

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office
as of:**

Thursday, 24 November 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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Awoko

24 November 2005

'Mosquito ordered the killing of B.S Massaquoi' - witness

By Betty Milton

Answering to questions by Wayne Jordash the Defence lawyer for the

first indictée Issa Sesay, Prosecuting witness TF1-045 confirmed that Sam Bockarie aka Mosquito ordered his men to kill the former Residence Minister Eastern Region Mr. B.S. Massaquoi, which they did. The witness who was answering to questions during cross-examination said that after the rebels had killed Mr. Massaquoi, Mosquito then gave orders that they should leave Kenema for Kailahun as the ARFC troops had been

overran by ECOMOG and troops loyal to Tejan Kabbah in Freetown and so the same should not befall them and after three days they left for Kailahun. After they had arrived in Kailahun the witness said some men left for Liberia. The witness recalled that when they were in Tongo, civilians were mining together with soldiers for the government. The civilians, he said, had to do this because they too wanted to mine for
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Mosquito ordered the killing of B.S Massaquoi

From Front Page

themselves. For a civilian to mine for himself he had to take permission from the Commanders. At that time, the PLO2 was representing the government in terms of mining while Captain Yamaohkateh was the overall boss. The government's mining, he stated, started from 9:30 after which soldiers could mine for themselves. The members of the RUF also had a right to mine for themselves as they too had their Deputy Commander who was Eagle. Eagle, he

maintained, reported directly to Mosquito. TF1-045 also stated that a Committee was formed to locate mining sites. This Committee also valued the diamonds. Another role the Community played was to identify civilians for mining. This Committee, the witness said, was formed by the civilians as the armed men were harassing them. "There was an order that no armed men should go in search of a civilian but should be accompanied by a member of the Committee. The Committee was later dissolved because the

commanders found out that the civilians were not taking orders from its members very seriously and sometimes, the Committee members would tell their colleague civilians to hide when something had been done." Mr Jordash suggested to the witness that he was not present in Tongo when the killing of a Palmwine taper was carried out by an ARFC soldier and that he only joined the troops in October. The witness denied, saying he was present when the incident of the palm wine taper occurred and that the soldier was even shot by one commander on his right hand.

BRINGING JUSTICE

The Special Court For Sierra Leone

Accomplishments, Shortcomings, And Needed Support (Part-9)

President Obasanjo has indicated that he might be willing to reconsider Taylor's asylum in Nigeria once a Liberian government is democratically elected. However, elections are not anticipated in Liberia for at least a year and sectors of Liberian and Nigerian society have already made known their strong sentiment that Charles Taylor should be handed over to the Special Court. A number of Liberian organizations officially embarked on a three month anti-impunity campaign on May 28, 2004. According to communications from the campaign to Human Rights Watch, the campaign's "firm message is that Liberians want Taylor to face a court of law for the horrific crimes he has been accused of, and specifically the Special Court of Sierra Leone as he is currently indicted there.

Nigerians have equally emphasized their desire to see Charles Taylor appear before the Special Court. The Nigerian law firm Aluko & Osofide recently filed petitions on behalf of two Nigerian businessmen requesting that the Nigerian High Court strip Charles Taylor's asylum status in Nigeria.

These businessmen were reportedly tortured in 1999 by rebel groups in Sierra Leone supported by Taylor. On June 3, 2004, the Nigerian High Court agreed to review Charles Taylor's asylum status on the basis of this request. Following proceedings over service of court papers, the Nigerian High Court has now set September 15, 2004, as the date to commence hearing the case.

In the face of the legal, policy, and pragmatic necessity of Taylor facing trial before the Special Court, President Obasanjo has given no indication that he will deliver Taylor to the court.

We understand that the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations, the United States, and South Africa were involved in the negotiations that led to former President Taylor leaving power in Liberia and obtaining asylum in

Nigeria and failed to stipulate that the offer of asylum should be a temporary one to resolve the crisis at hand. We understand President Obasanjo now feels bound by a sense of honor because he gave his word to Taylor that he would not turn him over to the court. However, we firmly believe there are larger issues at stake: stopping the vicious and destructive cycle of impunity in Africa and bringing a sense of justice to the countless victims of the crimes Taylor is accused of. We urge Nigeria, particularly as a member of the Special Court Management Committee, to hand Taylor over to the Special Court.

We further urge other governments, including other members of the Management Committee, the U.N. Secretary-General, and the Security Council to take up this issue publicly and privately with Nigeria.

B. Financial Support and Budgeting
As discussed in the Introduction and throughout this report, the Special Court has struggled to secure adequate funding. Increased funding for key areas of operations, including the Defense Office, the Protection Unit, the Chambers, and the Outreach Section, is needed to enable the court to complete its work effectively. The condition on the April 2004 United Nations grant to the court that the grant will be reduced in the amount of any additional voluntary contributions should be removed to enable increased funding to be secured.

Disregarding the recommendation of the U.N. Secretary-General, the agreement between the United Nations and the Special Court provides that the court will be funded through voluntary contributions.

Moreover, the initial proposed budget - which was approximately \$114.6 million for three years and equaled less than the average cost of just one year of operations at the ICTY for the years 2002 and 2003 - was cut to approximately \$67 million due to difficulties in securing funding, although the total estimated budget had

increased to about \$76 million for three years as of March 2004. Voluntary contributions made to the Special Court total some \$49.3 million.

In sufficient and insecure funding has undermined the court's operations. Court officials have needed to devote extensive time to raising funds and needed staff could not be hired because of uncertainty about whether the court would continue to have sufficient funds to operate. These problems underscore that funding a court through voluntary contributions is extremely problematic. Special Court staff expressed frustration that the Management Committee has tended to focus its attention more on where to cut budgets proposed by the Registry than on zealously advocating with governments and the United Nations as to why additional fundings necessary to ensure that the court can function fairly and effectively.

As of July 2004, voluntary contributions were expected to last the court only through the beginning of its third year of operations. In March 2004 the U.N. Secretary-General requested that the United Nations provide special assistance for the Special Court to respond to the financial crisis in the amount of \$40 million. Based on this request, the General Assembly authorized \$16.7 million for the Special Court to fund operations from July 1, 2004, to December 2004. However, the condition placed on this grant - that any additional voluntary contributions made will reduce the grant in the amount of the contribution - make it impossible for the court to secure adequate funding to ensure fair and effective operations. Human Rights Watch urges the U.N. Secretary-General to request and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question to recommend that the General Assembly remove this restriction immediately and authorize the remaining \$23.3 million of the request to fund the court through December 2005.

The Special Court is an historic initiative, which has made tremendous advances in a short time frame and on a tight budget. It is essential that the Special Court receive adequate funding to make improvements in the areas detailed in this report. We urge the Registry to support additional allocations for these areas, and for the Management Committee to advocate strongly on behalf of such funding. We further urge governments to provide additional voluntary contributions and the U.N. Secretary-General and General Assembly to intervene as necessary to address outstanding shortfalls. To do otherwise would un-

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**In the face of the legal, policy,
and pragmatic necessity of Taylor
facing trial before the Special
Court, President Obasanjo has
given no indication that he will
deliver Taylor to the court**

SPECIAL COURT

From Page 3

erminate the considerable investment of governments and the United Nations in this mechanism by weakening the court's capacity to complete its work effectively.

Recommendations
to the United Nations.
to the Security Council

Include in a Security Council resolution an explicit call for Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Continue to extend the mandate of UNAMSIL, or create some residual force to provide security for the Special Court throughout the entirety of its operations. To the U.N. Secretary-General Explicitly call on Nigeria to surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Without delay appoint qualified judges to serve on the second Trial Chamber to enable its establishment.

Ensure that all judges appointed to the second Trial Chamber and any additional judges you appoint to the first Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber have criminal trial experience.

Request that the General Assembly fund the remaining \$23.3 million necessary to operate the court through December 2005 as detailed in your March 2004 subvention.

Request that the General Assembly remove the condition on funding provided by the United Nations to the Special Court that any

subsequent additional voluntary contributions received by the court will result in a reduction of U.N. funding in the same amount.

Advocate for additional funding as necessary to ensure that the Special Court is able to bring justice fairly and effectively. This includes advocating for increased funds as necessary to ensure adequate facilities for the Defence Office, sufficient payment of defense counsel and appointment of one international investigator to each defense team. It also includes advocating for increased funds as necessary to ensure additional legal officers to support the Chambers, protection of witnesses, and effective outreach programming.

Advocate for funding for residual mechanisms, including witness protection programs and detention facilities in accordance with international standards, to operate after the court operations.

To the U.N. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions Recommend that the General Assembly fund the remaining \$23.3 million necessary to operate the court through December 2005 as detailed in the March 2004 subvention by the U.N. Secretary-General

Request that the General Assembly remove the condition on funding provided to the Special Court that any subsequent additional voluntary contributions received by the court will result in a reduction of U.N. funding in the same amount.

Recommend that the General Assembly ensure that the Special Court has funding to bring justice fairly and effectively and that after the court ceases operations, witness protection programs and detention facilities in accordance with international standards function.

Echoe From US State Department...

U.S. Congressmen Rep. Royce

Renews Call For Charles

Taylor To Be Brought To Justice

WASHINGTON, D.C. - - Calling the democratic presidential election in Liberia a renewed opportunity to ensure that Charles Taylor faces justice, U.S. Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA-40) sent a letter today to President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The letter asks Johnson-Sirleaf to immediately call upon the Nigerian government to transfer former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he faces 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"I congratulate Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf and the Liberian people on this electoral achievement. The election was historic. This exercise in democracy represents an opportunity for a new start for Liberia, and for Charles Taylor to be brought to the bar of justice," said Royce. Royce noted Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo's commitment to considering the request of a democratically elected Liberian President to turn Taylor over to the Special Court.

"Even in his Nigerian asylum, Charles Taylor is a threat to the people of Liberia. As long as he remains out of the reach of the Special Court, the future of West Africa will be in jeopardy. History would look well on Johnson-Sirleaf if she uses her new status to press President Obasanjo to immediately transfer Taylor to Sierra Leone," said Royce.

Royce chaired the House Subcommittee on Africa for eight years. He is currently the vice-chairman of the panel. Following this release is a copy of the letter.

in Liberia, and the international community's considerable investment in your country, remains in jeopardy as long as Mr. Taylor is permitted to elude justice. Of equal importance, justice must be pursued for the Sierra Leonean people.

I firmly believe that as long as Mr. Taylor continues to enjoy safe harbor —while remaining active in Liberian politics from a distance— the livelihoods and democratic rights of millions of West Africans, and the post-war re-construction of Liberia and Sierra Leone, will remain at risk. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has resisted numerous calls, including by the United States Congress, to transfer Mr. Taylor to the custody of the Court. Nevertheless, I request that you call for the Nigerian government to deliver Mr. Taylor immediately to the Court, so that justice can be done and Liberia can enjoy better prospects for prosperity.

Madame President-elect, it is the hope of many that you use your strong democratic mandate to affirm that the use of violence to achieve political

ends is no longer acceptable in West Africa and usher in a new era for the rule of law in the region. Mr. Taylor must be held accountable for his past actions, and achieving this end will require your decisive and immediate action. Again, please accept my congratulations on your election. I thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

/s/

EDWARD R. ROYCE

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Text of the letter from Royce:

Dear President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf:
I am writing to congratulate you on your historic election victory - and respectfully request that you immediately call upon the Nigerian government to transfer former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Without doubt, your election promises a new beginning for Liberia. Your fellow citizens have enthusiastically demonstrated their faith in the democratic process, turning out in large numbers to vote, marking the freest and fairest election in Liberia's history. The United States strongly supports this democratic achievement and has an abiding interest in Liberia's well-being. Many in the Congress look forward to working with you as you confront Liberia's many challenges.

I would be considerably more optimistic about Liberia's future, however, if Mr. Taylor faced the 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The United States and many other governments strongly support the Court and its mandate, and I urge you to do likewise.

Please understand that I do not make my request of you lightly. I chaired the Subcommittee on Africa for eight years, focusing much of my attention on West Africa. In my view, progress



UNMIL

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Press release, 23 November 2005

Liberia's National Elections Commission announces final results of the run-off election; declares Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf president-elect

(Monrovia, Liberia) Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) today officially declared Unity Party's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf winner of the 8 November 2005 run-off election. The NEC Chairperson Frances Johnson-Morris announced that Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf won 478,526 votes representing 59.4 per cent; while George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change acquired 327,046 votes, which account for 40.6 per cent.



Special Representative Alan Doss congratulates president-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

Speaking at the official announcement of the 8 November run-off election, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, said, "With the final results of these elections now formally announced UNMIL encourages Liberians to maintain the current atmosphere of peace, to demonstrate respect for the democratic process, and to resolve any disputes through the appropriate legal and judicial processes laid down in the electoral law."

SRSR Doss assured Liberians that the UN stands firmly behind the Government and people of Liberia as they prepare to tackle the challenging tasks of national reconstruction, reconciliation, and rebuilding the nation.

In her remarks NEC Chairperson Johnson-Morris said, "In order to rebuild Liberia and restore its international image, we must now set aside our political, ethnic and religious differences and merge our energies for this noble undertaking." Johnson-Morris challenged all Liberians to prove to the world that the people of Liberia are now resolved to part with the culture of violence and work in harmony for a prosperous future.

The NEC Chairperson thanked the people of Liberia for participating fully in the electoral process; and international partners, including the United Nations, ECOWAS, African Union (AU), European Union (EU) and the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL) for their positive role which guaranteed the credibility of the Liberian elections

The ceremony was attended by National Transitional Government of Liberia Vice Chairman, Hon. Wesley Momo Johnson, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of ECOWAS, AU, EU, ICGL, presidential and legislative candidates who participated in the elections, and a wide range of international and local partners who provided support for the electoral process

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Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General

Liberia

The Secretary-General welcomes this morning's announcement by the National Elections Commission of the official results from the Liberian presidential run-off elections. The results show that Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party received 59.4% and Mr. George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change 40.6% of the total valid votes cast. The Secretary-General extends his warm congratulations to Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on her election as Africa's first woman head of state in the modern era.

The Secretary-General notes that the National Elections Commission will continue to conduct active and open hearings on the complaints received concerning the conduct of the run-off elections, in accordance with the established legal procedures. He urges a timely conclusion of this important process in order to allow all Liberians to focus on the urgent tasks of national reconciliation, reconstruction and good governance. The Secretary-General wishes to assure the newly-elected government of the continued support of the United Nations, as Liberia lays the foundations for lasting political stability and sustainable economic development.

New York
23 November 2005

Red-Letter Day!

The Analyst (Monrovia)

November 23, 2005

Liberia, Africa's oldest independent republic, is today making history as it did a number of times in the past. From its daredevil declaration of independence on July 26, 1847 in spite of imperialists growling to fielding the first female president for the UN General Assembly, to overwhelmingly electing a warlord in 1997, Liberia has been the nerve center of African innovation. Today, Liberia is marking another red-day with the affirmation of the overwhelming election of a woman head of state - the first even in Africa.

-SNIP-

Madam Sirleaf's tough stands against corruption, impunity, and criminalization of governance were rendered lukewarm in the runoff, perhaps to endear herself to former officials of Taylor's failed regimes, former warlords, and ex-combatants who had thought all along that she was out for their heads.

"I want to make sure that nobody will ever again feel so affected that they will have to resort to violence," Madam Sirleaf told the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks in an interview recently.

Where she stands on the extradition of Charles Taylor who is indicted on war crimes and crimes against humanity charges in an UN-backed special court in Freetown is not clear. but media reports suggest she would not have outright response prior to holding close consultations with West African leaders and key members of the international community on the matter.

Some say the idea of a national referendum may be toyed with, but even that is being rejected in many circles including amongst legislators-elect in the just-ended presidential and legislative elections.

-SNIP-



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 Nov. 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia

Annan welcomes final result of Liberia's presidential elections

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 23, 2005 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the final result of the presidential elections in Liberia, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday.

Liberia declares Johnson-Sirleaf president-elect

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Liberia's former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became the first woman to be elected head of state of an African country on Wednesday when she was declared the winner of a presidential run-off.

Liberia's electoral commission said official results from the Nov. 8 run-off showed the Harvard-trained World Bank economist beat soccer millionaire George Weah by winning 59.4 percent of the valid votes, compared to Weah's 40.6 percent.

Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf takes the key to the mansion

MONROVIA, Nov 23 (AFP) - She has traded her beloved jeans for flowing robes and headdresses, and a jail cell for the executive mansion. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made history as Africa's first elected woman president, winning Liberia's November 8 run-off vote with final results certified on Wednesday. "I thank the Liberian people for performing their legal duty and I am happy to be the next president of Liberia," Sirleaf told reporters after a ceremony at the Centennial Pavillion in downtown Monrovia.

Hard work begins for Liberia's 'Iron Lady' with presidential win

by Lauren Gelfand

DAKAR, Nov 23 (AFP) - After decades in government, years in exile and months on the campaign trail, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has won the presidency of Liberia and the hard work with it: rebuilding of a country without power or water, jobs or schools, doctors or engineers, ripped apart by war and ruined by corruption.

"Certainly, there are challenges, but I think that the world needs to know that we can manage on our own," the Harvard-trained technocrat told AFP in a recent interview. "We owe it to ourselves; we must do it for ourselves."

LIBERIA: Weah facing heat to concede defeat

MONROVIA, 22 Nov 2005 (IRIN) - Pressure is mounting on George Weah, the former international football star and runner-up in this month's presidential race in Liberia, to think of his country and concede defeat.

Los Angeles Times Date: November 23, 2005

They Don't Make Much News, but Peacekeeping Efforts Work

By Gareth Evans

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Dayton accords that ended the war in Bosnia, it must seem to most Americans that the world hasn't really learned much, then or since, about how to prevent and resolve deadly conflict. With every night's evening news full of the grim daily death tolls in Iraq, riots in France, bombs in Jordan, ugly fighting still in Afghanistan and recurring nightmares in Africa, there doesn't seem much room for optimism.

Liberia's recent presidential election was a one-day news story about people peacefully voting after years of bloodshed. But only a successful peacekeeping mission made it so.

Local Media – Newspapers

Elections Commission Officially Announces Winner of Presidential Runoff

(The Inquirer, New Democrat, The Analyst, Heritage and The Parrot)

- According to National Elections Commission (NEC) Information Officer Bobby Livingstone, the NEC will today officially announce the winner of the presidential run-off election between Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party and George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC). In its editorial, *Daily Observer* said that it was optimistic that President-elect Johnson-Sirleaf would inspire Liberians in their desire for reconciliation and reconstruction of Liberia.

Elections Commission Hearing Officer Warns Congress for Democratic Change against Public Utterances about Run-Off Fraud Case

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

- During a hearing of the run-off fraud case yesterday, the NEC Hearing Officer Joseph Blidi, warned the CDC to refrain from making statements that would be prejudicial to the hearing of the case.

Lawmakers Disagree on Illegal Possession of Public Property

(New Democrat and National Chronicle)

- In a letter signed by six members of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA), Assemblyman Commany Wesseh admonished his colleagues to reconsider the resolution to make government vehicles their private property.

Defeated Presidential Candidate to Expose Bribery for Legislative Leadership Posts

(The News)

- Addressing a news conference yesterday, the flag bearer of the All-Liberia Coalition Party, Alhaji Kromah, said that he had credible information that some legislators-elect were bribing their colleagues to ascend to leadership positions of the House of Representatives and Senate, and would expose those that are engaged in the act.

European Commission Sponsors Workshop on Post-Election Cooperation

(The News and The Analyst)

- Speaking at a European Commission Bilateral Elections Program workshop to promote post-election peace and political cooperation in Liberia, University of Liberia President Alhassan Conteh urged his compatriots to address the pitfalls of their history.

Leading American Newspaper Lauds Liberian Elections

(Heritage and The Analyst)

- In its editorial, the American newspaper *The Washington Times* said that there were reasons to be hopeful about Liberia, citing the recent presidential election as an African success story.

Information Minister Urges Media to Set Positive Agenda

(The News)

- Speaking at the Fourth Anniversary of *The Forum* newspaper yesterday, Information Minister William Allen urged media practitioners to provide information to help maintain peace and stability during the post-election period.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

Security Personnel Participate in Mental Health Seminar

- In an interview, Lutheran Church Trauma Healing Program Coordinator Koboi Weege said that 35 security personnel drawn from various agencies would today begin a psycho-social and mental health training seminar for security personnel working in peace-building and reconciliation.

American Newspaper Lauds Liberian Elections

- In its editorial, the American newspaper *The Washington Times* said that there were reasons to be hopeful about Liberia, citing the recent presidential election as an African success story.

European Commission Sponsors Workshop on Post-Election Cooperation

Lawmakers Disagree on Illegal Possession of Public Property

Defeated Presidential Candidate to Expose Bribery for Legislative Leadership Posts

ELBS Radio *(News Monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

Elections Commission Officially Announces Winner of Presidential Runoff

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Lawmakers Pass Act on Disability Commission

- In keeping with the Constitution of Liberia, the NTLA said that it has passed into law an act creating the National Commission on Disability even though National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant had failed to sign the Act
(Also reported on Star Radio)

Police Warn Against Violence During Announcement of Presidential Runoff

- Speaking to reporters yesterday, Liberian National Police Inspector-General Joseph Kerkula said that the police backed by UNMIL had been put on high alert to curb attempts to disrupt the official announcement of the run-off results today
(Also reported on Star Radio)

Star Radio *(Culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

Ex-Combatants Acquire Basic Skills Training

- According to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) National Secretary Peter Karmie, over 90 ex-combatants have graduated from an eight-month training program in tailoring, shoe repair, carpentry, radio repairs and plumbing. He said that 15 of the trainees were women.

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

UNAMSIL

Wednesday 23 November 2005

ECONOMY

More than 1000 Sierra Leone are to be employed by a mining company after it starts full operation in the country two years from now, Chief Geologist and Project Manager of the Port Loko Bauxite Exploration, Ebo Bakker told journalists yesterday. He said the Company has already engaged the services of more than 349 people to clean and brush the railway line.

The Government of Japan has donated US \$ 2.8 million through UNICEF to the Government of Sierra Leone as part of its contribution to the health sector for the benefit of children in this country. The Japanese Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Ishakawa presented the money in order to reduce child mortality rate and death of women at birth.

SPECIAL COURT

The Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Desmond da Silva QC Monday officially concluded the Prosecution's case in the trial of accused persons of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Forces (AFRC), Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu. They are facing 14-count charge for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. The trial started on 7 March 2005.