

**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, 29 August 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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**Local News**

Human Rights Commission Need Le 2.3bn FY 2009 / *For di People* Page 3

**International News**

(Untitled) / *BBC World Service Trust* Pages 4-5

(Untitled) / *BBC World Service Trust* Page 6

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL* Pages 7-9

Review: A History of Political Trials by John Laughland / *Telegraph* Pages 10-11

For di People  
Friday, 29 August 2008

FDP/8

FRIDAY AUGUST 29, 2008

# Human Rights Commission

## Need Le 2.3bn FY 2009

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS Commission of Sierra Leone is requesting from the national budget 2.3 billion leones as running costs for Fiscal Year 2009.**

by  
**ELIAS BANGURA**  
In her presentation yesterday at the ongoing Budget hearings at Youyi Building, Commissioner Mrs. Yasmin Fofanah said their commission needs Le 2,380,000,000 (two billion, three hundred and eighty million leones), as against the 76 million they were given last year, which was grossly inadequate for a commission that handles human rights issues.

The Commission was established on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Since then it has existed in taking the lead in building a culture of human rights (including respect for individual responsibilities) that maintains human dignity for all in Sierra Leone in full compliance with the Constitution, laws, international and regional instruments through effective partnership and collaboration. Among its objectives are, to promote good

governance, security and peace; human development; gender equality and non-discrimination; support and guarantee equal opportunities to the disable and other vulnerable groups; enhance protection of civil and political rights; and to strengthen institutional capacity to provide effective support to programmes. And their activities from last year, among other things has been public education on human rights and peace;

enhancing participation in national processes through training and public awareness raising; engage Parliament and GoSL on legislation and policy on access to information; monitoring the implementation of the TRC Report; production of State of Human Rights Report; support to witnesses and victims of human rights violations; and local and international training of commissioners and staff on human rights issues. Towards these issues, they have accomplished many things, such as: handling 70 cases of alleged human rights abuse; recommended to

the Director of Prisons the immediate release of prison inmates who had served their sentences and whose continued detention was unlawful; provided technical and legal advice to complainants of alleged cases of human rights violations; provided technical assistance to Government, Parliament and civil society for passage of the Gender Justice Laws; organized a national consultative conference in collaboration with Uniosil on the status of implementation of the TRC Recommendations; and monitoring prisons and detention places.

Mrs. Fofanah said the Commission is determined to go ahead and be seen everywhere across the country, and not just in Freetown. But their main challenge has been under funding. For example, last fiscal year they were allocated a hundred and thirty four million leones, but the actual as of date is only seventy six million, five hundred thousand leones. And there are still programs and funding that needs their commitment, like handling cases relating to human rights violations; transport support to witnesses/victims; membership dues; rent for three regional offices for 2 years (the 4<sup>th</sup> has been provided by Government; remaining procurement of equipment and office furniture, maintenance, repair and fuel support; conduct capacity training for commissioners and staff; and rules and procedures for receiving and adjudication of complaints established, published, and disseminated.

“Yes, we’ve had some funding from donors, but this was due to our vigorous effort in sourcing them. I think Government should increase our funding to address the human rights issues in this country. There are so many cases that need to be addressed in our country, like ritual murders, wife battering and more. If Government doesn’t increase our allocation, literally the commission is going to sink”, said Mrs. Fofanah.

The District Budget Oversight Committee members, Parliamentarians, the Press and Civil Society were unanimous in their support for the Commission’s work.

They encouraged the Commission to be more vigorous; their presence should be seen in every region, for the people to access their services. And whoever gave them that allocation is being mean to the Commission, because such an amount would take their work nowhere. They said they know about Government’s constraints, but for the coming year, they’re recommending that the Commission gets their two billion leones request.

They moved the motion for their budget to be approved, and presented to Parliament.

## BBC World Service Trust

Thursday, 28 August 2008

Since the detention of former Liberian President Charles Taylor at the International Criminal Court facilities in The Hague, nothing is known about the condition of his prison cell. Where is he confined? Does Mr. Taylor have access to electricity, television or radio? Is he allowed to have recreation and family visitation? BBC World Service Trust, Joseph Cheeseman reports on the answers he got from court officials and Taylor's Lawyers.

Lead Defence Counsel Courtney Griffiths says Mr. Charles Taylor is confined in a detention facility used by Nazi Germany in The Hague during the last two World Wars.

QC Griffiths told me the International Criminal Court, the ICC, is renting from the Dutch government the portion of the detention facility occupied by Mr. Taylor and other detainees of the ICC. Mr. Gregory Townsend is the head of the Special Court sub-office in The Hague. Mr. Townsend's office is responsible for the welfare of Mr. Taylor in detention. Mr. Townsend explains the condition under which Mr. Taylor is being held.

TOWNSEND: He's being housed with the five ICC detainees, and they have an individual cell. They have food provided for them, rooms to confer with their lawyers, medical officers available for them if they're ill, and essentially some time outside every day and some recreation activities if they want to, and a lot of them are spending their time preparing their defences.

CHEESEMAN: Do they have other facilities like television or radio or newspapers?

TOWNSEND: They have television access and I think they have available to them also periodicals, I understand.

CHEESEMAN: Who determines what food is provided for the detainees?

TOWNSEND: The ICC handles all aspects of their detention including their dietary interests and food. There has been requests for a more African-oriented food and to my understanding those requests have been met and they're trying to move towards that.

The head of the defence team, Courtney Griffiths, confirmed that Taylor's detention cell is not among the worst he had seen since he started his practice as a lawyer. He named some of the incentives enjoyed by Mr. Taylor in the detention center. QC Griffiths said Mr. Taylor has access to television and other media in his cell.

GRIFFITHS: Well he has access to the media, and as you know he's a very keen sportsman, and he has been following the recent Olympics very closely.

CHEESEMAN: So when he sleeps, does he have a decent bed?

GRIFFITHS: He's never complained to me about the nature of his conditions.

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Griffiths, however, said his client suffers some disadvantages in prison regarding food and family visitation.

GRIFFITHS: They are severely deprived in terms of what is available to them, even in terms of simple things such as food, because what [I still] remember, there are several African detainees here in The Hague in a European country. Where are they going to get their garri from? Where are they going to get their fufu from? Where are they going to get their plantain from? And all the other foods which culturally they're used to. [Gap in tape] very difficult, and it causes problems for them...apart from his continued concern that he doesn't have as much access to his family as he would like.

CHEESEMAN: How frequent is he allowed for family members to visit him?

GRIFFITHS: Not very frequently, and the conditions under which he's allowed to see his family members are somewhat onerous. So for example he can't see them privately. There has to be a guard there present who records their conversation. Can you imagine that?

CHEESEMAN: He doesn't have privacy with his wife?

GRIFFITHS: With his wife it's different, but generally, the conditions under which he's permitted to meet with members of his family are indeed quite onerous.

Meanwhile the prosecution 35th witness has ended his cross-examination. The witness concluded by telling the Defence that he had Taylor's cell phone and satellite phone numbers and that he communicated with Taylor directly. But the Defence team said the witness had no access to Mr. Taylor's cell phone or his satellite phone. The 36th witness whose cross-examination was suspended last week is now on the stand.

This is Joseph Cheeseman reporting for the BBC World Service Trust from The Hague.

## BBC World Service Trust

Thursday, 28 August 2008

Defence Lawyer Terry Munyard on Thursday concluded his cross-examination of the 35th witness testifying in the trial of Charles Taylor in The Hague. The witness continued his cross-examination with his voice distorted.

As the BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah reports, the Defence lawyer said the witness lied in some insinuations.

FORNAH: During direct examination, the witness told the court he had direct access to two telephone numbers of detained former Liberian President Charles Taylor. But Defence lawyer Munyard argued the witness [sic.] over Mr. Taylor's telephone number.

MUNYARD: Do you remember telling us in evidence "I had his number at the time, direct number from him?"

WITNESS: Yes, I had the direct number to his satellite phone. I had the direct number to his satellite phone at that time, but I said I've forgotten his satellite phone number. I only recall his cell phone number which we used to communicate, because most of the time I used to communicate on his satellite phone number too.

MUNYARD: You did not have his number direct from him even on your own account, did you? Where did you get the satellite number of Mr. Taylor from?

WITNESS: White Flower, at his residence.

MUNYARD: Who did you get it from?

WITNESS: I got the satellite phone number directly from him. He wrote it on paper and gave it to me.

FORNAH: The witness also said arms and ammunition brought from Liberia was used to capture Kono in an operation code named 'Fiti fata'.

WITNESS: After we had gone to Liberia, and from Gbanga we brought ammunition to Buedu and from Buedu Sam Bockarie receive the ammunition and he gave us a large quantity of ammunition, because we had a huge quantity for us to take it to Kono to Dennis Mingo, "Superman", at Superman Ground. And after that, that was the same ammunition that we used to undertake a "fiti fata" mission to capture Koidu town in Kono.

FORNAH: The witness earlier told the court that there was infighting between the Liberian fighters and the Sierra Leonean Rebels due to repeated atrocities that were committed by the Liberians against the Sierra Leoneans.

Meanwhile, the 36th witness whose testimony was suspended last week is again on the stand and he is being cross-examined by the lead counsel of Charles Taylor, QC Courtney Griffiths.

For the BBC World Service Trust, this is Mariama Khai Fornah reporting from The Hague.

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries**  
**28 August 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**AFRICOM Commander Visits Liberia Today**

(The Inquirer, The News, The Analyst)

- The head of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) General William Ward is expected in the country today to serve as guest speaker at the activation and Initial Entry Training (IET) of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). A Defense Ministry release said Gen. Ward would also be the guest of honor at the ceremonies of the first battalion of the 23rd Infantry Brigade and Initial Entry Training graduation at the Barclay Training Center (BTC) Friday.
- The Ministry of National Defense in collaboration with the Pacific Architecture Engineering (PAE) and DynCorp International will hold the activation ceremony. According to a release, the graduation would seal the IET as the numerical strength of the restructured Armed Forces of Liberia reaches its peak of a 2,000 professional, strong and effective force.

**Justice Ministry, Police Host Validation Today**

(Heritage)

- The ministry of Justice and the Liberia National Police (LNP) will today, Thursday, host a validation workshop in Monrovia. The workshop would provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to participate in the validation of the strategic development plan produce by the Police and other stakeholders in Accra, Ghana last month. The workshop will also identify areas that the LNP needs to systematically reform, restructure and rebuild in order to ensure that a sustained level of operational capacity is achieved.

**Police Undergo Weapons Training**

(The News)

- Authorities at the Liberia National Police say one 143 trainees of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) have begun weapons training. The trainees are expected to graduate shortly from the first two classes.
- A release issued Wednesday said the trainees will begin joint patrols with UNMIL following graduation. When fully established, the ERU will comprise of 500 police officers.
- It can be recalled in January this year, the Liberia National Police launched a training programme to establish an Emergency Response Unit aimed at conducting special police operations in the areas of anti-terrorism, hostage rescue, internal security, tactical anti-crime operations, among others. The ERU is established to also provide support to the Police Support Unit (PSU), and it will further assist the LNP to continue its efforts to achieve excellence in management of internal security by placing service and loyalty about self.

**Former LURD Rebel Leader Denies Bombardment of "Greystone"**

(Heritage, National Chronicle, The News, New Democrat, The Inquirer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Monitor, The Informer)

- The media reports that the leader of the disbanded Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement, Mr. Sekou Damate Conneh has denied that his forces bombarded the U.S. owned-facility, the Grey Stone Compound in Monrovia.

- Testifying at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Thematic hearings yesterday, he blamed the barrage of missile attacks on the US-owned facility on Charles Taylor's forces arguing that his forces launched 81 millimetre rockets, which were, not strong enough to hit Monrovia.
- The Inquirer, Informer, Analyst, and New Democrat newspapers quoted Mr. Conneh as saying that he was not aware of things that happened in his movement. The Daily Observer and The Analyst newspapers said the former LURD leader said he could not be held liable for crimes which may have been committed by members of his movement. He contended that being a Chairman of the rebel movement did not mean he sanctioned all of the things done by the fighters.

### **Slain President's Family Rules out Reconciliation with Former INPFL Leader**

(National Chronicle)

- The family of slain President Samuel Doe has ruled out any possibility of reconciling with the former Independent National Patriot Front of Liberia (INPFL) leader, Prince Johnson. A family spokesman said testimony by former General Johnson that the body of the late President was cremated shows he does not deserve forgiveness.
- Mr. Jackson Doe said if Mr. Johnson, now senator, had shown regrets for his action, the family would have pardoned him. Meanwhile, Mr. Doe said he would appear before the TRC when called upon to explain details surrounding the capture and subsequent death of his brother.

### **UN Envoy urges Liberians to Prioritize Children's Education - Commissions School Project**

(Heritage, The Informer, The Analyst)

- UN Envoy Ellen Løj has urged Liberians to encourage their children to go to school and to stay in school. Speaking at a ceremony in Montserrado County where she commissioned the Banjor Community School, newly rehabilitated by Nigerian Peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), she said all children both girls and boys need an equal chance. Ms. Løj acknowledged the huge challenge faced by the Ministry of Education in revitalizing Liberia's education sector.
- She hailed the contribution of the Nigerian peacekeepers "as a small, but very important contribution towards the efforts being made by the government." Speaking on behalf of the Nigerian peacekeepers, Brigadier General Ezekiel Olofin, urged the community to ensure the sustainability of the project and said that "education is the bedrock of human development and serves as a parameter for any growth in society."
- The peacekeepers contributed personal finances and expertise to improve the facilities. They provided furniture, painted the school, renovated the roof and ceiling and built perimeter walls and exit gates. Also speaking, the school's Principal, Mr. Andrew Tommy thanked the peacekeepers for the renovation disclosing that the initiative was the first major efforts put in place in the twelve years of the school's existence.

### **Liberia Faces Daunting Challenges, Says New U.S. Ambassador**

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

- The new U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield says Liberia still faces daunting challenges including fixing its broken justice system. Presenting her letter of credence Wednesday, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield said there was a need to develop civil society and the independent media to reverse the social and cultural damage from the war years.
- The first female US Ambassador to Liberia pledged to support the government in every sector of its recovery programme to ensure that US attention and commitment to Liberia do not diminish during what she called a crucial post conflict period. In response, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf acknowledged that there are still a lot of challenges in Liberia despite the progress being made. The President thanked the U.S. government for its support in several sectors of the country's recovery programme, especially the training of the Armed Forces.



## **Supreme Court Renews Stay Order on Nyenabo's Suspension**

(Heritage)

- Chamber Justice Jamesetta Wolokollie has again mandated the Liberian Senate to stay further proceedings regarding the suspension of Isaac Nyenabo as Pro-tempore. This followed a bill of information filed by lawyers representing the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) and suspended President Pro-Temp Nyenabo.
- It can be recalled that Justice Wolokollie issued a stay order mandating the Liberia Senate to halt all proceedings in the suspension of Isaac Nyenabo as Pro-tempore following a prohibition petition filed by the NDPL along with Senator Nyenabo. In a 12-count petition, the NDPL and co-defendant described the action to suspend the pro-temp as illegal contending that the Senate suspended Pro-Temp Nyenabo on 5 August while sitting unlawfully.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** *(News culled today from website at 8:00am)*

### **Doe's Family Rules Out Reconciliation with Former INPFL Leader**

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

### **Ex-Rebel Leader Denies Shelling Monrovia**

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

### **Several Wounded in Violent Clash at Sinoe Rubber Plantation**

- Correspondents say several persons have been wounded and many houses burned as a result of confusion at the Sinoe Rubber Plantation.
- Reports say the confusion erupted Tuesday following a decision by Superintendent Sylvester Grigsby to dissolve the Citizens Welfare Committee after some citizens complained that the team was not seeking the interest of the workers.
- The supervisor of the monitoring team has however accused Senator Mobutu Nyenpan and Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) Manager, Alfred Porte of being the mastermind of the citizens' petition.
- Mr. Joe Flah alleged the two officials programmed five persons to petition the Superintendent a claim both men denied.
- Superintendent Grigsby said security has been tightened at the Plantation and those involved in the act would be prosecuted.

### **New US Ambassador says Liberia Faces Daunting Challenges**

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

### **EPA Confiscates Eagle at RIA**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has confiscated and turned over an eagle to the Forestry Development Authority.
- Addressing a news conference yesterday, EPA Acting Executive Director, Ben Karmo said the eagle was confiscated from a man at the Roberts International Airport while attempting to sell it.
- Mr. Karmo said it is prohibited under the law for such creature to be hunted.
- An officer of the FDA Wildlife Division, Moses Beah thanked the EPA for rescuing the bird and said it would be preserved and later released to the forest in the Sarpo National Park.

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

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

### **High Court Reiterates Stay Order in Leadership Crisis among Senators**

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## Telegraph (UK)

Friday, 29 August 2008

### **Review: A History of Political Trials by John Laughland**

Political trials do not always deliver justice, says Adam LeBor, But what else do we have?

If a Hollywood scriptwriter had pitched a film idea in which Radovan Karadzic, the fugitive Bosnian Serb leader, was found in a drab Belgrade suburb working as a practitioner of alternative medicine, he would have been laughed out of the editorial meeting.

The idea that the former Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, and Charles Taylor, his Liberian counterpart, would eventually be called to account for their crimes once seemed equally fanciful. Yet Milosevic died in his cell at The Hague, where Charles Taylor is now on trial for war crimes.

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John Laughland's opinion of the evolving legal processes by which dictators and warlords are being put on trial is clear from the title of his previous book, *Travesty: The Trial of Slobodan Milosevic and the Corruption of International Justice*.

It was co-written with Ramsay Clark, a former US Attorney General who helped defend Saddam Hussein. Nevertheless, Laughland asks some pointed questions that will discomfit even those who disagree with him. Who has the right to adjudicate the acts of another state? What accountability is there for international tribunals? To what extent are they victors' justice?

Some answers, I would argue, may be found in the founding documents of the United Nations -its Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Genocide Convention. Article One of the Genocide Convention, for example, states that 'genocide is a crime under international law which they [signatories] undertake to prevent and punish'.

Laughland's book opens with the trial of Charles I in 1649 for treachery, an unprecedented event where the verdict was a foregone conclusion. Charles's courtroom tactics - refusing to recognise the court's authority, refusing to plea - was to be copied centuries later by Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein.

Subsequent chapters include usefully detailed accounts of the trials of Louis XVI, Marshal Pétain and Vidkun Quisling; post-war trials in Hungary, Finland and Greece; plus Nicolae Ceausescu, Erich Honecker, Jean Kambanda (a Hutu leader in Rwanda), Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein. However, this episodic structure slows down the narrative, and at times the book reads more like a collection of articles than a linked account.

Laughland's dissection of the flaws and hypocrisies of the Nuremberg trials is a useful reminder to those who hold them up as an exemplar. The 24 defendants were chosen to represent a cross-section of the Nazi leadership, and included two governors of the Reichsbank, Walther Funk and Hjalmar Schacht.

These two men, while essential cogs in the Nazi machine, were arguably far less implicated in war crimes than, for example, Reinhard Gehlen, a general on the eastern front, where many of the most hideous crimes were committed. But politics saved Gehlen. The Allies put him in charge of the nascent West German intelligence service.

Laughland's critique of the evolving doctrine of 'command responsibility', by which commanders may be indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by subordinates, even if they did not order or take part in the events, is flawed but provocative.

He traces it back to Andrei Vyshinskii, Stalin's prosecutor in the 1930s Moscow show trials, when Old Bolsheviks confessed to vast, imaginary conspiracies. But Laughland's intellectual rigour evaporates over Slobodan Milosevic, whom he once visited at The Hague.

Laughland writes: 'To be sure, Yugoslavia gave help to the Bosnian Serb Army and therefore incurred some indirect responsibility for what that army did in Bosnia. But the link between it and Milosevic in Belgrade was tenuous.'

This is utter nonsense. The Bosnian Serb army was the Yugoslav army. Its soldiers simply changed the badges on their uniforms. It kept the same command structure, weaponry, officers and intelligence. It was armed, funded and supplied by Belgrade, which paid its soldiers' salaries and pension long after the conflict ended in 1995.

Milosevic's role in the Yugoslav wars is thoroughly documented. Further details of the links between his regime and the course of the Bosnian war will doubtless be revealed at the trial for war crimes of General Momcilo Perisic, Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav army, between 1993 and 1998, which is scheduled to start in October.

Laughland's obsession with breaking the link between Milosevic and the Bosnian war is unfortunate, both because it is wrong, and because readers with knowledge of the Yugoslav wars will be more likely to question his accounts of other episodes chronicled here.

International criminal justice is a work in process. Slobodan Milosevic's trial was slow and clumsy, his indictments overlong and complicated.

But he, like Charles Taylor and now, Radovan Karadzic, was at least called to account for his actions.