

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



Painting flagpoles at the Special Court

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:

Wednesday, 23 August 2006

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

Local NewsReflections on the TRC Report / *Salone Times*

Page 3

International NewsUNMIL Public Information Media Summary / *UNMIL*

Pages 4-7

Prisoner Joseph Serugendo Dies / *ICTR Press Release*

Page 8

Guinea: Security Forces Torture, Kill With Impunity / *HRW Press Release*

Pages 9-10

Salone Times
 Wednesday, 23 August 2006
 Opinion

Wednesday August 23rd 2006

SALONE TIMES

Page 8

MEN AND THINGS

By Joe Tokpin

REFLECTIONS ON THE TRC REPORT

All those who are not interested in the contents of the TRC Report are not interested in peace. Castigations? No. We have to know the true causes of the war, its process and recommendations. This is the only way of assuring that it does not recur. If it recurs, all the legacies you plan to leave with your children may be imperilled.

DISSEMINATION OF THE REPORT

The Commission called for the propagation of the Report in the widest possible way and for the education of the public with popular versions and its use on the Internet. How is the media responding to this request? In particular the electronic media does not seem to have made up its mind to address this issue of dissemination in a programmed way. Perhaps it is because of the size of the volumes and how to glean relevant information from them. The Commission also called for debates and dialogue of the Report because they knew as human beings they were not capable of producing a perfect report. The print media has also on the whole left the Report to disseminate itself aside from reproduction of excerpts by Standard Times and highlights from this column.

The Commission recommends that the contents of the

Report be incorporated into the education programmes in all schools from primary to tertiary level. The children's version of the Report can be used as a tool of education at the primary school level, the Commission recommends.

The Commission encourages the production of popular versions and summaries of its Report. We can only hope that the recommendations of the Commission will be taken seriously.

FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

The Truth and Reconciliation Act 2000 (the Act) requires that the government shall, upon the publication of the report of the Commission, establish a committee or other body including representatives of the Moral Guarantors of the Lome Peace Agreement ("the Follow-up Committee") to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and to facilitate recommendations of the Commission and to facilitate their implementation.

The follow-up Committee should monitor closely and regularly the implementation of "imperative" recommendations. The Commission states that a recommendation is imperative and ought to be implemented immediately or as soon as possible. In the view of the Commission such recommendations fall strictly within the peremptory obligation as stated in the Act. The government is required to implement these recommendations "faithfully and timely." Imperative recommendations tend to be those that establish and uphold rights and values. The Act requires the government during the period of eighteen months or such longer or shorter period after the establishment of the Follow-Up Committee, as that committee shall determine, provide quarterly reports to the follow-up committee summarising the steps it has taken towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

We are all aware how previous governments including

previous SLPP regimes have treated Reports or investigations with reckless abandon.

They seem to be more satisfied with the setting up of these bodies rather than their implementation. They are gathering dust on the shelves and only used mainly as reference materials which is not the idea. Do we need a change of attitude in this sphere? Of course.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

One of the imperative recommendations was the abolition of the Death Penalty and the commutation of pending death sentences. Like I have said in earlier issues, this column does not impose any ideas on anyone or institution etc. Freedom of opinion still exists in this Republic as a fundamental Human Rights issue. This columnist is firmly in favour of retaining the Death Penalty.

The TRC was trying to be in line with world majority opinion on the issue especially to be in line with reputable Human Rights organisations. That is understandable. They cannot have been seen to go against the grain without loss of face.

What the study of **MEN & THINGS** reveals is that the average Sierra Leonean is species of a kind not to be easily mixed up with other species. Imagine the hundreds of civil wars that are being fought around the world and imagine Sierra Leone's war being rightly classed as one of the most fiendish in history. In Uganda which started its war long before our civil war, one does not hear of amputations, cannibalism and burning of human beings etc. When murderers killed at Wellington and Mammy Yoko streets and were executed by the Siaka Stevens regime, there was a lull in such house breaking murders for some years.

If the Death Penalty is abolished, people will kill and say: "Ar go go you jail," knowing that they will be let out on a fine day of national celebration.

Maybe on "President" Berewa's birthday?

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 22 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia's sacked presidential security seek foreign diplomats' aid over payouts

MONROVIA, Aug 21, 2006 (AFP) - Hundreds of members of an elite presidential guards unit hired by former president Charles Taylor and sacked in April by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Monday sought the help of foreign diplomatic missions over their benefits grievances. Between 400 and 500 went round to the embassies of Nigeria, Ghana and the US in Monrovia asking for help in approaching the government to attend to their complaints over benefits. A group spokesman, Johnny Ndebe, said some 930 special security service personnel recruited by Taylor were relieved of their duties under a "deactivation" exercise.

AU Seeks Int'l Community Support for Liberia

By Dagnachew Teklu

Addis Ababa, Aug 21, 2006 (The Daily Monitor/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The African Union (AU) Commission urged on Saturday the International Community to increase assistance to facilitate the peace building process and beyond - the post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia. The call was made while the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) concluded its 60th meeting on the current situation in Liberia.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast political exiles demand to be registered for elections

ABIDJAN, Aug 22, 2006 (AFP) - An association representing Ivory Coast's political exiles on Tuesday asked the government to register all Ivorians living abroad on electoral lists that are being compiled ahead of upcoming elections. "We ask that our compatriots living abroad be identified because a large number of them do not have papers," Jean-Claude Kesse, secretary general of the Organisation of Ivorian Political Exiles (OEPI), told AFP.

08/22/2006 07:24:25

Gunmen seize Russian oil tanker off Sierra Leone

Moscow_(dpa) _ Unidentified gunmen seized a Russian oil tanker and 20 crew off the coast of Sierra Leone and are holding the vessel in the Guinean capital Conakry, sea rescue officials said Tuesday. The tanker was inside Sierra Leone's economic zone in the Atlantic when it was boarded by ten men armed with automatic rifles and dressed in black, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Local Media – Newspapers

Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission Braces for Hearings

(The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer and The Informer)

- Liberia’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has begun preparations for public hearings into allegations of wrong doing during the war, beginning with a five-day training of statement-takers, county coordinators and investigators.
- According to a statement issued on Monday, some 200 recruits who passed the recent aptitude test are the ones to undergo the five-day training starting today.

JPC Concords with Supreme Court’s Decision

(The Analyst, The Telegraph and Liberia Business Digest)

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) said on Monday that it would respect and abide by the decision of the Supreme Court of Liberia to clear Associate Justice-designate Kabineh Ja’neh of abuse charges.
- JPC National Executive Director, Augustine Toe, told newsmen that the Commission still stands by its accusations that Mr. Ja’neh has a “bad human rights record” despite the Supreme Court’s decision on the matter.

Criminal Court Decides Fate of former Officials of Social Security Today

(The Analyst, Heritage and Daily Observer)

- The Criminal Court “C” will today bring down final verdict in the case involving former officials of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), charged with economic sabotage for allegedly duping the corporation of more than US\$50,000.

Former Presidential Guards Dissatisfy with Deactivation Process

(The Informer)

- In a resolution presented to the Embassies of the United States of America, Ghana and Nigeria, scores of deactivated officers of the Special Security Service (SSS) complained of inadequate information regarding their deactivation coupled with widespread discrepancies in the payment of their benefits.
- They claimed that the deactivation exercise was short-landed, leaving some of their colleagues unpaid. Hence, they want these foreign embassies intervene in the manner in which they were dropped from the service.

Aggrieved Contractors Protest for “Just” Wages

(Heritage)

- [sic:] Over 300 aggrieved workers yesterday besieged the Ministry of Labour in Monrovia in demand of what they called their wages promised by the Government of Liberia.
- [sic:] The aggrieved workers, mostly ex-combatants and deactivated AFL soldiers were sometime ago hired by the Ministry of Labour under the Liberia Emergency Employment Program to work in the sanitation sector aimed at giving Monrovia a face lift. [sic:] The protesting workers including women and the elderly claimed that Labour Ministry authorities were refusing to pay them their just wages of US\$90 in keeping with the emergency employment contract they signed with the Government of Liberia.

Weah Accuses President Sirleaf of Practicing Politics of Exclusion

(The News)

- In a letter addressed to President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Congress for Democratic Change Standard Bearer, George Weah, accused her of forming a government of “cronies and political allies” and that she has failed to seek the views of the opposition and other custodians of the peace process while maintaining a charade that her government is one of unity.
- Mr. Weah said that the Liberian leader has not heeded to eschew the failed policy of exclusionism and bring on board qualified Liberians, including those who opposed her during the elections. However, President Press Secretary Cyrus Badio has denied Mr. Weah’s accusations and said that he was entitled to his views.

UN Says Liberia’s Long-Term Stability is Encouraging

(New Democrat)

- [sic:] A UN internal report paints Liberia’s long-term security as encouraging, but warns that adverse economic conditions and adverse publicity against UNMIL could cause problems.

Women Recruitment Kick-Off at Red-Light

(New Democrat)

- [sic:] In a bid to ensure the participation of women in the nation-building process, the Security Sector Reform (SSR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense has commenced the recruitment of women into the new Armed forces of Liberia at the Red-light in Paynesville, outside of Monrovia.
- [sic:] Whilst the current climate towards UNMIL is generally extremely favorable, growing public confidence and perceptions of slow improvements to quality life issues, coupled with any adverse publicity, could risk fuelling anti-UN/UNMIL sentiment. UNMIL must remain mindful of the risk to its operating environment.

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

President Launches New Post-War Postal Stamps Today

- Posts and Telecommunications Minister Jackson F. Doe told a news conference yesterday in Monrovia that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will today Tuesday launch Liberia’s first post-war postal stamps, depicting the casting of ballot by the President, her inauguration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The stamps will be sold between LS\$10 to LS\$100.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Defence Ministry Frowns at Trainers of New Armed Forces of Liberia

- In an interview, Defence Minister Brownie Samukai said that the Ministry was unhappy that DYNCROPS, an American military group training the new Armed Forces of Liberia, has awarded the contract to feed the new recruits to the Lebanese-owned, Palm Hotel.
- Minister Samukai stressed that his Ministry was not aware of the contract before it was awarded as such; he would ask DYNCROPS to review the contract because as he put it, there are Liberian companies capable of doing such a job.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Lofa County District Complains of Deplorable Roads

- Lofa County's Vahun District Commissioner Michael Siafa over the weekend complained during a meeting of town officials, Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and the UNHCR that roads in the District were deplorable.
 - Mr. Siafa said that due to bad roads from Voinjama to Vahun, the visiting LRRRC and UNHCR team had to drive into Sierra Leone before returning to Vahun via a more suitable route. He complained that residents of Vahun were insecure in the absence of Police and UNMIL peacekeepers.
- (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

Deputy Minister Believes Negative Criticisms Lead to Liberia's Backwardness

- In his address to graduating secondary school students yesterday, Deputy Minister of Information for Administration Richmond Anderson attributed Liberia's so-called backwardness to deceit and negative criticism on the part of its citizens who do not provide alternative solutions to problems. He called on the critics to assist the government to meet the needs of Liberians, adding that government does not work in isolation but works with all citizens of the State.
- (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

House Speaker Returns to Work Following Illness with Chronic Malaria

- House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe yesterday resumed work after he had been discharged from a Catholic hospital for chronic malaria and gastrointestinal infection.
- (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

President Donates to Rural Liberians

- During her visit to Margibi County yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf donated US\$5,000 to a scholarship fund set up by the County, US\$3,000 to support development initiatives in District #2 of the county and additional US\$2,000 to boost development work in the county as a whole.
 - The President told a gathering of county residents that she was visiting to identify with them for the first time following the General and Presidential Elections in 2005.
 - She also visited key institutions including the Booker Washington Institute which citizens of the county requested her to elevate to a university college level.
- (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

Criminal Court Rules in Economic Sabotage Case Today

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Disappointed in Court Ruling

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

International Criminal Court for Rwanda

Monday, 22 August 2006

Press Release

PRESS RELEASE (non official - for media information only)

ICTR/INFO-9-2-488.EN

Arusha, 22 August 2006

Prisoner Joseph Serugendo Dies

The Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Mr. Adama Dieng, announced today the death of Joseph Serugendo a convicted person who was a former member of the governing board of the Radio Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTL) and of the National Committee of the Interahamwe za MRND. He passed away after a long illness on Tuesday, 22 August 2006 at 6:55 am at the Nairobi Hospital, Kenya. The Tribunal offers its deepest condolences to his family.

On 2 June 2006, Serugendo was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment by Trial Chamber I of the ICTR. In his guilty plea, Serugendo admitted to having provided technical assistance and moral support to the RTL in order to ensure its ability to continuously disseminate an anti-Tutsi message both prior to and during the genocide.

He further acknowledged having used his influence within the MRND and Interahamwe to incite others to kill or cause serious harm to members of the Tutsi population, with the aim of destroying the Tutsi ethnic group.

In sentencing him, the Chamber took into account not only the gravity of these crimes, but also Serugendo's guilty plea and his substantial cooperation with the Prosecution. The Chamber noted that he expressed genuine remorse and a desire to help establish the truth regarding the events in Rwanda. At his sentencing hearing Serugendo expressed "sincere and profound regrets" to the "victims of the genocide perpetrated in my country Rwanda in 1994" and accepted responsibility for "my role in this unspeakable tragedy." A copy of his Expression of Profound Regrets and his Declaration Addressed to the Rwandan People were admitted into evidence by the Trial Chamber.

Serugendo was suffering from a terminal illness which was significant among the mitigating factors in his sentencing. The Registry had been instructed to continue to ensure that he be provided with adequate medical attention, including hospitalization, to the extent necessary.

Serugendo was arrested in Gabon on 16 September 2005 and transferred to Arusha on 23 September 2005. He entered into a plea agreement with the Prosecution on 16 February 2006. On 15 March 2006, he pleaded guilty to two counts under an amended indictment, which plea was accepted by the Chamber.

For further information please consult our website: <http://www.ictr.org> or contact the Public Affairs & Information Unit, ICTR Arusha International Conference Centre,

PO Box 6016, Arusha, Tanzania

Telephone: 1 (212) 963 2850 or 255 27 250 4367-72;

Fax: 1 (212) 963 2848 or 255 27 250 4000/250 4373;

e-mail: ictr-press@un.org

Human Rights Watch

Tuesday, 22 August 2006

Press Release

Guinea: Security Forces Torture, Kill With Impunity

Government Must Investigate, Prosecute Officials Responsible for Abuses

(Dakar, August 22, 2006) - Guinean police and other government security forces routinely torture, assault, rob and sometimes even murder the citizens they are entrusted to protect, said Human Rights Watch in a report released today.

The 30-page report, "The Perverse Side of Things: Torture, Inadequate Detention Conditions and Excessive Use of Force by Guinean Security Forces," documents how police brutally torture men and boys held in police custody. The victims are individuals suspected of common crimes as well as those perceived to be government opponents. Once transferred from police custody to prison, many are left to languish for years awaiting trial in cramped, dimly lit cells where they face hunger, disease and sometimes death.

These abuses are occurring in Guinea during a time of uncertainty tied to economic turmoil and impending political transition. Guinea's economy is in a tailspin; its president, Lansana Conté, is rumored to be gravely ill; and its military is believed to be deeply divided.

"The Guinean government is allowing its security forces to get away with torture and brutality," said Peter Takirambudde, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. Combating this brutality by ending impunity could boost Guinea's stability in this uncertain time."

Human Rights Watch interviewed 35 individuals, including numerous children, who provided detailed and consistent accounts of mistreatment and torture by police officers while in police custody. Victims told Human Rights Watch that, during police interrogation, they were bound with cords, beaten, burned with cigarettes and corrosive chemicals, and cut with razor blades until they agreed to confess to the crime of which they were accused.

"The police tied my arms behind my back and then hoisted me up in a tree in the courtyard," said a 16-year-old boy detained in Guinea's largest prison. "Two policemen were telling me to tell the truth, to admit that I stole the goods. Then they pushed their cigarettes into my arms. At first I maintained my innocence, but I was in so much pain that I had to say I stole it."

Human Rights Watch also interviewed 20 detainees who have spent more than four years in prison awaiting trial. Many of these individuals said that they are in prison based in part on a confession they made under torture.

"The right to be tried within a reasonable time is fundamental, and is guaranteed under both international and Guinean law," said Takirambudde. "The Guinean government must hold court sessions more often to ensure that individuals are not left to languish in prison for years without trial."

The report also examines a pattern of excessive use of force by Guinean security forces during demonstrations to protest worsening economic conditions due in part to rampant inflation. The most recent incident occurred in June 2006, when the government responded to demonstrations against the rising prices of basic commodities with a brutal crackdown.

In interviews with Human Rights Watch, numerous victims and witnesses to abuses that occurred during the June strike described involvement of the police and gendarmes in murder, rape, assault and theft. Eyewitnesses to 13 killings told Human Rights Watch that security forces fired directly into crowds of unarmed demonstrators. Scores of Guineans, many of them mere bystanders to the demonstrations, were severely beaten and robbed at gunpoint by security forces.

"Guinea has an entrenched culture of police brutality," said Takirambudde. "The government's failure to tackle impunity emboldens abusive officials and fuels further abuse."

The Guinean government has legal obligations under several international and African human rights treaties - including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the U.N. Convention Against Torture, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights - as well as under Guinea's own constitution. These obligations require the government to respect the right to life and freedoms of expression and assembly, and prohibit the use of torture. Police and other security forces have routinely violated those obligations.

Human Rights Watch called on the Guinean government to immediately investigate and bring to justice those responsible for crimes committed by state security forces during the June 2006 nationwide strike, as well as those responsible for torture and ill-treatment of individuals in police custody.

Human Rights Watch also recommended that international donors such as France, the United States and the European Union call publicly and privately on the Guinean government to investigate and, where applicable, punish those responsible for the abuses. International donors should also support efforts by local nongovernmental organizations to increase their ability to monitor and document violations by security forces.

To see the Human Rights Watch report, "The Perverse Side of Things: Torture, Inadequate Detention Conditions, and Excessive Use of Force by Guinean Security Forces," please visit:

<http://hrw.org/reports/2006/guinea0806/>

For further information, please contact:

In Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, Dustin Sharp: (French, English): +226-70204799

In Dakar, Senegal, Corinne Dufka (English): +221-636-1013

In Toronto, Canada, Georgette Gagnon (English): +1-416-893-2709