

**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:

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Sierra Leone's Special Court needs another \$26.4 million

By Cherner Ojuku Sesay, Brussels, Belgium



The 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.

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.

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 Peacekeepers 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 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".

The Netherlands, Mr. 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.

The 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.

Mrs 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.

Photo, from left to 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)


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
8 April 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

World Bank Supports Judiciary And Rule Of Law

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

- The World Bank, as part of its support to the Liberian Judicial Branch, was among donors that provided funds and logistical support to the Judiciary for the holding of the National Judicial Conference.
- The conference convened by the Supreme Court of Liberia ran from March 8-12, 2010 under the theme “The Judiciary: Cornerstone of Our Democracy.”
- It was the first post-war national conference held since 1976 and brought together nearly 500 participants including judges and magistrates from rural Liberia.
- The conference adopted an 18-count resolution among which called for then transparent application of the rule of law as a means of developing a strong and independent judiciary.
- On a continuing basis, the World Bank through the “Capacity Building for Judicial Services Project” seeks to enhance governance structures in Liberia, and the work with the Judiciary is part of its commitment.

“Urban Dwellers Expose To Extreme Hazards”, Says WHO Regional Director For Africa

[The Analyst, The News, The Informer, In Profile Daily]

- The World Health Organization (WHO), Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Luis Samba said majority of urban dwellers live in conditions that expose them to extreme hazards, affecting their quality of life and life expectancy.
- The Regional Director in his World Health Day celebration message read by WHO Country Representative to Liberia, Dr. Nester Ndayimirije, said in the African region, urbanization has gained a momentum outpacing the ability of government to provide the infrastructure needed to make life in urban area safe and healthy.
- Dr. Samba’s statement was read Wednesday at a programme held in observance of World Health Day held at the John F. Kennedy Medical Centre in Monrovia.
- This year celebration was held under the theme: “Urbanization and Health.”

IOM Strengthens Security Capacity in Lofa

[The Inquirer, The News]

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is conducting series of workshops under the theme, “Counter Trafficking,” aimed at strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officers, religious and community leaders as well as the civil society.
- IOM’s Counter Trafficking Freddie D. Goe is challenging participants of the weeklong capacity-building workshop to go out and serve as ambassadors to combat the reported cases of human trafficking in the country.
- At the workshop currently taking place in Lofa County, Mr. Goe said, the one-year programme is intended to support government’s efforts through the Ministry of Labor, which chair the anti-human trafficking task force.
- The Voinjama workshop is one of a series of workshops that IOM intends to conduct as part of the organization’s action campaign against human trafficking.
- The fight against human trafficking, Goe said, was one issue of migration management that is of serious concern to the IOM worldwide.
- “Human trafficking is a problem in Liberia proven by several reports published by many national and international organizations, including the anti-human trafficking task force secretariat at the Ministry of Labor and the United Nations Children’s Fund - Liberia.”

- A 2009 report on human trafficking has identified 54 cases of human trafficking in Liberia with over 150 persons falling victims, he said.

Special Court Requests Another US\$26.4M For Taylor's Trial

[The News]

- The Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), Mrs. Binta Mansaray has informed members of the diplomatic community in The Hague, Netherlands, that the court needs another US\$26.4 million to cover its operations from January 2010 to June 2011.
- Ms. Mansaray said additional funds are required to fund the enforcement of sentences in Rwanda.
- The Registrar also informed the diplomats that the current available funding will be exhausted by mid-April this year.
- She briefed the diplomats on the current state of the court and what is required for a successful conclusion of its operations.

Local News on Liberian issues

Local Media – Newspaper

AFL Former Chief Of Staff Is Dead

[The Inquirer, National Chronicle, Heritage]

- [SIC] The former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), General John Hezekiah Bowen has died.
- General Bowen met his demise on Tuesday in Monrovia after a brief illness.
- Other sources said the retired General had gone to do a check-up with his doctor when news of his death reached the family.
- General Bowen served with distinction as Superintendent of Grand Cape Mount County during the regime of the late President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

MARCO Denies Dismissal Threat Against Witness Workers

[The Inquirer, New Democrat]

- MARCO has denied claims that it threatened to dismiss any of its employees who will testify for defendants in the Keith Jubah murder trial.
- MARCO is the Rubber Farm Mr. Jubah managed prior to his death in November 2009.
- The Farm's Administrative Manager told Criminal Court 'A' Wednesday it has no such plan and vowed never to dismiss any employee for testifying for the defense.
- A defense allegation of such threat against its witnesses forced the court to summon MARCO for clarification.
- The allegation came after Judge Sakijipo Wollor penalized defense lawyers for failure to provide a listing of their witnesses.
- Judge Wollor has meanwhile urged the defense to begin producing witnesses Thursday.

Defense Ministry To Cooperate With LNP Investigation In Killer-soldiers Case

[Daily Observer, The Inquirer, National Chronicle]

- The Defense Ministry says it will cooperate with the Liberia National Police (LNP) in the investigation allegedly involving three personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).
- A release issued in Monrovia quotes the Defense Ministry as saying it will not condone any unlawful act on the part of any of its personnel.
- The Defense Ministry assured the AFL remains an institution that abides by the rule of law and the constitution.
- The statement followed reports of a raid in a ghetto involving three soldiers of the AFL that resulted to the death of two civilians.
- Several other people were reportedly wounded in the process which happened in the Smell-No-Taste Community in Margibi County.
- Defense Ministry authorities had earlier denied any knowledge of the incident.

Central Bank Launches Development Credit Agreement

[Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, New Vision]

- The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has launched a Development Credit Authority Agreement between USAID and two commercial banks, ECO Bank and International Bank Liberia Limited.
- CBL Governor Mills Jones said the partnership is aimed at increasing credit to small medium enterprises in the agriculture and energy sectors.
- According to him, emphasis is being placed on those in the agriculture sector because it is critical to the sustenance of growth and development.
- He said the program will grant flexible collateral requirements and loans to businesses in the two sectors.
- Under the programme, USAID will share the lending risk with the banks involved for business that qualify under the programme.
- USAID Mission Director Pamela White said the programme will help ease access to credit for small and medium sized enterprises in the agriculture sector.
- She spoke Wednesday during the symbolic signing and launch of the Development Credit Authority Agreement with ECO Bank and International Banks in Monrovia.

Action Aid Signs MOU With Two NGOs

[Daily Observer]

- Action Aid Liberia has signed a US\$15,000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two local NGOs in the country.
- The two local NGOs include the Children Assistance Programme (CAP) and DOMAFEIGN.
- According to the MOU, CAP and DOMAFEIGN are to implement what is referred to as the Child Sponsorship Programme.
- Action Aid Liberia Sponsorship Manager Malay Taylor said the programme is intended to help children become ambassadors of their communities.
- She named international partners from the United Kingdom, Spain, Greece, Italy and other countries that are supporting the Child Sponsorship Programme.

Tomorrow Is National Fast And Prayer Day

[Daily Observer, Heritage, The Inquirer, The Informer]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has by Proclamation declared tomorrow as “National Fast and Prayer Day”, to be observed throughout the territorial confines of the Republic as a “national holiday”.
- President Sirleaf has therefore called upon all prelates, priests, elders, deacons, evangelists, imams and other members of the Sacerdotal Orders, and all residents, regardless of religious creed, to gather with one accord in their respective places of worship within the Republic of Liberia, to Fast, Pray, and Meditate from 8 am to 6 pm.
- According to a Foreign Ministry release, all public offices, business houses, market places are to remain closed on this day, while all citizens and foreign residents, will cease from their usual daily occupations and avocations in future recognition of God’s Love and Guidance.

Committee To Study Report Of Lofa Crisis Set Up

[Front Page Africa]

- Upon the request of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Vice President Joseph Boakai has constituted a Committee of Eminent Persons to study the findings and recommendations of stakeholders’ reports on the February disturbances in Lofa County with a view to guiding the government on the way forward.
- The Special Presidential Committee is expected to review and synchronize the reports, including background documentation submitted to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf by various stakeholders, including the Inter-Ministerial Committee.
- The committee headed by Vice President Boakai, comprises Rev. Dr. Herman Brown, Attorney S. Nkrumah Pikay, Rev. Emmanuel Bowier, Ms. Henrietta Mardia Peters and Ms. Fatu Gittens White.
- Others are Imam Abdullai Nyei, James Chelley, Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, Justice Minister Christiana Tah and acting Internal Affairs Minister Peter Kermei.
- The committee is expected to provide its recommendations and guide the government on the way forward in two weeks.

NEC Warns ... Says “Time Is Running Out” For The 2011 Elections

[The Inquirer, The Monitor, The New Republic]

- The Co-chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Cllr. Elizabeth Nelson says time is running out for the commencement of the process leading to the holding of the General and Presidential Elections in 2011.
- Cllr. Nelson said with 18 months to the entire process, NEC is yet to get delimitation statistics from the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services, while the population Threshold Bill continues to be stalled at the National Legislature.
- Addressing various editors at a collaborative meeting with media institutions on the electoral process towards 2011, Cllr. Nelson said the commission needs all the required instruments to kick start the process leading to the 2011 elections.

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

MARCO Denies Dismissal Threat Against Witness Workers

Defense Ministry To Cooperate With LNP Investigation In Killer-soldiers Case

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

Murder Schoolboy's Guardians Ordered Arrested, Senator Kupee Exonerated

- Justice Minister Christiana Tah has instructed the prosecution team in the Vawu Kesselly murder case to dismiss the writ of arrest against Lofa County Senator Sumo Kupee.
- Minister Tah in a communication to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the state does not have sufficient evidence to prosecute Senator Kupee.
- She however said if the state gathers evidence linking the Lofa County lawmaker to the murder, a writ of arrest will be requested.
- Meanwhile, the Attorney General has instructed the prosecution team to maintain the writ of arrest against the guardians of the late Vawu Kesselly, Forkpayee Papay and Tetemah Papay.
- Vawu Kesselly, a schoolboy was discovered dead in Kpazzagizia town, in Lofa County on February 11, 2009.

Pre-trial Hearings In Murder Case Begin In Harper

- The pre-trial hearings for murder suspects Dan Morias and six others Wednesday began in Harper, Maryland County.
- The Presidential envoy was charged with murder on Tuesday.
- Solicitor General Wilkins Wight said six of the people were jointly charged for murder, human trafficking and other offences.
- They were among 18 people arrested nearly two weeks ago on allegations of ritualistic killings in the south-eastern county.

Sexually Explosive Video Claims Attention In Monrovia

- A media advocacy group, Journalists Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence has called on state security to arrest a forty-two year old man trying to flee justice.
- The advocacy group alleged Varney Adonis-Bartener videotaped his Liberian girlfriend and placed the recording on the internet.
- The President of the group Lawrence Fahnbulleh said the video recording is damaging.
- Mr. Fahnbulleh said because of the damage done to her future, the twenty-four year old girl has attempted committing suicide.
- The x-rated video recording, Mr. Fahnbulleh said has also been circulated in cell phones in Monrovia and has sent shockwaves in the girl's family.

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

JPC Resumes 'Report Card' For Lawmakers

- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) has re-launched its monthly Legislative Report Card.
- JPC National Director Cllr. Augustine Toe said the card will inform Liberians about the performance of individual legislators based on evaluation.
- Cllr. Toe said the initiative is consistent with the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.
- The JPC boss said the report card will also let Liberians know that the progress or failure of a government does not necessarily rest on the Executive branch.
- The Legislative Report Card which is expected to be out April 13 this year, was first introduced in 2007, but was discontinued.

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

River Gee Development Superintendent Nomination On Hold

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has placed a hold on the induction of newly confirmed River Gee Development Superintendent Alexander Yeaher.
- In a letter to Acting Internal Affairs Minister Peter Kaimei, the President said Mr. Yeaher had been involved in certain malpractices.
- According to the letter, Mr. Yeaher was allegedly involved in the acts through a construction company which he owns and operates.
- President Sirleaf said she has asked the Auditor General to furnish her with a copy of an audit report being finalized on Mr. Yeaher's construction company.
- The President said the induction will remain on hold until she receives full information on the activities of the new River Gee Development Superintendent.

NEC Warns Followers Of Labor Party

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has threatened drastic actions against a group of individuals claiming to be members of a bogus political party.
- NEC Public Information Director Bobby Livingstone said the Labor Party of Liberia no longer exist as a political party in the country.
- Mr. Livingstone said the Labor Party and nine other political parties were deregistered and their certificates of accreditation revoked by the Commission.
- The NEC Official said affiliating with any of the deregistered political parties is unlawful and individuals caught doing so would be dealt with accordingly.
- He said the Civil law Court at the Temple of Justice had since revoked the accreditation credentials of the ten parties based on a petition filed by the NEC.

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International Clips on Liberia

Adopted Liberian girls: Judge reopens custody case

<http://newsok.com/adopted-liberian-girls-judge-reopens-custody-case/article/3452249>

FAIRVIEW — Advocates for four Liberian-born sisters left the Major County Courthouse last week downhearted after a judge decided the girls would remain in the custody of two convicted child abusers. That same group Wednesday celebrated a different judge's decision to reopen the controversial child welfare case. "Praise God," said the Rev. Tabe Brownell of Oklahoma City, as he held his hands in the air. "This has always been about fighting for what's best for these children. Now I think people are starting to take notice of that." Women cried, men shook hands and hugs were exchanged after an hour-long, closed hearing where it was decided the case was not over. Major County Associate District Judge Vinson Barefoot closed the child welfare case March 29, leaving the girls in the custody of their parents, Ardee Tyler, 51, and Penny Tyler, 45. The couple were convicted in February of abusing a fifth adopted child, and given a 10-year suspended prison sentence. Ardee Tyler's natural son, Jeremy Tyler, has since testified he was brutally abused by his father and stepmother as a child.

Cardiff midwife takes life-saving supplies to Africa

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/8582582.stm

A midwife from Cardiff is preparing for her 15th visit to Africa to help improve maternal mortality rates. Angela Gorman, 61, will visit Liberia this month with charity Hope For Grace Kodindo, to hand over medicine and share knowledge with hospital staff. The charity has saved the lives of an estimated 12,000 mothers and their babies since 2005. Mrs Gorman's work is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, which has NHS links with sub-Saharan Africa. Hope for Grace Kodindo (HFGK) aims to make childbirth safer in countries such as Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. Chairwoman Mrs Gorman became involved after seeing a Panorama programme called Dead Mums Don't Cry in 2005, which featured an obstetrician called Dr Grace Kodindo.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast Sees Cotton Production Rising 58% on Wider Planting **<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=amfk3bNLuXfk>**

April 8 (Bloomberg) -- The Ivory Coast expects cotton production to rise 58 percent during the 2010-11 season as more farmers grow the crop and as new seed varieties boost yields. Output for the season, which starts in May and peaks around November, is forecast at 300,000 metric tons, up from 190,000 tons this year, said Lacina Tuo, vice-president of the national association of cotton growers and ginners, or Intercoton, in an interview today in Abidjan. "This year we had around 90,000 growers, and for the new season we expect to have about 120,000 producers, working on 260,000 hectares," he said. "Our aim is to hit 500,000 tons of annual production within the next three years." He didn't say how much land was planted with cotton this season. Intercoton is trying to boost output by distributing 65 tons of a new seed variety developed over two years by the government's agricultural research center, association President Nicolas N'Guetta said last month.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's State Radio Broadcaster Merge With The United Nations Station **<http://newsblaze.com/story/20100407172401sop.nb/topstory.html>**

Sierra Leone's State radio broadcaster has merged with the United Nations station in the West African country to form a new entity that aims to become an independent and professional provider of news and entertainment across the nation. The new broadcaster, known as the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), came into being on 1 April after legislation allowing the merger of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service with UN Radio in Sierra Leone was passed by the country's Parliament, according to Sputnik Kilambi, the UN Radio station manager in Freetown. UN Radio in Sierra Leone has officially handed over its transmitters to SBC and UN-trained Sierra Leonean staff will be joining the new broadcaster, Ms. Kilambi said in an interview yesterday with UN Radio in New York. "The UN continues to be involved not least because the seed money for the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation is coming from the [UN-managed] Peace building Fund," said Ms. Kilambi. "International support is going to be required for some time yet so I see the UN continuing to play a driving role at least in the first year of this broadcaster's existence," she added. Ms. Kilambi described the creation of the new broadcaster as "a victory for peace and democracy in Sierra Leone." SBC will be run by an independent board of trustees tasked with ensuring that the broadcaster remains impartial and accountable to the people of Sierra Leone.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 8 April 2010

Obama: Rwanda genocide highlights need for vigilance

By International Justice Desk (RNW)

US President Barack Obama on Wednesday marked the 16th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, saying the occasion shows "we must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts" to prevent similar atrocities.

"We devote our thoughts to those who were lost and honor those who survived," Obama said in a statement released by the White House.

"More than 800,000 men, women, and children were killed and countless others continue to live with the pain and trauma of their memories and their loss. It is not enough to say 'never again.' We must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts to prevent mass atrocities and genocide."

Obama said the United States "is committed to its partnership with Rwanda and will continue to support efforts to promote sustainable development, respect for human rights, and sustainable peace in Rwanda and the region."

In 1994, an estimated 800,000 people, most of them ethnic Tutsis, were killed in the Rwanda genocide planned and carried out by ethnic Hutu extremists.