

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



**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, 15 August 2008

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

**Local News**

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## Cotton Tree News

Undated

### **Cotton Tree News reporter in the Hague to cover the Taylor Trial**

CTN reporter in Kenema, **Mariama Khai Fornah**,



has been chosen by BBC Trust West Africa and Talking Drums Studio to cover the Taylor Trial from the Hague for three months starting in August 2008.

## Daily Observer (Liberia)

Friday, 15 August 2008

### **Blah Wins Urey In US\$4.5M Libel Suit**

By **M. Welemongia Ciapha, II**  
Published: **15 August, 2008**

**MONROVIA**, Civil Law Court Judge at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, Yussif D. Kaba, Thursday, August 14, 2008, dismissed Benoni Urey's US\$4.5 million libel suit against Moses Blah, s former president of Liberia.



Former President Blah and Urey

## UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 14 August 2008

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **'Burglary' at Police Headquarters, But LNP Cites Theft**

(The News, New Democrat)

- The New Democrat reports that police are investigating a midnight burglary at the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police on Capitol Hill in Monrovia. The media quoting police sources said the offices of Police Inspector General, Beatrice Munah Sieh and her two deputies were broken into and several items taken away. Although there has been no official statement from the police concerning the burglaries, the New Democrat said 17 police operational radios got missing from Deputy Inspector Gayflor Tarpeh's office, while an unspecified amount of money was taken from the Inspector General's office.
- The Inquirer newspaper said the robbers may have taken advantage of the constant darkness that engulfs the police headquarters at night. However, a Police spokesman, Truth FM, clarified that the office was not burglarized but was rather an incident of theft.

#### **Spain Donates Two Fire Trucks to Liberia**

(The Monitor, The News)

- The Regional Government of Madrid, Spain has donated two fire trucks and four fire retardant uniforms to Liberia. A Foreign Ministry statement issued in Monrovia yesterday said the donation was made through the Liberian Embassy in France, which is also responsible for Spain, Switzerland, Greece and Portugal.
- The two fire trucks from the Madrid Regional Government fleet to the Government of Liberia include one Mercedes Benz with a capacity to take about 1,500 litres of water and two fire fighters onboard, plus a driver while the other is a Land Rover Defender 130 with a capacity of about 500 litres of water, plus four fire fighters and a driver. The donation is in fulfillment of promises made by the President of the Madrid Community Regional Government to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2007.

#### **Government Announces Tax Waiver---For Low Income Earners**

(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The News, Heritage)

- The Liberian government has announced the waiver of all taxes on salary income for individuals earning US\$70.00 or less or its equivalent in Liberian dollars, beginning July 2008. The measure instituted was contained in Executive Order NO. 14 signed Monday by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.
- According to an Executive Mansion release, the measure has become necessary to address the increased need to correct and ameliorate the economic shock and hardship being imposed on the people of Liberia as a consequence of the global increase in the price of basic and essential commodities especially food. The measure, the Executive Order says, is in furtherance of government's policy to boost real income, stipulate growth and seek to revive the economy and improve the livelihood of the people, especially the poor and underprivileged and low income earners.

#### **LMC Begins Workshop for Journalists on PRS Document**

(The News, The Informer, The Monitor, Heritage)

- The Liberia Media Centre (LMC) and the Knights International Journalism Fellowship of the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) Wednesday commenced a three-day training program for Liberian journalists on “Reporting on Liberia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).” Speaking at the launch of the programme, Norris Tweah, Chief of Office staff and Special Assistant to the Minister of Information, commended the organizers and emphasized the need for the media to understand the pillars of the PRS, noting that, this way the media can fully monitor the outcome of the PRS.
- The media can play a potentially crucial role and have a measureable impact in alleviating poverty. The training is apparently against the backdrop that the media can provide an inclusive platform for public debate on poverty-related issues and act as a force for more transparent and accountable decision-making relevant to poverty reduction.

### **President Sirleaf to Commission 26 Officials**

(The News)

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will on August 21st and 28th commission 26 officials of her government. According to a release, those to be commissioned on August 21st from various ministries and agencies of government include Jeremiah Suluteh, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications; Jackson E. Doe, Minister of Transport; Cllr. Peter Bonner Jallah, Minister of National Security; Ambassador George Wallace, Jr., Advisor to the President on Foreign Affairs and Cllr. Estrada J. Bernard, Legal and Security Advisor to the President.
- Others are Johnny McClain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Republic of Senegal; Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Yarsuo Weh Dorliae, Commissioner, Governance Commission; Madam Ruth J. Samukai, Commissioner, Liberia Telecommunications Authority; and Binyah C. Kesselly, Commissioner, Bureau of Maritime Affairs among others.

### **More Revelations on 1979 Rice Riot - At TRC Hearing**

(The Inquirer, Daily Observer, The News, Heritage)

- The News and Inquirer newspapers report that more information on the 1979 rice riot continues to emerge from the ongoing Truth and Reconciliation Commission thematic hearings as former Assistant Secretary General of the Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL) D. Kahn Carlor said the death rate from the riot was 300 people contrary to the Tolbert’s Government report that 79 persons died during the incident.
- The Heritage quotes Mr. Carlor as saying that the True Whig Party (TWP) thrived over the years on deceit and lies. He told the TRC hearing that prior to and after the riot, several were killed only because they were associates of PAL. Although, he did not give statistics but disclosed that there were several of their members who were killed and buried in Topoe Village, outside Monrovia, while in Sanniquellie, Nimba County, some were beaten up and sent to jail for their membership with PAL.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 10:00 am)*

### **Burglary at Police Headquarters**

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

### **Liberia Gets Additional Fire Trucks**

### **Government, FAO Hold Validation Forum on Medium Term Priority Framework**

- Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Wednesday held a one-day validation on the National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) in Monrovia to discuss the contents of the document.
- The 33-page document is a proposed working instrument carved by the FAO and the Government of Liberia and is part of the economic revitalization pillar of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).
- Government identified competitive, efficient, sustainable food and agriculture value chains as the priority areas of the NMTPF.
- In an interview, FAO Consultant, Thomas Penman said the framework was drafted to fit government PRS from now to 2011.

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

#### **Public Hearings on Draft Land Commission Act**

- In an interview, the Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy Dr. Eugene Shannon described as very critical the establishment of a Land Commission in Liberia.
- According to Minister Shannon, the setting-up of a land commission would help settle land disputes and ensure the legitimate issuance of land in the country.
- Earlier, providing expert opinion on the draft Act to establish a Land Commission, the Minister spoke of the death and detention of several people as a result of land conflicts.
- The House Committee on Lands, Mines and Natural Resources conducted the hearing to get expert opinions on the setting-up of a Land Commission.

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

#### **PAL Official Calls for Equal Justice to Stabilize Liberia**

- A founding member of the former Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL), D. Karn Carlor says the country risk degenerating into chaos if the justice system is not corrected.
- Mr. Carlor told the ongoing TRC hearings Wednesday that the problem Liberia faces today can be attributed largely to faults in the justice system and called on the TRC to include in its recommendations the reconstitution of the courts.

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

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

##### **UNMIL Presents Laws for Women and Girls' Rights to Gender Ministry**

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has presented four laws relating to women and girls rights to the Ministry of Gender and Development.
- Speaking at the presentation ceremony, the Deputy Special Representative to the secretary-General for the Rule of Law, Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, said the four laws are in simple English in order to give females adequate understanding of the laws.
- DSRSB Bonsu noted that the four laws include chapter D of the penal law, domestic relations law, the equal rights of customary law and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act.

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## States News Service

Monday, 11 August 2008

### **ENSURE JUSTICE IS NOT SIDELINED IN SHORT-TERM INTEREST OF UNSUSTAINABLE PEACE, URGES DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL IN REMARKS TO AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

NEW YORK

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Following is the text of Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro's remarks to the American Bar Association, in New York on 9 August:

It gives me great pleasure to address the Opening Assembly of the American Bar Association's 2008 Annual Meeting. Before I assumed office as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and before I was Foreign Minister of Tanzania, I was a practising lawyer and a professor of law. I, therefore, feel quite at home among all of you.

First, let me pay tribute to you, Mr. President and the American legal community, for your years of support for the United Nations. United States diplomats and lawyers led efforts to prepare the draft of the United Nations Charter in the 1940s, and they paved the way for domestic support of the institution under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. Indeed, you were with the Organization at its inception, and you are still with us today. Thank you.

Thank you also for this opportunity to share some thoughts on the rule-of-law activities of the United Nations. As lawyers, you know better than anyone that rules and regulations are designed to establish order and stability by providing clarity and structure to human interactions.

In order to develop and flourish, all professions need accountable Governments, procedures and laws enacted on the basis of due process and human rights, and a system of advocates and umpires to solve disputes fairly and impartially. This applies not just to legal work, but to all human activity.

In this context, I congratulate the American Bar Association on the successful launch of the "World Justice Project". I understand the project seeks to engage other disciplines -- such as health, education, military, journalism, the arts and business -- in advancing the rule of law worldwide. This is a truly ambitious yet necessary undertaking, and I wish you great success.

Your new initiative reinforces the UN's own longstanding efforts to promote the rule of law. The Organization's founders expressed the resolve "to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained". Today, the United Nations promotes the rule of law at the international level and at the national level, and at the critical interface between the two, the national implementation of international law.

Our work is driven by the belief that respect for international law is crucial for the maintenance of international peace and security. To use the words of Judge Higgins, President of the International Court of Justice, "in a world often divided by politics, international law is our common language".

This shared language lies at the heart of the United Nations Charter. Since the Organization's founding, we have supported the promotion, development and implementation of international law and standards in



almost all fields -- from the environment to disarmament, from organized crime to the law of the sea, from human rights to trade. Progress on this front represents one of the Organization's greatest achievements.

Today, our main challenge is not to come up with new laws, norms and treaties. But to give meaning to the vast body of law that has already been promulgated. In other words, rule of law as a mere concept is not enough. Laws must be put into practice and permeate the fabric of our lives.

Perhaps no other issue sums up this challenge better than the work by the United Nations and the international community to bring an end to impunity. Regrettably, more than six decades after the end of the Second World War, the world continues to witness appalling crimes. At the same time, there is also growing international acceptance that impunity for these crimes cannot be tolerated, and that there can be no lasting peace until the perpetrators are brought to justice.

The International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, both established by the Security Council, were pioneering entities. Their work opened the door to other forums to fight impunity under international law, such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

The success of these courts reinforced the sense of the international community that a more permanent forum to address the most egregious atrocities was needed.

That dream finally came to life in the creation of the International Criminal Court. Unlike ad hoc tribunals of all kinds, the ICC is a permanent institution. Already, in the relatively short period of its existence, the Court has established itself as the centrepiece of our system of international criminal justice. Its creation is clearly one of the major achievements in international law during the past century.

Yet the welcome emergence of international criminal law raises its own questions. For instance, one particular challenge in the context of post-conflict situations is to reconcile the need for peace with the duty of justice. For the United Nations, justice and peace are complementary requirements. We strongly believe that there can be no lasting peace without justice. The question, therefore, is not whether justice should be pursued, but rather how best to interlink the two in light of the specific circumstances, without sacrificing one for another.

The United Nations has a clear position that it cannot support any amnesty for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross human rights abuses. I hope that you, as legal professionals, will work wherever possible to ensure that justice is not sidelined in the short-term interest of an unsustainable peace.

World leaders pledged in 2005 to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Now, the need to make this responsibility to protect fully operational represents a major priority and challenge for the United Nations and for our Member States. I urge you to press for the close attention to the issue within your own country.

Let me turn, briefly, to the UN's rule-of-law work at the national level.

Currently, some 40 entities around the United Nations system are actively engaged in the promotion of the rule of law in more than 110 countries and in all regions of the globe.

In Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Somalia and Uganda, United Nations assistance covers support for legal reform; transitional justice; strengthening of law enforcement, justice and corrections institutions; gender

justice; and justice for children and for the drafting and implementation of national justice and security strategies and development plans.

In some of these countries, assistance is also provided on organized crime issues; constitution-making; rule of law in mediation processes; and on housing, land and property issues related to refugees and internally displaced persons. Such issues have been key priorities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission's support to Sierra Leone, Burundi and Guinea-Bissau.

Since the recent upheaval in Kenya, the United Nations has worked to ensure that rule-of-law issues are fully considered in the mediation process and in transitional justice efforts. Elsewhere, the United Nations is carrying out rule-of-law programming in long-term development contexts, such as Angola, Bolivia, Georgia, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The growing breadth of activities has also necessitated a review and rationalization of our work. We are, therefore, working to strengthen our capacity, enhance institutional memory and coordinate more effectively within the Organization.

A Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group has been established, supported by a Rule of Law Unit within the Secretariat. The Group consists of the nine principals of the major rule-of-law assistance providers in the United Nations family, who meet regularly under my chairmanship. I encourage you to closely follow and support its work.

At the same time, greater coordination and coherence within the United Nations has to be matched by coherence with other rule-of-law actors. The United Nations is but one actor in the field. Our experience over the past 15 years illustrates that a lack of strategic planning and coordination among all rule-of-law entities, including donor Governments and non-governmental organizations, can produce duplication and can waste effort and money.

Unfortunately, rule-of-law assistance has sometimes been piecemeal and, in some instances, donor-driven and not in line with national priorities. There is an urgent need to move towards approaches that are nationally-driven and sustainable, and approaches that can garner the requisite political buy-in.

We -- the rule-of-law community -- can and must do more in the face of high expectations. I know that the American Bar Association is committed to advancing the rule of law. You have worked with us in the past to provide rule-of-law assistance, and we look forward to partnering with you to advance our shared aims.

Together, we must deliver on our commitment to promote and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels. If we succeed -- and we must -- we will put in place the foundation stone of a peaceful and prosperous world.