

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



Departing MONBATT commanders called on the Registrar yesterday before leaving for home.

**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, 31 January 2008

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

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## War & Peace

*Facilitated by Florella Hazely*

*Notes taken by Alpha Abu (Final Part)*

We should encourage the perpetrators, as well as the victims, to explain themselves and not to threaten them with punitive measures or else we would be either wittingly or unwittingly postponing something which we are trying to avert. We should not send a (negative) signal to those that took up arms as a result of the situation that we found ourselves in before the war.

Reconciliation underpins the essence of the commission itself. We should try by all means to desist from using the word 'vengeance'. Like somebody was mentioning about the January invasion after it was repulsed and the restoration of the democratically elected government in 1998, we found ourselves in a vicious cycle of violence. It is well documented that a lot of atrocities were committed even in Freetown here. So we should actually try to get that word [vengeance] out of our dictionary.

Collectively, we should not only focus on the victims but even the perpetrators themselves have psychological problems you have so-called PTSD - post traumatic stress disorder. We are all victims, perpetrators as well as ordinary victims. So we should look at the problem from a holistic point of view, instead of creating problems that in fact will revert us

# Dialogue on justice and reconciliation

to the root of the crisis itself.

**Prince Nicol, Public Relations Officer for the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (CCP), chaired by former AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma**

The TRC would be an important ingredient in ensuring peace for a start. It is designed to ease the trauma that men, women, and children have gone through.

The African setting is such that you can subdue the human being when he knows that he has done awful things, when you get him to tell you that I did this or that, in front of you and elders. But let us not pick a leaf from the Western world and import their own form of truth and reconciliation to address the Sierra Leone issue.

If you offend an elder or a child and you take upon yourself to admit that I have committed these atrocities or these crimes, the African is a soft-spoken human being. On most

occasions they accept that you have repented.

I believe that people should be encouraged to come and listen to those they call 'perpetrators' and for those who are alleged perpetrators of crimes to say what they have done.

If we want to actualize the terms of reference of the TRC, we should start to remove some of those words, like 'vengeance' and 'justice'. One should turn to the perpetrator and say: 'You hurt me some time ago. Tell me why did you do it'. Reconciliation has to come from the heart.

The Trial of Charles Taylor website  
Thursday, 30 January 2008

## **Closed Session Continues**

Posted by Webmaster on January 30, 2008

The trial remains in closed session today for the fifth day of testimony by witness TF1-371, which is expected to conclude either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. It is expected but not clear whether the next witness (TF1-360) will testify in open court. Witness summaries for these two witnesses provided by the Court press office are attached here: [witness-list-taylor-trial-28jan-1feb-08-doc-2.pdf](#).

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries  
30 January 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Treason Suspects Found Guilty .... But Judge and Jurors Trade Allegations of Bribe Taking**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, Public Agenda, The News, New Vision, Heritage, New Democrat)

- A 12-man jury Tuesday found retired Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) General Charles Julu and Colonel Andrew Dorbor guilty of treason. The media reports that chaos erupted after Defense lawyer Counselor Dempster Brown excepted to the verdict and accused the government of bribing the jurors. Judge Charles Williams described the allegation of bribery as grave, saying such allegation came up earlier but decided to leave the jurors with their conscience. "The government lawyers wanted to give me money and also give money to the jurors. I told them that this could be considered as an act of corruption," the Judge later told the court. "I do not trust the jurors, they might have accepted this money. The case is hereby adjourned to tomorrow (Wednesday)." The Judge then ordered journalists to take pictures of the jurors, something which sparked more shouting in the courtroom disrupting the entire process. Security officers were sent in to put the situation under control. Retired General Charles Julu and Colonel Andrew Dorbor along with former transitional Speaker George Koukou were arrested July 2007 for planning to overthrow the government.

**House of Representative Finally Accepts Independent Probe into Bribery Claims**

(National Chronicle, Heritage, The Inquirer, The News)

- Following mounting calls for an independent investigation into bribery allegations to unseat former House Speaker Edwin Snowe, the plenary of the House of Representatives have reconsidered its earlier decision not to allow outside parties into the allegation.
- Members of the House of Representatives took the decision after the Judiciary Committee of the House informing plenary that independent observers should form part of the probe to ensure an independent investigation.
- The Co-Chairman of the House's Judiciary Committee, Vaforay Kamara said this would ensure transparency in the process. The Lofa County District #2 Representative said the Judiciary Committee was working out the necessary modalities to begin the investigation by inviting all parties to the allegation to committee room. Though he fell short of disclosing the composition of the independent observers, Representative Kamara called on those with evidence to present same to the committee for action. Before his resignation as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Montserrado County District #5 Representative Snowe accused his colleagues of accepting bribe of US\$5,000 each to sign a petition seeking his impeachment.

**Radio Summary**

**Pro-War Crimes Court Group to Protest during U.S President's Visit**

- Speaking to journalists, the group advocating for the setting up of a war crimes court in Liberia says it will stage a peaceful demonstration during the pending visit of U.S. President George Bush to urge him to exert influence on President Sirleaf's government to ask the United Nations to form a criminal tribunal for Liberia.

- The group said it welcomes next month's visit of President Bush to Liberia who they say have uncompromisingly campaigned against impunity.

### **Treason Suspects Found Guilty Amidst Bribery Allegations**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

### **Former Warlord Craves To Appear before TRC**

*(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

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

#### **TRC Spokesman Says Former INPFL Leader will be Subpoenaed**

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) says it would eventually subpoena Senator Prince Johnson, former Leader of the defunct Independent Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) if he fails to appear before it to show why he killed President Samuel Kanyon Doe.
- In an interview, the Director for Media and Outreach at the TRC, Mr. Richmond Anderson said Prince Johnson has an obligation to the Liberian people to say why he killed their President.
- Mr. Anderson said now that a Magistrate has been appointed at the TRC, its subpoena powers would be fully exercised saying Senator Johnson would be invited regardless of his status in the society.

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