

**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, 10 June 2009

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Concord Times  
 Wednesday, 10 June 2009

# UN envoy honors Mongolian Guard Force in Freetown

The Mongolian Guard Force, mandated to protect the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, has been praised for the positive impact they have made in peace-building efforts in the West African Region and for carrying out their duties with "constant grace and respect."

The remarks were made by UN envoy Ellen Margrethe Løj in Freetown at a medal parade ceremony held on 4 June, in honor of 250 members of the Mongo-

lian contingent, currently under the command of the UN Mission in Liberia - UNMIL.

"Mongolian Peacekeepers have acquired a reputation for bringing exceptional discipline to peace-keeping operations, an international outlook and an ever-ready approach to their tasks, regardless of the environment they find themselves in," she said, as she applauded them for rapidly adapting to their new environment.

The contingent pro-

vides security for the premises of the Special Court, protects the detainees when they are moved outside the Court's compound, and if required, is responsible for evacuating officials and detainees in cooperation with the UNMIL's Quick Reaction Force (QRF). In addition, a support engineer platoon is stationed at the Level 1 hospital.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone is mandated to try those bear-

*Contd. page 4*

# UN envoy honors Mongolian Guard Force in Freetown

*From page 3*

ing the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law in the Sierra Leonean conflict since November 1996.

Ms. Løj extended her gratitude to the 10 women peacekeepers assigned to the Mongolian Guard Force for their dedication and for the commitment they have demonstrated in providing vital services in communications and as doctors and nurses.

She pointed out that: "the ceremony couldn't come at a better time - a week after commemorating UN Peacekeeping day - which this year, paid homage to women in peacekeeping."

Evoking Mongolian traditions, envoy Løj paid a special tribute to the Contingent Commander, Lt Col. Majdaa Munkhbayar, for inspiring dedication and com-

mitment in the management and discharge of the contingent's duties, and for embodying the great Mongolian leader, Ghengis Khan's notion of inspiring and preserving good management of family, society and state affairs at large.

"You have demonstrated that commitment to the community around you by repairing one of the classrooms of the Bay Army Pre-primary School, and by distributing notebooks, pens and pencils to school children in Freetown," she said.

She further echoed the great Mongolian leader's emphasis on "correcting ourselves, and then putting our house and the state in order," and took the opportunity to remind all UN peacekeepers, civilian and uniformed to "uphold, protect and preserve the peace that the region has worked so hard to attain," urging

all to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values of the United Nations.

"We are all responsible, as individuals and as a collective, to guard against sexual exploitation and abuse to protect those that we have travelled so far to serve, by safeguarding their intrinsic dignity," she said, referring to the Secretary-General's policy of zero-tolerance against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Present at the ceremony were Force Commander Lt. General ATM Zahirul Alam, UNMIL's Director of Mission Support, Mr. Stephen Lieberman; Sierra Leone's Minister of Defense and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Deputy Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Ms. Binta Mansaray and Senior UNMIL Military Officials.

## UN News

Tuesday, 9 June 2009

### **Sierra Leone: Govt Can Set Example for Other Countries, Says UN Envoy**

The United Nations envoy to Sierra Leone said today peaceful resolution of recent violence in the West African nation could set an example for other countries.

Michael von der Schulenburg, the Secretary-General's Executive Representative for the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), praised an agreement signed by the Government and the opposition on 2 April to end violence that had flared up in May.

"I think the Joint Communiqué is of great significance for the country and may be an example for other countries which go through similar periods on how to intervene very quickly to stop the violence," he told reporters at a press briefing in New York.

The presence of eight ambassadors during talks between the two sides "undoubtedly had an influence on the outcome," Mr. von der Schulenburg noted.

He said he had told Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a meeting earlier in the day that "Sierra Leone is a country where multilateralism has worked."

Outbreaks of violence happen in many countries, the Representative said, "especially in post-conflict situations when the peace dividend in the form of employment or improved conditions fails to immediately materialize."

He added that "what often goes wrong in these countries in reaction to the violence is that it becomes very emotional; it becomes ethnic based, regional based," with divisions becoming more difficult to breach.

In contrast, Mr. von der Schulenburg said, Sierra Leone's leadership was able to come together and sign the agreement. Further, it was joined by other parties and political groups, making it a national commitment.

He also singled out for praise a joint strategy called the "UN Family's Joint Vision for Sierra Leone," which brings together UNIPSIL and all 17 UN development and humanitarian agencies, programmes and funds operating in Sierra Leone.

Yesterday, Mr. van der Schulenburg briefed the Security Council on UNIPSIL's work, estimating that a budget for the period ending in 2012 would be \$350 million.

The Council authorized the creation of UNIPSIL last year to replace the UN political office in Sierra Leone, known as UNIOSIL, in a unanimously adopted resolution, which also gave the new structure an initial mandate of 12 months.

UNIPSIL, which works closely with the UN Peacebuilding Commission, is tasked with providing political support to national and local efforts for identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflict, whatever the source. It also monitors and promotes human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, including efforts to counter transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

Sierra Leone, whose brutal 11-year civil war ended in 2002, is one of the first two countries, along with Burundi, to receive support from the Commission, established in 2005 to help post-conflict countries determine the priority areas for rebuilding out of the vast array of challenges they face.

## Star Radio

Tuesday, 9 June 2009

### **Senator Johnson alarms again, says over 200 for prosecution**

Written by Julius Kanubah

Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson has alarmed again that the Truth Commission has recommended the prosecution of warlords and their key commanders.

Senator Johnson said the list contains over two hundred names that stand to be charged for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

According to him, the list was selective in targeting people for possible prosecution for the atrocities committed during the war years.

The former rebel leader warned that any attempt to render selective justice in Liberia would be resisted.

Senator Johnson named some of those to be prosecuted as Senator Adolphus Dolo, Representative Saar Gbolie, Roland Duo and the late Isaac Musa and Samuel Varney.

He said the recommendation for prosecution is against a 2003 law passed by the Legislature granting general amnesty to warlords and their fighters.

Senator Johnson also revealed that the TRC is to begin a stage managed national reconciliation conference this month to endorse prosecution for warlords.

The Nimba County Senator accused TRC Chairman Jerome Verdier and Governance Commission chairman Amos Sawyer of being behind the conference.

Reacting to Senator Johnson, a spokesman of the TRC described as ridiculous and laughable claim of a fresh listing recommendation for prosecution of warlords and their key commanders.

Mr. James Kpakor wonders why Senator Johnson is crying wolf at a time when the TRC was busy finalizing its final report for submission to government.

He told Star Radio the TRC does not have time for what he called distractions from the likes of Senator Johnson.

According to him, the commission was mainly concerned with its up-coming national reconciliation conference.

Mr. Kpakor said during the conference delegates from across the country would deliberate on reconciliation, the future of Liberia and other peace building activities.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 June 2009

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **Escape from the 'land of blood and tears'**

By John Blake  
CNN

CNN – June 9, 2009 Michael Chea can't forget what they did to him. Though he is standing in the morning sunlight, surrounded by giggling teenagers and chirping birds, his face is twisted by grief.

He is reliving the moment when he escaped death in the "land of blood and tears."

"In 1990, I was a very small, and I saw so many things," he said. "The war took us away in the forest, and we started running. They killed my grandmother. They killed my grandfather. They killed my auntie."

Chea could have easily become just another anonymous victim of war in Liberia. At least 200,000 Liberians were killed in a series of conflicts between 1989 and 2003 that transformed the tiny nation on the west coast of Africa into a wasteland.

But Chea found a way to preserve his pain. His story was captured on film by a skinny 24-year-old American college student who is using an interactive video system mounted on a SUV to show others how nations emerging from war can come to terms with their violent past.

### Local Media – Newspaper

#### **World Vision "Flees" Liberia after Massive Fraud**

(New Democrat)

- [SIC]Following U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) report of massive fraud and stealing from World Vision (Liberia) amounting to some US\$1.4m, the Christian charity organization has packed up and closed shop here, leaving over 300 unemployed and thousands more in need of its services. The fraud revealed that only 9% of World Vision's assistance ever reached targets.
- The rest was stolen. According to a former employee, the organization paid off its last remaining employees last week and pulled out of the country to its Africa headquarters in Senegal. Joe Bondo, Project Manager, is now detained in a Washington jail, Morris Fahnbulleh and Thomas Parker, both Commodity Officers with the program of the Christian humanitarian organization, are accused of stealing more than \$1 million worth of U.S. aid to Liberia, stealing food and construction materials meant to help the country's Internally displaced persons recover from the brutal 14-year civil war.

#### **250 Mongolian Peacekeepers Honored with U.N. Medal**

(The Informer, Heritage)

- The Mongolian Guard Force, mandated to protect the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone, has been praised for the positive impact they have made in peace-building efforts in the West African Region and for carrying out their duties with “constant grace and respect.”
- The remarks were made by UN Envoy Ellen Margrethe Løj in Freetown, Sierra Leone at a medal parade ceremony held recently in honor of 250 members of the Mongolian Contingent, currently under the command of the UN Mission in Liberia – UNMIL.
- The Contingent provides security for the premises of the Special Court, protects the detainees when they are moved outside the Court’s compound, and if required, is responsible for evacuating officials and detainees in cooperation with the UNMIL’s Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

## **12 Police Officers End Intensive Training in England**

(The Informer)

- Twelve officers from the Liberian National Police Force on May 21, 2009, completed, with high commendation, an intensive leadership training course at the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) at Bramshill, Hampshire, England. In recognition of the Liberian officers’ outstanding accomplishment, the Head of the International Academy of the NPIA, Mr. Kurt Eyre, proffered a special dinner in their honour to which Liberia’s Ambassador to the Court of Saint James’, H.E. Wesley M. Johnson, was invited.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, Mr. Eyre congratulated the officers for their studious efforts which had ensured their unquestionable success. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Eyre paid tribute to their towering level of commitment to exceed beyond the ordinary or average expectation and thereby restore the once-instituted pride and dignity to the Liberian National Police Force.

## **Finnish Government Cancels Liberia’s two Million Euros Debts**

(New Vision, The Informer)

- The Government of Finland has waived two million Euros in Development Credits, including accrued interest, owed by Liberia since 1981. The Finnish Government says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s commitment to development means that the benefits accruing from debt forgiveness would go to areas where resources are most needed for the reconstruction of Liberia.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, Finland’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary accredited to Liberia, Mrs. Anneli Vuorinen made the statement on behalf of her President, Mrs. Tarja Holonen, after signing an Agreement at the Finnish Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria, waiving two million Euros in Development Credits, including accrued interest, owed by Liberia.
- The Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Liberia in Abuja, Mrs. Geraldine Bass-Golakeh, signed on behalf of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. During the signing ceremony, Mrs. Bass-Golakeh praised the Government of Finland for its pacesetting action, which, she said, was worthy of emulation by other development partners.

## **Massive Changes in Government Soon...Executive Mansion Confirms Reshuffle**

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

- The media quotes the Executive Mansion as confirming media reports of an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Government particularly within the Justice system. Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio disclosed that an official announcement would be made later this week by the President as to who goes where or not. There have been speculations in some quarters of the Liberian society concerning the pending changes.

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

## **Group of Civil Society Organizations Declare “Day of Mourning” against Corruption**

- Members of the anti-corruption Civil Society task force have distributed leaflets in Monrovia calling on the public to turn out and hold a march against corruption.
- The half page leaflet called on the public to wear black in observance of black Tuesday and join in the fight to end impunity.
- The leaflet also encouraged the public to ensure that transparency and accountability are upheld in post conflict Liberia.
- Today more than 15 civil society organizations have declared a day of “national mourning” against the growing wave of corruption in the country and they are expected to present special statements to the United States Embassy in Monrovia and the European Union drawing their attention to the situation in the country.

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

### **Former INPFL Leader Alarms over “Prosecution” For Warlords and Key Commanders**

- Nimba County Senator Prince Johnson has alarmed that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC) has recommended the prosecution of warlords and their key commanders.
- Senator Johnson said the list contains over 200 names that stand to be charged for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- According to him, the list was selective in targeting people for possible prosecution for the atrocities committed during the war years.
- The former Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) leader warned that any attempt to render selective justice in the country would be resisted. He named some of those to be allegedly prosecuted as Senator Adolphus Dolo, Representative Saah Gbollie, and Roland Duo among others.
- The TRC has meanwhile rebuffed the claims of Senator Johnson saying the commission was busy preparing for its upcoming national reconciliation conference.

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

### **Executive Mansion Names Prime Suspects in US\$1 Million Fraud at Central Bank**

- The Executive Mansion has identified the prime suspects in the financial scam that led to the withdrawal of more than US\$1 million from the Central Bank of Liberia.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio named two of the key actors as Mars Jusu Paasewe and Richard Passawe.
- Speaking to journalist on Monday, Mr. Badio alleged that Jusu was the individual who forged the President’s signature and Richard opened the account at Ecobank using the forged signature.
- He told reporters that four of the alleged accomplices, Joseph Kollie, Jesse Koiboi, Alfred Kowbeidu and Joe Watson (who once worked with the Finance Ministry and was involved in a scandal involving recycled checks) have been charged and sent to court.
- The Presidential Press Secretary said the Board of Governors of the Central Bank is meeting to determine what action to take against the Deputy Governor, Ethel Davies.

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

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

#### **Executive Mansion Confirms Imminent Cabinet Reshuffle**

- The Executive Mansion has confirmed media reports of imminent cabinet reshuffle in Government, particularly within the Justice system.
- Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio did not say when but said that an official announcement will be made as soon as the President is ready.

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## Voice of America

Tuesday, 9 June 2009

### UN says War Crimes Committed Daily in Somalia Fighting

By Derek Kilner  
Nairobi

As an international meeting on Somalia gets under way in Rome, U.N. agencies say that war crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed on a daily basis in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. For the past month, Islamist insurgents have been battling pro-government forces in the heaviest fighting the capital has seen in years.



**Women and children carrying their belongings flee Mogadishu fighting, May 24, 2009**

AP Photo  
According to the U.N. children's and refugee agencies, all sides in the fighting have flaunted humanitarian principles by ignoring the safety of civilians. Fighters have shelled civilian areas, forcibly recruited children to join militias, and raped women.

The U.N. refugee agency says 117,000 civilians have been displaced since early May, when the latest round of clashes began.

UNICEF's acting representative for Somalia, Hannan Suleiman, says this is the most concentrated displacement of civilians the city has seen in years.

"It is certainly the highest we have seen in Somalia for many, many years," Suleiman said. "We have not seen this number of people in such a short period of time being displaced."

The latest fighting pits Islamist insurgents from the al-Shabab and Hizbul Islam militias against government soldiers and pro-government militias. Insurgents have also targeted the roughly 4,000 African Union peacekeepers from Uganda and Burundi who are deployed in Mogadishu. More than 200 people have been killed in the past month, according to most estimates.

Suleiman says women and children have been particularly affected by the conflict. She says there are reports that boys as young as nine-years old have been recruited to join militias.

"And they are being used on the front line," Suleiman said. "This is in direct contravention of the child-rights convention, and with the laws governing combat, which state that the use of children under 15 years old in combat is a war crime with legal consequences. And we do have reports that children under 15 are being recruited by all sides in the conflict."

UNICEF says at least 34 schools in the city have been occupied by fighters at some point since the start of the year, and many families have been separated. There are reports of rape and other sexual violence against women who have been displaced.

The insurgents are seeking to overthrow the fragile internationally-backed government led by President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. President Ahmed is a moderate Islamist and a former insurgent leader, but his opponents say he is not committed to Islam and is too close to the United States and Ethiopia.

The government, as well as international diplomats, have accused Eritrea of backing the insurgents.

An international meeting to discuss the conflict is underway in Rome. The two-day meeting features representatives from more than 35 countries and international organizations. The meeting will discuss the security situation, as well as the problem of piracy off the coast.



AFP Photo

**President of Somalia Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed (file)**