

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, October 10, 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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15 Milton Margai, FBC Students At Special Court On Monday

and to argue their case, their teamwork and the quality of their oral expression. The competition will take place in the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the afternoon of Monday 10th October 2005. The ICRC, Special Court and

For the first time in Sierra Leone, 15 students from the Law Department and Mass Communication Department at Fourah Bay College and the International Relations Department at Milton Margai College of Education and Technology will contend to represent Sierra Leone in an

international competition in International Humanitarian Law

Five teams of three students have been pre-selected based on their knowledge of IHL to participate at this competition. Whilst the legal case they will work on is purely fictional, they will face

a panel of experts in a real court setting in the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Head of the ICRC Delegation in Freetown, the legal adviser of the Sierra Leone Red Cross, a Sierra Leonean Judge from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, representatives of the two

concerned universities and the Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation will judge the students on their knowledge of IHL and public international law, their capacity to use the instruments of law

Sierra Leonean experts in IHL will coach and train the three students of the winning team, whom ICRC will sponsor to represent Sierra Leone and their university in the international stage of the competition in Arusha (Tanzania) from the 12th – 20th November 2005. The ICRC is organizing this event within the framework of its mandate to support the efforts of States in disseminating International Humanitarian Law.

US\$10 million pledged for Special Court

The United Nations is determined that the Special Court For Sierra Leone must not now fail due to lack of resources, UN Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frchette said this week at the end of a Pledging Conference where US\$10million was raised for the court.

The Special pledging ceremony was attended by the Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Desmond De Silva and the Registrar, Mr Robin Vicent. The court is trying to get U.S \$25 million to fund the court's operations next year. The 10 million dollars came from pledges from the U.S, Britain, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Norway, Ireland, Turkey, Finland, Germany, Italy, Austria, Greece, Sweden and the European Union.

Awoko
7 October 2005

Special Court Principal Defender visits Bo

The new principal defender of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Vincent Nmechielle, a Nigerian national together with officials of the Special Court outreach session on Thursday 6th October 2005 met with a cross section of the Bo Community including former Kamajor fighters and the Civil Society at the Bo

Town Hall in Bo. Addressing the gathering, the Special Court Principal Defender said that his visit to Bo is in furtherance of the Court's ongoing information and educational campaign on various issues pertaining to the judicial activities of the Special Court, Vis a Vis the role of the office of the principal defender. He said the forum serve as an

interactive question and answer session on what the people need to know about the Special Court, the status of the accused persons and the defense. Mr. Vincent Nmechielle noted, "The office of the principal defender provide facilities for the defense team and also ensure that the rights of the accused persons are being observed." Various
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Special Court Principal Defender visits Bo

From Front Page

questions were posed by the participants at the meeting while some former Kamajor fighters carried placards at the meeting some of which read thus: "Hinga Norman must be free, free all for the sake of peace." "Free Hinga Norman now, we need his service." "There is no war without killing, free them all." However, the principal defender could not answer most of the questions that were posed by people. A

woman at the meeting asked the Principal Defender to explain what was Hinga Norman doing, and under whose authority was he? The Principal Defender could not answer the question, but asked the woman to answer the question for herself. Mr. Vincent Nmechielle however informed the gathering that the prosecution has concluded their case against the indictees of the CDF, and that the next phase of the Court's process in the CDF trials will require the

Defense to adduce counter evidences that may try to refute what has already been presented in the witness' statements. He called on individuals who may have anything to say

as witness for the defense to do so and assured them that their security would be guaranteed. Mr. Vincent Nmechielle replaced Ms Simone Momasebien a principal defender of the Special Court in June this year.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 Oct 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Women seek power as Liberia prepares to vote**

By Katharine Houreld and Nick Tattersall

MONROVIA, 8 Oct (Reuters) - From girls in high heels brandishing Kalashnikovs to a grandmother who wants to be Africa's first female president, women in Liberia have always been a potent force.

But as the nation prepares to vote in its first elections since one of Africa's most brutal wars, women are taking over the political scene like never before.

More than half of the 1.3 million people registered to vote in Tuesday's polls are female, a statistic none of the 22 presidential candidates can afford to ignore. Two of the candidates are women.

One of the frontrunners in the presidential race is Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a 66-year old former World Bank economist who lists being the granddaughter of a market woman as one of her top credentials.

Sketches of Liberia's contenders ahead of October 11 presidential vote

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, 8 Oct (AFP) - Of the 22 presidential contenders for Liberia's elections October 11, only five are considered strong candidates to succeed the two-year transitional administration led by Gyude Bryant.

No candidate holds a winning majority and it appears likely that a run-off set for November 8, two weeks after results are officially certified, will take place.

Leading the pack are football great George Weah and political veteran Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, both of whom could make history if elected to lead Africa's oldest independent republic and steer the war-ravaged west African country away from its legacy of conflict and corruption.

Excitement, hope build as Liberia awaits vote; Ballot is the 1st step in helping war-torn country build a future

SHASHANK BENGALI
Knight Ridder

8 October 2005
[Charlotte Observer \(NC\)](#)

MONROVIA, **Liberia**

The sound of gunfire no longer echoes in the streets of this long-suffering West African capital. Instead, there are cheers and songs from Liberians engaged in a different kind of warfare: a political campaign.

8 October 2005
[The Times](#)

A sense of hope revives after 25 years of madness; Liberia

Xan Rice

After a swift fall from prosperity, Liberia is raising itself with an election and an upsurge of optimism, Xan Rice reports.

THE people of a mining village set among mountains and luxuriant forest cling to fading memories of "the time before the war". Before the railway line that used to ferry iron ore down to the Atlantic was reclaimed by the jungle. Before trees grew out of houses shorn of the their roofs; when current still surged through the power lines.

8 October 2005
[The Times](#)

Africa's biggest football star comes home -to claim the presidency; Liberia

Xan Rice

THE King was tired. The convoy of 32 vehicles that had begun the week-long trip through the Liberian interior was down to five mud-spattered 4x4s. His goatee had turned into a beard; his shaved head sprouted stubble. He had spent the previous night sleeping in his car by the roadside.

But he was happy. For King George Weah, as Africa's greatest footballer is known in his home country, believed that he was about to become president only two years after the end of a brutal civil war.

International Clips on West Africa

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

Residents of Monrovia Suburb Demonstrate for More Security Protection

Peace Mediator Urged to Prevail on Nigerian Leader to Repatriate Taylor

- Speaking on behalf of a human rights consortium in Monrovia yesterday, Liberia Democracy Watch Executive Director Cllr. Jerome Verdier said the groups wanted Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to surrender former President Charles Taylor to

face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone which has indicted him. He said the move would enhance justice, rule of law and good neighborliness with Sierra Leone.

- Cllr Verdier said the consortium thought the Liberian courts were not prepared to effectively handle Mr. Taylor's trial

(Also reported on ELBS Radio)

Visiting Nigerian President Praises Liberia's Peace Process

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia at the end of his official visit, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said he was satisfied with the peace process which is climaxing with a presidential and general elections on October 11.
- He also praised the disaffected independent candidates for demonstrating patriotism by helping to peacefully resolve a crisis which would have stalled the elections.

Elections Commission Issues Warning

- Appearing on a Radio Veritas talk show yesterday, National Elections Commission Co-Chairman James Fromayan warned candidates and political parties to adhere to the official closing of campaign activities on Sunday or face punitive measures.

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.

SIERRA LEONE EVENING PRESS REVIEW

Friday 7 October 2005

UN ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in UNAMSIL, who is also UNDP Resident Representative to Sierra Leone, Victor Da Silva Angelo Tuesday visited Pujehun District, in the south, where nine chiefdoms out of 12 had been hit by flood in May this year leading to 5,000 people homeless. The DSRSG disclosed that he was in the district to know the problems of the people and see how the UN could strengthen partnership to solve those problems, and to complement the efforts of other UN agencies.

The Deputy SRSRSG also disclosed that the UNDP was sponsoring a youth project for 15,000 youths nationwide to help develop their skills and create job opportunities for them, since the issue of youths was critical to the sustainability and consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile the WHO Representative to Sierra Leone, Dr. Joachim Saweka has urged traditional leaders and local councilors to cooperate with the Ministry Health and Sanitation to eradicate poliomyelitis disease in the country. He said the campaign was urgent in raising awareness to ensure that every child was immunized.

ECONOMY

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Insurance Company (NIC), Peter Kuyembeh yesterday disclosed that the company has paid Le200 million to government as dividend for the year 2004. He described 2004, "as most encouraging."

HUMAN RIGHTS

Workers of the Kenema Town Council in the east, have resorted to an industrial action by setting fire to several office equipment because of non payment of their salaries for four months, and the sacking of 52 of their colleagues.

The Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), a US-based organization, has expressed concern at the continuous incarceration of the Editor and Proprietor of the *For Di People* newspaper, Paul Kamara, who was jailed by a Freetown Court for seditious libel against the President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on 5 October last year to serve a two-year sentence. The Executive Director of CPJ, Ann Cooper said the continuous detention of the editor was in contravention of democratic principles.

POLITICS

Lawyer Charles Margai, one of the defeated Presidential candidate for the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples' Party (SLPP) for the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary elections at the Makeni Convention last month, has resigned from the party. In a letter to the Chairman of the party yesterday, Mr. Charles Margai wrote, " following events preceding and leading up to the SLPP convention held in Makeni on Saturday 4 September, 2005 and its aftermath, I embarked on a nationwide tour of the country to consult with the electorate on the way forward. At the conclusion of the tour, I was left in no doubt that the people's mandate was unequivocally in favour of the formation of a Third Political Force."

"The reasons advanced were that the SLPP and the All People Congress (APC) have both failed to address their concerns namely; solving the perennial countrywide blackout, providing pipe borne water, providing and maintaining good roads, solving the acute unemployment, providing food security at affordable costs, inability to tackle growing poverty in the country. The list is endless."

"On careful reflection on the above, I have come to the irresistible conclusion that the concerns expressed by the people are legitimate and have therefore decided to be part of the driving force in the discharge of that mandate with a view to rekindling the hopes and aspirations of our suffering people, if only to stabilize this nation.

By reason of the premise, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the SLPP."

The former Minister of Local Government and Community Development, and Internal Affairs in the President Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah-led government, has already formed his own party, the Peoples' Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC).

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 7 Oct 2005**

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International Clips on Liberia**Nigeria's Obasanjo in Liberia as election campaign winds down**

MONROVIA, 7 Oct (AFP) - Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo was Friday in Liberia to wish the West African country luck in upcoming elections and smoothe ruffled egos after an electoral flap that threatened to postpone the polls.

Obasanjo, marvelling at changes in the war-torn capital he had last visited in 2003, said **Liberia** the country was at a "critical moment to ensure democracy was delivered on a foundation of peace so that development can take place".

UN has achieved early goals in Liberia, envoy Doss says ahead of Oct 11 vote

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Oct 7 (AFP) - The UN Mission in Liberia has achieved its preliminary goals, new UN envoy Alan Doss said, in bringing security to the lawless and war-torn West African state to allow upcoming October 11 elections to take place.

Foreign investors wary but ready for risky business in Liberia

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, 8 Oct (AFP) - Few doubt the potential **Liberia** has to profit anew from its bounty of natural resources in the wake of imminent elections, but foreign investors are wary of committing funds to a country known equally for graft and conflict.

International Clips on West Africa

There were no other relevant stories on West Africa in the major international media today.

Local Media – Newspapers**Unity Party Holds Final Rally in Monrovia**

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage, The Independent, Poll Watch, The Telegraph, The Forum, New Vision and Liberia's Business Digest)

- The Unity Party (UP) end-of-campaign rally yesterday witnessed a huge turnout of UP supporters in Monrovia and caused traffic jams in the city for several hours.

- At the Antoinette Tubman Sports Stadium where the crowd gathered, UP standard bearer Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf promised a government of inclusion to tackle the country's lack of development.

Congress for Democratic Change Receives More Support in the Southeast

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, Liberian Diaspora and New Vision)

- Citizens of the southeastern counties of Liberia under the banner of Citizens for the Promotion of Weah's Presidency pledged their unflinching support to Congress for Democratic Change standard bearer George Weah during a recent campaign tour in the area.

Liberty Party Consolidates Strength In Grand Bassa County

(The Analyst and Liberia's Business Digest)

- Liberty Party standard bearer Charles Brumskine recently embarked on a week-long campaign in towns and villages in Grand Bassa to ensure that the county—hosting one of highest numbers of registered voters--remains his political stronghold.

Alliance for Peace and Democracy Receives More Support in Nimba County

(The Independent)

- The Alliance for Peace and Democracy (APD) recently received a campaign boost when citizens of five districts in Nimba County pledged their support to APD during a visit of the standard bearer and vice-standard bearer Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh and Dr. Marcus Dahn respectively.

Two Former Presidents Lead Elections Observers' Delegation

(Daily Observer, The Analyst and The Independent)

- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the former President of Benin, Nicephore Soglo, have arrived in Liberia at the head of a 38-member joint National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Carter Center delegation, an NDI press release announced in Monrovia yesterday.

Nigerian President Arrives in Monrovia Today

(The Inquirer, The Analyst and The Independent)

- Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo arrives in Monrovia today on a one-day state visit to consult with major stakeholders in the Liberian peace process in the run-up to elections, Information Minister William Allen told a news conference yesterday.

Poll Result Shows Unity Party Lead In Bong County

(Poll Watch)

- A *Poll Watch* survey has put Unity Party in the lead in Bong County with 18.44 percent followed closely by the Congress for Democratic with 17.56 percent and the Coalition for the Transformation of Liberia with 6.47 percent.

West African Civil Society Elections Observer for Liberia

(Heritage and The Independent)

- A 15-member West African Civil Society elections observer mission was expected to arrive in Liberia today for the poll on Tuesday. The members of the elections observer mission come from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso.

Independent Legislative Candidate Denies Media Report

(Heritage, The Independent and The Telegraph)

- Independent candidate for the House of Representatives Edwin Snowe has denied a recent report in *New Democrat* that he had rejoined the National Patriotic Party, a press release said yesterday.

UNMIL Quick Reaction Force Assures Security Protection

(Heritage, New Vision)

- Speaking recently in Monrovia at a medal presentation ceremony, UNMIL Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Commander Lt.-Col. Declan Carberg said that with three standby mechanized military companies, the QRF was prepared to provide maximum security during the elections.

Suspected Armed Robber Lynched in Monrovia

- A suspected armed robber identified only as "D-Magic" was found dead in Fiamah, Sinkor after he had allegedly been mobbed by residents of the community.

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

Elections Day Holiday Declared

- In a proclamation issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant declared Tuesday 11 October as Elections Day and appealed to Liberians to conduct themselves peacefully and vote. The day will be observed as public holiday.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

"I'm Dreaming of the Executive Mansion" Says Top Presidential Candidate

- Unity Party (UP) standard bearer Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who is one of the main candidates in the poll on Tuesday, said she was beginning to dream about being in the Executive Mansion following a well-attended UP rally in Monrovia yesterday. She promised to win a first-round majority and form a government of national unity.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

ECOWAS Lauds Disaffected Candidates in Liberian Poll

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has praised the disaffected independent presidential candidates Marcus Jones and Cornelius Hunter for demonstrating patriotism by agreeing to bow out of the race to allow the poll to go ahead, an ECOWAS press release said.

International Church Elections Observers Arrive in Liberia

- Fifteen international elections observers from churches in Europe, the United States and Africa have arrived in the country to monitor the 11 October elections, according to the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC).

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 21:00 p.m. and today at 07:00 a.m.)*

Two Former Presidents Lead Elections Observers' Delegation

UNMIL Mandated to Prevent Violence during Elections

- UNMIL Spokesman Paul Risley told ELBS Radio yesterday that the peacekeepers are mandated under Chapter Seven of the UN Mission in Liberia to robustly respond to threats of violence during the elections even if it meant shooting the perpetrators.

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

U.S. Embassy Official Praises Liberia's Poll Process

- U.S. embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Lewis Mazel told Star Radio yesterday that the level of tolerance shown in the Liberia electoral process so far was commendable, adding that the elections will serve as a model for succeeding elections around the world.

Government Provides US\$200,000 for Elections Security

- The transitional government has provided US\$200,000 to facilitate the deployment of election security across the country, Liberia National Police authorities said in Monrovia yesterday.

Political Rally Causes Property Damage in Southeastern Liberia

- According to a Star Radio correspondent in the southeastern county of Maryland, the Pleebo High School fence and chairs were destroyed when hundreds of Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) partisans thronged the school's compound during a political rally this week to catch a glimpse of the CDC standard bearer George Weah.

Council of Churches Conducts Special Prayer Service for Elections

- The Liberia Council of Churches has announced it would hold a special service at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex on Sunday to pray for successful elections and peace, unity, stability and prosperity.

UNDP Provides US\$500,000 For Ex-Combatants' Rehabilitation

- UNDP has provided US\$500,000 to the Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) for the second phase of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration program.

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10/07/2005 08:00:38

Nigerian president arrives in Liberia for pre-election talks with candidates, officials

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ Nigeria's president arrived in Liberia on Friday for a day of talks with the country's interim leader and candidates running in the country's first postwar elections next week.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo played a key role in brokering a 2003 peace deal that ended a rebel assault on Monrovia and paved the way for then-President Charles Taylor to resign and go into exile in Nigeria.

Liberian state radio said Obasanjo would meet with some of the 22 candidates running in the Oct. 11 poll.

In Nigeria, Obasanjo spokeswoman Remi Oyo said ``the essence of the visit is to show the solidarity of the president," who is also chairman of the continentwide African Union. Liberians are supposed to vote for a new president and legislature to replace the interim government that came to power after former warlord-turned-president Charles Taylor stepped down two years ago.

Among those running for president are African soccer legend George Weah and former rebel leader Sekou Conneh and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated politician who lost to Taylor in a 1997 vote.

Liberia's civil war began in 1989 and left up to 200,000 people dead in this West African country of 3 million.

Nigeria sent troops to Liberia as part of a peacekeeping force, both in the early 1990s and again in 2003. About 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers are still deployed in the country.

``For the Nigerian government, a peaceful, fair and free election and a return to democracy in Liberia will be a crowning glory to the men and women that we have lost, to the materials and money that we have put into keeping peace in Liberia," Oyo said.

Obasanjo in Liberian poll talks

Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo has arrived in Liberia to meet the 22 presidential candidates taking part in next week's first post-war election.

He played a key role in brokering a 2003 peace deal and granted asylum to Liberia's ex-President Charles Taylor.

He also ensured the polls take place on time when he persuaded two politicians' who had belatedly been allowed to join the presidential race, to withdraw.

Some 15,000 UN soldiers are in Liberia to ensure peace after 14 years of war.

Ex-footballer George Weah and economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf are among the favourites to be the next president.

Mr Taylor's National Patriotic Party is also fielding a candidate, Roland Massaquoi.

A vice-president and members of parliament will also be selected at the polls next Tuesday.

Chaos threat

The BBC's Mark Doyle in the capital, Monrovia, says Nigeria is regarded as Liberia's big brother.



Nigeria sent troops to Liberia as part of a peacekeeping force, both in the early 1990s and again in 2003.

Interim leader Gyude Bryant thanked Nigeria for its role in Liberia's peace process.

"In our recent history, Nigeria has done more for Liberia than any single member state of this global world," Mr Bryant said.

Recently Mr Obasanjo stepped in when a legal hitch threatened the postponement of the elections, our correspondent says.

A Liberian court ruled at the last minute that two presidential candidates who had been barred from standing could in fact stand.

But ballot papers without the two names had already been printed and the court ruling risked throwing the whole election process into chaos.

President Obasanjo summoned the two politicians to Nigeria and somehow persuaded them to withdraw their candidacies.

Since granting Mr Taylor asylum two years ago, Nigeria has come under pressure to hand him over to the UN Court in Sierra Leone where he is wanted on war crimes charges.

Mr Obasanjo has said he will consider an extradition request if asked by Liberia's incoming president.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4319702.stm>

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