

**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:

Tuesday, 13 April 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times
Tuesday, 13 April 2010

Pademba Road Prison becomes overpopulated

The Director of Sierra Leone Prison Services, Moses Showers has reportedly disclosed that the Maximum Security Prisons is over crowded with more than 800 inmates. According to him, the over crowding of the prison has made it possible is giving the possibilities to settle cases out of Court. According to reports, the prison was built for 324 prisoners, but, it is now housing more than this required number due to the growing rate of crimes.

John Kollie

NEWS ITEM

The war crimes trial of Former Liberian President, Charles Taylor resumed in The Hague today Monday with Sierra Leonean Defence Witness, Charles Ngebeh telling the Judges that Sierra Leoneans should take responsibility for the killing of their country men and destruction of their country. On cross-examination, Mr. Ngebeh said after the 1997 overthrow of the Tejan Kabbah Government, RUF did not have absolute control of diamond mining in its controlled area... John Kollie reports...

Mr. Ngebeh said Mr. Charles Taylor should not be blamed for the killings that took place in Sierra Leone from 1992 to 1996. Mr. Ngebeh who himself was a fighter of the RUF told the Judges the RUF Rebel organization disappointed Sierra Leone people.

Speaking through an interpreter, the Defence Witness testified that the RUF committed horrible atrocities, in Sierra Leone and not Mr. Taylor's forces. Mr. Taylor is accused of supporting the RUF by selling diamonds on their behalf and buying weapons for them.

The Prosecution alleged in its indictment that the RUF forced the civilians to mine diamonds the rebel organization. The Prosecutor, Brenda Hollis asked Defence Witness Ngebeh about the ownership of diamonds in RUF controlled areas during the civil war.

Defence Witness, Ngebeh also denied a Human Rights Watch report that accused the RUF of killing and raping returning Sierra Leonean Refugees from Guinea in 2001. The witness challenged the Human Rights Watch report and described it as incorrect.

Meanwhile the Special Court for Sierra Leone has announced that one its three regular Judges, Teresa Doherty has fallen sick. Presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde however said the trial of Mr. Taylor would continue in the absence of Justice Doherty.

New Democrat (Monrovia)

Friday, 8 April 2010

Africa: Taylor's Officers On Britain's War Crimes Search List

Officers from Mr. Charles Taylor's army are amongst others British Immigration and security services will be searching for in Britain for prosecution, according to a new law that has come into force, The Independent reports. The US and some European countries have adopted new laws allowing the prosecution of war criminals from other countries who live in America or some European states.

Britain is taking serious steps to ensure that war criminals are not allowed in the UK, and amongst the caseload Immigration and security services now have is that regarding suspected Liberian war criminals, many still in the UK. The cut-off point for investigating and prosecuting war criminals in Britain is 1991, but critics say the date should be taken back as far as 1948.

There are also discussions to include non-British citizens for prosecution. The US is already ahead, with the law that war criminals on its soil will be prosecuted.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
12 April 2010**

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

UN News in Liberia

UNMIL

UNMIL To Maintain Partnership - Says UN Envoy

[Public Agenda, The Independent, National Chronicle, The News, The Informer, Heritage]

- United Nations' Envoy to Liberia, Ms. Ellen Margrethe Løj has assured Liberians that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is committed to maintaining a strategic partnership with the Liberian government and local authorities to preserve peace in the country.
- Ms. Løj said this can only be achieved if Liberians emulate Ukraine's example by determining Liberia's future "in a peaceful and democratic manner."
- The UN Envoy made the remarks when she awarded UN peacekeeping medals to 273 peacekeepers of Ukraine 56th Aviation Unit serving with UNMIL.
- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) said, "Liberia has much to offer the rest of the world by demonstrating to other countries emerging from conflict that it is indeed possible to sustain peace and move onwards, through dialogue and democratic process, to the prosperity the people of Liberia deserve."
- The Ukrainian 56th helicopter unit began its peacekeeping mission in Liberia in January 2004 and has since been spending long hours carrying out such tasks as air lifting cargo and UNMIL personnel and providing air support to ground troops.
- Attending the medal award ceremony were Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Moustapha Soumaré; Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Sikander Afzal; Director of Mission Support, Mr. Hubert Price; and other senior military, police and civilian officials of the UNMIL.

Attempted Burglary At LBDI Sinkor Branch – UNMIL, LNP, Justice Crime Investigators Launch Probe

[Daily Observer]

- A joint team of crime and burglary investigators from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia National Police (LNP) have launched investigation into an alleged burglary at the Sinkor branch of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI).
- The joint team, which comprises senior investigators, began their investigation at LBDI premises Monday, April 5, 2010 following a tip off from the bank's authorities that its premises had been tampered with by an unknown intruder.
- Normal banking activities were suspended at the Sinkor branch of the bank for the whole of that day.

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

NEC Announces Commitment From International Partners For 2011 Polls

- The Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced a huge commitment from international partners for the 2011 elections.
- Mr. James Fromayan said of a working budget of US\$38 million for the elections, the partners have committed US\$26 million.
- Mr. Fromayan named the international partners as the United Nations Development Programme, IFES, UNMIL, ECOWAS, USAID and the African Union.

- The NEC Chairman said in addition to the monetary assistance, UNMIL alone has committed logistics including helicopters to the process.

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

Other UN News

UNHCR, LRRRC Re-integrates Sierra Leoneans In Sinje

- The UNHCR and the Liberia Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration Commission (LRRRC) have begun re-integrating Sierra Leonean refugees to their new homes in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County.
- The process which started Thursday, has integrated 56 family heads to their newly constructed housing units in Sinje.
- The UNHCR said the process is expected to last for two weeks, with the integration of 76 family heads.

IOM Starts Waste Removal Campaign In Two Counties

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has embarked on a cleanup campaign in Montserrado and Margibi Counties.
- According to IOM's Waste Management Consultant, the campaign is intended to dispose of wastes in mostly populated communities in the two counties.
- Mr. Henry Williams said wastes collected would be transformed and used for Agricultural activities in the Country.
- The IOM official said the exercise is also intended to complement the effort of the MCC and other partners for an improved environment.
- Mr. Williams spoke Saturday at the Logan Town Market where the exercise was carried out in collaboration with the Liberia Marketing Association branch there.

Local News on Liberian issues

President Sirleaf, Brazilian President Hold Talks

[In Profile Daily, The Independent, The Monitor, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, The Analyst, The News, The Informer, The Inquirer, Heritage]

- Liberia and Brazil have taken major steps to jumpstart long standing relations between the two countries.
- Following bilateral discussions Wednesday in Brasilia between Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Luis Lula da Silva, the two countries agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of energy and mining as well as education.
- Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Dr. Eugene Shannon signed on behalf of the Liberian Government while the Brazilian energy minister signed for his country.
- According to an Executive Mansion dispatch, the agreement calls for the training of teachers and academicians in graduate and undergraduate programmes in Brazil and an alignment of teaching programmes between higher institutions of learning in the two countries.
- Both countries also agreed to recognize the credentials issued by their respective institutions of higher learning.
- An Agreement on the 'Performance of Remunerated Activities by Dependents of Diplomatic, Consular, Military, Administrative, and Technical Staff' was also signed, thus relaxing restrictions on employment for foreign embassy staff in both countries.

Agriculture Ministry Intensifies Training For Livestock Officers

[Daily Observer, The Analyst, The News, The Inquirer]

- The Agriculture Ministry in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Research, has conducted another intensive workshop for regional Livestock Officers, Community Livestock Workers and Farmers, Health and Surveillance Officers as well as Border Posts and Law Enforcement Officers in handling Livestock and their cases.
- The training co-named Building Veterinary System in Liberia for the prevention and containment of trans-border animal diseases, especially Avian/Human Influenza, conducted at the Central Agricultural Research Institute in Suakoko, Bong County.
- April 8 and 9, 2010 brought together over seventy participants from Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Lofa, Nimba and Bong Counties.
- Veterinarians from neighboring African countries have been conducting series of training workshops for poultry, cattle and livestock farmers.

Gender Begins Post Colloquium Activities

[The Inquirer]

- The Gender Ministry has begun an initiative to train some group of Liberian women in weaving and country cloth design as part of its post colloquium activities.
- The fifty Liberian women who have already completed the first phase of the training exercise were drawn from five counties namely, Bomi, Montserrado, Bong, Margibi and Lofa Counties.
- They are currently being trained at the Mama Tormeh Tradition Home in Brewerville, Montserrado County, under the supervision of Mrs. Mamie Wonders Swen, a leading Liberian traditional attire designer.
- The training exercise under Mrs. Swen's supervision began on Friday and is expected to last for a week.
- At the end of the exercises, the women will be presented sewing machines and some materials to return to their localities, where they will be required to continue the work they had learnt and train other women in their respective areas.

Dan Morias, Others Released

[The Inquirer, Heritage]

- The Liberian government has released from detention Messrs Dan Morias and Fulton Yancy and few others who were held in connection to the recent murders of some persons in Maryland County for alleged ritualistic activities.
- The two men who were accused as prime suspects of the recent 'Gboyo activities' in the county were released last week after they were previously charged with murder by the state.
- They were charged separately with Mr. Yancy being the first who was slapped with the capital offence.
- The state charged the two men with murder following weeks of police investigation after they were held in detention beyond the constitutional period of 48 hours.
- The action of the government to charge Mr. Yancy, a former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, comes in the wake of reports that jars of blood were allegedly found in his house when he was picked up by the police in connection to some of the murders that occurred in the county.
- Ritualistic killing popularly known as 'Gboyo,' has been an old age problem in the county, making it one of the notorious places in the country where the practice is common.

Ethnic Tension Breeds in Maryland

[Public Agenda]

- Ethnic tension is said to be looming in Maryland County, an area that is already rocked by ritualistic killings since some senior citizens of the county were charged with murder for their role in the death of several persons in the county.
- But the former County Circuit Judge, Cllr. Fulton Yancy, who was charged for murder, has been released on bail while President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Special Envoy Mr. Dan Morias was set freed for what the court calls lack of sufficient evidence to try the accused persons.
- Until his release, Mr. Morias, a former Internal Affairs Minister was charged separately with four counts.
- Six others accused alongside Mr. Morias and Cllr. Yancy are still being detained in the Harper Central Prison.
- According to reports, three of the four districts in the county have accused Harper District of witch-haunting, because it is only that district that has the history of ritualistic killings in Maryland.
- The reports further, this is breeding tension amongst citizens of Harper District and citizens of the other three districts.

Prison Fellowship Donates To Inmates

[The Inquirer]

- A local advocacy group for prisoners, Prison Fellowship Liberia has described as deplorable, facilities at prison centres throughout Liberia.
- The organization's Executive Director, Francis Kollie said, inmates at various prison centres lack sanitation, health, food and other basis necessities.
- He said prisons are overcrowded as a result of delay in the country's justice system and as such inmates are not properly catered to, which according to him is a complete violation of the rights of inmates and therefore urged government to improve these conditions.
- Speaking on Friday during the presentation of assorted materials to the Justice Ministry for use by the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Mr. Kollie assured inmates of his organization's commitment to improving their conditions.

- Items donated by the organization included one hundred beds and mattresses, one hundred lockers, bed sheets, towels, bed covers and five computers.

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

“Political Manipulation Is Responsible For Delays In Passage of Threshold Bill”, Says Lawmaker

- Grand Bassa County Senator Nathaniel Innis has blamed delays in the passage of the threshold bill on what he called political manipulation.
- Senator Innis said individuals within the Legislature and the Executive are playing politics with the threshold bill.
- He said the passage of the bill by the Legislature followed by its rejection twice by the Executive was a glaring example of the level of manipulation.
- The Grand Bassa lawmaker did not mention the individuals but called on them to refrain from putting their interest ahead of national interest.

“Controversial Threshold Issue To Be Settled Soon” ... Montserrado Lawmaker

- Montserrado Representative Kettehkumuehn Murray says the Legislature is experiencing difficulty in passing the threshold bill into law.
- Representative Murray said the difficulty has led both Houses of the Legislature to pass separate versions of the bill.
- He made reference to the latest revised compromised threshold bill passed by the Senate at 44,500 per electoral constituency.
- Representative Murray however said the threshold issue will be settled soon, amid ongoing consultations.
- The threshold bill which sets the basis for political representation in the House of Representatives is tied to the timely conduct of the 2011 elections.

Sinoe Citizens To Reclaim Land From Rivercess Through Legal Process

- The citizens of Sinoe County say they are poised to claim their land from the people of Rivercess through the legal process.
- Senator Joseph Nagbe said series of consultations are still ongoing amongst citizens of the county to reach the final decision as to when the legal option will be taken.
- According to Senator Nagbe the people of Sinoe have sufficient evidences to lay claims to their land and will ensure to pursue it in the court of law.
- He said it was regrettable that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Minister of Internal Affairs took a decision in the land dispute that was not supported by fact, logic and reasoning.

Speak On James Berry’s Death In Framework Of Law, Attorney Kaba Warns

- A citizen of Rivercess County has called on his kinsmen to speak on the James Berry issue with care.
- Attorney Morris Kaba said it was not legally wise to accuse people while government was still investigating the matter noting that such act could damage the investigation and prejudice the case.
- Attorney Kaba said his comments are in reaction to statements being made by his kinsmen that government was not doing much to bring Berry’s killers to justice.
- He said investigators are making progress on the case since a Rivercess delegation met the Justice Minister on April first.

Local NGO Donate To Gbarpolu County

- Susuku, a local organization, has presented a consignment of drugs to The Chief Jallah Lone Medical Hospital in Gbarpolu County valued at US\$30,000.
- The organization’s head Dr. Togba Nah-Tipoteh told hospital staff and the people of Gbarpolu that the gesture was his own way of identifying with them.
- Receiving the drugs, the hospital’s Administrator Roland Vokpor, praised Dr. Tipoteh for the donation and promised that the drugs would be used to benefit the people.

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

Deputy House Speaker Raises Concern Over RIA, Lockheed Martin Agreement

- Deputy House Speaker Tokpah Mulbah has raised serious concern over an agreement entered into between the management of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) and an American company, Lockheed Martin.
- Lockheed Martin was given the green light to rehabilitate the damaged Airport.
- But Deputy Speaker Mulbah said the management of RIA has refused to update the Legislature about the benefits Liberia hope to accrue from the agreement.

- He said a formal complain to that effect will be submitted to the House of Representatives demanding further explanations from the RIA management.

International Clips on Liberia

Liberian Girls Removed From Fairview Home

<http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=12288874>

FAIRVIEW, OK -- The four **Liberian**-born girls have been removed from the home of a couple who were convicted of abusing their sister, a source tells News9.com. Melvin Johnson, attorney for the girls, says Judge Mike Warner signed the order removing the girls from the home. Attorney General Drew Edmondson's office sought to terminate the parental rights of Ardee and Penny Tyler after the Major County couple were convicted of the abuse. Judge Vinson Barefoot ruled to let the girl's four sisters remain in the Tyler's home.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast

Cote d'Ivoire Infrastructure Report Q2 2010

<http://www.pr-inside.com/cote-d-ivoire-infrastructure-report-r1825263.htm>

Côte d'Ivoire does rather better in the Project Finance Ratings than it does for the Business Environment Rating. The country scores 46.8 in total, which leads to a ranking of sixth out of nine countries. Angola, ranked immediately above **Côte d'Ivoire**, is within easy reach and a significant improvement in the country's regulatory environment would not only enable it to overhaul Angola, but also challenge Libya, South Africa and Morocco. **Côte d'Ivoire** scores poorly in our Business Environment ratings, registering a score of 30.5. The country is therefore placed last out of all the nine countries in our index. The country scores very poorly both for the Limits of Potential Returns category and for the Risks to the Realisation of Potential Returns. There is quite a significant gap in terms of points before the two countries that are ranked immediately higher than **Côte d'Ivoire** (Cameroon and Uganda respectively) so it would take a considerable improvement across a range of sub-categories for the country to move off the bottom of our league table.

Ivorian Transport Union Threatens To Widen Strike

ABIDJAN, (Reuters) - A trade union in **Ivory Coast** threatened to widen a public transport strike over rising fuel costs to the trucking sector on Tuesday, potentially disrupting supplies of cocoa from the world's top grower. For now, only public transportation is on strike, but if nothing comes out of the talks (with the government), we will ask lorry drivers to join in," Toure Adama, head of the CNGRCI transport union and a leading negotiator in the talks, told Reuters. Trucks with staple food and export goods, such as cocoa, coffee, cashew will be at a standstill," Adama said in a telephone interview after a strike by bus and taxi drivers hit commuters in the commercial centre Abidjan on Monday.

Guinea

Guinean Minimum Wage

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/guinean-minimum-wage/403725.html>

CONAKRY, **Guinea** — **Guinea's** government said Friday that it would propose a minimum wage for the country's mining sector in a bid to end a strike over pay that has halted United Company RusAl's Friguia alumina refinery since April 1. The plant has capacity to produce about 640,000 tons of alumina per year, which RusAl ships around the world to be refined further into aluminium. A RusAl executive said on condition of anonymity that, after nine days of halted production, the company was willing to submit to a government decree on minimum wages.

YaLibnan

Monday, 12 April 2010

Lebanon PM, Speaker meet with STL acting registrar



Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri met with Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) Acting Registrar Herman von Hebel at the Grand Serail on Monday.

Following the meeting, Von Hebel headed to Ain al-Tineh and met with Speaker Nabih Berri.

STL is charged with trying the killers of Lebanon's former PM Rafik Hariri who was assassinated on February 14, 2005 in downtown Beirut .

Prior to joining STL von Hebel was the registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he served for 3 years.

Naharenet

Friday, 9 April 2010

STL Acting Registrar to Visit Beirut Monday



The Acting Registrar of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Herman von Hebel, will be traveling to Beirut on April 12 for a week-long visit during which he will be meeting some of Lebanon's senior political and judicial officials.

This will be his first visit to Lebanon since assuming his position as Acting Registrar.

During the visit, Von Hebel will meet with President Michel Suleiman, Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Saad Hariri in addition to other representatives of the Lebanese government.

The Acting Registrar will also host an outreach event with experts and members of civil society and meet with staff members of the STL Beirut Office.

The visit aims at thanking the Lebanese government "for the valuable assistance that it has provided to the Tribunal and to further strengthen relations with Lebanese authorities in order to advance the work of the Registry, an independent and neutral organ of the Tribunal," according to a statement released by STL's press office.

It also aims at highlighting "the achievements and priorities of the Registry, mainly, ensuring the effective protection of victims and witnesses; establishing a victim's participation unit, and enhancing the outreach activities of the Tribunal."

Von Hebel was appointed as Acting Registrar by the U.N. Secretary General on March 1, 2010. He had been Deputy Registrar at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon since 2009 and previously served as Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.