

**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, 17 December 2008

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

Ex-Liberian President Sends Rallying Message to Supporters / *AFP*

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Agence Frances Presses

Tuesday, 16 December 2008

Ex-Liberian president sends rallying message to supporters

MONROVIA (AFP) — Former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is on trial for war crimes before a UN-backed court in The Hague, has called on his supporters to carry on his work without him, his party said Tuesday.

"If these ordeals should prove to be the last chapters of my journey with you, I ask you to look ahead and keep moving on," he told supporters meeting in Monrovia by telephone.

"The road will seem long but keep moving on. The tide will rise but keep moving on. Never lose hope, keep moving on," the party's former leader said, according to a statement issued by his National Patriotic Party (NPP).

Taylor added that he longed for the "warm embrace" of his homeland and to be reunited with his family and friends, but would accept it with "humility" if it was not to be.

Taylor, 60, the first ex-African head of state to appear before an international tribunal, faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The former president, whose trial began this year, is accused of controlling rebel forces in neighbouring Sierra Leone who went on a blood diamond-fuelled rampage of killing, mutilation and rape during a 1991-2001 civil war.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
16 December 2008**

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

Newspaper Summary

Court Dismisses JPC's Lawsuit Regarding Liberians Deported from U.S.

(New Democrat, The Inquirer)

- The 7th Judicial Circuit Court in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County has dismissed a writ of Habeas Corpus filed against the Liberian Government by the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission (JPC) on behalf of 22 Liberian deportees.
- The JPC recently filed parallel petitions before the 7th Judicial Circuit Court in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Criminal Court 'A' in Monrovia demanding government to produce in court the living bodies of the 22 Liberians who upon their deportation for the U.S. were taken to the Zwedru Correction Palace.
- Correspondents said the court argued that the law suit was filled with two courts simultaneously in violation of the law. The court justified that the deportees committed crimes in the United States that prompted their deportation and therefore needed rehabilitation.

Criminal Hacked to Death in Gbarnga

(The News)

- An angry mob in Gbarnga City, Bong County over the weekend flogged a "notorious" criminal to death. The body of the alleged criminal only identified as 'Pekin J' was later dumped in a nearby community. Correspondents say the body was found lying in a pool of blood with wounds over most parts of the body. Some residents said the deceased was in the constant habit of terrorizing them, especially at night.

Women Caucus Announces "Fairness Bill"...Seeks More Female Participation

(New Vision, The Inquirer, Daily Observer)

- A bill seeking to consolidate women empowerment in political establishments and governance of the country has been announced. The new bill also seeks and guarantees increased participation and representation of women in Liberian political process.
- Addressing a news conference on Monday, the head of the Women Legislative Caucus, Representative Alomiza Ennos-Barr said the bill intends to amend the election law of Liberia to include Chapter 11 which provides for a minimum of 30% women representation on the candidate list of political parties submitted to the National Elections Commission (NEC). Representative Barr said the "Fairness Bill" also calls for not less than 30% women representation on the decision making structure of political parties.

GEMAP Trains Internal Auditors

(The News, Daily Observer)

- The Governance and Economic Management Assistance Programme in Liberia (GEMAP) with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Monday completed a 12-month training programme for internal auditors of four public institutions. The 16 participants represented the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC), the Roberts

International Airport (RIA), National Port Authority (NPA) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). According to James Dye, an international audit expert with International Business Initiative, trainees were taught among other things, the role of internal auditors.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

Two Presidential Guards Dismissed for “Robbery”

- Two officers of the presidential Special Security Service (SSS) have been dismissed for burglary and turned over to the police for further investigation.
- SSS Director, Victor Helb confirmed reports that agents Jacob Jumah and James Mobula served as accomplices in the burglary on Sunday night.
- The two men used SSS vehicles to accompany an unidentified vehicle that burglarized the Agriculture Bureau of Fisheries on the Bushrod Island.
- Director Helb said preliminary investigation established enough reason to turn the men over for prosecution.

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

Liberia Qualifies for MCC’s Threshold Programme

- Liberia has qualified for the threshold programme of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States.
- Under the programme, Liberia will receive additional resources to be used in areas of needs like improving transparency in fighting corruption.
- In an interview, Planning Minister Amara Konneh said the Government of Liberia will target the Threshold programme toward improving transparency, fighting corruption and strengthening the country’s justice system.

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

Former Transitional Officials Plead Not Guilty to Corruption Charges

- Former Transitional Chairman Gyude Bryant and four others yesterday pleaded not guilty to the charges of economic sabotage, theft of property and criminal conspiracy.
- The others include former Speaker Edwin Snowe, Senator Richard Devine, Mr. Siaka Sheriff and Andy Quamie who served as Managing Director and deputies at the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC) during tenure of the transitional government.
- The men are accused of stealing over US\$1 million from the coffers of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) during the transitional period.

Health Ministry Launches 2nd Malaria Indicator Survey

- The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and its partners today launched the second malaria indicator survey.
- The 2008 survey will measure the prevalence of malaria and its associated syndrome anaemia among children in the country.
- The Health Ministry said the data collected from the survey will be used as a baseline for the President’s malaria initiative recently commenced in Liberia with funding from USAID.

Star Radio (News culled from website today at 8:30 am)

LEITI Boss calls for Prosecution of Corrupt Public Officials

- Speaking at a joint anti-corruption symposium, the Executive Director of Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (LEITI) has called for what he termed as the pre-conviction of government officials linked to the General Auditing Commission reports.
- Counsellor Negbale Warner said the GAC reports are sufficient to prosecute those allegedly linked to corruption.
- Counsellor Warner said though government is taking steps to fight corruption there is not much political will to deal with the concern.
- For his part, the Forensic Audit Manager at the GAC, Francois Junius called for harsher punishment for corrupt officials saying it would be difficult to succeed in the fight against corruption when people take away public money with impunity.

- The symposium was organized by the National Coalition of Civil Society organizations of Liberia and the Action for Genuine Democratic Alternatives.

German Ambassador Dedicates Gblazon River Bridge

- German Ambassador to Liberia, Lindemann Mache has dedicated the Gblazon River Bridge in Sinoe County.
- Speaking at the dedication ceremony, Ambassador Mache said the construction of the bridge was essential for the economic wellbeing of the people.
- The cost of the bridge is put at US\$500,000 and was funded by the German Government and implemented by the Atlantic Engineering Construction Company.
- The bridge connects three major districts in the region.
