

**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:**

Friday, 6 January 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
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# Contents

## **Sierra Leone Media**

As UNAMSIL Leaves, 150 Soldiers for Special Court  
*Evening Scoop* Pages 3-4

That APC -- Hinga Norman Meeting  
*Independent Observer* Page 5

## **International Media**

Irish Peacekeepers on Standby for Sierra Leone Mission  
*IOL* Page 6

UMMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 Jan. 2006  
*UNMIL* Pages 7-9

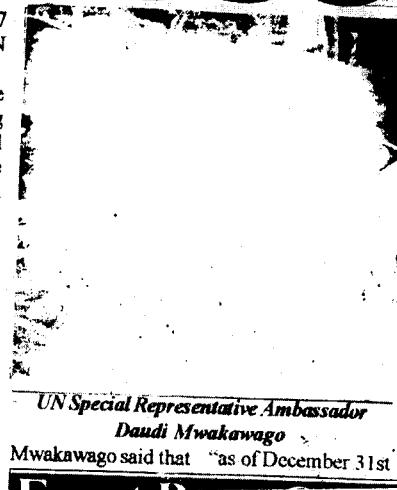
# AS UNAMSIL Leaves 150 SOLDIERS FOR SPECIAL COURT

**By Melvin Ferey**  
A company of Mongolian Soldiers together with some other 50 Irish Officers are set to replace Nigerian Soldiers guarding the Special Court. This Special

Force is part of United Nation's Mission in Liberia and will be responsible for the Security of the Special Court. Their mandate is to guard the Special Court at all cost as

provided by Chapter 7 powers of the UN Chapter.

Explaining this to the Press the outgoing UN Special Representative of the Special Court Ambassador Daudi



*UN Special Representative Ambassador  
Daudi Mwakawago*  
Mwakawago said that "as of December 31st

UNAMSIL handed the Security of the Special Court to UNMIL in Liberia".

Responding to a question about the activities of the Rapid Response Force, a force which was here early in December, the outgoing SRSG said the team was a surveillance team that came to assess the Security Situation in the country with a view to responding in the event of need.

*Contd. Back Page*

# 150 SOLDIERS FOR SPECIAL COURT

*From Front Page*  
"As UNAMSIL departs, UNIOSIL will not have any military capacity, it will be the end of UN's military components in Sierra Leone." Mwakawago disclosed. However, he added, there will

be a team of 10 military advisers whose responsibility is to advise the UN Representative and UNIOSIL.  
On questions about the Yenga border issue, the SRSG further disclosed that by mutual agreement between

the two governments of Sierra Leone and Guinea the situation is being resolved, noting that there is currently the demarcation of the original border between the two countries by officials of France and the United Kingdom.

## OBSERVER'S VOICE

That the leadership of the main opposition, the All People's Congress (APC) in the person of minority leader Ernest Bai Koroma and Secretary General Victor Foh, met with war crimes indictee and detainee Chief Sam Hinga Norman in his cell is indeed "another surreal happenstance" in the history of politics in Sierra Leone.

It is indeed surreal, considering the fact that the APC of old was associated with many negative things. With this visit to their former political foe, Ernest Koroma has shown that the "born-again" APC has a human face and is now ready to organize itself

## That APC - Hinga Norman Meeting *With this visit to their former political foe, Ernest Koroma has shown that the "born-again" APC has a human face and is now ready to organize itself decently*

decently. The APC leadership, by this initiative, has echoed President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's belief that politics is not about enmity with opponents but outwitting opponents with human touch and convincing ideas.

Or is the APC trying to reach out to the Norman faction in the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) now that the estranged Lawyer Charles Margai has sliced a large chunk of the youthful vote within that party. If this is the APC new strategy of winning votes, it is laudable because this organ believes in the politics of jaw-jawing than thuggery.

One of the interesting things about that meeting, as reported by the *Cocorioko Web*, is that Chief Norman "chided the opposition leaders for sitting by in Parliament while the Supreme Law of State [is] being violated by the government". This in itself is an indictment on both the government and the opposition. Chief Norman is pulling the wool in our eyes,

telling us that the SLPP should not be trusted with constitutionalities while the opposition is being bullied in Parliament by the SLPP's over two-third majority. He is also saying in plain language that the opposition needs to do more in the sphere of protesting citizens from a government that has little concern for the governed's basic rights.

That meeting also brings out, for the first time it seems, the APC's position on the detention of Chief Norman. For Mr. Koroma to promise the indictee of "bringing up the cause of the CDF with fellow parliamentarians" shows that the APC has some bones to pick with that is.

We believe that if politicians in the country can reach out to their opponents in distress or tragedy, in the case of Norman, the politics of thuggery, unfairness and enmity would be replaced by one of decency. One in which politicians would regard others as partners in nation building.

**IOL Breaking News** - *(printer friendly version)***PRINT PAGE****SIZE>** [small](#) | [medium](#) | [large](#)**CLOSE  
WINDOW****Irish peacekeepers on standby for Sierra Leone mission**

06/01/2006 - 07:38:57

Irish soldiers based in Liberia are reportedly on standby for a possible UN peacekeeping mission to neighbouring Sierra Leone.

Reports this morning said the Irish army had completed an assessment of the situation in the country and was now waiting for the go-ahead from United Nations headquarters in New York.

Between 90 and 120 Irish soldiers will reportedly be sent to Sierra Leone to provide security for a special court in Freetown set up to try people charged with war crimes during the country's 1991-2002 civil war.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 Jan 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Laura Bush, Condi Rice to attend Sirleaf's inauguration in Liberia**

WASHINGTON, Jan 4 (AFP) - US First Lady Laura Bush and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will represent the United States later this month at the inauguration of Liberia's president-elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the White House said Wednesday.

05/01/2006 09:26:16

#### **Fugitive arms dealer arrested on Czech charges**

Prague\_(dpa) \_ Police arrested Thursday a Czech businessman wanted since 2004 for allegedly brokering arms deals with terrorists in Iraq, including the Hamas movement. Dalibor Kopp was captured at the Brussels airport on an international warrant, said Blanka Kosinova of the Organized Crime Detection Section of the Czech police. Kopp, 43, was trying to return to the Czech Republic after living as a fugitive in Liberia for more than a year, Kosinova said.

#### **Chinese foreign minister to visit 6 African nations**

BEIJING, Jan 5, 2006 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will pay official visits to Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali, Liberia, Nigeria and Libya from January 11 to 19, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced at a regular press conference here Thursday.

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

#### **Annan seeks UN reinforcements for Ivory Coast**

By Irwin Arief

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 4 (Reuters) - The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast needs major reinforcements to cope with the volatile security situation there as the West African nation nears long-delayed elections, the United Nations said on Wednesday. The mission, which now stands at 6,891 soldiers and 697 international police, needs an additional 3,400 soldiers and 475 police officers, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his latest progress report on Ivory Coast to the Security Council.

NewsEdge, Conccord Times (Sierra Leone) 05/01/2006 04:01:54

#### **Gov't Lauded for Joining UN to Fight Corruption**

National Accountability Group (NAG) has praised the Sierra Leone government for being among the first 30 countries to join the United Nations (UN) fight against corruption after it signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a demonstration of goodwill and commitment to fighting corruption.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **U.S. First Lady to Attend Johnson-Sirleaf's Inauguration**

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

- American First Lady Laura Bush will lead a U.S. delegation, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to the 16 January inauguration of Africa's first elected female President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan told *Associated Press* yesterday.

### **Elections Commission to Hold By-Election in Rivercess County**

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

- National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris yesterday announced that a by-election for the House of Representative seat in Electoral District No. 1, Rivercess County will be held on 30 January. The NEC Board of Commissioners had disqualified the winner of the seat in the 11 October elections for fraudulently contesting.

### **Zambian Women's Organization Congratulates President-Elect**

*(Daily Observer)*

- In a congratulatory message, the Zambia National Women's Lobby said that Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's election as President of Liberia has opened the way for a new generation of African leaders.

### **House Speaker Must Command International Respect Says Johnson-Sirleaf**

*(New Vision)*

- Appearing on a Truth FM talk show recently, President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called for the election to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives someone who will command the respect of the international community.

### **Female Eyes Deputy Speaker Position**

*(The News)*

- Representative-elect of Electoral District No. 4, Nimba County, Nohn Kidau, has reportedly mounted an intensive campaign to become the first female Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### **A "No Money" Syndrome Threatens Inauguration**

*(The News)*

- Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Inaugural Committee Thomas Yaya Nimley said in Monrovia yesterday that the Finance Ministry was yet to service the budget for the inauguration with just two weeks left for the program.

### **University of Liberia to Graduate Over 1,000 Students**

*(New Vision)*

- The University of Liberia is expected this month to grant graduate and undergraduate degrees to over 1,000 students.

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

### **Transitional Team Sub-Committees Evaluated at Public Forum**

- Addressing an interactive forum to evaluate the work of the transition team yesterday, the Inaugural Committee said that it has reduced the proposed inaugural budget of US\$1.3 million to US\$889,000 in response to public outcry against the budget.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*



### **Supreme Court Rules on October Term Cases Today**

- A press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said that the Supreme Court will today rule on cases heard during the October term.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **Ghanaian President Advises Liberia's Legislators-Elect to Bond Together**

- Opening the week-long induction workshop in Ghana for Liberia's Legislators-elect, Ghanaian President John Kufuor on Tuesday advised legislators to bond together into an effective team to undertake the pressing task of national reconstruction. He said that their success will ensure the social and spiritual healing of the nation.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **Human Rights Groups to Sue Firestone Rubber Plantation Company**

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) Executive Director Augustine Toe said that the Foundation for International Dignity Liberia branch, Liberia Democracy Watch and the JPC, backed by the US-based Robert Kennedy Foundation, have completed arrangements to sue the Firestone Rubber Plantation for allegedly practicing slavery.  
(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

### **Elections Commission Says Campaign for Rivercess County Legislative By-Election Begins Today**

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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

#### **Magisterial Court Sentenced Murderer to Prison**

- The Magisterial Court said it had sentenced to prison 25-year old Lawrence Matadi for stabbing to death taxi driver Robert Mckai.

#### **Police Arraign 19-Year-Old Male for Sodomizing Boy**

- During a police investigation, 19-year old Abraham Kpoeh who had been accused of sodomizing a 9-year old boy on New Year's Day admitted committing the crime.

#### **Bomi County Embarks on Land Ownership Reform**

- At a news conference yesterday, Bomi County Land Commissioner Abraham Jones said that land owners in the county have been requested to produce their deeds and other documents to support their ownership of land in the county.

#### **Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission Calls for Peace and Reconciliation**

- At the closing session of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission annual conference, the Mission's Officer-in-Chief Muhammad Akram Baiwah called for peace, unity and reconciliation.

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

#### **Local Leader Laments Attacks on Villagers by Masked Men**

- Grand Cape Mount County Porkpa District Assistant Paramount Chief Brima Bass said that men wearing masks were attacking villagers near the border with Sierra Leone.

#### **Liberian United States Soldier Killed in Iraq**

- According to United States defense authorities, a Liberian serving with the U.S. Army has been killed in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

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).