

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



Sierra Leone's newly elected President Ernest Bai Koroma taking the oath of office. (Credit: Awoko)

**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, 18 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
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**International News**

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## UN News Service (New York)

Monday, 17 September 2007

### **Secretary-General Pledges UN Support to President-Elect**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today pledged continuing support for Sierra Leone following the announcement of the opposition victory in presidential elections, the first since United Nations peacekeepers left in 2005 after helping to bring peace and stability to the West African country that was torn asunder by a brutal 10-year civil war.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson Mr. Ban commended all Sierra Leonean parties and their supporters "for exercising patience and restraint" during the tallying of votes in the 8 September poll, in which Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People's Congress Party received 54.6 per cent and incumbent Vice-President Solomon Berewa of the Sierra Leone People's Party obtained 45.4 per cent of the total valid votes cast. The final result was announced today.

Mr. Ban extended his warm congratulations to Mr. Koroma and also commended the National Electoral Commission and Sierra Leone's security agencies for the professional and efficient manner in which they performed their duties during the period, which saw two rounds of voting since neither of the top candidates received sufficient votes to be elected outright.

"The Secretary-General wishes to assure the newly elected government of Sierra Leone of the continued support of the United Nations as the country continues to move towards durable political stability and sustainable economic development," the statement concluded.

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

Since then assistance has been channelled through the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), which today announced one more example of UN aid with the handing over of audio-visual equipment and computers to the Voice of Children Project (VOC), managed by the Office.

Presiding at the hand-over ceremony, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador Fabienne Demal, a Belgian pop star popularly known as Axelle Red, praised the children for their courage and enthusiasm and advised them to take their newly acquired journalistic skills seriously.

The Voice of Children project is regarded internationally as a highly successful communications tool for stimulating critical discussion among children in peace consolidation environments. It was launched as a non-profit public service radio facility for and by the children of Sierra Leone on the issues that affect their lives most intimately.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 September 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

**Chicago Tribune** 09/16/2007 07:46:38

#### **Liberians given a safe haven face uncertain future**

Vanessa Bauza

Sep. 16--After almost a decade spent building a life in the U.S., Oct. 1 was looming ever closer as the day Youjay Innis would be forced to depart for Liberia, the war-torn nation he fled as a teen. But in a last-minute reprieve, the Chicago resident and 3,500 other Liberians living in the United States under Temporary Protected Status were given an 18-month extension last week by President Bush. The extension falls short of the permanent residency for which many Liberians have spent years lobbying, but acknowledges fragile economic and political conditions in the West African nation as it struggles to rebuild.

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

09/17/2007 08:01:52

#### **UPDATE 2-Koroma wins tense Sierra Leone presidential poll**

By Katrina Manson and Christo Johnson

FREETOWN, Sept 17 (Reuters) - Sierra Leone opposition leader Ernest Bai Koroma won the West African country's presidential election after a tense run-off vote marred by some cases of fraud, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said on Monday. Koroma, a 53-year-old former insurance executive and candidate of the opposition All People's Congress (APC), was declared the winner with 54.6 percent of valid votes from the Sept. 8 run-off poll. His rival, Vice-President Solomon Berewa of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), obtained 45.4 percent.

### **Cote d'Ivoire likely to hold elections in October 2008**

ABIDJAN, Sept 14, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Cote d'Ivoire may hold presidential and legislative elections around October 2008 if everything goes ahead as planned, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has announced. "We should be ready for the first round of the presidential elections within a maximum of 10 months from the launch of the public meetings. Based on this, the elections should be held around October 2008 if everything goes according to plans," CEI President Robert Mambe said while addressing the press Thursday.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **Defense Chief off to US to Lobby for US Africa Command Post**

*(The News, Heritage, Public Agenda, The Inquirer and Daily Observer)*

- Defense ministers from several African countries including Liberia will be in the United States this week to lobby for the hosting of the US Africa Command in their respective countries.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had recently offered Liberian territory to be used as AFRICOM command post. The US Africa Command will among other things focus on anti terrorist operations and oversee strategic developments and military operations across Africa. The public appears to be excited over the President's lobby to host the United States Africa Command military operations.
- Despite the myriad of excitement, critics are of the opinion that hosting such command could make the country vulnerable to terrorist attacks since Al Qaeda is still determined to strike the US and its interests around the world.

### **Petroleum Giant Launches Operation in Liberia**

*(The News)*

- One of the world's leading petroleum giants, TOTAL, on Friday launched its operation into Liberia's petroleum market. The French-owned company has earmarked the construction of about 20 automated level-one petroleum filling stations in the country, thereby creating stiff competition within the local petroleum market.

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

### **Police Subdue Alleged Thief in Catholic Radio Station Compound**

- Correspondents said that an unknown man on Sunday sneaked into the compound of Catholic-run Radio Veritas to allegedly steal copper-wires, but Police Officers moved in and arrested the man.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

### **Police Academy Decries Encroachments on its Land**

- Addressing more than 50 graduates of the Liberia National Police, the Police Training Academy Commandant, Colonel James Hallowangar said that many squatters have encroached on the Academy's 100 acres of land in Paynesville. He recounted that the land was given to the Police by the former Commissioner of Paynesville during the Tubman-administration assuring that the Police will use legal means to remove the squatters.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

### **Former Lawmaker Calls on Senate to Disapprove Act for Veteran Bureau**

- In an interview, former Bong County Representative Joseph Cornomia has opposed the setting up of the proposed Bureau of Veteran Affairs and called on the Senate to disapprove Act on grounds that many of those covered by the Act, perpetrated violence and destroyed lives and properties. H

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC 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. Weah Karpeh at [karpeh@un.org](mailto:karpeh@un.org).*

## UN News

Friday, 14 September 2007

### Security Council extends prosecutors at UN war crimes tribunals



Security Council

The Security Council today agreed to extend the mandates of the current chief prosecutors at the United Nations war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

By a resolution adopted with 14 votes in favour and only the Russian Federation abstaining, the Council agreed to extend the mandate of Carla Del Ponte at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) until 31 December this year, in line with a request from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The resolution noted “the need to ensure a smooth transition between the departure of Ms. Carla Del Ponte and the assumption of office of her successor” and that Mr. Ban intends to submit the name of his nominee to succeed Ms. Del Ponte.

Ms. Del Ponte, whose mandate began in 1999, is the third chief prosecutor at the ICTY, which is based in The Hague in the Netherlands.

Explaining his abstention, the representative of the Russian Federation said his country had doubts about Ms. Del Ponte’s understanding of her mandate.

“Instead of carrying out the profoundly professional duties of a jurist employed by the international community to support an impartial prosecution in the Tribunal, for the present Chief Prosecutor, the priority has become functions of being some kind of quasi-political player who has had the audacity to write a prescription in the area of international relations,” he said.

In another action, Hassan Bubacar Jallow was re-appointed to a four-year term at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), effective from tomorrow, after a resolution passed unanimously by Council members.

The resolution allows for Mr. Jallow’s appointment to be terminated if the ICTR, which is based in Arusha, Tanzania, completes its work before September 2011.

## UN News

Monday, 17 September 2007

### FACTSHEET: The Special Tribunal for Lebanon

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On 13 December 2005 the Government of the Lebanese Republic requested the United Nations to establish a tribunal of an international character to try all those who are alleged responsible for the attack of 14 February 2005 in Beirut that killed the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. The United Nations and the Lebanese Republic consequently negotiated an agreement on the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Further to Security Council resolution 1757(2007) of 30 May 2007, the provisions of the document annexed to it and the Statute of the Special Tribunal thereto attached, entered into force on 10 June 2007. Pursuant to the same Security Council resolution, the Secretary-General is presently taking all the necessary steps to establish the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

To ensure the impartiality and independence of the Special Tribunal, its Statute includes various safeguards. It provides for a transparent and thorough process for the appointment of judges and the Prosecutor and it stipulates that the Chambers shall be composed of Lebanese judges as well as international judges. In addition, the Statute protects the rights of the accused and it provides victims with the right to present their views and concerns as deemed appropriate by the Pre-Trial Judge or the Chamber. For considerations of justice and fairness, as well as security and administrative efficiency, the seat of the Special Tribunal will be located outside Lebanon.

#### Jurisdiction

- The Special Tribunal has jurisdiction over those persons who are alleged responsible for:
  - i) the attack of 14 February 2005 resulting in the death of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri and in the death and injury of other persons; and
  - ii) other attacks that occurred in Lebanon between 1 October 2004 and 12 December 2005, or, a later date to be decided by the United Nations and the Lebanese Republic and with the consent of the Security Council, found by the Special Tribunal to be connected in accordance with the principles of criminal justice and are of a nature and gravity similar to the attack of 14 February 2005.

#### Applicable Law

- The Special Tribunal shall apply the provisions of the Lebanese Criminal Code relating to the prosecution and punishment of acts of terrorism and crimes and offences against life and personal integrity, among others.

#### Organization of the Special Tribunal

- The Special Tribunal will consist of four organs: the **Chambers**, the **Prosecutor**, the **Registry** and the **Defence Office**.
- The Chambers will be composed of a Pre-Trial Judge, a Trial Chamber (three judges) and an Appeals Chamber (five judges). A second Trial Chamber may be created if after at least six months from the commencement of the functioning of the Special Tribunal, the Secretary-General or the President of the Special Tribunal so requests.
- The existence of a Pre-Trial Judge is crucial to ensure the efficiency and expediency of the trial process. He or she will review and confirm indictments and may also issue arrest warrants, transfer requests and any other orders required for the conduct of the investigation and for the preparation of the trials.

- An independent Defence Office will act to protect the rights of the defence, draw up the list of possible defence counsel and provide support and assistance to defence counsel and persons entitled to legal assistance.

### **Appointment of the Judges and the Prosecutor**

- According to the Statute, all judges must be “persons of high moral character, impartiality and integrity, with extensive judicial experience”. The judges of the Special Tribunal will be a mix of Lebanese and international appointees and will be eleven\* in total.
- The Lebanese judges (four\*) will be appointed by the Secretary-General, from a list of 12 nominees presented by the Government of the Lebanese Republic upon the proposal of the Lebanese Supreme Council of the Judiciary.
- The International judges (seven\*) will be appointed by the Secretary-General, from nominations received from Member States, or other competent persons.
- The Judges will serve for a period of three years.
- An international Prosecutor will be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Government of the Lebanese Republic. The Prosecutor will serve for a three-year term.
- A Lebanese Deputy Prosecutor, who will assist the Prosecutor in the performance of his or her functions, will be appointed by the Government of the Lebanese Republic in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Prosecutor.
- The Secretary-General will appoint the judges and the Prosecutor upon the recommendation of a selection panel, made up of two judges currently sitting on or retired from an international tribunal, and a representative of the Secretary-General.

### **Location**

- The Secretary-General of the United Nations wrote to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands on 23 July 2007 inviting his Government to consider hosting the Special Tribunal. He emphasized that the experience and knowledge gained by the Netherlands in hosting several international courts and tribunals was invaluable.
- The Prime Minister of the Netherlands responded on 14 August 2007 that his Government was “favorably disposed” to hosting the Special Tribunal.

### **Funding**

- Fifty-one per cent of the costs of the Special Tribunal will be borne by voluntary contributions from States, while the Government of the Lebanese Republic will finance forty-nine per cent of the costs.
- The Special Tribunal will be established once sufficient contributions to finance its establishment and activities for one year, as well as pledges equivalent to anticipated expenses for the following two years, have been received.

### **Penalties**

- The Special Tribunal has the power to impose penalties leading up to and including life imprisonment.
- Sentences will be served in a State designated by the President of the Special Tribunal from a list of States who have expressed their willingness to accept convicted persons.

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\* The final number of judges appointed will depend on whether a second Trial Chamber is created at least six months from the commencement of the functioning of the Special Tribunal on the request of the Secretary-General or the President of the Special Tribunal. The second Trial Chamber will consist of three judges, one Lebanese and two international.

## UN News

Monday, 17 September 2007

### **UN tribunal on Rwandan genocide hears arguments on sentencing of former mayor**

Prosecutors at the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the Rwandan genocide today urged its judges to sentence to 12 years' imprisonment a former mayor who has pleaded guilty to a charge of extermination as a crime against humanity.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), sitting in Arusha, Tanzania, heard closing arguments from both prosecutors and defence lawyers in the case of Juvénal Rugambarara, who served as mayor of Bicumbi commune in Kigali-Rural Prefecture from September 1993 to April 1994.

The prosecution said a prison sentence of not less than 12 years was appropriate, while the defence team argued for a more lenient sentence, calling five character witnesses to say that he had saved many Tutsis during the genocide. Judges Asoka de Silva (presiding), Taghrid Hikmet and Seon Ki Park will announce their decision at a date to be fixed.

In July Mr. Rugambarara made the guilty plea after two years of negotiations with prosecutors, who agreed to withdraw eight other charges that included genocide, torture and rape. During a hearing that month he also apologized for his actions in the genocide.

"I pay sincere tribute to all the innocent victims of the shameful cowardice and humbly bow and plead for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart... I solemnly pledge to join the rallying cry of those who say 'never again,'" he said at the time.

The ICTR found that Mr. Rugambarara – who worked as a medical officer for much of his adult life – failed as mayor to take the necessary and reasonable measures to establish an investigation into the killings committed in Bicumbi commune during the genocide or to apprehend and punish the perpetrators.

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered, mostly by machete or club, across Rwanda in less than 100 days starting in early April 1994. Later that year the Security Council established the ICTR to deal with the worst cases.