

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:

Tuesday, September 06, 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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SIERRA LEONE PRESS REVIEW

Monday 5 September 2005

The Exclusive, New Vision, Independent Observer, Awoko, Standard Times, Concord Times, and Awareness Times report that the long awaited National Conventions of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) and the opposition All Peoples' Congress (APC), ended over the weekend in the northern towns of Makeni and Port Loko respectively, with Vice President, Solomon Berewa emerging as the SLPP leader and Presidential candidate for 2007, and Ernest Bai Koroma emerging as the APC leader. The Vice President polled 291, while Ernest Koroma went unopposed.

Meanwhile *Exclusive* reports that thousands of APC supporters jubilated for the victory of Vice President Solomon Berewa, since it will pave way for the APC to win the 2007 elections as Charles Margai, who could have been a keen contender for the SLPP, and had grassroots support, did not win.

According to *For Di People*, family members of former leader of Kasilla Kamajors during the rebel war in Bonthe, district, southern Sierra Leone, Mory Jusu Kamara, have appealed to the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan through UNAMSIL and both British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and American President George Bush through their foreign missions in the country. Their appeal is for them to probe injustice, gross abuse or human rights and the rule of law their son has suffered and continues to suffer under the ruling SLPP government.

The paper reports also that according to an NGO, Christian Children's Fund (CDF) more than 160 children have died of malaria, measles, tuberculosis and diarrhea within a period of four months.

Awoko reports, OCHA has informed journalists that 6,000 people were left homeless in the Pujehun district, southern Sierra Leone, following a flood that hit nine chiefdoms after three days of incessant rainfall.

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

September 5, 2005 Monday

Your Say

Halloran deserves help

I HAVE followed with interest the plight of Peter Halloran in Sierra Leone, and I am both shocked and dismayed to read of the treatment he is receiving.

He is an Australian citizen who went to Sierra Leone to take up a position as commander of the UN-backed Special Court war crimes investigations.

Senior Melbourne lawyers who have reviewed the case agree with the Special Court inquiry in Sierra Leone that there is no evidence to justify his prosecution.

He is much more deserving than some other Australians who are also prisoners overseas and who have received financial assistance. Why hasn't Victoria Police offered him support, either financially or physically?

As a senior member who has given 40 years' service, surely he deserves some assistance.

Elizabeth Cornford, Bendigo

World Markets Analysis

September 01, 2005

Nigerian Senate Debates 'Charles Taylor' Bill

BYLINE: Olly Owen

The Nigerian Senate is currently deliberating on a draft bill that would give the country a legal obligation to give up any foreign national present on asylum conditions if the UN or African Union or any of their agencies requests their extradition on suspicion of war crimes or other related purposes. Nigeria's Daily Trust reports that the bill will also give the 102-member upper house greater oversight over the executive's powers to grant asylum to nationals of other countries, making it dependent on senators' consent, although the new law envisages the president retaining the right to grant 'protective custody' prior to the Senate deciding on the request.

Significance: The bill is designed for one reason and one reason only: to provide a legal mandate for the extradition of Liberia's ex-president, Charles Taylor, to face war crimes charges at the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone. There have been calls for Taylor's extradition from virtually immediately after he was first granted exile in Nigeria in an attempt to avoid a bloody conclusion to his period in power in 2003. In recent months, this has included a court case brought in Nigeria by journalists who suffered personally at the hands of Taylor's forces, and a high-profile campaign by a coalition of human rights lawyers to secure his expulsion. Against this opposition, President Obasanjo has defended his decision as a matter of sovereignty, a public defence also conflated with the political rationale of keeping the Taylor issue quiet until Liberia's elections have been held and a new government given time to bed down in that country. But with no sign that the president's position would change after that point, the Senate move (if passed into law, which would require a presidential signature) might be the best chance of ensuring a solution that is considered procedurally satisfactory all round. However, even if the measure does not pass, it is a good indication of the growing feeling in the political establishment that Taylor has overstayed his welcome.