

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:

Friday, 25 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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SIERRA LEONE EVENING PRESS REVIEW

Thursday 24 November 2005

ECONOMY

Seventy-five Indian companies would be coming to Sierra Leone to help develop the small-scale sector. The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Kadie Sesay said yesterday that her ministry and the Indian Government have signed an agreement for the investors to come.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Leading Appellant counsel in the matter of the state versus Paul Kamara, James Blyden Jenkins-Johnson has told the appeal court that there is no evidence of seditious intent in the 3 and 7 October 2003 edition of the *For Di People* newspaper that led to the conviction of its editor, Paul Kamara. He told the court that the learned trial Judge misdirected and misled himself and totally missed the point in his judgment. The editor, who is presently in prison, was last year October sentenced to two years by a Freetown Court for an alleged seditious article he wrote against President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Three hundred Sierra Leoneans who went to Iraq out of 750 on contract by the European Support Services Worldwide (ESS) early this year, have returned home because the company could not give them better wages.

SECURITY

The Sierra Leone Police have arrested two Israelis and one Russian with US \$ 568,00.00 at the Freetown International Airport. The suspect arrived in the country on both SN Brussels and Astreaus airlines. The police is investigating them for money laundering.

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LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

NGOs Forum asks the African Commission to demand Charles Taylor's arrest

Posted to the Web: Friday, November 25, 2005

Participants at the NGOs forum attending the 38th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights have demanded that Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo arrest and surrender Charles Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone. According to the participants who include members of the Campaign Against Impunity, the African Commission has a responsibility to address the broad issue of impunity in Africa by asking Nigeria to comply with the request for Charles Taylor, to be brought to justice for the allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity he is alleged to have committed.

In November 2005 a federal high court in Nigeria threw out the Federal Government's objections to the legal proceedings to review Charles Taylor's asylum in Nigeria. Two victims, Emmanuel Egbuna and David Anyaele, whose limbs were amputated during the conflict in Sierra Leone, filed the case. On 11 November, 2005, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1638, empowering the United Nation Mission in Liberia: "to apprehend and detain former President Charles Taylor in the event of a return to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to Sierra Leone for prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Liberian Government, the Sierra Leonean Government and the Council fully informed". Campaign Against Impunity (a coalition involving Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Open Society Justice Initiatives and over 300 African civil

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society organizations) has consistently asked the African Commission to take a stand in support of thousands of Africans especially women and children who are victims of Taylor's alleged crimes, in accordance with its mandates under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Coalition has insisted that victims, their relatives and the society at large all have a vital interest in having individuals responsible for human rights abuses brought to justice, knowing the truth about past abuses, and receiving reparation for these violations.

According to Kolawole Olaniyan Africa program Director at Amnesty International, "bringing perpetrators to justice also sends a clear message that violations of human rights will not be tolerated and that those who commit such acts will be held fully accountable."

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 24 Nov. 2005

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

International Clips on Liberia

24 November 2005

African leaders hail Liberia's election of a female president, the continent's first

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - African leaders on Thursday hailed the election of the continent's first-ever female president, calling the victory of Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a watershed for African women.

Johnson-Sirleaf's victory in Liberia's first postwar vote, confirmed Wednesday, "is indeed a victory not only for Liberian women in particular but also represents a beacon of hope for women in Africa and the world in general. It most eloquently makes the unequivocal statement that, indeed, a new dawn has arrived for African women," South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki said in a statement. "Accordingly, as Africans we stand proud to be associated with this historic victory in the struggle for gender parity, women's emancipation and empowerment."

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Liberian president-elect promises an end to exclusion

Monrovia (dpa) - Liberia's president-elect, political veteran Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, says her ascendancy to the presidency of Liberia marked an end to "political and social exclusion" in the war-ravaged West African state.

"We will create an inclusive government," Johnson-Sirleaf said in an address to the nation hours after being declared winner of the November 8 run-off presidential election. "Never again in this nation shall a person or group of persons feel so excluded that they have to resort to violence in the name of justice," she promised.

LIBERIA: "Humbled" Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf confirmed Africa's first female president

MONROVIA, 23 Nov 2005 (IRIN) - Harvard-educated Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf stamped her name in the history books on Wednesday, when she was confirmed Liberia's, as well as Africa's, first female president.

Amid tight security enforced by UN peacekeepers and newly-trained Liberian police officers, the National Electoral Commission officially pronounced her winner of the final round of the presidential poll on 8 November, with 59.4 percent of the vote against her challenger, football hero George Weah, with 40.6 percent. "I declare Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf winner," proclaimed Commission head Frances Johnson-Morris at a formal ceremony held in the same building where she is to be sworn in on 16 January. Weah, whose party has challenged the result though international observers gave the process the thumbs up, did not attend.

Local Media – Newspapers

Elections Commission Officially Announces President-Elect

(Daily Observer, The Analyst, Heritage, New Vision, Liberian Express and The Informer)

- Declaring the winner of the run-off presidential election yesterday, National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris said that Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party (UP) obtained 478,526 votes representing 59.4 percent of all valid votes counted. Cllr. Johnson-Morris said that George Weah of the Congress for Democratic Change collected 327,046 votes amounting to 40.6 percent.
- In editorials, *The News, Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer and The Informer* newspapers congratulated Madame Johnson-Sirleaf for her ascendancy to the presidency. They hoped that she would form an inclusive government based on competence, morality and honesty.

President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Vows to Fight Corruption

(The Inquirer, The Analyst and Heritage)

- In her first public address as President-elect, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf vowed that she would fight corruption by efficiently managing the country's resources.
- She said that her administration would practice transparency and accountability.

International Community to Support Incoming Government

(Daily Observer, The News, Liberian Express and New Vision)

- In remarks made yesterday during the declaration of the winner of the runoff yesterday, the international community declared that it would support the new government of Madame Johnson-Sirleaf.
- ECOWAS Special Representative Mohammed Ciesay assured Liberians that the Sub-region would continue to work with Liberia.
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss reiterated that the runoff was free and non-violent and that it ushered in a new era of peace and democracy in Liberia. He said that the international community was committed to supporting the President-elect in meeting the challenges ahead.

Press Union of Liberia Removes Coverage Restriction on CDC

(The News)

- The Press Union of Liberia said that it was removing the restriction imposed on covering the CDC following an apology and assurance from the party that it would guarantee the safety of journalists in its premises. The Union added that the party had regretted the assaults on journalists by some of its partisans during the run-off election period.

Transitional Government Vice Chairman Calls on Losers to Accept Run-Off Result

(The News, Heritage and New Vision)

- National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) Vice Chairman Wesley Momo Johnson said yesterday that the government was eager for a smooth transition.
- He called on the losers of the runoff to accept the result because the poll was conducted in a transparent manner. Vice Chairman Johnson urged Liberians to accept the result, seek reconciliation and rebuild the country.

Jubilant Liberians Celebrate Announcement of President-Elect

(New Vision)

- Liberians burst into jubilation following the declaration of Madame Johnson-Sirleaf as President-elect yesterday, mounting vehicles and chanting her as police and UNMIL security patrolled to confront any disturbances, journalists said.

Renowned Liberian Politician Calls for a People-Centered Government

(Heritage)

- Speaking at a ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of the Students Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia, renowned politician Henry Boima Fahnbulleh admonished the incoming government to run a “people-centered” government.

Formal Education for Ex-Combatants Launched

(Daily Observer)

- As part of its formal education component for beneficiaries of the demobilization and reintegration program, UNDP’s Joint Implementation Unit will launch a formal education program for over 20,000 ex-combatants in the 2005/2006 academic year, a press statement issued in Monrovia said yesterday.

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

National Democratic Party of Liberia Standard Bearer Congratulates President-Elect

- Extending his congratulation to Madam Johnson-Sirleaf, National Democratic Party of Liberia presidential standard bearer Winston Tubman said that her preferment brought a great pride to Liberia. He said that he would impress upon the CDC’s George Weah the need to concede defeat and congratulate the President-elect.

Liberia Council of Churches Scorns Lawmakers for Unlawful Possession of State Property

- A press statement issued yesterday said that the Liberia Council of Churches was scorning the NTLA for unlawfully taking ownership of State-owned property, expressing shock that the NTLA would take an action intended to undermine the interests of Liberians. The LCC added that the NTLA’s move was inimical to the welfare of the country.

Elections Commission Officially Announces President-Elect

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Vows to Fight Corruption

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Jubilant Liberians Celebrate Announcement of President-Elect

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

Renowned Liberian Politician Calls for a People-Centered Government

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

Formal Education for Ex-Combatants Launched

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.

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Va. Law Students Provide Research For Hussein Trial

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By Susan Kinzie
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, November 25, 2005; B01

Ariston Johnson has a huge paper due Monday: 60 pages of legal analysis with a fat binder full of supporting documents. After he turns it in to his professor at the College of William and Mary School of Law, his research will be sent to Iraq, flown to Baghdad and sped down the often-bombed highway to the fortified Green Zone.

There, in an ornate former palace compound, papers written by pairs of students in human rights clinics at four U.S. schools will be translated into Arabic for the judges at the Iraqi Special Tribunal.

The war crimes trial of Saddam Hussein and seven other former Iraqi officials resumes Monday, a series of cases with the potential to shape international law, the war and the future of Iraq. Judges will hear about torture and killings, and convictions could lead to death by hanging.

As he worked on the confidential paper all fall, Johnson, a 23-year-old from North Dakota, kept imagining those boxes of papers being delivered, and a judge reading his analysis before making a decision. "The gravity of that. . . ." he said, letting it sink in. "Then I think, 'I better finish this thing on time!'"

Johnson said he thinks it's pretty wild that law students get to weigh in on something that will make headlines around the world. But human rights clinics, once rare, are now popping up at a growing number of law schools. There's a cluster in the Washington area: Georgetown University Law Center is opening a Human Rights Institute early next year. Students at the University of Virginia School of Law's International Human Rights Law Clinic, now in its third year, have done research for the Special Court for Sierra Leone examining war crimes and for cases stemming from the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison. American University's Washington College of Law has one of the oldest and best-known human rights clinics in the country, with students contributing to cases involving asylum, the death penalty, former dictators and war crimes.

Ten or 15 years ago, there were only a handful of such programs. Now there are closer to 20, said Arturo Carrillo, who heads the two-year-old clinic at George Washington University Law School.

This increase is driven by demand from students, some professors said, many of whom have a completely different worldview from the generation before, a more global outlook.

Travel, the Internet and other technologies have made international work and human rights cases more immediate. Carl Monk, executive director of the Association of American Law Schools, said it's also part of an evolution in legal education, with an increasing emphasis on clinical work.

Law students are "starved for practical, hands-on experience," Carrillo said. "They eat it up. They absolutely love it."

Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University School of Law said students devote untold hours to obscure issues. "They hunt all over the world, sometimes finding rare documents that get translated into English, sometimes things in dusty libraries that haven't been opened in 60 years," he said.

Linda Malone, the professor at William and Mary, said the school has seen work from last semester put to use.

The tribunal has been controversial, with many questioning how a system set up by the U.S.-led occupation authorities and approved by the transitional parliament in Iraq could deliver fair, impartial justice.

"There are a lot of scholars who are waiting to see whether this [tribunal] is a train wreck or a success story," said Scharf, who is working with Malone, Laura Dickinson of the University of Connecticut School of Law and Michael Newton of Vanderbilt University Law School in an academic consortium. "The four of us were willing to roll the dice, get involved early." They hope that they'll be able to make it better, he said.

"Basically, these tribunals always are underfunded and understaffed and have really weak library resources," Scharf said. "We're a force multiplier. We act as junior attorneys would in their office." While others pore over millions of documents, testimony from thousands of witnesses and reports from hundreds of mass graves, some of the thorny legal issues are turned over to scholars in the United States from the Regime Crimes Liaison Office.

Every paper goes through multiple revisions with professors, who are experts in this field. Malone was co-counsel to Bosnia-Herzegovina in its genocide case against Serbia and Montenegro before the World Court, for example. Some papers don't go on to Iraq, Dickinson said. Only the best are sent.

Scharf tells his students the first day that if they're having doubts about the clinic, they should leave immediately. "It's like signing up for the military or something," he said. "You're on the hook."

At William and Mary, students worked in pairs to answer questions that they were told to keep confidential. They looked for precedents from other war crimes tribunals, in Nuremberg, Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. They looked for Iraqi law. All the documents they found are attached to the papers and sent on, Scharf said; he remembers going to Rwanda and seeing an entire room devoted to his students' research, the pages dog-eared from use.

In some ways, students said, it's like any other monster research paper, with hour after hour in the library. But then there are the news bulletins. The trial started in October and lasted one day, with a belligerent Hussein pleading not guilty and tussling with guards. "Between then and now, two members of the defense team have been assassinated," said Ian Ralby, who graduated in the spring.

He found the research so compelling that he continued even after starting work at a Norfolk law firm. "I've learned a lot of substantive law," he said. "I've also learned how murky and emotionally challenging this type of work is. We're dealing with some really gruesome issues, and really unclear issues of justice and ethics."

Johnson said it has been fascinating, like a giant jigsaw puzzle. "One thing I've learned," he said, "is the most interesting things I do, I can't talk about."

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