

**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, September 30, 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

Awoko. Friday September 30, 2005.

# Gullit was more of a Politician than a soldier- says Lawyer

By Betty K. Milton  
Lawyer Glenna  
Thompson  
representing first  
accused-Alex Tamba Brima  
aka Gullit in the AFRC trial  
has during cross-  
examination of prosecution  
witness TF1-184 suggested  
that it was because Gullit  
was more of a Politician than  
a soldier that he was hated.  
"Was it not because Gullit  
was behaving more like a  
politician than a soldier that  
was why he was hated by  
most of you in the jungle so  
you decided to give  
evidence against him as a  
way of punishing him?" The  
witness answered "no" and

no idea about disagreement  
between the AFRC and  
RUF during the junta  
regime. If there were any  
disagreement, then Johnny  
Paul would not have gone

that he was reporting what  
he saw and heard when  
they were in the jungle. The  
witness also told the court  
that when they came back  
to Freetown in January  
1999 it was Gullit who gave  
orders that the whole city  
should be burnt down. The  
witness confirmed that  
there were indeed three  
factions in Mongo Bendugu.  
These were the SLA's,  
RUF's and STF's but they  
were all working towards  
the same goal. He also  
stated that members of  
these factions were always  
wearing the same uniforms  
and one could not easily  
identify the differences

all the way to Kailahun."  
He was also asked  
whether he has seen Junior  
Lion since 2004? The  
witness said it has taken a  
long time he had not set  
eyes on him and that he first

among them. TF1-184 stated  
that when Commander C.  
died, he saw Gullit putting his  
fingers into his  
Commander's nostril and  
when he asked; he told him  
that he wanted to stop the  
bleeding. The Prosecution  
witness also denied questions  
posed by the Defence Lawyer  
that Johnny Paul Koroma  
urged the arrest of Issa  
Sesay after he did some  
looting at the Iranian  
Embassy. The witness also  
denied the statement of the  
lawyer that they arrested  
Gibril Massaquoi and Steve  
Bio because of attempted  
coup plot. "As far as my  
knowledge could serve I had

met Junior Lion at Kabbasa  
Lodge during the NPRC  
regime twice and again at  
Camp Rosus when he was  
with his commander Ibrahim  
Bazzy Kamara.

Salone Times. Friday September 30, 2005.

## The OSWALD HANCILES Column 'Special' Charles Taylor And Special Court

I have written over a dozen articles on "Charles Taylor" over the past eight years. That was when Charles Taylor was the dashing President of Liberia. When Charles Taylor threatened my country after it was clear after January 6, 1999 that he was the brains of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). When a lot of the governing elite feared Charles Taylor, and spoke and acted as if the best 'Taylor-strategy' for Sierra Leone would be to pacify Taylor, I had written lengthy articles in Concord Times asserting that Charles Taylor was a 'paper tiger.'

I argued that no matter how Taylor appeared invincible to Sierra Leone's governing elite, he could be easily vanquished because he had no real ethnic base in the terribly ethnic-polarized politics in Liberia. Whatever one can say about "Charles Taylor" he is one of the most vibrant studies of "human possibilities" in human history - ever.

In 1980, when Master-Sergeant Kanyan Doe overthrew the then 130 years rule of Americo-Liberians, Charles Taylor was made "Director-General" of the "General Services Agency (GSA)." The GSA was the central procurement agency for the Government of Liberia. The GSA Director-General was a cabinet 'minister'. Because of the vast sums of money the GSA Director-General had to deal with daily, traditionally, presidents would give that position to their best friends who would 'naturally' accumulate staggering personal wealth, and would be expected 'not to forget the president's purse', too. As GSA boss, Charles Taylor would always be dressed like a multi-millionaire American film star - with dangling gold chains, state-of-the-art cars in convoy as he cruised the capital city.

As GSA boss, Taylor went overseas in 1981. Word leaked to President Doe that Taylor had duped him of a million dollars. Emotionally combustible, Does screamed that he would chop off Taylor's balls when he returned to Liberia. With Doe, that threat could be literal, not just figurative. Taylor got wind of Doe's threat. He did not return to Liberia from the US. Doe sent his justice minister then - the flamboyant J. Jenkins-Smith - to initiate extradition proceedings against Taylor. One of the most celebrated lawyers in the US then, Ramsey Clarke, was Taylor's lawyer. Nonetheless, Taylor was kept in an American cell. He jumped jail. Mysteriously. Even more mysteriously, he got to Libya. The playboy, resonant, erudite, demagogic Charles Tay-

lor with a Masters degree in economics, trained as guerrilla fighter in Libya. When Taylor ignited his war in Liberia on December 24, 1989, it was only with 250 hastily-trained fighters. He pitted himself against 5,000 of Doe's soldiers who were from his Krahn tribe, fanatically loyal to Doe, trained in all forms of martial arts and jungle warfare by Israeli military experts. Taylor had an uncanny gift of the gab. With the force of language - and the apparently unwitting assistance of the BBC - Taylor's army snowballed, enwrapping thousands of Liberian youths who hated the reign of terror Doe had instituted.

Well-trained, well-armed Nigerian-led ECOMOG forces stationed themselves in Liberia in 1990 to checkmate Taylor's rebel army setting a precedence of a successful rebel campaign in West Africa. Taylor fought back. *Ferociously!!*. Twice Taylor's rag tag army of mainly children and teenagers almost took the capital city of Monrovia from ECOMOG. Taylor outfoxed ECOMOG. Taylor used the credibility of the gullible former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to endorse his landslide victory in presidential elections in 1996. As President of Liberia, Taylor made the state of Liberia into a corporate entity called Taylor Inc. So, Taylor was kicked out. After Taylor had been the puppeteer of the RUF to wreck unimaginable atrocities in Sierra Leone.

Now, they say Taylor must face trial in the Special Court. He first have to be brought back from his 'refuge' in Nigeria. David Crane, Special Court Prosecutor, and Justice Ayetoola of the Special Court ...were in the UN Security Council last week informing the world that Charles Taylor is...The New York-based Human Rights Watch, the Washington-based Coalition for International Justice were telling the world that Charles Taylor is...Diverse international human rights groups have been recently stridently telling the world that Charles Taylor is...

That Charles Taylor recently sent \$160,000 through one of his businesses in Liberia, United Enterprises, to the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBD) to sponsor an anti-government street demonstration. Taylor is funding NINE of the presidential candidates who will contest the elections in Liberia in October, 2005. Taylor has trained a small personal military (with state-of-the-art equipment and material) to destabilize any state in West Africa that he chooses to. Taylor

planned the recent assassination attempt on Guinea's President Lansana Conte.

Charles Taylor is said to be hand-in-glove with the most notorious arms dealer - to rebel movements - in the world today: Victor Bout, a Russian. Through the notorious mercenary, Burkinabe, Ibrahim Bah, Taylor is said to be the main agent of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda 'terrorist' group in West Africa. US President George Bush is not taking this allegation against Charles Taylor seriously. Bush has as yet to be unequivocal in lending support for Taylor's extradition for Nigeria.

So, what if Charles Taylor is brought to the Special Court in Freetown? *So, what if, as is certain, while a prisoner in Freetown, the evil genius that Taylor is, he intensifies efforts to destabilize Sierra Leone again?* What are our contingency plans for that? What was our strategic and political plans as we allowed our War Hero, Hinga Norman, to be tried by the Special Court?

We need the best brains to grapple with the variables that are involved with Charles Taylor's trial by our Special Court. *Our government elite should nudge themselves out of their slavish state of mind that gets them to think that Americans/Europeans are 'gods', and once they get involved with anything, all problems would be solved.*

The US congress has frozen some of Taylor's ill-gotten loot. But Mafia minds like Taylor know how to hide their money. Reliable sources informed us that between 1990 and 1997, Taylor was stealing about \$100 million every year. Between 1997 and 2003 when he was president, Taylor was putting some \$150 million of Liberia's money into his personal pocket. \$12 million was what Taylor was 'eating' from Lone Star Mobile company. For long period, Taylor's earnings from blood diamonds passed on to him by the RUF was \$12 million annually. A private UK-based military firm, Northbridge Services Group, in December of 2003, said it has people ready to kidnap Charles Taylor to claim a \$2 million reward allegedly offered by the US Congress for Taylor's arrest. *Taylor's 'coming' to the Special Court is fraught with frightening dangers for Sierra Leone. But it also presents wonderful opportunities. 2,000 British soldiers here. A Marshall Plan accelerated for Sierra Leone. Think!!*

Analysis. Friday September 30, 2005.

# Hingha Norman is mad

**Former Regent Chief and Coordinator of the indicted Civil Defence Forces – Samuel Hingha Norman has gone mad, a Special Court source has revealed.**

Hingha Norman's madness was first detected by the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone when Norman attempted to stop the SLPP convention from

going ahead. Norman's movement is restricted for his grave indictment of "crimes against humanity". The Special Court indictee now has dis-

owned his claim to the SLPP presidency and has advisedly decided to form his own version of a Third Force, which reportedly will have no alliance with Charles Francis Margai. "If the SLPP could not let me lead them – then I have to form

my own party," Special Court sources through Cocoriko has disclosed to the press.

In his madness Norman intends mending fences with his former avowed rivals – the RUF and PLP (the rebel/junta). "What madness is this?" one SLPP supporter in Bo has lamented.

It is however unlikely how Norman who is still detained can register a political party

left alone competing for elections countrywide.



*Hinga Norman*

Awoko. Thursday September 29, 2005.

## First moot court competition for students

Within the framework of its mandate to support the efforts of states in disseminating International Humanitarian Law, (IHL) the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Freetown Delegation will organise the first moot court competition for undergraduate students. The competition, which will be held on Monday October 10, at the Special Court, is intended to expose students to International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian action through training, simulation and advocacy. The selected participants organised in teams of three persons will be given the same case on an imaginary humanitarian crisis and will be asked to answer the questions to this case in 30 minutes in front of the jury. The competition will run from 1.30 pm to 6p.m and the prizegiving will follow immediately. According to the Communication Delegate of the ICRC, Philippe Stoll, the facts will not be referring to any real situation. The ICRC's objective of the competition is to promote its goal of dissemination of IHL within universities and the general public, while it will also allow the participants to acquire in-depth knowledge of IHL and Humanitarian action through role-playing and case studies. Serving as jury for the competition is the head of the ICRC Delegation here in Freetown, the legal adviser of the Sierra Leonean Red Cross, a Sierra Leonean Judge from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, lecturers from the Universities concerned and the Deputy Secretary in the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry. The three students of the winning team will be offered a trip to participate in the international stage of the competition by the ICRC, which will take place in Arusha, Tanzania from 12-20 November this year.

Awoko. Thursday September 29, 2005.

### **Justice Robertson now vice president of the Special Court**

**J**ustice Robertson QC, who was the first President of the Special Court, will now serve as the new Vice President for the next four months. Justice Robertson's earlier tenure of the Court Presidency occurred during an important

phase of its work, when its procedures were drafted, its courtrooms built and its financial viability established with the United Nations. He together with President Kabbah opened the new court in an historic ceremony in March 2004.

Geoffrey Robertson is the founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers. He succeeds Justice Gelaga King, while Justice Renata Winter will assume the Vice President in January. The Judges of the Appeals Chamber fill the Vice- Presidency of the Courts by rotation every quarter.

30 September 2005 08:14

## Geoffrey Robinson: Brief encounter

### After his headline-grabbing cases and human-rights advocacy, Geoffrey Robertson now defends a revolutionary lawyer who killed a king. Robert Hanks meets him

Published: 30 September 2005

On the way to meet Geoffrey Robertson QC, at his home in north-west London, I took a wrong turn near Swiss Cottage and ended up on Fairfax Road, passing Marston Close and Naseby Close. I've been round this bit of London any number of times without noticing the significance of these names, what it is they commemorate: not simply the English Civil War, but the most successful Parliamentarian general of the conflict, and two of his victories. It's a rare effusion of Cromwellian feeling in London. This is, perhaps, a neat illustration of the place the Civil War occupies in our culture, always lurking there somewhere, but almost forgotten. I don't suppose I would have noticed anything if I hadn't just been reading Robertson's book.

*The Tyrannicide Brief* (Chatto & Windus, £20) is a life of the 17th-century lawyer John Cooke - remembered now, if at all, for leading the prosecution of Charles I in 1649. Robertson came across Cooke in 1999, when invited to dispute a paper presented by Justice Michael Kirby on the 350th anniversary of Charles's trial. Kirby took what Robertson calls "the traditional line - that the king's trial left much to be desired in fairness." On reading the transcripts, Robertson concluded that "the consideration with which the king was treated was unique for the times: times when those who didn't plead were usually pressed to death with large stones, and trials were completed within a couple of hours, and jurors were locked up without fire or water in order that they should bring back verdicts quickly."

By contrast, Cooke's own trial for regicide, following the Restoration, was carefully choreographed, with normal rules of evidence discarded, in order to reach the required verdict. After it Cooke was hanged, drawn and quartered - in effect, torn to pieces while he was still alive.

On further investigation, Robertson came to see Cooke as not simply an accidental player in a great historical drama, but a farsighted reformer who would have earned a place in legal history even without Charles's trial. Among other things, Cooke argued against imprisonment for debt (a reform that had to wait for Charles Dickens), for the restriction of the death penalty to murder and treason, and for the exclusion of Latin and Norman French from legal proceedings. He also linked poverty to crime, and proposed free medical treatment for the poor - anticipating the National Health Service by 300 years.

Well worth a biography, then: but he had to wait a year or two longer. Two more books intervened. *The Justice Game* was Robertson's jaunty memoir of his life as a high-profile radical barrister, from the Oz trial in 1971 through the Matrix-Churchill arms-to-Iraq case. Then came two editions of *Crimes Against Humanity* - a polemical history of conceptions of "human rights" and international law.

When he finally did settle to researching Cooke, it had to be fitted in between trial work and regular stints as an appeal judge for the UN war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone: "It does require me every month or couple of months to go a circuitous route to Freetown, or outside Freetown, and get a Ukrainian helicopter to go to a war crimes court and dodge malarial mosquitoes."

By contrast, he says, "There is a great pleasure in receding into the bowels of the British Library." He loved working among the Thomason Tracts, a collection of 17th-century pamphlets that line the walls of one room of the BL (though "it's the sort of print that made Milton blind"). He adds: "Of course, one reads lots of books that have been published about the period afterwards - the groaning shelves of Civil War history."



Still, with a wife - the pun-addicted novelist Kathy Lette - who understands the demands of writing, Robertson's difficulty was not so much finding the time as finding the right gear. "If I go and do a trial for two months and then come back to John Cooke and the Civil War period," he says, "I've got to do a week's reading before I'm back in a mental framework to remember where I've left off. So I think in future I would recommend that those who try to combine writing history with a day-job should perhaps try to take nine months off the day-job."

The fact that he is a spare-time historian does show in *The Tyrannicide Brief*. He has clearly done his reading around Cooke, but the context often has a tossed-off feel, as if rehashed from secondary sources. I imagine academic historians won't take kindly to his lack of objectivity, a determination to put Cooke's actions in the best light, which at times leads into what amounts to special pleading. He says, "The wonderful thing about writing history, as opposed to writing law, is that you look forward to having your mistakes pointed out". I'll bet historians of the period will be itching to oblige.

But he does write very readably, and what he offers that few historians can is a lawyer's eye for Cooke's own subject: "I recognise in him a certain fellow-feeling albeit, over 350 years, obviously attenuated." Robertson admires his morality: "He believed passionately that lawyers served a purpose. And he was trying to define that purpose, and trying to give them a sense of ethics that would enable them to fulfil that purpose and not become the butt of jokes about their greed and their corruption."

The other thing he finds "fascinating" about Cooke is that "he's so concerned with the nuts and bolts of law"; much of his 1646 tract *The Vindication of the Professors and Profession of the Law* is concerned with technical issues such as the fusion of statute and equity law, "which obsessed him. Only a lawyer who has ever practised in an unfused system can see what he was getting at." He also proposed a national land registry, and the reform of conveyancing. Most of his ideas have been taken up: the exceptions are a suggestion that lawyers should devote 10 per cent of their time to pro bono work ("No legal profession in any country that I'm aware of has adopted that as an ethic," Robertson says), and that parliament set legal fees - with lawyer MPs excluded from voting. No surprises there, then.

It's in the prosecution of King Charles, though, that Cooke's work seems to relate most directly to Robertson's. Discussing this, Robertson's initially bluff, ingratiating manner falls away: he is more engaged, serious and, to be frank, more likeable. His passionate interest in international law is obvious.

Before the Civil War, the presumption had been that, since the king was the source of law, prosecuting him did not even make sense. Robertson's view is that Cooke's masterstroke was to include the word "tyrant" in the charge - tyranny being the one crime of which a ruler, and only a ruler, could be guilty. Through his scrupulous conduct, Cooke established for the first time that a head of state can be held accountable for his actions, though the idea has taken a while to root.

"In Cooke's brief," says Robertson, "you've got this wonderful passage where 'impunity' - the word 'impunity' which you hear so often from Kofi Annan and Amnesty International today as something that we must end - is used, I think for the first time in its modern meaning, as the freedom a tyrant should never have to live happily after his tyranny". The Nuremberg trials, and the prosecutions of Pinochet, Milosevic and Saddam all owe something to Cooke's pioneering work.

Echoes of Charles's trial won't die away: Milosevic's refusal to recognise the UN Tribunal on Former Yugoslavia at the Hague replays Charles's disdain towards his accusers. Robertson thinks Milosevic has blundered by joining in arguments in court, "Which will mean that the court will be able to come to a considered conclusion". Again, "When Saddam Hussein was brought before his judge on that televised occasion, the words he used were exactly, in translation, what Charles had said: 'By what authority do you try me?'"

Charles's principal crime had been to use prerogative powers to lead the country into war - which leads me to wonder whether his trial might set a precedent worrying for our own Prime Minister. After all, such eminences as Michael Mansfield QC have called for Tony Blair to be prosecuted for war crimes.

Robertson doesn't think this is a runner. "As a legal precedentist, you clutch on to precedents and build slowly," he explains. "At the moment, we have got to the stage where those who mass-murder their own people can be put on trial by international law. No one suggests that, as yet, Mr Blair is in that category." In fact, he sees the relationship between Cooke and Blair in an altogether more positive light. The tribunals on Yugoslavia and Rwanda were set up, he thinks, as "PR exercises. They never envisaged that they would do anything, and they didn't, until - and this is where Mr Blair does come in, I think - until Labour was elected and suddenly Nato policy changed, and they arrested some concentration camp commandants and some generals, and international justice started to have real teeth."

That slant on the Blair administration is not universally popular these days. But in an age when international law really is beginning to have an effect, when dictators know that their past may well come back to haunt them, perhaps we can all accept that John Cooke's legacy needs thinking about, and celebrating.

## Biography

Geoffrey Robertson QC was born in Sydney in 1946. After qualifying as a solicitor, he came to Britain on a Rhodes Scholarship in 1970, earning a BCL at Oxford, and being called to the Bar in 1974. His prominent cases have included the **Oz** obscenity trial, the **Gay News** blasphemy trial, the prosecution of Michael Bogdanov over **The Romans in Britain**, and the "ABC" official secrets trial. He is at present head of Doughty Street Chambers. Earlier this year, he was forced to step down as chair of the UN tribunal in Sierra Leone, following accusations of bias, but still sits there as an appeal judge. His books include **Media Law** (with Andrew Nicol, 1992), **The Justice Game** (1999) and **Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice** (2000). **The Tyrannicide Brief** is published next week by Chatto & Windus. He lives in London with his wife, the novelist Kathy Lette, and their two children.

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# Saddam Hussein: On Trial

Dan Senor *Thu Sep 29, 1:48 PM ET*

Washington (The Daily Standard) - MUCH LIKE Iraq's "purple finger" election in January, a trial will begin in October that could help change the lens through which Arabs see their world. For the first time, an Arab despot, Saddam Hussein, will be tried by his own people. The trial will be beamed by satellite into millions of Arab homes and around the globe. It will afford a peek into the depths of human evil and, embarrassingly, if incidentally, into the concurrent indifference of Western nations to Iraqi suffering. Thus far, the accountability of Nuremberg, the Hague, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone has eluded Arab-Muslim leaders. This is about to change.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 29 Sept 2005**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Postponement hangs over Liberia elections after court ruling**

*by Zoom Dosso*

Monrovia, Sept 28 (AFP) - UN chief Kofi Annan's special representative in Liberia Alan Doss said on Wednesday that a Supreme Court decision in favour of some candidates who were rejected by the National Elections' Commission had serious implications on the timetable.

"It does have implication for the timetable. That's very obvious," Alan Doss told journalists during a press briefing at the UNMIL (United Nations Missions in Liberia) headquarters.

**LIBERIA: Court rulings may affect elections date, officials say**

MONROVIA, 28 September (IRIN) - Liberia's first elections since the end of its civil war have been thrown into doubt by rulings from the Supreme Court, UN and election officials said on Wednesday. The country's highest court upheld appeals on Tuesday from two presidential candidates, who had been barred in mid-August from standing in the polls because the National Elections Commission said there were problems with their registrations.

Alan Doss, the head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), acknowledged there might be some knock-on effect on the ballot, due to be held in just under two weeks on 11 October.

**Liberia's first postwar polls may be delayed - UN**

Wed Sep 28, 2005 4:17 PM GMT

By Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA (Reuters) - Liberia's first elections since a civil war may have to be delayed following a successful Supreme Court appeal by three barred candidates, United Nations officials said on Wednesday.

The country's highest court on Tuesday upheld the appeal from the candidates, who had been banned from standing in the October 11 polls because the National Elections Commission (NEC) had said there were problems with their registration.

The head of the U.N. mission in Liberia, Alan Doss, said he had not yet seen the ruling in writing but would be holding urgent meetings about the timetable with the government, NEC and other international partners overseeing Liberia's elections.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **COTE D IVOIRE: New peace effort under way but Gbagbo refuses role for West Africa**

ABIDJAN, 28 September (IRIN) - As African leaders gear up for two successive summits to salvage peace efforts in Cote d'Ivoire, the country's president Laurent Gbagbo has ruled out any mediation role for his fellow West African leaders.

The 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has invited heads of state from across the region to the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Friday for "talks on the situation in Ivory Coast."

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Electoral Body Fears Delay of October Poll Due to High Court Ruling**

*(Liberian Express)*

- Responding to the Supreme Court's ruling ordering the National Elections Commission (NEC) to allow three rejected independent candidates to continue their registration process and partake in the October elections, the NEC Chairman said yesterday the ruling would delay the elections, barely a fortnight away.
- Cllr. Frances Johnson Morris said the Commission has already commenced the distribution of ballot papers to polling stations throughout the country, and it would be impossible to conduct the elections on time if the new candidates were included on the ballot.

### **UNMIL to Confer With ICGL on Supreme Court Ruling**

*(The Inquirer, The News, The Analyst, The Informer and Liberian Express)*

- United Nations Secretary General Special Representative to Liberia, Ambassador Alan Doss told a press briefing yesterday that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will confer with the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL) to review the Supreme Court's ruling.
- Amb. Doss also said it would be an enormous logistical challenge to implement the ruling.

### **Unity Party Standard Bearer Denies Plotting to Kill Presidential Standard Bearer**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Speaking from Tappita, Nimba County presidential candidate Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf debunked an anonymous leaflet circulating in Monrovia linking her to an alleged plan to kill the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) flag bearer George Weah.
- Madam Sirleaf described the allegation as not only false but wicked and diabolical.

### **Transitional Government Commits to Sino-Liberia Relations**

*(The Inquirer)*

- Speaking yesterday at a program to observe the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People's

Republic of China (PRC), Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant said Liberia will remain committed to relations with the PRC.

- Chinese Ambassador Lin Sontiang described the one-China policy passed by Liberia's interim lawmakers as a "lofty commitment".

### **Police Arrest Suspected Drug Traffickers**

*(Daily Observer)*

- As part of efforts to reduce crime in the country, United Nations Mission in Liberia and Liberian security forces yesterday raided a ghetto in Sinkor nabbing eighteen suspected drug traffickers and confiscating a quantity of drug put at US\$30,000.00, Liberian National Police Anti-Drug Section Chief, Simeon Frank said.

### **Local Media – RADIO VERITAS** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 and today at 06:45)*

#### **Electoral Body Fears Delay of October Poll Due To High Court Ruling**

#### **UNMIL to Confer With ICGL on Supreme Court Ruling**

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Nigerian President to Visit Liberia**

- Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo will shortly visit Liberia as part of efforts to enhance the on-going peace process, Information Minister Dr. C. William Allen said in Monrovia yesterday.

#### **STAR RADIO** *(News culled from Star Radio website today at 09:00)*

#### **Congress for Democratic Change Has No Information About Plot to Kill Standard Bearer**

- Reacting to an anonymous leaflet accusing presidential candidate Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of plotting to kill the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) standard bearer Amb. George Weah, its Secretary General Eugene Nagbe said the Party had no information about the plot, and would not rely on secret leaflets to accuse people.

#### **Unity Party Standard Bearer Denies Plotting to Kill Presidential Candidate**

*(Also reported on Radio Veritas)*

#### **U.S. Offers US\$69,000 to Fund Community Projects**

- Seventeen of the twenty-one benefiting organizations were on hand to sign for their respective portions of a US\$69,000 grant intended to fund Liberian democracy and human rights groups in the rebuilding of schools and clinics, undertake agricultural projects as well as tackle human rights issues.
- During a signing ceremony yesterday, United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Louis Mazel cautioned Liberian voters to make the right choice on October 11.

#### **UNMIL Ethiopian Contingent Tolls Stranded Vessel to Safety**

- A Star Radio correspondent said the vessel which had been stranded on sea due to engine failure has been rescued by the UNMIL Ethiopian contingent.
- The vessel, whose occupants included women and children, was reportedly tolled to the port of Greenville, Sinoe County having been stuck for five days between Maryland and Grand Bassa Counties.

*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 or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*