

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



The Special Court complex, from the Youyi Building.

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:

Tuesday, 22 August 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times (online)

Monday, 21 August 2006

CIVIL SOCIETY TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF RECONCILIATION IN SIERRA LEONE

By Abu Bakarr Munu

Aug 21, 2006, 14:15

Forum of Conscience (FOC) a local NGO and the Civil Society Monitoring Task Force of National Victims Commemoration Conference of the Special Court and other civil society groups will tomorrow convene a round table discussion at the British Council Hall in Freetown to, among other issues, evaluate the reconciliation process in Sierra Leone.

Speaking to Awareness Times over the weekend, FOC's Executive Director, John Caulker disclosed that the aim of the meeting is to assess the achievements that have been made in the area of reconciliation as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Victims Commemoration Conference.

"The gathering also aims at developing a civil society plan of action on the way forward for the implementation of the Special Fund for War Victims in Sierra Leone," John Caulker explained.

Tomorrow's discussion comes exactly one year and ten months after the submission of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to his Excellency the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and also one year and five months after the War Victims Commemoration Conference was organized by the Outreach Section of the Special Court in collaboration with civil society organizations in Sierra Leone.

The Lawyer.com

Tuesday, 22 August 2006

<http://www.thelawyer.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=121558&d=122&h=24&f=46>

Weil wins battle for war crime witnesses' anonymity



New York-based firm Weil Gotshal & Manges has submitted a successful *amicus curiae* brief defending the safety of war crime witnesses and their families.

Drafted on behalf of pro bono client Human Rights Watch, the brief sought to protect the right of a human rights observer not to reveal their sources for fear of reprisals against those sources or their families.

The brief was submitted in December 2005 in an ongoing trial of three soldiers of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council for war crimes. The matter began last year and is being heard in the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Following submission of the brief, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court reversed an earlier decision of the Trial Chamber and adopted the position advocated by Human Rights Watch and Weil.

Justice Geoffrey Robertson QC ruled in Weil's favour, concluding that, in appropriate circumstances, human rights monitors have a privilege to refuse to name their sources when giving evidence.

The successful brief was drafted in Weil Gotshal's London office, but was the product of a joint initiative with the firm's New York office and Sara Darehshori and Elise Kepler in the International Justice Programme of Human Rights Watch.

Weil's London team was led by restructuring partner Dominic McCahill and Michael Jones, head of the firm's London global dispute resolution group and chair of the London Pro Bono Committee.

Jones said Weil took on the brief after Human Rights Watch, which is based in New York, had contacted Weil's office there.

The London team oversaw the international and European aspects of the brief, while the New York team, led by business and securities litigation partner Rick Levine, assisted with US precedents concerning the rights of journalists and informants.

Jones said: "The right of human rights experts to protect their sources is an important point in trials of this kind. Very often the groups that committed the crimes are still out there and repercussions could be taken against informants or potential witnesses.

"Human Rights Watch has very highly trained observers in the field, and it's vitally important for the world outside to know about arenas such as Sierra Leone and the former Yugoslavia and what exactly was going on. If investigators are inhibited, then the world will never know."

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 21 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the major international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Monday, 21 August 2006, 07:30 GM

Sierra Leoneans given Aus asylum

Sierra Leone has reacted angrily to Australia's decision to grant visas to 10 athletes who absconded during the Commonwealth Games in March. The 10 members of the Sierra Leonean team have been recognized as refugees, and granted permanent protection visas. The Australian government is still considering asylum applications from another four team members. Sierra Leonean Information Minister Septimus Kaikai described the move as exploitation of his country. "This does not bode well for competition at any level at all," he said.

Local Media – Newspapers

Advocacy Group Warns Government of an Impending Rice Riot

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Monitor, Liberian Express, Public Agenda and The Bilingual)

- An advocacy group, the Patriotic Consciousness Association of Liberia (PACA), over the weekend warned of an "impending chaotic consequences" resulting from a decision by the Government to control the free market policy governing the importation of Liberia's staple food, rice.
- PACA claimed that the government's announcement that the Bridgeway Corporation headed by a Lebanese merchant, George Haddad, has lost the rice importation bid to a company "handpicked" by the Commerce Ministry is "politically motivated" and borders on "vindictiveness."
- The group said that it would be compelled to institute a prohibition against the Government if it fails to reverse its decision to allow the Bridgeway Corporation to import rice in line with the practice of a free market system.

Supreme Court Clears Kabineh Ja'neh

(The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Public Agenda, Heritage and National Chronicle)

- In its ruling on 18 August, the Supreme Court of Liberia dismissed a Writ of Prohibition filed by human rights and pro-democracy groups against Associate Justice-designate, Kabineh Ja'neh, to block his confirmation and induction to the Supreme Court Bench.
- The groups had accused Mr. Ja'neh of having "bad human rights records" which they said rendered him "ineligible" to occupy the high profile legal post, but the Court said that the groups failed to support their arguments.

American Secret Service Personnel Return to Protect President Sirleaf

(The News)

- [sic:] There are reports that eight Secret Service personnel from the United States have returned to Liberia to provide protection for President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.
- The American Secret Service had provided protection to the Liberian presidency after the inauguration of President Johnson-Sirleaf. The Americans departed the country two months ago for reasons unknown to the public.

Liberian Government Approves Anti-Corruption Measures

(The Analyst and Heritage)

- The Liberian Government has approved the concept of establishing a National Anti-Corruption Agency with wide ranging investigative and prosecutorial powers.
- According to the Government, the Agency will buttress President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's initiative to tackle corruption.

UNMIL Takes Sanitation Project to Slum Community

(The Analyst and Heritage)

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has embarked on a health and sanitation project in the densely populated slum community of Soniwein in Monrovia. The project is aimed at making the Soniwein Community more suitable for human habitation. According to Andrea Tamagnini, Director of the Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Recovery Program at UNMIL, the initiative is part of US\$1 million project proposed by UNMIL to support Liberia's reconstruction process.

No Finds in Weapons Search at Ex-Rebel General's Residence

(New Democrat)

- [sic:] A weapons search at the home of Mr. Edward Gbulon, an ex-LURD general on Friday ended without any finds, although all the evidence on the scene suggested weapons were buried but had been moved. After digging the ditch where informers said the weapons were buried, plastic coverings were discovered along with wooden frames, which meant some items, most likely weapons, were once in the hole.

President Johnson-Sirleaf Declares Monrovia "Unsafe"

(Plain Truth)

- [sic:] In a rather rasping tone, highly uncharacteristic of the Iron Lady that we know, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf recently put up a fighting spirit, though fickle in structure and force, to warn suspected agent provocateurs and armed robbers that the Government is aware of the holding of secret meetings and the presence of guns throughout the city.
- [sic:] But in bashing such evil plan on the airwaves with dexterity and precision, the President has inadvertently lend credence to a widely publicized U.S. State Department report that Monrovia or Liberia is threading a rather dangerous path and therefore is unsafe.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

U.S. Secret Service Officers Return to Protect President Johnson-Sirleaf

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

House of Representatives Speaker Hospitalized for Chronic Malaria

- Correspondents said that House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe was over the weekend rushed to a Catholic-run hospital for chronic malaria and gastrointestinal infection.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Police Anti-Drugs Section Chief Wants Stronger Drugs Laws

- Speaking to journalists after arresting some 58 suspected drug users recently, Liberian National Police Deputy Inspector Umbra Harmon called for amendments to strengthen laws against the use of drugs because arrested drug users often return to the streets on bail. He added that as long as drug trafficking remains available, criminals would continue the act. Mr. Harmon suggested the need for correctional facilities to embark on programs to make inmates productive.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberian Specialist Says Security Sector Not Being Reformed Well

- The Chairman of the Liberia Social Justice Foundation, Dr. Edwin Zoedua thought Liberia's security sector was far from being reformed because security officers needed to be adequately trained to eventually takeover from UNMIL.
- Dr. Zoedua told journalists over the weekend that it was disturbing that crimes such as armed robbery, rape and drug trafficking were on the increase.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Ghana to Assist Develop Tourism Industry of Liberia

- Ghanaian Ambassador Maj./Gen. Francis Adu-Amahfoh over the weekend pledged Ghana's support in the building of the tourism industry of Liberia, stressing that Ghanaians were prepared to share experience in the sector. He noted that tourism could become a major revenue earner which could help to alleviate poverty in the country.

(Also reported on ELBS and 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 armahji@un.org.