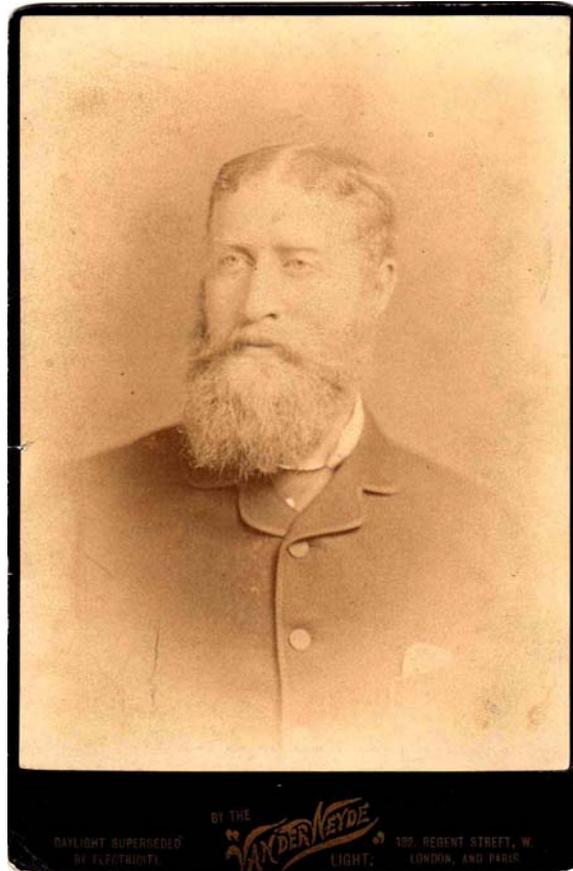


**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Sir. Charles Anthony King Harman, Governor of Sierra Leone, 1904

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:

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
Martin Royston-Wright
Ext 7217

Local News

Charles Taylor's First Witness Starts His Testimony.../ <i>Premier News</i>	Page 3
'No Gambians in Salone War'.../ <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 4
Brenda Hollis Now Special Court Prosecutor / <i>Awareness Times</i>	Page 5

International News

"Nobody Is Lying", Witness Says.../ <i>CharlesTaylorTrial.org</i>	Pages 6-7
Report From The Hague / <i>BBC World Service Trust</i>	Pages 8
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 9-12
Congo Rebel Nkunda Seeks End to Rwanda House Arrest / <i>BBC Online</i>	Page 13

Premier News
Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Charles Taylor's First Witnesses Starts His Testimony, Says Prosecution Witness Lied against the Former Liberian President

The first witness for Charles Taylor started his testimony this week, telling Special Court for Sierra Leone judges that prosecution witnesses lied against the former Liberian president.

On Monday, Yanks Smythe, a Gambian national who was a member of Mr. Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel group and who later acquired Liberian citizenship and was appointed by Mr. Taylor as Liberian ambassador to Libya and Tunisia, started his testimony, telling the judges that Mr. Taylor was never part of a common plan to destabilize West Africa as alleged by prosecutors.

Mr. Smythe said that he was part of the Gambian dissident group which underwent revolutionary training at a Libyan military training camp called Tajura along with Sierra Leonean and Mr. Taylor's Liberian rebel groups. But while leaders of the Liberian, Sierra Leonean and Gambian rebel groups all stayed at the same guesthouse during this time, and their fighters trained in the same camp, they did not have any plans to collaborate in attacking their respective countries, Mr. Smythe said.

Prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor met Revolutionary United Front (RUF) leader, Foday Sankoh, and Gambian dissident Kukua Sambasanja (known as Dr. Mani) in Libya in the 1980s. The three men, Mr. Smythe said, formulated a common plan to destabilize the West African sub-region, starting with Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations, saying he never met Mr. Sankoh in Libya only Dr. Mani and Allie Kabbah, a Sierra Leonean student leader who led a Sierra Leonean rebel group that was undertaking revolutionary training in Libya at the same time. On Monday, Mr. Smythe corroborated Mr. Taylor's evidence that the former president did not meet RUF leader Mr. Sankoh in Libya.

Asked by Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, whether he "knew of any meeting that took place at the Mataba where there was a discussion amongst these three leaders [Mr. Taylor, Mr. Kabbah and Dr. Mani], regarding an invasion of Liberia," the witness said "no, no, no."

"Do you know of any meetings that were held during the time you were at Tajura I'm referring to meetings held at the Mataba or at Tajura between Foday Sankoh and Charles Taylor during which they discussed the invasion of Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness. "No," the witness responded.

Mr. Anyah further asked the witness whether he knew "of any such meetings held between Foday Sankoh and Charles

Taylor either at the Mataba or Camp Tajura during the period when you were there when they discussed the invasion of Sierra Leone?"

The witness responded with another resounding "No."

"Do you know whether Mr. Taylor held such meetings at either location with Allie Kabbah discussing the invasion of Sierra Leone?" Mr. Anyah asked again.

For the fourth time, the witness said "no."

The witness also refuted claims by a previous prosecution witness that Mr. Taylor had sent two Gambian fighters to assist the RUF in their attack on Sierra Leone in March 1991.

Prosecution witness and fellow Gambian, Suwandi Camara, had told the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2008 that Mr. Taylor sent two Gambian rebel fighters, Lamine Campaore and Ibrahim Bah to support RUF rebels in their attack on Sierra Leone in March 1991.

Asked by Mr. Anyah, whether he was "aware of Ibrahim Bah and Lamine Campaore being assigned by Charles Taylor to join Foday Sankoh in Sierra Leone in 1991," the witness responded that "no, I'm not aware of that."

The witness said that the Gambians stayed exclusively within the areas controlled by Mr. Taylor's NPFL rebel group. Talking specifically about Mr. Campaore, the witness told the court that "Lamine never received any assignment out of the NPFL assignment in Gbangha."

He added that if Mr. Campaore had received any such assignment, he would have known because he (the witness) was the deputy leader of the Gambians in Liberia.

"I would have known because I was the deputy leader so anything that has to do with assignment I am always aware of it," the witness said.

Asked whether the second Gambian, Mr. Bah, would have gone to Sierra Leone, the witness explained that "Ibrahim Bah was not always stationed in Gbangha. He was in Buchanan. He was asked by the then defense minister, Tom Worweiyu, to be assigned to a company called BMB to provide security for them, deter the soldiers from harassing the members of the company or their properties."

On Wednesday, Mr. Smythe told judges that Mr. Taylor took disciplinary actions against the director of the Special Security Services (SSS) Benjamin Yeaten for the arrest and subsequent execution of Samuel Dokie and his

family.

During his February 2009 cross-examination by prosecutors, Mr. Taylor told the judges that the arrest and execution of Mr. Dokie and his family was not ordered by Mr. Yeaten as alleged by prosecutors. The former president said that those responsible for the arrest and execution of the Dokie family did so without the orders of Mr. Yeaten and that those responsible were indeed punished, but no action was taken against Mr. Yeaten because he did not bear any responsibility for such actions. In his testimony on Wednesday, Mr. Taylor's own witness, Mr. Smythe contradicted the former president's account. According to Mr. Smythe, Mr. Yeaten was indeed suspended by Mr. Taylor for ordering the arrest of Mr. Dokie and his family, which subsequently led to their execution.

"Benjamin was suspended by the president, President Taylor," the witness said.

Asked by Mr. Taylor's defense counsel whether he knew why Mr. Yeaten was suspended by Mr. Taylor, the witness said that "he was suspended because he ordered the arrest of Dokie, and that was not an instruction from Mr. Taylor."

In response to whether he knew how long the suspension lasted, the witness said that "no, I don't know how long but it took some time, when the investigation was on."

Also in his testimony on Wednesday, Mr. Smythe told the judges that former prosecution witness, Joseph "Zig Zag" Marzah, was not a member of the SSS but a mere bodyguard to the SSS director Mr. Yeaten. The witness said that Mr. Marzah did not have any access to Mr. Taylor. The witness's account corroborates Mr. Taylor's testimony that Mr. Marzah was an ordinary orderly to Mr. Yeaten, with whom he could not have interacted. In his 2008 testimony for the prosecution, Mr. Marzah told the judges that he was an SSS officer who had unhindered access to Mr. Taylor and that on numerous occasions he acted on direct instructions from the former president to take arms and ammunitions to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Marzah also said that he sat in the company of Mr. Taylor and together, they feasted on human intestines. Mr. Taylor in his testimony dismissed the witness's accounts as lies. Mr. Smythe said the same thing on Wednesday.

Concord Times

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

'No Gambians in Salone war'

...witness tells Special Court

Defence witness, Yanks Smythe has refuted the testimonies of a prosecution Gambian witness that two Gambians assigned by Charles Taylor to the Revolutionary United Front, assisted with the invasion of Sierra Leone in 1991. Mr. Smythe also denied that Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL used child soldiers in combat. The witness dismissed the claim of a prosecution Gambian witness that two Gambians participated in the invasion of Sierra Leone on the orders of Charles Taylor.

Prosecution witness Suwandi Camara told the court last year that Lamin Campaore and Ibrahim Bah were as-

signed to the RUF by Taylor in 1991. Suwandi had said the two Gambians were members of first group that invaded Sierra Leone in March 1991.

But Smythe testifying in Taylor's defence denied the allegation of the prosecution witness. Defence lawyer, Morris Anyah questioned the witness about the assignment of the two Gambians.

The prosecution during its case accused Taylor who formerly controlled a rebel movement of recruiting child soldiers into his defunct rebel group, the NPFL. He had alleged that Mr. Taylor recruited children less than 15 years into units called Small Boys Unit, SBU, and Small Girls Unit,

SGU. Mr. Smythe on Tuesday identified the command structure of the NPFL and said the rebel group did not use children in combat.

Smythe, formerly known in Gambia as Yamkubah Samateh, said he was granted Liberian citizenship.

He told the court he was later appointed Liberian Ambassador to Libya and Tunisia during the administration of Charles Taylor.

Former Liberian president, Moses Blah testified for the prosecution last year and told the court that Smythe's appointment as Liberian Ambassador was illegal.

Mr. Smythe disagreed arguing that he is a naturalized Liberian and had a right to such appointment.

Awareness Times
Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Brenda Hollis Now Special Court Prosecutor

Reports have it that the Secretary General of the United Nations has appointed Brenda Joyce Hollis of the United States as Prosecutor of the Special Court. Reports revealed that since 2007, Ms. Hollis has been the Principal Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) where she was responsible for leading the legal team prosecuting former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Brenda is an expert in legal consultancy and international law.

CharlesTaylorTrial.org

Monday, 1 March 2010

Liberia: "Nobody Is Lying", Witness says, As Prosecutors Suggest That His Account Is Different From Charles Taylor's

Alpha Sesay

A defense witness for Charles Taylor has dismissed prosecution assertions that his testimony is contradicting that of the former Liberian president, telling the court that neither him, nor Mr. Taylor, is lying to the judges.

Between July 2009 and February 2010, Mr. Taylor, who stands accused of supporting Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, testified as a witness in his own defense. After the completing his testimony, Mr. Taylor's first witness has been Yanks Smythe — a Gambian national who became a Liberian citizen and was appointed by Mr. Taylor as Liberian charge d'affaires to Libya and Tunisia in the late 1990s. Mr. Smythe has been rebutting prosecution evidence that the former Liberian president provided support to RUF rebels through the supply of arms and ammunition to the rebels in return for Sierra Leone's blood diamonds. The witness has also been responding to questions about Mr. Taylor's activities as leader of his rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), and as president of Liberia.

During today's cross-examination, prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian questioned the witness about Mr. Taylor's presence in the former NPFL headquarter town of Gbangha. According to Mr. Koumjian, the witness seemed to be contradicting what the former president said in his own testimony. Mr. Koumjian suggested to the witness that in October 1996, Mr. Taylor moved to Gbangha and instructed RUF leader Foday Sankoh via a radio message to go and acquire arms for the RUF. After agreeing with Mr. Koumjian that Mr. Taylor did indeed go to Gbangha in October 1996, the prosecutor read a portion of Mr. Taylor's previous testimony in which the former president had denied ever going to Gbangha during that period. Upon hearing what Mr. Taylor said about the same incident in his testimony, Mr. Smythe sought to clarify his response, saying that he was in agreement with Mr. Taylor's account.

"You just told us Charles Taylor moved to Gbangha after the 31st of October 1996, was that correct?" Mr. Koumjian asked the witness.

The witness responded that "when there was an attack on his life, he left Monrovia during that period and he went to Gbangha but he never stayed there, he came back to Monrovia, this is what I am saying."

"Sir, who is lying when we talk about Charles Taylor being in Gbangha in 1996, you or Charles Taylor," Mr. Koumjian again asked the witness.

"Nobody is lying here," the witness responded.

Mr. Koumjian further asked the witness that "when Charles Taylor says 'I am not in Gbangha in 1996,' that is a lie, correct?"

"That is not a lie, that is not a lie," the witness insisted.

As Mr. Koumjian pressed to know whether Mr. Taylor was "in Gbangha in 1996," the witness explained that "when Charles Taylor was attacked in Monrovia, he went to Gbangha briefly and came back to Monrovia."

As Mr. Taylor's defense lawyers now lead their witnesses to rebut the evidence of prosecution witnesses, prosecutors will also seek to discredit the evidence of such defense witnesses through cross-examination. In said cross-examination, prosecutors will seek to discredit the testimony of defense witnesses, just like Mr. Taylor's defense lawyers did with prosecution witnesses. It is in this light that prosecutors have been pushing to point out that Mr. Smythe's testimony is contradicting some aspects of Mr. Taylor's prior testimony.

Also in his cross-examination today, Mr. Koumjian attempted to point out that Mr. Smythe's evidence that Mr. Taylor's personal security personnel had heavy weapons contradicted that of the former president's — who prosecutors say told the court on September 30, 2009 that he did not even have arms and ammunition to give his personal security personnel and so could not have had same to supply RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor testified that the United Nations took away all his arms and ammunition during the disarmament process in Liberia. Mr. Koumjian today asked the witness to describe the kinds of weapons that Mr. Taylor's personal security carried.

"That weapon is ah, I think its GMG," the witness said, adding that GMG means "General Machine Gun."

Asked whether it was an "anti-aircraft type of weapon," the witness responded that "I don't know what you are talking about, I know it's GMG , General Machine Gun."

"And it was actually somehow fixed to the back of like a Pick Up truck, correct?" Mr. Koumjian enquired further.

"It's in a Pick Up truck," the witness responded.

Mr. Taylor during his testimony told the court that he never had an anti-aircraft weapon during the entire period of the Liberian conflict.

Mr. Smythe's cross-examination continues tomorrow.

John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

The Prosecution said there's an inconsistency in the testimonies of Charles Taylor and Defence Witness, Yanks Smythe about a trip the Former Liberian Leader made to Gbarnga, Bong County, the former headquarters of his rebel group. Continuing his testimonies on cross-examination Mr. Smythe also told the court that Mr. Taylor's bodyguards carried arms, but Mr. Taylor in his own testimonies last year denied that his securities carried arms. John Kollie transcribes reports from The Hague on the trial of former president Charles Taylor for the BBC World Service Trust...

The Prosecution has told the court that Defence Witness Yanks Smythe contradicted the testimonies of his Former Boss, Charles Taylor. Prosecution Lawyer, Nicholas Kumjian said Mr. Taylor travelled to Gbarnga in October of 1996 and instructed Former RUF Leader, Foday Sankoh via radio to acquire arms.

Defence Witness, Yanks Smythe said Mr. Taylor travelled to Gbarnga, in October of 1996, after he survived an assassination attempt in Monrovia. During Mr. Taylor's testimonies last year, he denied going to Gbarnga in October of 1996.

After Mr. Taylor's testimonies were read in court, Defence Witness, Smythe changed his testimonies and agreed with Mr. Taylor's testimonies. But Mr. Kumjian asked the witness why he changed his testimonies.

Mr. Charles Taylor told the court on September 30, 2009, that he had no arms to supply the Sierra Leonean rebels. He said the United Nations took away all of his arms during disarmament in Liberia.

The Former Liberian Leader said his personal securities did not even have arms. But the witness testifying in Mr. Taylor's defence, Mr. Smythe said the Former Liberian President's securities did carry weapons.

The Prosecution Lawyer asked Mr. Smythe about the kind of weapons Mr. Taylor's securities carried. The cross-examination of Mr. Yanks Smythe, the Defence first Witness after Mr. Taylor continues Tuesday.



United Nations Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
1 March 2010**

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

International Clips on Liberia

Curfew imposed in N Liberian city after riot

March 01, 2010

The Liberian National Police (LNP) has announced the imposition of a curfew in the northern Liberian city of Voinjama, after clashes broke out between Christians and Muslims over the weekend. Marc Amblar, director of the LNP, said the curfew will run from 6:00 p.m. local time to 8:00 a.m. local time and will remain enforced until further notice. Amblar told reporters on Sunday that he had given strict instructions to riot police dispatched to the area to restore calm while dealing harshly with anyone in violation of law or curfew. According to him, four people were killed and 21 others severely injured in Friday's violence. Several rioters have been rounded up and taken in police custody.

Source: Xinhua

Liberia's Northern Lofa County is Returning to Normal, Says Regional Leader

VOA | 01 March 2010

Superintendent Galakpai Kortimai says last Friday's violence in Lofa County had nothing to do with religious differences between Christians and Moslems. The superintendent of the northern Liberian region of Lofa County says the situation in the city of Voinjama is returning to normal after last Friday's violent clashes between Moslem and Christians left many people wounded and some Christian churches burned to the ground. The violence followed the death of a Christian school girl, Korpu Kamara. Superintendent Galakpai Kortimai said the violence had nothing to do with religious differences between Christians and Moslems contrary to some reports. "This whole thing actually it's not about religion; it's about tribe – Lorma and the Mandingos. It is not about religion to say Christians and Moslems because a lot of Christians and lots of Moslems were also affected. They looted the people's places and burned down their houses," he said

International Clips on West Africa

Guinea

Guinea mines minister says will talk to RUSAL

Mar 1, 2010

CONAKRY (Reuters) - Guinea's new government is prepared to talk with UC RUSAL to resolve a dispute over the Russian group's ownership of the Friguia alumina refinery, Guinean Mines Minister Mahmoud Thiam told Reuters. Security of title is a major worry for companies operating in Guinea,

the world's biggest bauxite supplier, which was shaken by a coup in December 2008 and has a transitional government tasked with setting elections. A Guinean court last year ruled RUSAL bought Friguia, the biggest industrial project in Guinea, illegally in 2006, vastly underpaying for the factory, but RUSAL did not accept the decision. "We have decided to sit down at the negotiating table," said Thiam, who was reappointed to the mines ministry last month after authorities named members of Prime Minister Jean-Marie Dore's new government. "Things will be simple when we talk."

Ivory Coast

Regional bloc hails Ivorian progress

afrol News, 1 March - The West African regional bloc, ECOWAS, has hailed the Ivorian government and opposition parties' agreement on a new government and electoral body, paving a way for the long delayed national polls. According to statement from the bloc, the government and opposition parties have demonstrated a commitment towards ending the long dragging political crisis in the West Africa state. The statement urged the parties to continue to show flexibility and understanding in resolving the other outstanding issues, especially those relating to the voters' register and an agreement on a firm date for the election as soon as possible. Last week, the former interior minister and candidate from the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire, Issouf Bakayoko, was elected to head the country's Independent Electoral Commission.

Bishops appeal for calm in Ivory Coast

Catholic Culture.org...March 01, 2010

Lamenting the "situation of conflict and violence that for weeks has characterized the country," the bishops of Ivory Coast have appealed for calm, reminding "all believers in general and Catholics in particular, that faith in God Almighty and Merciful forbids the use of violence in all its forms: with words and actions." Elections in the West African nation have been postponed seven times since 2005. The recent appointment of an opposition leader to head a new Independent Electoral Commission has raised hopes for an end to the recent violence.

Local Media – Newspaper

In Lofa Violence...4 Dead, 21 Wounded...ERU Restores Calm

(The Monitor, The News, FrontPage, The Informer, Heritage, National Chronicle, Liberia Journal, In Profile Daily, New Democrat, Daily Observer, Liberian Express, Public Agenda, The Analyst, The Inquirer and New Republic)

- Latest reports from Lofa County say four people were killed in Friday's violence in Voinjama while twenty-one others received gunshot and cutlass wounds.
- Acting Information Minister Elizabeth Hoff says seventeen persons have been arrested and are undergoing police investigation in connection with the violence.
- Minister Hoff says police also seized five single barrel guns, seven cutlasses and one knife believed to have been used in the violence.
- Reports say calm has returned to Voinjama, with the deployment of the Police Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and other police officers and the imposition of a dusk to dawn curfew.
- Friday's violence which was sparked by rumors that a mosque had been burned in Konia also left several churches and private properties destroyed.
- Meanwhile, several groups including the West African Network for Peace building (WANEP) and the National Muslim Council have condemned Friday's violence and called for perpetrators to prosecute.

Senior Police Officer Burned To Death

(The Inquirer, The News, Liberia Journal. Liberian Express, Public Agenda, Daily Observer and New Democrat)

- A senior officer of the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the Liberia National Police who was set ablaze last Saturday evening by an angry crowd in Monrovia has died.
- Authorities of the Ministry of Justice said Chief Inspector Amos Tutu died hours after he was rushed to the John F. Kennedy Hospital following the incident on the Capitol Bye-pass.
- An angry crowd Saturday evening poured gasoline on the PSU officer and set he on fire after the officer had allegedly shot dead another man.
- The Justice Ministry in a statement said the late Police Inspector had gone to effect an arrest of a gang in the Capitol Bye-pass community when he was attacked by the man he shot to death.

UN Envoy Decorates Nigerian Contingent with Peacekeeping Medals

(Daily Observer, National Chronicle, Heritage, The New Republic and Public Agenda)

- UN Envoy Ellen Margrethe Løj has praised members of the Nigerian Military Contingent of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for efforts made in consolidating lasting peace in Liberia.
- The Special Representative to the Secretary-General said despite these achievements there were more challenges ahead in entrenching security both within and alongside Liberia's borders.
- Ms. Løj made the remarks when she presented UN peacekeeping medals to 1,577 military peacekeepers, including 59 female soldiers for their contribution towards consolidating peace and stability in Liberia.
- Deployed in Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Margibi and Montserrado, five key and challenging counties, Ms. Løj said the Nigerians have secured law and order and thereby contributed to sustainable peace and stability.

LAP Ratifies Articles of Merger with UP, LUP

(The Inquirer National Chronicle and Daily Observer)

- The Liberia Action Party (LAP) has finally ratified the articles of merger with the ruling Unity Party (UP) and the Liberia Unification Party (LUP).
- The merger according to LAP chairperson Sheba Brown is intended to reduce the number of political parties as well as consolidating peace and reconciliation among Liberians.
- Speaking at the Party's convention over the weekend, Ms. Brown alleged that most of the political parties in Liberia are built around individual personalities and lack what she term a broad-based support and proper structure.
- She said those weak and divided political parties can not reconcile the people of Liberia neither enhance the country's democracy.

President Sirleaf Dedicates Several Development Projects in South-eastern Liberia (Front Page Africa, Daily Observer)

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has dedicated and inspected a number of development number of projects in South-eastern Liberia.
- While in Maryland County over the weekend, President Sirleaf dedicated the newly renovated Harper City Hall, the Harper-Kablaken Road, the Disaster Management Warehouse of the Liberia National Red Cross, and the Manolu Public School on the outskirts of Harper.
- The President also inspected ongoing renovation of the Bonike-Yobloke Road in Bonike.
- At Wuluken Town, President Sirleaf broke ground for several ADP-funded projects – five schools and two health centres.
- The President and her Cabinet today began the first session of the cabinet Retreat in Fish Town River Gee County. She is expected to similarly dedicate several development projects in River Gee.

Monrovia Based Lofa Citizens Set-up Delegation to Investigate Violence

(Front Page)

- Citizens of Lofa County based in Monrovia have constituted a special committee to investigate Friday's violence in Konia town and Voinjama City.
- The special committee is to also mediate the dispute and recommend measures to avoid a recurrence of the incident.
- The delegation comprising three citizens each from the seven districts including Salayea, Zorzor, Voinjama, Quadu Gbondi, Kolahun, Vahun and Foya is to leave Monrovia for Lofa Monday. Former Representative Philip Tarlie is heading the delegation.

EPA Director Dies Of Heart Attack

(In Profile Daily, Liberia Journal and The Inquirer)

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the death of its Executive Director Dr. Alfred Amah.
- Reports say Dr. Amah died late Friday evening from heart attack.
- EPA Deputy Director Jerome Nyenkan described the death as shocking and devastating as Dr. Amah looked robust during a meeting held by five Friday evening.
- Dr. Amah who took over the EPA October 1, 2009, succeeded Mr. Ben Donnie who died earlier in March.

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

In Lofa Violence...4 Dead, 21 Wounded...ERU Restores Calm

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

WANEP Condemns Lofa Violence

Monrovia Based Lofa Citizens Set-up Delegation To Investigate Violence

EPA Director Dies Of Heart Attack

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

Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

Senate President Pro-tempore Returns Home With Mo Ibrahim Award

- Senate President Pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson has returned home after receiving the golden leadership award by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation in Paris, France.
- Senator Wotorson said he was proud to be amongst African leaders and statesmen to receive such a prestigious leadership award.
- The Senate President Pro-tempore said while in Paris, he presented a paper on the need for entrepreneur leadership in Africa.
- He has dedicated the golden award to the people of Liberia emphasizing the award serves as an impetus for him to do more to strive for excellence.

PSU Officer Burned To Death

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

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

LAP Ratifies Articles Of Merger With UP, LUP

NMCL Wants Government, Partners Take Prompt Action In Voinjama Violence

UL Vice President For Academic Affairs Ask To Resign

- The Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Liberia (UL), Dr. Shelton Beedoe has been asked to resign.
- A release from the state-owned university quotes the President, Dr. Emmet Dennis as saying the request to Dr. Beedoe is part of the restructuring process of the institution.
- Dr. Beedoe according to the release will be reassigned later this year at the TJR Faulkner College of Science and Technology upon his return from the United States where he is to attend a seminar.

BBC Online

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Congo rebel Nkunda seeks end to Rwanda house arrest

Congolese rebel chief Laurent Nkunda has gone to court seeking to end 14 months of house arrest in Rwanda.

Lawyer Stephane Bourgon told the BBC that Gen Nkunda was being illegally detained by Rwanda.

He said that he would go to the African Court of Human Rights if Rwandan judges declined to hear the case.

Gen Nkunda was at the heart of years of unrest in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo before he was surprisingly arrested by Rwanda troops last year.

An ethnic Tutsi, like Rwanda's leaders, he had been accused of protecting Rwandan interests in DR Congo by fighting Hutu militias based there.

'Non-judicial solution'

The BBC's Geoffrey Mutagoma says hundreds of people attended the hearing at the Supreme Court in the Rwandan capital Kigali, with some people standing up.

However, our reporter points out that the Supreme Court normally deals with appeal cases and yet this is the first hearing of this case.

The court said it would decide whether it could deal with the matter on 26 March.

Another of Gen Nkunda's lawyers told the AFP news agency that they had approached the Supreme Court because a military court had refused to hear the case.

Mr Bourgon told the BBC that he would continue to seek a "non-judicial" solution, which he said would be best for everyone.

DR Congo has said it would like Gen Nkunda to be extradited on charges of war crimes.

He was arrested in North Kivu in January 2009 after DR Congo and Rwanda agreed - under intense international pressure - to work together to bring peace to their border region which has seen 15 years of conflict.

DR Congo agreed to let Rwandan forces onto its territory to tackle Hutu rebels, some of whom fled Rwanda after being involved in the 1994 genocide of Tutsis.

The UN and the Congolese army have since tried to wipe out the Hutu militias but their campaign has been hit by allegations of human rights abuses.