

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



Soldiers at Gondama listen intently to Special Court officials. For photos from Thursday's Joint Prosecution-Defence Outreach in Bo and Gondama, see 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 Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 25 July 2008

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

Local News	
Letter to the Court From the Family of Foday Sillah	Pages 3-4
International News	
UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 5-7
Special Court Supplement	
Joint Prosecution-Defence Outreach in Bo and Gondama	Pages 8-9

Letter to the Court From the Family of our Late Colleague Foday Sillah
 Wednesday, 23 July 2008

PO No. 5 BYRNE STREET
 KINGTOM
 FREETOWN
 23RD JULY 2008
 TEL: 076-609830

THE CHIEF OF DETENTION
 SPECIAL COURT (SL)
 JOMO KENYATTA ROAD
 FREETOWN

Dear Sir

Letter of Appreciation

On behalf of the Sillah family, I write to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to you for the financial and medical assistance your Department rendered to the late Foday Sillah (staff of your unit), from the time he took ill unto his untimely demise.

The family is indeed grateful to the medical doctor, Dr Harding, the Dep. Registrar and all his colleagues, who spent time and effort to see that the late Mr. Sillah received all the attention he needed during his ill-health. Also, a very special thank you to his friend and colleague, MR CHRISTIAN, who tirelessly worked round the clock to ensure that Mr Sillah received proper medical attention and was well cared for.

-2-

May the Lord, in His infinite mercy
continue to bless you all and reward
you all with His abundant blessings.

Once again, we thank you all.

Yours faithfully,



Janet A. Savage (Mrs)
Head of the Family

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
23 July 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Armed Robbers Face Death Penalty as President Sirleaf Gives final Approval

(The Analyst, New Democrat)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has signed into law an act, making armed robbery, terrorism and hijacking capital offenses. Under Liberian law, capital offense is punishable by death or life imprisonment.
- The President approved the Bill despite a request by an internationally acclaimed human rights group, Amnesty International, for President Sirleaf to veto the Bill on grounds that the legislation is in bad faith, and entirely inconsistent with the purpose of the Protocol to which the Liberian government acceded, which aims to abolish the death penalty.
- The armed robbery bill gained momentum after the rising spate of armed crimes, which left peaceful residents across Monrovia raped and wounded. The Presidential approval of the Bill follows an overwhelming public approbation for its passage by the national legislature coupled with a mounting pressure from the population for the government to fight the wave of armed robbery, particularly in Monrovia and surrounding communities.

Man Arrested for Selling Military Hardware to Civilians – Two UNMIL Soldiers Allegedly Linked

(The Heritage, Informer, The Analyst, The Public Agenda)

- Police in Monrovia have arrested a 28-year-old man - Maxwell Junius - in connection with the illegal sale of military hardware.
- Junius has been charged and forwarded to court for prosecution.
- According to Police charge sheet, defendant Junius was arrested Tuesday while attempting to sell military outfits to some civilians in the Bushrod Island area.
- The charge sheet also revealed that the defendant admitted to receiving eight military suits and three military belts allegedly from an UNMIL soldier he identified as Abinokhaumo Raphael and two military sleeping kits from a Filipino UNMIL soldier who was not named but said to be at large.
- The uniforms, according to The Informer newspaper, were sold for US\$35.00 each and proceeds from the sales were to be given to Raphael and the Filipino soldier, with the understanding that the defendant was to be compensated after the deal.

Liberia Experiencing Slow Economic Growth – Central Bank Says

(The News)

- [sic] The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) says the Liberian economy was projected to grow by 9.6 percent in 2008 from 9.5 percent in 2007 but following adjustments to growth projections from major contributing sectors, it is expected to grow by about 8.8 percent in 2008. The bank noted that the decline in growth estimate is on account of slow pace of activities in the mining and forestry sectors, which were expected to propel growth in the economy. The bank's latest disclosure is contained in its quarterly Financial and Economic bulletin covering the period January-March 2008, released to the media Tuesday in Monrovia. The bank noted

that generally, the performance of the real sector of the economy was quite moderate as the production of some key commodities increased, while others declined. It said the production of the agriculture sector remained sluggish during the reporting quarter (January-March, 2008), and that despite the inadequacy of public electric generating capacity, performance of the manufacturing sector exhibited improvement, shipping operations increased, indicating a rise in external trade. "With the hike in global food and oil prices, in addition to other domestic structural factors, the rate of inflation during the quarter grew to 15.2 percent, from 9.9 percent in the preceding quarter," CBL noted. The CBL further noted that while performance of the agriculture sector was weak during the quarter, the production of rubber increased marginally, and actual activities in the forestry sub-sector are yet to begin in full, owing to ongoing preparations of guidelines to govern the logging industry. However, pit-sawing continues to grow due to the heightened domestic demand for timber and timber related products. "The fishing sector is plagued with a number of constraints, which brought actual mechanized fishing to a standstill with artisanal fishing being largely the means of domestic fish production," the bank added. The bank reported that rubber production during the quarter totaled 20.808 metric tons compared to 20.615 metric tons produced in the last quarter of 2007, adding that this marginal increase of 0.9 percent was partly a result of the return of relative stability in the various plantations after a series of strikes by employees of the sector. Production a year earlier exceeded current production by 42.7 percent, the bank noted.

Political Parties Women Launch Assistance Fund

(The News)

- Political parties women in Liberia under the banner "Coalition of Political Parties Women in Liberia" (COPPWIL) has launched what it calls "Women Political Participation Assistance Fund" gears towards funding women candidates in upcoming elections especially in 2011 general and presidential elections.
- The National Coordinator of COPPWIL, Ms. Marayah L.W.M. Fyneah told The NEWS recently that the purpose of the assistance fund drive is to financially support women candidates in their quest for leadership positions in society.
- She recalled that during the 2005 presidential and general elections women candidates were not financially potent to fund their campaigns thus posing serious problem for them during the process.
- She disclosed that an account has been opened at the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) for the purpose of saving money the organization would receive from donors.
- Ms. Fyneah said money that would be generated for the women political participation assistance fund will be used to support women candidates during elections.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 11:00 am)*

Armed Robbery now a Capital Offense in Liberia

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Justice Minister Says Liberia's security is improving

- Justice Minister Phillip Banks says the security situation in the country is improving following the recent upsurge in armed robbery.
- Minister Banks said over the past days there has been a reduction in the number of armed robbery attacks.
- According to him, the government has put into place an effective measure to tackle the wave

of armed robbery. The Attorney General said security forces would continue to fight armed robbery.

- Cllr. Banks spoke to reporters Tuesday after hours of closed door discussion with members of the House of Representatives.
- He welcomed the passage of the Armed Robbery Act by the Legislature and indicated that the move would help in dealing with armed robbers.

Angry Crowd attacks City Police sub-office

- [sic] Hundreds of angry youths believed to be street sellers Tuesday attacked the sub-office of the City Police on Broad Street. Our reporter on the scene said the youths threw stones and destroyed documents in the offices. It is not clear why the youths resulted to the violent action. However, Star Radio gathered that the angry youths vented out their frustration in protest to the seizure of their goods. The enforcement of City Ordinance to clear the streets of petty traders usually faces resistance from the traders. Authorities of the City Police have spoken on the violence but the situation was put under control by personnel of the Liberia National Police backed by the UNMIL.

Opposition Party Doubts NEC Chairman's credibility preside over 2011 elections

- [sic:] The Liberty Party says the Chairman of the National Elections Commission is not credible to preside over the 2011 Presidential and General elections. The Party said Mr. James Fromoyan has demonstrated that he is neither objective nor impartial to preside over the elections. A statement issued by the party said the NEC Chairman is quoted as saying the current leadership of the opposition Liberty Party is unconstitutional and lacks legitimacy. The party said Mr. Flomoyan told a news conference that the constitution provides for an election of party's officials at least once in six years. According to the party, NEC claimed the leadership of the Liberty Party was instead handpicked by Cllr. Charles Brumskine in contravention of the constitution. The party said Mr. Flomoyan is clearly beyond redemption as he obviously believes that he is serving well the interest of the power that be. The opposition Liberty Party accused the election commission of attempting to destroy the party, which it believes is the alternative voice for the people of Liberia. In its reaction, the National Elections Commission dismissed the claims by the Liberty Party that its chairman James Flomoyan is not credible. NEC's spokesman Bobby Livingstone said the past record of the commission shows that it has not demonstrated any form of partiality. Mr. Livingstone recalled the commission under Mr. Flomoyan has conducted two separate by-elections that the Liberty Party and the Congress for Democratic Change won. The NEC's spokesman however, maintained that the current leadership of the Liberty Party was put in place outside of constitutional provision. Mr. Livingstone called on the Liberty Party to concentrate on what he considered its deficiency.

Orphanage official Faces Rape Charge

- Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have charged the Deputy Coordinator of the St. Peter Orphanage for raping one of the orphans.
- Mr. James Chowoi allegedly raped the eleven-year old girl on Friday while she was in her bedroom at the orphanage.
- Mr. Chowoi denied the allegation but Police preliminary investigation established that he committed the act.
- Mr. Chowoi allegedly abused three other orphans sexually before being arrested for the latest act. He has been sent to the Gbarnga Magisterial Court for prosecution.
- Meanwhile, a human rights group said it would collaborate with other child protection agencies to speedily prosecute the alleged perpetrator.
- The Foundation for International Dignity said if it is established that the act was committed, it would ensure that all the children leave the orphanage and reunite with their biological parents.
- The foundation said while it supports the accommodation of war affected children, it does not

appreciate any act that relegates the children to sex slavery.

Government breaks ground for new Culture Center

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has broken grounds for the construction of the National Culture Center for Liberia.
 - Madam Sirleaf believes when completed the center would represent the true culture of Liberia and be a place that all Liberians can be proud of.
 - The Center is being constructed on fifty acres of land in Ben Town, Margibi County and would have a theater, school, clinic among other features.
 - Government acquired the land for what Information Minister Laurence Bropleh called a low price from the people of Ben Town.
 - According to Minister Bropleh, seven hundred thousand US dollars is needed to fully construct the Center.
 - He said construction work will begin as soon as additional funding is secured.
 - Dr. Bropleh said a little amount has been allocated in the budget for the construction and called on all partners to give their support.
 - The groundbreaking for the construction of a new culture center comes months after the Kendeja Culture Center was relocated and the land leased.
 - The land was leased to American Billionaire Robert Johnson to build a four Star Hotel, a deal which was highly criticized.
- (Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)*

Special Court Supplement
Joint Prosecution-Defence Outreach at Bo and Gondama
Thursday, 24 July 2008



