

**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:**

Monday, 23 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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Ext 7248

# Contents

## **Sierra Leone Media**

“Kabbah Has No Immunity to Evade Special Court”...Norman  
Defence Team Argues **Page 3**  
*Concord Times*

Hinga Norman’s Issue Must Not be Politicized **Page 4**  
*Democrat*

Justice Lussick Elected President (sic.) Judge of Trial Chamber II **Page 5**  
*Independent Observer (SCSL press release)*

## **International Media**

Liberian President to Ask Nigeria to Hand Over Charles Taylor to  
War Crimes Court **Pages 6-7**  
*Associated Press*

“Charles Taylor Issue is Finished”, America Declares **Page 8**  
*The Analyst (Monrovia)*

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 Jan. 2006 **Pages 9-11**  
*UNMIL*

# “Kabbah has no immunity to evade Special Court”

...Norman Defence Team argues

**Story: Tanu Jalloh**

It is the opinion of the Norman Defence Team that “Kabbah as President of Sierra Leone

has no legal immunity to evade the UN-backed tribunal either as a witness or to be held for contempt of court if he refuses

to appear.”

According to the team, “if the judges rule that President Kabbah is exempted from the

*Cont. page 3*

## “Kabbah has no immunity to evade Special Court”

*From page 1*

court, they will be saying in effect that the court is entirely local subject to the Constitution of Sierra Leone, something Mr. Carew had argued successfully before the Sierra Leone Supreme Court in the matter of Charles Francis Margai versus Prosecutor. As to why the Attorney

General had not considered the constitutionality of Kabbah’s appearance before the tribunal until now, defies logic.” The defense argued that the on again, off again start of the defense phase in the matter of Prosecutor versus Samuel Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofana and Alieu Kondewa, is off

again until Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

The case, which was originally scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 17, finally got under way at Trial Chamber No. 1, with Defense Witness No. 1, Chief Samuel Hinga Norman, scheduled to testify in his own behalf.

# **HINGA NORMAN'S ISSUE MUST NOT BE POLITICIZED**

BY JOHN ABU- 076-644396- (Part I)  
E-mail: johnabu72@hotmail.com

**Chief Sam Hinga Norman has spent nearly three years in detention at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. At this particular moment, he might have a tortured mind. But anyone who shows concern over his predicament at this particular period must have an underlying factor.**

From September 2004, I wrote several articles published in this newspaper questioning the credibility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Those publications spread in this country like a wild fire. During that period, letters from Chief Norman himself were published. Nobody at that time even cared about him, or even commented on those publications.

They were all as voiceless as a tomb. I mean the so-called politicians and even the civil society including the now celebrated SLAJ. Why only now? Where were they? Only for them to sit by watching the International Community investing money in an incredible justice system to which some of them disapproved was nonsense! I do not want to comment much on the recent meeting between Hinga Norman and the opposition APC leader, Ernest Koroma, neither the SLAJ president, but

what perhaps is notable is the fact that they were in this country when the Special Court was established with an agreement ratification by Parliament of which the opposition leader was a party to.

I have expressed time without number in a series of my articles that the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was a total violation of (Article 1X) of the Lome Peace Agreement of July 7, 1999. Why

**For APC at this moment to raise concern over what it terms "the security implications in the existence of the Special Court and its operation" means, they have failed to do their homework**

didn't anybody consider talking to Hinga Norman or call a Bintumani Conference at the expiration of the mandate of the court? Let those who want to gain prominence over Hinga Norman's situation keep quiet and find something else to do. Most people in Sierra Leone including myself do sympathize with Chief Norman deeply, but would not like his present predicament to be politicized by few people only for their own political ego. As I have said inter alia, of all the articles I wrote and published on the Special Court's credibility, serializing the pitfalls of the court and Hinga Norman's predicament, no one cared at that moment about what was going on.

Is it because 2007 is fast approaching that some people wanted to be heard or cause a lot of noise about the Hinga Norman issue? For APC at this moment to raise concern over what it terms "the security implications in the existence of the Special Court and its operation" means, they have failed to do their homework. Were they not in parliament when the Special Court agreement ratification was passed in Parliament? Do we need any Bintumani conference at this time to discuss the Special Court and Hinga Norman? Chief Sam Hinga Norman might not know personally although I do, but I suppose he may have in his possession some of the articles I have authored on the credibility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In my opinion, the most appropriate time anyone could have caused noise about Chief Norman and the Special Court would have been at the time of those publications. When at some points the Special Court denied him the right to self-defense, I halted the publications with the view that someone may re-echo it but it is rather too late. At this moment some people somewhere want to gain prominence and therefore feel this is the appropriate time, as 2007 is getting closer. But as the saying goes, 'Every ass loves to hear himself bray.' Let those who feel Hinga Norman's issue should be politicized go to hell. All what I can say is that Chief Hinga Norman does not deserve the catastrophe befalling him, and therefore anyone who feels he can help the situation could find an alternative means, not by politicking. **Lonta!**  
**To be continued!**

# Justice Lussick Elected

# President Judge of Trial

**Special Court for Sierra Leone  
Press and Public Affairs Office  
Press Release**

# Chamber II

Justice Richard Lussick of Samoa has been elected Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II. He succeeds Justice Teresa Doherty, who ended her one-year term as presiding Judge on 17 January.

Pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the Presiding Judge of each Trial Chamber shall be elected for a renewable term of one year. However, it has been the general practice of both Trial Chambers to rotate the position of the Presiding judge at the end of each one-year term.

Justice Richard Lussick was called to the bar in 1973. He worked as a barrister in private practice in Australia from 1973-1986. From 1986-1987 he served as Parliamentary Counsel in the Office of the Attorney-General in Samoa. He became a Judge in 1987 and has held a wide variety of positions within the Samoan judiciary, including Acting Chief Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeal, Acting President of the Land & titles Court, Supreme Court Judge, Chairman of the Public Service Appeals Board, District Court Judge and Coroner. From 1995-2000 he served as Chief Justice of the Republic of

Kiribati. He is a past Vice President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association.

Trial Chamber II, consisting of Justice Lussick, Justice Doherty and Justice Julia Sebutinde, is hearing evidence in the trial of the three AFRC accused (Brima, Kamara and Kanu). That trial started on 7 March 2005. The Prosecution concluded its case on 21 November 2005.

Justice Lussick was appointed to the Special Court by the Government of Sierra Leone.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996. To date, the Prosecutor has indicted eleven persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Nine indictees are currently in the custody of the Court.

## **Liberian president to ask Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor to war crimes court**

By HANS NICHOLS

Associated Press Writer

20 January 2006

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Liberia's new president said Friday she will ask Nigeria to hand over ex-warlord Charles Taylor to a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, but declined to specify when, saying regional leaders must be consulted first.

Taylor has lived in Nigeria since 2003, when he resigned the presidency under a peace deal brokered as rebels moved in on the capital, Monrovia. He is wanted by the U.N.-backed court on war crimes charges for his role in helping fuel a decade-long war in Sierra Leone that started in 1991.

Speaking to half a dozen international reporters for the first time since taking office Monday, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said she would ask Nigeria to hand Taylor over to the court "in due course, under the right arrangement, in consultation with our regional leaders who managed the process of leading to his exile."

She gave no details.

"These are sensitive matters on which one does not give a timetable," Sirleaf said. "We think that the United States understands that and we think the international community understands that."

The U.S. and other nations, as well as top U.N. officials and international human rights groups, have pressed Nigeria to hand over Taylor to the court, but Nigeria has refused.

In November, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing U.N. peacekeepers to arrest Taylor if he returns to Liberia and hand him over to the war crimes tribunal for prosecution.

Taylor defeated Sirleaf by a landslide during presidential elections held in 1997 that took place during a several-year lull in Liberia's war. Many believe Taylor won that vote because of widespread fears he would re-ignite the war if he lost. Taylor still remains popular in some areas of Liberia today.

About 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers are deployed in Liberia to bolster security as the new government settles in.

The Sierra Leone tribunal is trying several rebel military commanders on charges stemming from accusations of systematic killings, rapes, enslavement of

child soldiers and mutilation with machetes during the vicious 1991-2002 insurgency in the diamond-rich country.

Taylor is one of the remaining key figures the tribunal wants to prosecute before it wraps up its work in about 18 months.

On Friday, Sirleaf also repeated campaign pledges that she would work to fight corruption and secure the trust of international donors.

Liberia, founded by freed American slaves in 1847, is struggling to recover from years of fighting that has devastated the country and made it one of the poorest in Africa despite its wealth in diamonds, timber and iron ore.



## 'Charles Taylor Issue Is Finished', America Declares

**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 18, 2006

Posted to the web January 18, 2006

By J. Edwood Dennis

The world's greatest superpower and Liberia's strong ally, the United States of America (USA) has declared that the issue of exiled former Liberian President, Charles Taylor is finished with and as such the new regime of Liberia headed by Mrs. Ellen Johnson- Sirleaf and the Liberian people should concentrate on maintaining democracy in the country.

In an interview with Star Radio Monday in Monrovia, the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said as the people of Liberia begin the reconstruction and the maintenance of their young democracy, the issue of exiled former President Charles Taylor should not be a major concern.

Exiled former President Charles Taylor on December 24, 1989 launched a military campaign against President Samuel K. Doe's government.

More than 500,000 people are now reported to have died in the war, which also caused destruction to property worth several million dollars.

Mr. Taylor's excesses carried out prior to his ascendancy to Liberian presidency and his association with Foday Sankor, in which relation Mr. Taylor was allegedly to have gathered men from National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) to aid Sankor's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) are some hounding experiences for Mr. Taylor.

Accordingly, Mr. Taylor is now indicted for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity by the United Nations and he is expected to answer those charges in the war crimes Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Dr. Condoleezza Rice assured Liberians of the US Government's unwavering preparedness in working with the Liberian government, the sub-regional body and the International Community to have Charles Taylor appear at the United Nations-backed Special Tribunal for War Crimes in Sierra Leone.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 Jan 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

01/20/2006 15:16:07

**Liberian president to ask Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor to war crimes court**

By HANS NICHOLS

Source: AP Alert - Crime

MONROVIA, Liberia\_Liberia's new president said Friday she will ask Nigeria to hand over ex-warlord Charles Taylor to a U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone, but declined to specify when, saying regional leaders must be consulted first.

BBC Monitoring Africa, 19 January 2006

**Seychelles leader congratulates new Liberian, Chilean presidents**

Text of report in English by Seychelles Nation newspaper web site on 18 January

President James Michel has sent messages of congratulations to the newly elected female presidents of **Liberia** and Chile.

President Michel's message to the Liberian President HE Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, reads: "It gives me great pleasure to extend to you on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Seychelles, our warmest and most sincere congratulations, following your election as president of the Republic of **Liberia**. "The historical assumption to this high office by a woman is a symbol of pride to Africa in general and to us in Seychelles. It is certainly a testimony of hope for the reconstruction of your country and for the betterment of its people.

**International Clips on West Africa****UN set to take step toward Ivory Coast sanctions**

By Irwin Arieff

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 20 (Reuters) - A U.N. panel is poised next week to begin compiling a list of Ivory Coast leaders whose travel and assets should be frozen for blocking the peace process in the volatile West African nation, diplomats said on Friday. The U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee on Ivory Coast scheduled a meeting for Monday and its chairman, Greek Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, "is ready to proceed if he is asked to do so," said a Greek diplomat.

## **Sierra Leone jails magistrate over \$50 bribe**

FREETOWN, Jan 20 (Reuters) - A Sierra Leone court has sentenced a magistrate to three years in jail for taking bribes totalling 125,000 Leones (\$50.91) in the first such case since the launch of an anti-corruption drive.

The West African country, one of the world's poorest, launched a campaign against corruption three years ago as part of an effort to recover from a decade of civil war caused in part by rampant graft in its lucrative diamond industry. Judge Robert Schuster found Steven Mohamed Bangura guilty on Thursday of "abusing his office by corruptly accepting bribes of the said amount from a complainant" and sentenced him to three years in prison.

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

#### **National Security Agency Director-Designate Takes Office Ahead of Confirmation**

- National Security Agency Director-designate Fomba Sirleaf has reportedly taken office in contravention of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's warning against presidential nominees taking their offices ahead of Senate confirmation. Mr. Sirleaf is the foster son of President Johnson-Sirleaf.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Executive Mansion Gives Rationale for Ad-Hoc Supreme Court Bench**

- Reacting to the Liberia Institute of Public Opinion's call for the government to dissolve the Ad-Hoc Supreme Court it recently appointed, a spokesperson of the Executive Mansion said that the setting up of the Court was based on advice from the outgoing Bench because its tenure had ended.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **Presidential Nominees to Face Senate Hearing Next Week**

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo said that confirmation hearings for presidential nominees will commence next week.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **New Lawmakers Deny Demanding Resettlement Benefits**

- Briefing journalists, National Legislature Press and Public Affairs Bureau Director James Jensen refuted media reports that the new Lawmakers are demanding resettlement benefits. However, he said that a resettlement package for new Legislators is customary.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **China to Commit US\$2.5 Million for Reconstruction in Liberia**

- According to a press statement issued in Monrovia, China will provide a US\$2.5 million assistance package to fund reconstruction activities in Liberia.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

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

#### **Drug Enforcement Agency Solicits Contributions**

- In an interview, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) spokesman Abdullah Samoh said that contributions were being solicited to fight against drugs in the country.

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

#### **Liberians in the Diaspora Urge President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to Initiate Repatriation Talks with their Host Countries**

- In a meeting with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday, Liberians in the diaspora urged the government to initiate discussions with their host countries on their possible repatriation.

**Foundation for Peace Awards Scholarships to Needy Students of the University of Liberia**

- Addressing journalists yesterday, Foundation for Peace and Stability Chairman Nathaniel Boe said that the organization has awarded 30 scholarships valued at US\$7,000 for needy students of the University of Liberia.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office in Sierra Leone Repatriates Liberian Refugees**

- According to a Star Radio correspondent, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) External Relations Officer Sulaiman Momodu said that more than 300 Liberian refugees have been repatriated from Sierra Leone. He said that the refugee families received a small cash grant upon their arrival in Liberia.

*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).*