

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



The Special Court took on CelTel tournament defending champions Cold Storage on Saturday at the St. Edward's Secondary School pitch. See the action in today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

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:

Monday, 8 October 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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UN News

Sunday, 7 October 2007

UN seeks funds for Charles Taylor's trial

New York, UN - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appealed to member states to help alleviate the financial constraints that may stall the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, PANA reported Sunday.

Ban called on the member states to provide "necessary funding" for the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), which is handling the case, "to ensure the successful completion of its mandate".

A letter addressed to each of the Court's Management Committee member states as well as to other UN member states, obtained by PANA at the UN headquarters in New York, said the appeal was "urgent in order to resolve the financial crisis".

The committee, is chaired by Canada and has the UN, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Netherlands, UK and the U.S. as its members.

"As you are aware, the Special Court is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions and presently, the Court has insufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations beyond October 2007," Ban wrote.

He listed the budgetary requirements for the Court for the period of 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2007 as US\$36 million; 2008 US\$33 million and for 2009, US\$20 million.

The Secretary-General underscored the importance of the Court, which he said was aimed at promoting the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law.

"It is for these reasons that I have decided to appeal once again to your government to provide funding for the Court as a matter of urgency," he explained.

He further appealed to member states to consider entering into enforcement of sentences agreements with the Court, adding: "I will be grateful for a response from your government by October 15, 2007."

Taylor is facing 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, including mass murder, mutilations, rape, sexual slavery and the use of child soldiers.

The crimes were alleged to have been committed during the decade-long civil war that engulfed Sierra Leone, which borders Liberia.

The UN Security Council authorised the staging of Taylor's trial at The Hague, Netherlands, citing security and expediency.

The Special Court, established in January 2002 by an agreement between the Sierra Leonean Government and the UN, is mandated to try "those who bear greatest responsibility" for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country after 30 Nov., 1996.

Under an agreement with the UK, Taylor will be imprisoned in that country if he is convicted.

Panapress

Cotton Tree News
Saturday, 6 October 2007

RUF trial resumes

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

The Special Court on Thursday resumed the case of the three indicted former Revolutionary United Front leaders. A forty-five year old farmer testified before the court. Responding to questions from the Defense Counsel, the witness said he was in Kailahun when the war started.

He said among the people that first went to his village was a man identified as Rambo from Liberia. The witness said they were ill treated during their stay with Rambo and his team.

He told the court that they later met with Issa Hassan Sesay of the RUF. He added that under the reign of Issa Sesay they had normal living conditions.

He said they even established a community farm. The three RUF indictees were present in court. They are facing trial for war crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 October 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

AP 10/05/2007 11:13:12

Bush to host presidents of Congo, Liberia at White House this month

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush is meeting this month at the White House with the presidents of Congo and Liberia, press secretary Dana Perino said Friday. Congolese President Joseph Kabila will visit Oct. 26 for talks that will touch on Kabila's government in the aftermath of its re-election last year and "the remaining challenges to a secure and prosperous Congo," Perino said in a statement. On their agenda will be discussion of U.S.-Congolese cooperation to improve security and reconstruction in violent eastern Congo.

UN News Service 10/04/07

U.N. Chief Declares Liberia Eligible for Peace building Fund

New York - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared today that Liberia is the fifth country to become eligible for the United Nations Peace building Fund, set up a year ago to help States emerging from conflict consolidate their gains and not slide back into war. Mr. Ban also instructed the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to start consultations with the Liberian Government and local civil society partners in the West African country to devise a priority plan, his spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters.

International Clips on West Africa

Buhari Hails Sierra Leone's Elections

Elkanah Chawai

Abuja, Oct 05, 2007 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Sierra Leonean elections have given a "glimmer of hope" to the African continent, General Muhammadu Buhari said in Abuja yesterday in reference to that country's election in which the opposition candidate defeated the candidate of the ruling party. General Buhari, All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) candidate in the April elections, said in a letter to Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to Nigeria that the judiciary and political elite deserve commendation for the positive role they played in helping to entrench democracy in Sierra Leone.

Local Media – Newspaper

Female Journalists Group Reacts to "Sex for News" Report

(Public Agenda, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Daily Observer, The Analyst and The Informer)

- The Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FEJAL) has reacted to a statement by Daily Observer reporter Mae Azango at a forum in the United States which stated that female journalists in Liberia are being constantly asked for sex in return for news stories. In a release issued in Monrovia, FEJAL said the statement could bring to disrepute the credibility that women in the media have and are striving to achieve.

Postal Workers Suspended for Stealing

(The Inquirer and Heritage)

- A statement issued by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in Monrovia yesterday said 11 employees have been suspended for their alleged involvement in mail smuggling. The statement said Minister Jackson Doe suspended the senior officials for attempting to dupe the ministry of eight bags of mails containing twenty-four parcels which weighed 220-kilograms and was valued at more than L\$170,000. The parcels were seized at the Roberts International Airport following a tip-off.

Probe Committee Exonerates Bong Superintendent

(The Inquirer, Heritage, Public Agenda and The Analyst)

- A team set up to probe allegations of corruption against Bong County Superintendent, Rennie Jackson has cleared him of the charges. The team said investigation into the alleged embezzlement of the development funds established that the accusations were baseless, untrue and politically motivated.
- Recently, the Bong County Legislative Caucus was mandated by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to investigate allegations that the Superintendent received the amount of US\$7,800 from the Fuamah District development fund upon her request, a claim Mr. Jackson has persistently denied.

Armed Forces of Liberia Graduates 499 New Soldiers Today

(Heritage)

Nearly 500 personnel of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will on today, Friday graduate from the Second Infantry Advanced Individual Training course. A release issued in Monrovia said, the soldiers completed infantry training in a number of different topics including map reading, land navigation, troop leading procedures and movement techniques.

- 371 of the graduates would be transferred from the Sandee Ware Military Barrack to the Edward Beyan Kesselly Barrack to fill positions necessary to form the first infantry companies of the new AFL.

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

Liberia-Germany Partnership Resumes

- Speaking at a ceremony to mark the “German Unity Day” yesterday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that the building of partnership between Liberia and Germany was now back on track and moving forward for the benefit of their peoples. The “German Unity Day” signifies the unification of East and West Germany.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

National Legislature Commences Annual Break

- According to Legislative Correspondents, the official closing of legislative business at the Unity Conference Centre outside Monrovia would be held today with the Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo saying that the ceremony will be used to appreciate the Lawmakers and staffers for the manner in which they conducted themselves during their second sitting. Senator Nyenabo said that the ceremony will also be used to provide brief overview of the achievements and give some projection for the Senate’s third sitting in January, 2008.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

Catholic Cleric Says Government lacks Control of the Streets

- In an interview, Catholic Apostolic Administrator Andrew Karnley attributed the increase in armed-related crimes to the Government’s inability to control the streets, provide jobs thus residents of the communities have become hostile. He emphasized that because the Government is not on top of security, ordinary Liberians were resorting to jungle or mob justice.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Sky FM and ELBS Radio)

The News (Monrovia)

Monday, 8 October 2007

Ecowas Police Chiefs Agree to Combat Cross-Border Crimes

By Alloycious David
Ghana

West African police chiefs last week in Accra, Ghana, agreed to collectively police and facilitate joint police operations in the sub-region.

During a week-long conference in Accra of West African police chiefs, the police bosses resolved to combat cross-border crimes including child trafficking, money laundering, and other organized crimes in West Africa.

The forum which attracted police chiefs and some investigators from the sub-region was chaired by Yapo Kouassi, Controller General and Director General of Cote d' Ivoire.

In an interview with reporters Thursday in Accra where the week-long conference was held, Liberia Police Inspector General B. Munah Sieh said the conference was part of a yearly meeting of West African police chiefs.

She said at the gathering, police chiefs discussed and brainstormed ways of handling organized cross border crimes such as child trafficking, and other national security threats.

Inspector General Sieh noted that the gathering was intended to advance relation among police forces in the region and maneuver ways to apprehend criminals evading justice.

She also indicated that Liberia and other West African countries would through the International Criminal Police (INTERPOL) arrest criminals escaping their countries.

The Liberian Police Boss said they (police chiefs) have agreed to assist each other in fighting cross border crimes.

Sieh: "And I believed by this Liberia's image will be resuscitated because some irresponsible Liberians are destroying the country's image abroad."

She added that the actions of these Liberians have caused other nationals to blend all Liberians as criminals."

"We are going to discourage this; we will not allow these irresponsible Liberians to destroy our image; we will, with the help of our friends crackdown on them," the Inspector General of Police told reporters.

Justice Initiative

Friday, 5 October 2007

Press Release

Justice Initiative Calls on Khmer Rouge Court to Fix Human Resource Problems

~ Additional Steps Needed to Address Flaws Revealed in Audit ~

New York, October 5, 2007—The Open Society Justice Initiative today welcomed the public release of a United Nations audit highlighting serious flaws in hiring and other personnel practices at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). The ECCC must immediately and credibly address these flaws if it expects donors to continue supporting the court, the Justice Initiative said.

The audit, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—the UN body charged with overseeing international donor funds earmarked for the Cambodian side of the ECCC's budget—found that ECCC human resource management was inadequate by nearly every measure. Most importantly, the audit, released publicly this week, found that a significant portion of the staff hired by the Cambodian side of the ECCC did not meet the minimum job requirements defined by the court. Regrettably, the audit did not address allegations that Cambodian ECCC staff were required to kick back a percentage of their salaries in exchange for their jobs.

"The ECCC must take immediate action to address the problems exposed by the audit and to proactively combat the possibility for corrupt practices to occur," said Robert O. Varenik, acting executive director of the Open Society Justice Initiative. "Releasing the audit is an important step for the court, but will do little to effect needed reform unless further steps are taken to fix the court's flaws."

Specifically, the Justice Initiative recommended the court take the following steps:

- Institute the best anti-corruption practices used in other international and hybrid tribunals;
- Install an experienced ombudsperson to whom employees and officials can confidentially report inappropriate requests for payment or any other violations of employment practices or ethical conduct;
- Hire only qualified staff who meet minimum job requirements for all key positions in the court.

The ECCC is about to begin a fundraising drive to generate additional support for its operations. The Justice Initiative urges prospective donors to play a key role in making sure the ECCC takes the necessary action to improve its practices by:

- Conditioning future funding on the court's effective efforts to address the problems highlighted in the UNDP audit and to produce demonstrated results;
- Mandating regular and transparent financial reporting by both UNDP and the ECCC;
- Insisting on unified, transparent, and professional hiring practices and reporting structures.

"The ECCC needs to convince donors and the public that it is willing to take the steps necessary to address the challenges it confronts," said Varenik. "It cannot settle for superficial solutions."

Special Court Supplement
Football Match, Special Court United FC vs. Cold Storage, at St. Edward's Secondary School
Saturday, 6 October 2007





