

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:

Wednesday, September 21, 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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Interactive forum bids farewell to

Special Court Registrar From front page

"hopeful that this selfless and laudable initiative in the promotion of the rule of law, will be emulated by other countries and institutions especially our local judicial institutions. The people of this country will ever remain to remember you in their call to end impunity and holding people and institutions accountable for their action.

It could be recalled that after a decade of brutal conflict in our beloved Country, a call was made by the Government of Sierra Leone through the United Nations to establish a Special Court to "try all those that bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and

other serious violations of International Humanitarian Law" committed after 30th November 1996. This is to promote accountability and to end impunity.

To this end, Mr. Robin Vincent was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Kofi Anan in 2002 for a period of three years. During his tenure of office he was able through the support of other personnel to make the Special Court functional and more robust in indicting 13 persons from the various warring factions.

To his credit, he succeeded in directing

the operations of the court and the domestic acceptability of the mandate of the Court in both urban and rural communities, as this was a herculean task to accomplish considering the ethnical, political and regional dimension of the indictments.

Disappointingly, there are still barriers confronting the Court in ensuring the transfer of Mr. Charles Taylor from his political asylum in Calabar, Nigeria to stand trials. We hope that strives taken by the out-going Registrar will be pursued vigorously by all stakeholders and especially the International community in making this a reality".

Interactive forum bids farewell to Special Court Registrar

Special Court interactive forum joins other Civil Society and Human Rights Organisations in Sierra Leone to say farewell to Mr. Robin Vincent, Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Special Court interactive Forum and other Civil Society Organisations, and friends of the Court

are impressed with the performance of Mr. Vincent in his determined commitment

to promote and uphold the rule of law and to break the cycle of violence and impunity through his independent and impartial role in the operations of the Court. In a press release issued yesterday the Forum is

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Awoko. Wednesday September 21st, 2005.

CDF Defence Lawyers argue no case submission

The Defence Counsel for the three Civil Defence Force (CDF) indictees yesterday argued a motion they had filed for acquittal or a 'no case submission'. The lawyers for the three indictees Chief Sam Hinga

Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa argued that the prosecution had failed to present evidence, which, if believed, could satisfy the Chamber beyond all reasonable doubt of guilt of the accused. Bu-Buake Jabbie lawyer for the first

accused said that his client insists that he has not been served with the indictment and that they want sufficient evidence to prove that his client was responsible for atrocities committed. He further stated that so far he is

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CDF Defence Lawyers argue

From Front Page

satisfied that they have been detailed about the matter and that he relies fully on the motion he has filed. Victor Koppe also for the second accused said that his client was not physical present during the time all the atrocities were committed as there was no sufficient proof from any of the witnesses. He was working side by side with the first accused. The lawyer also argued that Moinina had no control to stop people from perpetrating atrocities. Charles Margai Defence for the third accused said that there is a misrepresentation of the standard of proof. Two of the learned lawyers Mr.

Margai said argued that were was no sufficient proof. The proof according to Rule 91 should be a proof beyond reasonable doubt and the burden rest solely on the prosecution. He stated. Joseph Kamara on behalf of the prosecution said that there is sufficient evidence to satisfy the court that the three indictees participated, planned and acted in order to defeat the RUF and AFRC and gain control from the population of Sierra Leone: shared intent by eliminating supporters and sympathisers of the ARFC and RUF. Replying, the first accused Mr. Kamara, said gave instructions that the supporters should be killed. Addressing the issue that

Moinina Fofana was not present physically when these atrocities had been perpetrated, the lawyer said he was appointed Director of War and he was responsible for the supply of arms and ammunition. "According to TF2-005 when he went to base zero the first accused was not present but he was directed to Moinina. Various witnesses testified that he gave instructions that Bo should be attacked. After the attack he physically went there." Mr. Kamara said based on the written submission of the parties, the judges have the option of dismissing indictments, individual counts, or even allegations where the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction.

Independent Observer. Wednesday Sept 21st, 2005.

ROBIN VINCENT BIDS

SIERRA LEONE GOODBYE :

MALAWIAN LAWYER IS

INTERIM REGISTRAR

Mr. Robin Vincent, the Registrar of the Special Court of Sierra Leone (Pictured right), last Friday bade farewell to Sierra Leone in his final press conference at the Sierra Leone News Agency in Freetown. Mr. Vincent is leaving the court which he has served since its establishment.

At the press conference, Mr. Vincent introduced Malawian lawyer, Mr. Lovemore Munlo (Left) , as the new Interim Registrar. An accomplished attorney, Mr. Lovemore Munlo is Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda .

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 2 0 0 1 .

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 1 9 9 4 , 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 S t a t e A d v o c a t e .

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.

LIBERIAN INTERIM

GOVERNMENT MEETS

CONDITIONS FOR

DONOR AID

The Liberian government has fulfilled conditions which pave the way for donor aid to flow into the war-destroyed country.

But there is a precondition : Foreign financial experts placed in key Liberian ministries and quasi-government institutions will run the country's economy to ensure that aid is used for the purposes for which they are given.

Independent Observer. Wednesday Sept 21st, 2005.

Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations say farewell to Robin Vincent

As you might be aware, after a decade of brutal conflict in our beloved country, a call was made by the Government of Sierra Leone through the United Nations to establish a Special Court to "try all those that bear the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of International Humanitarian Law" committed after 30th November, 1996. This is to promote accountability and to end impunity.

To this end, Mr. Robin Vincent was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Kofi Anan in 2002 for a period of three years. During his tenure of office he was able through the support of other personnel to make the Special Court functional and more robust in indicting 13 persons from the various warring factions.

To his credit, he succeeded in directing the operations of the Court and the domestic acceptability of the mandate of the Court in both urban and rural communities, as this was a Herculean task to accomplish considering the ethnical, political and regional dimensions of the indictments.

Disappointingly, there are still barriers confronting the Court in ensuring the transfer of Mr. Charles Taylor from his political asylum in Calabar, Nigeria to stand trials. We hope that strides taken by the out-going Registrar will be pursued vigorously by all stakeholders and especially the international community in making this a reality.

Special Court Interactive Forum and other Civil Society Organizations, and friends of the Court are impressed with the performance of Mr.

Vincent in his determined commitment to promote and uphold the rule of law and to break the cycle of violence and impunity through his independent

and impartial role in the operations of the Court. We are hopeful that this selfless and laudable initiative in the promotion of the rule of law, will be

emulated by other countries and institutions especially our local judicial institutions.

The people of this country will ever remain to

remember you in their call to end impunity and holding people and institutions accountable for their action.

The Exclusive. Wednesday Sept 21st, 2005.

Norman, Others To Be Freed!

Following the conclusion of the prosecution's case in July, Counsel for the accused, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Allieu Kondewa each filed a motion for acquittal in the local jurisdiction a "no case submission" arguing that the Prosecution had failed to present evidence which, if believed, could

satisfy the Chamber beyond all reasonable doubts of the guilt of the accused.

According to a release from the Special Court, the motion was argued in written briefs submitted to the judges. Now the judges have asked Defence Attorney and Prosecutor to summarize their position in

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Norman, Others To Be Freed!

From front page

open court.

Based on the written and oral submissions of the parties, the judges have the option to dismiss indictments, or even allegations where the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction.

If the judges should uphold the charges, it should not be assumed that the indictees are presented guilty. It indicates rather,

that at this stage in the trial, there is a case to answer and that the accused should now proceed to present their defense.

However, the arguments are scheduled to take place Tuesday on motions for acquittal in the case of the three CDF accused.

The hearing will take place before the judges of Trial Chamber 1, Presided by Justice Peirre Boutet.

The Exclusive. Wednesday Sept 21st, 2005.

SLPP Splits...

APC In Disarray

By Foday Fojana
Vice President Solomon

Berewa is a worried man these days. He has not much

time to enjoy his landslide victory at the Makeni Con-

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APC In Disarray

From front page

vention because it would appear that only Rtd. Brig. Julius Maada Bio has so far agreed to go along with him as Charles Margai has formed his own party and from the look of things, strongly backed by Dr. Nyallay and Abubakarr Kamara.

While sacked Finance Minister, J.B. Dauda has not declared where he would lean, a bombshell has dropped and is now leaving most people wondering over the future of the SLPP.

NORMAN, RUFF, PLP

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, the UN Special Court indictee has finally announced that he would form his own political party that would comprise members of the RUFF and the APRC/ PLP.

Chief Norman from his cold cells intends to defeat or at least give the SLPP and the APC a very good run for their money.

"What an irony to see Sam Hinga Norman become strange bed fellows with the RUF and AFRC left overs he bitterly fought against during our rebel war Does this imply that Hinga Norman was actually not fighting the rebels with sincerity but merely for personal gains as many thought, that Norman really wanted power for himself?"

an SLPP veteran who was close to Norman wondered.

Underrate Not Norman

Norman the colonial coup maker; the man who used to bang the table on President Kabbah, the man who keeps accusing Kabbah of ungratefulness and treachery for his present calamity, is supposedly not to be underestimated because apart from the popularity he still enjoys among the southerners and his ex-Kamajors in particular, his support groups in the UK and America are widely believed to have much ready money to campaign for him.

Berewa Shaken?

"Vice President Solomon Berewa is not the least shaken. If you have ever seen the big cotton tree shaken, then Berewa is shaken. Hinga Norman is not a threat at all, he has only exposed himself to ridicule and shown his true colours that he was not fighting his so-called liberation war genuinely... We will beat him, the Charles Margai group put together with the APC all put together hands down come 2007," an aide to VP Berewa told The Exclusive yesterday at the new SLPP office where the party leader was in attendance.

Another APC Convention

Authoritative sources in the camp of the old guard (Eddie

Turay, Serry Kamal, Osho Williams, Dr. Labbi, M.L. Bangura) have revealed to The Exclusive that only over their dead bodies would Ernest get his way in APC politics.

So they have decided to hold a separate convention shortly, though it is not known what they would achieve at the end of the day when the overwhelming majority of APC delegates voted in Ernest as party leader in Port Loko.

Only God would save Ernest Koroma, considering the legal heavy weights he is faced with... They are dragging him to the courts again and they would do so, as much as they could until they prove by law that the present leader bastardized the APC constitution to be where he finds himself today", an APC elder stated.

Defiant Ernest

The Minority-leader in Parliament remains defiant. "I have the people's support so nobody can shake me. I didn't do anything illegal; I only wanted to resuscitate an almost dead political party and when the masses chose me I decided to call everyone on board but people said they stood by the party during turbulent times and should lead the party at all cost, even when people had lost confi-

dence in them." Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma was quoted as saying yesterday.

Ernest Koroma is now being presently actively urged by his supporters all over the country to form his own party if the old guards do not want to give him the chance to rule this country and that they will follow him all the way to victory.

THINGS FALL APART

"Things fall Apart, the centre cannot hold and mere anarchy is loose upon the world".

A quote by legendary novelist Chinua Achebe in "Things Fall Apart"

The nation, just coming out of a bloody and senseless war, is seeing the present political imbroglio as a bad blessing to this country, just as the international community at large and particularly our donor partners are worried about stability in this post war country.

"Instead of splinter groups, what is needed today in your country is political cohesiveness. But the growing fraction in your politics might have dangerous consequences for Sierra Leone," a Western diplomat told The Exclusive.

We are being warned

Concord Times. Wednesday Sept 21st, 2005.

"Hinga Norman could be guilty"

From page 1

proved that the prosecution has been able to reach Rule 98 standards that the first accused of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF), Chief Sam Hinga Norman could be guilty of war crimes.

"To meet Rule 98 standards, sufficient evidence has been laid before the court that the intent pursued by the first, second and third accused of the CDF constitutes a criminal offence," Kamara adduced adding that they have evidence that the accused gave instructions to kill supporters and collaborators of the Revolutionary United Front/Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (RUF/AFRC) and that is what makes it an offence.

"An order for people to be killed and occupy the whole country amount to criminal deeds. In fact there is no necessity for a criminal intent to be prearranged contemporaneously," counsel submitted and added, "the jurisdiction of International Tribunal has established that the first element behind the offence is the plurality of persons."

However, defense counsel for Hinga Norman, Dr. Bubuakie Jabbie submitted that his client insists that he has not been served with an indictment and that his rights should be kept in mind observing that the court's attention should be drawn to the dimension of Joint Criminal Enterprise.

"Hinga Norman could be guilty"

...Prosecuting Attorney

Story: Tanu Jalloh

Prosecuting counsel at the Special Court, Joseph Kamara

Tuesday submitted that testimonies of TF 2-005, TF 2-222, TF 2-201, and TF 2-008

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RUFPP to investigate Kamajor boss

Story: Mohamed Massaquoi
Secretary General of the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFPP), Jonathan Kposowa told Concord Times Tuesday that they would investigate the Kamajor strongman, Sam Hinga Norman before allowing him into their coalition.

His comments were made in response to recent press suggestions that war crimes indictee, Norman, is intent on joining an alliance with the RUFPP, a group that he fought bitterly during Sierra Leone's decade old war.



Hinga Norman - joining RUFPP alliance?

Kposowa insinuates Chief Norman has approached top RUFPP members like Issa Sesay, also a Special Court indictee and others of his intention to form a coalition with them.

He said the RUFPP is a democratic party that is open to all citizens of the country, but that proper

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RUFPP to investigate Kamajor boss

From page 1

investigation is needed before an individual is allowed to be a member.

"We need to know the profile and political ideology of Chief Norman before he is allowed to join the coalition", he said.

Kposowa says they also need to inform their party members within and out of the country about this latest development.

It could be recalled that the

RUFPP and the Kamajors, later known as Civil Defense Forces (CDF), were diametrically opposed during the country's civil strife.

Chief Norman is currently in detention at the United Nations backed Special Court for charges of war crimes. He aspired for the leadership of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and also took the party to court for constitutional irregularities but his case was struck out of court.

Hinga Norman's 4 Party Chairmen

By Theophilus S. Gbenda

Awareness Times has been sent the full list of names of all the four Regional Party Chairmen for the new Hinga Norman political Party. The 'Steering Committee to Elect Hinga Norman' will also make a

formal declaration of the new political party by the end of this month. According to Mustapha Vonu, the Western Area Chairman of the Steering Committee, consultative meetings are ongoing

throughout the country and that at the end of the consultations, a final framework for the new party will be made public. There are also strong indications that the new party will present a united

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Hinga Norman

Hinga Norman names his 4 Party Chairmen

From front page

front with the People's Liberation Party (PLP) and the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF), to challenge the ruling SLPP and the opposition APC.

It is not yet known whether the Hinga Norman camp and the Charles Margai camp will have any form of collaboration.

Meanwhile, the names of the four Regional Chairpersons of the new party have been revealed to be: Arthur Koroma - Eastern Region; Hadja Dankay Moorie - Northern Region; Hassan Feika - Southern Region; and Mustapha Maada Vonu - Western Region. It is expected that at the end of the consultative meetings, the steering committee will decide on who should be the national chairman, as well as the nomenclature, symbol and headquarters of the new party.

In an interview with Mr. Mustapha Vonu, he pointed out that the new party will establish a broad-based political movement that is devoid of regional, religious and ethnic bias.

It could be noted that Chief Sam Hinga Norman played a crucial role in the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone, through his leadership role as National Coordinator of the pro-government Civil Defence Forces (CDF).

Following the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a number of persons including Chief Norman, thought to have bore the greatest responsibility for the human rights abuses committed by the warring factions during the course of the war, were apprehended and have since been in detention awaiting the outcome of their trials. It could also be noted that Chief Norman earlier vested his interest in

the leadership race of the SLPP but later backed out after he lost his injunction case at the Supreme Court. It is still not clear what Chief Norman and his supporters are trying to achieve, but what is however clear though is the fact that the ruling SLPP is in for a big time split. The news about the formation of yet another breakaway party from within the SLPP, by Chief Norman, came at a time when Charles Margai too is putting the final mechanisms in place for the formation of his own party, following his woeful defeat at the Makeni convention. Both Chief Norman and Charles Margai are said to be influential SLPP stalwarts who are capable of effectively dividing the votes of the party, particularly in its traditional strongholds. The SLPP is however downplaying this.

Special Court Lawyer practices 'slavery'

...No pay for domestic servants

BY ABDUL KUYATEH

As a legal officer working for an internationally acclaimed justice institution, members of the public have raised eye brow over the inhuman treatment meted out

by Associate Legal Officer of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone, Italian born Matteo Crippa on three domestic servants under his employ for two years. By refusing to pay the end

of service benefits to the three domestic servants who served him diligently throughout his stay at his Fifth Street, Juba Hill residence, Mr Crippa is not only viewed as exhibiting the ten-

dency of a "colonial slave master," but also as a ridicule to his profession as legal defender of international humanitarian law.

In a letter entitled "Unfair
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Alpha Timbo...
Labour Minister

FROM PAGE 1

Labour Practice" dated 2nd February 2005 and addressed to the Commissioner of Labour, the general secretary of the Municipal and Local Government Employees' Union, F.K. Morray, described Mr Crippa's behaviour "...as an act calculated to artfully dupe these vulnerable workers and patently flout and violate the provisions of the Labour Laws of Sierra Leone".

In the same vein, the general secretary urged the Commissioner of Labour to "...swiftly intervene so as to forestall the willful and flagrant violation of the labour laws by especially foreigners" like Mr Matteo Crippa.

The letter noted with dissatisfaction, the uncouth way that Mr Crippa reacted to the Union's formal intervention in writing to address the anomalies in Mr Crippa's dealing with the

Sierra Leonean male and female workers under his employment.

In an other letter dated 2nd August 2005, the Union's general secretary called on the Commissioner of Labour to expedite action on the matter, noting that Mr Crippa would soon leave the country, without "... healing the industrial wounds he has afflicted on his Sierra Leonean male and female domestic servants...."

Besides, Mr Crippa was said to have criminally forged a letter on behalf of the violated workers, disowning the intervention of the Union and apologizing to him, "for any inconvenience that ...this matter might have caused to you."

Commenting on the said letter, Posseh Kanu, who served Crippa as a house maid described it "as a ploy to undermine the action of the Union". Besides, she said, "it was criminal of Mr

Crippa to have written a letter of apology on our behalf without our knowledge; so we refused to sign it".

The two other workers are Saidu Kargbo and Ansumana Kanu, cleaner and gardener respectively, all of whom were employed by Crippa in January 2003, with each entitled to benefits of roughly 6.5 million as worked out by Labour.

Meanwhile, the three workers are going through hell to upkeep their families and meet their housing and other monthly bills.

"My wife has just given birth and schools have reopened and I cannot meet my financial obligations", lamented Ansumana Kanu.

He appealed to human rights defenders in the country to come to their aid and save them from their current agony.

All efforts to contact Crippa failed.

Source: United Nations Security Council

Date: 19 Sep 2005

Security Council extends UN Mission in Liberia until 31 March 2006, unanimously adopting resolution 1626 (2005)

SC/8499

Security Council
5263rd Meeting (PM)

250 UNMIL Troops to Deploy to Sierra Leone to Provide Security for Special Court after UN Mission's Departure
(Delayed for technical reasons, issued on 20 September.)

The Security Council today, extending the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 31 March 2006, authorized the Mission to deploy from November up to 250 United Nations military personnel to Sierra Leone to provide a continuing international security presence for the Special Court there, after the departure of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on 31 December.

Acting under Chapter VII and unanimously adopting resolution 1626 (2005), the Council also authorized a temporary increase in UNMIL's personnel ceiling to a total of 15,250 military personnel, from 15 November to 31 March 2006 to ensure that the support provided to the Court in Sierra Leone did not reduce UNMIL's capabilities in Liberia during its period of political transition.

The Council further authorized UNMIL, subjected along with the above provisions to the consent of troop-contributing countries and the Sierra Leonean Government, to deploy an adequate number of military personnel to Sierra Leone, if and when needed, to evacuate those UNMIL military personnel temporary deployed to Sierra Leone, as well as officials of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in the event of a serious security crisis affecting those personnel and the Court.

Further to the text, the Council requested the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), once established, to provide logistical support for UNMIL's military personnel deployed to that country.

In a related provision, the Council asked the Secretary-General and the Sierra Leonean Government to conclude an agreement regarding the status of military personnel of UNMIL deployed to Sierra Leone, taking into account the relevant existing legal instruments. Pending the conclusion of such an agreement, the model status-of-forces agreement of 9 October 1990 would apply provisionally.

The Council supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to return to the ceiling of United Nations military personnel in UNMIL, as authorized in resolution 1509 (2003), by 31 March 2006.

It encouraged the Missions in the region to continue to enhance inter-mission cooperation, especially with regard to the prevention of cross-border movement of arms, combatants and the illicit exploitation of natural resources and in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m. and was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Council Resolution

The full text of resolution 1626 (2005) reads, as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its previous resolutions and statements by its President concerning the situations in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in particular its resolutions 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, 1610 (2005) of 30 June 2005 and 1620 (2005) of 31 August 2005,

"Welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 1 September 2005 (S/2005/560),

"Welcoming progress made in the preparations for the October presidential and legislative elections,

"Welcoming the further extension of State authority, including progress in the establishment of a new Liberian police service and the appointment of new judges and magistrates,

"Expressing appreciation for the indispensable and continuing contributions to the Liberian peace progress by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), and for financial and other assistance provided by the international community,

"Welcoming the signing by the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) and the International Contact Group of Liberia of the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program (GEMAP) which is designed to ensure prompt implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to expedite the lifting of measures imposed by resolution 1521 (2003),

"Reiterating its appreciation for the essential work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its vital contributions to the establishment of the rule of law in Sierra Leone and the subregion and encouraging all States to cooperate fully with the Court as it implements its completion strategy,

"Noting that the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is scheduled to end its operations on 31 December 2005,

"Recalling the briefing to the Security Council by the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone on 24 May 2005 in which he stressed the need for a continuing international security presence to provide protection for the Special Court after the departure of UNAMSIL, and welcoming the Secretary-General's recommendations in this regard,

"Determining that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

"Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Decides that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) shall be extended until 31 March 2006;

"2. Calls on all Liberian parties to demonstrate their full commitment to a democratic process of government by ensuring that the upcoming presidential and legislative elections are peaceful, transparent, free and fair;

"3. Calls on the international community to respond to continuing needs for resources for the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants and for security sector reform;

"4. Looks forward to the implementation of GEMAP by the NTGL and succeeding governments of Liberia in collaboration with their international partners, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the progress of this implementation in his regular reports on UNMIL;

"5. Authorizes UNMIL, subject to the consent of the troop-contributing countries concerned and the Government of Sierra Leone, to deploy from November 2005 up to 250 United Nations military personnel to Sierra Leone to provide security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as recommended in paragraphs 90 to 94 of the Secretary-General's report of 1 September 2005 (S/2005/560);

"6. Authorizes a temporary increase in UNMIL's personnel ceiling, to a total of 15,250 United Nations military personnel, for the period from 15 November 2005 to 31 March 2006 in order to ensure that the support provided to the Court does not reduce UNMIL's capabilities in Liberia during its political transition period;

"7. Further authorizes UNMIL, subject to the consent of troop-contributing countries concerned and of the Government of Sierra Leone, to deploy an adequate number of military personnel to Sierra Leone, if and when needed, to evacuate UNMIL military personnel deployed to Sierra Leone pursuant to paragraph 5 of this

resolution and officials of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the event of a serious security crisis affecting those personnel and the Court;

"8. Requests the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), once established, to assist in providing logistic support for UNMIL military personnel deployed to Sierra Leone pursuant to this resolution;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General and the Government of Sierra Leone to conclude an agreement regarding the status of military personnel of UNMIL deployed to Sierra Leone pursuant to this resolution, taking into account General Assembly resolution 59/47 on the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and decides that, pending the conclusion of such an agreement, the model status-of-forces agreement dated 9 October 1990 (A/45/594) shall apply provisionally;

"10. Supports the Secretary-General's recommendation to return to the ceiling of United Nations military personnel authorized in resolution 1509 (2003) by 31 March 2006;

"11. Encourages the United Nations missions in the region, within their capabilities and areas of deployment and without prejudice to their mandates, to continue their efforts toward enhancing intermission cooperation, especially with regard to the prevention of cross-border movement of arms, combatants and the illicit exploitation of natural resources and in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

"12. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by UNMIL to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure that allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse against their personnel are properly investigated and, if substantiated, punished;

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on a drawdown plan for UNMIL, including specific benchmarks and a tentative schedule, in his March 2006 report;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Council regularly informed on UNMIL's progress with the implementation of its mandate;

"15. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Background

For its consideration of the situation in Liberia, the Security Council had before it the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General (document S/2005/560), in which he says that the steady progress in the preparations for the October national elections has been most encouraging. Given the many challenges still facing the peace process, however, he recommends an extension of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for another year, until 19 September 2006. He also recommends the temporary deployment of a company-size force of up to 250 military personnel from UNMIL to the Special Court in Sierra Leone by 15 November, given that the operations of the United Nations Mission there are scheduled to end on 31 December 2005.

Although Liberia has made great steps in consolidating peace and in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the peace process still faces many challenges, the report notes. The UNMIL is now moving towards a new phase of its operations which will focus on the conduct of free and fair elections in October, as well as the provision of security during elections and in the run-up to the installation of the new Government in January 2006.

According to the report, the Mission will continue to work towards: the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants; the restoration of State administration nationwide; the strengthening of rule of law institutions and the restructuring of the security sector; and the promotion of recovery and reconstruction.

The Secretary-General, meanwhile, commends the Liberian people for their determination to participate in the polls, as demonstrated by the large numbers who have registered to vote, and also the peaceful manner in which the electoral process has been conducted so far. The National Elections Commission should also be commended for its role in ensuring that the process has remained on track. The technical and material support provided by the international partners has been vital in ensuring the Commission's effective functioning. The political parties, the candidates and their supporters now need to ensure that the campaigns are conducted peaceably and freely in all areas of the country, and that the voters can participate in credible polls conducted without any threat of violence.

He says that the strides made towards reforming the security sector, particularly the training of the new police service, are also encouraging. The Transitional Government has made a significant contribution to this programme by ensuring regular and improved salary payments for the police officers and for approving the new rank structure and uniforms policy. The Government, however, should redouble its efforts to raise the requisite funds for the demobilization of security personnel who are not eligible to join the restructured services and for the decommissioning of the former Armed Forces of Liberia personnel.

The Secretary-General urges donors to give urgent consideration to assisting the Transitional Government to ensure that progress can be made in this very important area. The Government also needs urgent support from its international partners to equip the new police service and to rebuild the police infrastructure in the counties so that progress in strengthening the police force can continue.

The reintegration of former combatants still faces a significant funding shortfall, the report states. The completion of an effective reintegration programme is vital to combat the serious problems of re-recruitment of fighters, illegal exploitation of natural resources and the widespread and high incidence of violent crime. It is also an essential element in ensuring that the vicious cycle of conflict is finally broken so that durable stability can be restored both in Liberia and within the wider West African subregion. The Secretary-General, therefore, appeals to the donor community to assist in closing the funding gap of approximately \$18.5 million for reintegration and also to provide the additional \$7 million needed so that those ex-combatants who have opted for formal education can continue with their schooling for two further academic years.

Improving economic governance is also essential for consolidating peace and ensuring sustainable development in Liberia, the report states. Regrettably, protracted delays have been encountered in the process of consultations between the Transitional Government and international partners on the proposed governance and economic management assistance programme. This document must be finalized as soon as possible, as the programme is an important tool for strengthening Liberia's national sovereignty, ensuring the Government's control over its revenues and expenditures, and as a means to create a long-term revenue-generating base for the country's development. Its effective implementation would greatly contribute to Liberia's national recovery efforts and would help Liberia to meet the requirements for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on it by the Council in resolution 1521 (2003).

Furthermore, improved economic governance would also ensure that the country retains the confidence of donors who have already been generous in their provision of assistance. The Secretary-General, therefore, strongly urges the Transitional Government to work closely with international partners to reach an early agreement on the programme, so that it could be presented for the Council's consideration and put into operation with minimum delay.

The report notes that the transitional process prescribed by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed by the Liberian parties in Accra in August 2003, comes to a conclusion with the inauguration of the newly elected Government in January 2006. Liberians are faced with a unique opportunity to build on the gains made so far during the transition and move towards a new era of sustained stability, national reconstruction and recovery. The success of this process will depend largely on the Liberian people and their leaders. It will also depend on the full and sustained engagement of donors.