

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



Moot Court competition between members of the Sierra Leone Police and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. See photos 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:**

Thursday, 1 November 2007

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

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# Awareness Times

Thursday, 1 November 2007

## Human Rights Commission Starts Sensitisation

*By Lamin A. Turay*

Shortly before embarking on a sensitization tour last Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone (HRCSL), Lawyer Jamesina King (Pictured on the left) granted an exclusive interview to this newspaper during which she explained the operations of the Commission in the country and informed that their sensitization tour would take them to four districts in the Northern Province namely, Tonkolili, Bombali, Port Loko and Koinadugu respectively.

Commissioner Jamesina King disclosed that the HR Commission has a perfect and cordial relationship with Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), the Government and the general public and that they hoped to strengthen this even more by

undertaking sensitization tours to keep the citizens abreast of the HRCSL's operations, mandate and powers.

Lawyer King who is currently leading her team of professional staff on the tour explained that the essence of the tour was to focus on sensitization by holding meetings with various stakeholders like Paramount Chiefs, Local Unit Commanders (LUC) Councilors, Non Governmental Organizations, Human Rights and Civil Society Groups.

She also said that school children as well as market women will be targeted in order for them to know the operations of the Commission. She also stated that on their return, they will embark on the second phase of their tour to other regions in the country.

She disclosed to our reporter that recently, the Commission visited the Pademba Central prison.

"We made an inspection of the prisons on which we will soon be presenting our report and recommendations to the government," she said.

She went on to say that the Commission was established by the Human Rights Act No. 9 of 2004. This Act, she continued, sets out the functions and powers of the Commission.

"We do educate the community through various community sensitization methods such as our recent logo competition," Mrs. King said.

She also revealed that although the Commission was not yet fully operational, they were already receiving complaints of human rights abuses which indicated that the ongoing sensitisation efforts were yielding fruits.

"The Commission does receive complaints from individuals and we have established our procedures and recruited staff to investigate these complaints," Mrs King elaborated.

She also said that the Commission listens to complainants, advise them and refer them to the police and other line institutions for the time being.

She concluded by saying that one of the ways they want to reduce abuse of people's human rights was through education on human rights which she posited would reduce the violation of human rights.

Commissioner King also stated that herself and colleague commissioners recently met with President Ernest Bai Koroma at State House to appraise him on their activities both ongoing and planned. Part of their planned activities she stated included organizing a

Agence France-Presse  
Wednesday, 31 October 2007

### **Liberia's truth body gets war atrocities classified report from US**

MONROVIA (AFP) — A 4,000-page long US-prepared report on atrocities committed during Liberia's decades of unrest was on Wednesday handed over to the country's truth and reconciliation commission (TRC), the TRC said.

The previously classified report was forwarded to the commission through the country's Catholic Justice and Peace Commission.

"The document catalogues all happenings of the war from the 1980 coup plot," Richmond Anderson, TRC spokesman told AFP.

He said the report was prepared by the US government's national archives with the help of some human rights groups.

Richmond however said that the contents of the report were not likely to be published at least within the next two decades, to avoid it prejudicing the TRC's ongoing investigations.

"I don't think it will be in the interest of the TRC's own mandate to disclose the content of the document now. That will not be done before 20 years from now," he said.

"The TRC's work is to get information on what happened during the years of war. If this document is released people who might have been classified as perpetrators of the war may not come forward when there is a hearing," he added.

The report will serve as a working aid for the TRC.

"We are doing our own investigations. We will compare our findings with that of the document to have a better judgement," he said.

Dozens of TRC workers last week deployed anew across the war-battered west African country to document evidence from victims of atrocities in civil crises spanning 24 years until peace in 2003.

Modelled on South Africa's TRC, the commission is probing rights violations including murders, extra-judicial killings, economic crimes and sexual abuse committed by all parties to the country's conflicts.

Unrest in Liberia was sparked by food riots in 1979 followed by a coup in 1980 that toppled former president William Tolbert.

A decade later, the conflict intensified with a rebellion led by warlord Charles Taylor and the subsequent ouster and assassination of then president Samuel Doe during the first of two civil wars.

Taylor, later elected president and now on trial for war crimes, stepped down in 2003 in the face of an insurgency and international pressure to quit.

The commission formed under a 2003 peace deal, but effectively started work last year, had been given two years to conduct its business, but can seek an extension if necessary.

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 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**

**THE EXPRESS** 10/31/2007 07:10:20

#### **Sex attacker allowed staying because of his human rights**

John Chapman

A JUDGE yesterday vetoed the deportation of a serial sex attacker because it would breach his human right to a family life. The decision by immigration judge Sir Henry Hodge caused a storm of protest last night - led by the victim of one attack. Mother-of-two Gabrielle Browne, 42, said she was "disgusted" by the ruling, which means Mohammed Kendehe will not be booted out and sent back to his native Sierra Leone. Waiving her right to anonymity, Mrs Browne said: "It's a shameful decision which makes my blood boil. Where is the justice in this? "I was a victim of Kendehe and I did not want anyone else to go through the ordeal I went through. Kendehe must be laughing at the law.

### **Local Media – Newspaper**

#### **President Sirleaf to Receive America's Highest Honor**

*(Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News, Public Agenda and The Informer)*

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf along with 7 others are expected to be honored at a White House ceremony on 5 November. President George Bush will bestow on them the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest government honor awarded to civilians.
- President Bush said he was bestowing the honor on the Liberian President in recognition of her efforts to help heal a country torn apart by conflict.
- As the first elected female President of an African country, President Bush said the Liberian leader has worked to expand freedom and improve the lives of people in Liberia and across Africa.
- Established by an Executive Order in 1963, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is awarded annually to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to the security and national interest of the United States, world peace and other significant public or private endeavor.
- A statement issued by the Executive Mansion in Monrovia said President Johnson Sirleaf would leave the country this week-end for the programme in Washington D.C.

#### **Supreme Court Hears Case Involving Auditor-General and Senate**

*(Daily Observer, New Democrat, The News, Public Agenda, The Informer and The Inquirer)*

- Hearing into the writ of prohibition case involving the Auditor-General of Liberia, John Morlu against the Liberian Senate took place yesterday at the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill.
- Morlu's lawyer filed the prohibition petition at the Supreme Court after the Senate fined him nearly LD\$5,000 for contempt. The Senate claimed Morlu accused it of witch-hunt in the international press and grossly disrespected it. Lawyers representing the Upper House also

argued that the Auditor-General openly insulted the senators, bringing the Body into public disrepute.

- Counselor Marcus Jones who represented Mr. Morlu said there was no proof that his client insulted the lawmakers and argued that the Senate has no right to place a stay order on the functions of the General Auditing Commission. He said by doing that the Senate usurped the functions of the Judiciary.

### **President Sirleaf Expresses Concern over Firestone Workers Stalemate**

*(Daily Observer and Heritage)*

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has expressed concern over the continued stalemate between the management of the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company and the Firestone Allied Workers Union of Liberia (FAWUL).
- The President's concerns were expressed by Assistant Press Secretary, Charles Nelson on Monday at a news conference. He said President Sirleaf's assertion followed reports of a strike action being effected by FAWUL against the management of the Firestone Rubber Plantation.

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

### **Elections Commission Team Hampers by Bad Roads in Gbarpolu**

- Correspondents said that several vehicles of the National Elections Commission and those of the Commission's partners are stranded in a huge mud in Gbarpolu County and that the situation is likely to impede civic education for voters in the County.

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

### **President Sirleaf Says Democracy is Flourishing in Liberia**

- According an Executive Mansion release, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that democracy which is one of the greatest powers in the world was now flourishing in Liberia, allowing the people to speak their minds while the Government remains tolerant. President Sirleaf assured Liberian women that she would strive to bring relieve to the nation, develop the country and bring renewal to its people.
- The release added that the Liberian leader will on November 5 receive "The Medal of Freedom Award", the American government's highest civil honor which would be awarded to 8 recipients including President Sirleaf at the White House in Washington.

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

*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).*

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**Wednesday, 31 October 2007 in Courtroom II**



