

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



Flashback; braving the rain to an outreach event in Bonthé

**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:**

Monday, 1 September 2008

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

**Local News**

UN: From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding / New Citizen Page 3

**International News**

Liberia's Taylor Case Moving Swiftly: Prosecutor / Reuters Page 4

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

“Taylor Gave Roosevelt Johnson US\$40,000.00 To Fight...” / Liberian Journal Page 8

Bashir Warning on Darfur Charges / BBC Online Page 9

73-year Old Amputee Testifies Against Taylor / Star Radio (Liberia) Page 10

New Citizen  
Friday, 3 October 2008

# **UN: FROM** **PEACE** **KEEPING** **TO PEACE** **BUILDING**

**T**he newly established United Nations Integrated peace building Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) has past Wednesday October commenced operations. The offices succeed the United Nations in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) which successfully completed its mandate September 30 2008.

The executive representative of the Secretary General to Sierra Leone past Thursday told Journalist at the mammy Yoko Hostel Aberdeen that, the (UNIPSIL) will accommodate a staff strength of 70 comprising mostly of expatriates and a larger percentage of the indigenes of the country in contrast to UNIPSIL which employed mostly foreign nationals.

He said the UNIPSIL will have office in the provincial towns of Makeni, Bo, Kenema and Kono and will involve mostly in social integration, economic integration attitudinal change in the form of partnership with the government.

He said other areas of focus will also include legal issues on the right of the child. Peace consolidation, civil affairs democratic institutions strengthening updating the security to help face international crime.

## Reuters

Friday, 3 October 2008

### Liberia's Taylor case moving swiftly: prosecutor

By Aaron Gray-Block

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - The prosecution's case against war crimes suspect and former Liberian President Charles Taylor will be completed by January, the prosecutor for the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone said on Thursday.

Taylor -- on trial in The Hague instead of Freetown to avoid possible unrest in Liberia -- has pleaded not guilty to charges involving murder, rape, conscripting child soldiers and sexual slavery during the intertwined wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone, in which more than 250,000 people were killed.



"We're presenting a lot of crime victim testimony, it's very dramatic testimony. Defence cross examination is actually fairly limited so the trial is moving forward very quickly," prosecutor Stephen Rapp told Reuters in The Hague.

"We have some hope before the end of the year, but certainly by the end of January we'll have concluded prosecution evidence."

Rapp said the strength of the evidence has exceeded his expectations. Taylor's defence lawyer was not immediately available to comment on Rapp's comments.

The U.N.-backed special court was set up to try those with the greatest responsibility for war crimes in Sierra Leone and is seen as an example to other tribunals that might try former rulers such as the Hague-based International Criminal Court.

Taylor, whose trial started in June 2007, is the first former African head of state to stand trial in front of any court.

### TAYLOR'S SON

Meanwhile, proceedings started last week against Taylor's son, Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., who is on trial in the United States under a 14-year-old U.S law allowing the prosecution of its citizens for acts of torture committed abroad.

Taylor Jr. is accused of taking part in summary executions and torture and Rapp said there are likely to be common witnesses to both Taylor's trial and that of his son.

He said one witness who told the Hague court three months ago he was a Sierra Leone citizen tortured by Taylor's forces in Liberia will give testimony to the U.S. court, while a Liberian journalist is also expected to give testimony after statements given to the Hague court.

Rapp said, however, the cases are not joint prosecutions, especially due to the fact the case against Taylor Jr. mainly involves crimes in Liberia, not Sierra Leone.

"But there is a relationship that we've submitted ... that Charles Taylor basically had a method of operation for being in power and of keeping power," Rapp said, adding that Taylor had used intimidation against the entire population.

A ruling is expected in the Taylor Jr. case in two months.

## UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 2 September 2008

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

### **Newspaper Summary**

#### **Violence Erupts over Kaine's Trial - Police Save the Day**

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

- The Daily Observer reports that what began as a peaceful protest by a group of students from Kakata, Margibi County, over the detention of Senator Roland C. Kaine and others, turned into violent clashes at the Temple of Justice yesterday.
- The media reports that angry relatives of the victims of the Kolleh town massacre chased the students who ran helter skelter to avoid the wrath of the angry mob.
- The group of at least 30 students from Margibi County was calling for the release of detained Senator Roland Kaine.
- Correspondents say the situation could have been more chaotic had the police not urgently intervene.
- Meanwhile, a state application for Judge Karboi Nuta to recuse himself from the Kolleh Town murder trial has delayed the hearing of Senator Kaine's his motion to bail.

#### **Senate's Leadership Crisis Drags on**

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

- The leadership crisis at the Liberian Senate which surfaced few months ago following the suspension of Pro Temp Isaac Nyenabo seems far from over.
- There are reports that a negotiated settlement is far from being reached in the leadership crisis this year and that the dispute could drag on until the body resumes session next year.
- At least 12 senators predominantly from the South-eastern region of suspended Pro temp Nyenabo on Tuesday declared that they will abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court and consider Isaac Nyenabo as their head, in support to the ruling of the court.
- The Acting Senate President Pro-Tempore Lahai Lansanah however says it is difficult to reinstate Senator Nyenabo when the senate is on its Agriculture break. He said he respects the Constitution of Liberia and he is protecting it by holding on to the job.

#### **NEC Worries over Delay for Passage Of Bills**

(The Inquirer, Heritage)

- With just few days after the National Legislature had left official duties for the month's Agriculture break, the National Election Commission (NEC) has appeared more worried over the delay of the passage of any of their three bills sent to the house.
- The delay, according to NEC has posed serious threats to the holding of local, chiefdom and even 2011 national and Presidential elections.
- At a well attended public consultation with Heads of Civil Society organizations held yesterday at the headquarters of the NEC in Sinkor, the commission re-echoed its frustration over the delay of the passage of the three bills which seek for a referendum, boundary harmonization and an act requesting that simple majority be observed in local elections were forwarded to the national legislature through the executive branch of government.

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

#### **New Chinese Aid Will Benefit Liberia - President Sirleaf Reiterates One-China Policy**

- Chinese envoy to Liberia, Zhou Yuxiao says he is prepared to work closely with government to ensure that Liberia benefits from the new aid initiative that China has offered Africa.
- In response, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid tribute to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its continuous support to Liberia's reconstruction and reiterated government's commitment to the One-China policy and the enhancement of bilateral relations between the two nations.
- President Johnson Sirleaf spoke Wednesday at the Monrovia City Hall where she participated in the 59th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

### **NPA Announces New Measures to Contain Congestion at Port**

(The Inquirer, Heritage, Daily Observer)

- The National Port Authority (NPA) says it has instituted new container measures to reduce the over crowdedness at the port.
- The Managing Director of the NPA, Mr. George Tubman said only legitimate truckers and brokers would be allowed entrance to the port.
- Mr. Tubman said the measure is intended to speed up the delivery of consignments and cut down the concept of using the port as garage and parking lot.

### **IRI, Others Train Women Legislators**

(Daily Observer)

- [sic] A member of an international institution based in the United States of America has expressed willingness to support the work of Women Legislative Caucus (WLC). Mr. Wali Mutazammil, training consultant to Transformational Development Group, made his intention known recently when he addressed the opening and closing session of the third WLC workshop held in Kakata, Margibi County. He addressed the Women Caucus on the theme: "Investing in Women, Teambuilding for Implementing 30% Quota Bill". At the same time the Acting Country Director of the International Republican Institute (IRI), Mr. Yomi Jacobs says the dream of his organization is to train and see women groups occupy their rightful place in society.

## **Radio Summary**

**Star Radio** (News culled today from website at 8:35 am)

### **Protest Against Senator Kaine's Detention Sparks Fracas at Temple of Justice**

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

### **Resolution Far from Over in Senate Leadership Crisis**

### **Chinese Ambassador to Liberia on Country's Achievements**

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

### **Hearing into Motion for Bail for Detained Senator Hearings Delay**

- A State application for Judge Korboui Nuta to recuse himself from the Kolleh town murder trial has delayed the hearings of Senator Roland Kaine motion to bail.
- Despite the state's recusal motion, Judge Nuta was prepared to hear the application to admit Senator Kaine to bail Wednesday.
- Prosecution in the application said Judge Nuta September 23 ruling destroyed his ability to fairly handle the trial.
- Solicitor General, Taiwon Gongloe said Wednesday's disturbance at the Temple of Justice was a direct result of Judge Nuta's ruling but the Defense argued that the Judge has not demonstrated any act of bias and there was no reason for him to recuse himself.
- Judge Nuta has reserved ruling on the matter pending an assignment.

## **NPA Takes Steps to Contain Congestion at main Port**

### **Truth F.M.** *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

#### **Over 100 SSS Officers Complete Training in VIP Protection**

- More than 100 personnel of the Special Security Service (SSS) have been awarded certificate following the completion of a three-month intensive training programme in VIP protection.
- Speaking during the programme yesterday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf praised the graduates and spoke of progress in the performance of their duties.
- President Sirleaf said the SSS must continue to raise the standard of the force to regain the lost confidence.

\*\*\*\*\*

# The Liberian Journal

Thursday, 2 October 2008

<http://www.theliberianjournal.com>

## **“Taylor Gave Roosevelt Johnson US\$40,000.00 To Fight The Mandingo People”...**

**By: James Kpargoi, Jr.**

Monrovia, October 2, 2008 (TRC): Defunct ULIMO-J faction leader Roosevelt Johnson received US\$40,000.00 from then Councilman Charles Taylor to fight the rival ULIMO faction led by Alhaji Kromah, Armah Youlo, a founder of the faction said.

Mr. Youlo said Mr. Taylor also gave Johnson a black cow and 400 bags of rice to fight what Taylor termed as the “Mandingo people.”

Youlo said during a meeting with Taylor he was informed that Johnson had requested support to prosecute the war against the rival ULIMO faction. However, he said he sensed Taylor made the gesture to Johnson in order for him to turn over control of the central Liberian highway town of Salala, Bong County.

He said Taylor wanted control of the town because ULIMO-J forces occupying the town were regularly harassing members of the NPFL enroute to Monrovia to attend the joint ceasefire monitoring committee meeting.

He was testifying Thursday at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia ongoing Thematic and Institutional Inquiry Public Hearing on the Contemporary History of the Conflict at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia.

Mr. Youlo said that the donation led to serious confusion within the ULIMO-J faction, as majority of Johnson’s ethnic Krahn kinsmen demanded that he returned Taylor’s donation. But he said the ULIMO-J leader remained arrogant and persistently refused to return the gift.

He said that this led to the removal in 1996 of Mr. Johnson as leader of the ULIMO-J faction.

He said that the refusal of General Johnson to heed their demands led to split in the ULIMO-J faction that led to the death of one Dweh Barwu around Johnson’s Sinkor residence and sparked the April 6, 1996 Monrovia fighting.

Fighting broke out in Monrovia on Saturday, April 6, 1996 when the combined forces of the NPFL of Charles Taylor, ULIMO-K of Alhaji G. V. Kromah and the police force made up of members of both groups attacked the home of Gen. Roosevelt Johnson.

Johnson escaped but the fighting forces rained terror on Monrovia, vandalizing, looting and killing thousands of residents.

Mr. Johnson now deceased was flown out of the country to Ghana as part of a deal to end the fighting. Mr. Youlo and Johnson were both founders of the rebel United Liberation Movement for Democracy (ULIMOD) that opposed Taylor’s NPFL faction.

Under the theme: “Understanding the Conflict Through its Principal Events and Actors,” the ongoing hearings are addressing the root causes of the conflict, including its military and political dimensions.

The hearings are focused on events between 1979 and 2003 and the national and external actors that helped to shape those events.

The TRC was agreed upon in the August 2003 peace agreement and created by the TRC Act of 2005. The TRC was established to “promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation,” and at the same time make it possible to hold perpetrators accountable for gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law that occurred in Liberia between January 1979 and October 2003.

## BBC Online

Friday, 3 October 2008

### **Bashir warning on Darfur charges**

Mr Bashir is accused of orchestrating attacks on civilians in Darfur.

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has said attempts to indict him for war crimes could derail peace efforts in the Sudanese region of Darfur.

Prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC) could also have a "catastrophic impact" on regional stability, he said.

The ICC is trying to indict Mr Bashir over attacks in war-torn Darfur.

Sudan has rejected the allegations, and African nations have urged the UN to block any prosecution.

But ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, who asked judges to issue an arrest warrant against Mr Bashir in July, said last week that he will continue to push for charges.

He said he had evidence that Mr Bashir was controlling attacks against civilians in Darfur.

Local people had been raped and killed by both the Sudanese army and Janjaweed pro-government militias, he said.

The ICC is expected to rule on how to proceed before the end of this year.

'Negative signal'

The Darfur rebellion began in 2003 when mostly non-Arab groups took up arms against the Arab-dominated government in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination.

Up to 300,000 people have been killed and as many as 2.5 million have been forced from their homes.

Mr Bashir's government has denied mobilising the Janjaweed militias, accused of widespread atrocities against Darfur's black African population, and on Thursday he said any prosecution could derail peace efforts.

"It impedes the Darfur peace talks by sending negative signals to Darfur rebel movements to distance themselves from the negotiating table," he said during a diplomatic summit in Accra, Ghana.

"It also threatens the democratic transformation in Sudan where political parties have braced themselves for elections next year, and will have a catastrophic impact on stability in the entire region," he said.

But he added: "In spite of all this I wish to affirm our commitment to implement the peace agreements and settle the Darfur conflict through negotiations."

## Star Radio (Liberia)

Thursday, 2 October 2008

### **73-year old amputee testifies against Taylor**

Written by Wellington Geevon Smith

Detained former President, Charles Taylor returned to court Wednesday after observing the Jewish Holy Day, Rosh Hashanah in his prison cell.

Mr. Taylor's return to court coincided with the testimonies of a 73 year-old amputee from the civil war in Sierra Leone.

The Judges of the Special Court, not knowing what had happened to the hand and arm of Oldman Osman Jalloh, told him to hold the Koran as he took the oath to tell the truth.

The witness responded and said his hands were not working and only stood with the Court Manager and recited the oath without touching the Koran.

Jalloh said he came in contact with a group of men in January 1999, singing in Kalaba we want peace, and anybody who does not join us, we will flog you.

He told the court from Kalaba Town in the East-end of Freetown, the singing men went to central Freetown.

Jalloh said he and his family thought the men were peaceful and didn't know that the song was the birth of the Freetown invasion.

The witness testified to the amputation of eight people in Kalabah Town.

Jalloh said the rebels told them that the amputation was a revenge of the ECOMOG's bombing on their position.