

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, 24 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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Treason: Plot to Kill Berewa

By Kelvin Lewis

Former spokesman for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) Omrie Micheal Golley and two others were yesterday Monday arraigned before Magistrate Sam Margai at the Freetown Magistrate court No1. on two count charges of treason.

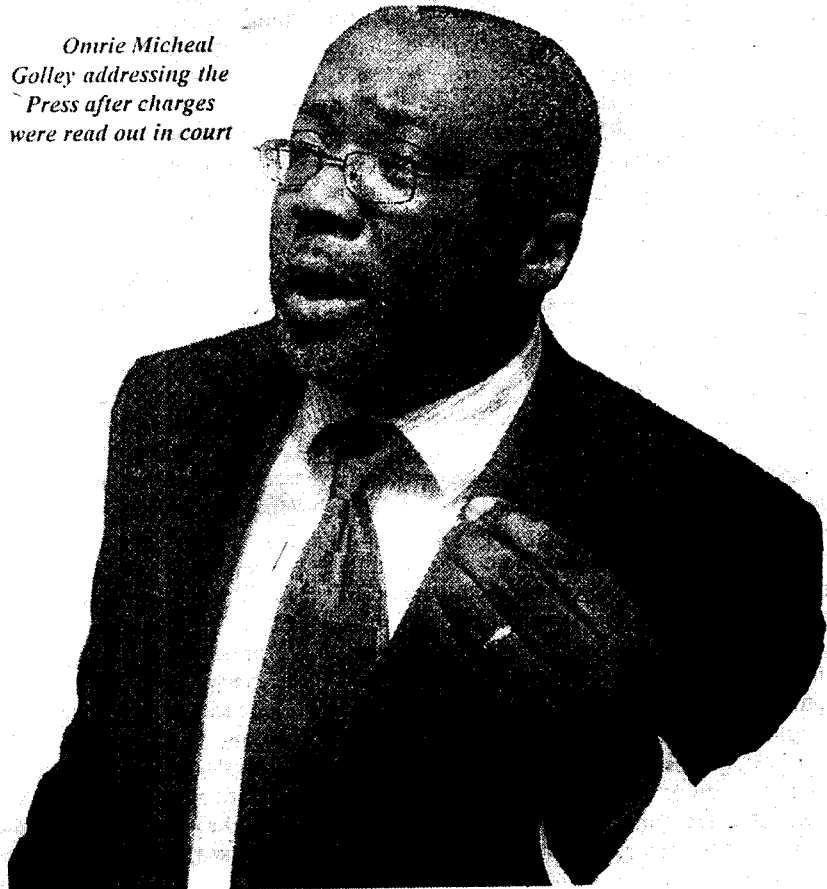
The two others are Mohamed Alpha Bah who is believed to be a former RUF combatant and David Kai-Tongi who is also believed to be a former soldier.

According to the particulars of offence, the three are alleged to have "prepared" and "endeavoured" to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone by unlawful means.

The overt acts state that between December 1st

Contd. Page 2

Omrie Micheal Golley addressing the Press after charges were read out in court



Plot to Kill Berewa

From Front Page

2005 and January 13th 2006, the three conspired to assassinate Vice President Solomon Berewa, as a prelude to overthrowing the government.

They are also alleged to have held meetings at the Bintumani Hotel and Kadi's Beach Bar, Lumley where they "met, participated and deliberated together" and also "manifested their complicity in the plot to overthrow the government."

It is also alleged that Mohamed. Alpha Bah "visited the arms store of the

Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces" for the purpose of "ascertaining the availability of arms and ammunition" in the store.

The three are also accused of wanting to "create a situation wherein chaos would prevail during which period they would overthrow the government of Sierra Leone by unlawful means. No plea was taken and the matter was adjourned to Monday 30th January. Outside the court Golley told journalists that he wants everybody to know that "a man who fought for

peace in this country it would be inconceivable for (him) to do anything, but to work hard to consolidate and to nurture the peace process here."

Golley was arrested on January 12th along with three others in his hotel room at the Bintumani Hotel just before he was due to leave the country on board the SN Brussels flight that day.

President Kabbah himself announced the dramatic arrest over state radio and television the same Thursday January 12th emphasizing that his government "views the matter very seriously."

Nigeria Agrees To Surrender Former Liberian President Charles Taylor; Release a Result of Pressure by American President George W. Bush and US Lawmakers
Jan 23, 2006

Author: The Liberian Times Wire Service

For three years now, the turning over of Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone has been caught in the media blitz with local and international human rights and pro democracy groups un-relentlessly expressing the need for Taylor to clear himself of the 17 counts charges levied on him. As Associate Editor Ernest Maximore of The Liberian Times's associated newspaper The Vanguard (www.LiberianVanguard.com) writes, the row between Nigeria and the United States and the international community on the Taylor issue is likely to end soon with signals from Abuja that it would turnover him over to the Freetown Court.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Jendayi E. Frazer in a news briefing recently, disclosed that Nigeria's head of State President Olusegun Obasanjo in a speech to the United Nation's General Assembly said, "Charles Taylor should be returned to the Special Court".

She said discussions and consultations with all regional countries were taking place because this was a collective agreement.

Madam Frazer said the United States has already put in place the proper mechanism that would ensure bringing Taylor to justice and making him accountable for his atrocities. According to Frazer, this includes a U.S.-drafted UN Security Council Resolution which gives UNMIL the authority, if Charles Taylor should return to Liberia, to arrest him and take him to the Sierra Leone special court, Madam Frazer told journalists.

"We think that President Obasanjo has an international responsibility, and we fully expect him to carry it out. He's been a good partner", Frazer told journalists.

According to Madam Frazer, Secretary Rice has made it clear to Madam Sirleaf that the United States will always make frantic efforts to ensure that Taylor is deposited to the Special Court.

She spoke of the United States' support to building democracy in Liberia. Madam Frazer said the U.S. has spent over US0.00 million in 2005. More than US0 million of that has gone to support the UNMIL, another US million towards security sector reform to train and equip the Liberian police and military and another US million for refugee assistance.

Madam Frazer announced that a "Global Economic Management and Assistance Program" has been established to try to bring about transparency in the budget process and financial management of Liberia's resources.

“We’ll continue to work on democratic governance, working with them to support the rule of law, civilian police and judicial systems,” she said.

Recently, during Secretary of State Rice’s visit to Liberia, she said the issue of Charles Taylor was over and that Liberians should look forward to rebuilding their lives. Three years ago, the UN Special Court in Sierra Leone indicted Mr. Taylor for fueling the crisis in that country by providing manpower and material support to the rebel group, Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

During the Sierra Leone crisis, RUF rebels rained terror and mayhem on thousands of Sierra Leoneans and other nationals by chopping off their limbs in their war to seize state power. The scars are visible in Sierra Leone. The fate of the victims lies in ruin. Their lifeline of psychological state lies in the outcome of the pending trial. “I will never have peace of mind if Taylor and others who let loose terror on my people are not brought to the hook of justice”, maintained Malusu Kanneh, Sierra Leonian.

The UN-back court attempted to arrest Mr. Taylor in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, three years ago but he narrowly escaped through the help and intervention of the Ghanaian leader, President John Kuffor. Taylor had gone to the Ghanaian capital for a peace deal between rebels of LURD and MODEL.

Days following Mr. Taylor’s escape from the UN Special Court , he was then banished from his homeland under a peace deal – the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to Calabar, Nigeria.

There have been calls by international and local ‘pro-democracy groups’ and western governments demanding President Olusegun Obasanjo to turn Taylor over to the Sierra Leonean Court for prosecution.

President Obasanjo had said he would only turn over Taylor to a democratically elected government that requests his handover. He had also resisted and argued that it was not healthy for the Liberian peace process.

Liberia’s newly inaugurated President Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a former ally of Taylor is not quite decisive on the Taylor issue.

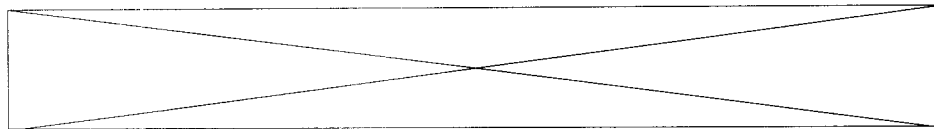
President Sirleaf said she would consult with regional leaders before making a decision on Taylor.

Meanwhile, latest report reaching The Liberian Times Wire Service indicates that several Liberian journalists have been invited to have a glance of the facilities in Sierra Leone that houses the Court and its prison facility. The team is expected to leave Liberia today on a UN flight. 250 Mongolian peacekeepers are presently guarding the Court. They are reported to be engaging in military exercises that would fully resist any counter force or enemy of justice.

In a chat with some Liberians, hodge podge views were expressed. “The people of Sierra Leone and the entire Mano River Basin deserve peace. Taylor must bear the blunt of his macabre mayhems unleashed on the people of that country”, averred Pastor James B. Moore of the Central Baptist Church.

William Tobo a resident of Sinkor, has a contrary view. For him, “Liberia is still hanging in the middle of peace and instability. What we are enjoying is semblance of peace lying beneath a poisonous snake that can unleash its venom anytime. The international community needs to carefully handle this issue circumspectly”.

This article was originally published in The Vanguard Newspaper. The Vanguard is an associated newspaper of TheLiberianTimes.com, and a member of The Liberian Times Wire Service, contributing articles to TheLiberianTimes.com on a regular basis.



Ex-President Hit Squad Hunts Rights Activists

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

NEWS

January 23, 2006

Posted to the web January 23, 2006

Reporting reaching this paper has disclosed that unknown hit squad of exiled president Charles Taylor has entered the country targeting rights advocates.

It said that the men carried out grenade attack on the 'D and C' Filling Station in the Bernard Farm, Paynesville Community on the 24th of December 2005.

Several persons were wounded and admitted at a local hospital while others like Mohammed B. Kallon, Youth spokesman of the Liberia Watch for Human Rights and E. Derrick Nyenpan, National Program Coordinator happen to have escaped according to reliable sources.

The reports said the group was targeting rights activists in the country for elimination on grounds that they were providing credible evidence against Mr. Taylor who is due to appear at the Special Court in neighboring Sierra Leone any time.

Some time ago, mass graves were discovered with visible evidence of human skulls and bones in Weakama Town located five miles from Tubman burg, Bomi County and 7 kilometer north of the Monrovia .

The mass graves were discovered with the help of the youth human rights activist, Elijah D. Nyenpan and Mohammed B. Kallon. Both men work with a local human right group. They have been vocal on issues of rights abuses during and after the dictatorial rule of former president Taylor as they want him be handed over to face justice in Freetown .

The town of Weakama , until the arrival and subsequent deployment of the United Nations Peacekeeping troops was under the military control of the disbanded Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

It dislodged the fighters loyal to exiled former President Charles Taylor.

Sometimes now, international lobbying groups like Amnesty International, Global Witness among others accused ex-president Taylor of meddling in Liberia 's domestic politics contravening his status in Nigeria as was agreed upon in 2003 by African leaders.

The rights groups said that Taylor still has influence in Liberia 's body politics to the extend that he had regular contacts with his former officials, some of whom he financed during the general electoral process

FREETOWN, Jan. 23 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on Monday continued its week-long military exercise intended to provide reinforcement for the 250 Mongolian troops guarding the UN-backed special war crimes court in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The military exercise also intended to carry out possible rescue operation for the special court officials and the detainees.

UNMIL Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Thommy Goransson of Sweden told reporters during the exercise in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone that, "although the situation in Sierra Leone is well for now, the military can plan for the worst and therefore have to exercise."

The UN-backed court was set up three years ago to prosecute those considered principal perpetrators in the decade-long civil war in that country in which crimes against humanity were committed, including the chopping off of limbs of children.

Prominent among those indicted are former exile president of Liberia Charles Taylor and the former defense minister of Sierra Leone Hinga Norman. Two others, Foday Sakoh and Sam Bockarie of the RUF rebel group have since died while the whereabouts of Johnny Paul Kromah of the ousted military junta is yet to be established. Notwithstanding, the UN Security Council has mandated UNMIL to detain former president Taylor should he returned to Liberia. "We have the task to arrest Taylor when he goes to Liberia," UNMIL Chief of Staff Goransson said.

Norman is in custody and undergoing prosecution at the court. He is expected to testify Tuesday. The former Sierra Leonean defense minister led the Kamajors forces to reinforce government's fight against the RUF rebels. But his forces allegedly committed atrocities for which he stands accused of war crimes.

It is believed that both Taylor and Norman still command huge support for which it is cautioned that Norman's sympathizers or the possible future custody of Taylor could create a worst case scenario if their sympathizers choose to disrupt or attempt to free them by means of force.

"Sierra Leone is working ahead well and we do not foresee any problems. But as soldiers, we have to be prepared at all times," Goransson said.

A quick reaction force is training the UN Mission's ability to provide prompt and swift support with a Rapid Reaction Force to the Mongolian military guard force at the special court.

Under the exercise, terrains are being mapped out in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone through which personnel at the court and the detainees would be rescued via air, sea and land from to secured locations.

The court has three judges, a compound for the prosecutors, offices for the registrars and legal teams as well as a detention center where nine of the 11 indicted are being held.

The UN Security Council had authorized UNMIL to protect and provide the court with troops following the expiration of the UN Mission's mandate in Sierra Leone last December.

Sierra Leone is currently undergoing peace-building programs through the United Nations Integrated Office. But the west African state is yet to fully recover from the nearly ten years of civil war, thereby making it stable but fragile. Enditem

Cocorioko website

http://www.cocorioko.com/special__court

CHIEF HINGA NORMAN TO START HIS DEFENCE BEFORE SPECIAL COURT TODAY

Tuesday January 24, 2006

The former Coordinator of the Civil Defence Force (CDF), Chief Hinga Norman, is today expected to start his long-awaited defence before the UN-backed Special Court , which is trying him for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity . The Chief's defence had been delayed by legal contentions.

The whole Defence's case in the trial of the CDF indictees started last Thursday when the counsels for second accused Moinina Fofana and third accused Allieu Kondewa made opening statements outlining the defence they planned to put up before the Special Court. At the time, the Principal Defender , Vincent Nmehielle hailed the opening of the Defence case and described it as another landmark for the court and a milestone for international justice.

Norman was in court, but did not speak. He was not asked to make an opening statement. In fact, on Tuesday his co-lead counsel (Hall) asked to make an opening statement on behalf of Norman and permission was refused because Norman had already exercised his right under Rule 84 (June 15, 2004, pages 4-6 of the transcript, available online) and made his opening statement. Each party is allowed only one opening .

On Thursday , his other co-lead counsel (Dr. Jabbie) said he wanted to state for the record that Norman was being denied his rights under Rule 84 because of things that went on in court on 14-15 June 2004. The Presiding Judge (Boutet) corrected him, and said that Norman had already made his opening statement, and that was why he was not being allowed another one. Defence is allowed only opening statement during the trial.

On the matter of the AG, yesterday the court was prepared to hear oral arguments on whether a subpoena could be issued to the president to call him as a witness. There have already been written arguments tendered to the court. The Presiding Judge announced, however, that they had received a letter from the attorney-general saying that he would like to be heard in the case. This "intervention" was welcomed by both prosecution and defence, as well as by the bench. They adjourned this particular matter for a week.

While the legal contentions were going on in the court, the Spokesman of the CDF, Rev. Alfred SamForay issued an angry statement saying :

"I have just received an urgent call from Freetown from family members of the SC-SL indictees about systematic harassment at the detention Center over the past few days. Today family members were asked to take pictures for new id cards based on "orders from above". After the visits, the family members were asked to surrender these new id

cards back to the court security. We consider this a very serious matter and an infringement on the rights of the detainees and their families"

The Hinga Norman testimony was last week off to tomorrow because Counsel for Norman (Dr. Jabbie) said that Norman had only agreed in the last couple of days to give evidence, and that he had not told his legal team what he intended to testify about. Since that would make it difficult to lead him in evidence, Dr. Jabbie asked for a delay of one week. The court gave them until Tuesday, which is tomorrow.

Sierra Leone charges former rebel official with treason, plotting to overthrow government

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
Associated Press Writer
23 January 2006
16:10 GMT
Associated Press Newswires

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) -- Prosecutors on Monday charged a spokesman for Sierra Leone's former rebel group with treason and plotting to assassinate the vice president before seizing power himself.

Omrie Galley of the now-disbanded Revolutionary United Front rebels and two other men were arraigned on charges of treason and conspiracy in connection with an alleged scheme to kill Vice President Solomon Berewa as a prelude to a coup attempt.

The accused entered no plea Monday, but Galley told reporters while leaving the courthouse that he was not guilty. "I am a man of peace, fought for peace and will continue to fight for peace. I consider myself innocent," he said.

"I am going to face the charges alleged by the state authorities and by the Grace of God will come through a free man."

If convicted, the defendants face the death penalty.

Golley was a spokesman and top political leader for the dreaded rebel group, whose fighters infamously severed the limbs of their victims, terrorizing the country and killing tens of thousands of civilians during a decade-long war that began in 1991.

The rebellion was crushed by a combination of British troops, U.N. forces and soldiers from neighboring Guinea, and Sierra Leone has been mostly peaceful since.

A 17,000-strong U.N. mission, once the largest in the world, pulled out of the West African country in the final days of 2005.

Golley is believed to have been living in exile in London for the last few years, and returned to the country two weeks ago.

Sierra Leone charges ex-rebel official with treason

23 Jan 2006 17:17:36 GMT

Source: Reuters

FREETOWN, Jan 23 (Reuters) - A former Sierra Leonean rebel spokesman was charged on Monday with treason and planning to assassinate Vice-President Solomon Berewa.

Omrie Golley, a British-trained lawyer who headed the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group's peace and reconciliation council, appeared in court for the first time since being arrested 11 days earlier on suspicion of subversion.

The court was packed and heavily guarded by police, some armed with AK-47 rifles, as charges were read out accusing Golley and two others of planning to overthrow the government by unlawful means.

Justice Minister and Attorney General F.M. Carew asked for the case to adjourn until Jan. 30. No plea was taken.

"I was not involved in the alleged charge of treason, nor did I or any other person plan to assassinate the vice-president," Golley told Reuters afterwards.

"I have fought for peace," he added.

Golley's lawyer is Charles Margai, who belongs to one of Sierra Leone's leading dynasties and quit the ruling party after it named Berewa as candidate to succeed the president last year.

RUF fighters seized control of the country's diamond-mining areas during the decade-long war, in which 50,000 people were killed. The RUF became notorious for hacking off the limbs of women and children and enlisting thousands of child soldiers.

Golley is believed to have lived in London during the last few years but travelled back to Sierra Leone frequently. When he was arrested, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah made a special televised announcement to inform the nation.

The former British colony was once home to the U.N.'s biggest peacekeeping force, numbering more than 17,000 soldiers. Its mandate expired at the end of 2005.

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UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 23 Jan 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

USA Today 23 January 2006

Liberian leader wants closer relationship with U.S.

Rob Crilly

MONROVIA, Liberia -- Liberia's new president says she wants to rebuild close ties with the United States in the wake of a 14-year civil war that undermined the relationship. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, sworn in Jan. 16 as Africa's first female head of state, said American help is essential to restoring vital services, such as running water and power. She warned that tens of thousands of former fighters could destabilize the country again if they don't get work or education.

Malaysia welcomes election of Liberia' first female president

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Malaysia welcomes the election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as Liberia's new president and hopes she will bring peace and stability to the country, a senior official said Monday. Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar expressed his hope that the election of Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female elected head of state, would herald a new chapter in the history of democracy in Liberia and in Africa at large.

01/23/2006 11:34:25

Mano River Union peace conference opens in Monrovia

Monrovia_ (dpa) _ A three-day conference on peace consolidation in the Mano River Union states of **Liberia**, Guinea and Sierra Leone has opened in the Liberian capital Monrovia.

The New York Times, January 22, 2006

Where Political Clout Demands a Maternal Touch

By LYDIA POLGREEN and LARRY ROHTER

MONROVIA, Liberia IN almost every sense of the word, there is a vast distance between this impoverished West African country and prosperous, sophisticated Chile. But they share a legacy of bloodshed and oppression that color the politics of today. And in both countries last week, it became clear that voters had chosen female presidents not despite - but at least in part because of - their sex. For Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, an economist and banker who was inaugurated Monday and is the first woman elected president in Africa, and for Michelle Bachelet, a general's daughter who was elected as Chile's first female president, a key to victory was the power of maternal symbolism - the hope that a woman could best close wounds left on their societies by war and dictatorship.

01/23/2006 04:02:32

CRPF women head for Liberia

The Times of India via NewsEdge Corporation:

NEW DELHI: A 'Mahila Battalion' of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will

soon head for West Africa to conduct peacekeeping operations for the UN Mission in **Liberia** (UNIMIL).

International Clips on West Africa

U.N. chief sees more 'rough patches' in Ivory Coast

By Peter Murphy

ABIDJAN, Jan 23 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's ruling party said on Monday it was rejoining a United Nations-sponsored peace process, but U.N. chief Kofi Annan said more rough patches could be expected in efforts to reunite the war-divided country. President Laurent Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front party (FPI) had announced last week it was abandoning a U.N. peace plan after hundreds of Gbagbo supporters attacked U.N. bases, residences and staff to protest at what they called foreign meddling.

Sierra Leone charges ex-rebel official with treason

FREETOWN, Jan 23 (Reuters) - A former Sierra Leonean rebel spokesman was charged on Monday with treason and planning to assassinate Vice-President Solomon Berewa.

Local Media – Newspapers

President Johnson-Sirleaf to Deliver State of the Nation Address Today

(Daily Observer, New Democrat, Heritage and The Independent)

- In fulfillment of the constitution, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is expected today to address the national legislature on the state of the nation.

Côte d'Ivoire's Crisis Worries Liberian Leader

(New Democrat and Heritage)

- President Johnson-Sirleaf expressed fears that the current military crisis in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire could pose a major threat to peace and stability in Liberia, *Associated Press* reported.

UNMIL Reinforces Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire's Border

(New Democrat, Liberian Express)

- UNMIL has dispatched a special team to man the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border following renewed hostilities in the neighboring country, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss told journalists in Monrovia recently.

Johnson-Sirleaf Makes Additional Government Appointments

(The News, The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle New Democrat)

- President Johnson-Sirleaf over the weekend submitted to the national legislature for confirmation additional nominations for cabinet posts and other government positions.

UNMIL Force Commander Praises Departing Bangladeshi Peacekeepers

(The Inquirer)

- Addressing departing Bangladeshi peacekeepers at Camp Schiefflin recently, the UNMIL Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss, praised the peacekeepers for successfully completing their tour of duty in Liberia. He said the Bangladeshi peacekeepers had made a contribution to the just-ended democratic elections.

Liberia Council of Churches to Hold Regional Peace Conference

(The Analyst)

- Under the auspices of the Liberia Council of Churches and the Fellowship of Christian Churches in West Africa, 60 delegates from across Africa and the U.S. are converging on Monrovia to begin today a conference on the way forward in consolidating peace in the Mano River Basin.

Justice Minister Defends President on “Authorized Travel”

(The Inquirer)

- Justice Minister Kabineh Ja’neh yesterday clarified that the law requiring a Liberian head of state to seek legislative approval before embarking on foreign travel was effective up to 1972 when it was amended. The clarification followed contention by lawmakers recently that President Johnson-Sirleaf had left the country without their authorization.

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

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Pledges to Fulfill Campaign Promises

- In a meeting with a delegation of Liberians in the Americas and Europe, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that she was committed to fulfilling her campaign promises and asked her compatriots to sacrifice for Liberia’s development.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Addresses National Legislature Today

- The National Legislature Press and Public Affairs Bureau says President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will today address the National Legislature in keeping with the Constitution which requires the President to present the State of the Nation address on the fourth working Monday of January every year. The Bureau says the President’s address will focus on government’s legislative agenda.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Says Ivorian Crisis Threatens Regional Security

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has warned that the conflict in neighbouring Côte d’Ivoire is threatening the security of the West African sub-region. She said that the conflict must be resolved to guarantee peace and stability in the sub- region.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf Nominates Veteran Diplomat as Foreign Minister

- An Executive Mansion press release says President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has nominated Ambassador George Wallace as Foreign Minister-designate of Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Government Establishes Community Empowerment Agency

- Making remarks at a traditional ceremony in his honour, Vice President Joseph Boakai announced that the government has established the Community Empowerment Agency to implement community projects such as roads, clinics, bridges, and schools.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Vice President Joseph Boakai Urges Liberians to Work for Peace

- In a speech delivered on his behalf to citizens of Gormadai District of Lofa County, Vice President Joseph Boakai admonished Liberians to work for the attainment of genuine peace and stability adding Liberia will only develop when its citizens eschew their differences.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

International Conference on Regional Peace Begins in Monrovia Today

- According to a press statement, a three-day international conference to consolidate peace in the Mano River Union Basin will begin in Monrovia today under the auspices of the Liberian Council of Churches and the Fellowship of Christian Council of West Africa. The statement said that 60 delegates have come from Sierra Leone, Guinea, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya.

Police Arrest Man for Allegedly Beating Wife to Death in Ganta, Nimba County

- Police in Ganta, Nimba County on Saturday arrested a man identified as "Big-Boy" Kerkula for beating to death his wife, Gladys Williams, a Police source reportedly said.

Liberian Refugees Returned from Nigeria Yesterday

- According to reporters at Roberts International Airport, more than 100 Liberian refugees arrived home yesterday on a flight from Nigeria. The reporters said that 67 of the returnees are women.

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

European Union Funds the Construction of Preparatory School in Monrovia

- In an interview, Maretha International Preparatory School and Day Care Center Principal Mallah Ross said that she was thankful to the European Union and a French-based non-governmental organization, LINPICO for funding the construction of a new and spacious block of the school.

Special Investigation Team Finds Assistant Electoral Magistrate Liable

- The Special Investigation Team probing the Gbarpolu County Electoral fraud case charged National Elections Commission Assistant Magistrate Jacob Komah with tampering with public records, and exonerated suspended Magistrate Bornor Varmah who had been accused of committing the act.

Female Lawyers to Testify Against Rapists

- In a press statement, the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) says it will provide evidence against anyone accused of committing rape.

West African Civil Society Forum Wants More International Support to Liberia

- A press release said that the West African Civil Society Forum has called on the international community to increase its support to Liberia now that democracy and the rule of law have been restored. The group said that the country needs sustained financial and technical support.

University of Liberia Faculty Association Calls for Radical Change

- A press release issued in Monrovia Friday said that the University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA) calls for radical changes to make the University viable.

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.