

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



A panoramic view of Freetown's historic Cape Lighthouse, situated on the tip of the Aberdeen Peninsula .

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, 29 October 2007

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

International News

African immigrant, accused of war crimes, sits in jail in Texas / *AP*

Pages 3-4

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL*

Pages 5-6

The Associated Press

Tuesday, 16 October 2007

African immigrant, accused of war crimes, sits in jail in Texas

Samuel Komba Kambo and his wife arrived at a government office for what they assumed was a routine green card interview last October. Within minutes, he was handcuffed and accused of war crimes in his native Sierra Leone.

A fuel analyst with an MBA from the University of Texas, Kambo figured questions about the execution of 29 counter-revolutionaries in Sierra Leone would be resolved quickly and he would be allowed to return to his family in Austin in a matter of days or weeks.

Nearly a year later, he sits in jail in Texas, even though an immigration judge said one of Kambo's chief accusers was unreliable, and the government of Sierra Leone has no interest in prosecuting him.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency claims that Kambo was involved in the executions and wants him deported. Using post-Sept. 11 detention laws that give authorities broad power to keep immigrants in custody, ICE has appealed the judge's order that Kambo be released on bail. The case is now before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

"It's like you're fighting with your hands tied behind your back. It's very unfair," Kambo, the former energy minister for the military government that took power in Sierra Leone in 1992, told The Associated Press from a detention center in San Antonio.

A Federal Register publication says ICE sought automatic stays in fiscal year 2004 to keep 273 immigrants in custody during deportation proceedings despite judges' rulings that they be released on bail.

Kambo's attorney, Simon Azar-Farr, has gone to federal court in hopes of getting Kambo released on a writ of habeas corpus. A hearing is set for Thursday.

ICE spokeswoman Nina Pruneda would not comment on the case.

Judy Rabinovitz of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants Rights Project said the government's position is generally that immigrants hold the key to their own cell: Agree to deportation, and the government will let you out.

The 39-year-old Kambo, who came to this country in 1994, has four children born in the United States, ages 4 to 13. Kambo said if he left, his children would effectively be deported, too, and would be denied the education and other opportunities available here.

"It's better for us to sacrifice for the kids," he said.

In 1992, at age 23, he was part of a group of military officers who bloodlessly overthrew a government they said was failing to provide them the arms and supplies they needed to fend off attacks from rebels sponsored by Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president who now faces crimes-against-humanity charges in The Hague, Netherlands.

Late that year, the provisional government learned of an alleged new coup plan and rounded up 29 suspects, who were ordered executed without trial, according to the U.S. State Department. Kambo said he knew about some of the arrests but was unaware of the plan for executions.

The State Department cited unidentified sources in a 2005 letter accusing Kambo of aiding and approving the executions. "Both sources who were knowledgeable about Kambo were convinced that he aided in the planning for and approval of the mass executions in December 1992," the letter said.

But earlier this year, an immigration judge said that testimony from the one witness who claimed to have direct knowledge of Kambo's involvement a former bodyguard who said Kambo was among those who rounded up the suspects was "riddled with implausibility."

Judge Gary Burkholder said there was "no evidence" that Kambo "was instrumental" in creating or orchestrating the brutal suppression of alleged coup members."

About a dozen people, including Taylor, have been indicted by a U.N.-backed court on war crimes charges in Sierra Leone. No other indictments are expected, prosecutors have said.

Kambo is not wanted for any crimes in Sierra Leone, and the African country has no interest in his return, according to a letter from Hassan Conteh, deputy chief of that country's embassy in Washington, to his lawyer.

His colleagues at Lower Colorado River Authority, a Texas utility, said they are perplexed that immigration authorities would target Kambo.

"We see a good man and a decent man we respect in a very bad situation that we don't understand," said Robert Cullick. Co-workers have been raising money for Kambo's family, he said.

Kambo said the family has given up its health insurance and is struggling to pay the mortgage.

"At the end of the day, even if you win, it's a mess. Your credit is ruined. Your career is ruined," Kambo said. "They are using this as a means to force me to deport myself."

Associated Press Writer Clarence Roy-Macaulay contributed to this report from Freetown, Sierra Leone.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 17 October 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

Economic growth in CFA zone insufficient to reduce poverty: official

PARIS, Oct 16, 2007 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- The current levels of economic growth within the CFA zone remains weak and insufficient to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), CFA finance ministers said Tuesday. According to a statement published here at the end of a two-day meeting, the finance ministers "note that growth within the zone remained insufficient to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" Economic growth within the zone "is remarkably divided between petroleum importers and exporters

Local Media – Newspaper

Opposition Parties to Discontinue Support to Ruling UP

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

- The opposition Liberty Party and the Congress for Democratic Change said they would disengage with the Government of Liberia if President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf does not change her decision to appoint City Mayors as she has already appointed a City Mayor for Zwedru in Grand Gedeh County in violation of the Liberian Constitution.
- In a statement yesterday, the parties contended that the President's insistence on appointing City Mayors contravenes an agreement between the Government, National Elections Commission, the political parties and other stakeholders that current City Mayors keep their positions until elections are organized.
- The parties described the President's move to appoint City Mayors as "Autocratic", especially where she allegedly ignores the opposition in the governance of the State. They called on UNMIL, the US Embassy and the international community to intervene in the problem.

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

Opposition Political Parties Threaten to Disengage with Ruling Party

(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

National Port Towboat Motor Allegedly Stolen

- Sources told Radio Veritas that a 9.5 Horse Power Yamaha motor that powers the National Ports Authority towboat was allegedly stolen from the Freeport of Monrovia and that the Liberia Seaport Police which provides security at the Freeport has alerted the Liberia National Police about the theft.

City Mayor Defiles Dismissal Order

- Correspondents said that Zwedru City Mayor Ophelia Gailey, who the Government reportedly dismissed for ill-health, said that she was never replaced and therefore remains Mayor of Zwedru. She noted that at no time did she tell the Government that she was ill and needed replacement.

(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

Stakeholders Finalize Documents to Set Up Disaster Commission

- Sources said that national stakeholders and their international partners are finalizing a document to establish a National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC).
- Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Walter Wisner said that the NDMC will incorporate a policy aspect of disaster risk management for Liberia as well as the sustainable institutional structures, risk identification and technical and risk management using zoning codes.

(Also reported on SKY FM, Truth FM, Star Radio and ELBS)

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.