

**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 at:**

Friday, 5 January 2007

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

**Local News**

Local newspapers are not available today due to the annual holiday taken by the Sierra Leone Vendors Association.

**International News**

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United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 4 January 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

#### **Killing of Young Liberian a Mystery in New Hampshire; Suspect(s) Still at Large**

01/04/07 - FPA Staff Report

Police in New Hampshire are still baffled over Tuesday's killing of an 18-year Liberian shot dead late Tuesday. According to police report, a caller to 911 reported that shots had been fired outside an apartment building at 536 Beech St. just before 7:30 p.m. Tuesday where Aaron Kar was found suffering from gunshot wounds to his abdomen and knee. Kar was later pronounced dead at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. "I heard the pop-pop-pop -- six shots in all -- and figured something was wrong," said neighbor Jane Laier, who called 911 just before 7:30 p.m. "I guess I was right."

#### **Volunteers help refugee students succeed**

High Point Enterprise (NC) (KRT) --Jan. 4--GUILFORD COUNTY -- The second semester of the school year may run more smoothly for students part of a mentoring program aimed at helping them adjust to American culture. Refugee students who now call the Triad home and are part of the Guilford County school system know "they are safe," school personnel say, thanks to community helpers. They say learning how to do simple things like tell time, count money and dress according to the weather, make the transition easier for students who come to the U.S. as refugees from countries like Liberia in West Africa and Vietnam in Southeast Asia. Betty Stratford, a media center assistant at Mendenhall Middle in Greensboro, coordinates and recruits adult tutors and mentors to come to the school at least one day a week for an hour. The one-on-one time gives the young teens a boost in how to socialize with their American peers and integrate quicker into the school routine. "They don't understand a lot of things that go on in this country ... it depend on how much education they had in their (native) country," Stratford explained.

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

#### **Drug policy challenge to intellectual property rights**

Source: THE GUARDIAN Date: January 04, 2007 -- Save the Children lauds efforts to make essential medications available at an affordable price for the world's poorest people. In most of the world the price of healthcare, including essential medicines, makes even the simplest of treatments unattainable for poor people. In Sierra Leone it costs an average of two week's wages to treat a child for diarrhoea. Reformulation of existing drugs is a tactic long employed by the big pharmaceuticals for extending patent protection and pricing. There's a certain irony that Shaunak and Brocchini have turned this tactic on its head with the potential to improve safety as well as affordability for the world's poorest people

## **China give millions of euros to aid Ivory Coast**

ABIDJAN, Jan 4, 2007 (AFP) - China has given the government of Ivory Coast millions of euros to finance joint cooperation projects in the West African country, the foreign ministry announced in a statement Thursday. Three quarters of the aid package, worth three billion CFA francs (4.6 million euros / six million dollars) in all, is a gift, while the remainder consists of a loan to purchase unspecified equipment. According to the foreign ministry in the economic capital Abidjan, China is honouring a promise made at a China-African summit in November 2006.

## **From Desertification, to Migration, to Conflict**

TABOU, Jan 4 (IPS) - It has been three years since Brahim Ouédraogo, a small-scale farmer from Burkina Faso, arrived in a little village in the Tabou region of south-western Côte d'Ivoire with his family, in search of arable land. Initially residents of Klotou gave the newcomers a warm welcome. But, this warmth has since died away; in fact, some would even like to see the Ouédraogo family leave. "When you enter our forests, they are all being used by the immigrants with no concern for preservation of the environment," says Marc Kallé, who lives in Klotou.

## **Cote d'Ivoire Rebels Reject Peace Talk**

Lagos, Jan 03, 2007 (This Day/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --Rebels in Ivory Coast have rejected President Laurent Gbagbo's proposal to hold direct peace talks without the involvement of international agencies. A rebel spokesman says they will not sidestep the process laid out by the United Nations (UN) Security Council. Kari Barber reports from our regional bureau in Dakar. Ivory Coast rebel leader Guillaume Soro released a New Year's statement saying he will not accept President Laurent Gbagbo's bid for direct dialogue with the rebels. Observers say Gbagbo's offer, made in a December 19 address, snubs UN peace efforts to reunite the country.

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Taylor's Lawyers Threaten to Withdraw Legal Services**

*(The Monitor)*

- [sic] Lawyers representing former Liberian President Charles Taylor charged for war crimes by the United Nations-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone have threatened to withdraw their legal services from Mr. Taylor due to the limited time and resources allotted them by the court.
- They argued that "time and resources available to the Defense team was so inadequate that it places them in a position of conflict with their professional obligations and rendered the possibility of a fair trial impossible."
- According to a statement issued Wednesday in Accra, Ghana, and signed by Mrs. Thelma Taylor-Saye [a sister of Mr. Taylor], the former Liberian president is the only crime suspect being subjected to such surveillance.
- She also accused the Special War Crimes Court in The Hague of violating Mr. Taylor's right to privacy and the right to legal professional privilege by the installation of video surveillance cameras to record conferences with his counsels.

### **Police Close-up Dragnet on Alleged Armed Robbers**

*(The News)*

- The Liberia National Police said Wednesday that it would soon apprehend perpetrators of last Friday's armed robbery in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

- A gang of unknown gunmen raided the home of Edvida Neblett Barclay, an employee of the World Health Organization in Monrovia and made away with several valuables and money.

### **Jordanian Medical Team Promises Better Health Services**

*(The News)*

- [sic:] Although the Jordanian Contingent serving in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) came into the country to help restore peace and stability, nonetheless, the contingent, like others in UNMIL, has gone beyond its mandate by providing free medical services to Liberians since arriving here.
- Hence, the Head of the Level III Hospital located at Star Base, Colonel Ahmed Zawreh, has promised to continue providing medical services to the people of Liberia as his medical team has done over the years.

### **EU Funded Project Targets Several Communities for Water Supply**

*(Heritage)*

- The Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation said that the European Union is financing an ongoing project for the rehabilitation of the main water pipeline from the Freeport of Monrovia through Gardnersville, outside Monrovia.
- The Corporation's Managing Director, Mr. H. Hun-Bu Tulay said the project, when completed, would supply pipe borne water to the New Georgia Estate and other areas along the Somalia Drive in Gardnersville.

### **Chinese Vessels Allegedly Polluting Liberia's Water**

*(The Independent)*

- [sic] Eight Chinese fishing vessels that arrived in Liberia late last year are said to be polluting the territorial waters of the country with the illegal disposal of rotten fish.
- Some casual workers hired by the vessels said the Chinese sailors, in the absence of representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare recently buried about 145 crates of rotten fish behind the Liberia National Petroleum Company tanks closed to the Bong Mines Pier on the Bushrod Island.

### **Tension Brews in Zwedru as Judge Releases Rapist on Bail**

*(Public Agenda)*

- [sic] The release of six inmates including a rapist by the Circuit Judge, Blamo Dixon in Grand Gedeh County is said to be brewing tension as women in the capital, Zwedru, have threatened to stage a demonstration in protest of the release of the rapist.
- Grand Gedeh County Superintendent Christopher Bailey said the women are angry over the release on bail of a Nigerian identified as Adamu Ibrahim.

**Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

### **Immigration Authorities Confirm reports that Returnees were Manhandled by Officers**

- The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization has confirmed media reports that several Liberian refugees returning home were manhandled by BIN Officers at one of the border posts in Nimba County.
- According to the Bureau's Public Relations Officer, Bill Smith, a Lieutenant, Noriega Guah before Christmas stabbed one or two returnees during a tussle and said he has been turned over to the police for investigation.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Catholic Missionaries of Charity Hails Government for Support**

- Speaking yesterday at the Foreign Ministry, a spokesperson of the Catholic Missionaries of Charity, Mother Mary Nimala Joshi, lauded President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for the support the Government has provided the Charity in the performance of its duties and the progress made in improving the overall conditions in the country.
- President Johnson-Sirleaf thanked the delegation for being part of Government's reconstruction initiative and assured continued support to groups that cater for the abandoned and underprivileged in society.

### **Gbarpolu Lawmakers Urge Government to Halt Illegal Mining**

- Speaking at a news conference yesterday, the Chairman of the Gbarpolu County Legislative Caucus, Senator Daniel Naaten, called on government to halt illicit mining in the area.
- Senator Naatehn accused foreign nationals of exploiting the county's resources and said they would be compelled to institute measures to remedy the situation, if government delays in addressing the issue.
- Meanwhile, the caucus has called for a review of the performance of NGOs operating in the County and said the work of some organizations was not visible.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Star Radio** *(News culled from website today at 10:00 am)*

#### **Police Officers Whine Over Three Months Arrears**

- In an interview, a group of police officers has complained of not being paid for the past three months and claimed that the Finance Officer of the Liberia National police, Melvin Togba, said there was an error in printing their cheques.
- Inspector Togba blamed the error on the Finance Ministry. He said about forty officers were affected but assured that all was being done to correct the situation by next week.

#### **Health Ministry Assigns Medical Doctors to Counties**

- The Ministry of Health has begun assigning medical doctors throughout the country.
- According to the Chief Medical Officer of Liberia, Dr. Bernice Dahn, the doctors will head a six-man County Health team and will replace middle-level health practitioners serving as County Health Officers.

### **ELBS** *(News culled from website 9:00 am)*

#### **Police Hunts for Murder Suspect**

- Police have launched a search for a man identified as "Mount Zion", a suspect in the death of one Vasco Obi who was allegedly killed last year during a scuffle involving the deceased, Zion and patrolman Solomon Karn. The investigations will resume following the arrest of the suspect.
- The police said it would shortly release findings from an autopsy conducted.

*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. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.*

## Pan African News Agency

Wednesday, 3 January 2007

### **Liberia's Truth Commission begins hearings mid January**

Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) announced here Wednesday that it will formally begin holding public hearings on 16 January for victims of atrocities and alleged perpetrators in the country's past civil wars and conflicts.

TRC chairman, lawyer Jerome Verdier told a privately owned radio station in Monrovia that plans were being finalised to begin the public hearings on schedule.

He said the TRC gathered nearly 2000 statements of abuses and atrocities committed in Liberia between 1979, when bloody so-called riot riots took place just a year preceding the first-ever military coup in which President William Tolbert was assassinated.

Verdier said the statements were gathered from eyewitnesses who were at the scenes of those atrocities.

The Liberian TRC was one of those institutions created under the August 2003 comprehensive peace Agreement signed in Ghana to end the last civil war and effect the departure of ex-President Charles Taylor.

The TRC, which was reconstituted last year, has a two-year mandate to investigate the root causes of Liberia's civil conflicts dating to 1979.

Verdier praised the Liberian government for providing US\$1.2 million and OSIWA (the Open Society for West Africa) for contributing US\$250,000 for the operation of the TRC.

He, however, said the commission's timetable was on course, but urgent financial support was needed from international donors to implement activities of the TRC.

## The Liberian Times

Thursday, 4 January 2007

### **Liberia: Liberian warlord risks extradition**

by Michael Kpayili / Staff Writer

The group calling itself progressive Gbor Youth Development Association of Nimba County based in Monrovia has called on the national government to ensure the extradition the former Special Security Service Director Benjamin Yeateh to Liberia to answer numerous charges levied against him during the fourteen years of civil war in Liberia.

Mr. Yeateh who also served as battlefield commander during the regime of war-crime detainee Charles Taylor is widely known for killing over thousands of civilians especially women and children.

The call for the extradition of Mr. Yeateh was contained in a press release issued on Wednesday by the Progressive Gbor Youth Development of Nimba County. In the release, the group recounted numerous atrocities allegedly committed by Mr. Yeateh which involved the killing of potential citizens of Nimba County including Samuel Dokie, Jackson Doe, John Yormie and Isaac Vaye among others. "Others sons and daughters of the land were also slaughtered allegedly by the order of Charles Taylor battlefield commander, then strongman Benjamin Yeateh" the group noted.

They expressed means of exploring the highest degree and care in electing credible person to occupy the District #6 pending by-election in Nimba County. The Youth group vowed to discourage eligible voters not to surrender their votes to anyone who directly or indirectly supported former president Charles Taylor in killing their people during the fourteen years of blood bath in Liberia. The group however failed to name individuals contesting the legislative seat who supported Charles Taylor during the war but credible information reaching me revealed that former police commander and close confidant of former president Charles Taylor, Paul Tuazama is among individuals vying for the vying for the legislative seat.

Benjamin Yeateh, a son of Nimba County was lastly spotted in Gambia and Togo by former Nimba County superintendent Harrison Karnweay. He unceremoniously left the country after Charles Taylor resigned his post as president of Liberia in 2003 due to both local and international pressures.

## New York Times

Saturday, 30 December 2007

### **Hussein's Case Won't Bolster International Human Rights Law, Experts Fear**

By MARLISE SIMONS

PARIS, Dec. 30 — Saddam Hussein is one of the few modern leaders to have been tried and executed for his crimes and other abuses of power. Most dictators of the past century have died of natural causes at home or in comfortable exile — or at the hands of assassins.

But with trials of former leaders becoming more common in the past decade, there are other distinguishing features in the Hussein case: he was the first former leader to be tried by a domestic court for crimes against humanity — a crime enshrined in international law — and put to death for it.

His dawn hanging on Saturday further stands out because the new international legal institutions, like the International Criminal Court and the temporary tribunals that are trying war crimes cases in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, do not impose the death penalty.

Despite this application of international law against Mr. Hussein, experts say, his conviction for crimes against humanity has not significantly reinforced efforts to apply concepts of international human rights law around the world. They argue that the trial has been too widely perceived, both in Iraq and abroad, as a chaotic and politicized process with many serious flaws carried out by inexperienced judges. "It's highly doubtful that courts elsewhere might cite this judgment, given its poor credibility," said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch's international justice program.

Although domestic courts are now trying cases that include violations of international human rights law, the credibility of the Baghdad tribunal was also questioned by some because it was organized by the United States. European countries that had been asked for help said they could not participate because they had abolished the death sentence.

Rights groups and some international lawyers have deplored the execution as hasty. Some said the execution, based on a comparatively small case involving the killing of 148 civilians, cut short Mr. Hussein's second and far weightier trial for genocide, the gravest charge.

"Such a rapid execution before the conclusion of the genocide trial is a serious legal setback and harms the credibility of the court," said Antoine Garapon, director of the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies in Paris. He and some other lawyers argued that even if others were to stand trial for genocide against the Kurds in 1988, the person deemed most responsible would never face judgment.

Many Kurds, in fact, say they have mixed feelings about his execution because it denies them the satisfaction of seeing Mr. Hussein face further evidence of genocide presented at the Kurdish trial, which was only a few weeks away from a conclusion.

"To execute such a criminal, a man who reveled in his atrocities, is an act of justice," Najmaldin Karim, president of the Washington Kurdish Institute and a former refugee from Mr. Hussein's repression, wrote in an Op-Ed article published Saturday in The New York Times. "Sadly, however, we have not had full justice. Saddam Hussein did not confront the full horror of his crimes."

Mr. Hussein is the second notorious dictator to escape a verdict on genocide charges. The other is Slobodan Milosevic, the former president of Serbia, who died of a heart attack in March in a United Nations cell during his trial at the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The best-known precedents for Mr. Hussein's execution are the post-World War II trials carried out by the victorious Allied powers: the hangings of the military and political leaders of Nazi Germany and the war crimes trials in Tokyo of Japan's wartime leadership.

At that time, as now, debates raged over whether the trials conducted by victorious forces were morally wrong or whether they were politically and psychologically indispensable. Some argued that those trials of the late 1940s did more harm than good and should never have taken place. Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime leader, had always urged that the Nazi leaders be executed, without trial.

But since then, the Nuremberg trials, more so than the widely criticized Tokyo trials, have come to be regarded as the crucial precedents for trials involving grave human rights violations, specifically for the creation in 1993 of the first international tribunal, dealing with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. "The Yugoslavia tribunal brought alive and gave meaning to criminal offenses that had been on the books for years, and led eventually to charges of crimes against humanity against Saddam Hussein," Mr. Dicker said.

Benjamin B. Ferencz, a former prosecutor at Nuremberg, said on his Web site on Saturday: "Whether a remorseless mass killer should be sentenced to death is a difficult question. There can never be a balance between the lives of a few mass murderers and the lives of their countless victims. Humanitarian law has moved away from imposing death as a penalty. It should be left to Iraqi judges to decide what is most appropriate to bring peace and reconciliation to their war-ravaged country."

In only a few other cases in the past half century has a political leader been tried and put to death under his country's own laws. In 1979, the former Pakistani prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, overthrown in a military coup, was executed for the murder of a political opponent after a much-criticized trial.

In December 1989, the ousted Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, was executed after an anti-Communist uprising. But the rushed and secret trial preceding his killing by firing squad was widely seen as summary justice. Benito Mussolini was simply shot by Italian partisans in 1945 while trying to flee to Switzerland. Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua was blown up in his car by Argentine guerrillas in 1980 while in exile in Paraguay. Laurent Kabila, the former Congo leader, was shot and killed by a palace guard.

Only occasionally have former dictators been brought to trial in circumstances widely recognized as fair. During trials of former members of Argentine military juntas in 1985, five of the nine defendants were given long sentences in a civilian court but were pardoned a few years later. The former Rwandan prime minister, Jean Kambanda, pleaded guilty to genocide and was sentenced to life in prison by the United Nations war-crimes tribunal for Rwanda.

Manuel Noriega of Panama was sentenced to 40 years in prison for drug trafficking by an American court but was never judged for human rights or other abuses.

More often, political leaders have escaped into exile and resisted extradition attempts. Jean-Claude Duvalier, the former president of Haiti, fled to France. Idi Amin of Uganda died in peace in Saudi Arabia. Pol Pot died in bed before the new Cambodian war crimes tribunal began its work. Fulgencio Batista fled Cuba and lived the rest of his life in Portugal, and Mobutu Sese Seko fled Zaire, now Congo, and died in Morocco.

But it may become more difficult to hide for people responsible for atrocities, because more countries are willing to apply international law and to call for or execute international arrest warrants.

Augusto Pinochet was arrested in Britain, although he was finally allowed to return to Chile for health reasons, where he died this month. Attempts to prosecute him followed him to his deathbed. Some aging leaders of the Khmer Rouge may finally be judged for the mass murder they inflicted on Cambodia.

Efraim Rios Montt and several other former military leaders of Guatemala are wanted by a Spanish court on charges of genocide of the Indian population. Ethiopia's former ruler, Mengistu Haile Mariam, was found guilty of genocide this month after a trial in absentia. He is in Zimbabwe, protected by its government. These men are not expected to be brought before a court.

Meanwhile, Charles Taylor, the former dictator of Liberia, is waiting in a cell in The Hague, where judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone plan to start his war crimes trial in 2007.