

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



“Exploration”. Photographer: Lawrence Sesay

**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:**

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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## **The Special Court For Sierra Leone**



Vol. VII – Special Court Monthly Newsletter – September 2008

### **RUF Oral Arguments**

Closing arguments took place August 4-5 in the trial of three accused leaders of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front. Over the two days, the Judges heard presentations from lawyers for the Prosecution and for accused Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao. The Judges have now retired to consider their trial judgment, which is expected in October. A sentencing judgment, should it be necessary, is expected in November.

### **The Taylor Trial**

The trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor resumed August 18, following the Judicial Recess in The Hague. The Court did not hear evidence on the 18th and 19th when Mr. Taylor failed to appear in Court over complaints about enhanced security measures instituted by the Dutch authorities during his transport to the ICC building. The Registrar is working to resolve the issue, and Mr. Taylor returned to Court on the 20th. So far, the Court has heard testimony from 36 Prosecution witnesses.

### **Joseph F. Kamara Named Deputy Prosecutor**

Sierra Leonean lawyer Joseph F. Kamara has been named Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court. Mr. Kamara, who joined the Office of the Prosecutor in 2004, is the first Sierra Leonean to hold the post. He succeeds Dr. Christopher Staker, who had been Deputy Prosecutor since 2005. Mr. Kamara most recently led the Prosecution team that prosecuted two former members of Sierra Leone's Civil Defence Forces militia.

### **High Commission Staff Visits Special Court**

As part of the Special Court's Outreach to diplomatic missions in Sierra Leone, 26 Freetown-based staff from the British High Commission, the Department for International Development (DfID) and the International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT) visited the Special Court on August 22. The visitors received briefings from representatives of the Office of the Prosecutor, the Defence Office, Detention and Security during a tour of the Special Court premises in New England.

## Standard Times

Monday, 1 September 2008

Commentary

# The future of NPA after Nov. 2008

Two months from September the fate of NPA and the electricity supply to this country are not known. There are lots of constraints faced by the energy company and if no urgent step is made either to sustain the present electricity supply or improve on it would definitely send the city of Freetown currently enjoying about 65% electricity supply to the days when Sierra Leone was regarded as one of the darkest cities in the globe. Currently, work on the Bumbuna transmission lines has not yet commenced. About Le20 Billion generated by the present management is not enough to repay the Le23.4 Billion debt, not to mention other critical areas that funds are desperately needed to address.

The NPA needs funds to procure fuel oil for the generating plants, especially when the Government fuel subsidy of Le 74 billion on Global Trading Group would have been exhausted in September instead of December 2008, due to the sharp increase in fuel prices by 55%.

The one year contract with Global Trading Group ends in November 2008. NPA is at the moment repairing its generating plants at Kingtom (Sulzer 4 & 5, Mitsubishi and Mirrlees) to replace the GTG plants. The repairs will cost about US\$1 million and the Authority does not have the funds to undertake the repairs. The question is

where is this money going to come from? There is a poor state of the transmission & distribution (T&D) lines. It would be recalled that the lines were constructed in the 1960's and have not been replaced since then. NPA therefore urgently needs about large chunk of money to repair the first phase of the Western Area network system, which would involve buying poles, cables, wires, transformers, pole carrying vehicles and other T&D materials. For e.g. it would be recalled that the cost for the 13km, 33kV line for Bumbuna was US\$7.5 million. This was funded by the World Bank. Charging of low tariff, below production cost, for the electricity generated. The average tariff at present is Le 816 per kwh while generation cost is reportedly approximately Le 1,900. This means NPA is subsidizing customers' electricity consumption by 133%. Government should therefore allow NPA to increase its tariff, if this is what would sustain and improve electricity generation. Lack of meters for new connections and replacement of damaged meters are other serious concern. NPA urgently needs 100,000 prepaid meters, to dispense with the present credit meters in the system. In the meantime, it is reported that the National Power Authority has ordered about 20,000 prepaid meters from Poland through United Business System, Sierra

## COMMENTARY

Leone Limited, a company that was involved in the meter saga with the previous government.

Lack of vehicles for revenue collection and monitoring activities is another growing problem. Restructuring of the Authority and downsizing/ rightsizing of staff should be part of the package for reformation. The Authority needs about US\$5 million to undertake any downsizing programme. Stealing of NPA's cables and wires by the public without punitive action being taken by the Government is still ongoing.

The System loss of about 35% is due to poor state of the T&D lines and illegal connections.

Although the Japanese has provided US\$22 million for the JICA project, however the Government of Sierra Leone is required to provide US\$190,000 as counterpart funding.

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) is reportedly providing US\$25 million for the installation of 17 MW generating plants at Blackhall Road of which the Government's contribution towards the project is US\$400,000. Payment of accrued mobilization, capacity, operation and maintenance charges of US\$6 million for the Income Electric 10 NW plant at Blackhall Road is still outstanding. Unconfirmed report, states that the company is contemplating legal action in an international court is another financial burden on the government.

Lastly, it is reported that additional generation capacity of 3 MW is needed for the Bok-Kenema Power Station, since the customer

## BBC World Service Trust

Monday, 1 September 2008

A new witness has on Monday afternoon testifies that the RUF rebels did not only commit atrocities during the war but were also engaged in the habit of eating human beings. The Prosecution lawyer Brenda Hollis led the questioning.

The BBC World Service Trust Mariama Khai Fornah now reports.

FORNAH: The Prosecution 37th witness has told the Court that civilians were treated badly during the war in Sierra Leone. He told the Court that in some areas the civilians were also used as food.

WITNESS: They used to rape them, they used to kill them – sometimes they even ate them.

HOLLIS: And who was it who was doing this?

WITNESS: Well, the actual person who was involved in that was one “Dawn 18-18” who was nicknamed “Kono Bypass”. That was the nickname that he used.

HOLLIS: And can you assist us with spelling that name?

WITNESS: D-A-W-N.

FORNAH: The witness told the Court that, in 1995, the RUF carried out an operation in Yengema and Dea in Kono District. He said they received an order from their leader, Foday Sankoh, that if they got any resistance on the way they should burn all the strategic houses in the town. The witness told the Court that Foday Sankoh used to go to Liberia to collect arms and ammunition from Charles Taylor to attack Sierra Leone.

The witness earlier on told the Court that he was assigned in Zogoda where Foday Sankoh was based. He said that the Kamajors attacked the [gap in tape]. The witness said they were then divided into two groups and headed for two different locations which were given code-names. The first location was code-named “Libya”, and this group went to Sorogbema in the Pujehun District.

The second location was called “Burkina Faso”, and they went to Giema in the Kailahun District. The witness said the Kamajors forced those in “Libya” into Liberia. The witness said after Foday Sankoh was captured during the May 8 incident in Freetown, he said they went to Liberia together with Issa Sesay upon a message Issa Sesay received from Charles Taylor through a satellite phone.

The witness said Charles Taylor ordered that they be reinforced with ammunition so that they would be able to launch an attack on the Kamajors in Sierra Leone.

WITNESS: They were offloaded and some were taken to Sierra Leone, to Kono, Koidu town, where Issa was based, and some were stored in Foya and later they came for the remaining. And it was divided – some stayed in Foya, that was used there, and the remaining was taken to Kono again.

HOLLIS: Where was it in Foya that this other material was stored?

WITNESS: They had a ground there that was called Tamba Taylor Ground. There was a chief who was called Tamba Taylor who was in Foya. His house was what was used as the ground.

HOLLIS: Now, the material that was taken back to Sierra Leone in this instance – how was that material used in Sierra Leone?

WITNESS: They used it to fight against the Kamajors and the pro-government forces.

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  
1 September 2008**

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**AFL First Infantry Activated - President Sirleaf Challenges New Army**

(Heritage, New Democrat, The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Public Agenda, Daily Observer, New Vision)

- The media reports that the Liberian Government last Friday activated the 23<sup>rd</sup> infantry Brigade of the new Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). The Heritage newspaper reports that the activation of the first battalion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> infantry brigade is the first since the entire AFL was deactivated as a result of the Comprehensive Peace Accord in Accra in 2003 by warring parties. The first battalion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> infantry brigade consists of three infantry and support companies.
- The activation ceremony was occasioned by the graduation of the force's 5th and final Initial Entry Training (IET). Meanwhile, the Daily Observer newspaper reports that the restructured AFL numerical strength now slightly exceeded its initial target of 2,000 (rising now to 2,123).

**UN Envoy Calls for Strategic Plan - Predicts Better Days for Liberia's Police**

(Liberian Express, Heritage, National Chronicle, Daily Observer)

- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ellen Margrethe Løj has called on the Liberian National Police (LNP) to back their commitment to professionalism and excellence with a strategic development plan that clearly outlines the effective way forward. Ms. Løj was speaking at a stakeholder's meeting organized by the Ministry of Justice to validate recommendations made last month by senior Liberian Police Officers, at a workshop in Accra-Ghana, where they made a critical assessment of challenges and future needs of the LNP.
- SRSG Løj cautioned that in the absence of a comprehensive and Liberian-owned strategy, support that is being given to the LNP in bits and pieces becomes "both unsustainable and often counterproductive." Also speaking, Justice Minister Phillip Banks said every effort will be made to support the LNP in drawing up the strategic development plan. He also disclosed that an opportunity for support to the LNP from the Government of Liberia's supplementary budget will open up in December. For her part, the Police Inspector General, Beatrice Sieh-Brown urged her LNP colleagues to work together as a team to take the LNP forward.

**Press Union Cautions Journalists against Igniting Tension**

(Liberian Express, The News, The Inquirer)

- In a release issued in Monrovia, the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has cautioned journalists against fuelling tension amidst the anxieties and bitterness being generated at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) public hearings. The PUL said the media has a responsibility to enhance the reconciliation process and must not facilitate chaos and ethnic bickering. The union believes that the idea of the TRC is a unique opportunity for Liberians to deal with their violent past and correct their history.

**Several Nominations in Government**

(Heritage, The News, Daily Observer, New Vision, The Inquirer, The Informer, Public Agenda)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made additional appointments in government pending confirmation by the Liberian Senate. Those appointed are Commany Wesseh, Ambassador and Representative to the United Nations; Sebastian Muah, Deputy Minister for Economic Policy, Ministry of Planning and Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Assistant Minister for Public Affairs, Ministry of National Defense.
- Others are Counsellor Eva Mae Mappy Morgan, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Justice, and Timothy B. Grandoe, Assistant Minister for Coast Guard Affairs, Ministry of National Defense. The President also nominated Samuel Thompson, Member of the Board of Governors, Central Bank of Liberia and Juma P. Karnley, County Attorney, Bomi County among others.

### **LPMC Signs Agreement with JICS**

(Daily Observer)

- The Government of Liberia (GOL) and Japan, through the Liberian Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) and the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) Saturday, August 30, 2008, signed an Agent Agreement for the procurement of US\$6.5 million Japanese Food Aid to Liberia.

### **LISCR Reacts to Email Scam**

(The Inquirer)

- [sic:] The Liberia Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR) reacted to recent copies of email correspondence which inferred bribery and corrupt practices on the part of LISCR's Yoram Cohen. In a statement issued yesterday, LISCR said the statement and the allegation, which refer to the purported copies of email in which it inferred bribery and corrupt practices on the part of Yoram Cohen and LISCR, are entirely untrue. The statement said the purported copies of emails from Yoram Cohen and Avi Zaidenberg referred to in the report are fictitious fabrication. In a related development, the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has written the International Contact Group on Liberia (ICGL) saying that a popular Liberian Internet-based news magazine has run and exposed email communication, yet to be authenticated, amongst high government officials and foreign businessmen discussing bribes for the awarding of the lucrative contract to manage Liberia's Maritime program. The CDC letter signed by its founder and party leader, George M. Weah said, "We have received information that the United States Department of Justice has launched a probe into the email affairs to determine if the US anti- corruption Foreign Corrupt Practice Act (FCPA) has been violated.

## **Radio Summary**

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

#### **Ministry of Education Threatens to Revoke License Of Non-Compliant Schools**

- Education authorities have threatened to revoke the licenses of schools that would not resume academic activities today.
- The ministry said all schools are to be opened today in keeping with its calendar.
- Deputy Education Minister, Hester Williams Catakaw said the ministry and school authorities agreed to the timetable during a consultative meeting and warned that the ministry would not accept any defiance.

#### **"Disputed" Senate Leadership Faces Supreme Court Chamber Justice Today**

- The disputed leadership of the Senate is expected to face chamber justice, Jamesetta Wolokollie today in a conference at the Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court Chamber Justice is to hear a complaint against the Senate filed by the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) and co-defendant Senator Isaac Nyenabo.
- In a prohibition petition, the NDPL and co-defendant Nyenabo asked the Supreme Court to

overturn the Senate's decision to suspend Senator Nyenabo as pro-tempore contending that the action was illegal and the Upper House was sitting unlawfully when it took the decision.

### **Press Union Encourages Journalists on TRC Reporting**

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

### **President Sirleaf Makes Additional Appointments**

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

#### **ECOWAS Commission on Trade Wants Regional Integration**

- The ECOWAS Commission for Trade, Commerce, Customs and Tourism said regional integration of trade within the sub-region is paramount to the free movement of goods and services.
- Commissioner Alhaji Mohammed Daramy said if the countries in the sub-region must have a stronger market share in the international market it was incumbent among member states to form a strong partnership in the industry of trade and commerce.

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