

**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:**

Friday, 6 February 2009

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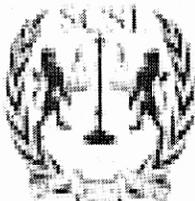
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PEEP!

Friday, 6 February 2009

## **SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE LEGACY PROJECT**



The Special Court for Sierra Leone will be having a Public Lecture and Panel Discussion. See below for details:

Date: **Wednesday 1, February 2009**

Time: **9:30 am**

Venue: **Hill Valley Hotel, Signal Hill Road**

### **Public Lecture and Panel Discussion:**

#### **Morning Session**

**Chairman:** Hon. Justice Abel Stronge, Speaker of Parliament

**Guest Speaker:** Solomon E. Berewa, former Vice-President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

**Topic:** Pursuing Justice and Peace in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone - Examining the Challenges

**Speaker:** Renate Winter, President Special Court for Sierra Leone

**Topic:** What are the priorities for International Justice? How can International Justice promote peace more broadly?

#### **Afternoon Session - Panel Discussion - 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Topic:** What role can domestic courts, civil society and international tribunals play in securing justice?

**Moderator:** Hon. Justice George Gelaga-King

**Panelists:** Charles Margai, Esq.

Mrs. Sakordie-Mensah, Master & Registrar Consultant

Dr. Osman Gbla, Dean, Social Sciences & Law, FBC

Mrs. Eileen Hanciles, FAWE

Joseph F. Kamara, Deputy Prosecutor, SCSL

Note: The date is Wednesday, 11th February.

Cocorioko

Tuesday, 3 February 2009

### **Rumbles in the army : Watch that foreign link**

Written by Cocorioko Newspaper Limited

That mischievous letter that was circulated in the Sierra Leone army and which prompted Monday's emergency press conference by military and Police chiefs in Freetown should not be taken lightly. Though a military coup is no longer possible in Sierra Leone, the authorities should not overlook any threat to national security.

This is more so considering the fact that the rumbles in the army must have been prompted by a desperately over ambitious and devillishy power-conscious clique of tribalists operating especially in the United States of America and some other parts of the diaspora. . What kind of coincidence is it that as soon as certain confusionist online began bandying misleading stories about tribalism in the army , such a letter should start circulating in the armed forces ? Sierra Leone Defence Chiefs should not overlook this essential link at all. There are desperate Sierra Leonean tribalists living in the U.S. who want to scupper the peace and security in Sierra Leone. The worst thing that can happen to Sierra Leone is for the army to become infected with the malicious virus of tribalism being packaged in the U.S. by some unpatriotic urchins.

We wonder when people will learn that they cannot always be in power and that Sierra Leone does not belong to any one tribe or region. We also wonder when certain people will start learning how to accept defeat.

We think the government should launch a thorough investigation to determine the source of that letter. Having a press conference and issuing threats to troublemakers is not enough .The government must get to the bottom of the source of that dangerous letter, which has the potential to bring tears, lamentations and suffering to our beloved nation once again. If there is a nexus and link between certain reckless utterances in America and that poisonous letter, the government must take appropriate actions to ensure the peace and security of the land. We cannot afford to be taken back to our painful past by disgruntled people who have placed parochial, partisan, tribal and regional interests over the national welfare.

**United Nations**  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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

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

**Newspaper Summary**

**Italy Waives Liberia's US\$70M Debt**

(Daily Observer, The News, The Analyst, The Informer)

- The Italian Government has cancelled 54.7 million Euros about US\$70 million debt owed that country by Liberia. The debt waiver came barely a week after another successful signing of a debt deferral agreement with Japan and Norway.
- At the signing ceremony Wednesday at the Finance Ministry in Monrovia, Italian Ambassador, Luciano Barillaro said the cancellation was in implementation of Agreed Minutes of a Paris Club meeting on April 17, 2008.
- The Italian Ambassador said at the Paris Club Meeting Paris Club creditors agreed with the Government of Liberia on a debt restructuring under the so called "Cologne Terms", following the reaching of the country decision point in the framework of the "enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative".
- Initial public reaction regarding the recent waiver of Liberia's debts said the move demonstrates strong international support for the Sirleaf-led Administration due the government's efforts to overcome years of conflict and instability and to implement reforms that are putting the country back on the path of growth and development; something which some people believe continue to endear the administration to the international community. The enormous donors support implies that the country's image has changed from that of a "failed state" to one giving hopes for democratic reforms. So far, the debt waivers have given many Liberians every reason to celebrate because debt cancellation at such a crucial stage in the country is encouraging and suggests that Liberia is now leaping along the path of economic development.

**Executive Studies Lawmakers' Request for Personal Guards**

(Heritage, The Inquirer)

- Justice Minister, Cllr. Philip Banks has disclosed that the request by members of the Liberian Senate to provide them armed security guards is being reviewed. Minister Banks made the disclosure following a closed-door meeting with members of the Liberian Senate. About a week ago, the Senate summoned Justice Minister, Cllr. Philip Banks, National Security Minister, Peter Bonner Jallah and Police Inspector General, Beatrice Sieh Browne amidst growing concerns over the protection of its members as a result of armed robbery activities. The lawmakers summoned the top security officials following an incident of armed robbery at the home of Margibi Senator, Clarice Jah.

**U.S. Ambassador Dedicates US\$1M Water Facility at Cuttington**

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

- The media reports that United States Ambassador to Liberia, Madam Linda Thomas-Greenfield on Tuesday dedicated the rehabilitated water treatment facility on the campus of the Cuttington University (CU) in Suakoko, Bong County.

- The Daily Observer reports that speaking prior to turning the project over, Ambassador Greenfield said the water treatment facility is an excellent example of public-private partnership changing the course of development. She said the facility was a gift to the Liberian people from the people of the U.S. made possible by a grant of US\$800,000 from USAID and the American School and Hospital Abroad through the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

### **Obama's Wife, Others Arrive in Liberia Soon**

(Daily Observer)

- The First African-American first lady and wife of United States President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, along with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are to visit Liberia shortly. The visit of the two high profile US women to Liberia follows official invitations extended them by organizers of this year's International Women Colloquium which is slated to be held in Monrovia early March this year.
- News regarding the pending visit to Liberia of such high-profile personalities tends to lend credence to the continuing public confidence in the peace that the country now enjoys - all credited to the efforts of UNMIL and other international partners.
- Former US Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton as well as the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon were among a host of high-profile personalities who visited Liberia last year. Most opinions believe that the visits of these high-profile personalities only manifest stability and how Liberia has become a success story in the history of peacekeeping.

### **Victim Claims Gunmen attacked him in full glare of UN Peacekeepers**

(Daily Observer)

- [Sic:] About 10 unidentified men, brandishing single barrel guns and other deadly weapons Monday night preyed upon a money changer at a nearby checkpoint of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and snatched away at least US\$1,300 and L\$8.000 from their victim. Narrating his ordeal, Olesmon B. Weetel claimed the men attacked him in the full glare of UN peacekeepers opposite the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex outside Monrovia.

### **Radio Summary**

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

## Star Radio

Friday, 6 February 2009

### **Boley's side of history**

Written by Robert J. Clarke, Jr.

The leader of the defunct Liberia Peace Council says his organization was never a rebel group.

Dr. George Boley told the ongoing TRC Public Hearings the LPC was formed to restore constitutional rule in the country.

He claimed several letters were written in the name of the LPC to many African leaders at the time to restore peace in Liberia.

Dr. Borley alleged the efforts of him and other well-meaning Liberians were thwarted by Mr. Kenneth Best and many of his colleagues.

Mr. Kenneth Best is the Publisher of the Daily Observer Newspaper.

He also named Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dr. Amos Sawyer, Harry Greaves, Jr., Ezekiel Pajibo and others of soliciting funds for the defunct NPFL.

Dr. Boley said the Liberians solicited the funds under the name of the Association of Constitutional Democracy in Liberia.

Our reporter said the former rebel leader took most of his time to vindicate himself from what he called allegation made against him by TRC .

Dr. Boley alleged the TRC made lots of publications presenting him as a perpetrator of hideous crimes and at one time jailed in the US.

At the same time, Dr. Boley explained what he called his ignorance on the death of Liberian journalist Charles Gbeyon.

He recalled seeing Gbeyon and another journalist in handcuff on the day of the abortive 1985 coup on charge of carrying rebels to the Executive Mansion.

Dr. Boley said he immediately ordered the release of the journalists and took them to Gbeyon's parents' house on the Bushrod Island with the instruction that they should not venture out.

Dr. Boley who has a daughter with the late journalist's sister said he did not see Gbeyon until he heard of his death five days later.

The former PRC official said Journalist Gbeyon was killed a day after the capture of Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa when President Samuel Doe visited ELBC.

He said the clarification was in reaction to statement allegedly made by TRC Commissioner Pearl Brown-Bull, linking him to the death of Journalist Gbeyon.

## Voice of America

Thursday, 5 February 2009

### Sudan Envoy: UN Peacekeepers Will Be Safe if ICC Issues Warrant Against Bashir

By Margaret Besheer  
United Nations



Omar al-Bashir (file photo)

A senior Sudanese diplomat says the safety of United Nations' peacekeepers in his country will not be in jeopardy, if the International Criminal Court, or ICC, grants a request for an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. A decision from the pre-trial judges at The Hague is expected later this month.

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem, said Thursday that Khartoum would abide by its international obligations.

"The safety of the peacekeepers is not at all an issue here. The issue is the safety and security of the entire people of Sudan," he said. "So the people should not look to the issue like isolated islands or separate islands. We know, as I said before, the obligations of Sudan towards the U.N. presence in Sudan. But equally, the U.N. should demonstrate its commitment to safeguard their own personnel as well as the lives of the Sudanese."

Later this month, the International Criminal Court is expected to decide whether to grant its chief prosecutor's request for an arrest warrant for President Bashir on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for atrocities committed in Sudan's Darfur region during the past five years.

Sudan has been pressing member states to call for a deferment of the case under what is known as Article 16. That would require at least nine of the 15 Security Council members voting in favor of the deferment, with none of the five veto-wielding members voting against it. The African Union and the League of Arab States have thrown their support behind that request.

Following closed-door consultations on Thursday, British Ambassador John Sawers said he does not believe the support for an Article 16 deferment currently exists within the Security Council.

"There certainly were not nine voices this morning," he said.

The U.N. Security Council referred the case to the International Criminal Court in March 2005. Costa Rican Ambassador Jorge Urbina, whose country has been very vocal on issues of impunity on the Security Council, said there should be no dilemma between peace and justice in Sudan.

"It is our belief that since the council referred the case of Sudan to the ICC, the council took the decision that justice was part of peace in Sudan," he said. "We believe that it is the duty of the council to help and promote durable peace in Sudan. And we believe that durable peace can only be the result of the reconciliation of peace and justice."

The Costa Rican ambassador pointed to the Dayton Process in the former Yugoslavia, saying that when it began in 2005, many politicians, diplomats and analysts argued that justice would interfere with the path to peace. But, he said, they have been proven wrong.

Ambassador Urbina's words angered Sudan's Ambassador Abdalhaleem.

"It is very ironic that countries far from our region, like the country of the former ambassador who spoke to you, are now giving lectures about justice and peace," he said. "We need no lessons and lectures from ambassadors like the Costa Rican one. His statements here in front of you are totally unacceptable and they reflect in no uncertain terms his defeat because they have no logic and they have no consideration for priorities of peace in the Sudan."

The Sudanese ambassador also referred to the court's chief prosecutor as "crazy" and said that if the ICC granted the request for the arrest warrant, it would be like "giving birth to a dead rat that is smelling and of no use at all". He said Sudanese authorities are not worried about it and he predicted it would "die a natural death".

But United Nations officials are concerned about the ramifications a possible arrest warrant could have on their peacekeeping missions in Sudan, one in Darfur and the other in the south. A senior U.N. official said contingency planning has been underway at several levels within the organization.

Earlier, the Security Council had a briefing from the U.N.'s top envoy in Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, on the state of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended a long and bloody civil war between north and south Sudan.

He said the agreement has achieved much in the past four years, but that it has a great deal more to accomplish in the remaining two years before a scheduled referendum on whether the country will remain unified. The U.N. envoy warned that the agreement is vulnerable and that if it unravels, conflicts and instability in Sudan are likely to escalate dramatically.