Norman camp and the camp led by Charles Margai. The Margai camp is also in consultations with supporters and is likely to announce a new party presently.

Meanwhile, the Steering Committee to Elect Hinga Norman announces its four Regional Chairpersons as follows:

Arthur Koroma ----- Eastern Region  
Hadja Dankay Moorie ----- Northern Region  
Hassan Feika -----Southern Region  
Mustapha Maada Vonu-----Western Region

Following the consultative meetings, the committee will decide on a national chairman as well as nomenclature, party symbol and headquarters. Supporters at home and abroad are asked to submit any proposals for these and other modalities for the new party.

The goal of the new party is to establish a broad-based political movement not based on regional, religious or ethnic affiliation. According to Vonu, there now appears no possibility of reconciling the differences between Mr. Norman's supporters with the leaders of the SLPP who have hijacked the party and its ideals to form a private club for a handful of the party leadership.

"We fought a hard fight to establish democracy in this country. We have endured an equally hard and bitter peace to establish peace and unity for this country to become the property of a few men and women," says Vonu.

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