

**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, 7 May 2009

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

Thursday, 7 May 2009

All Stories Inside Pages

Special Court Train 40 Police Prosecutors

Prosecutors of the Special Court for Sierra Leone travelled over the weekend to the provincial headquarters of Makeni to train more than 40 northern police officials in the theory and practice of police prosecution.

The training, led by Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara and held in coopera-

tion with the Sierra Leone Police, focused on the fundamentals of police prosecution, including the management of witnesses and victims and dealing with gender-based crime.

"As the Court comes close to completing its mandate, we are looking to leave a legacy for the people of Sierra Leone, to strengthen

the institutions of justice," Kamara said. "This includes not only the judiciary, but also other institutions such as the police and prisons officials." The Office of the Prosecutor will conduct future trainings in the south and east of the country, and in Freetown.

Spectator

Thursday, 7 May 2009

Free Lawyers for the Poor

In a bid to provide free legal services to indigent citizens who do not have the means to pay for legal services and access justice, the Sierra Leone Bar Association Legal Aid Scheme provides the enabling environment to enhance this enterprise. This however commenced on

February 2009. Free legal aid is available to persons whose disposable income and capital do not exceed a certain sum and a means test is carried out to ascertain an applicant's eligibility.

The objectives of the legal aid scheme are to provide free legal aid services to

persons who cannot reasonably afford private legal services; and who have reasonable grounds for taking or defending the proceedings when the need arises, to give advice either in writing or orally in conference or a

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Free Lawyers for the Poor

From front page

legal problem or to represent the litigant in court or tribunal hearing, to enable the provision of high quality services to as many people as possible, with a fixed expenditure to assist under-privileged litigants to find alternatives from going to court. The scheme will concentrate on accused persons on remand whose matters are not proceeding either because they are not represented by a legal practitioner and/ or because the prosecution does not have witnesses in prosecuting

such matters, deserving accused persons who do not have legal practitioners to conduct their defence complainants who have genuine cases but because they lack legal representation, their rights are in danger of being stifled. Presently the Sierra Leone Bar Association Secretariat at No. 11 Lamina Sankoh Street, Freetown is being used as the office in Freetown for the initial implementation of the scheme and we hope that with time other branch offices will be established in the

provinces. Moreover, the scheme comprises 15 legal practitioners (12 in Freetown, one each in Bo, Kenema and Makeni), four legal assistants and two secretaries. The Sierra Leone Bar Association Legal Aid Scheme looks forward to having a successful working relationship with all stakeholders in the justice system thereby complimenting their work and making a difference in the lives of its beneficiaries -the people of Sierra Leone.

Awareness Times
Thursday, 7 May 2009

New Appeals Court Judge Sworn In

Justice Shireen Avis Fisher has reportedly been sworn in as a new Appeals Court Judge for the Special Court of Sierra Leone, to replace the late Justice Raja Fernando, who died in November last year. The Justice was appointed by the UN Secretary General to serve the court. She is an experienced international judge.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 May 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

05/06/2009 05:08:50

The Economic Times: Liberia extends bidding date for ore project; Tatas opt out

[Economic Times (India)]

The Liberian government, which invited global bids for a \$1.6-billion iron ore project, has extended the deadline for bidding after potential bidders expressed a lack of interest. According to persons connected with the process, the Liberian ministry of lands, mines and energy has now extended the deadline for submission of bids to May 15. The earlier deadline was April 15.

International Clips on West Africa

West Africa: Uncertainty Over ECOWAS Currency, Central Bank

By Kunle Aderinokun
ALLAFRICA

Abuja, 6 May 2009 — Indications emerged yesterday that the adoption of a single currency to be referred to as ECO for West African economies may not commence by December 1, 2009, as four of the five countries in the region were yet to meet the convergence criteria, under the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ).

As it appears, the launch date may be shifted by the Heads of State in June at their meeting, although the new date is yet to be confirmed.

WAMZ was expected to take off effectively with the ushering in of the ECO by December 1, 2009.

Local Media – Newspaper

Anti-Corruption Body Seeks Media Partnership in Fight against Graft

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, Public Agenda, The News, The Inquirer, The Informer)

- The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has called for partnership with the Press Union of Liberia in seeking the passage of anti-corruption bills before the Legislature.
- Speaking during a visit with the PUL leadership, LACC Chairperson, Cllr. Frances Johnson Morris said the anti-corruption bills before the Legislature are crucial to the fight against corruption naming them as the Public Service Code of Conduct, Freedom of Information, Whistleblower and Corrupt Offenses bills.
- In response, PUL President Peter Quaqua expressed the union's willingness to work with the LACC and appeal for capacity building.

More Pressure for Resignation of Justice Minister Banks

(The News, The Inquirer,)

- The Coalition of Youth and Student Movements has held a peaceful march in support of calls for the dismissal or resignation of the Justice Minister in connection with the use of over half a million dollars seized from a Nigerian.
- The Coalition on Tuesday converged at the Justice Ministry with a statement calling on the House of Representatives to take the issue seriously.
- The House of Representatives last Week ordered its joint committee on Security and Judiciary to investigate who authorized the use of the funds.
- Minister Banks has since said the use confiscated money is being used on national security operations.

Senator Scott wants Monrovia Treated as Commonwealth State in Electoral Bill

(The Inquirer, The News, Heritage)

- Maryland County Senator Gloria Scott has called on the Legislature to treat Monrovia separately in the draft electoral threshold bill.
- Senator Scott said Monrovia must be treated like a commonwealth district by having one representation in the Lower House.
- She said the population in Monrovia was in transition and giving Montserrado County more seats in the House would lead to the concentration of developments in the Capital to the disadvantage of other counties.

Senate Adjourns Prematurely over Disagreement to Pass Forestry Management Contract

(Heritage, Analyst, Daily Observer)

- The Senate on Tuesday prematurely adjourned due to a disagreement on the body's agenda.
- The disagreement was sparked by the refusal of some Senators to discuss the agenda item to pass certain Forestry Management Contracts.
- The Senators called for the agenda item to be deleted because of the delay in passing the Community Rights Law.
- According to them, without the passage of the Community Rights Law it was unacceptable to pass any Forestry Management Contracts.

UNHCR, CCF, LRRRC Break Ground for Housing Project

(The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Informer)

- The Christian Children's Fund (CCF) with financial support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the Liberia Refugees Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) has embarked on the construction of sixty housing units. The Units are intended for the local reintegration of Sierra Leoneans refugees into the Liberian society and is being constructed in the Blamacee Community in the lower Brewerville area.

Local Group to Fight Rape Launches Today

(The Informer)

- A local group calling itself Anti Rape Reporters Association of Liberia (ARRAL) is expected to be launched today at the Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism. According to the organizers, the group was established recently at the end of a one week interactive forum organized by United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in collaboration with the Government of Liberia.
- The Anti Rape Association of Liberia is in the campaign against rape in the country, and to afford journalists the opportunity to further raise awareness of rape, and also introduce the association to the general public.
- The President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to grace the occasion, and UNMIL Special Representative of Secretary General of the United Nations, Madam Ellen Magrette Loj is to officially launch the program, while Grand Gedeh County Senator Isaac Nyenebo will serve as co-launcher. Grand Bassa County Senior Senator Gbezongar Findley is

expected to serve as keynote speaker. The program is also expected to bring together an array of diplomats, local and international journalists, UNMIL, human rights organizations and student groups among others.

Local Media – Star Radio *(News monitored today at 09:00 am)*

Pressure mounts for Resignation of Justice Minister

LACC Seeks Media Partnership in Fight against Corruption

Senator Opts for Preferential treatment for Monrovia in Threshold Bill

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

Senate in Disarray over Passage of Forestry Contract

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

Government indicts Another Batch of Former Public Officials

- The state has indicted four former government officials and a stalwart of the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) for various crimes.
- Three of the men, former Budget Director David Zarlee, former Commerce Minister Samuel Wlue, and Joseph Giddings, a former deputy at the Liberia Electricity Corporation were reportedly indicted for property theft and economic sabotage.
- Former National Investment Corporation Boss, Roosevelt Quiah and NPP Secretary General John Whitfield were indicted for forgery and illegal possession of firearm respectively.
- The indictment of the former officials comes days after Government lost a “major” economic sabotage case against former Transitional Chairman, Gyude Bryant and four others.
- Last week, Criminal Court “A” granted a state request for a special jury to draw up the indictments.

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

Over Thirty Illegal Aliens Arrested

- The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization has arrested over thirty illegal aliens in the Paynesville suburb Monrovia and other parts of the city.
- Immigration authorities said when arrested the three Ghanaians and the others believed to be Guineas did not have documents to verify their status.
- Some of the arrested men have since denied they were illegal aliens saying they were Liberians but were not given the opportunity to identify themselves.

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

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

House of Representatives Summons Labour Ministry, American-Run Security Firm

- The House of Representatives has summoned authorities of the Labour Ministry and the private security firm, INTER-CON in connection with a complaint filed by over 200 hundred employees laid off by the firm.
- The decision followed a deadlock in the negotiation process by the House Committee on Labour.

UNFPA Targets Increase in Number of Midwives

- The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) says it is working with government to increase the number of midwives in the Country by 2010.
- The UNFPA goal is to have additional five hundred formally trained midwives and five thousand Traditionally Trained Midwives by next year.
- Liberia currently has 385 formally trained midwives and 5000 Traditionally Trained Midwives.

- Speaking Tuesday at programmes marking the celebration of International Day of the Midwife, UNFPA's Officer-In-Charge for Liberia, Dr. Philderald Pratt said the initiative is to improve the quality of Liberia's obstetric care services.
- The UNFPA and the World Health Organization is supporting government in implementing the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality in Liberia.

BBC

Thursday, 7 May 2009

Amnesty law for DR Congo militias

MPs in the Democratic Republic of Congo have passed a law granting amnesty to militias in the east of the country.

It is the culmination of various deals to bring peace to the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, a BBC correspondent in Kinshasa says.

It will include "acts of war" committed since 2002 but does not offer amnesty to those accused of war crimes such as rebel leader Laurent Nkunda.



The amnesty will only apply to Congolese militia in the east

Gen Nkunda remains in detention in Rwanda since his arrest in January.

DR Congo has applied for his extradition.

A Tutsi like Rwanda's leaders, Gen Nkunda had guarded Rwanda's western flank against attacks from ethnic Hutu Interahamwe militias who fled into the Kivus after the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende told the BBC the amnesty would only apply to Congolese militia and would not cover crimes committed by foreign rebel groups.

The legislation, passed by 298 votes to 29, will take effect after being signed into law by President Joseph Kabila, AFP news agency reports.

The BBC's Thomas Fessy says some opposition lawmakers boycotted the vote on the grounds that the amnesty should apply nationally.

Despite elections in 2006, won by Mr Kabila, the east of the country has been plagued by continued insecurity.

The on-and-off fighting between rebel groups, the army and pro-government militias has forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

Voice of America

Thursday, 7 May 2009

Kinshasa, Kigali Agree to Seek Alternative Country to Prosecute Rebel Leader

By Peter Clotey
Washington, D.C

The Democratic Republic of Congo and neighboring Rwanda are considering a neutral country to try former renegade army general Laurent Nkunda for his rebel insurgency in Congo. This comes after Kigali refused to extradite the former rebel leader for prosecution, saying Rwandan law prevents it from handing him over to Congo while Kinshasa still favors the death penalty. The Democratic Republic of Congo wants Nkunda extradited for crimes committed during a brutal five-year rebellion in restive North Kivu province, during which he captured vast amounts of territory and threatened the regional capital Goma.

Journalist Jack Kahora, who covers the DRC for the Voice of America told VOA that Kinshasa seems displeased with the neutral country agreement worked out with Kigali.

"The minister of justice of DRC was in Kigali to meet his counterpart in Rwanda in a discussion around the extradition of Nkunda to the DRC. During the discussions, Rwanda said that it would be difficult for the country to send Nkunda to DRC because he can be sentenced to death," Kahora said.

He said Kigali proposed a third country which does not favor the death penalty to handle the former rebel leader's trial.

"Rwandan authorities wish Nkunda could be extradited to a neutral country rather than DRC," he said.

Kahora said both Kigali and Kinshasa are yet to select a country to handle the former rebel leader's trial and "there are some rebels in Kinshasa holding discussions...with the government."

He said Nkunda's former rebel movement is currently in peace talks with the government, but the discussions have so far reached a stalemate.

"The discussions seem not to advance because they (government) want to see first the outcome of Nkunda before they discuss with the new rebels of the CNDP (The National Congress for People's Defense)," he said.

Kahora said the CNDP accuses the Kinshasa government of failing to live up to terms of a previously signed agreement.

"In fact, the agreements which are clear up to now, you know, there are some issues which are not known by the public up to now. And that is why most of the other groups are complaining like the civil society... so even the local people would want to know exactly the content of the agreement which was signed," Kahora said.

He said there seems to be confusion among the former combatants who are not sure what their role would be in the recently signed agreement with the government.

"What is true is that the rebels of CNDP are not happy because up to now, they have been divided. But they don't know what responsibility has been given to them. It is true that the military officers have

already have been integrated in the national army with their ranks. But the political leaders would also like to be integrated into political positions," he said.

Kahora said the government faces a stiff challenge in bringing in the political wing of the former CNDP rebels.

"In Kinshasa, power was shared among the winners of the election during the 2006 elections, and that is how the power was shared. Now the question is to know how the CNDP, which didn't win the elections, can be also positioned at the national level. These are the discussions which are taking place in Kinshasa up to now," Kahora said.

He said the former combatants have been taking their frustration about the current stalemate with the government one step further by carrying out actions detrimental to public interests.

"On the ground, the soldiers who belong to the CNDP have blocked trucks carrying food to Goma. About 60 trucks are blocked and cannot reach Goma up to now, and have now created a kind of shortage of food in the area up to now," he said.