

**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:**

Friday, December 16, 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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# The Hinga Norman enigma: Can't be spat, nor swallowed

BY REV. CRISPIN COLE

May God bless the Rev Sam Foray for being a 'voice of one crying in the wilderness'.

He has been remarkable in staying the course while the rest of Hinga Norman's compatriots exploit the fruits of the democracy

earned with the blood and tears of many of us.

If this is what must become of our heroes we had better secure our escape routes if it were to happen again.

One wonders what Sierra Leonean would be insane enough

to put his neck on the chopping block after what is happening to Hinga Norman.

It pains me to note the extent of betrayal meted out to Chief Norman, when some of us were privy to what his mission was.

God and history will not forgive us for what we have done to Chief Norman.

Those of us that reserved no measure of our being and resources in the fight for the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone have begun to feel that we have been used.

If Chief Norman fought the rebels out of a personal ambition to overthrow President Kabba, then let him be crucified.

It is evident that this was not the case.

He was the deputy minister of interior in the present administration till he was picked up and jailed by the UN court.

If in wars, however just, there is no allowance for collateral damage, then what makes Norman unique from world leaders present and past that have managed wars and conflicts and are still free to get on with their lives?

I beseech the President, cabinet members, all the members of the ruling party and members of Parliament to take some time off and look inwards, and afterwards ask

themselves whether Chief Norman deserves this.

It is my prediction that until the matter of Hinga Norman be properly disposed, politics in Sierra Leone would be only a little more than a charade.

Thank you again Rev Sam Foray,

and thank you all who have stuck out for Chief Norman.

I implore many more to stand behind the principle.

Hinga Norman is not on trial, as what is on trial is the conscience and integrity of Sierra Leone.

**As Students Plan to disrupt Tomorrow's Convocation...**

# Foreign Judge to try Charles Margai?

By  
Theophilus  
S. Gbenda

Competent sources within the Sierra Leone Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution have revealed to Awareness Times newspaper that in the light of accusing fingers being pointed at

the government that the charges against Charles Margai are politically motivated and have no basis, the Prosecution might make a formal request to the Chief Justice that one of the foreign judges from the Commonwealth currently on contract to Sierra

Leone Judiciary be assigned to try the ongoing matter of Charles Margai versus the State.

Our sources indicate that this move might not be unconnected with the recent Press Release from four diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone

which has not gone down well with the government of the day. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has condemned the statement from the diplomats as being uncalled for. The Release from the diplomatic missions had stated that the missions

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*Charles Margai: Worried?*

Awareness Times

Friday, December 16, 2005

# Foreign Judge to try Charles Margai?

*From front page*  
would be closely monitoring the trial of Lawyer Charles Margai. "We will ask that one of the foreign Judges from the Commonwealth be assigned the matter and we will present our evidence to the world in front of this judge. It will now be left to this foreign judge to shift through the evidence and act accordingly. Then, maybe these diplomats might realize that the Sierra Leone Police has a very strong reason for bringing Charles Margai to court." A very senior member of the Sierra Leone Police told Awareness Times last night.

Unconfirmed indications are that Justice Robert Schuster, a white judge from the Commonwealth might be the one handling the Charles Margai trial when it is transferred to Freetown if indeed the judiciary decides to assign the matter to a foreign judge.

Assigning the Margai trial to a foreign judge who is a citizen of a country represented by any of these diplomatic missions could be one way of letting the diplomats know that the government and/or the police have confidence in the veracity of the charges preferred against Lawyer Margai and the ten others. This will also pacify Margai's

supporters." a renowned lawyer in Freetown told Awareness Times yesterday on condition of anonymity. Several of Charles Margai's supporters are already known to be very emotional over his court trial and have staged violent demonstrations already.

## STUDENTS PLAN TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST BEREWA AND KABBAH TOMORROW

Meanwhile, reports monitored by Awareness Times at the Police Headquarters yesterday reveal that the Western Area Regional Command is to be on high alert this weekend after it was leaked to them that some students are planning to stage a pro-Charles Margai demonstration up at Fourah Bay College during the President and VP Berewa's appearance at this year's Annual Convocation Ceremony.

When Awareness Times contacted the Police Headquarters to confirm whether it was true that the armed OSD unit of the Police would be guarding the campus during Saturday's Graduation Ceremony, the matter was neither denied nor confirmed.

"All what I can say to you is that the President and the Vice President of this country deserve to be

secured and protected at all times. If dissident students are planning to cause trouble aimed at bringing the two leaders into danger, we will take preventive and cautionary measures to ensure that this does not happen." one of the Assistant Inspector Generals of Police stated late last evening to Awareness Times.

It will be recalled that supporters of Charles Margai recently went berserk in Freetown stoning and breaking windshields of vehicles and causing serious injury to several police officers when they pelted the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) with stones and missiles. Their action was after Margai was arrested for allegedly inciting his supporters to ambush the Vice President's convoy.

Charles Margai has a large support base amongst students of the University whom might be tempted to repeat the actions of their colleagues who recently rioted in downtown Freetown. Therefore, the moves by the Police to forestall any violent demonstration by Charles Margai supporters during the Convocation Ceremony will be one that would be warmly welcomed by graduating students and the academic world.

Awareness Times

Freetown, December 16, 2005

**Charles Margai goes to court today...**

# "Don't register your PMDC Party"

**...SLPP women beg**

Members of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) have not in any way relented in their quest to get Charles Margai to relinquish his political intention to register the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change as a political party to contest the 2007 elections.

Few days back, some SLPP insiders revealed to this press that this time round some staunch female supporters of the party mobilized in what could be described as a concerted effort geared towards neutralizing Charles Margai's plan.

The women, sources say have prevailed on Mr. Margai not to register the PMDC but to exercise maximum patience and wait until Solomon Berewa's term of office expires, when he would be considered for the leadership of the party.

In response, the source explains, Mr. Margai told the women he

would have to consult his people before retracting his decision and the advice of his people would be the final determining factor as to whether or not he would register and rejoin the SLPP again.

It would be recalled that Mr. Margai after holding consultations with his supporters in the south, east and northern provinces, tendered his letter of resignation to the SLPP.

Several efforts were made by people restraining Mr. Margai from taking such an action but all proved futile.

Meanwhile, Mr. Margai is to appear before Justice Ademusu today to argue a case as to whether it was feasible to transfer his trial from BO to Freetown, when adequate notice was not given to him.

If Mr. Margai loses the argument, the matter would be heard in Freetown on the adjourned date, the 19th December 2005.

If he wins the argument, the matter continues at the Bo Magistrate Court until the proper procedures are adopted.



*Margai... will he betray his supporters?*

*London Times  
Monday December 16 2005*

**Ahead of UNAMSIL final withdrawal**

## Security Council Confirms Victor Angelo as UNIOSIL Boss

As the phasing out of UNAMSIL reaches climax, the United Nations Security Council has approved Secretary General Kofi Annan's appointment of Victor Angelo, as his Executive Representative and Head of Mission for the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL). This appointment is the first of its kind and is in line with the spirit of United Nations reforms. A native of Portugal, Mr. Angelo has a distinguished career both



*Victor Angelo*

within the United Nations and in his country. Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Angelo served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DRSG) for the peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL. In the late 90s, he was the UNDP Special Envoy for East Timor, as well as the Deputy Regional Director for Africa at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) headquarters in New York. He has also held

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*A. ...  
Monday, November 14, 2005*

## Security Council Confirms Victor Angelo as UNIOSIL Boss

*From front page*

appointments in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, The Gambia, Central African Republic, Mozambique and other African countries. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Angelo held various positions in Portugal, including as a Member of the Portuguese Electoral Commission. He has been recognized in his country with high distinction of Grand Officer in the National Order.

"After many years of conflict, a successful peace keeping operation is now complete, and the new challenge now is to address the root causes of the conflict in Sierra Leone. I am confident that we, together with our partners and the Government of Sierra Leone, will help the country find the same success in the times ahead", said Mr. Angelo. UNIOSIL, established by the UN Security Council,

in Resolution 1620 of August 31, 2005, will commence operations on January 1, 2006 to continue United Nations support to the people and Government of Sierra Leone. This will consolidate peace by enhancing political and economic governance, building national capacity for conflict prevention and preparing for elections in 2007. UNIOSIL is the first ever integrated approach to peace building in a post conflict situation.

# UNAMSIL'S EXIT IS NO DOOM FOR SALONE!

**ASSISTANT INSPECTOR-General of Police in charge of Operations, Francis Munu, has said that the final withdrawal of Unamsil from Sierra Leone will not in any way mean doom for the country.**

by  
**JOHN B SESAY**

Munu, who was speaking during the usual Tuesday press briefing at Police Headquarters, stated that, the withdrawal process wouldn't create any vacuum since the police and the military have been working independently without Unamsil.

Over the past two years, Munu said, Unamsil had played a back role since the security responsibility was officially handed over to the Sierra Leone government.

Munu acknowledged the significant role played by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and which he said, has help brought peace to the country and as well helped in the provision

of humanitarian services to refugees.

He also lauded the peace-keepers' role in ensuring successful presidential and parliamentary elections in 2002, and other developmental projects initiated by them.

"It is however inevitable that they would withdraw one day," Munu said.

He therefore called on Sierra Leoneans to realise that the future of the county is now in their hands and further maintained that it is only when we work as a nation that progress will be determined in the coming years.

The security of a country, he went on, means much more than building the capacity of a country's

police and military but that, total security would mean there is no threat to national security.

"We need to look at issues of good governance, justice for all, the issues of poverty reduction and unemployment.

"We are therefore encouraging everybody to continue to work with us so that we can have a brighter future," Munu admonished.

The final draw down process of Unamsil is expected to be at the end of this month, thus giving full security responsibility to our national security apparatus, including the police and the military.

Francis Munu

Francis Munu 16 Dec 05



## Liberia president-elect urges Weah to overcome loss

15 Dec 2005 22:50:58 GMT

Source: Reuters

### Background

- › FACTBOX: Guinea
- › FACTBOX: Guinea-Bissau
- › FACTBOX: Liberia
- › CRISIS PROFILE: W. Africa teeters between war and peace
- › CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?

**MORE** →

By Sue Pleming

WASHINGTON, Dec 15 (Reuters) - Liberian President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf expressed confidence on Thursday her main opponent, who says last month's election was rigged, would overcome his "disappointment" and support her new government.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a private visit to the United States, Johnson-Sirleaf said claims by soccer millionaire George Weah he had been cheated in the vote were unfortunate.

"Mr. Weah's actions marred truly historic, free and transparent elections that represent the people's victory. But we think he will come around and overcome his disappointment and work with us in the interests of his country," she said.

The elections were the first in the West African country since the end of 14 years of civil war that killed a quarter of a million people and displaced a third of the population.

Rice urged all factions in the West African country, founded in 1847 by freed American slaves, to work together to build a new, peaceful Liberia. Supporters of Weah have taken to the streets to protest his loss.

"All factions should avoid incitement of or recourse to violence," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack after Rice met the first woman to be elected head of state of an African country.

Weah and his Congress for Democratic Change party say the Nov. 8 election was marred by widespread cheating and have filed a complaint with the National Elections Commission in Liberia. Liberia's government said on Monday it was investigating reports of a coup plot after Weah said he was the rightful winner.

Johnson-Sirleaf said she discussed with Rice what should happen to former Liberian President and warlord Charles Taylor, who went into exile in Nigeria in 2003 and is wanted for crimes against humanity by a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone.

"We are going to find a solution that keeps Liberia safe and at the same time preserves justice," Johnson-Sirleaf said, without giving any

details.

A State Department official said Rice made clear the U.S. position that Taylor should be brought expeditiously to justice before the special court in Sierra Leone.

Nigeria has been under intense pressure from the United States, the United Nations and others to hand over Taylor to Sierra Leone where he stands accused of backing rebels notorious for hacking off the limbs of their victims,

Johnson-Sirleaf discussed Taylor's fate with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo last month and she said a consensus would emerge soon on how to deal with Taylor.

Nigeria has said it will only hand over Taylor to an elected Liberian government and will not send him to a third country.

A spokesman for the Liberian Embassy in Washington, Samuel Albu, said the new government's position was that Taylor should be brought to justice but that the country needed to focus on many other issues first.

"Until she is inaugurated, the president-elect is not taking a position on this," he said.

Johnson-Sirleaf returned to Liberia after her meeting with Rice. During her U.S. visit, she also met Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and senior World Bank and IMF officials.

## South Sudan: UN official urges further support for humanitarian operations

**15 December** - The January peace agreement in Southern Sudan has opened up the region to humanitarian aid after 21 years of war, but with an almost total lack of infrastructure, little Government ability to deliver services and other problems, it was critical for the international community to maintain assistance to avert a humanitarian crisis, a United Nations Relief Official said today.

"There is a high level of expectation by the people of southern Sudan that after 20 years of war, and actually 40 years of war out of the last 50, that at last they will start to see the dividends of peace," David Gressly, the United Nations Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Southern Sudan, told correspondents at a Headquarters press conference today.

Those expectations would need to be managed as the Government lacked some of the basic tools to deliver, even though it had some oil revenues. However, a drop-off in humanitarian assistance in 2006 would lead to a significant reduction in basic services at a time when the region was at the lowest level of any country in Africa.

He said the United Nations had set up, as quickly as possible, its humanitarian operations, first in Rumbek, the initial southern capital. It moved to Juba in August.

In 2005, the United Nations focus had been on two critical issues, namely returns and the provision of basic services, he said. There were some 4 million people displaced from southern Sudan, of which about half a million have returned in 2005. Some 700,000 were expected to return in 2006.

"South Sudan is rather unique in the lack of support services and infrastructure available on the ground. There is almost nothing there," he said, speaking of roads, telecommunications and building infrastructure. "Almost all of the services provided are through humanitarian assistance provided by the international community."

Looking to 2006, the new Government would face a number of challenges, he said. One of the more immediate ones is the current disruption caused by the Ugandan Rebel Lords Resistance Army (LRA), which was operating in a broad band in southern Sudan from the Ugandan border across to Congo.

The regional Government itself was in a very embryonic stage right now and was basically starting from scratch, he said. While the Government had set up ministries, they lacked the basic tools to carry out governmental functions, for example, treasury, procurement and payroll systems. Putting those systems in place in 2006 would remain a challenge.

The recent appeal for southern Sudan requested \$560 million for the humanitarian sphere. It also projected \$220 million worth of needs for recovery and development. In 2005, the UN had received half of what had been appealed. Mr. Gressly said he hoped for a greater percentage in 2006.

## UN peacekeepers depart Sierra Leone to high praise from Annan

**15 December** - As 290 of the remaining peacekeepers of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) departed today, two weeks short of the end of their mandate to cement the peace after a brutal civil war, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he viewed mission's accomplishments "with a deep sense of satisfaction."

"The trials and tribulations faced by the mission during the crisis of 2000, the measures taken to reverse its fortunes, and its achievements between 2001 and today, are indeed remarkable," Mr. Annan said in his last report to the Security Council on UNAMSIL, referring to mission's recovery from the resurgence of violence in the country in which UN headquarters in Freetown were overrun and destroyed.

"The mission's recovery from the 2000 ordeal offers a wealth of lessons for current and future peacekeeping operations," he



added, saying that those lessons were already being studied by other missions for best practices.

Over the past six years, he said, UNAMSIL forged an effective partnership with the UN country team, countries of the subregion, the donor community, humanitarian organizations, Sierra Leone civil society and the Government, which has placed the country on "a firm path to post-conflict recovery."

Mr. Annan said that UNAMSIL broke ground in a number of significant areas, among them its arrangement with forces of the United Kingdom to augment its security efforts following the crisis period.

He noted that formidable tasks remain for the country as it pursues its post-conflict peacebuilding agenda. The socio-economic situation, in particular, had the potential to undermine the current political stability.

For that reason, he said it was imperative for the country to redouble its efforts to address corruption, pursue economic growth and continue security reform, supported by its development partners.

He also noted that although most blue helmets were leaving, the UN was staying in Sierra Leone in the form of the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) that would continue the process of peace consolidation.

In Freetown, meanwhile, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Daudi Mwakawago, turned over to the government some 25 light vehicles and hundreds of radios today.

## **UN war crimes tribunals demand more cooperation from States to arrest fugitives**

**15 December** - The apparent momentum earlier this year to bring two of the most notorious fugitives from the Balkan wars of the 1990s before the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has ebbed, and there is no serious attempt now to seize them, the court's Chief Prosecutor told the Security Council today.

The Council also heard that a lack of cooperation from key Member States is hampering the efforts of both the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to finish their work on schedule.

ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte told the Council's six-monthly meeting to monitor the tribunals' progress on their "completion strategies" that she had hoped in June that one or both of Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladic, who have been indicted on genocide charges, would by now be in the court's custody in The Hague.

Ms. Del Ponte said Serbia & Montenegro had led her to be "cautiously optimistic" that Mr. Mladic at least would be transferred in time for July's 10th anniversary of the massacre at Srebrenica.

"This did not happen... As far as I know, there is no reliable or credible information on either of these two accused, and I am not aware of any credible attempt to locate and apprehend them," she said.

Ms. Del Ponte urged the international community to raise the pressure on the authorities in Serbia & Montenegro and the Republika Srpska section of Bosnia & Herzegovina to bring Mr. Karadžić and Mr. Mladic to justice. The Bosnian Serb leaders have been indicted on numerous war crimes charges.

In a separate address to the Council, ICTY President Judge Fausto Pocar said that unless Mr. Karadžić and Mr. Mladic are arrested soon, it is unlikely that the tribunal will be able to finish its work before the end of 2009.

The completion strategy for the two UN tribunals calls for them to complete all trials at the first instance by 2008, and to wind up all their work, including appeals, by the end of 2010.

Meanwhile, the ICTR Chief Prosecutor Hassan B. Jallow told the Council that 19 indictees of that court remain at large,

with many continuing "to hide in accessible areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)."

Mr. Jallow also called on the Kenyan Government to locate, arrest and hand over another fugitive, Felicien Kabuga, a businessman indicted for his role in the creation and management of a "hate" radio station and for helping to fund and arm the interahamwe militias during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

He said ICTY intelligence indicates that Mr. Kabuga still lives in Kenya, despite the country's promise of full cooperation. Previous attempts to seize him "appear to have been compromised by leakages."

Warning that "impunity for perpetrators of mass atrocities is no viable option," ICTR President Judge Erik Møse stressed that Member State cooperation is essential.

Judge Møse also said the tribunal has stepped up its work pace to ensure it meets the completion strategy, with some judges sitting in double shifts and hearing two trials each day.

## **Year after tsunami, conditions remain critical in many areas, UN agency warns**

**15 December** - With the first anniversary of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami fast approaching, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned today that many areas on the west coast of Aceh, Indonesia, the worst affected region, were still in a critical condition.

"Half a million people in Indonesia are still living in temporary shelter. Entire communities were destroyed," FAO's post-tsunami operations coordinator Alex Jones said, noting that there was a danger that international attention and donor support would come to an end before the recovery was complete. "Sustainable recovery requires a five to 10 year effort."

One of the lessons learned from the disaster, which killed over 230,000 people and displaced some 1.5 million more in 12 countries, is the need for establishing a contingency emergency fund, for which Secretary-General Kofi Annan has proposed between \$500 million and \$1 billion, in order to accelerate relief.

"The donor response to the tsunami disaster was huge, but there were still delays in getting help to the people who needed it most," FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said. "What the world needs is a standby global disaster fund that would make immediate intervention possible."

Mr. Jones stressed that while preparedness for such a disaster is virtually impossible, there has to be a faster response. "For this to happen, funds need to be available within 30 days of the disaster, not six months, as is usually the case," he said.

"So there is a need for the creation of a well-financed global emergency fund so that aid agencies have sufficient resources to begin work immediately in the wake of disasters like this."

FAO has been active in all the affected countries, playing a lead role in advising governments on rehabilitation in fisheries and agriculture as well as helping repair and replace lost and damaged boats and equipment and restoring damaged farmland.

"Our biggest challenge is the scale of the reconstruction effort. Millions of people were affected," Mr. Jones said. "It was an unprecedented level of destruction. In Indonesia and Sri Lanka, around 100 miles of coastline were destroyed – not just a couple of areas or towns."

Summing up the relief effort one year on, he added: "The overall message is a positive one. A large amount of attention, funding and adequate human resources to address the needs of these countries has resulted in exceptional performance to date."



## Vast UN-backed Asian Highway moves ahead to link St. Petersburg to Singapore

**15 December** - Major upgrading projects and funding needs were identified today for the United Nations-backed 140,000-kilometre Asian Highway Network that will link the vast region from St. Petersburg to Singapore and Seoul to Istanbul, facilitating trade and tourism and opening up landlocked countries.

Transport officials from 32 countries met in Bangkok at the first session of the Working Group on the Asian Highway following the entry into force of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the project in July.

Around \$25 billion of investment is already committed, but an estimated \$18 billion is still needed to improve the routes. About 22,000 kilometres or 15.7 per cent of the network does not meet the minimum desirable standards set up by the Agreement.

The participants reviewed the current status of the network and deliberated on promoting investment, updating the database and improving road safety.

The Agreement, the first treaty developed under the auspices of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), requires its parties to make every possible effort to comply with the minimum desirable standards both in constructing new routes and in upgrading and modernizing existing ones.

In a complementary move last month, ESCAP members laid the groundwork for the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR), a potential network of over 80,000 kilometres of rail routes linking 27 Member States.