

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



'Bicycle depot' at Talia Yawbeko

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, 7 April 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Concord Times
Wednesday, 7 April 2010

US\$26 M to save Special Court



L-R: Robert Swartbol, Binta Mansaray - Registrar of the SCSL and Brenda Hollis - Prosecutor

*By Chernor Ojuku Sesay
in The Hague*

Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) has told members of the diplomatic community in The Hague that the court needs another US\$26.4 million to cover its operations from January 2010 to June 2011. Mrs. Binta Mansaray said other additional funds are required to fund the enforcement of sentences in
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US\$26 M to save Special Court

From page 1

Rwanda, noting that the current available funding will be exhausted by mid-April this year.

Mrs. Mansaray was briefing diplomats on the current state of the court and what is required for a successful conclusion of its operations.

The Special Court commenced in June 2004 and has successfully concluded and convicted nine persons from all the warring factions including the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) who are presently serving their sentences in Rwanda since October last year.

The court's last trial is that of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, which is in the defence phase and is being heard in The Hague due to regional security concerns.

Mansaray said a first instance judgement on the merits is expected by November this year with an appeals judgement, if applicable, expected by May/June 2011.

Dilating on the legacy of the court, the Registrar said the court's jurisprudence includes the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriages as crimes against humanity and for attacks on peace-

keepers and recruitment and the use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law.

She added that the court has contributed to the development of national peace and stability through its judicial activities. "The court's transparent and independent judicial process serves as a model for rule of law. Furthermore, Sierra Leonean staff has developed professionally, both from formal on-the-job training and by working for an international standard," she maintained.

The Special Court Registrar furthered that the court currently employs an approximated staff of 240 of which two-thirds are Sierra Leoneans. This number will be downsized to 130 by June this number in accordance with the court's completion strategy and to 80 by January next year. A skeleton staff will be retained for a short period for liquidation purposes after the completion of the Taylor trial.

Meanwhile, in his address to members of the diplomatic community, Director of the United Nations and International Financial Institutions Department, Rob Swartbol has announced that the Netherlands government has increased its contri-

bution to court for 2010 with US\$1 million.

Mr. Swartbol said promoting the development of the international legal order is enshrined in the Dutch constitution as such, "it is a duty that forms one of the guiding principles of our foreign policy".

The Netherlands, Swartbol added, has been a staunch supporter of the fight against impunity and the establishment of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals as well as the permanent international criminal court.

He observed that the completion of the trial of Charles Taylor in a fair way sends out a clear signal to offenders of the most serious and grave international crimes worldwide that impunity is unacceptable and justice will be served.

Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Brenda Hollis told the diplomats that she cannot give any specific date as to when the Taylor trial will end but said she was optimistic at the progress of the trial.

Hollis said the Special Court for Sierra Leone is a success story because of the support of the international community and the courageous victims and survivors who willingly came forward to explain their horrific ordeals and experiences.

Cocorioko

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Sierra Leone Special Court needs another \$26.4 million

Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) on Thursday, April 1 told members of the diplomatic community in The Hague that the court needs another USD 26.4million (Twenty Six Million Four Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) to cover its operations from January 2010 to June 2011. And other additional funds are required to fund the enforcement of sentences in Rwanda. (Photo:Left-right: Mr. Robert Swartbol (Director of the UN and International Financial Institutions Department), Mrs Binta Mansaray (Registrar of the SCSL) and Ms Brenda Hollis (SCSL Prosecutor))

The Registrar informed the diplomats that the current available funding will be exhausted by mid-April this year.

Mrs Binta Mansaray was briefing diplomats on the current state of the court and what is required for a successful conclusion of its operations.

Mrs Mansaray said the Special Court commenced in June 2004 and has successfully concluded and convicted nine persons from all the warring factions including the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) who are presently serving their sentences in Rwanda since October last year.

The court's last trial, she disclosed is of former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, which she indicated is in the defence phase and is being heard in The Hague due to regional security concerns.

Mansaray said a first instance judgement on the merits is expected by November this year with an Appeals judgement, if applicable expected by May/June 2011.

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She added that the court has contributed to the development of national peace and stability through its judicial activities. "The court's transparent and independent judicial process serves as a model for rule of law. Furthermore, Sierra Leonean staff has developed professionally, both from formal on-the-job training and by working for an international standard".

She furthered that the court currently employs an approximated staff of 240 of which two-thirds are Sierra Leoneans. This number will be downsized to 130 by June this number in accordance with the court's completion strategy and to 80 by January next year. A skeleton staff will be retained for a short period for liquidation purposes after the completion of the Taylor trial.

In his address to members of the diplomatic community, the Director of the United Nations and International Financial Institutions Department, Rob Swartbol announced that the Netherlands government has increased its contribution for 2010 with USD 1million (One Million United States Dollars).

Mr. Swartbol said promoting the development of the international legal order is enshrined in the Dutch constitution as such, "it is a duty that forms one of the guiding principles of our foreign policy".

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By Chernor Ojuku Sesay in The Hague

Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Liberian Witness Says Paramilitary Groups Were Created Without Charles Taylor's Knowledge; Sierra Leonean Witness Says RUF Rebels Used Forced Labor

Alpha Sesay

Paramilitary units were established as part of the Liberian security apparatus without the knowledge of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, a defense witness for Mr. Taylor said today at his war crimes trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague.

John Vincent, a Liberian national who served as training commandant for Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and later as Colonel in the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), today told prosecutors that units could be created in the Liberian military without Mr. Taylor's knowledge — even though he was the president of the country at that time.

The issue emerged as Mr. Vincent appeared to contradict testimony of Mr. Taylor's about the existence of a Special Operation Division (SOD) existed as a unit in the Liberia National Police. (In his 2009 testimony, Mr. Taylor told the court that no unit called the SOD existed in the Liberian police force. In today's testimony, Mr. Vincent said that the SOD did exist as a unit in the police force). Mr. Vincent added, however, that the former president may not have known about the existence or establishment of the SOD. The witness also told the court that together with his colleagues in the Liberian army, they created the Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force in the AFL without Mr. Taylor's knowledge.

Mr. Taylor's defense counsel, Morris Anyah, sought clarification about how these special units could be created without the knowledge of the president.

"Now, in relation to Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force, in your opinion, when you and others gave yourselves that name, is that something that can be the concern of the president of Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

"No, it cannot be the concern, no," the witness responded.

"And why do you say it cannot be the concern?" Mr. Anyah asked further.

"Well, it would only be the concern of the president if we were doing something contrary to his administration, but as long as it was in the interest of the government that we bring ourselves together to fight the common enemy, I did not see any problem with it," Mr. Vincent said.

New Democrat (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Liberia: 'Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force,' SOD, Forced Labor - Taylor Had No Knowledge

It is a testimony of forced labor, coming from Mr. Charles Taylor's own witness, detailing how they were forced to carry looted rebel goods from Sierra Leone into Foya across the border, the effectively under RUF command.

It is also a testimony of distancing the accused from key security decisions, such as the formation of units in the Liberia National Police and other security forces. This witness, John Vincent, a commander in one of the units called 'Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force' in the AFL (Armed Forces of Liberia) tol the court that Mr. Taylor, as president, did not know about the existence of such units or the Special Operation Division, commonly known here as the Sons of the Devil and at one time commanded by now Rep. Sahr Gbollie (Margibi).

Mr. Vincent, described as a training commandant for the RUF rebels who became a colonel in the AFL, told judges that as long as they were in these units and doing as they were told , it did not bother Mr. Taylor.

Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis: "Now, in relation to Jungle Fire Quick Reaction Force, in your opinion, when you and others gave yourselves that name, is that something that can be the concern of the president of Liberia?" Mr. Anyah asked the witness.

Mr. Vincent: "No, it cannot be the concern, no," the witness responded.

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From the Court, courtesy Alpha Sesay: Paramilitary units were established as part of the Liberian security apparatus without the knowledge of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, a defense witness for Mr. Taylor said today at his war crimes trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone in The Hague.

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As Mr. Vincent concluded his testimony today, defense witness Charles Ngebeh - whose cross-examination was suspended on March 24, 2010, based on a request by prosecutors - took the witness stand again today.

Mr. Ngebeh, a Sierra Leonean national, told the court that before he joined the Sierra Leonean rebel force, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the rebels forced him and other civilians to walk for one week to a town called Pedembu in the Kailahun District of Sierra Leone. He and the other civilians were then forced to carry looted goods on foot from Pedembu to a town called Foya, in Liberia, he said. In doing so, Mr. Ngebeh asserted that the rebels used forced labor in Sierra Leone. (Among other charges, Mr. Taylor is responding to allegations that he is responsible for the rebels' use of forced labor in Sierra Leone. Prosecutors say that Mr. Taylor knew or had reason to know that the RUF used forced labor in Sierra Leone but continued to support them through the supply of arms and ammunition. Mr. Taylor has denied the allegations against him.)

Ms. Brenda Hollis, Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, conducted the witness's cross-examination and asked the witness about how the rebels forced them to walk from Pendembu to Foya in Liberia.

"They used me as manpower," the witness said.

"And when you say you were used as manpower, what do you mean, how were you used?" Ms. Hollis asked the witness.

"They told us to assist them carry their things that they had gotten from Golahun, that's what I mean by manpower," the witness said.

Asked to explain "what kind of things" he carried for the rebels, the witness said that "they had looted food, rice - I carried rice."

He added that the rice was taken by the rebels from the military and the civilians in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Taylor, who is on trial for allegedly supporting RUF rebels in Sierra Leone, has so far presented seven witnesses since his defense team rose on January 11, 2010.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 6 April 2010

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

International Clips on Liberia

Vattenfall chips in for Liberian biomass project

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a353bcd4-4114-11df-94c2-00144feabdc0.html>

Vattenfall, the Swedish power group, is in talks with a Canadian billionaire about investing in a Liberian biomass project to reduce dependence on coal in its European power stations. John McCall MacBain, who built one of the world's largest classified advertising empires, is seeking help from Vattenfall to produce wood chip from Liberian rubber tree waste that can be burnt to produce electricity. The state-owned Swedish utility, Europe's fifth-largest power generator, has agreed a deal worth about €50m (\$67.4m) with Mr McCall MacBain to buy 1m tonnes of wood chips from Liberia over the next five years, with the first delivery this summer. Göran Lundgren, vice president of biomass at Vattenfall, said talks on further co-operation were continuing. "We are seriously considering a much deeper commitment," he told the Financial Times. "It may be a longer supply contract or an equity partnership."

Oklahoma Attorney General seeks to move girls from home during case review

<http://newsok.com/article/3451688>

FAIRVIEW — The state attorney general's office is asking that four Liberian-born sisters be removed from the custody of their adoptive parents while a judge's decision allowing them to stay with the convicted child abusers is under review. A hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday in Major County District Court in Fairview. Harmon County Associate District Judge Mike Warren has been assigned by the state Supreme Court. Paperwork seeking a judicial review of the case was filed last week by Attorney General Drew Edmondson and Major County District Attorney Hollis Thorp. At question is the decision by Major County Associate District Judge Vinson Barefoot to allow Ardee Tyler, 51, and Penny Tyler, 46, to retain custody of the four girls they adopted in 2005.

International Clips on West Africa **Guinea**

Guinea threatens RUSAL workers as strike continues

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE63510820100406>

Workers at RUSAL's (0486.HK) Friguia alumina refinery in Guinea blocked production for the sixth day in a row on Tuesday after initial negotiation efforts failed and the government threatened to send in security forces. The plant, the largest industrial project in the fractious West African nation, has a capacity to produce around 640,000 tonnes of alumina per year, which the Russian firm then ships around the world to be refined further into aluminium. "The entrance to the plant is still blocked by heavy machines. Production is still shut," said a RUSAL official on Tuesday on condition of anonymity. Guinea sent two government ministers late on Monday to negotiate with members of the

union, who are seeking a 50 percent pay hike to compensate for rising fuel prices, and Prime Minister Jean Marie Dore said he would call in security forces if the blockade did not end soon.

Sierra Leone

The Netherlands increases support for Sierra Leone war crimes trials

http://www.minbuza.nl/en/News/Newsflashes/2010/04/The_Netherlands_increases_support_for_Sierra_Leone_war_crimes_trials

The Netherlands is increasing its contribution to the Sierra Leone tribunal this year by one million euros. The Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) is an independent criminal court established in that country's capital, Freetown. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s. 'It is vital that the tribunal can continue to fight impunity without any constraint,' foreign minister Maxime Verhagen said. 'Perpetrators of crimes against humanity must know that they will not go unpunished.' The SCSL has played an important role in the development of international law. In a series of judgments, the court's judges defined forced marriage as a crime against humanity. They have also established that attacks on military peacekeepers and conscripting and using child soldiers are violations of international humanitarian law. The Netherlands' extra contribution is very welcome, because the Special Court is funded entirely from voluntary contributions from governments – unlike the tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda which are funded by the United Nations. The Netherlands has provided over 21 million euros to the Special Court since its inception in 2002.

Local Media – Newspaper

President Sirleaf Joins Senegal Celebrate 50th Independence Anniversary

[The News, Daily Observer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has described the inauguration in Senegal of the African Renaissance Monument as a symbol that represents the lifting of the African flag.
- She stated that it is a testimony to Africa's freedom and the continent's ability to choose its own destiny.
- The President urged African Governments to bury the past of slavery and colonialism and to continue forging ahead into the future.
- The Liberian leader was speaking in Dakar, Senegal, following the inauguration of the African Renaissance Monument, which coincided with the 50th Independence Anniversary of the country.
- In another development, the Liberian community in Dakar, Senegal, appealed to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to facilitate their return to Liberia.
- According to the President of the community, James Kolley, most of them are languishing in Dakar without jobs and schooling, and that their return to Liberia will enable them to go to school.
- The President assured the Liberian Community in Dakar that the Liberian Government would work with its embassy in Dakar to begin formulating plans for their gradual return.

Maryland Caucus On Ritualistic Killings

[The Inquirer, The Analyst]

- The Legislative Caucus of Maryland County says its attention has been drawn to the growing wave of ritualistic killings in the county.
- The Caucus in a statement issued over the weekend described the killings of innocent citizens as a barbaric and brutal act of madness.
- They said the act continues to create fear and retard growth and development in the county.
- Meanwhile, the Caucus calling on government to investigate the mysterious and unexplained deaths in the county.

MPW Opens Regional Headquarters

[The Inquirer, The Analyst, The Informer, National Chronicle]

- The Ministry of Public Works has opened its first post-war regional headquarters in Bong County.
- The opening ceremony was performed in Wainsue about ten kilometres north of Gbarnga.
- A Public Works Ministry release said the regional office will be a model for four other strategic locations nationwide.
- The office will be charged with the management of roads, bridges, buildings, water and sanitation and other activities in Nimba, Lofa and Bong Counties.
- Speaking at a brief ceremony, Assistant Public Works Minister for Administration Klahn Jarbah said the regional office will also provide employment for residents.
- Assistant Minister Jarbah thanked the Bangladeshi Contingent of UNMIL for protecting the facility prior to its rehabilitation.
- Earlier, the Operation Officer of the Bangladeshi Contingent, Major Mo Bubayel-Ahmed thanked the Ministry for giving them access to the facility during their operation in Liberia.

AFL Raid Leaves Two Dead, Several Wounded

[Daily Observer]

- [SIC] Reports say three soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have been arrested for killing two persons and wounding several others in a ghetto raid.
- The incident reportedly occurred Thursday, April 1, in Kissi Quarter, Unification Town in Margibi County.
- According to the reports, Privates Jerry Scott, Joseph Johnson and Boakai Massaquoi are in the custody of Defense authorities undergoing investigation
- The reports identified the dead as Abu Kesselly and Adolphus Ruben.
- But defense authorities say they are not aware of the incident.

PUL Expresses Anger Over Arrest And Detention Of Journalist

[The News]

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) has expressed anger over the arrest and detention of journalist Nixon Todd of Love FM.
- Journalist Todd was arrested Saturday on the orders of acting Monrovia City Mayor Mary Broh.
- A PUL release says the journalist was covering Monrovia clean up day on Saturday when he fell prey to what the union describes as Mayor Broh's power play.
- The PUL says while it supports the cleanliness of the city, it is concerned about the rampaging police action of the acting City Mayor and calls on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to take action to restrain her immediately.
- The journalist was released after the intervention of the union with the Ministry of Information.

LTA Launches Website, Consumer Help Desk

[The Inquirer, Daily Observer]

- The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has launched its website and a Consumer Help Desk.
- LTA Chairperson Angelique Weeks said the website would afford the public the opportunity to get information regarding the telecommunications sector.
- Ms. Weeks said the LTA website would also provide an interface for those applying for licenses and permits.
- She said the website would also be a public source of information on regulations issued by the entity.
- The Consumer Help Desk according to the LTA boss is a platform with full email integration that provides a central point for service providers and consumers.

- Meanwhile, the Liberia Telecommunications Authority Monday announced plans to decentralize its activities to the leeward counties.
- The LTA said the decentralization plan would be carried out in collaboration with community radio stations in the country.

Jurors Complain Of Lack Of Proper Care

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa]

- Jurors hearing the Keith Jubah murder trial have complained of lack of proper care where they are being kept for the period of the case.
- The jurors told Criminal Court A, they are being fed a loaf of bread, one egg and water daily.
- Meanwhile, the Judge of Criminal Court A, Sekajipo Wolloh has summoned administrators of the court to inquire about the jurors' complaint.
- At the same time, the court has fined defense lawyers in the Keith Jubah murder trial, for failure to appear in court and submit listing of witnesses.
- Each of the lawyers is to pay US\$25.00 into government's coffers for stalling the trial today.
- Reports say the lawyers later submitted the listing of defense witnesses to the court.

Five Men Guilty Of Armed Robbery

[New Democrat]

- Five men were Monday slapped with a unanimous guilty verdict for armed robbery, and the judge is expected to hand down his sentence next week Monday.
- The men, who broke into the home of Ms. Rosetta Cole on the Old Road, received the guilty verdict after the case was heard in Criminal Court 'D' following the presentation of evidence against them.
- Messrs Prince Mayon, Prince Manfoe, Fallah Amos, Alex Tamba and Anthony Weteh are at the Monrovia Central Prison pending the final sentence.

US Embassy Announces Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Programme

[Daily Observer, The News]

- The United States Embassy in Monrovia has announced the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Programme for the academic year 2011 – 2012.
- The Embassy is encouraging qualified Liberian professionals to apply for the programme.
- The Humphrey Fellowship is a US Government-funded programme initiated in 1978 to the memory and accomplishments of the late Senator and Vice President, Hubert H. Humphrey.
- The programme is for dedicated mid-career professionals, and provides an opportunity to travel to the United States to participate in a one-year graduate-level non-degree st US College or University with related practical professional experience.

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

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Under Probe

- Reports say Posts and Telecommunications Minister Jeremiah Sulunteh is undergoing investigation for alleged financial misappropriation.
- Minister Sulunteh is accused of misappropriating US\$75,000 payment from the Inter Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC).
- Former Assistant Postal Affairs Minister Thierry Genesis who accused Minister Sulunteh of squandering the money described the investigation as a victory for justice and called on the President to suspend the postal affairs boss pending the outcome of the investigation.
- Meanwhile, Minister Sulunteh confirmed being investigated by Justice Ministry officials but refused to comment further until the investigation is completed.

MPW Opens Regional Headquarters

'Controversial' Information Ministry Nominee In Character Redemption

- One of the nominees whose confirmation has experienced a hitch in the Senate has broken silence.

- Assistant Information Minister-designate for Information Services Isaac Jackson said the contention against his confirmation was baseless and noted that claim by complainant Darius Dillon that he lied under oath was also unfortunate.
- Mr. Jackson said he remains a founding and bona-fide member of the opposition Liberty Party contrary to Mr. Dillon's claim that he is not.
- He said Dillon also based his case on falsehood because the question on his Liberty Party membership was raised by Senator Joseph Nagbe and not Senator Mobutu Nyepan.
- Mr. Jackson welcomed the decision of the Senate to probe Dillon's claim, declaring he was not worried as he would eventually be vindicated.

President Sirleaf's Appointee Rejected In Mount Coffee

- A group of young people in Mount Coffee Township has called on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to withdraw the appointment of the new Township Commissioner, Mr. Jonathan Garnett.
- Mr. Garnett was among eleven local officials appointed by President Sirleaf last Friday.
- The Chairman of the Mount Coffee Township Youth alleged Mr. Garnett lacks the ability and the necessary morals to head the township.
- Mr. Benedict Davis alleged during his service as interim commissioner of the township, Mr. Garnett mismanaged thousands of dollars intended for the construction of a clinic and several hand pumps in the area.
- The Mount Coffee Township Youth vowed to reject Mr. Garnett if he is imposed on them as commissioner of the township.
- But Mr. Garnett dismissed the claims and clarified that his administration never misapplied a dime as claimed by the agitating youth.

CDC Prepares For 2011 Elections, Unveils Manifesto In US

- The opposition Congress for Democratic Change has begun massive preparations for the 2011 general and Presidential elections.
- The Deputy Secretary General of the CDC Acarous Gray said the party has begun meeting with Liberians in the United States and selling its 2011 political manifesto
- Mr. Gray said during the interaction, the Liberians made series of commitments to the party and promised to return home and take part in the political process.
- According to Mr. Gray the party's manifesto shall include making rape a non-bailable offense and adopting tougher measures against armed robbery.
- The CDC also promised to seek the passage of a healthcare bill to address the health needs of Liberians and propose laws that will deal harshly with corruption.

PUL Expresses Anger Over Arrest And Detention Of Journalist

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

LTA Launches Website, Consumer Help Desk

AFL Raid Leaves Two Dead, Several Wounded

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

Jurors Complain Of Lack Of Proper Care

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

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

Government Releases Additional 5 In Maryland

- The Liberian government has released from further detention additional five persons in Harper, Maryland County in connection to the alleged ritualistic killings.
- The number brings to twelve out of eighteen persons the government arrested in connection to the recent ritualistic incident in Harper.
- Justice Minister Christiana Tah said twelve persons were released from further detention following an investigation.

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

UL To Institutes Drastic Action If...

- The Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Liberia (UL) says the administration will not hesitate to institute drastic action against students that carry out the demonstration last week.
- Dr. Sarwolo Nelson disclosed that investigation into last week's student demonstration on the main campus is ongoing and those found liable will bear the full weight of the law.
- Dr. Nelson said the UL administration will take its action in accordance with the student's handbook with no fear or favor.
- The Dean reminded students of the multiple avenues of continuing their studies in the state of financial difficulties rather than engaging in acts of hooliganism.

The Nation (Nairobi)

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Kenya: Army 'Likely to Reject Ocampo'

Nairobi — International Criminal Court prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is likely to face an uphill task when he starts investigating the activities of soldiers and policemen involved in disarmament of Sabaot militia in Mt Elgon two years ago.

The prosecutor convinced the pre-trial three-judge chamber that crimes the army and police are accused of during Operation Okoa Maisha be heard by the special court.

Though Kenya is under obligation to cooperate, the investigations touching on the army, a traditionally protected and sensitive security arm, may put the prosecutor on a collision course with the military top brass.

Retired generals interviewed on Tuesday said the prosecutor would "face considerable difficulties".

For long, issues of the military have been "closed" to the public.

"The provisions of the Official Secrets Act are limiting," said a reluctant Lt-Gen (Rtd) Humphrey Njoroge.

He declined to comment further, saying retired officers had a commitment not to comment on sensitive security matters in retirement.

But Defence assistant minister and retired army Maj-Gen Joseph Nkaissery said "there is no time the armed forces will be part of the ICC investigations".

In Mt Elgon, he said, the military went into operation to protect civilians from criminals.

"There is no time the forces will go against the rights of civilians because their mandate is to protect," he said on Tuesday. "I doubt if there is any evidence that they committed any crimes against humanity. The military are not a suspect."

"The laws governing the military don't stop it from cooperating with the prosecutor, but there are limits," said another retired senior military officer who requested anonymity.

But Capt (rtd) Simiyu Werunga says international conventions compel Kenya to cooperate with the ICC official.

"They (military) will try not to open up but they have no choice. International laws require them to support the prosecutor," he told the Nation on Tuesday.

He said members of the military were in order to assist quell rebellion, "but they must operate within certain international and national laws. Infringement on human rights is not acceptable," he added.

The ICC judges ruled hundreds were tortured and killed by the security forces in 2008. The army denies this.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

“Fake child soldiers” at Lubanga trial

By Thijs Bouwknecht (IJT)

Catherine Mabilie and Marc Desalliers represent former Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, who stands trial at The Hague’s International Criminal Court (ICC) for conscripting and using child soldiers. The lawyers have complained about ongoing problems during the trial.

How do you perceive this trial so far?

CM: Some intermediaries have prepared witnesses and told them to present the court with false allegations. It is very difficult for the court to face these kinds of problems. It seems that investigations have not been done properly, which is a big issue. I think that how our case has been handled is exactly what the international court must not do. Right now we are in the middle of our defence, but I think the way things have been carried out so far is very problematic for this court.

What about the credibility of the prosecution’s witnesses?

MD: What we said to the court is that some individuals have given false testimonies on purpose, and we are trying to provide evidence (for this). Some people were being prepared to tell lies. That is a major issue.

In court you have mentioned problems with the ICC intermediaries in Congo. Can you explain this?

CM: Some witnesses said that they were told by intermediaries of the prosecutor to say things. After an investigation, it turns out that the child soldiers brought to court were fake child soldiers. They have been prepared by intermediaries who told them how to tell things to the court. We are now trying to find official documents, like school records, to counter this evidence.

Who are these intermediaries?

MD: We know who some of them are, but we don’t know all of them. The intermediaries are not investigators. They bring people to the investigators of the OTP [Office of the Prosecutor] and facilitate contacts between potential witnesses and the OTP.

How is the ICC compared to the other tribunals?

CM: I would say it is more difficult than working at the ICTR [International Criminal for Rwanda] for a number of reasons. First of all, this was the first case for the ICC, so the statute had never been used before and everything was discussed.

Secondly, there were a lot of organisational problems, for example with translations. When I was at the ICTR, the tribunal was already working for six or seven years, so things were better organised. With regards to the victims, we must beware that they do not become ‘co-prosecutors’.

MD: It will be interesting to see how ICC would handle, say, its 20th case. Right now, it is a learning process for everyone. Victims are a regular part in civil court cases, but at the ICC cases are not build up in the same way as in a civil court.

Right now we have a trial that’s more like a common law trial, where the prosecution presents its case, and then the defence presents its case, and the judges are there to make sure that it’s fair. So if you add the victims to this balance, and give them a role that is equivalent to the prosecution, the balance is gone. It is very difficult to know exactly what their place is in the trial. It will take time to figure this out.

Will there be a 20th case?

MD: I definitely hope so. If not, it would be because the institution could not find a solution to function in the long term. This would be very sad. The world will always need a trial (court) to judge the most serious crimes.

When do you expect to finish the defence?

CM: We would be very pleased if somebody could answer that. The trial cannot go on because the false evidence has been so massive that it is difficult for the judges to go on.

In the first phase of the trial we had twenty witnesses. We have already heard fifteen of them, so we have five more. Then we're going to ask to the judges for a pause of the process, and will wait for their decision on this.

If the judges want to go on, we will proceed with a positive case, wherein we have ten new witnesses to hear. But I cannot schedule that.

Xinhua

Wednesday, 7 April 2010

Hariri's tribunal denies prosecutor's intention to resign

Spokesperson for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) denied on Tuesday the local reports claiming that prosecutor of the tribunal Daniel Bellemare intends to resign.

Radhia Achouri told local LBC TV channel that "the rumors are not true." She also told local Naharnet news website that "what has been reported is absolutely false."

Earlier, local Frenche daily L'Orient Le Jour quoted official sources as saying that Bellemare has informed UN chief Ban Ki-moon about his intention to resign over attempts by some parties to " politicize" the court.

An Nahar newspaper also said that "Bellemare told Ban Ki-moon that he intended to resign his position if the investigations were politicized or if bargaining deals were held at the expense of truth and justice".

But sources informed about the administrative work of Bellemare 's office in Beirut told Naharnet that the prosecutor is intensifying his activities lately and is satisfied with his work.

They said that reports about Bellemare's intention to resign reflect the wishes of those leaking such information and not the status quo.

The UN special tribunal was established on March 1, 2009 to try suspects that planned, facilitated and executed the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who was killed along with 22 others in a suicide bombing in Beirut on Feb. 14, 2005.

The Lebanese armed Shiite group Hezbollah confirmed last week that International investigators working for STL have summoned 12 its members and close supporters for questioning in Hariri's assassination.

The group's chief Hassan Nasrallah warned of attempts to " politicize" the tribunal.

The Office of the STL's Prosecutor announced in March the appointment of Michael Taylor, a British national, as its chief of investigation. Taylor replaced Naguib Kaldas who announced last January to leave his post.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Tuesday, 6 April 2010

Thousands still missing from Bosnian war



*The Hague,
Netherlands*

Some 10,000 people are still considered missing almost 15 years after the end of the war in Bosnia, the

International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said this week.

ICRC would continue “to work towards shedding a light over the fate of all missing persons” from the 1992-95 conflict, said Henry Fournier, ICRC head for Bosnia.

“There are still some 10,000 missing whose fate remains unknown and their names are still on the ICRC lists” of missing persons, the ICRC statement said.

The Dayton Peace Accord which ended the 1992-1995 civil war divided the country into two semi-autonomous halves - the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Serbs’ Republika Srpska (RS) - linked by weak central institutions.

Out of some 40,000 considered missing in the former Yugoslavian conflicts in the 1990s, 30,000 originated from Bosnia, according to data by the International Commission for the Missing Persons (ICMP).

In March, the ICMP said it has identified the remains of some 6,414 people considered missing in the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica, where more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were killed by Bosnian Serb forces.

FrontPage

Wednesday, 7 April 2010

Obama's "Stunning Naiveté"

By Deborah Weiss

Last week at the Heritage Foundation, Former Ambassador John Bolton delivered a speech titled, "Protecting National Sovereignty in the Age of Obama." The focus of the speech laid emphasis on the importance of maintaining American sovereignty in order to ensure the preservation of freedom. In this context, Bolton reviewed Obama's policies on national security, charging the President with a worldview that demonstrates "stunning naiveté."

On one side of the debate are the Americanists who believe, as the Founding Fathers intended, that the Constitution of the United States is "the supreme law of the land." On the other side of the debate are the globalists who advocate that "customary and international law," international organizations, conventions and resolutions should take precedence over national sovereignty. In this worldview, nations which constitute the beacon of liberty and human rights would hold no sway over those which snuff out freedom and human dignity.

Bolton pointed out the near-theological weight that Obama places on treaties, international organizations, and multi-lateral collaborations. He is indeed a "post-American President." As Evan Thomas from Newsweek explained, Obama is "standing above the country, above – above the world, he's sort of God....He's going to bring all different sides together." Central to Obama's worldview is his obvious rejection of American exceptionalism, made clear in numerous prior statements. This view maintains that the US is merely one of 192 UN members, with no special role over that of other countries.

Obama's positions stem from the false assumption that all countries, cultures and religions share common values, interests and goals. This gross misconception has led the President down the dangerous path of advocating treaties and policies which will drastically weaken America's national security and reduce her ability to defend herself. The President's ultimate vision is that of a nuclear-free world. His "stunning naiveté," as Bolton phrased it, has led the President to believe that if America takes the first steps toward disarming herself, she will set a virtuous example for the rest of the world, and her enemies will then follow suit. This misguided belief has inspired Obama to pursue the following national security goals:

Become signatory to the International Criminal Court ceding prosecutorial jurisdiction to the international community. Countries that may themselves be human rights violators would be able to prosecute Americans for alleged violations of human rights to which their countries have no connection. For example, Obama has refused to promise that he would disallow former Bush officials to be criminally tried in foreign courts for implementing enhanced interrogation techniques in the War on Terror;

Sign the new bilateral Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), thus "re-setting" American-Russian relations. This treaty will obligate Russia and the US to reduce their number of nuclear warheads by 30%. Obama hopes that Tehran will follow America's lead in nuclear stockpile reductions.

Become signatory and ratify a number of multi-lateral treaties including the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty; and the Landmines Convention.

Additionally, though not mentioned in Bolton's speech, Obama has already cut the American national security defense budget substantially, and impeded our ability to update expired nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt that contrary to the President's assertions, enemies of freedom who seek the demise of America will view America's reduced ability to defend herself as weakness, not virtue. They will likely seize the opportunity to gain military advantage. This puts America's safety and national security at greater, not lesser risk. Additionally, it places America in a position where it is more difficult to achieve success in diplomatic negotiations, a tactic which Obama seems to place as high priority. The President advocates meeting with terror states, rogue

states and hostile states without pre-condition in diplomatic efforts. However, without a healthy national security system in place, the leverage he needs to attain his goals is substantially reduced.

President Reagan had it right: the maintenance of a healthy military, an effective missile defense system, and cutting edge weaponry is not tantamount to an invitation to war. Rather, these can be used as leverage in diplomatic negotiations in addition to serving as protection against enemy forces, should the need arise. In the age of Obama, Americans must stand their ground and insist that the policies set forth by elected officials will produce “peace through strength.” After all, it is “we the people” to whom they must answer.