

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:

Tuesday, 20 December 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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Chief Norman's case deferred till February

By Theophilus S. Ghendy

The Supreme Court of Sierra Leone in the matter of Chief Samuel Hinga Norman versus the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), Alhaji UNS Jah, Jacob Jusu Saffa and Fred Carew, has adjourned until 9 February 2006, the hearing on Mr. Norman's motion to nullify the recent election of Vice President Solomon Berewa as Leader of the SLPP.

This followed a request by Mr. Norman's Lawyer, Dr. Bubakei Jabbi, for time to review



Norman: Still fighting a one-man battle

the Defence motion after the SLPP Lawyers failed to meet the deadline for the submission of all relevant documents in the case.

For his part, the Attorney General and Minister of

Justice, Fredrick Carew, reportedly told the court he was not clear as to what he was to have responded to. The justices told Carew that his instructions on a *mandamus* Order was

very clear and that the court expects him come back in February fully prepared to answer the matter. The order of

mandamus requested by Norman's counsel asked the Supreme Court to order the Attorney General to fully advise the

Vice President and any future Vice President not to accept the position of Party Leader while
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Chief Norman's case deferred till February

From front page

holding the office of Vice President of Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in the matter of Prosecutor versus Samuel Hinga Norman, Dr. Jabbi and the Norman Defence Team are putting final touches on the presentation of witnesses for the Defence case which starts January 17, 2006.

Although nearly all Defence witnesses are more than willing to appear for Mr. Norman, reports so far have it that some with critical information in the case may have to be subpoenaed to appear. Mr. Norman's witness list presently, in addition to President Tejan Kabbah and former Vice President, Albert Joe Demby, includes two high level foreign diplomats,

five Generals, two international journalists, fifty eight Kamajors/CDF personnel and an assortment of chiefs and civilians. Prominent among the Kamajor witnesses is Madam Munda Fortune (aka Mama Munda), an assistant initiator, and the only female in the Kamajor hierarchy, who will testify on the sacred initiation process of the Kamajors.

Guest Writer

Story: Crispin R. A. 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 beings and resources in the fight for the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone have begun to feel that we have been used.

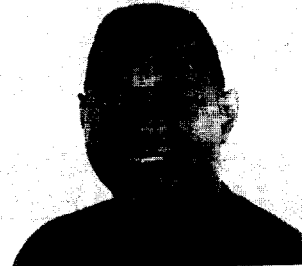
If Chief Norman fought the rebels out of a personal ambition to overthrow President Kabba, then let him be crucified. It is evident that this was not the case. He was the deputy Minister of defense and later Internal Affairs in the present administration till he was picked up and jailed by the UN court does this not demonstrate his good standing?

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

THE HINGA NORMAN ENIGMA: CAN'T BE SPAT OUT, CAN'T BE SWALLOWED



Author

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. What is on trial is the conscience and integrity of Sierra Leone.

Margai's Submission Overruled

By John Abu in Bo
Charles Francis Margai, leader of the yet to be registered People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) yesterday

in his second appearance had his submission for the discharge of the matter for lack of evidence overruled at the southern Bo Magistrate Court No. 1.

Margai's Submission Overruled

From Front Page

Mr. Margai, who is representing himself in the ongoing trial, asked the court that he be discharged if the prosecution was unwilling to proceed in evidence on the charges against him.

While responding as the first accused to the application by the prosecution for the adjournment of the matter, the PMDC leader said he regretted to say that the prosecutorial line of action as said by the prosecution was unhealthy to the court. He noted that there was "filial relationship between the Bench, the Bar and those having anything to do with the administration of justice" and therefore submitted that "there should be fairness and transparent in the administration of justice".

The first accused said the Inspector General of Police brought him before the court on charges al-

leging various crimes, and cited Sections 23(I), 23(II), 23(III), and 23(IV) of the 1991 Constitution, noting that he last appeared in the said court on the 8th December 2005, while the terms of bail granted him required the surrender of passports.

Charles Margai told the court that a motion was filed on the 14th December 2005 for the transfer of the matter to a Magistrate Court in Freetown, and appeared before the court on the 16th December 2005. Adding that they were again in Bo to listen to the evidence by the prosecution only for the prosecution to apply for an adjournment. "I am opposed to the adjournment if the prosecution can not proceed. And I am applying for a discharge of this matter", he said.

Earlier, the State Counsel leading the prosecution, Monfred Sesay applied for an adjournment of the matter due to some prosecutorial line of action. He said he received a mo-

tion from the High Court for the transfer of the matter to a Magistrate Court in Freetown, which he said was in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Criminal Procedure Act of 19965. He however told the court that there were problems in the services, but that the prosecutorial line of action was not only lawful and fair, but transparent by the prosecution in the matter.

The State Counsel submitted that reasonability of time was a relative concept, citing Section 99(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1965.

Lawyer Arrow John Bockarie (third accused), who is also representing himself in the matter, told the court that time was of essence in the trial and that he was concerned about an expeditious and judicious trial. He said, once charges were read in court one presumed that the prosecution was prepared to prosecute. He said any delay would certainly have some effects on his defense.

The sixth accused, Aggrey Albert Aruna who is also representing himself emphasized that in every trial there should be fairness to meet the requirement of the law as demanded by justice. He made reference to the citation by Lawyer Charles Margai in the 1991 Constitution and therefore said that he upheld the adjournment and asked that the trial be judiciously prosecuted.

The defense counsel for the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 10th and 11th accused persons, lawyer Ansu B. Lansana said that he vehemently opposed to the application for an adjournment of the matter, arguing that the matter was a summary trial and that mere application did not act. He said Section 95 of the Criminal Procedure Act, act No. 32 of 1965 obliged the Magistrate to proceed and dispose of any matter under his jurisdiction. He made a submission that the Magistrate sat on the matter as Magistrate of the Bo Judicial District.

Lawyer Dr. Bu-Boakai Jabbi and Lawyer M.B. Fofanah representing the 5th, 10th, 11th,
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Margai's Submission Overruled

From Page 2

7th, 8th and 9th accused persons respectively, made similar arguments.

The Presiding Magistrate, Mange Deen Tarawally in his reply said that reasons for the discharge of the matter as

submitted by the first accused could not hold in accordance with Section 94 of the Criminal Procedure Act of 1965.

“For me to discharge this matter, I should by all means have the prosecu-

tion not proceed, and which is not the case as in this matter”, he said. Adding that reasons prefer for the discharge of the matter was premature.

The matter was adjourned to 6th February 2006.

Margai's case adjourned to February 6

By Theophilus S. Gbendu
The case between Lawyer Charles Margai and eleven others versus the State, has been adjourned till February 6, 2006.

Mr. Margai and Co. made their second appearance yesterday December 19, at the Bo Magistrate Court presided over by Magistrate Deen

Tarawalie. It could be noted that Lawyer Charles Francis Margai and Co. all being members of the yet to be registered Peoples Movement for

Democratic Change (PMDC), are standing trial in respect of eleven count charges proffered against them by law.

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Charles Margai: His fate yet to be decided

Page 2

Awareness Tim

Margai's case adjourned to February 6

From front page

The charges range from riotous conduct to incitement to riot, and crimes relating to alleged violations of the 1965 Public Order Act.

The whole thing started on Sunday November 16, 2005 when Mr. Charles Margai and scores of PMDC supporters reportedly held the motorcade of Vice President Solomon Berewa to ransom, while the latter was at the campus of the Christ the King College (CKC) to witness the school's annual thanksgiving and prize giving ceremony.

Accordingly, neither Vice President Solomón Berewa, nor Mr. Margai

was officially invited to the occasion, but the two being old boys of the school, had all right to witness their alma mater's special celebration.

But what was clearly scheduled to be an annual school event, soon became a political show off when the Vice President and Mr. Margai (both being arch rivals for the presidency of Sierra Leone), met face to face at the school's campus.

Supporters of Mr. Margai reported steel the show when they allegedly sandwiched the entire ceremony in party colours and seemingly took over the route leading out of the school's campus, thus forestalling

the movement of the Vice President.

The incident built up into a precarious situation which could have led to deaths and the loss of property if the police had not handled it with the professionalism it required.

Eventually, Mr. Margai and a host of others belonging to the PMDC were arrested but later released, pending further investigations.

Mr. Margai and the eleven others were again arrested after a few days and charged to court on eleven count charges.

Serious consequences await Mr. Margai and Co. if found guilty.

Dr. Bubakie Jabbie, two others join Margai

Three more Lawyers, one of them Dr. Bubakie Jabbie, yesterday joined the defence team in the trial of Charles Margai and ten others at the

southern Bo Magistrate Court. Margai, representing himself, and the other defence law-

yers challenged the prosecution's request for an adjournment to January 6 and applied that the matter be thrown out of court for want of prosecution. The defence drew the attention of Magistrate Deen Tarawalie to the fact that there was no need for the

prosecution to be requesting an adjournment if it had evidence against them.

Outside the court, Police personnel were in a relaxed mood, unlike the first appearance when the situation was tense though without incident.

Yesterday, people went about their normal business in Bo with less attention to the trial.

77 soldiers to be retired in January 2006

Story: Mohamed Massaquoi

Chief of Defense Staff, Major General Sam M'boma Monday announced that the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) is planning to retrench 77 more soldiers in the force including senior officers in January 2006.

Major M'boma who was speaking at a press briefing at the Ministry of Defense conference hall says for the past two years 2000 soldiers have been retired in line with the current restructuring process taking place within the

Continued page 3

77 soldiers to be retired in January 2006

From page 1
RSLAF.

"Those that would be sacked will benefit for a special package, which would enhance them," he said and stressed that the process is not a witch-haunt aimed at targeting any personnel in the army, as the public

should not perceive it as a surprise.

He maintained that before the Biafra war in Nigeria that country had a military strength of 30,000, during the war their strength rose to 130,000 and after the armed rebellion the army was reduced to 110,000 strong.

The army boss explained that in

2002 the Defense Council approved the reduction of the size of the military from 14,000 to 10,000 and they plan to achieve that by 2007.

"... We will be retiring a total of 77 officers, ranging from Brigadier to 2Lieutenant," the RSLAF chief concluded.

Big shake up in the army

77 senior officers to be retired

...1000 to follow

BY SANTIGIE KAMARA

In a bid to create a formidable, efficient, qualified and disciplined army that will meet the challenges of post-war Sierra Leone, the government of Sierra Leone plans to retire in January up to seventy-seven officers ranging from brigadier to second lieutenant from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

This was disclosed on Monday, 19 December 2005 by the Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Sam M'boma at a press briefing held for journalists at the army headquarters.

Also, in a separate case from the ongoing officers redundancy programme, Major M'boma pointed out that another batch of one thousand soldiers have been

processed to go on retirement, adding that all officers who have been identified for redundancy will be notified this week and given full details relating to the terms of their retirement.

He said these officers will be entitled to a special retirement package which has been further enhanced due to the short notice given them based on their retirement notice.

Major General Sam M'boma also stated that the exercise is not a witch hunt as all personnel were individually assessed by competent boards to determine their future potential and suitability within the RSLAF.

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77 senior officers to be retired

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"The final phase has been extended to the rank window, which includes all ranks from brigadier to private soldier," the General stated.

Advancing further reasons for laying off these officers, the Chief of Defence Staff said he laid more emphasis on the size, strength and professionalism of the (RSLAF), which he said required experienced, matured, qualified and strong soldiers who will man the security of the country and take part in peacekeeping missions around the world.



The people of Niger need **our help today!**

Test Case for Accountability

International Crisis Group (Brussels)

OPINION

December 19, 2005

Posted to the web December 19, 2005

By John Prendergast
Gulu

For sixty years the international community has struggled to find the means to punish and deter atrocity crimes on a systematic basis. Until now, efforts have been ad hoc: from Nuremberg to the international tribunals in Rwanda and Yugoslavia, to the Special Court in Sierra Leone. Now that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued its first warrants in northern Uganda, there is an historic opportunity to chart a new legal course.

But traveling through northern Uganda over the past week, I saw just how hard it will be to make this opportunity real. The infamous "night commuters" are still pouring into towns in search of refuge from the rebels, child abductions are still occurring, and child soldiers are still escaping one by one from the bush at a rate that will take decades to see all of them safe. Emergency aid workers are suddenly being ambushed and killed with regularity after the issuance of the warrants. The challenge facing the ICC here, and one it will soon confront elsewhere, is how to execute its warrants when it has no army or police under its control, but instead relies on government forces to carry out this task.

The court here depends on the ability of the Ugandan army to capture the five main leaders of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), shadowy merchants of death with no identifiable political agenda. But this same army has chased chief warlord Joseph Kony and his murderous henchmen for nineteen years with little to show for it. Even as the LRA's size and capacity have slowly eroded, it is spreading geographically. It is now killing in three countries (eastern Congo, southern Sudan, and northern Uganda), its mayhem impacting on two peace-keeping operations, the humanitarian aid agencies it has begun to attack, and the million and a half people it has made homeless.

The stakes are high - for the ICC, Uganda and for international efforts at accountability. A comprehensive strategy is needed to ensure success. And success must be defined to mean the end of the insurgency, not just through prosecution of its leaders. That can come about through the apprehension or death of the suspects, through a negotiated deal that removes them from the scene and ends the war, or through a broadened effort at encouraging defectors through significantly enhanced incentives combined with stronger military pressure.

A comprehensive strategy would involve two tracks: coercive and diplomatic. Current military capacity is insufficient to neutralize the insurgency and capture suspects, and should be enhanced considerably and immediately. This can be done either through a rapid enhancement of Ugandan military capacity, or through the deployment of international military force for a short term strategic punch aimed at the LRA leadership. Either way, capacity would have to be enhanced in three areas: intelligence gathering, small unit commando tactics, and transport capacity.

The Security Council should also mandate the UN peacekeeping missions in the Congo and Sudan to pursue the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of LRA units stationed in these two countries. Together with the two national armies, they should apply credible military pressure to neutralize LRA elements that resist voluntary disarmament. Given the threat to international peace and security represented by the LRA's three-country military posture, the UN Security Council should authorize targeted sanctions on anyone found to be providing sanctuary or sustenance to the LRA in any way. This would include officials of the governments of the Congo and Sudan as well as small elements in the Ugandan diaspora.

The second track should seek to rapidly enhance the incentives aimed at luring non-indicted LRA commanders out of the bush. Ugandan mediator Betty Bigombe should put forth a comprehensive Ugandan proposal for peace using the leverage offered by the ICC. The indictments against the top LRA leadership should be used to isolate these leaders and alienate them from their troops. Incentives would involve a combination of amnesty guarantees, physical security modalities, housing, and significant livelihood opportunities. Mid and lower-ranking officers should be encouraged to defect with child soldiers under their control. Programs should also be prepared to reintegrate those children back in their home communities with adequate support.

The issue of amnesty for those clearly guilty of atrocity crimes - trading justice for peace - is always an acutely sensitive issue, and certainly will become so in Uganda if the indicted commanders continue to evade capture but indicate a willingness to go to a third country in order to end the war. No matter what transpires, a truth commission should aggressively expose the history of abuses on all sides of the conflict and support indigenous reconciliation initiatives.

Helping the ICC - and accountability - succeed is more than just a legal exercise. It is embedded in a political and military context that must be addressed if the legal strategy has any chance of succeeding. The ICC's first action has raised the hopes of many - from traumatized Ugandans to supporters of international justice. Those seeking peace in Uganda cannot afford to let it fail.

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Xinhua

The following are major news items in leading Nigerian newspapers on Monday.

-SNIP-

The Guardian:

-- With the election of a new democratic president in Liberia, the international community has begun to mount fresh pressures on the Nigerian government to release the war-weary country's former leader Charles Taylor for trial.

Taylor, who is in Nigeria on asylum, is wanted by the United Nations War Crimes Special Court in Sierra Leone for allegedly aiding instability in the region while in office, leading to the murder of thousands of people.

-SNIP-

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 19 Dec. 2005**

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

International Clips on Liberia

12/19/2005 08:43:29

Liberia electoral committee certifies Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as presidential victor

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ The electoral commission on Monday certified Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the victor in Liberia's first postwar presidential ballot.

George Weah, the international soccer star who lost to Johnson-Sirleaf in a vote he alleges was rigged, did not show up at the certification ceremony in the capital, Monrovia.

12/17/2005 19:26:45

Liberia's president-elect meets Weah, unclear whether Weah's protest of elections dropped

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) _ President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

met her challenger George Weah for the first time since the November election Weah says was fraudulent, but it was not clear whether their talks had persuaded the international soccer star turned politician to drop his protest. After Saturday's meeting arranged by former Nigerian military leader Gen. Abdusalami Abubakar as part of regional efforts to resolve Liberia's political impasse, Weah was asked whether he was abandoning his attempt to keep Johnson-Sirleaf from taking office. "I am a peaceful person. I don't want to jeopardize the peace process in Liberia," he responded. "I think Liberia should move forward."

US legislators, others renew call for Taylor's trial

From Laolu Akande, New York

The Guardian, Lagos. Monday, December 19, 2005

WITH the election of a new democratic President in Liberia, the international community has begun to mount fresh pressures on the Nigerian government to release the war-weary country's former leader, Charles Ghankay Taylor, for trial.

Departing U.N. peacekeepers leave behind calm, concern in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone_The last U.N. peacekeepers are decamping from a country that was beset by bloody chaos when the blue helmeted soldiers arrived six years ago, and now is uncertain peace can last. The mandate for what was once the largest U.N. peace force expires at the end of December. Fighting ended in 2002 and elections held that year were seen as a turning point for this West African nation. But Sierra Leoneans worry about a return to violence.

Local Media – Newspaper

Johnson Sirleaf Meets With Weah

(Daily Observer, The News, The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage and National Chronicle, Poll Watch and New Standard)

- President-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf over the weekend met behind closed doors with her distraught rival George Weah for the first time since the run-off election. The unplanned meeting was called by Economic Community of West African States Chief Mediator in the Liberian peace process Rtd.-Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar.
- *Poll Watch*, quoting Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Secretary-General Eugene Nagbe and campaign manager Jake Kabakollie, said that the meeting between the two did not mean an end to the legal challenge brought forward by the CDC against the election result. The two CDC officials said that the matter was being taken to the Supreme Court following a National Elections Commission (NEC) ruling.

Transitional Leader Honors Peace Mediator

(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer and Heritage)

- National Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant over the weekend bestowed one of Liberia's highest honors upon Rtd.-Gen. Abubakar for his outstanding role in the Liberian peace process.

U.S. Congressman Concerned about President-Elect's Security

(Liberian Express and National Chronicle)

- United States Congressman Chris Smith recently expressed concern about the safety of President-elect Johnson-Sirleaf amid the continuous threat of violence. He said such a threat must not be allowed to undo the progress achieved in the 8 November run-off.

President-Elect Meets Lawmakers Today

(The News)

- President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will today meet with members of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) to discuss wide-ranging issues, including the smooth transfer of power, NTLA Press Officer James Jensen said in Monrovia yesterday.

Poll Body May Penalize Weah

(The Inquirer and New Democratic)

- Addressing a news conference in Monrovia over the weekend, NEC Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris said that CDC standard bearer Weah's recent self-proclamation as president was an infringement to the electoral laws, for which, he could be penalized.
- She said Mr. Weah could be fined, prosecuted in court or the CDC's license revoked.

Government Drops Charges Against Riot Suspects

(The Analyst)

- The transitional government over the weekend dropped charges against 38 CDC supporters, who were arrested in connection with the Sunday, 11 December riots in Monrovia, saying there was lack of sufficient evidence.

Rape Victim Kept Away From Parents

(New Democratic)

- The parents of a nine-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped by a Nigerian soldier in UNMIL, Ibahim Rashid, told *New Democratic* yesterday that they had been isolated from their child since the incident took place in November.
- The victim's grandmother reportedly hinted to the parents that UNMIL may shortly release her (victim) after a month of intensive medical treatment.

Victim of Alleged UNMIL Brutality Suffers Eye Defect

(The Analyst)

- A Liberian man, William Utay, who claimed to have been brutalized by UNMIL Nigerian troops assigned at the Barclay Training Center in June, quoted doctors as saying that he had developed "traumatic cataract" as a result of the incident.
- Utay said he longer sees with his right eye.

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

President-Elect Meets Lawmakers Today

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Transitional Leader Honors Peace Mediator

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Elections Commission Certificates Winners Today

- National Elections Commission (NEC) press release issued in Monrovia over the weekend said that the NEC will today certificate winners of the presidential and legislative elections.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Transitional Government Chairman to Punish Defaulters

- In an Executive Mansion press release, Chairman Bryant yesterday warned that he would institute drastic administrative action against government functionaries who default on submitting their annual reports by noon today. He said that heads of government ministries, autonomous agencies and public corporations were delaying their submissions.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

President-Elect Reiterates Commitment to Peace and Justice

- Speaking at a local church yesterday, President-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that she remained committed to peace, justice, national reconciliation and transparency in Liberia. She reassured Liberians of her commitment to the equal distribution of the nation's resources.

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

Diarrhea Outbreak Reported in Grand Gedeh County

- The Chief Medical Officer of Liberia Benson Barh said yesterday that a diarrhea outbreak in Gbarzon District, Grand Gedeh County claimed the lives of 5 persons, including a pregnant woman. He expressed appreciation to international organizations for providing drugs and fuel to facilitate the intervention of the Ministry of Health.

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.