

**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, 31 August 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Standard Times
Friday, 31 August 2007

Special Court to sentence Kondowa, others Sept 24th

...Says Court PRO

Chief Sam Hinga Norman, head of the Civil Defence Forces and former detainee of the Special Court is already dead and gone. His death

cannot be easily forgotten by not only southeasterners but the rest of the nation as he sacrificed everything to restore democracy to the country at the time when the country was in turmoil.

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Special Court to sentence Kondowa, others Sept 24th

FROM PAGE 1

However, other members of the Civil Defence Forces who fought along side the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman have already been found guilty by the Special Court of Sierra Leone.

According to the Public Relations Officer, Mr. Peter Anderson who spoke with this press yesterday, the date for sentencing the convicts has not changed contrary to wide spread rumours.

Mr. Anderson said that the oral arguments will take place on the

15th September, 2007 while the sentencing will take place on the 24th September, 2007.

Both convicts, Moinina Fofanah and Alieu Kondowa have been found guilty of several offences ranging from murder, rape, looting to unlawful killings contrary to the Geneva Convention.

Now that they have been found guilty and convicted, they would be sentenced a number of years.

It would be recalled that two months back, Santigie Borbor

Kanu, alias '55, Ibrahim Bazy Kamara, and Alex Tamba Brima were found guilty by the court and sentenced to forty years and above.

It is not known for how long the CDF leaders would be sentenced.

After the sentencing of the CDF leaders, the trials of the Revolutionary United Front detainees would commence full, says Special Court sources.



AFRC convict

[Note: This entire article is based on an SMS text message to the press debunking an internet rumour that the sentencing had been delayed.]

The Patriotic Vanguard

Thursday, 30 August 2007

Hinga Norman Family Press Release

Statement from Hinga Norman Family,
Moinina Fofana & Alieu Kondewa

For Public Release, August 30, 2007

It has come to the attention of the family of Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Late of Ngolala Village, Valunia Chiefdom, Bo District in the Southern Region of Sierra Leone that certain persons representing the Women's Wing of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) under the direction of Mrs. Mamie Norman have in the last several days made attempts to visit the grave of Mr. Norman in his ancestral home of Ngolala. The Hinga Norman



family wishes to inform the public that former Vice President, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, is the chief adviser and guardian of the Hinga Norman family and the Rev. Alfred M. SamForay of the United States represents the family in all matters relating to the trial and death of Chief Hinga Norman. The public is, therefore, advised that no person or group is authorized to perform any ceremonies, rites or rituals on the grave of Chief Hinga Norman without the expressed permission of the Hinga Norman family through their designated representative.

The family also wishes it to be known that any unauthorized visit to the gravesite of Chief Hinga Norman with the intent of pouring libation or any similar activity is a violation of the family's right to privacy. The High Priest of the Kamajors, Alieu Musa Kondewa, also wishes to inform the public that the burial site of Chief Hinga Norman remains a sacred site for the Kamajor, Wunde and Poro Societies and non-Initiates and female relatives of the Chief are clearly forbidden to perform any ceremonial activities at the gravesite. Members of the Kamajor Movement, chiefs and elders of Valunia Chiefdom, Ngolala Village and Mongere Town are hereby advised accordingly.

On a related matter, former CDF Director of War, Mr. Moinina Fofana and former Chief Initiator of the Kamajors, Dr. Alieu Kondewa, wish to relay to the public that contrary to statements to that effect, they have not re-joined the Sierra Leone People's Party and neither they nor any members of their immediate family have accepted any offers for that purpose. It is to be recalled that Mr. Fofana, Dr. Kondewa and Chief Sam Hinga Norman, previous to his death, issued a public statement in which they resigned as members of the SLPP and although fraternal discussions have been held at the Detention Center over the past few days between Mr. Fofafana and Dr. Kondewa on one hand and representatives of the SLPP including Dr. John Karimu and Mr. John Benjamin on the other hand, there has been no retraction by the Kamajor leaders as to their membership of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC). Mr. Fofana and Dr. Kondewa further wish to inform that they have issued no instructions regarding membership in the SLPP to rank and file members of the Kamajor Movement, friends or family.

Finally, the Hinga Norman family wishes it to be known that they have taken no sides in the present campaign for the presidency of the Republic of Sierra Leone and prevails on all concerned to respect their wishes on this matter.

Alfred Munda SamForay,
For the Hinga Norman Family, Moinina Fofana & Alieu Kondewa

Straight.Com

Thursday, 30 August 2007

<http://www.straight.com/node/107550/print>

Trial or error

Ian Reid, case manager for the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, is coming to the West Vancouver Memorial Library (1950 Marine Drive) next Thursday (September 6), to talk about the war-crimes trials of late Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic and former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

The discussion period scheduled to take place after the presentation should be interesting: although Milosevic was widely reviled, several observers over the years (among them Osgoode Hall law professor Michael Mandel) have condemned the UN's tribunal as slanted to justify NATO's controversial 1999 bombing campaign in Yugoslavia.

The talk starts at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free. For more, see www.westvanlibrary.ca/ or call 604-925-7405.

UN News Service (New York)

Wednesday, 30 August 2007

Sierra Leone - Ban Ki-moon Voices Concern Over Post-Election Violence

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today expressed concern about the rising tensions and violence over the past week in Sierra Leone, which earlier this month held its first presidential and parliamentary polls since United Nations peacekeepers departed in 2005.

"He calls on all parties and their leaders to do everything necessary to prevent the situation from escalating," his spokesperson said in a statement.

Mr. Ban once again commended the people of the West African nation for the "peaceful and orderly manner in which the first round of the electoral process was held."

The 11 August presidential and parliamentary elections were Sierra Leone's second since the end of the decade-long civil war in 2002, and the first since the withdrawal of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in December 2005.

On Monday, the Security Council issued a press statement praising the "exemplary conduct" of Sierra Leoneans during the first round of the polls.

The 15-member body also urged the public "to maintain the same sense of purpose, discipline and patience as the electoral process enters its final and decisive phase," the run-off in the presidential election on 8 September between Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People's Congress (APC) and incumbent Vice-President Solomon Berewa of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). The two men are vying to succeed Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

In a statement earlier this month, the Secretary-General welcomed the peaceful atmosphere of the first round of voting but cautioned that the same atmosphere must prevail during the remainder of the election process.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 30 August 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

President Johnson Sirleaf Off to Italy

Monrovia, Aug 30, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has left the country for Italy on a working visit. While in Italy, the President will hold bilateral talks with Italian government officials including that country's Prime Minister Romano Prodi and President Giorgio Napolitano. An Executive Mansion release says President Sirleaf will also participate in a conference in Turin, Italy, hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR). The Agency is committed to supporting programs that will have a sustainable impact. UNITAR operates under the principle that only carefully designed and implemented training programmes can make a lasting contribution to national development.

Liberian Solicitor General: government ready to try ex-president

Source: Dpa English Date: August 30, 2007

Monrovia_(dpa) _ Liberian Solicitor General Tiawon Gongloe said Thursday that the government of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, in its determination to crack down on corruption in the public sector, is prepared to put former head of state Charles Bryant on trial. Gongloe said the stage is set to try Bryant. He praised the Supreme Court for denying Bryant immunity from prosecution and said "this government is trying to end the culture of impunity." "This decision is a notice to all of us as it clearly depicts the fact that no one is above the law," the tough-speaking Solicitor General told journalists at a United Nations briefing in Monrovia.

Refugees Refuse to Leave Oru Camp

Abeokuta, Aug 30, 2007 (Vanguard/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- REFUGEES at the Oru camp recently closed down by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) yesterday insisted that they would not leave Nigeria for their different countries as they would prefer to stay back and be integrated into the society. The refugees said that although the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone were over, the leadership in the countries was still in the hands of those who perpetrated the injustices that brought them to Nigeria. The Refugees spoke at an interactive session with former Attorney general of the Federation, Prince Bola Ajibola, President and founder of a Non Governmental Organization, African Concern, looking into possibilities of taking over the camp.

UN Envoy Stresses Need to End Violence Against Women

New York, Aug 30, 2007 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The United Nations envoy to Liberia has called for an end to violence against women, while stressing that security is paramount for everyone throughout the West African nation as it works to rebuild after a brutal 14-year civil war. Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss made his remarks yesterday as he handed over a new UN-built police station to the people of Kronowroken, Webbo District, in River Gee County, along Liberia's border with Cote d'Ivoire. "It does not matter where you are in Liberia, your security is important. River Gee County may be a long way from

Monrovia but you are not forgotten," said Mr. Doss, referring to the capital. The building was constructed under the UN Mission in Liberia's (UNMIL's) quick impact project initiative.

Liberia discovers 'ghost' workers

BBC News - 30 August 2007 - Liberia's government says it has found more than 7,000 'ghost' workers on its payroll - employees who do not actually exist, or do not work for it. The discovery was made when the government embarked on a civil service overhaul to improve efficiency. The Civil Service Agency head, William Allen, told the BBC that the ghost workers "got there through the usual avenue, which is corruption". He said they had cost Liberian tax payers about \$2.6m (£1.3m) a year. All the fake names have now been removed from the payroll and a biometric identity system is being introduced, he said. "The biometric (system) is about 99.9% foolproof so once we install this technology we hope once and for all that we will be able to save the Liberian tax payers a huge sum of money," Mr Allen said.

International Clips on West Africa

Fears of violence cloud S. Leone run-off campaign

BO, **Sierra Leone**, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Mustapha Sesay and Femi Rashid, former foes in Sierra Leone's civil war, spar with good humoured jibes as they work together in a motorcycle taxi association that brings together ex-combatants. "I shoot you like a chicken," laughs ex-rebel child soldier Sesay, 22. "You don't know how to fight," retorts Rashid, 40, once a traditional Kamajor hunter who battled the rebels. This spirit of reconciliation allowed the former British colony in West Africa to successfully hold its first elections since United Nations peacekeepers left two years ago following the 1991-2002 war, one of Africa's most brutal conflicts. But in the Aug. 11 first round vote for the presidency, no candidate gained the 55 percent required to win.

Ivory Coast jails 11 for 20 years for massacre

ABIDJAN, Aug 30 (Reuters) - A court in Ivory Coast sentenced 11 people to 20 years in jail for their part in a massacre in which at least 145 people were shot, hacked or burned to death, the justice service said on Thursday. The group were convicted on Wednesday in the town of Daloa, around 100 km (63 miles) from the volatile western Duekoue area where two villages were attacked in the early hours of June 1, 2005. "There were 21 accused. The court declared 11 of them guilty and handed down prison sentences of 20 years. Ten others were found not guilty and acquitted," prosecutor Gberi-Be Ouattara told Reuters by telephone from the court in Daloa.

Local Media – Newspaper

Maritime Commissioner Designate Reacts to Media Reports

(The Inquirer, Heritage, New Democrat, The News, The Analyst, Liberian Express, and National Chronicle)

- In a press release issued in Monrovia on Wednesday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf nominee for the position of Commissioner of the Bureau of Maritime Affairs, Cllr. John Stewart reacted to media reports linking him to multiple charges of financial improprieties in the United States.
- Cllr. Stewart said the ongoing investigation by the Washington DC Bar is purely civil and not criminal in nature as is being insinuated.
- The media reported yesterday that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has withheld the appointment of Cllr. Stewart as Commissioner of the Bureau of Maritime Affairs following reports that he was undergoing investigation on charges of financial improprieties.

President Johnson Sirleaf Identifies with Flood Victims

(Heritage, New Democrat, The Informer, The Analyst, Daily Observer and National Chronicle)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has visited flood affected areas around Monrovia and its environs and expressed concern about the level of devastation and displacement and assured that government is exerting efforts to find a long-term solution to the situation.

- The President accompanied by Public Works Minister, Luseni Donzo and the Montserrado County Legislators also visited the damaged Kaikpu Bridge in Brewerville which served as a major transit between Monrovia and Western Liberia and urged the Minister to speed up efforts to find a solution to the problem.

Solicitor General Prides Government for Winning More Cases

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

- Speaking yesterday during UNMIL weekly press briefing, Solicitor General Tiawan Gongloe said government has won fifty-five out of sixty-six cases tried so far this year at the level of circuit courts around the country.
- He said the cases included rape, murder, theft of property, criminal mischief, aggravated assault, armed robbery amongst others.
- Cllr. Gongloe said more criminal cases would be tried before the end of the year something he described as a hopeful sign for the criminal justice system.

Former Transitional Chairman Prosecution Signals Warning, Gongloe Says

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

- Liberia's Solicitor General, Cllr Tiawan Gongloe says the recent ruling of the Supreme Court denying a prohibition filed by lawyers of the former Transitional Chairman Gyude Bryant to exempt him from prosecution was a resounding decision and a victory to end impunity.
- Speaking to journalists on Wednesday during UNMIL's weekly press briefing, Cllr. Gongloe said the ruling sends out a warning to current government officials that they too could be prosecuted if they are suspected of corruption.
- He said the ruling against Bryant would now make it easier for government to prosecute other former officials of the defunct National Transitional Government of Liberia.

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

President Johnson-Sirleaf Identifies with Flood Victims

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Johnson-Sirleaf Leaves for Rome, Italy

- An Executive Mansion statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has left the country for Rome, Italy and would hold bilateral talks with Italian government officials including President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi.
- The statement said the President would also take part in a forum hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) that will bring together other prominent opinion leaders of the world including UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to discuss the future of the organization.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

National Timber Union Condemns Police Brutality Report

- The National Timber Union of Liberia has criticized the report of the Cecil Griffiths Committee which was set up to probe allegations of Police brutality, which left a member of the Timber Union dead.
- According to the panel's report, the body being claimed by the Union is that of one Prince Zarwolo, a minor and not Prince Garwolo.
- Speaking to reporters yesterday the Secretary General of the Union, Michael Blamah condemned the report as "baseless and not credible".
- Mr. Blamah said the Union would no longer dwell on the issue of the report but on its US\$24,000 arrears government owes them. He said they would stage another peaceful demonstration if government refuses to pay their arrears.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

Maritime Commissioner Designate Reacts to Media Reports

UN Refugee Agency to Construct Five Police Stations

- In an interview, the Inspector General of Police, Colonel Beatrice Munah Sieh says the UN refugee agency plans to construct five Police stations in some of the counties that would accommodate Police officers at their assigned posts.
- Colonel Sieh said the Liberia National Police intends to prioritize the border counties when it comes to the construction of Police stations and indicated that the administration of the LNP would continuously exert efforts to attract donor agencies to equip the law enforcement agency.

Voice of America

Thursday, 30 August 2007

Uganda's Rebel Leader Sets Conditions for Local Courts

By Peter Clotey
Washington, D.C.

Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels say it is an error for victims of the rebel insurgency to suggest local courts to try only members of the LRA for alleged war crimes. This follows the Ugandan government's "extensive" consultations with people in the northern part of the country who said they have suffered during the over twenty years of LRA insurgency. The rebels said they might accept local courts as an alternative to the Hague-based International Criminal Court. However, the rebels say they are angered by what they say is the government's Refusal to put its own soldiers accused of atrocities on trial. Meanwhile, major opposition political parties in Uganda are expected to soon be part of a consultative meeting with the rebels in Rikwangba.

Vincent Otti is the second in command of the LRA rebels. He tells reporter Peter Clotey that the rebels would only agree to be tried locally if Ugandan government soldiers accused of atrocities are also tried in the same courts.

"From my side, I do see that what the victims are saying, they do not know who has done this one. If any of that is LRA who has done this one, it is okay because during war you do not know who has done this and that. The victims should be even sometimes the LRA or sometimes the government of Uganda that is the UPDF. If both of us are to face the same trial then that is okay," Otti pointed out.

He said the LRA would also need to consult its people to ascertain their next step forward.

"That is why we need a consultation. Uganda government is consulting people from Uganda and that is why the result has come out. From our side also we need our people here, all the Ugandans to come here, the Uganda people in Uganda and in the Diaspora so that we come, and we sit down for the same issue. If we were to be tried in Uganda... even myself if they say Vincent has done this I will accept, that is why we need to consult people here in Rikwangba," he said.

Otti wondered why some people are criticizing the rebels for demanding to have 500 people to be part of its consultation process, which forms part of the third agenda, item, which is accountability and reconciliation.

"500 people are very few because, for instance, the Uganda government consults people in Gulu District alone more than 250, but they are going all throughout Uganda. But with us we call at least 20 people from all the districts of Uganda. That is why we try at least to conclude by saying that if possible 500. We need even if possible they could even come up to 2000," Otti noted.

He said he is grateful to the donor community, especially the mediator of the peace talks, who is also the Vice President of Southern Sudan, Riek Machar for his able leadership in the ongoing peace negotiations between the rebels and the government.

"That one I thank the vice president of Southern Sudan very much for his support about this money. It is the vice president of Southern Sudan, the Uganda government and delegates of the LRA, which they have agreed for this consultation meeting. The Uganda government wrote their budget and the LRA also wrote their budget. Now, if they are saying the money is too much I would like to say the money should be given back to them. But we need if possible 500 people to come to our consultations because we are not after money. The money is not for our individual pocket use," he said.

Otti said peace seems to be returning to the northern parts of Uganda, thanks to the ongoing peace talks.

"The donors have given to the government of Uganda billions of dollars, but the war did not end. But today, as a result of our peace talks now there is peace in northern Uganda, why should they not support us fully? And giving three million (Dollars) is enough because what we want is just to bring a lasting peace in our country," Otti noted.