

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



The judicial plenary ends today at The Hague.

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:

Friday, 28 May 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

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RUF abductee confesses of killing in-law

Former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) abductee Momodu K has asked family members of the late Madam Danka Kamsra to forgive him.

During Fambul Tok's bonfire in Mamuduya village, Kamba section, Folosaba Dembelia chiefdom, Koinadugu district, Momodu told the gathering that he was

abducted by rebels and forced to carry looted items to the chiefdom headquarter town of Musaia.

He confessed that on arrival in Musaia, he was given an AK 47 gun and forced to kill her mother-in-law. "I was given the rifle and ordered to shoot her in the head but when I refused

I was threatened with death," Momodu confessed.

He continued: "I placed my finger on the trigger and shot her in the head, she died on the spot." Momodu said after the incident, he escaped and returned to where his wife was seeking refuge. "I did not tell family members the true story

but lied that rebels killed her," Momodu said adding, "I had kept it secret for the past years since nobody saw me. I did not even disclose it to her daughter (my wife) that I was responsible for the death of her mother."

Momodu said he felt guilty in his quiet moment when ever he remembered that day. He

asked family members to forgive him as he was forced to do the act.

One of the brothers of the late woman was shocked and did not want to shake hands with Momodu. He told the gathering that he had heard rumours that Momodu was responsible for the death of their

mother but did not believe it until the bonfire where the perpetrator confessed.

Momodu's wife who cried bitterly however appealed to the family to forgive her husband.

Fambul Tok's reconciliation committee intervened and the family, without any condition, agreed to forgive Momodu.

French arrest Rwandan doctor accused over genocide

French authorities have arrested a Rwandan doctor accused of involvement in the 1994 genocide.

Eugene Rwamucyo has been wanted by Interpol since 2006, and was dismissed from his job in a hospital in northern France last month.

Rwandan authorities, who allege Dr Rwamucyo committed war crimes during the genocide, welcomed the arrest.

Dr Rwamucyo has denied the accusations, saying he is the victim of a campaign by the Rwandan government.

He was arrested in Sannois, north of Paris, after attending the fu-

neral of a former Rwandan official convicted for war crimes during the genocide, French officials said.

His detention is the latest in a series of moves by French authorities against genocide suspects, and comes amid improving diplomatic relations between Rwanda and France.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited Kigali in March and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, is due to make a return visit to France next week.

Rwanda's Prosecutor General Martin Ngoga told Rwandan radio on

Thursday that he thought France's attitude had changed.

"We are pleased," he said. "We've noticed in the past few days that France is committed to prosecuting alleged 'genocidaires' [people who committed genocide] who have taken refuge there."

Some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in the 100-day genocide in 1994.

Those most responsible for the killings are being tried by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) based in Arusha, Tanzania.


United Nations **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary
27 May 2010

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

UN News in Liberia

2011 Elections Opportunity to Promote Reconciliation and Transformation, Says UN Envoy

[The Informer]

- UN Envoy Ellen Margrethe Løj has urged Liberians to show the international community that they have chosen the road towards prosperity, peace and development with the 2011 elections.
- Ms. Løj was speaking at a ceremony today, where she awarded Jordanian Peacekeepers for their dedication, sacrifice and contributions to Liberia's peace and stability.
- She also took the opportunity to congratulate Jordanians on the country's 64th Independence Day.
- Quoting an Arabic proverb - "Dawn does not come twice to awaken a man or a woman," Ms. Løj drew on the exerted efforts by Jordan's King Abdullah II towards sustainable economic growth and 'social development aimed at improving the standard of living of all Jordanians," and said, "It is my hope that Liberians would take note of Jordan's focused effort towards reaching prosperity, peace and development.
- "Liberia is at a cross-road," she said, adding that the 2011 elections provide a "unique and special opportunity for Liberia and Liberians to show the international community that Liberia has indeed chosen the road towards prosperity, peace and development."

Local News on Liberian issues

President Sirleaf Meets US Congressional Leaders Ahead of Obama's Talks Today

[The Analyst]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has met with a number of US Congressional Leaders ahead of a meeting with US President Barack Obama.
- In the meeting with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others, President Sirleaf thanked the lawmakers for the support to Liberia's development.
- The President told the US lawmakers, significant progress have been made in Liberia through their financial, technical and moral support.
- Welcoming the Liberian leader, Speaker Pelosi acknowledged some the progress that have been made by the US and pledged her government's support to Liberia in addressing existing challenges.

Auditor General Defends Audits Credibility

[The Analyst, The Inquirer, Heritage, The News]

- Auditor General John Morlu has defended the credibility of audits produced by the General Auditing Commission (GAC), saying only Jesus Christ can free anyone indicted.
- Mr. Morlu told a hearing of the Senate's Committee on Public Accounts and Audits that he believes in the evidence of audits conducted by the Commission.
- According to him, GAC's audits are done in line with global conventions including the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).
- During the hearing, the Auditor General was questioned over the leakage of draft audits to the media and his personal relationship with the news entity, Front Page Africa of which he said he has no control over the leakage of audits and dismissed any connection with the news entity.
- Commenting on the system failures in government, Mr. Morlu said to address the issue of ghost names on payroll, civil servants must be given employment letters.
- He also recommended a monthly bank reconciliation of payrolls, petroleum distribution log, and distinction of political appointees from civil servants.

- The Auditor General asserted that upon his arrival in the country, he publicly declared it was not possible to audit a country with poor record keeping system and said it is a requirement by the World Bank for an audit to have direct budgetary support from government.
- Wednesday's public appearance of the Auditor General, who was invited to comment on the method of audits by the GAC, was the first before the Senate's Committee.

US\$134.7 Million Allotment – Finance Ministry Scrambles for Records

[New Democrat]

- Finance Ministry officials have intensified their search for missing financial documents to justify over US\$134 million allotments issued during the 2006/2007 fiscal period.
- The search is being undertaken after the General Auditing Commission (GAC) threatened a Supreme Court action against Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan for failing to submit those allotment documents for audit.
- But the Finance Ministry, in its response to the GAC, said it cannot find supporting documents for money it approved for spending in 2006/2007 fiscal period.
- The Ministry only provided raw data on the allotments, which totals over US\$134 million, but did not present the original allotment sheets needed to verify the figures.
- Deputy Finance Minister for the Budget, Dr. George Gonpu confirmed Wednesday that the documents cannot be located and that a search is to have it presented to the GAC as being requested.
- Auditor General John Morlu Thursday gave the Finance Minister 72-hour ultimatum to submit to the GAC requested allotments for 2006/2007 fiscal period or be dragged to the Supreme Court for non compliance.

Liberia's Finance Minister Elected to ABD's Post

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

- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan has been elected chairman of one of the constituencies of the African Development Bank (ADB).
- Minister Ngafuan was elected at the ongoing annual meeting of the ADB.
- The Finance Minister replaces Dr. Samura Kamara, Sierra Leonean Finance Minister whose tenure has come to an end.
- With the election of Minister Ngafuan, Liberia will serve the tenure for three years as chairman of the constituency which comprises Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, Ghana, and The Gambia.
- Minister Ngafuan thanked his colleagues for the confidence reposed in him and his country and promised to work with his colleagues from the five countries.
- He said he will also work with officials of the Executive Director of the constituency in ensuring that the concerns and interests of the member states of the constituency are clearly and strongly articulated at the highest level of the bank.
- He disclosed that the ADB will soon open a local office in Monrovia to strengthen its current engagement with Liberia and improve the performance of its portfolio.

Tussle over UP Secretary General Position Continues

[New Democrat]

- The Secretary General-elect of the ruling Unity Party (UP), Mr. Henry Fahnbulleh has confirmed speculations regarding designs within the party hierarchy to have him give way to Mrs. Medina Wesseh.
- Mrs. Wesseh was defeated during the race for the position in Ganta, Nimba County at the party's just ended merger convention.
- There are speculations that some party leaders prefer Mrs. Wesseh for the position despite being defeated by Mr. Fahnbulleh.
- UP insiders say pressure has been mounting for him to step down and give President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's choice the opportunity to serve the party as its Secretary General.

PUL Wants NSA Act Repealed

[Heritage, The News]

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) wants a repeal of the Act creating the National Security Agency (NSA).
- According to the PUL, the NSA Act gives the President the exclusive right to check the improper behavior of the security agency.

- The PUL also called for the repeal of anti-speech laws including sedition, criminal libel against the President and criminal malevolence.
- Former Solicitor General Tiawon Gongloe a year ago called for a repeal of such laws, describing them as anti-free speech.

Democratic Alliance Condemns NSA for Attempted Arrest of GAC Communications Chief

[The Inquirer]

- The Democratic Alliance has condemned the attempted arrest by the National Security Agency (NSA) of Mr. Ernest Maximore, communications director of the General Auditing Commission (GAC).
- The group of opposition political parties says such actions bear resemblance to the tactics of the discredited past.
- The alliance viewed the attempted arrest of Mr. Maximore as an unwanted example of growing intolerance and a demonstrable lack of understanding between state power through the use of its instruments and personal power.
- The alliance says it believes no official should be above public scrutiny and the law, and that the attempted arrest of the GAC communications chief for accusing the Executive Mansion of having a hand in a scheme to discredit the Auditor General is a breach and a return to bad governance.

NEC Engages Physically Challenged Community

[The Analyst]

- A two-day civic education consultative meeting between the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Disabled Community under the auspices of the Liberia Youth Network (LYN) takes place today in Kakata, Margibi County.
- NEC said the Kakata Disabled Consultative Meeting is in preparation for the pending 2011 elections.
- The Public Information Director of NEC Bobby Livingstone said, the forum is for physically challenged persons to brainstorm and identify possible areas of collaboration with the Commission.
- Mr. Livingstone said the Commission believes that as a special electoral group, the disabled community can play a vital role in attracting others to participate in the pending general and presidential elections.
- He said participants at the meeting will be exposed to electoral activities, including constituency delimitation, voter's registration and general elections.

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

President Sirleaf Meets US Congressional Leaders Ahead of Obama's Talks Today

Auditor General Defends Audits Credibility

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

Rights Activist Cautions Against Return of Police State

- Human rights activist Melvin Page has cautioned authorities of the National Security Agency (NSA) against the re-introduction of a police state in Liberia.
- Mr. Page said the May 22 raid on the General Auditing Commission (GAC) by state security amounts to a serious procedural error and should not be repeated.
- He said the attempted arrest of an official of the GAC without a court warrant brings to mind the turbulent days of Chuckie Taylor.
- Mr. Page also cautioned the Legislature to guide itself against interfering with judicial matters.
- According to him, interfering with the sexual harassment claim involving Auditor General John Morlu and Mrs. Ruth Yeaher goes beyond the mandate of the august body.
- The rights activist called on Mrs. Yeaher to take Mr. Morlu to court if she has evidence to prove her case.

PUL Wants NSA Act Repealed

Marketers Want Amended LMA Act Passed

- A cross section of marketers in Monrovia has called on the House of Representatives to pass the amended Liberia Marketing Association (LMA) Act.
- The marketers believe, the passage of the bill to amend the LMA Act would enable them expand their activities to compete with the outside market.
- The marketers maintained the draft Act when passed into law, would give smaller marketers the opportunity to access loans to continue their businesses.

- Opposing parties in the LMA disagreed during a public hearing on the passage of the controversial proposed LMA Act currently before the House.
- The LMA leadership argued the current Act has legal faults because the Association is being subjected to people claiming to be founders.
- But the so-called founders of the LMA called on the House not to pass the bill because they have no input in the document and that the LMA leadership is currently under corruption investigation.

Notorious Drug Trafficker Arrested in Grand Bassa

- The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has arrested and charged a notorious drug trafficker in Grand Bassa County for illegal possession of narcotic drugs.
- Twenty-two year old Samuel Moore was arrested Monday in District Number One with three kilograms of marijuana.
- DEA officer-in-charge in Grand Bassa disclosed Mr. Moore was arrested with the marijuana in rice bags, on a motorbike belonging to a local NGO while travelling from Loydsville to District Number Three.
- Major Joseph Targedine said the suspect is in police custody awaiting court trial at the Edina Magisterial Court and brings to three, the number of persons arrested with drugs this month in Grand Bassa County.

Immigration Officer Held for Rape

- A 47-year old officer of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization has been arrested for alleged rape.
- Officer Sam Brown of the Klay Check Point is accused of raping an eleven-year old girl in Bomi County.
- The Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police is investigating the BIN officer.

Liberian Red Cross to Launch Social Mobilization Campaign Today

- The Montserrado Chapter of the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) says it would today launch its social mobilization campaign ahead of the polio immunization process which kicks off on May 28.
- The Health and Care Coordinator of the LNRCS said about 250 volunteers are expected to take part in the house-to-house campaign.
- Ms. Joyce Kalikpo said the campaign is intended to create awareness on immunization against polio.
- Ms. Kalikpo disclosed several difficult communities including Garnersville, New Georgia, New Kru Town and West Point with mixed children in Monrovia and its environs will be visited by the volunteers.
- She said the Polio Vaccination exercise will target children below the ages of zero to 59 months.

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

Liberia's Finance Minister Elected to ABD's Post

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

NEC Engages Physically Challenged Community

Truth FM *(News monitored today at 09:45 am)*

Information Ministry Launches Nationwide Outreach

- The Information Ministry has launched a nationwide outreach programme with the intent to educate the public about government programmes and policies.
- Deputy Information Minister Jerolimick Piah said the programme will afford the Ministry reach out to various communities around the country and acquaint them with various achievements and constraints of government.
- He said the nationwide outreach programme will also enable citizens come face-to-face with their officials and express their minds on issues confronting them.
- The launch of the program took place in the Fiamah Sinkor Community, bringing together hundreds of community members.

International Clip on Liberia

Liberian Opposition Leader Defends US Trip with President Sirleaf **Voice of America**

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington Thursday. The White House said earlier this week that the two leaders will discuss a range of bilateral and regional issues. Traveling with President Sirleaf on her trip to the United States is Eugene Nagbe, secretary-general of George Weah's opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC). Rumors circulating in parts of Monrovia that the CDC was being courted by the president to support her re-election in next year's elections. But, Nagbe said

there was no quid pro quo in accompanying the president. "It has been the tradition of President Sirleaf that when she makes these foreign visits, she invites members of the opposition to travel with her to represent the country. The CDC as a political party is not adverse to this. When we have the opportunity to engage the government in this manner we do it," he said. Nagbe categorically dismissed suggestions that the CDC was being courted by President Sirleaf. He said such rumors were being peddled by those he said were against peace in Liberia.

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast

UNOCI trains policemen, gendarmes and soldiers on human rights' protection African Press Organization

Some forty officers and non-commissioned officers from the gendarmerie, police and the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) in Yamoussoukro are attending a training session on human rights being conducted by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) since Tuesday, 25 May 2010. The two-day training is taking place in the meeting hall known as "Underwood" of the Republican Guard and is organized by the Regional Human Rights Office in Yamoussoukro in collaboration with the Operations Commander, on the theme "Human Rights and Maintenance of Law and Order". According to Ariel Ida Ngondi, the Human Rights Officer in Yamoussoukro, the aim of the training is to sensitize officers and non-commissioned officers, on the need to protect and promote human rights in the current context. During the opening ceremony of the working session, Captain Boniface Konan, Operations Commander in Yamoussoukro, said it was important for the participants to learn about human rights and to respect them. He called on everyone to pay attention to the training because, he said, "many people think that human rights are enemy, whereas respecting human rights can also protect you".
