

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, November 10, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Ibrahim Tommy
Ext 7248

Contents

National News:

Special court Trains Police Investigators Page 3
New Vision.

International News:

UNMIL Public Information Media Summary Page 4-7
UNMIL

Hussein's Lawyer's Threat To Not Recognize the Iraqi Court Page 8
Vanderbilt News Service

Murder Of Defence Lawyer Threatens Saddam Trial Page 9
Daily Times

Special Court Trains Police Investigators

Twenty-four senior police investigators from throughout Sierra Leone began a two week training course at the Special Court on Monday.

The course, on Major Case Management, is being funded by a grant from the Canadian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

Two groups of police officers will receive training during November and December. This training will be followed in January and February of 2006 by a second round of two courses on Source/Witness Protection.

This training is aimed at increasing the professionalism of the Sierra Leone Police and building their capacity in law

enforcement following more than a decade of civil war.

The course and its training is the result of a request made by the Office of the Prosecutor to the Canadian Government. The training is essentially in the hands of senior investigators from the Special Court.

In his opening remarks, Mr. De Silva told the police officers that the Special Court was not going to "just walk away" from Sierra Leone after its work was complete. Instead, he said, "We intend to leave a significant heritage of an improved commitment to the rule for law and a more professional police force with the specific capacity to maintain a Major Case Management System and to provide witness protection services into the future".

"I hope this will result in greater



Chief Investigator Gilbert Morisette and Inspector-General Chris Charlie
public confidence in the police between the police and the and a strong partnership community" said Mr. De Silva.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 Nov. 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia**Trends show Sirleaf lead in tallying of Liberia votes**

By Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 9 (AFP) - Ballots counted by lantern and candlelight were Wednesday being tallied after Liberia's presidential run-off, with early trends showing a lead for Harvard-educated banker Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Even as results were being compiled, the Congress for Democratic Change of her rival, football icon George Weah, was mounting a protest against "prejudicial" conduct by the chairwoman of the National Electoral Commission and alleging irregularities during the voting.

UN Envoy to Liberia Says Run-Off Election Was Conducted Peacefully

Nov 08, 2005 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The run-off election in Liberia between leading presidential contenders Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and George Opong Weah was conducted in a peaceful and transparent manner, the senior United Nations envoy to the West African country said today.

Update: Football great Weah wants electoral commission boss removed after fraud allegation

MONROVIA, Nov 9, 2005 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Football great George Weah on Wednesday called for the removal of Liberia's electoral commission boss over her stern rebukes about the presidential aspirant's allegations that he had been cheated in the first round.

11/09/2005 06:54:45

Vote counting underway after presidential runoff

By TODD PITMAN

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ Liberians crowded around radios Wednesday awaiting results from the presidential runoff between a millionaire soccer star and the war-ravaged West African nation's top female politician.

Final results in the race between George Weah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will not be announced for two weeks. But Bobby Livingstone, an information officer for the National

Elections Commission said preliminary results from some areas could be released later Wednesday.

11/09/2005 10:47:27

Bryant Votes This Time

Monrovia, Nov 08, 2005 (FrontPageAfrica/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Having been sturdily ridiculed by many for his failure to vote in the October 11 elections, Liberian interim president made sure he cast his ballot this time in the runoff Tuesday.

Local Media – Newspapers

UN Envoy Warns Against Hasty Conclusion on Poll

(New Democrat)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss yesterday warned Liberians against passing hasty judgment on the conduct of the run-off election.
- He said only the National Elections Commission (NEC) was qualified to make an official pronouncement of the result. He also called on Liberians to await the international election observers' assessment of the runoff.

U.S. Ambassador Cautions Candidates against Inciting Supporters

(The News)

- While visiting a polling center in Central Monrovia yesterday, U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth called on both candidates in the runoff to refrain from making statements that would undermine the credibility of the electoral process.

Run-off Contestants Confident of Victory

(The News)

- Both candidates in the run-off election, George Weah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, said yesterday that they were confident of victory when they went to cast their ballots in Monrovia and Tubmanburg respectively.

"Accept Result with Dignity" Says Presidential Candidate

(The Analyst)

- Addressing reporters in Tubmanburg, Bomi County yesterday, Unity Party (UP) standard bearer Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called on UP partisans and all Liberians to accept with dignity the outcome of the runoff.
- She promised to remain in Liberia and work for the people if she does not win the election.

Failed Presidential Candidate Urges Poll Body to Remain Credible

(The Analyst)

- All Liberian Coalition Party standard bearer in the 11 October elections, Alhaji Kromah—who pledged support to the Congress for Democratic Change— at a press conference this week, called on the NEC to be fair and give credible result from the runoff.

Peace Facilitator and U.S. Ambassador Satisfied With Runoff

(The Inquirer)

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) chief mediator of the Liberian peace process Rtd.-Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar and U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth yesterday expressed satisfaction with the manner in which Liberians conducted themselves during the runoff.

Unity Party Takes Early Lead

(Daily Observer)

- A sampling of the run-off election results from around the country suggests that the UP has taken a strong early lead.

Former Interim President Risk Losing UN Security Protection

(Daily Observer)

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss said in Monrovia recently that former interim President Moses Blah could lose UNMIL security protection if he continued to campaign for a political party in the run-off election. He said the Mr. Blah would be provided security until the elected government is seated.

Poll Body Threatens to Penalize Presidential Candidate

(Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- National Elections Commission Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris yesterday warned Congress for Democratic Change standard bearer George Weah that he would be fined or the CDC's license revoked if he did not refrain from statements that threaten the security of the state. Weah claims he was robbed of victory in the first round of the elections.

Local Media – RADIO VERITAS *(News monitored yesterday at 06:45 pm)*

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

Man Stabs Political Opponent in Nimba County

- One man was arrested in Ganta, Nimba County yesterday after stabbing a supporter from a rival political camp.

(Also reported on Star Radio)

ELBS RADIO *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

UNMIL to Maintain Security after Election

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia said it would continue to maintain security in Liberia even after the electoral process.

UNMIL Reiterates Warnings of Robust Reaction to Security Threats

- The UN mission in Liberia has repeated that it would react robustly to any threat following the pronouncement of the run-off election results.

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

Liberians Vote in Run-off Election Amid Tight Security

- Liberians voted yesterday in a peaceful run-off election amid tight security provided by UNMIL in collaboration with national security forces. George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf contested the election.
- Turnout was low, according to reports from across the country.

Disabled People Boycott Run-Off Poll

- Nearly 85 disabled people in Central Monrovia refused to vote in the run-off election yesterday, saying they have been abandoned.

Security Forces Nab Two in Bong County for Flouting Elections Law

- Security forces in Bong County yesterday arrested two men, Emmanuel Weah and Moses Karmah, for allegedly violating the election law and disorderly conduct.

Justice Ministry To Deal With Troublemakers

- Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh yesterday warned that government would deal drastically with troublemakers, saying that people attempting to disturb the electoral process would have themselves to blame.

Low Voter Turnout Reported in Upper Bong County

- Upper Bong County Election Magistrate George Gbakolay said yesterday that voter turnout in the area was low.

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.

VANDERBILT

News Service

(615) 322-2706
news@vanderbilt.edu

Expert Sources

CIA Leak Expert
 Supreme Court Changes Expert
 Hurricane Disaster Experts
 War & Terrorism Experts
 Recent Tipsheets
 Faculty Op Eds
 Search All Experts

Campus News



VU News Clips
 Daily Register
 The Hustler
 Medical News
 Science News
 Sports News
 Vanderbilt Magazine

Resources for Media

TV Studio with Vyvx Link
XML RSS News Feeds
 Podcasts
 Radio
 Photography
 Media Fellowships
 VU Names and Places
 Staff Biographies
 Contact Us

About Vanderbilt

Chancellor's Bio
 VU Quick Facts
 Directions to Campus
 Campus Safety and Security
 People Finder

Calendars

Today / Arts
 Speakers / Sports
 Med Center / All

Search All Vanderbilt

Subscribe to VU listservs

News from Vanderbilt

Hussein's lawyers' threat to not recognize the Iraqi court is "legal maneuvering" says Vanderbilt International law expert 11-9-2005



Saddam Hussein

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Vanderbilt international law expert says the threat by attorneys for Saddam Hussein to end all contact with the Iraqi court that will try the former Iraqi president is nothing but "legal maneuvering."

Despite the second murder of a member of the defense team and the threat by Hussein's attorneys that they are canceling the Nov. 28 scheduled hearings, Mike

Newton, adviser to the Iraqi Tribunal and associate clinical professor of law at Vanderbilt, says he fully expects the hearings to proceed as scheduled.

"The Iraqi judges have a number of options, including appointing a defense team for Hussein if his current team decides not to participate," says Newton, former senior adviser to the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues.

The Iraqi judges can also order the defense attorneys to use protection provided by the court, Newton says. "They were offered protection before the trial started but they refused, because they said they did not trust the tribunal."

Newton, recently retired from the military, helped establish the Iraqi Tribunal and helped train the Iraqi judges. He traveled to Baghdad on two occasions to conduct training sessions for the Iraqi judges, and participated in several other training sessions. While serving as the special adviser to the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues in the State Department, Newton negotiated the Elements of Crimes a document for the International Criminal Court and was involved in establishing the Sierra Leone Special Court.

Media contact: Emily Pearce, (615) 322-NEWS
Emily.pearce@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt News Service

[Go Back](#)

This site best viewed with Internet Explorer 5.0 or Netscape 6.0 or greater.

Copyright © 2004 Vanderbilt University Division of Public Affairs.
 For more information or to report problems with this web page, please contact the [webmaster](#).

Murder of defence lawyer threatens Saddam trial

BAGHDAD: The murder of a second defence lawyer in the Saddam Hussein trial threatens to unravel the proceedings of the US-supported court and raises questions about the legitimacy of the process, experts say.

Lawyers for Saddam and his seven co-defendants in the trial for crimes against humanity that opened October 19 have suspended contacts with the court, issuing a 10-point list of demands.

The Saddam defence lawyers have said they want UN protection for meetings of the defence committee and the hiring of 15 bodyguards per lawyer to ensure their protection.

If the court cannot even protect the defence lawyers, "one has to question the legitimacy of the proceedings", said Raymond Brown, a US international law expert who in 2004 served as a defence co-counsel at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. "It raises the fundamental legitimacy of the process," Brown told AFP. And if the defence lawyers refuse to participate, "that may precipitate a crisis".

Issam Ghazzawi, a spokesman for Saddam's Jordan-based defence team, said the lawyers planned to meet in Amman on Wednesday or Thursday to "evaluate" the situation.

Foreign defence counsels, who include big names like former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella and former US attorney general Ramsey Clark, will also be joining the meeting, he said.

However, presiding judge Rizkar Mohammed Amin has the authority to order the defence team to court and force them to accept government or US security, said Michael Scharf, a US professor of international law at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

"Judge Amin has to sit down and read them the riot act," said Scharf, who was on an international team that helped train the Iraqi High Tribunal judges in 2004 and 2005.

Amin can also press obstruction of justice charges, which carries penalties that range from a fine, to being disbarred, to jail time, Scharf said. "The judges are not going to let this boycott derail the proceedings," said Scharf, interviewed by telephone from Baghdad. "There is a lot of pressure from a lot of quarters for the trial to proceed on schedule."

Security is directly linked to a key issue that has dogged the court which was set up with Iraq under US occupation right from the outset - legitimacy.

"The tribunal has to be seen as fair if it is to have any modicum of legitimacy," said Michael Kelly, a US law professor who has written on Saddam and the trial of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic.

The court "is not really in a political position to proceed with the trial of Saddam in absentia or unrepresented by counsel" when the trial re-opens on November 28, he said.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari said the government had offered police protection for the defence lawyers after Janabi's murder but the offer was turned down.

If Judge Amin forces them to accept US protection, then the trial once again risks appearing like a US-run show. Saddam and his co-defendants face charges connected to the 1982 massacre of more than 140 Shiite villagers from Dujail, north of the capital. All pleaded not guilty, but if convicted they could be executed. The defence team want an independent international investigation into the abduction and assassination of defence lawyer Saadun Janabi, found dead on October 21. afp

[Home](#) | [Foreign](#)