

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 05, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
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Ext 7217 / 7216

The Trumpet. Monday September 5th, 2005.

Over Norm

* "Inadequate Represent

By Richard Bockarie Jr.

The Supreme Court has on August 31 made a ruling on the SLPP case. The ruling is by and large in favour of the accused SLPP members as the Court ruled that Norman has a substantive case and he has not got the "locus standi" (which is the right of a person to sue in a particular matter). "It is a concept that has been adopted by the issues raised," lawyer Jabbie said, adding that "the argument of a 'locus standi' given by the Court, was good up to a point but did not satisfactorily dispose 'locus standi' in constitutional matters." Dr. Jabbie said that the court's perception of locus standi is somewhat outdated as according to how the modern concept of 'locus standi' in constitutional matters is that anybody with public spirit and interest in the nation of the constitution may bring an action in the Supreme Court in order for a decision

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ation Of The Constitution"

Dr Bu-buakei Jabbie

tion to be made to that effect. He added that "it does not require any other special form of interest." He made reference to section 127 of the national constitution of Sierra Leone, which fully embraces the modern concept of locus standi in constitutional issues. The counsel went further to state that "our laws and those of England, are quite different. England does not have a written law, whiles Sierra Leone has so we would not go by the criteria of locus standi used in England which is what the court has used. All these he rounded is an "Inadequate representation of the constitution".

BUSINESSDAY

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

Monday, 05 September 2005

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Posted to the web on: 05 September 2005

Can Liberia defeat its warlords at the polls?

Dianna Games

ONE of the leading candidates in Liberia's presidential election race said recently of former president Charles Taylor: "We really do not want him. Can he not just slip into oblivion?"

Ellen Sirleaf Taylor, a veteran Liberian politician who lost to Taylor in the 1997 elections and who is standing again now, said: "I think Liberia and Liberians will forget Mr Taylor one day except for the horrible record he has left behind."

In October, Liberia goes to the polls for the first time since 1997, when Taylor, who had been fighting the incumbent government for eight years, won a landslide victory, mostly by threatening all-out war if he lost.

Taylor has become an "icon" in Africa, for all the wrong reasons. His legacy is one of fear, repression, brutality and human rights abuses. He was a key supporter of the bloodthirsty Revolutionary United Front rebel faction in Sierra Leone, whose most notorious battle tactic was to hack off the limbs of civilians.

It took the collaboration of Africa's big powers to force Taylor out in August 2003 and coerce him into exile in Nigeria in the interests of Liberia and the region.

Taylor was indicted for human rights abuses by a United Nations-backed special court in Sierra Leone but he was indemnified against prosecution by the peace deal brokered by SA, Nigeria and others. However, this depends on his adhering to conditions, one of which is not interfering in Liberian politics.

But it seems he has been in regular contact with his countrymen. If it can be proved his motives were political, it would amount to a violation of the deal and he could be tried.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo says he will hand his charge over only if it is proved Taylor has broken the asylum deal or if an elected Liberian president asks him to do so. In October, a successor to transitional President Gyude Bryant will be chosen, who will be in a position to influence Taylor's fate. A new president is likely to want Taylor behind bars, given his rebel past, and thus the question of his trial has become a campaign issue.

Presidential candidates interviewed have mostly been cautious in their response, probably due to Taylor's legacy of fear. A man whose view may be pivotal is Liberian soccer hero George Weah, tipped as the person most likely

to win the poll.

Weah, treated like a king wherever he goes for restoring Liberia's pride through its soccer team, gives a somewhat inscrutable answer. "What I will say is that Taylor has the right to exonerate himself. For Taylor, his family, and people that believe in Taylor, it is time for Taylor to exonerate himself and we should be able to give him the opportunity to do that."

Weah's home was ransacked and his family attacked in the mid-1990s by rebel forces believed to be linked to Taylor, simply because his popularity was perceived to pose a political challenge to the warlord's presidential ambitions.

Taylor's name is likely to hang over Liberia for many years to come, as the shattered nation rebuilds itself. His violent legacy will dog its progress, in the same way that the Big Man legacy has dogged many other African countries struggling to emerge from the shadow of greedy, power-hungry, repressive leaders.

In light of the precedents of despotic African leaders ruining their countries, it is surprising to see the support one of the remaining few Big Men in Africa still enjoys as he repeats the classic pattern of other "failed" states.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, despite his struggle credentials, has become no better than a number of other old-style African leaders that history now judges harshly.

Let's not forget that for a long time Ugandan dictator Idi Amin was praised and revered by many Africans. He is now damned for the very actions that once drew admiration — even though, all the while, they were causing incalculable damage to his country.

It is almost certain that when the dust has settled on a new government in Zimbabwe, people will be saying the same things of Mugabe. But the country will still be grappling with destruction, poverty, economic decline and political engineering many years after Mugabe is gone.

A Liberian newspaper recently quoted a student as saying: "Liberia is no longer prepared to vote for any former warring leader as president. We experimented with that in 1997."

In Zimbabwe not so long ago, a businessman told me: "One thing we have learnt from the Mugabe era is that we will never allow this to happen again."

The question is, will Africa finally learn from the lessons of history?

|| Games is director of Africa @ Work, a research, publishing and events company.

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From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

NOTICES & DOCUMENTS

Chief Norman's reaction to verdict and appeal to the nation

By
Sep 2, 2005, 15:10

The Detention Center
Special Court for Sierra Leone
Freetown

1st September, 2005

My Dear People of Sierra Leone,

RE: THAT FATEFUL SUPREME COURT DECISION OF SAMUEL HINGA NORMAN VERSUS LEADERS OF THE SLPP

I forward a complaint concerning the violations of some portions of the

- A. Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991
- B. Constitution of our party ? SLPP
- C. All Political Parties Act 2002

The matter, for one reason or another, was shelved by the honorable judges of our Supreme Court, being the highest court of our land with jurisdiction and beyond whose judgment I cannot pursue the matter any longer in any court of law in Sierra Leone. The judges used a very strange judicial or legal language (Locus Standi), which by their definition and use of another authority above the Constitution of Sierra Leone has made me a layman in law, feel that I have been disenfranchised.

The actions of His Excellency the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmada Tejan Kabbah, and some officials of our party, the SLPP, before and after that fateful Supreme Court decision and the decision itself have most certainly raised eye brows and may cause a lot of embarrassment in some circles (legal and otherwise) at home and abroad and this will go on for generations yet to come and will forever be viewed as a glorious and honorable opportunity REJECTED and LOST (for whatever reason) by the highest court of our beloved country, Sierra Leone.

I have decided NOT TO participate in any and all exercises that may be carried out at the intended SLPP conference under the present party's National Executive Council and under the prevailing circumstances. I, therefore, hereby request all my relatives, friends, well wishers, sympathizers and supporters at home and abroad not to proceed to the SLPP conference with any intention of participating in any and all activities and/or pursuing my political interest at the said conference. I do not intend nor will I ever participate in or associate with any group or activity that may be deemed, viewed or seen as blatant, callous, reckless, IMPUNITIVE VIOLATIONS AND ABUSE OF THE CONSTITUTION of our sovereign nation and people of Sierra Leone and our beloved party ? the SLPP.

The Executive and party officials have openly violated the constitutions and the All Political Parties Act and the Supreme Court, by its decision, now seems to have given the go ahead to the violators to do as they wish. The other areas for an immediate redress are the legislature (Parliament), the Civil Society and People of Sierra Leone to whom this letter is openly addressed as my final destination for final, peaceful and most appropriate action to halt the violations and abuse of the constitution and the rights of the people with impunity.

In 1997, I appeared before Parliament and respectfully requested and most immediately obtained parliamentary legitimization of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) to join the people of Sierra Leone in the defence of home, land, people, government and the constitution.

Now, I am behind bars at the special court for Sierra Leone Detention Center for being the only minister and

official of Government of Sierra Leone who joined you, the people of Sierra Leone, and was able to reinstate the presidency, government and the constitution.

I am appealing to Parliament and the people of Sierra Leone that once more, the people should defend and protect our constitution and our rights. My physical body is in chains but my spirit is free and with you all the way until our youth and people regain the actual and total charge of their political, economic and social control of our country for the benefit of every one irrespective of tribe, area and status.

I wish to extend thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed in cash and kind towards my politics and the well being of my family.

God Bless Sierra Leone,

Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, JP

NOTE: Consultations and deliberations are under way in Sierra Leone and abroad by members of the Committee to Elect Hinga Norman on Chief Norman's next political course of action. The public will be informed presently. (A. SamForay, Committee to Elect Norman).

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 2 Sept 2005**

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

Liberian ex-rebel leader launches presidential bid

By Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA, 2 Sept (Reuters) - The leader of Liberia's largest former rebel movement launched his campaign to become the country's next president late on Thursday, promising peace and prosperity in a country shattered by 14 years of on-off war.

Sekou Conneh led the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group which fought former president Charles Taylor in a war infamous for child soldiers high on drugs brandishing Kalashnikovs and grenade launchers.

Local Media - Newspapers**Nigerian Senate Bill Threatens Taylor's Asylum**

(The West African Pilot)

- *The West African Pilot* reports that exiled former President Charles Taylor faces possible extradition from Nigeria under proposals in a Bill currently being debated in the Nigerian Senate.
- If passed, the Bill provides for the immediate release and extradition of foreigners granted asylum upon application to the United Nations or the African Union to answer charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity or other related crimes.

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.

UNITED NATIONS

SPOKESMAN'S MORNING HEADLINES FOR FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2005

COTE D'IVOIRE: Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo has issued a new version of laws on electoral matters and a nationality issue after causing a storm of protest in the divided country, his office announced Friday. Previous versions of the three texts deeply angered both rebels and the political opposition. (AFP)

Two things need to be done immediately to relaunch the Ivorian peace process: the Forces Nouvelles need to start pre-assembling their combatants without delay and the dismantling of militias has to be lasting and serious, UN envoy Pierre Schori said in an interview with the BBC in New York. (BBC, 24 Heures, Abidjan)

The French defense minister warned Friday of "worrying signs" in Ivory Coast, saying rebel militias there are rebuilding and rearming in violation of cease-fire accords. Michele Alliot-Marie, speaking on French radio, expressed concern that some Ivorians "dream only of one thing: to take up arms again." (AP)