

**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:

Wednesday, 26 November 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Spark

Wednesday, 26 November 2008

CHARLES TAYLOR TRIAL

Rebels had cocaine in their wounds

An expert witness TF 1-358 said under cross-examination by defence counsel, Mr. Terry Munyard at the Charles

Taylor trial in The Hague, The Netherlands on 24th November, 2008 that he is a medical doctor and that he treated some patients

who had wounds on their foreheads with a brown powder commonly known as brown-brown underneath the plasters.

The witness also stated that the brown powder belongs to the poppy clan group of drugs which also includes morphin and cocaine, heroin among

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Charles Ghankay Taylor

Rebels had cocaine in their wounds

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others. Asked about the effects of such drugs, the witness said they are similar as they give a false sense of well being, fantasizing, seeing things, and hallucination and they cause addiction after prolonged use. .

Counsel asked the witness whether he stood by his earlier statement that amputation was imported from the middle east and that it was foreign to Sierra Leone. Counsel asked the witness about his departure from Sierra Leone during the ARFC

reign in Sierra Leone. The witness answered yes. The witness said he left the country in June 1997. He said that institution number 2 continued to function in his absence up to sometime in August 1997. He said that the international medical NGO with which he worked left Sierra Leone in December 1997. When asked about the treatment of patients from Alpha Jet bombings, the witness said he did not treat such patients prior to January 6, 1999.

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 25 November 2008

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

Newspaper Summary

President Sirleaf to Give Position on Audit Reports this Week

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

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will this week issue a major position statement on the findings of recent audit reports released by the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said the statement would include actions by government aimed at addressing the recommendations of the audit reports.
- Addressing reporters, Mr. Badio said the President would deal with the findings of the audit report using three available options.
- The options include dismissals, prosecution and the launching of further investigations into claims of corruption as contained in the GAC findings.

ECO-Bank Management Confirms Theft from Vault

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

- The Management of ECO Bank-Liberia has confirmed the disappearance of huge sums of money from its vault.
- ECOBANK-Liberia Managing Director, Morinike Adepaju said about US\$50,000 Dollars was stolen from the vault by an employee identified as Alice Roberts.
- Mrs. Adepaju however dismissed media reports that US\$500,000 was stolen from the bank.
- She said the employee has been turned over to security forces and investigation is ongoing.

Several Employees Suspended at Finance Ministry

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

- The Finance Ministry has suspended with immediate effect several workers of the ministry.
- Those suspended include the entire staff of the Reconciliation Section of the Expenditure and Debt Management Department.
- The action is part of the ongoing investigation into allegation of re-cycled checks at the Central Bank of Liberia,
- A Finance Ministry release quotes the Director of Public Affairs Edward Spencer as saying the suspension will remain in forced until the investigation is concluded.
- Mr. Spencer said the suspended employees will assist security forces with the investigation.

House Mineral Committee against New Bid for Western Cluster

(Heritage)

- The Co-Chairman of the House Mineral Committee, Representative George Mulbah has warned against the re-opening of another bid for the Western Cluster.
- In an interview, Representative Mulbah said any new bid for the Western Cluster would signal a bad image for government.
- According to him since government disqualified the winner of the first bid it was important for one of the runners-up to be selected.
- Nearly three Months ago government disqualified Delta Mining Company as the winner of the bid for the Western Cluster.
- Government said it noticed the Company was not capable to mine the Western Cluster.

Witnesses Snub TRC Hearings for Second Day

(Inquirer)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Thematic Hearings has for the second day failed to take place.
- On Monday several key witnesses including former aides and frontline commanders of former President Charles Taylor boycotted the hearings.
- They are Momo Gebah, Coocoo Dennis, Roland Duo, Christopher Vambo, Siafa Norman, Kofi Zah, William Toe, Austin Clarke and Prince Seo.
- Others are Marcus High-Gray, Emmet Gray, Montgomery Dolo, Varney Gagama and Moses Ghoan.
- A spokesman of the TRC said witness Marcus Davies alias Sundaygar Dearboy took an excuse because he was out of the Country.
- Mr. James Kpargoi said TRC commissioners were meeting to discuss the next course of action for witnesses who refused to attend.

Radio Summary

Local Media-Radio VERITAS (News monitored today at 1:30 pm)

President Sirleaf Warns of Drastic Action over CBL "Syndicate"

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has for the first time commented on the alleged financial scandal at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).
- President Sirleaf said the issue was a very serious matter terming it as a "syndicate".
- She said an investigation is ongoing and when concluded drastic action will be taken against those involved.
- The President said Government is very serious against its fight against corruption vowing that they would get to the bottom of the CBL case.

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. ELBC and Sky F.M.)

TRC Hearings Fail to Take Place for a Second Day

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. ELBC and Sky F.M.)

House Mineral Committee Against New Bid for Western Cluster

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. ELBC and Sky F.M.)

President Sirleaf Wants Violence Against Women And Children Resisted

- Speaking at the launch of the 16-day activism against violence against women, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said domestic violence against women and children must be resisted at all levels in the society .
- President Sirleaf said government was concerned about violence against women and children.

Justice Ministry Summons Catholic- Run Radio Station

- The Justice Ministry has invited the management of the Catholic-run Radio Veritas to provide evidence and sources relating to story alleging the disappearance of US\$100,000 at the Executive Mansion.
- The radio station's management is to appear today with all information and evidences linking two Presidential Officials to corruption.
- The two officials are the Minister of State for Legal and Economic Affairs, Morris Saytumah and Deputy Minister Pearine Davis Parkinson.

STAR RADIO (News monitored today at 12:00 pm)

Several Employees Suspended at Finance Ministry

ECO-Bank Management Confirms Theft from Vault

Following Burglaries Security Tightened at Legislature

- Security has been strengthened at the Legislature following series of burglaries last week.
- The Chief Security officer at the House of Representatives, Brigadier General Martin Johnson said police have increased their presence at the Capitol building.
- The House Sergeant-at-arms said he would request a comprehensive report on the deployment of private security officers at the Legislature.
- Police last week picked-up four PROSECON security officers in connection with series of burglaries at the offices of two lawmakers and the House Finance Section.
- PROSECON is a private security firm hired to man the premises of the Capitol.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 26 November 2008

Ex-general Mosquito sets condition to face TRC

Written by Matthias Daffah

One of former President Charles Taylor's ex-battle front commanders General Christopher Vambo says he is not prepared to face the TRC.

General Vambo alias "Mosquito" said he could not immediately face the TRC because he is a recruited witness for Mr. Taylor.

Ex-General Mosquito told Star Radio his position during the Liberian civil war makes him a strategic figure for Taylor's trial.

He alleged there was a memorandum of understanding between the TRC and The Hague which temporarily protects witnesses testifying in The Hague.

General Mosquito however says he feels betrayed by the Truth Commission for publishing his name as a witness having officially written them.

Responding to the allegation TRC's Director of Media and Outreach said the claim could not be true.

Mr. Richmond Anderson told Star Radio he was not also aware of any MOU between the TRC and the Special Court in The Hague.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 26 November 2008

Former General Duo willing to face TRC

Written by Matthias Daffah

A former frontline Commander of former Liberian President Charles Taylor says he was never invited by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Roland Duo told Star Radio media reports that he was invited by the TRC are untrue.

Mr. Duo however assured that when he is called upon by the TRC he would say exactly what he knows about the country's bitter past.

Roland Duo lastly served as commander of the Somalia Drive and Klay Highway prior to the departure of Charles Taylor.

Ex-general Duo along with other former frontline commanders was expected to appear before the TRC on Monday but allegedly boycotted the process.

The Philadelphia Enquirer

Wednesday, 26 November 2008

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/magazine/2008112>

Women of Liberia pray an end to a war

By Steven Rea, Inquirer Movie Columnist and Critic

They had had enough, watching their not-yet-teenage sons armed with weapons, incited to kill. Seeing their daughters raped and terrorized. Being raped, beaten, and threatened.

A testament to the determination and wisdom of a group of Liberian women who banded together in 2003 to stop a civil war and bring peace to their West African nation, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* is at once inspiring and horrific.

Inspiring, because it shows what people can do, people resolved to bring about change. After years of horror and carnage, a coalition of Liberia's women, Christians and Muslims alike, rallied together, organized and undaunted, using their numbers and their message to bring about change.

And horrific because of that carnage: the blood-soaked streets, the hundreds of thousands murdered, perpetrated by tribal warlords and a dictator - Charles Taylor - gone mad.

Directed by Gini Reticker with clarity and concision, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* combines archival footage, BBC radio news feeds, and newspaper reports with on-camera interviews with key leaders of the female movement. Leymah Gbowee speaks with eloquence about her dream to assemble wives and mothers in a church to pray for peace, and how that first meeting spread to larger protests.

These crowds of women, dressed in white T-shirts, camped in front of a government palace and refusing to budge, are heartening to behold. Bridging the same cultural and religious divide that provided the excuse for a civil war, Gbowee's group and a like-minded team of Muslim women combined forces with a unified goal: remove the guns and bring on the peace.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is a remarkable documentary about a remarkable, and historic, movement.

Middle East Times

Tuesday, 25 November 2008

http://www.metimes.com/Security/2008/11/25/workshop_on_ending_impunity/bcad/

Workshop on ending impunity

MOGADISHU, Somalia, Nov. 25 (UPI) -- The United Nations is supporting a new effort in Somalia to end impunity and establish rule of law in a move to bring peace to the war-ravaged country.

The United Nations sponsored a two-day workshop, attended by officials from Somalia's Transitional Federal Government and the Islamic Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, which aims at ending impunity, the United Nations reported.

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, U.N. special representative for Somalia, called on Somali leaders at the workshop to establish a commission of inquiry and an international court to bring criminals to justice. Officials say the ongoing flare-ups in violence and the increased threat from pirates off the Somali coast are largely the result of an impasse over implementing a peace deal and from impunity.

"Impunity has been addressed in many post-conflict countries such as Burundi, Cambodia, Liberia and Sierra Leone," Ould-Abdallah said in a statement.

"Time has come to address impunity and crimes committed by Somalis since the beginning of the civil war. ... I urge all parties, and the international community, to support the cooperation between Somalis to bring an end to impunity."