

**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:**

Thursday, 19 February 2009

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

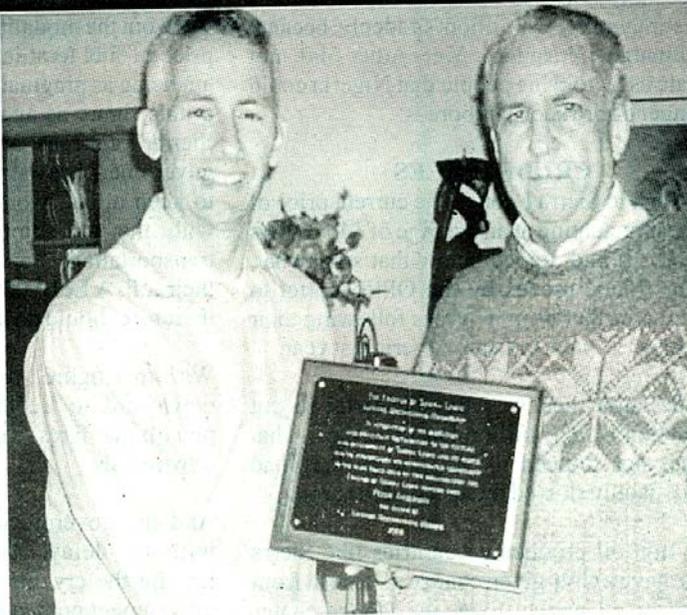
Thursday, 19 February 2009

Peter Andersen honoured

By Umaru Fofana

For only the second time in its history, the US-based group Friends of Sierra Leone (FOSL) have awarded their Lifetime Distinguished Membership Award to Peter Andersen. Andersen owns and operates what many believe to be the richest and most authoritative website on Sierra Leone, a country where he works as head of the public affairs section of the UN-backed Special war crimes Court and had worked as a Peace Corp volunteer.

"We are honored to bestow upon Peter C Andersen the ... Lifetime Distinguished Membership Award in recognition of your dedication and significant contribution to the culture and development of Sierra Leone" the citation, signed by the group's president Peggy Murrah, reads in part and continues that the recipient has "exceeded the standard".



Jeff Hall (Returned Peace Corps Volunteer) presenting the award to Peter Andersen on behalf of Friends of Sierra Leone.

At the ceremony which took place in Minneapolis and also attended by Peter's Sierra Leonean wife and their son, the citation was read out

by Jeff Hall, who has raised tens of thousands of dollars to rebuild his Peace Corps village in Kailahun District, before he

presented the award to Mr Andersen on behalf of FOSL.

The citation goes on that the FOSL does not bestow

the award "lightly or on a regular basis" saying Mr Andersen should have received it years ago given his "renowned website that is considered the authoritative resource for matters concerning Sierra Leone — particularly during the civil war—and your availability to anyone" researching on the country.

The Friends of Sierra Leone was originally founded by returned Peace Corps volunteers from Sierra Leone in the Washington, DC area and quickly expanded both geographically and in membership. The current vice president is a Sierra Leonean.

The group has

advocated for Sierra Leone with US lawmakers, especially for the return of Peace Corps. It also has funded a number of development projects, and individual members have been active in such projects as well among them 9 schools built around the country by a couple of returned Peace Corps volunteers. When he was a Senator, the current US president, Barack Obama urged for the resumption of Peace Corps activities in Sierra Leone to help develop the country.

Reacting to the award, Peter Andersen expressed happiness saying "It is the greater honour because those who conferred the award are themselves people who have given much to Sierra Leone, in good times and bad times for the country, over many years."

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
18 February 2009**

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

Newspaper Summary

UN Boss Praises Liberia for making strides in its Efforts to Reduce Poverty

(The Daily Graphic)

- The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said has lauded Liberia for making in slashing poverty, but said significant challenges still remain in meeting security benchmarks for the country, still recovering from a brutal 14-year-long civil war.
- Since last August, Liberia has continued to make "steady progress" towards achieving its four-pronged poverty reduction strategy which focuses on security, economic recovery, rule of law and infrastructure and basic services, Mr. Ban wrote in his latest report to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), calling for international partners to continue supporting Liberia, especially in its efforts to curb poverty.

Couple Plead 'not guilty' to Murder Charge

(The Informer, Heritage, National Chronicle, The Inquirer)

- Hans Williams and his fiancée, Mardea Paykue, charged with murder in connection with the death of 13-year old Angel Togba on Tuesday pleaded 'not guilty' to the charge. The two defendants made the plead at the Criminal Court "A" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia after the clerk of the court read the indictment charging both of them with murder. "I am not guilty, the Minister of Justice lied on me," Hans reportedly said in an aggressive mood Tuesday.

Fire Razes UN Ambulance in Monrovia

(The News)

- [Sic:] A United Nations ambulance with occupants burnt down beyond recognition on Tuesday afternoon on the Burshrod Island in Monrovia. Several Ghanaian peacekeepers serving in the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) were seen tactically jumping out from the blazing ambulance. Authorities of UNMIL are yet to comment on the incident as there were no reports of casualties.

Radio Summary

Local Media – Star Radio *(News culled from website at 12:00pm)*

Liberia Renews Relations with Gulf Nations

- There has been a major breakthrough towards efforts aimed at re-establishing diplomatic relationship between Liberia and countries in the Gulf. His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, has accepted a request by Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for the setting up of a diplomatic mission in Qatar.

- An Executive Mansion dispatch from Doha, says the decision was reached Tuesday, during a meeting between President Johnson Sirleaf and the Emir of the State of Qatar, held at the Al Wajbah Palace, the official residence of the Emir.
- A Liberian delegation is to travel to Qatar in three weeks to commence formal arrangements for the setting up of the diplomatic mission. The Mission, when open, will seek to foster Liberia's interest in the region and provide the basis for renewed collaboration between Liberia and states in the Gulf.
- Relations between Liberian and the Asian Gulf States suffered a serious setback prior to the ascendancy of the Ellen Johnson Administration more than three years ago, owing to reports of unwholesome activities by some Liberian envoys accredited to the region, viewed by authorities as incompatible with their diplomatic statuses.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Health Ministry Launches Food Safety Campaign

- The Health and Social Welfare Ministry has launched the National Food Safety Advocacy and Awareness Campaign in the country.
- The Coordinator for Food Safety Campaign at the ministry said, the campaign is intended to sensitize the public on the handling of food.
- Mr. Francis Tamba said the campaign also focuses on the preparation and consumption of food.
- He noted poor preparation and handling of food are sometimes responsible for most common diseases in the country.
- At the official launch of the campaign at the Rally Time Market Tuesday, Mr. Tamba said the campaign would be taken to every community.

West African Media Executives meet in Accra

- Media executives from West Africa are to meet in Accra, Ghana Wednesday to finalize preparations for the establishment of the West Africa Media Development Fund.
- The two-day Stakeholders Consultative Roundtable is being organized by the Media Foundation for West Africa with support from Free Voice, a Dutch media support group.
- The Station Manager of Star Radio, James Morlu has been invited to attend the forum.
- A statement issued by the Media Foundation said the opening ceremony will be chaired by Haruna Iddrisu, Ghana's Minister of Communications.
- The foundation said the Media Development Fund project, when operational, will address financial challenges of the private and independent media in West Africa.
- It would provide eligible institutions loans and investments facilities.
- The Executive Director of the Media Foundation said the place and role of free media in democratization and national development are not debatable issues anymore.
- Prof. Kwame Karikari however, observed economic threats to the sustenance of independent media in West Africa tend to subvert the media's vital role, and democracy as well.

Female Superintendents Upset with Lawmakers over action against Internal Affairs Minister

- A group of female superintendents are upset over a fine imposed on Internal Affairs Minister Ambulai Johnson by the House of Representatives to pay more than L\$4,000 and retribute US\$7200 withdrawn from the County Development Fund of Grand Cape Mount to settle the rent of a superintendent.
- The superintendent [including Grand Cape Mount Catherine Khasu, Grand Bassa Julia Duncan Cassel and Montserrado County Beauty Barcon] - viewed the lawmakers' action to fine the

Internal Affairs Minister for taking development fund to pay rent as disregard for their welfare as county officials.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Radio Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC)

Truth FM *(news monitored at 2:00pm)*

Senate to Probe Jallah Town Road Project

- The Liberian Senate has mandated its Public Works committee to investigate circumstances surrounding the demolition and reconstruction of the newly constructed Jallah Town Road.
- It cost the Liberian government one million united States dollar to have the Jallah road constructed but less than 11 months following is completion the road has been declared faulty and is now been rebuilt with new cost implication.
- The Jallah Town road project was designed and implemented by engineers at the Public Works Ministry and viewing the huge financial implication of the rebuilding of the road, the Senate's plenary unanimously passed a motion Tuesday, empowering it Public Works Committee to invite the Minister of Public Works Luseni Donzo to give reason responsible for the short life span of the million dollar road.
- The Senate's decision to probe the Public Works chief follows Communication from Bong County Senator Jewel Howard Taylor indicating that the rebuilding of the road demonstrates a gross waste of public funds.
- The lawmakers in their deliberations said it was painful to establish that such huge sum was wasted amidst economic difficulties.
- The legislators want the public works minister to explain circumstances that precipitated what they termed waste of Tax payers' money.