

**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, 13 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Peep!

Friday, 13 April 2007

150 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Kabbah picks all-inclusive list

150 people, including politicians, judges, journalists and the president of the Lebanese Community are to receive national awards according to a release issued by the office of the President.

details not released yet

Although no precise details as to the actual nature of the awards were made, critics called the list 'all-inclusive'.

"In his farewell year, President Kabbah has put partisan considerations aside and given awards on basis of service to the nation" one observer commented. Another said however that election considerations may have also influenced selection. (*short guide below*)

JUDGES

Hon Justice George Gelaga-King (Special Court)

Hon Justice S.A Ademusu

Hon Justice Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh

Hon Justice Salamatu Koroma

Hon Justice Tholla Thompson

Hon Justice A.B Rashd (*post-humous*)

PARAMOUNT CHIEFS

Paramount Chief Yembeh Mansaray,

P.C Madam Mamei Gamanga

P.C Bai Farma Tass Bubu Ngbak

RELIGIOUS FIGURES

Haja Alari Cole

Rev Dixon Modupeh Speck

Rev Camon Modupeh Taylor-Pearce

Bishop George Bigguzi

Sheiki Abu Bakar Kamara

MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Hon Joe C. Blell (Defence)

Hon Madam Shirley Gbujama (*Social/Welfare/Gender Affairs*)

Hon Dr Alpha Wurie (*Eudcation*)

Hon Sahr Fille-Faboe (*Resident minister, East*)

Dr Mohamed Samura (*Amb to Libya*)

Hon Alie Bangura (*Amb to Ghana*)

ACADEMICS

Professor A. Yekini Algali (*Njala V.C*)

Professor Aiah Gbakima (*U.S.L V.C*)

Professor John Kamara

PARASTATALS

Mr Donald Bull (SLAA)

Dr Momodu Yilla

MEDIA

Alhaji I.B Kargbo

Mrs Bernadette Cole

Mr Pios Foray

Mr Frank Kposowa

BUSINESS

Mr Vincent Kanu

Alhaji Dr Abdulahi Kakay

Mrs Joy Samake

POLICE

Mr Francis Munu

Mrs Kadie Fakondoh

Mr Christopher John

ARMY

Ltd Commander M.F Mansaray

RSLAF 1861386 S/Stgt Kpanga

(the full list will be published in our next edition)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 March 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian President shuts cemetery to curb crime

MONROVIA, April 11, 2007 (AFP) - Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Wednesday shut down a city centre cemetery that had become a refuge for criminals, in a bid to curb a rising crime wave. "As of today the Palm Grove cemetery is closed," said Sirleaf to applause from scores of curious residents. Flanked by the Minister of Public Works, Losseni Donso, Sirleaf laid a brick on the ground to symbolise the fencing off of the cemetery. "As soon as they put the wall up, this graveyard is closed," she said, adding that even burials had been forbidden. Relatives wishing to perform rituals will have to seek clearance from authorities to visit the site.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast to abolish buffer zone following peace deal

Source: Dpa English Date: April 12, 2007

Abidjan/Nairobi_(dpa) _ Ivorian military rivals signed an agreement that would see the eradication of a 20-kilometre-wide buffer zone that has divided the West African country for four years, the UN said Thursday. According to a peace deal signed last month, the area known as the Zone of Confidence which runs along the breadth of the Ivory Coast would be removed and part of the 10,000 UN and UN-mandated French troops patrolling the area are to be scaled-down. The agreement, signed on Wednesday by military officials from the country's divided north and south as well as the UN and the French mission, would come into affect April 16, the UN said.

Guinea to overhaul all mining contracts

CONAKRY, April 12, 2007 (AFP) - Guinea, the world's top bauxite exporter, is set to review all contracts signed with foreign firms operating in the west African country, government has said. Spokesman of the two-week old government, Information Minister Justin Morel Junior said authorities would "review all mining agreements, if need be amicably, but if not, we will hire legal firms to defend the interests of the country". Junior made the announcement Wednesday night on state television after the first cabinet meeting of the new Guinean government led by a consensus Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate, appointed late February to end weeks of a bloody general strike.

Local Media – Newspaper

IMF Delegation Applauds Government's Fiscal Performance

(New Democrat, The Informer, The Analyst, Heritage and The News,)

- Following an assessment of key financial sectors in Liberia, a delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the Liberian Government has made significant gains in several areas, including economic recovery and medium term prospects.
- The IMF Mission Chief to Liberia, Robert Powell said the government achieved most of the quantitative and structural benchmarks under the Staff Monitoring Programme by the end of last year.
- Mr. Powell said revenues continue to exceed the programme targets by a significant margin, adding that the progress reflects the Government's continued efforts, with support from the international community, to strengthen the tax system, including improvements in revenue administration and enforcement.

Police Quell Student Riot at African Methodist Episcopal University

(The Analyst, Heritage, The Inquirer, The Liberian Diaspora and Daily)

- United Nations Police and their Liberia National Police counterparts yesterday prevented a student demonstration at the African Methodist Episcopal University in Monrovia. The students went amok to resist new restrictions announced by the administration.

UNMIL, Government and Partners Launch Walk Against Hunger

(The Analyst, The Informer and The Liberian Diaspora)

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in collaboration with the Liberian Government and other partners on Wednesday officially launched the 2007 "Fight Hunger: Walk the World Against Child Hunger".
- Speaking at the launch in Monrovia, the head of the World Food Programme in Liberia, Mr. Louis Imbleau, said the walk is about creating a movement to end child hunger.

UNMIL, UNDP Sponsor Workshop to deal with Unexploded Ordnances

(The News)

[sic:] The continuous discovery of unexploded bombs left behind by fighting forces in Lofa County has claimed the attention of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This has prompted the two groups to co-sponsor a one-day workshop aimed at educating road maintenance crew and citizens on how to deal with unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

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

Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Criticizes Criminal Justice System

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission(JPC) has criticized how the country's criminal justice system is being conducted and said it will help to create more criminals and chaos in the country.
- Speaking to journalists in Monrovia yesterday, the Director of the JPC, Augustine Toe describe the clearing of criminals from the Palm Grove Cemetery as "cosmetic" because the government failed to put in place corrective measures to rehabilitate offenders.
- Mr. Toe said there was a need to revamp the system to make it more responsive to the needs of those who commit crimes.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Visiting IMF Team Hails Government's Fiscal Performance

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Police Averts Riot at African Methodist Episcopal University

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

An Opposition Politician Accuses Government of Repeating Past Mistakes

- Addressing a forum for political parties having the highest members in the House of Representatives, opposition politician, Dr. Togbah Nah Tipoteh said democracy has never existed in the country and calls for its consolidation cannot be a reality.
- Dr. Tipoteh said crisis in the country was a perennial one and claimed that government was repeating the mistakes of the past.
- The two-day forum was organized by the International Republican Institute(IRI) with funding from USAID.

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.