

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



The flour mill in Cline Town

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:

Wednesday, 6 August 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Special Court for Sierra Leone
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 5 August 2008

Closing Arguments Conclude in RUF Trial

The Judges of Trial Chamber I heard closing arguments Monday and Tuesday in the trial of three former leaders of Sierra Leone’s Revolutionary United Front (RUF). In two days of submissions, lawyers for the Prosecution and for the Accused – Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao – made presentations to the Court and answered questions relating to evidence presented in the trial, and to the application of law.

During the trial, which opened in Freetown on 5 July 2004, the Judges heard evidence from 85 witnesses called by the Prosecution and an equal number called by the Defence. The final witness testified on 25 June 2008 as the Defence case came to an end.

Deputy Registrar Binta Mansaray hailed the closing arguments as a “significant milestone” for the Special Court as it works to complete its mandate.

“It has been a long process to get to where we are today, but the fact that the closing arguments took place on schedule marks an important step in the life of the Court”, Ms. Mansaray said. “By showing that justice can be delivered on time and in accordance with the highest standards of international law, we will not only have lived up to our mandate, but we will also have left a legacy in law for the people of Sierra Leone”.

The Judges will now retire to consider their Judgment in the case. A Trial Judgment is expected later this year.

The RUF trial is the last of three Special Court trials held in Freetown. The trials of three former members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) and two members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) are complete, including sentencing and appeals.

The Special Court’s trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor is continuing in The Hague. Since it got underway in January, the Court has heard testimony from 35 Prosecution witnesses.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

Cotton Tree News

Tuesday, 5 August 2008

RUF Trial enters final phase

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray

Trial Chamber one of the Special Court for Sierra Leone began hearings on the argument between the prosecution and the defense teams in the RUF case in Freetown. This is the final argument which will take the chamber to its judgment later this year. In his argument, Peter Harrison of the prosecution team addressed a number of issues raised in the final trial briefs of the defense regarding allegations made by the prosecution against their clients in the respective fifteen count charges. Among the issues addressed were the issue of joint criminal enterprise, pillage and the use of child soldiers. The defense began their argument on behalf of the first accused Issa Sesay. Lead Counsel Wayne Jordash argued that the prosecution cannot prove their case in relation to his client's direct participation in the alleged crimes and also for command responsibility. The RUF case opened in Freetown on the fifth of July 2004. The accused persons were indicted on fifteen count charges for various war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Cotton Tree News

Tuesday, 5 August 2008

CGG launches human right hand book

Written by Bassie B Kanu

A Hand Book on Human Rights Treaties has been launched in Freetown. The book was compiled by the Campaign for Good Governance with funding from the Justice Sector Development Program. The book is titled 'An analysis of Basic Human Rights Documents Applicable in Sierra Leone'. Monica Timbo, Program Officer of Campaign for Good Governance in Freetown told CTN that the Handbook was meant to inform the government about regional and international human rights treaties the country had signed over the years but are yet to be ratified. Mrs. Timbo added that the book would remind the government of its human rights obligations. Jamesina King, Chairman of the Human Right Commission of Sierra Leone launched the book said the book was important instrument for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Patriotic Vanguard

Tuesday, 4 August 2008

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- Tuesday 5 August 2008.

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UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 5 August 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

President Sirleaf Makes New Appointments in Government

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

- The media reports that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made new appointments in government affecting the Ministries of Finance, Planning, and State without Portfolio. Budget Director, Mr. Augustine K. Ngafuan has been named Minister of Finance; former Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Affairs at the Ministry of State, Mr. Amara M. Konneh, Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs; and Mr. Natty B. Davis, Coordinator and Head of the Liberia Reconstruction and Development Committee, Minister of State without Portfolio. According to an Executive Mansion release, the President also named Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, Chairman of the Governance Commission and Ambassador Nathaniel Barnes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America. The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Liberian senate.
- Meanwhile, Madam Betty J. Saway has been reappointed member of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Liberia by the President.

Senate due to Debate Fate of Embattled President Pro-Tempore Tuesday

(The Parrot, National Chronicle, New Democrat, Heritage, The Analyst, Daily Observer)

- The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Isaac Nyenabo, was due to be debated by the plenary of the Senate today, Tuesday.
- Twenty one Senators recently signed a resolution to remove Pro-temp Nyenabo for what they termed gross "administrative ineptitude". But their plan was not affected during last Thursday's session, thus leaving Senator Nyenabo space to escape removal as planned by aggrieved members of the upper house of the Liberian legislature.
- The media suspects that Sinoe County Senior Senator Mabutu Nyepan is the ring leader for those fronting for the removal of the President Pro Tempore. Senator Nyepan, according to a number of radio stations, said the removal of their leader was irreversible and that crafters of the resolution remain resolute, assuring that Nyenabo would be accorded due process.
- The Senate is composed of 30 Senators and requires two thirds majority to effect such action. Star Radio, Truth FM, and ELBC said those pushing for the removal of Nyenabo said four of their colleagues have withdrawn from the petition.
- Even though the disgruntled senators cited "administrative ineptitude" as a reason for wanting to remove their leader, most media perceived that the action is based on the constant accusations that Nyenabo reduced himself to a confidant of President Ellen Johnson and was taking orders from the executive and reducing the Senate to perform at the will of the third Branch of Government.

Justice Minter Orders Police to Re-arrest Two Murder Suspects

(Heritage)

- The Minister of Justice, Cllr. Philip Banks has instructed the Liberia National Police to immediately re-arrest the two individuals allegedly linked to the killing of Alexander Konuwa on July 26. According to a press release, Minister Banks gave the order yesterday based on information that the two named only as Playboy and Patrick who were detained at the Jacob

Town Police Depot are no longer in detention. According to the release one of the suspects was allegedly released to his mother, while the other has escaped from prison.

- The Justice Ministry statement comes after students of the Senior Class of the Cavalry Temple Assemblies of God School in Paynesville staged a sit-in before the Justice Ministry demanding justice in the death of their colleague. Meanwhile, the Justice Ministry has informed the family that government will take action to ensure that the issue is properly handled and that perpetrators are brought to justice.

National Budget Finally Gets Legislative Approval

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

- The 2008/2009 draft Fiscal Budget of over US\$297 million has been passed by the National Legislature. The budget was passed yesterday following the Senate's concurrence with the House of Representatives in a special session. Last Thursday, the House of Representatives approved the budget with an additional US\$21 million. The initial budget was US\$276 million. The New Democrat reports that several Senators who endorsed the budget say they were under pressure to pass it against their will, claiming some appropriations were improper. Meanwhile, the budget is expected to be sent to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for approval

Hundreds Grace TRC Public Hearings as Long-time Political Activists Testify

The Inquirer, New Democrat, National Chronicle, The News, Daily Observer, The Analyst

- The Daily Observer reports that hundreds of citizens and foreign residents on Monday, August 4, 2008, got attracted to the public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Monrovia when some of the nation's long-term political activists appeared before the Commission.
- The Leader of the Alliance of Peace and Democracy, Dr Togbah Nah Tipoteh and the former Secretary General of the Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL), Oscar J. Quiah gave testimonies of their respective roles in the struggle for peace, democracy and economic empowerment of the Liberian people over the years.
- The Parrot, Analyst, Daily Observer and National Chronicle newspapers report that Mr. Quiah in his testimonies said among other things that the "Rice Riot" of 1979 was not a riot but a peaceful demonstration that went awry. He dismissed the notion that civilian members of the People Redemption Council (PRC) had an input in the execution of 13 former officials of the Tolbert Government.
- The News, Inquirer and New Democrat newspapers quoted Dr. Tipoteh as saying that he played a major role in thwarting the extradition of Mr. Taylor, especially when the Government of Liberia under the regime of Samuel Doe requested Taylor for prosecution. Meanwhile, The National Chronicle reports that both men were apologetic about any wrongs they may have committed against anyone.

US\$7 Million Estimated to Renovate Executive Mansion

(Daily Observer, The Analyst)

- At least US\$7 million has been estimated for the renovation work on the Executive Mansion two years after fire ripped through the fourth floor the building. Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Wleh Badio told reporters Monday that the work is being supervised by the Milton and Richards Architecture Firm.
- "The firm has sub-leased certain aspects of the renovation work to other local construction companies including the Liberian-owned, W.R. Maintenance and Janitorial Services located in Sinkor." According to Badio, the company is the same company contracted to give the Mansion a facelift during the visit to Liberia of US President George W. Bush.
- "The present renovation is an extension of the work the company began prior to the visit of President Bush," the Press Secretary told reporters. "The services of other qualified companies would be sought as renovation work on the Executive Mansion progresses." Fire broke out at the mansion during celebrations marking the 159th Independence anniversary in

2006 as guests prepared to go in for the official independence anniversary celebrations reception.

Radio Summary

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

Senate Decides leader's Fate Today

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

New Appointments in Government

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

Donated Solar Panels Missing

- The Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) at the Health Ministry says some of the solar panels provided by health partners have been stolen.
- In an interview, the Acting Programme Manager, Mr. Thomas Nagbe said a total of 27 solar panels were stolen in Montserrado, Grand Kru, Sinoe and Grand Cape Mount Counties.
- Mr. Nagbe said the solar panels were intended for refrigerators cooling vaccines to immunize children and women of child bearing age.

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

National Legislature Passes 2008/2009 Fiscal Budget
