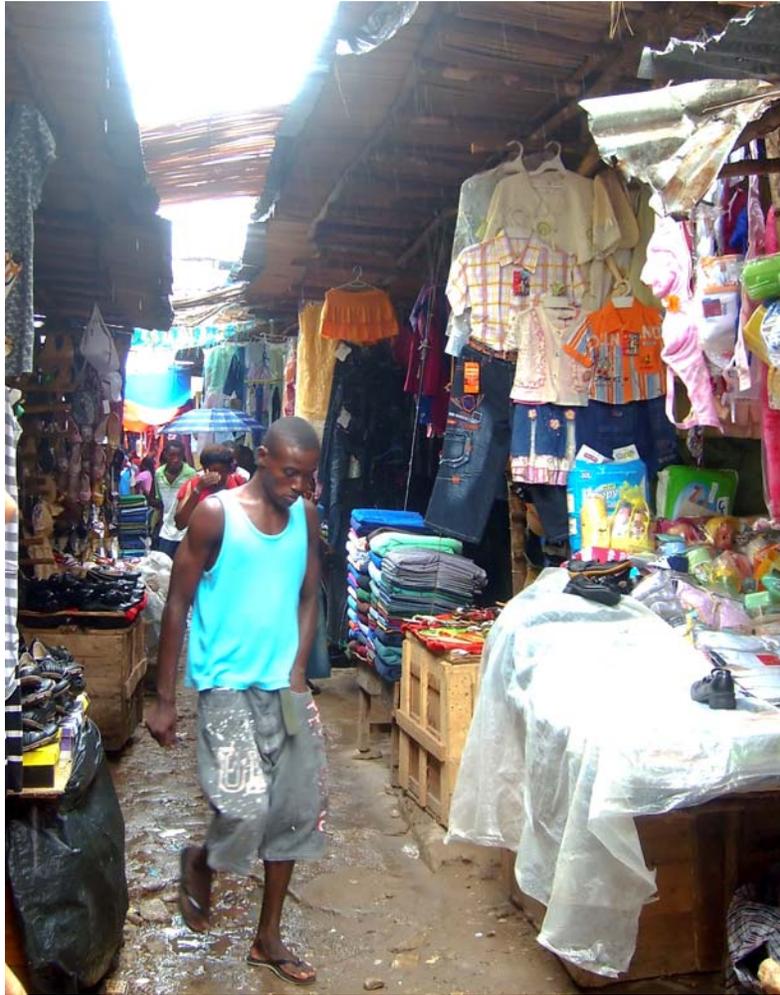


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



“Market”. Photographer: Michelle Willis

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:

Thursday, 14 August 2008

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

Local News

J.J. Blood Envisages National Conflict as...11 SLPP Stalwarts March... / *Awoko* Pages 3-4

International News

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL* Pages 5-7

Guinea: New Leader Should Address Rights Abuses / *Human Rights Watch* Page 8

Awoko

Thursday, 14 August 2008

J.J. Blood envisages nationwide conflict as...

11 SLPP stalwarts march to State House



AIG - SIS Koroma



SLPP stalwarts marching to state House (center J.J Saffa)



OSD officers arrest an alleged rioter

Police brutalize 7 journalists at State House

Inspirational Quote "I find that the harder i work, the more luck i seem to have." -Thomas Jefferson

J.J. Blood envisages nationwide conflict ...as 11 SLPP stalwarts march to State House

By Ophaniel Gooding

Rocks, broken bottles, and teargas canisters littered the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), Wallace Johnson Street head office and environ, after what was described by an eyewitness as a battle between the SLPP supporters and alleged All Peoples Congress thugs backed by the police.

The SLPP Secretary General Jacob Jusu Saffa said that such violent act "can lead to large scale conflict in [the] country." Asked what he meant by "large scale conflict," Mr Saffa

were supposed to have with President Ernest Koroma where they intended to subsequently report the incident.

As the eleven man delegation marched to State House the number grew larger- SLPP supporters chanting no violence slogans joined the dele that stormed State House.

However, the meeting did take place; Mr John Benjamin, JJ Saffa and few others were not allowed in to the meeting.

moves to rescue the mobbed victim; another police officer was also seen removing his revolver from his holster threatening to shoot; and a military office engaged his rifle pointing it at death range at this reporter threatening that if pictures were taken he would shoot to kill.

At the party office, an eye witness called 'Shegubehma' who was shot with a teargas

Police brutalize 7 journalists at State House

Journalists who went to State House to cover a meeting between President Ernest Bai Koroma and members of the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) were violently intercepted by State House security personnel yesterday. The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) Secretariat immediately released a statement following the incident, denouncing the police brutality directed at the journalists. "Reports spoke of the merciless beating of journalists, many of who sustained severe injuries," the statement read. "Others had their reporting equipment (cameras, recorders, etc.) forcefully taken away from them and destroyed in the most ruthless manner." Seven journalists were reported to have faced police hostility: Edie Tayo G. Temple of For Di People Newspaper; Miss Alimah Fofanah of The Exclusive Newspaper; Michael Kargbo of Galaxy Radio; Umaru Sitta Turay of Awareness Times Newspaper; Boima J. Boima of The Pool Newspaper; Ola Tungie Yaskey of SKYY Radio; and Sheikh Bawoh of New Vision Newspaper. Reasons for the violent response by security personnel are still unknown. "SLAJ wishes it to be known that journalists are neither state criminals nor thugs of any political group that

they should deserve such treatment," the statement read. The Secretariat called on police to "take full responsibility of their action," and if the trend of police violence against journalists continues without corrective measures, "the association (SLAJ) will have no alternative but to declare a news blackout on all police activities in the country." SLAJ was particularly critical of the ruling APC government, stating, "It is particularly worthy to note that since the inception of the new APC government, SLAJ has been able to document a number of cases whereby the Sierra Leone Police deliberately and physically assaulted journalists while carrying out their professional duties."



An alleged supporter being manhandled

said that if such violent actions continue against SLPP supporters "it can erupt to a point [wherein] we have no option but to retaliate."

Mr Saffa denied allegations that it was as a result of the barring of the newly elected Mayor George Herbert Williams from his office was what led to the conflict. "I spoke with the mayor congratulating him and he never made any complain to me [that he was barred from entering his office by SLPP supporters]," he said.

Mr Saffa mobilized an eleven-man delegation of top executives who matched to State House for a meeting they

Mr John Benjamin who was part of the dele disclosed, "the President invited us for a meeting and his security told us he did not know about the meeting...so we are going back to our office to talk to our supporters."

As the multitude returned to the party's head-office, a man who was with the SLPP mass was caught and seen mobbed by some police officers at State House, while other police officers were seen throwing metal objects at the crowd who made

canister on the chest. narrated, "it all started on Tuesday, we were sitting at the entrance of the office when the mayor arrived, a lady-who is a SLPP party member- said during the City Council inauguration her phone got missing."

He continued, "this was what aggravated the Mayor who said that the "woman is calling him a thief."

"Shegubehma" alleged that the Mayor's bodyguard started insulting the

Cont on Page 6

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 13 August 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

Fahnbulleh Vows Not to Apologize to TWP

(The Inquirer)

- National Security Advisor, Dr. H. Boima Fahnbulleh, has maintained his stance that he would not apologize to the True Whig Party (TWP) for the advocacy role he and others played that eventually led to the fall of that party from power. Dr. Fahnbulleh said he struggled against the one party rule and social injustice of the True Whig Party in the late 70s and as such he does not intend to apologize.
- Appearing on the Truth Breakfast Show on Truth FM Tuesday morning, Dr. Fahnbulleh said if the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) following its hearing process decides that he should apologize, he would only apologize to the Liberian people and not the TWP. On whether he was emotional in addressing the issue of apologizing to the TWP, Dr. Fahnbulleh stated quite emphatically that he was emotional but passionate about issues.

I Asked President Doe to Resign - Former AFL Chief of Staff Tells TRC

(The Inquirer, The News, New Democrat)

- The Former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Retired Lt. General Henry S. Dubar Sr. says he advised the late President Doe to resign his post as President of Liberia.
- In his testimony, Mr. Dubar stated that he told the President to resign because the army was not fighting to his expectations and that the type of war been fought was a guerrilla war and not the conventional war the army was then trained to fight. According to him, the President did not take the advice in good faith and instead considered him an enemy. He said based on that, he had to flee the country for his life.
- Meanwhile, the Inquirer quotes the retired AFL General as saying that the 13 former government officials of the Tolbert regime were executed before his appointment to the top AFL post.
- Gen. Dubar said he was not part of the execution of the 13 former officials by the People's Redemption Council. "At the time of my appointment as Chief of Staff, the 13 men were already tried and convicted by the Military Tribunal and subsequently placed behind bars," he told the TRC Tuesday at the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia. The ex-army general also denied his involvement in the formulation of the Military Tribunal that sentenced the 13 men to death on allegations of rampant corruption.

Prosecution Seeks Re-arrest of Disrobed Officers for Armed Robbery

(The News, New Democrat)

- State lawyers are seeking the re-arrest of four disrobed officers of the Liberia National Police to answer charges of Armed Robbery. The four disrobed officers, Bobbie O. Browne, Harry Q. Blackie, T. Max Brown and Abel Tue were arrested and charged with robbery, but the defendants were released on bail.
- However, state lawyers, led by City Solicitor Sam Solomon prayed the Monrovia Magisterial Court to re-arrest the defendants, set aside their criminal appearance bond and charged them with Armed Robbery instead of robbery. The state's request followed a testimony by one of its witnesses, Augustine Gbeah, Tuesday that the four officers entered his room at his 11th

Street residence with guns, pointed it at him and took away LD\$7,000, US\$40.00 and one MP-3 player.

Kromah Apologizes for Civil War - Regrets Deaths, Amputation

(New Democrat, Public Agenda, Daily Observer)

- The media reports that the former leader of the defunct United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), Alhaji G.V. Kromah Monday tearfully apologized for his role in the Liberian civil conflict and took responsibility for whatever atrocities he and his men might have committed during the 14-year war that saw over 250,000 killed by some estimates. Speaking on the formation of ULIMO, Kromah told the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Thematic hearings that neighbouring Sierra Leone and Guinea assisted his rebel movement during the time of formation.
- He indicated that he convinced leaders of Sierra Leone and Guinea to help establish the group in order to stop the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone from continuing its carnage against the people of that sisterly republic. The founder of the ULIMO group explained that after helping for some time to stop the advancement of the RUF in several towns and villages along the Liberia- Sierra Leone border, his movement lobbied with the two governments for support to enter Liberia and fight the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of Charles Taylor.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 9:00 am)*

Death Toll Rises in Red Light Violence

- The death toll from Monday's violence at the Red Light Commercial district of Paynesville has risen to eight.
- In an interview, the Representative of the district, Thomas Fallah confirmed the deaths following a count.
- Representative Fallah said those killed were not identified but have been taken to the J.F. Kennedy Hospital morgue.
- The violence started after a group of suspected criminals went on the rampage to protest the death of one their colleagues.
- Angry traders later responded to the attacks and in the process the robbers were killed by the mob.
- Meanwhile, reports say calm has since returned to the area.

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

UNDP Donates Equipment to National Legislature

- The National Legislature has received a consignment of equipment from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- The equipment includes 10 pieces of computers, printers and a 22.5 KVA generator.
- The Research Director of the Senate, McCarthy Weh said the equipment would be used to set up a resource centre at the Legislature.

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

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Commerce Ministry Caution Petroleum Retailers to Adhere to New Price Structure

- The Commerce Ministry is calling on the Petroleum Retailers Association of Liberia to adhere to the current price structure released by the Government.
- The Ministry say it is putting in place new measures aimed at reviewing the cost formula and determining petroleum price on the local market.
- The Ministry in collaboration with the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) on Monday announced the reduction in the price of petroleum products on the local market.

Public Hearings on Proposed Land Commission Act Open Today in Monrovia

- Public hearings on the proposed Land Commission Act open today in Monrovia.

- In an interview, the Chairman of the House Committee on Land, Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, Matthew Dablo said Land Mines and Energy Minister Eugene Shannon will provide expert opinion on the draft act.
- The act to establish a Land Commission was sent by the Executive early this year.

Human Rights Watch

Thursday, 14 August 2008

Press Release

Guinea: New Leader Should Address Rights Abuses

Urgent Need to End Impunity

(Washington, DC, August 14, 2008) – Guinea’s new leader should put the country’s chronic human rights problems at the top of his agenda, Human Rights Watch said in a letter to Prime Minister Ahmed Tidiane Souaré made public today (<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/08/14/guinea19600.htm>).

Human Rights Watch identified impunity for unlawful killings, torture, prison conditions, child labor, and child trafficking as among the key issues requiring the Guinean government’s immediate attention.

“The government’s continuing inaction in the face of gross human rights abuses really hurts ordinary Guineans,” said Dustin Sharp, researcher for Francophone West Africa at Human Rights Watch. “If Prime Minister Souaré is to break with the past, he needs to insist that security forces responsible for murder, rape, and torture are brought to justice.”

In recent years, Guinea has been rocked by civil unrest that has typically been met with brutal and excessive use of force by government security forces. In January and February 2007, security forces violently repressed a nationwide strike called to protest corruption, bad governance and deteriorating economic conditions, resulting in the deaths of more than 130 protesters. Eighteen months later, a National Commission of Inquiry established to investigate the deaths is not yet operational.

Chronic forms of state-sponsored violence continue unabated. Human Rights Watch has documented the regular police torture of detainees in order to extract confessions, and grossly inadequate conditions within Guinea’s dilapidated and abuse-ridden prison system. Many detainees, including children, are left to languish for years in cramped cells where they face hunger, disease, and sometimes death before being granted a trial or freed.

“For too long, successive leaders in Guinea have stood back and done nothing in the face of ongoing and well-known human rights abuses,” said Sharp. “The message being sent to security forces is that violence and indiscipline are acceptable, and that’s a very dangerous thing.”

Human Rights Watch also criticized the government for its continuing failure to create adequate safeguards against child labor, child trafficking, and child abuse. Tens of thousands of child domestic workers in Guinea work up to 18 hours a day without pay, and endure frequent beatings, sexual harassment, and abuse at the hands of their employers. Living in conditions akin to slavery, some are trafficked from neighboring countries or within Guinea. There is no child protection system in place to ensure regular monitoring of the well-being of children, and if necessary, to facilitate their removal from abusive homes.

Souaré was appointed prime minister in May 2008 after Lansana Kouyaté was sacked by Guinea’s ailing and authoritarian president, Lansana Conté. Souaré has made a gesture toward improving the country’s disastrous human rights record by supporting the creation of an independent National Observatory for Human Rights charged with promoting human rights. But there have been no concrete measures yet to bring to justice members of Guinea’s security services who have committed serious human rights violations.