

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:

Thursday, September 08, 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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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 Sept 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Liberia risks new war if economy not rebuilt-study**

By Nick Tattersall

DAKAR, 7 Sept (Reuters) - **Liberia** risks dragging an entire African region back to war unless the government and foreign donors salvage its ruined economy after postwar elections next month, an independent think-tank said on Wednesday.

"Getting it right over the next year in **Liberia** would help move the entire Mano River Basin region (including neighbouring Sierra Leone and Guinea) in the right direction," Brussels-based Crisis Group said in a published report.

International Clips on West Africa**Sierra Leone president sacks three key ministers**

FREETOWN, 7 Sept (Reuters) - **Sierra Leone** President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah sacked three key ministers in a government reshuffle late on Tuesday after they failed to support the ruling party's candidate to succeed him in polls due in 2007.

The **Sierra Leone** People's Party (SLPP) had picked Vice-President Solomon Berewa as party leader at the weekend, also nominating him as their choice to lead the impoverished West African country when Kabbah's mandate ends.

One of the sacked ministers, ex-Finance Minister Joseph Dauda, had unexpectedly put himself forward as a candidate. Former Minister of Internal Affairs George Banda Thomas and Energy and Power Minister Emmanuel Grant, who also lost their jobs, had also failed to support Berewa, party members said.

Ivory Coast polls "almost impossible" by Oct 30-UN

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Holding elections in Ivory Coast as planned on Oct. 30 will be "almost impossible", but credible polls are vital to stop the West African country sliding back into war, a senior U.N. official said on Wednesday. The comment from Antonio Monteiro, the U.N.'s High Representative for Elections in Ivory Coast, is the first high-level recognition from the world body that postponing the vote is virtually inevitable in the world's top cocoa grower.

Local Media – Newspapers

Elections Commission Prepares for Possible Run-Off Election

(The Inquirer)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) is mindful of the likelihood of a run-off election following the 11 October poll and has begun putting in place a contingency plan, NEC Co-chairman James Fromayan told a news conference in Monrovia yesterday.

Lawmakers Want Transitional Assembly Leadership Replaced

(The Diary)

- Members of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) are calling for the immediate replacement of acting Speaker George Koukou and cohorts for contravening rules governing the body.

Justice Ministry Summons Petroleum Refinery Head Over Alleged Embezzlement

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- The Ministry of Justice yesterday invited Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) Managing Director Edwin Snowe for questioning following accusations by former Finance Minister Baron Tarr and rights advocate Ezekial Pajibo that managers of LPRC had paid themselves huge sums of money and mounted flamboyant campaigns for legislative posts.

Unity Party Denounces Smear Campaign Against Standard Bearer

(The News, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, Inquirer and National Chronicle)

- Unity Party (UP) Campaign Chairman John Bestman told a news conference in Monrovia yesterday that a particular desperate presidential candidate was insisting on character assassination by implying that UP Standard Bearer Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was one of the financiers of the Liberian civil war and should not be elected.

New Partnership for Africa's Development Workshop Opens in Monrovia Today

(The News)

- The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization will today hold a one-day workshop in Monrovia on the New Partnership for Africa's Development process for stakeholders in the agriculture sector, UN and donor organizations, international and local NGOs and civil society representatives.

UNMIL's Search Produces Two Pistols in Monrovia Suburb

(Daily Observer)

- As part of efforts to ensure maximum security in the run-up to elections, UNMIL Ghana Contingent recently uncovered two pistols and a bayonet during a cordon- and-search operation in Jacob Town, a suburb of Monrovia.

UNHCR Empowers Poor Families

(Daily Observer)

- The UN refugee agency UNHCR through, its partner the American Refugee Council, recently started giving out loans to empower poor working families in returnee communities in Montserrado and Margibi Counties, a UNHCR press release said.

Elections Commission and Peace Crusaders Launch Elections Jingles

(National Chronicle)

- The National Elections Commission launched in Monrovia yesterday elections awareness jingles produced by the Liberia Crusaders for Peace, saying the jingles will be distributed among radio stations across the country for a massive civic campaign.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 21:30)*

Unity Party Denounces Smear Campaign Against Standard Bearer

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 and today 07:00)*

Interim Government Chairman Consoles U.S. President Over Hurricane Disaster

- National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant has sent a message of condolence to U.S. President George Bush for losses sustained as a result of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Transitional Leader Supports Liberian Studies Program

- Chairman Bryant has instructed the Ministries of Education and Health to collaborate with the Liberia History, Education and Environment Incorporated to promote the Liberian Studies Program, the organization's Executive Director, Dr. Syrulwa Somah told reporters at the Executive Mansion yesterday following a meeting with Chairman Bryant.

Executive Mansion Rejects Corruption Charges Against Interim Leader

- The Executive Mansion Public Affairs Office in a press release yesterday denied a recent statement by former Finance Minister Dr. Baron Tarr blaming the current hike in the prices of petroleum products on the alleged recent payment of US\$1 million to Chairman Bryant by the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC).

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

Liberia Needs Government with Clear Agenda Says UNDP Official

- UNDP Joint Implementation Unit Program and Policy Advisor Charles Achodo told Star Radio yesterday in Monrovia that post-conflict Liberia needs a government with a clear agenda that hinges on governance institutions, capacity-building and a comprehensive security sector reform to ensure durable peace.

Elections Commission Says Displaced People Cannot Vote for Legislators

- National Elections Commission (NEC) Co-chairman James Fromayan said yesterday that people who remain in displaced camps until polling day can vote only for presidential and vice-presidential candidates not legislative candidates.

University of Liberia Identifies with U.S. Hurricane Sufferers

- The University of Liberia is today holding a solidarity rally in memory of victims of the Hurricane Katrina in the United States.
- The rally will offer prayers for and raise funds to the victims.

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.