

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Kevin Francis Maguire, legal advisor to the Registrar, leaves the Court today after being here since January 2005.

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 at:

Thursday, 20 July 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

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Awareness Times

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Sierra Leone joins to celebrate World Justice Day

A local human rights organisation, "Manifesto 99" has in partnership with a group called No Peace Without Justice held a conference to commemorate this year's World Justice Day, which is also referred to as, the International Day of Justice, yesterday, 17th July 2006, at the British Council Hall in Freetown.

This same date marked the eightieth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in establishing the International Criminal Court.

In his speech, the Executive Director of the Manifesto 99, of Mr. Abdul Rahim Kamra, noted that this day has been celebrated yearly and nationwide though it has not been official stated. According to him, there is need to restructure the justice system as there are so many problems within the entire g system.

According to Mr. Kamara there is an advocacy campaign on the Rome Statute on criminal justice which will be on Radio discussions, TV programmes this, according to him is been organised to raise awareness about the implementation of this statutes.

"This universal ratification of the Rome statute is done in order to deal with law breakers who thoughts after committing crimes will go free without facing justice," he said. Adding that only few countries like the United States of America (USA), are left to ratify this day.

"The commemoration of this day in Sierra Leone is to raise public awareness or send signals to the world that Sierra Leone stands by the rule of law," he said.

According to the representative from the Special Court, international tribunals likes Special Court are been set up to deal with people who have committed crimes against humanity.

Another Contributor, Brigadier Nelson Wilson noted in that crimes against the economy is another threat to countries while urging government to see to it that justice prevails in the economy of the state. He however blamed the justice sector for not given much attention to the celebrations of the World Justice Day symposium, which he referred to as "injustice to justice day."

He further noted that the Sierra Leone is the 20th country to ratify the World Justice Day but that the government including the Minister of Justice and all stakeholders in the justice sector have not given the required attention in the observance of such a big occasion.

Xinhua

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

U.S. renews order on freezing assets of former Liberian leader

U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday extended an order on freezing the U.S. assets of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.

Taylor's family and regime fellows are also subject to the order, which is due to expire on Saturday and was renewed by Bush because "the actions and policies of these persons continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States," the White House said in a statement.

Although Taylor is in the custody, Liberia's stability is "fragile," said the statement, noting he and his followers have left "a legacy of destruction that still has the potential to undermine Liberia's transformations and recovery."

Taylor was forced to exile in 2003 and is now jailed in The Hague, waiting for a trial for war crimes. He was accused of supplying arms to Sierra Leone's rebels who forced drugged children to fight and cut off people's limbs.

Source: Xinhua

Patriotic Vanguard

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

Hinga Norman Loyalist Blasts Kofi Annan

Reverend Alfred SamForay of Indiana, USA, is well known for his steadfast and unflinching loyalty to war crimes indictee and former CDF leader Samuel Hinga Norman.

He has written numerous commentaries on the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the ongoing trials and the Sierra Leone government



In his latest commentary Reverend Sam Foray bitterly responds to remarks made by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Freetown recently. He also announced the death of the spouse of another indictee, Alieu Kondewa.

Commentary

What Was Kofi Annan Thinking?

By Alfred Munda SamForay

As a right thinking Sierra Leonean, I am greatly revolted by the recent speech to the so-called special court for Sierra Leone by the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan during his recent visit to Freetown. Firstly, I am appalled by the level of ignorance of the operations of the court as indicated by the Secretary General's speech and commendation of the staff. If, as the Secretary General states, that he was involved from the beginning, when the idea of setting up the so-called special court was just an idea, then there is reason to believe that Mr. Annan is either not entirely knowledgeable or fully honest about what a fiasco his idea has become in Sierra Leone.

I am particularly dismayed by Mr. Annan's statement that this is a court, and I quote: "that is putting on trial criminals who have done lots of damage to this country, criminals who have terrorized the population and destroyed the economy and the social fabric of this country that we are now all trying to put together." Never in the history of international diplomacy has a Secretary General of the United Nations being so recklessly unrepresentative of the high honors commensurate with his high office.

Indeed, Mr. Annan's statement referring to indicted persons as criminals is legally unethical, uncharacteristically stupefying and diplomatically impolite. The laws of international jurisprudence and diplomatic courtesy dictate that all persons accused of crimes are held innocent until they are judged to be otherwise. Certainly, Mr. Annan knows that common sense and the respect of his high office require that he retain his personal opinions and lack of understanding of international jurisprudence to himself. His comments are neither helpful to the cause of justice nor the process of peace and reconciliation for which Sierra Leoneans have shed blood, sweat and tears and are presently still suffering.

Furthermore, it is grossly disingenuous for the Secretary General to lecture the people of Sierra Leone on international criminal behavior. After all, the sons of both Mr. Annan and Mr. Kabbah

are or have at various times and places been involved in highly questionable if not international criminal activities. In the case of the Secretary General, we are all painfully familiar with his son, Kojo Annan's participation in unethical and possibly illegal activities in the oil-for-food program in Iraq. In the case of Mr. Kabbah, his son's leadership of tri-continental drug smuggling into the United States and his subsequent arrest and detention by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency are well known to the international community.

The international tax payers who pay for the operations of the United Nations are also painfully aware that Mr. Annan has presided over unarguably the most corrupt administration in UN history. So since when did either Mr. Annan or Mr. Kabbah become arbiters of international jurisprudence when their own children have been allowed to escape international justice with abject impunity? Indeed, it is obvious from the report of the investigations into the Iraq oil-for-food program by former United States Federal Reserve Chairman, Paul Vocker, that Mr. Annan "had more knowledge of, or was closer to, his son Kojo's activities with Cotecna - the company whose role in the scandal seems so pervasive - than previously thought". In effect, Mr. Annan in all likelihood misled the international community about his knowledge of his son's activities.

With respect to Mr. Kabbah who negotiated for the establishment of the so-called special court, his family and government's involvement in questionable arms deals during the war including the so-called arms for Africa are well noted. Furthermore, during his visit to Freetown, the Secretary General appeared to ignore the fact that his court allowed the real culprits of the atrocities in the Sierra Leone war to escape justice including RUF leaders, Foday Sankoh and Sam Bockarie and AFRC junta leader, Johnny Paul Koroma. Mr. Annan also failed to recognize that the court has so far failed to enforce its own rules of evidence in requiring Mr. Kabbah to appear as a witness for the defence as required by the statutes of the court.

I would hope that the UN Secretary General's Special Representative to Sierra Leone will use his good offices to inform and advise the honorable Secretary General that his comments in Sierra Leone were rude, inconsiderate, ill-advised, legally unethical and generally speaking not in the overall interest of international justice and the welfare of our people.

ON A RELATED MATTER

It has been over two months since the Registrar of the so-called special court for Sierra Leone was petitioned by Counsel for Chief Hinga Norman as well as the family of the ailing chief for permission to leave the country for urgent medical treatment abroad. Since the refusal of Ghana to accept Chief Norman, the Registrar has yet to come up with an alternative solution to this very nagging problem. One would have hoped that with the CDF trial on recess until September that the court will find it within its humanitarian corridors to permit Mr. Norman to go abroad for medical treatment with the hope of returning to Sierra Leone in time to conclude his trial in September. This, however, has not happened. Instead, the court is regrettably paranoid about Mr. Norman not returning to Sierra Leone if he were to travel abroad as if Chief Norman has ever given anybody any notion that he had any desire to live in anyone else's country besides his own. But somehow this silly notion has taken precedence over Mr. Norman's health and welfare.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

While on the subject of humanitarian matters, we regret to announce the death of Mrs. Sallay Kondewa which sad event took place at Mbaoma, Bumpe Ngao Chiefdom, Bo District on Monday 10 July 2006. Mrs. Kondewa was a driving force behind the Kamajor Movement in the Southern Region and in particularly Bonthe District. She was preceded in death by her son,

Mohamed Kondewa, a Kamajor Field Commander extraordinary who fought valiantly and scored many victories against the AFRC / RUF rebels in Bonthe District until he was ambushed and slaughtered by the rebels.

May the souls of mother and son be forever united in perpetual peace. They fought a good fight and never lived to enjoy the freedom and peace for which in the case of Commander Kondewa, he paid the ultimate sacrifice. In the case of Sallay Kondewa, it can be said that she survived the war and succumbed to the turmoils of peace. We are sadly informed that the detention authorities have no plans to allow Dr. Kondewa to bury his wife. The rites of Islamic burial have also been deferred indefinitely due to Kondewa's imprisonment and the lack of family resources.

Photo: Kofi Annan at the Special Court premises in Freetown.

The Inquirer (Monrovia)

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

Former ATU, Soldiers to Get Pay

By Staff Reporters

In order to focus on development programs, the Liberian Government yesterday offered to provide US\$286,403.00, finally resolving the outstanding payment issues with the 3,000 Anti-Terrorists Unit (ATU) officers; 400 soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL); and 175 AFL widows.

Of the amount, US\$150,000 is for the 3,000 ATU, while the 400 AFL soldiers will get six months pay to help them resettle. The 175 AFL widows will get US\$61,403. Unlike the ATU and AFL soldiers whose payments begin this week, the widows' payment will start upon the passing of the fiscal budget.

According to the Defense Minister, Brownell J. Samukai, Jr, the government made these offers on humanitarian ground, adding, "we have to move ahead with development programs."

Minister Samukai praised the leaderships of the ATU and the AFL soldiers for the level of maturity they exhibited through the negotiation process.

"We are highly grateful for their understanding and commitment and hope they never press further to make claims against the government," he said.

The 400 AFL soldiers were demanding severance pay from the government on grounds that they were out of the country during the re-documentation, but the relevant institutions, including UNMIL and the United States Government said the process was over.

For the ATU, they were denied pay on grounds that they were privates of former President, Charles G. Taylor.

However, these matters have been resolved, according to Minister Samukai, "for the sake of peace, stability and development."

Meanwhile, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Monday, July 24, 2006, will honor several members of the former Armed Forces of Liberia who were recently retired honorably.

According to Defense Minister Samukai, the honoring program is in recognition of former soldiers' selfless services rendered to their nation. The event will be the first of its kind since Liberia became an independent nation on July 26 1847.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday, Minister Samukai said the participants of the honoring ceremony are all retired officers and soldiers of the former AFL. This includes those who recently

retired and those who served and were honorably retired but were not honored due to the situation in the country.

He said the venue for the parade; award of medals/certificates and the pullout ceremony will be at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia. Reception for officers and soldiers will take place at the YMCA in Monrovia and ATS respectively.

The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

UNCIVPOL Replaces UNMIL Gradually

They flew in combat-ready when Africa's oldest republic and often thought democratic and stable nation state went berserk. In other words they came to Liberia to stop widespread killings, property destruction, and to help Liberians once again rediscover their humanity, reconcile, and build a vibrant nation of opportunities for all. They were ECOMIL before changing mandate to become UNMIL. Few months later, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) flew in the paramilitary wing of the force named "UNCIVPOL", with mandate to handle non-combative duties and to help restructure the nation's paramilitary forces include the police. The roles of the two components of the UN Military Mission to Liberia have helped Liberia's rebuilding process, though perceptions on the level of success remain controversial. But now a new UN order is reversing the process: UNMIL will be downsized in the same proportion as UNCIVPOL is upsized. "But what advices such decision when the UN itself agrees that security continues to remain 'fragile'?" is the question many are asking. The Analyst Staff Writer has been looking at the resolution announcing the swapping (or supplanting?) of forces and how ordinary Liberians, analysts, and observers receive the announcement.

The Security Council of the United Nations (UNSC) has unanimously adopted Resolution 1694 (2006), authorizing the downsizing of UNMIL by 125 men and the upsizing of UNCIVPOL by the same number.

The determination was made, July 13, 2006, in New York during a meeting that lasted barely five minutes beginning 3:15 p.m. and adjourning at 3:20 p.m.

The resolution gave no details regarding which contingent of UNMIL would be reduced and which country would contribute the men that are expected to beef up UNCIVPOL.

It however states: "Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, [the UNSC] decides to increase the authorized size of UNMIL's civilian police component by 125, and to decrease the authorized size of UNMIL's military component by 125, from the current authorized levels. [It] decides to remain actively seized of the matter." The UNSC may remain "actively seized of the matter", but observers say Resolution 1694 (2006) has raised more fundamental questions than it provides answers to the numerous questions that had been bugging the minds of conscientious Liberians.

For instance, they say, it is not clear where the newest resolution leaves recent announcement from New York that UNMIL would be reduced by a battalion periodically until its size becomes relevant to the current security needs of Liberia and on par with the falling insecurity index in the ECOWAS subregion.

Resolution 1694 (2006) however notes that the decision is advised by recent reports of the Secretary-General of 14 March 2006 that recommended changes to the configuration of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in view of the completion by the mission of a number of tasks.

The decision, though, swept aside the UN determination in Resolution 1694 (2006) that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Currently, the strength of UNMIL stands at over 15,000, the largest ever in sub-Saharan Africa while that of UNCIVPOL stands at 1,115 officers and patrolmen. Some accounts say the officers in UNCIVPOL outnumber the patrolmen, suggesting that the force many not have been dispatched here to fight crimes and chase criminals underground even though that is what ordinary Liberians and even top-level officials of the Sirleaf Administration expect from the force.

Even though the UNSC acknowledged on many occasions that the security of Liberia remains largely improved using the resettlement of internally displaced persons as measuring rod, it recommended continued reductions in the military component of UNMIL as suggested by the secretary general's report.

Some say such apparently contradictory decisions by the UNSC may stem from falling support to UNMIL as indicated recently at the partnership meeting held in Monrovia, but analysts say funding problem is unlikely to be the case since the UNMIL slice is ordered to be replaced by equal number of UNCIVPOL officers.

But could it be confidence in the security of Liberia even after Mr. Annan told the world that the security situation in Liberia remains fragile, citing the threat of unrest amongst several disaffected groups, including disgruntled demobilized personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia, deactivated members of the Special Security Service and Liberian National Police (LNP)?

One explanation, according to one former commander of Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Col. Gabriel M. Forkpa, is that even though threats of insecurity still exist in Liberia to proportions that the international community is aware of, there is general agreement amongst stakeholders that the situation is unlikely to return to the levels of March to September 2003 or even earlier.

While Col. Forkpa may make a lot of sense, according to one observer, the security situation in the country remains too volatile for such confidence.

"When you have thousands of previously demobilized ex-combatants returning to the bushes and taking over the rubber industry and earning thousands of untracked hard currencies in rubber revenues even under the guardian of UNMIL, what does anyone expects to have when a downsized UNMIL is forced to look up to UNCIVPOL to handle the volatile, explosive pockets in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba, Sinoe, and Maryland counties?" wondered schoolteacher Bailey W. Pyne of Clara Town.

UNCIVPOL came to Liberia as an auxiliary civil component of UNMIL charged primarily with the restructuring and training of the police and other paramilitary forces as well as handling non-combative duties including civilian riots, street demonstrations, and uprising of any sort.

Initially, the civilian formed police met the challenges of upsurge in such civil discontentment as students, teachers, and ex-combatants pressed various demands upon the transitional administration of Chairman Gyude Bryant.

But what baffled residents and observers and brought the function of the force into question occurred when the force withdrew into its shell as deactivated and demobilized members of the

former rebels and government militia forces reverted to full-time criminal activities in the communities and major streets in large urban centers across the country.

UNCIVPOL undertook the restructuring and training of new recruits for the Liberian National Police (LNP) and with several hundreds of those trained deployed to assist UNMIL in keeping track of and preventing crimes, but not only is the worthwhile effort not paying off as ordinary Liberians had hoped, there are growing suspicions that the new police may be unable to take complete charge of security.

According to the suspicions, combat activities may be absent in Liberia for well over two years, but that suggests in no way that Liberia can be manned solely by civilian police without the help of its own armed forces.

UNMIL, by its own mandate, is in charge of Liberia's security, but legal procedures regarding the requirements of the criminal justice system, according to UNMIL sources, has prevented it and UNCIVPOL from meeting head on individuals who, through the commission of crimes against the war-weary population, have decided to put stumbling blocks in the way of the smooth return to peace, reconciliation, and stability.

With UNMIL and UNCIVPOL restrained by law and practice from hunting and bringing criminals to book even though they are the only ones authorized under the UN Arms Embargo on Liberia to carry the full range of arms necessary for civil defence pending the completion of the restructuring exercise of the Liberia's security forces, there are fears that the crime picture will worsen further under the new military configuration.

This brings back the question of whether the units currently deployed by UNCIVPOL will handle the current crime caseload.

The newly trained police and men of the Special Security Service have been allowed to carry light arms, beginning a week ago, thanks to the partial lifting of UN Arms Embargo on Liberia.

Secretary General Dr. Kofi Annan clarified recently that the fear that police may not be able to handle the crime caseload could be unfounded because they would not be left unaccompanied by UNMIL.

But how the new situation will differ with what has been happening between deployed LNP recruits and UNCIVPOL/UNMIL is another question that observers say needs to be studied.

But according to Dr. Annan, the increase of the police component of UNMIL is not only intended help it respond adequately to crimes and threats, but also to provide an opportunity for the Liberian Police Support Unit to gain father practical experience "to eventually take over those responsibilities from UNMIL".

Observers say while that explanation allays the fears of many, it brings to the fore its own questions about whether the mandate of the beefed up UNCIVPOL will be adjusted to remove those blocks that have limited its function to putting down street riots and training recruits.

BBC Online

Thursday, 20 July 2006

Uganda refuses rebels a ceasefire

Ugandan government negotiators at peace talks in Sudan have refused to sign a ceasefire agreement with the the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels.

The government delegation left the talks early on Tuesday, saying the rest of the agenda must be dealt with first.

But the LRA accuse the government of putting obstacles in the way of a deal and insist a ceasefire should be first.

The discussions talking place in southern Sudan are considered north Uganda's best chance of peace in years.

Despite these differences, the talks in Juba are expected to resume shortly.

The head of Uganda's delegation, Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, told reporters that the LRA have used past ceasefires to recruit, reorganise, treat their sick and loot food.

"While we also want a cessation of hostilities, we think it should come after everything else has been concluded," he said.

The government wants rebel fighters to first gather in specific locations to disarm and be registered before a ceasefire is signed.

The BBC's Caroline Karobia in Juba says the rebels say they have never signed formal ceasefire agreements and the government is putting obstacles in the way of peace.

"We want to reach a conclusive peace agreement as soon as possible," LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme.

Our correspondent says the LRA want to have safe ceasefire zones where their fighters will be able to move without being arrested.

The talks got off to an uneasy start on Friday, with the top rebel leadership refusing to attend, despite assurances of an amnesty from the government.

The LRA have been blamed for thousands of deaths and abductions - many of children - and for maiming civilians in a 20-year campaign of terror.



The LRA has wreaked terror on northern Ugandan civilians for years

“
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”
Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana
Rugunda

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 19 July 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

US freeze on assets of ex Liberia leader Taylor extended

WASHINGTON, July 18, 2006 (AFP) - US President George W. Bush renewed on Tuesday a two-year-old executive order freezing the US assets of former Liberian president Charles Taylor and members of his regime and family. "Because the actions and policies of these persons continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on July 22, 2004, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond July 22, 2006," the Bush order said, according to a copy provided by the White House.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast's largest city shut down by pro-government militants

By FRANZ WILD

Source: AP Alert – Business Date: July 19, 2006

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast- Hard-line supporters of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo blocked major routes in the country's largest city Wednesday and stopped people from going to work in a protest over an identification program that they say could lead to unfair elections. It was unclear how many people were involved in the "operation dead city," though United Nations officials said they saw clusters of the Young Patriots group throughout downtown Abidjan. The U.N. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to press.

Local Media – Newspapers

Lawmakers Demand Performance Report from Recast Budget

(The News, The Inquirer and The Analyst)

- The House of Representatives on Tuesday tabled deliberations on the draft 2006/2007 fiscal budget, demanding the Executive Branch of Government to submit a performance report on how the recast budget covering the period of January 16 to June 30 2006 was expended.

Government to Settle Arrears of Ex-Anti-Terrorist Unit and AFL Soldiers

(The Inquirer)

- The Liberian government on Tuesday offered to provide more than US\$286,000 to settle outstanding payment for 3,000 officers of Mr. Charles Taylor's elite presidential guard, Anti Terrorist Unit. The amount will also settle payment for 400 soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and 175 widows of fallen AFL soldiers.

Taylor's Lawyer Contract Extended for Three Months

(The Inquirer and The Informer)

- Addressing journalists on Monday, the Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Peter Andersen, said that Karim Khan, the lawyer who is defending former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has had his contract extended for another three months.

Student Group Expresses Anger over Continuous Travel Ban

(The Inquirer, The Analyst and National Chronicle)

- A Liberia student organization, Student Mass Action, has expressed disdain over the continuous maintenance of the travel ban placed on several Liberians by the United Nations Security Council. The group said the ban is unquestionably overdue and that the conditions which necessitated its imposition no longer exist.

Criminal Court "A" Releases 11 Suspected Rapists

(Daily Observer)

- The Criminal Court "A" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia on Tuesday ordered the release of 11 rape suspects for the failure of the State to prosecute them beyond the statutory period. The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC), in collaboration with a local law firm, filed a motion seeking their release.

Labour Minister Returns US\$4,986 in Government's Account

(The News and Daily Observer)

- Labour Minister Samuel Kofi Woods has deposited the amount of US\$4,986 as a balance of US\$5,758 that was provided him by the government as per diem to travel to Geneva, Switzerland to attend the 195th conference of the International Labour Organization. Deputy Labour Minister for Administration, John Josiah, told journalists Tuesday that Minister Woods exercised honesty by returning the unused amount into government's account. He called on other government officials to emulate the good example of Mr. Woods.

Government Begins Emergency Employment Today

(Daily Observer, New Liberia)

- Deputy Labor Minister for Administration, John Josiah, told journalists Tuesday that the first batch of workers under the Liberia Emergency Employment Program are to be employed at the Ministry of Public Works and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation today.

UNMIL Boss Wants Donors Implement Development Programs on Liberia

(National Chronicle)

- Speaking at the donor conference on Liberia recently, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss urged representatives of donor countries and organizations to take stock of their development plans for Liberia and implement their programmes for the benefit of Liberians.

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

U.S. President Renews Executive Order to Freeze Taylor's Assets

- U.S. President George W. Bush has renewed an executive order freezing the U.S. assets of former President Charles Taylor, his family members and close associates, a statement said in Washington yesterday. President Bush said that the actions and policies of Mr. Taylor continue to pose unusual and extraordinary threat to U.S. foreign policy.
- He maintained that though Mr. Taylor was in The Hague facing war crimes charges, he still has the potential to undermine Liberia's transformation and recovery, adding that peace and stability in Liberia are still fragile.

Criminal Court Orders Release of Alleged Rapists

(Also reported on Star Radio)

Executive Submits Draft Bills to National Legislature

- The Executive Mansion yesterday submitted three draft Acts—the Approval of Budgetary Transfer, The Revenue and Forestry Concession--to the House of Representatives for passage into law. The House plenary session has already forwarded the Draft Bills to the various statutory and standing committees for review

(Also reported on Star Radio)

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.