

**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, 17 January 2006

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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# Hinga Norman starts defence Thursday

**C**hief Sam Hinga Norman, former National Coordinator of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and an indictee at the Special Court, will testify in his own defence at the Court on Thursday.

Second on Hinga Norman's list of witnesses is President Tejan Kabbah. Also prominent on that list of Norman's defence are former Vice President Dr. Albert Joe Demby; Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone Peter

Penfold and Former US Ambassador to Sierra Leone John Hirsch.

Chief Norman, Moinina Fofanah - National Director of War of the CDF- and Alieu Kondewa the former High Priest are standing trial on eight count charges ranging from unlawful killings, physical violence and mental suffering, looting and burning, terrorising the civilian population and collective punishment, and use of child soldiers between 1996 and 1998.

Hinga Norman as the  
*Contd. Page 2*

## Hinga Norman starts defence Thursday

### *From Front Page*

National Coordinator of the CDF and as such was the principal force in establishing, organising, supporting, providing logistical support and promoting the CDF. He was also the leader and Commander of the Kamajors and as such had command and control over the activities and operations of the Kamajors.

The National Coordinator

was also aware of and improved the enlisting, recruiting, conscription, initiation and training of Kamajors including children below the ages of 15 years.

Moinina Fofanah, who was the National Director of War, also acted as leader of the Kamajors in the absence of Chief Norman and was regarded as the second in command. As Director of War, Mr. Fofanah had direct

responsibility for implementing policy and strategy for prosecuting the war. He gave orders to and received reports about operations from subordinate commanders, and provided them with logistics including supply of arms and ammunition.

Alieu Kondewa, as the High Priest, had supervision and control over the initiators within the CDF including the initiation of children under the ages of 15 years.

# "I have no immunity outside Parliament"

**- Ernest Koroma tells Hinga Norman**

It appears that for the past months prior to the 4th January 2006, the detained Chief of the Special Court Sam Hinga Norman was in search of a channel to unleash his threat against the government of Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately the initial channel he chooses in the person of Ernest Bai Koroma, the opposition leader of the APC party did not pay him well, when the leader having listened to the barrage of threats coming from the indictee told him

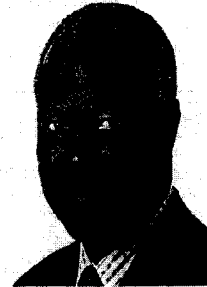
categorically that as a leader of the APC in parliament he has no immunity in public, therefore he cannot make any pronouncement outside parliament that can disturb the peace of the people, and subsequently dampen his credibility.

"You know parliament is on recess, where I can stand on the podium and deliver your message to my colleague parliamentarians," he said.

Ernest was quoted to have told the indictee, "since you want both the international and local communities to receive your message I shall do it by informing the President of SLAJ..." Koroma concluded and left.

According to sources close to the SLAJ President Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma immediately contacted Mr. I.B. Kargbo and explained to him the intention of the detained chief advising him to conduct an interview with him and immediately pass on such information.

*CONTINUED PAGE 11*



*Ernest... the State comes first*

**Concerning Omri Golley's arrest  
British High**

## "I have no immunity outside Parliament"

*From page 1*

mation to the President, Alhaji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

Peter Anderson, the deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs officer confirmed to this press that indeed the SLAJ president went to the court and had audience with Chief Sam Hinga Norman, but left immediately after the discussion.

Sources say after his return from the Special Court, the opposition leader again contacted him and advised that President Kabbah should be adequately informed about the develop-

ment, and the diplomatic community also.

This advice was adhered to by the President of SLAJ Mr. I.B. Kargbo who discussed it with President Kabbah.

According to Hinga Norman he has given an ultimatum of ten days to government and the Special Court to look into what he described as violation of the Lomé Accord if not the ex-combatants and combatants would arrest all government ministers for public prosecutions. The ten days ultimatum expired on the 14th January 2006.

Meanwhile the special

court deputy public affairs Officers, Mr. Peter Anderson has revealed that Defence counsel for Chief Sam Hinga Norman has given indication that the indictee (Norman) would testify in court today.

It is not known what would be the crux of Hinga Norman's testimony in court since he had already named some key government officials as possible witnesses to the support the CDF received from the central government during the eleven-year-old war. Whether he would continue in that direction or deviate remains unclear.

# 'Hinga Norman threat is no threat'

— *Government Ministers*

*By Sayoh Kamara*  
Awareness Times yesterday sounded the views of some government Ministers regarding the threat and ultimatum issued by a group of ex-combatants said to be from the CDF, RUF and AFRC. According to these Ministers they are not

worried about the threat and they consider it as frivolous and that it is no threat. Read them:

**Dr. Alfred Bobson Sesay: Minister of Lands, Housing and the Environment.**

"I know that Chief Norman and his likes can go at length to see the demise of this

country. He is a desperate man."

Asked how concerned he was in relation to the threat, Dr. Bobson Sesay responded, "I am not taking it mildly", and therefore asserted, "Let any man who worth his salt dare to arrest me. I will show him that we

*Contd: page 2*



*Dr. Prince Harding: Its business as usual*



*Hinga Norman: Threatens to arrest govt. officials*



*Dr. Bobson Sesay: Takes it very seriously*

From front page

Sierra Leoneans are no longer prepared for such a rubbish," he said.

**Dr. Alex Prince Harding: Minsiter of Transport and Communications.**

"I think that is absolute nonsense. Such a threat must have come from a lunatic... That must have come from somebody who has not adequately assessed the security reality on the ground." Dr. Harding went on to note that apart from the water-tight nature of security in the country, "Sierra Leoneans are no longer prepared to encourage anybody whose business is to disturb the peace and serenity of their country," he said.

As far as he was concerned, he maintained, he does not feel threatened at all. "I know the good Lord is with us and I have every confidence in our security apparatus. I even go about now without any security guard," he said.

**Alhaji Mohamed B. Daramy: Minister of Development and Economic Planning.**

"I feel very safe. I have full confidence in the security of this country now more than before. Those people that purportedly sent that threat are mere jokers. I have nothing to be scared of. Sierra Leoneans for now will never again entertain anybody or group that are intent on disturbing the peace they are now enjoying", he said.

An unsigned Public Release sent via the internet on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2006 gave a ten day ultimatum to the Parliament of Sierra Leone, within that time was expected to have addressed certain issues the release states were violations of the 1999 Lome Peace Accord.

The release had threatened that failure to meet this condition, the ultimatum which had

expired on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, states.

"We the members of the combatants and ex-combatants will arrest and make available ministers of government and individuals, foreign or nationals involved in the continued violations of the Lome Accord as stated." Principal among the violations stated in the release is, that the government of Sierra Leone arrested the leaders of the AFRC, CDF, and the RUF, which according to it, is in violation of the Amnesty Provisions of the Lome Accord of 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 and in particular Articles II, III and IX signed by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on behalf of the government and people of Sierra Leone and CPI, Foday Saybana Sankoh on behalf of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

The release also alleged that the Special Court for Sierra Leone has over "the past two years recruited and re-armed some combatants and ex-combatants for clandestine operations in Liberia."

Reacting to this allegation, the Deputy Chief of the Public Affairs Unit of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Mr. Peter Andersen described the allegation as "absolute nonsense."

He pointed out that the Special Court has never engaged in any recruitment or re-arming of any persons for clandestine operations in Liberia not to talk of ex-combatants.

Asked about their opinion on the threat to state security posed by the release, Mr. Andersen remarked, "I see no threat to the security of Sierra Leone or the Special Court", noting that the court is going on fine with its work as usual. He went on to note that even though they are not considering the threat issued by this unsigned release as serious, they have a very tight and reliable security measure in

place. "We have the Mongolians here and there is a Rapid Deployment Force on the standby in Liberia that will come in any time the security of the court is considered as being under threat," he assured.

Asked to explain why Chief Norman was allowed to send such a security threat through those so-called ex-combatants, Mr. Andersen stated that there is supposed to be security measures relating to messages from indictees to the outside, but that it could sometimes be difficult to monitor. He however referred to the statement as "purported" since it was not signed by any individual. "We are not panicked by this and we will urge Sierra Leoneans not to be panic either," Mr. Andersen assured.

Meanwhile a very close aide to Special Court indictee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman told Awareness Times when contacted for his reaction that he was afraid to say anything at the moment. He was almost on his knees begging for us not to force him to say anything. "I am very much afraid for my security as at now, I will not say anything for that might be used to implicate me in this on-going allegation of destabilising the state" he pleaded.

Although reactions of government officials since the 4<sup>th</sup> of January have been reassuring, opinions from the public are suggesting that government considers the threat as serious in the interest of maintaining the peace.

One student of the Prince of Wales School who preferred anonymity told Awareness Times yesterday, "Government should not be too complacent over its security. Even though much has been done to streamline the security sector, it should be aware that many people still remain disenchanted over the current state of their

Recruiting to destabilize the State

# Golley-3 Ex-combatants detained

By Kelvin Lewis

The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Oliver Somasa has told journalists that four (4) people including former rebel spokesman Omrie Golley have been held in custody and are being investigated for subversion.

The DIG disclosed that the information they have so far is that "Omrie Golley with the people in custody and others still unknown were

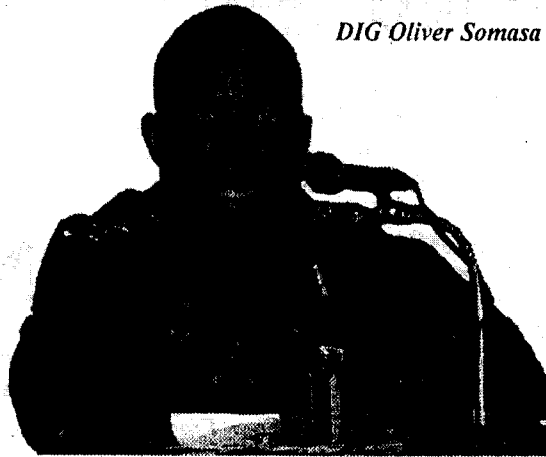
meeting, and the aim of those meetings they held was to destabilize the state."

The DIG further revealed that Golley was arrested at Bintumani hotel along with three others whose names were not revealed but who he disclosed were "ex-combatants"

Questioned what was the interest of the British High Commission in the

*Contd Page 2*

DIG Oliver Somasa



# Golley-3 Ex-combatants detained

From Front Page

matter the DIG revealed that the High Commission had earlier contacted the Police on the grounds that Omrie Micheal Golley was a British citizen.

However he said that Golley who was born in Sierra Leone traveled into the country under a Sierra Leonean passport. It was also pointed out that though Britain accepts dual

citizenship by which Golley can hold both a Sierra Leonean and a British passport, yet the laws of Sierra Leone do not allow for dual citizenship.

On the issue of how much longer the police can legally hold the suspects without charging them the DIG explained that for a lesser category of

offences the time line is 72 hours whereas for more serious state crimes the law allows them the police to hold suspects for up to ten days.

It is not clear whether the lawyer representing Mr Golley would file for an order to produce him in person (Habeas Corpus) given that the 72 hours time line has expired, though not the ten days deadline.

# Ernest, Margai May Be Arrested!!



**Ernest Koroma** plot to destabilise the country. **Charles Margai** Sources say if those  
*Contd. Page 2*

Security personnel investigating Omrie Golley have discovered a link between the former RUF Spokesman, the Special Court indictee Chief Hinga Norman and leaders of APC and PMDC Ernest Koroma and Charies Margai respectively. There are speculations that the two main political leaders may have been aware or even wittingly or unwittingly taken part one way or the other in the alleged

**Trader Arrested For Murder**

## Ernest, Margai...

linkages sum up to connivance the two politicians may be arrested for questioning. Mr. Omrie Golley who was arrested Thursday evening by the Aberdeen police is reported to have visited Chief Norman at the Special Court early this year. Although the New Vision sources could not give the exact date of the visit of the RUF Spokesman to the Special Court, it however confirmed that it was after Mr. Golley's

visit that the leaders of the opposition started making frequent visits to the Special Court indictee, Chief Norman. Security apparatus are also considering in their investigation statements that have been made by the detained Kamajor Chief following those visits. It can be recalled that the President of SLAJ, Alhaji I.B.Kargbo reported in his newspaper that Chief Norman had threatened to kidnap government ministers if he is not released from

further detention. Meanwhile, there are reports of startling revelations at the on going investigations. One report say Mr. Golley prior to his arrest was giving out dozens of mobile phones and millions of Leones to ex-combatants in an effort to galvanize support for his alleged subversive move which were monitored by state security personnel. Mr. Golley was picked up at his hotel room shortly before he was due to check out of the country.



# Of Bundu, Golley and Norman

## COMMENTARY

*THE ARREST and detention of Omrie Golley has become topical in every corner of Freetown, in bars, transport and even offices.*

*THOUGH OPINIONS differ from one person to another, the subject of the argument is the same: another coup? To which a greater percentage of the population are totally against it.*

*WHETHER THE coup was to better the lives of Sierra Leoneans as coupists always claim or not is both untimely for this nation and could never help the democratic process any longer, either to this nation or the universe.*

*WHEN ONE listens to some of the arguments put forward by the people, supporters and non-supporters of this government one would conclude that the president has done a great deal of service to Omrie Golley and his likes by keeping them in protective and preventive custody.*

*ALTHOUGH SOME people are shifting from the main subject and advancing something different, that Golley's arrest was based on a transaction different from which he was been arrested for. The argument, according to them, was for the purchase of a helicopter which assignment was given to Golley by President Kabbah and which he failed to accomplish.*

*ASSUMING THAT was what happened between*

*himself and the president, but he could have done himself more good than harm considering his role in the suffering of the people of this nation during the eleven year old war, how he contributed to increase the death of innocent Sierra Leoneans. Therefore taking a retrospect of his action he could have averted the arrest and detention by delivering the goods he was asked to purchase or honorably refunded the deposit already given to him.*

*IF OMRIE Golley had decided to hold back the deposit and deprive this nation for a second time, the question is what has he step on the soil of Sierra Leone again?*

*APART FROM the abuses and flimsy defence advanced by admirers of Omrie Golley, let's turn to the main subject which is the focus of the general public (coup). The question is, is Omrie Golley not tired to see the blood of innocent Sierra Leoneans spill enmasse for the second time. The hearts of Omrie Golley and Abass Bundu may have been created from an igneous rock, that is why their actions closely reflect that of monsters in human skins. Both Abass Bundu and Omrie Golley were the key propagandists of Foday Sankoh, and they played significant roles to prolong the war and*

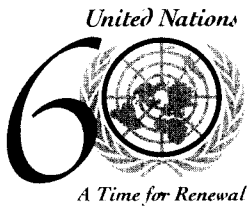
*present an opposite pictures of the reality on the ground. This is because of the handsome benefits they were receiving at the time while their Sierra Leonean counterparts suffered.*

*THIS PLAN of both Golley and Bundu may not be too different from Hinga Norman at this material time, taking into account the present predicament of the latter.*

*NORMAN, no doubt had fought for the liberation of this country, he sacrificed a lot to restore stability to his motherland. But his thoughts at this time are different from what he had in mind at the time of the war.*

*HE WAS a warrior, as some people had referred to him but that should not make him a coupist at this time when the wounds of the 11 years old war are about to be healed.*

*HISTORY HAS recorded Norman as one of the few and first group of military personnel who staged the first coup after independence. With that background coupled with the recent development one would not say Norman has good intentions any longer for the country or is not aware of Omrie Golley's diabolical plan. Whether it is a helicopter deal that backfired or a coup that has lost its grip, the police should go on a full scale investigation to dig out the truth, because the truth will emerge victorious.*



# Secretary-General Press Release

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

SG/SM/10302  
AFR/1314  
16 January 2006

**SECRETARY-GENERAL CONGRATULATES LIBERIA'S NEW PRESIDENT ON INAUGURATION,  
SAYS AFRICA'S FIRST WOMAN HEAD OF STATE HAS 'HISTORIC MANDATE'**

Following is UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statement on the inauguration of the President of Liberia, issued 16 January:

I extend my warmest congratulations to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on her inauguration as President of the Republic of Liberia and Africa's first elected woman Head of State. I also congratulate the people of Liberia who, through a peaceful and transparent electoral process, have given Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf an historic mandate to lead the nation towards a future of lasting peace and stability.

The establishment of a democratically elected Government in Liberia brings to a close the two year transitional period stipulated in the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 18 August 2003. I commend Charles Gyude Bryant for his leadership of the National Transitional Government of Liberia during the transition period.

The new democratically elected Government faces a number of pressing challenges, including restructuring the security sector, strengthening economic governance, stimulating economic growth, strengthening the rule of law and the protection of human rights, consolidating State authority throughout the country and re-establishing basic services. In the face of these challenges, the people of Liberia are being given a unique opportunity to join together, to build a just and inclusive society, which assures the participation of all people, irrespective of political or ethnic affiliation.

I call on the international community to assist the new Government to consolidate its authority, build upon the stability established so far and deliver basic services to the people. Allow me also to assure the new Government of the continued support of the United Nations family, as Liberia lays the foundation for a better future built on peace, stability, democracy and rule of law. Today, I wish all Liberians strength and courage in the work to rebuild a nation of which all its citizens can be proud.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONDOLEEZZA RICE: Remarks En Route Monrovia, Liberia**

SECRETARY RICE: I am looking forward to joining the First Lady for the inauguration of the first woman African president which is a very exciting thing. It is exciting for the continent, but it is also exciting because if you think back to three years ago or so in Liberia when the front pages of the papers were covered with pictures of young kids holding AK-47s, Charles Taylor was rampaging in the country, there were armed gangs everywhere, I think it would have been hard to imagine that they would have had a free and fair elections this fall and now be inaugurating this woman as President.

I just want to recall that I think this was an example of U.S. cooperation with African leadership that led to Charles Taylor's removal or Charles Taylor leaving Liberia and then the stabilization of the situation. The United States actually put a small mission in to safeguard ports of entry to the airport at the time. We worked very closely with the ECOWAS under the excellent leadership of President John Kufuor of Ghana, but also with President Mbeki and President Obasanjo there was a very fine Nigerian head of the temporary mission until the UN peacekeeping mission could get there, and General Okankwo, who by the way is now in Sudan, doing good work there, and were able to stabilize the situation. The transitional government with Gyude Bryant in his place, and then eventually elections and the election of Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf.

It's obviously a very difficult situation. It's a poor country now despite the fact that it was once one of the more prosperous countries in Africa. But there's an awful lot of rebuilding to do after all of these years of civil war. We have provided \$840 Million in support, and the United States is going to continue to support Liberia. But it's going to be a hopeful day tomorrow and the Liberian people deserve a hopeful day.

QUESTION: Has the President elect indicated how she'll deal with Charles Taylor?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I think that she understands how much the international community wants to see Charles Taylor brought to justice. I think she will be working on doing precisely that, but I don't want to speak for her and I think the focus of tomorrow is going to be on a future Liberia that can engage the international community toward a better, more prosperous future.

QUESTION: Are you concerned that it's going to take too long for Charles Taylor to be taken before the special court in Sierra Leone?

SECRETARY RICE: Well, I think that this will happen. It's what the international community wants. I think the Liberian people want justice. I think the Liberian leadership wants justice. And I just have to say, tomorrow should not be about Charles Taylor. Charles Taylor is out of Liberia. He is through raping and pillaging and splintering. And the Liberian people are trying to look forward and I really think we owe it to them to look forward, not backward.

## First Lady: Liberian Leader an Inspiration

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

Monday, January 16, 2006; 2:43 PM

MONROVIA, Liberia – *[Quoting U.S. First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice]*

-SNIP-

"Charles Taylor is out of Liberia," Rice told reporters on her flight to Monrovia. "He is through raping and pillaging this country, and the Liberian people are trying to look forward."

Taylor is in exile in Nigeria but is wanted on war-crimes charges in Sierra Leone, where he supported a brutal rebel group during that country's 1991-2002 civil war. Nigeria says it won't hand Taylor over to a U.N.-backed tribunal unless Sirleaf makes such a request. Rice and Mrs. Bush both expressed confidence that Sirleaf will work to bring Taylor to justice.

"This is a time of reconciliation right now in Liberia with her inauguration following the contested \_ very contested election," Mrs. Bush said. "And so I assume, and I think, that she will work to bring him to justice."

-SNIP-



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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 16 Jan 2005

*[The press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

### International Clips on Liberia

16/01/2006 12:36:20

#### **Sirleaf Vows End to Liberia's Violent Past**

By HANS NICHOLS, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia\_Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pledged a "fundamental break" with **Liberia's** violent past as she was sworn in Monday as president, carving her name into history as Africa's first elected female head of state.

Wearing a traditional African headdress, Sirleaf took the oath of office in a ceremony attended by thousands of Liberians and scores of foreign dignitaries. "We know that your vote was a vote for change, a vote for peace, security ... and we have heard you loudly," Sirleaf said in her inaugural speech.

**BBC** Last Updated: Monday, 16 January 2006, 12:55 GMT

#### **African first for Liberian leader**

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has been sworn in as Liberia's president, making her Africa's first elected female leader. Loud cheers greeted her inauguration. Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf says her top challenge is to maintain peace, law and order after 14 years of civil war.

UN peacekeepers and Liberian police have maintained tight security around the capital, Monrovia. About 500 UN troops have been redeployed to the area, with more police officers on the capital's streets. Public vehicles have been banned from Monrovia's streets for the day. Two US Navy warships are stationed off Liberia's coast, in a show of support for Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf's presidency.

The BBC's Elizabeth Blunt in Monrovia says that after all the years of war, there was no public building in a good enough state to host the ceremony. The guests gathered in the grounds of the Capital Building and sat on white plastic chairs with coconut matting to protect them from the sun and the rain.

#### **Annan extends congratulations to new Liberian president**

NEW YORK, Jan. 16\_(Kyodo) \_ U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday extended his congratulations to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on her inauguration as president of Liberia and Africa's first elected woman head of state. "I also congratulate the people of Liberia who, through a peaceful and transparent electoral process, have given Mrs. Johnson Sirleaf a historic mandate to lead the nation towards a future of lasting peace and stability," Annan said in a statement.

15/01/2006 09:59:29

#### **Africa's first female leader sworn in in Liberia**

Monrovia/Nairobi\_(dpa) \_ The 67-year-old Harvard-trained economist and grandmother Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf vowed to unite her country after 15 years of war when she was sworn in as **Liberia's** 23rd president in the capital Monrovia amid tight security Monday.

"Let us begin anew, moving forward into a future that is filled with hope and promise," said President Johnson Sirleaf after taking the oath of office in the open-air ceremony attended by many high-level international visitors.

At least five African presidents and U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, as well as U.N. Deputy Secretary General Louise Frechette and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were among the high-level guests attending the ceremony.

## **Liberia's Johnson-Sirleaf sworn in, to fight graft**

By Alphonso Toweh and Katharine Houreld

MONROVIA, Jan 16 (Reuters) - Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf took office as Africa's first elected woman president on Monday, backed by a strong show of U.S. support and vowing to fight graft and rebuild her country after years of war.

Johnson-Sirleaf vowed to fight rampant corruption, which experts say has fuelled decades of instability, and to uphold a foreign donor-backed Governance and Economic Management Programme (GEMAP) that will oversee state spending. "We will accept and enforce the terms of GEMAP. We will ensure competence and integrity in the management of our resources," said the Harvard-trained economist who is 67.

16/01/2006 11:09:43

## **Laura Bush Attends Liberian Inauguration**

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, **Liberia** First lady Laura Bush smiled broadly and applauded the historic swearing in on Monday of **Liberia's** new leader, the first woman ever elected president in Africa, who exclaimed that the future belongs to women "because we have taken charge of it." On her second trip to Africa, Mrs. Bush joined Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in **Liberia's** capital at the inauguration of President-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated economist who pledged to restore peace after a 14-year civil war in this nation founded by freed American slaves.

"I think it's really important worldwide," Mrs. Bush said about Sirleaf's inauguration, which falls on the day Americans honor civil rights icon, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "I think it's particularly important on the continent of Africa, because traditionally women have been excluded in many African cultures \_ not all of them, but in many."

Mrs. Bush was the formal head of the U.S. delegation, but it was Rice who was greeted with hoots of approval by the crowd during introductions.

**The Times** 16 January 2006

## **A time of hope: Africa's first elected woman leader is more than 'one of the boys'**

Twenty-one years ago Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was arrested by troops loyal to the autocratic leader of her native Liberia and thrown into a cell with 15 men. Hours later the men were taken out and shot. One of the firing squad then returned to the cell and was prevented from raping her only by the intervention of another soldier who happened to be from her tribe. Mrs Johnson-Sirleaf will be sworn in today as Africa's first freely elected female leader and Liberia's first democratic President after a generation of dictators and war.

Laura Bush and Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, are due at today's inauguration, and President Johnson-Sirleaf's first months in power will be closely watched by fellow emigres who have so far stayed behind. She now badly needs their expertise and, from those who fled past regimes with substantial fortunes, their investment capital. To lure them back she must make good on the same promise that has beguiled international donor

agencies - zero tolerance of corruption. To this end she wants Western professionals to oversee every significant government spending decision. The goal is vital, but there is a risk that domestic rivals will seek to depict her as a neocolonial stooge.

15/01/2006 13:12:59

## **Background on Liberia's new President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**

By The Associated Press

NAME \_ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

AGE \_ 67. Born Oct. 29, 1938 in Monrovia, Liberia.

EDUCATION \_ M.P.A., Harvard University, 1971. Also earned an economics diploma from the University of Colorado in 1970, and a B.B.A. in accounting from Madison Business College in 1964.

CAREER \_ A long-standing member of Liberia's political elite, Sirleaf served as finance minister under ex-President William Tolbert before he was toppled and killed in 1980 coup. She fled the country shortly afterward, taking up top jobs at Citibank, the United Nations and the World Bank. In 1997, she made a failed bid for the presidency, losing to ex-president-turned-warlord Charles Taylor in a vote he won amid a climate of fear. After Taylor was forced into exile as part of a deal to end Liberia's civil war in 2003, Sirleaf returned to make a successful run for the presidency in late 2005.

**Source: Government of Sweden** Date: 16 Jan 2006

### **Government Bill on continued Swedish presence in Liberia**

The Government has decided to propose to the Swedish Riksdag that Swedish troops continue to participate in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until November 2006.

A Swedish mechanised infantry company of some 240 persons has been part of UNMIL since March 2004.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

**BBC** Last Updated: Monday, 16 January 2006, 15:05 GMT

#### **Ivoriens protest at UN peace move**

**Hundreds of youths have held violent protests in Ivory Coast's main city at international mediators, who say parliament's mandate should end.**

President Laurent Gbagbo's supporters burnt tyres, blocked main roads in Abidjan and attacked UN vehicles.

Police fired tear gas to break up some of the protests. Parliament is a bastion of support for Mr Gbagbo.

On Sunday, the UN-appointed mediators overseeing the peace process said the mandate of MPs should not be extended.

*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](mailto:armahj@un.org).*

# **Libération Afrique**

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## **“Ballots not bullets”! Will human rights be respected in Liberia?**

**9 January 2006**

par FIDH

<http://www.fidh.org/>

**On the occasion of the swearing-in of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, scheduled on January 16, 2005, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organisation, Liberia Watch for Human Rights (LWHR) are releasing a joint report entitled “Ballots not bullets! Will human rights be respected in Liberia?”. This report is the result of an investigatory mission to Liberia from August 21 to September 7, 2005.**

In a country rundown by years of civil war and political misrule, the six-year term of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will be critical for Liberia’s future.

Indeed, the Liberian conflict, which dates back as far as 1989, has had immense social, political, and humanitarian implications: an estimated 250,000 lives have been lost, 464,000 Liberians have become internally displaced and over 350,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Schools, hospitals, water and electricity supply systems have been looted or destroyed. The economy has suffered major blows. The security situation is still volatile and the country is awash with arms.

In their joint report, FIDH and LWHR consider that the 2005 general elections putting an end to the transitional regime were held freely, fairly and in a peaceful way. This landmark success constitutes a first step towards the establishment of the rule of law in Liberia.

But, this report sheds light on the various human rights issues at stake for the new elected authorities.

President Johnson-Sirleaf’s to-do list has to include ensuring the respect of economic and social rights in compliance with international human rights standards, notably by making education and training available, creating jobs, restoring water and electricity supply systems. Moreover, new elected



authorities have to fight against corruption by taking drastic measures in compliance with the African Union Convention on Combatting and Preventing Corruption.

One other major issue is the need to fight against impunity, bringing perpetrators of the most serious crimes and violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed during the civil wars to justice and reforming the justice system. Indeed, long-lasting peace in Liberia can only be achieved through full respect of the rights of victims to truth and justice. These rights entail obligations for the State: to investigate violations, to prosecute the perpetrators and, if their guilt is established, to punish them. In that respect, FIDH and LWHR welcome the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) establishment. Full and effective exercise of the right to truth is essential to avoid any recurrence of violations in the future. However, FIDH and LWHR remain highly concerned by the fact that no perpetrator of serious crimes committed during the civil wars have yet been brought to justice.

FIDH and LWHR additionally call on Nigeria to cooperate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone by extraditing former Liberian president Charles Taylor to face justice.

Bringing perpetrators to justice 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.

It is time for new Liberian authorities to behave in accordance with human rights expectations. Any step backwards in this matter would clearly undermine the building of a long-lasting peace in the country.