

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



More than 150 people gathered in a makeshift video-centre yesterday at the fishing village of Brigitte on the Freetown Peninsula for an Outreach community town hall meeting.

**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:**

Thursday, 26 August 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
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Karadzic Seeks Arms Trafficking Report from Belgium / *Agence France Presse* Page 16

Standard Times  
Thursday, 26 August 2010

## Interview with Joseph Kamara, former Acting Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone

### Reflection

*(Courtesy Angela Stavrianou,  
The Hague in the MONITOR)*

**(PART 1)**

**BY ISSA B.M. KAMARA**

As the trial of Charles Taylor continues at the Hague I feel that this is the most opportune time to reflect on what went on during the initial stages of the Special Court proceedings and also to bring to you something close to the minds of many Sierra Leoneans who went through the brutal rebel war and its resultant disastrous consequences as concerns the ongoing trial of Charles Taylor. Read Part I of the interview below. [Interview with Joseph Kamara Former Acting Prosecutor For the Special Court for Sierra Leone](#)

By Angela Stavrianou, The Hague

The Defence opened its case in 13 July 2009 in the Charles Taylor Trial. On December 9 2009, CARL's Angela Stavrianou sat down to speak with Mr. Joseph Kamara, the then Acting Prosecutor in which she asked him questions relating to the trial and its progress thus far.

**CARL:** *What is the biggest challenge for the Prosecution in this case?*

**Kamara:** One of the main challenges for the prosecution is to show the linkage between the crimes committed by rebel groups and others, and Mr. Taylor. In order to prove our case

against Charles Taylor, the Prosecution must do two main things- first, we must prove that the various crimes charged in the eleven count indictment were committed, amongst which are: murder, rape and other sexual violence crimes, amputations, and the use of child soldiers.

Second, we must prove that Mr. Taylor himself is guilty of these crimes

We have charged that Mr. Taylor is criminally responsible for the crimes set out in the indictment because he planned, instigated, ordered, and otherwise aided and abetted the crime, because of his participation in a joint criminal enterprise or common plan design or purpose, and because he failed to prevent or punish these crimes committed by his subordinates.

**CARL:** *What are the biggest problems that the Special Court is facing?*

**Kamara:** Outside of the work related to the trials, the biggest challenge the Special Court is facing is funding. One thing that makes us different from the tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia is how we get our financial automatically from the United Nations member states, we rely on voluntary contributions of UN Members states. Basically, we have to fundraise.

Over fifty Member States have given money to the SCSL, but we must go back to our larges and smallest donors to seek support every year.

Where, as with the SCSL, funding is optional, each funding cycle donor countries may choose to maintain funding levels, decrease them, or to

not give at all. These choices are now impacted by the economic difficulties so many countries are facing. And with the Taylor trial in full swing, the Court still has tremendous funding requirements, from travel of Defence witnesses to OTP investigations in order to challenge and test the Defence evidence, to paying for Mr. Taylor's full defence team and resources.

**CARL:** *What are your comments in relation to complaints by the Defence that the resources of the Special Court are inequality distributed in favour of the Prosecution?*

**Kamara:** This is just one of the many claims the Defence has made to try and portray Mr. Taylor as receiving less than what is absolutely fair and transparent trial. It is a part of their effort to portray him in the media as a victim in this process.

Here are the facts. Charles Taylor is receiving more money and support for his defence than has ever been provided to any Accused in the history of international tribunals.

He has a team of highly experienced lawyers, led by Courtenay Griffiths, a Queen's Counsel barrister from the UK. He also has numerous other lawyers, investigators, interns, and office space in The Hague and in Freetown. He has been given the opportunity to present a full case and to tell his side of the story during some 13 weeks of direct examination, running to over 7200 pages of transcript, and involving some 300 documents. And let's not forget, the

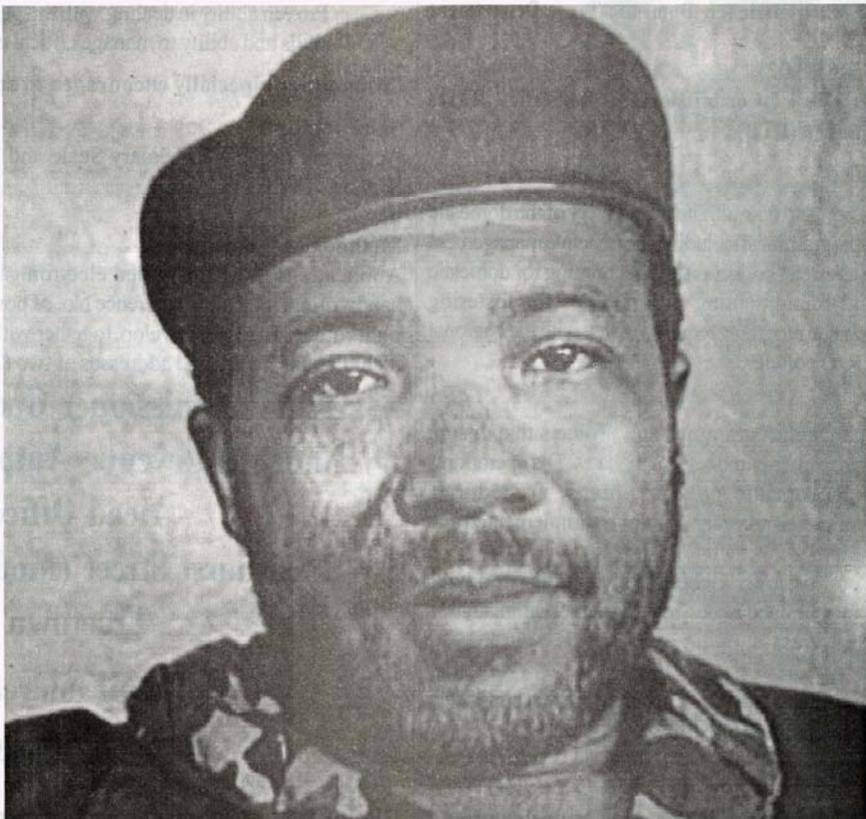


Joseph Kamara

Defence does not have the burden of proving a case.

Compare all that with what the average Defendant gets in other tribunals or in any domestic system

and you see the full extent of the resources provided to Mr. Taylor for his defence. These other defendants received fair trial though the degree of support was less in their cases, so



it can hardly be said Mr. Taylor is receiving insufficient support for his defence.

Charles Taylor is being tried before a panel of independent judges, who ensure he receives all rights, afforded him. There are also journalists, numerous NGOs-such as CARL and legal experts monitoring the trial and making sure his rights are his rights are respected.

In short, Mr. Taylor has rights, resources and protection. None of his alleged victims were so lucky.

**CARL:** *A key aspect of the Defence case is the suggestion that the Prosecution is bribing witnesses to provide evidence against Mr. Taylor. What is your response to this allegation?*

**Kamara:** This is another claim the Defence likes to make in the media, in part to once again portray their client as the victim of an illegitimate process. Since this is an issue that is before the judges, Mr. Griffiths should know better than to break the rules of conduct of this Court by making specific comments on this publicly.

But let me say this- all disbursements to witnesses follow the Rules governing such disbursements and they are disclosed to the Court and the Defence. The Witness Victims Section (WVS) of the Court makes most of these, not the Prosecution, and they are part of the Court Registry.

And what the Defence fails to mention is that in nearly all trials, both the Prosecution and the Defence make disbursements to witnesses for care, protection, and other necessary reasons.

**CARL:** *Courtenay Griffiths has expressed concern that there is only one West African, Mohamed Bangura, on the Prosecution team, in a case that primarily concerns the people of West Africa. What are your comments on this issue?*

**Kamara:** As a Sierra Leonean, I find it interesting that Mr. Taylor and his lawyers are suddenly so concerned with the well being of the people of the country.

This is the ultimate irony from a man accused of bringing misery to the people of Sierra Leone.

The focus is not on the nationality of the personnel, but the quality and integrity of the process. Nonetheless, in the Office of the Prosecutor, we have personnel from Ghana, Tanzania, Canada, USA, Macedonia, UK, Caribbean, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Thus I am surprised at the comments of Mr. Griffiths, as I have respect for him as a seasoned practitioner, but these are not only misleading but equally mischievous. Again, I will implore to my colleagues to focus on the issue at trial.

At any rate, Sierra Leoneans and Liberians a like have been instrumental in all stages of the case against Mr. Taylor, from the investigators who helped gather the evidence to the witness management staff, and to our trial lawyers.

## Radio Netherlands

Wednesday, 25 August 2010

### Taylor trial under spotlight

By Thijs Bouwknecht and Hermione Gee



*Leidschendam,  
Netherlands*

(Photo: ANP)

For more than a year Charles Taylor's trial has taken place in relative obscurity. But since fashion model Naomi Campbell and actress Mia Farrow

were asked to give evidence about a diamond Mr Taylor was alleged to have given to Campbell that has all changed. The IJT asked lead defense counsel for Mr Taylor, Courtenay Griffiths, about the challenges of conducting such a case under the spotlight.

#### **How do you prepare for cross examination?**

First, you put together as much material as possible that you have on a witness. Then you consider in which order you're going to deal with the various issues. With the three witnesses called by the prosecution in rebuttal, we anticipated that Naomi Campbell would not come and say that she received them from Charles Taylor. But we knew that the other two witnesses would. So the strategy with Campbell was to use her to do as much damage to the other two, which is why I spent much of my time with Naomi Campbell putting to her the statement made by Carole White, so that by the time Carole White and Mia Farrow appeared there were already question marks about their accounts.

#### **How is Mr Taylor holding up?**

Mr Taylor is in robust health. He knows his case inside out. He can tell me details of witnesses which I don't remember because he goes home and does his homework every night. I guess being in custody, he has no distractions. You would expect that a former president and dictator would always be laying out the law and giving orders. Not a bit of it. I'm the one who gives him orders.

#### **What is your main concern?**

My main concern is that these judges are under considerable pressure to convict. A lot of money has been invested in these proceedings by the United States, the United Kingdom and other western countries. And the bottom line is: they haven't invested that money for nothing. Look at it this way: if Mr Taylor is acquitted, as a Liberian citizen, he could return to Liberia. If he returned and stood in an election against Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, he would win. Do you honestly think either the Americans or the British would allow that to happen? The reality of the situation is that if Taylor is convicted, chances of having a fair hearing in front of the appeal committee are nil. I have more concern about the composition of the Appeals Chamber than I do of these judges because some of the decisions they've made lacked any legal

merit whatsoever. Everyone put on trial before that Special Court for Sierra Leone has either died or been convicted.

Is that an inevitable part of the international criminal justice system?

The bottom line is that in international criminal law, politics plays a central role, which is why the ICC has

currently five defendants awaiting trial, all of them from Africa. Politically, the ICC could not get away with indicting an Israeli minister or a general. In the same way, Bush or Blair would never be put on trial for the illegal war in Iraq.

**What is the significance of this trial?**

I think it's important for West Africa, but for all the wrong reasons. West Africa needs to realise that this kind of show trial does not really assist the supposed war on impunity. And it's one of the reasons that the African Union is now turning against the ICC. They realise the politics behind the ICC and the way the ICC appears to be focussing on Africa and ignoring crimes committed elsewhere in the world, like in Sri Lanka or Gaza. I would like to see the African Union set up their own international criminal court in Africa. Africans really need to take charge of their own destiny on these matters. Because unless and until they see the importance of infusing life in Africa with a sense and a respect for human rights, it cannot be imposed from outside. That is something that has to develop organically in the African society. That's why I think the African Union should be the trailblazers on this, not the ICC.

*The defence is due to call several more witnesses and then close its case. The case is expected to conclude by early October 2010.*

## Daily Summary

**As Issa Sesay Resumes His Testimony, He Says The RUF Did Not Fight For Charles Taylor In Guinea and Liberia**

By Alpha Sesay

Returning to the stand after a brief illness, a former Sierra Leonean rebel leader said his group did not fight battles for former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, in neighboring Guinea and Liberia.

In the trial of Mr. Taylor for his alleged role in war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Sierra Leone during the country's brutal 11-year war, prosecutors have alleged that Mr. Taylor had control over Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels. From this position of authority, prosecutors say, Mr. Taylor sent RUF rebels to attack a rebel force in his own country – the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) – which was threatening to unseat his government and helping to dislodge the government of former president, Lansana Conte, in neighboring Guinea. Despite an ongoing disarmament process in Sierra Leone at the time, arms and ammunition for these operations were allegedly given to the RUF by Benjamin Yeaten, Mr. Taylor's Director of Special Security Services (SSS), who was commanding troops against LURD rebels in Lofa County, Liberia. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations.

"Benjamin Yeaten provided the RUF with ammunition to launch these attacks in Guinea and Lofa in Liberia," prosecution counsel Nicholas Koumjian asserted today.

"No, Benjamin Yeaten did not give me ammunition and I did not send the RUF to fight in Guinea and Liberia," Mr. Sesay responded.

In 2008, prosecution witnesses told Special Court for Sierra Leone judges in The Hague that they were part of the RUF fighting force sent to fight in Guinea and Liberia. Mr. Taylor gave orders to Mr. Sesay for the RUF to attack these countries and Mr. Sesay in turn mobilized RUF fighters to cross the Sierra Leonean border into the two countries, the witnesses told the court in 2008.

"Issa Sesay said Charles Taylor informed him that we should give him ground in Guinea so at the time of the disarmament in Sierra Leone, we'll shift some of the ammunition to Guinea for safe keeping...from there, Issa arranged transportation to Liberia, we met Benjamin Yeaten and he said guys we should get ready for the operation," one of the prosecution witnesses was quoted as having said in 2008.

"You as interim leader of the RUF were battling the enemies of Charles Taylor in both Liberia and Guinea," Mr. Koumjian confronted Mr. Sesay.

"I did not fight the enemies of Charles Taylor," Mr. Sesay said.

Mr. Taylor has maintained that when he cut off dealings with the RUF in 1992, he only had contacts with them again in the late 1990s when he got involved in the peace efforts in Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has said that his only dealings with the RUF in the early 1990s were to help him fight off a rival Liberian rebel group attacking from Sierra Leonean territory. Today, Mr. Koumjian asked Mr. Sesay whether Mr. Taylor requested help from the RUF in the same way he had sought help from the RUF's leader, Foday Sankoh, in the early 1990s. Mr. Sesay said that was not the case.

“Did Charles Taylor ask you to assist him the same way he had asked Mr. Sankoh?” Mr. Koumjian asked Mr. Sesay.

“No, No. He did not ask me, he could have asked Mr. Sankoh but he did not ask me,” Mr. Sesay responded.

“The RUF [fighters] who went there did so on their own accord,” Mr. Sesay said, prompting a question from Mr. Koumjian as to whether Mr. Sesay was confirming that RUF fighters did indeed cross into neighboring Liberia.

“What I mean, when I asked them [RUF] to disarm, the Vanguardians [original RUF fighters trained in Liberia] who refused, crossed over to Liberia. Even Superman [a Liberian RUF commander] went over to Liberia, but to say that I organized men to go over to Liberia, no,” Mr. Sesay said.

On the RUF cross-border attacks in Guinea, Mr. Sesay also insisted that “Mr. Taylor did not give me any operation to attack Guinea.”

“There were cross-border attacks which the Guineans launched and the RUF was repelling them... The Guineans were launching long range missiles which were landing in RUF controlled territories,” he added.

Mr. Sesay also refuted claims that former rebel fighter, Daniel Tamba (otherwise known as “Jungle”), was a member of Mr. Taylor’s SSS assigned to the RUF as Mr. Taylor’s official representative. Several prosecution witnesses have testified that Jungle was Mr. Taylor’s representative to the RUF who moved between Sierra Leone and Liberia with diamonds from RUF rebels to Mr. Taylor, and arms and ammunition from Mr. Taylor to the RUF. Mr. Sesay has dismissed these claims as lies, saying that when Jungle crossed from NPFL territory into Sierra Leone in the early 1990s, he joined the RUF and remained with the Sierra Leonean rebel group until the time of the disarmament in the country.

“As far as I know, Jungle was not an SSS, he was a member of the RUF,” Mr. Sesay told the court.

Mr. Koumjian displayed a list containing the names of SSS members who were assigned to the Executive Mansion as part of Mr. Taylor’s “Presidential Advance Team” and the 9th name on the said list was that of “Daniel Tamba” (Jungle). Mr. Koumjian also displayed a photograph of persons in military fatigue and Mr. Sesay identified the two visible persons in the photograph as SSS Director Mr. Yeaten and Jungle.

When put to him that “[Jungle] was the liaison between Charles Taylor and the RUF,” Mr. Sesay said: “No, Jungle was with the RUF for a long time, he was not a middleman.”

Mr. Sesay’s testimony continues Thursday.


**United Nations**      **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**25 August 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

**UN, GOL, Train County Officials on Economic, Development Planning**

[Daily Observer]

- A three-day training of trainers' workshop on economic development has ended in Gbarnga, Bong County with a call to participants to use the skills acquired for development.
- The training was organized by the UN County Support Team (UNCST) in collaboration with the Government of Liberia.
- A cross section of Assistant Superintendents for Development, County Development Officers, Agriculture Coordinators and District Commissioners from six of Liberia's 15 counties including Bong, Lofa and Nimba attended the training.

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**President Sirleaf to Submit Report on TRC Recommendation**

[Heritage, In Profile Daily, New Democrat, The Analyst]

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will this week submit to the Legislature a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), presidential press secretary Cyrus Badio has said.
- According to Mr. Badio, a number of civil society groups constituted by President Sirleaf to review the TRC report and suggest a way forward have now submitted their report.
- The presidential press secretary said the Liberian leader is keen to ensure that a report to the Legislature on the TRC report contains substantive issues for the lawmakers' consideration.
- Once the legislators receive the document, he said, more details will be provided to the public.

**Former Interim President on Lost Constitutional Opportunity**

[National Chronicle, New Democrat]

- Former Interim President Amos Sawyer says the failure of the Legislature to pass the bill to amend Article 54 of the Constitution will be a lost opportunity.
- Dr. Sawyer said without amending Article 54 the issue of decentralization of government will be affected for at least six years.
- Article 54 gives the President the power to appoint county superintendents and other local officials.
- However, the Governance Commission of which Dr. Sawyer chairs is seeking an amendment of the provision to ensure the election of county superintendents and district commissioners.
- He said the passage of the bill will lead to the decentralization of government with people's participation in the governance process.
- He made the statement Monday at a public hearing on the proposed constitutional amendment resolution.
- Other speakers including Cecil Brandy of the Land Commission and Peter Kamei of the Internal Affairs Ministry supported the passage of the bill.
- Also, Dan Saryee of the Liberia Democratic Institute and National Elections Commission's Cllr. Joseph Bliidi urged the Legislature to approve the bill.

**Magistrates Complete Judicial Training in Gbarnga**

[Daily Observer]

- The James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia has concluded a week-long judicial training course for 26 Stipendiary Magistrates in Gbarnga, Bong County.
- The participants were drawn from Bong, Margibi and Nimba counties.
- The Institute's executive director, Ms. Ophelia Mathies said the workshop was meant to educate the Magistrates about the function of the newly created Criminal Court 'E'.
- Criminal Court 'E' is the fast track court established for the prosecution of rape and sexual gender-base violence (SGBV) related cases.
- It is the first of its kind in Africa.

### **National Flag Day Orator Wants Liberia's Motto Changed**

[Daily Observer, Front Page Africa, In Profile Daily, The Analyst, The Informer, The News]

- Former Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier has called for the change in the Liberian motto from "The love of liberty brought us here" to "The love of liberty brought all here".
- He said every group in Liberia came from somewhere that is why the motto should reflect "The love of liberty brought all here".
- Rev. Bowier spoke Tuesday in Monrovia when he delivered the 163<sup>rd</sup> National Flag Day oration.

### **Liberian Educator Becomes Baptist World Alliance's Vice President**

[Daily Observer]

- The principal of Ricks Institute, Dr. Olu Menjay has been installed as a new vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, the youngest ever to serve in the capacity.
- Dr. Menjay took the oath of office for five years following his election at the 20th Baptist World Congress held in Hawaii, USA.
- The Baptist World Alliance is the largest Protestant Christian body in the world with 216 member body of conventions and unions.
- Liberia's former president, Dr. William R. Tolbert served as the only President of the Baptist World Alliance from Africa.
- Dr. Menjay described his election as the act of God that does not discriminate in choosing servants for his mission.
- The Baptist World Congress is held once every five years and this year's session was held under the theme "Hear the Spirit."

### **ADB Delegation Arrives Today**

[Daily Observer, Heritage, In Profile Daily, Liberian Express, The Analyst, The Informer]

- A six-man delegation from the African Development Bank (ADB) is expected to pay a four-day official visit to Liberia today.
- The delegation is headed by ADB vice president Dr. Kamal El Kheshen.
- While in Liberia, the ADB delegation will sign grant agreement and hold consultations with government regarding its assistance to the war ravaged country.
- The director of Media Services and Public Affairs at the Finance Ministry, Mr. Horatio Willie did not give detail on the grant agreement, but said it might be financial assistance.
- He said the ADB delegation will also identify possible areas of assistance for Liberia.
- Mr. Willie disclosed the delegation will also hold discussions with Finance, Public Works and Planning Ministry officials including other personalities and later pay a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.
- The ADB is currently sponsoring several programmes in Liberia valued at little over US\$100 million.

### **AK-47 Rifles Dug Out: Police**

[New Democrat]

- Two fully ammo loaded AK-47 assault rifles were discovered in the Parker Paint community, instilling fears in residents.
- Police say the weapons were discovered in the backyard of a resident when the nuzzles were protruding like sharp objects.
- Deputy Police Inspector for Operations Al Karlay said the entire area and its surrounding communities will be search soon.
- The discovery raises fears that weapons may be hidden in several communities that have not been discovered.

## **Ex-Sierra Leonean Refugees Complain of Harassment, Molestation**

[The News]

- Former Sierra Leonean refugees in Blamasee Community, Montserrado County have alleged that they are being constantly harassed and intimidated by agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.
- They spoke during a recent visit to their community by UNHCR's Africa Bureau Director George Okoth-Obbo and UNHCR's West Africa Regional Representative Elike Segbor.
- They noted that owing to the absence of legal identity they are being constantly arrested and molested at various checkpoints by immigration officers.
- They also commended the UN refugee agency for providing them new homes.
- In response, Mr. Okoth-Obbo called on the former Sierra Leonean refugees to remain calm and promised to investigate the matter for possible redress.
- He thanked the residents of Blamasee for accommodating and accepting the former refugees in their community.

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

#### **President Sirleaf against Repeat of Mass Failure in WAEC**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says government cannot allow a repeat of the mass failure of Liberian students in the West African Examination Council Exams (WAEC).
- President Sirleaf said government would address challenges including the lack of sufficient trained teachers and instructional materials facing the education sector.
- The President however urged students to strive for academic excellence to enable them achieve their objectives.
- She stressed it was important that students stay away from the video clubs and place emphasis on studying their lessons.
- President Sirleaf spoke Tuesday at programmes marking the observance of this year's National Flag Day at the Monrovia City Hall.

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

#### **Representative Neufville Wants Alley Map Published**

- A Montserrado Representative has called on government to publish the map of Monrovia reflecting areas considered as alleys.
- Representative Rufus Neufville believes the publication of the Monrovia map will enlighten the public about targeted areas to be demolished by government.
- He said it was important to know places government considers as alleys to avoid segregation in the ongoing demolition exercise in Monrovia.
- Representative Neufville also called on government to set aside special funds to compensate those being affected by the alley clearing exercise.
- According to him, it was wrong for anyone to have the notion that development comes with pains.
- The Montserrado lawmaker stressed that development comes with opportunities to improve the living condition of people and not to make them homeless.

#### **ADB Delegation Arrives Today**

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

#### **Former Interim President on Lost Constitutional Opportunity**

#### **Central Bank Official Wants Key Concessions Revisited**

- The Insurance Manager at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has called for the re-negotiation of key concessions in the country to reflect the interest of the people.
- Mr. Nimene King observed majority of the current investment contracts do not adequately address issues concerning education, health and housing among others.
- Mr. King called on authorities in government to consider the needs of the people when negotiating contracts as a means of distributing resources equally.
- According to him, the constant misuse of resources is due to faulty contract negotiations which benefit the investors and the negotiators rather than the people.
- The CBL official spoke when he served as orator for this year's Flag Day celebration under the auspices of the St. Paul River Left Bank School District on the Somalia Drive.

#### **Red Crescent Regional Head Arrives in Liberia**

- The regional head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement arrives in Liberia today as guest of the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS).
- Mr. Thierry Coppens will be in the country for four days and will meet with various stakeholders.
- They are expected to discuss the cooperation assistance strategy, the Federation's restructuring and its implication for the LNRCS.

### **Liberian Educator Becomes Baptist World Alliance's Vice President**

#### **[SIC] Man, 20 Arrested in Voinjama for Making Single-barrel Guns**

- There are reports of the arrest of a man in Voinjama, Lofa County for making single-barrel guns.
- According to police sources, 20-year old Amadu Kromah was arrested Sunday following a tip-off.
- Sources said police have been keeping surveillance on Amadu for months.
- It is believed he made some of the guns used during the February Voinjama saga which left four people dead and dozens of property destroyed.
- Amadu Kromah is said to be undergoing investigation in Voinjama.

#### **Inmates in Failed Jailbreak at Gbarnga Prison**

- More than 25 inmates at the Gbarnga Central Prison in Bong County Monday attempted to break jail.
- The inmates held the prison's deputy superintendent hostage for few minutes before he was released.
- Reports say officers of the Liberia National Police rushed on the scene to abort the jailbreak.
- The inmates say their action was in reaction to their prolong detention without trial and poor conditions at the prison.
- But acting prison superintendent Flomo Johnson said the inmates wanted to take advantage of the broken walls of the prison to escape.

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

#### **National Flag Day Orator Wants Liberia's Motto Changed**

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

## **International Clip on Liberia**

### **Liberian Coast Guard Develops Maritime Skills aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter www.africom.mil**

Seven crew members from the newly activated Liberian Coast Guard (LCG) spent 10 days at sea with the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk (WMEC 913) crew off the coast of western Africa August 13-23, 2010. Since February 11, 2010, when the LCG was activated, Liberia's Coast Guard has been training personnel to secure Liberia's regional exclusive economic zone. The LCG has been working with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and other nations' coast guards and navies to develop their maritime capability and capacities. "I am glad we [had] the opportunity to have ship riders from the Liberian Coast Guard aboard Mohawk," Commander Robert T. Hendrickson, commanding officer of the USCGC Mohawk said. "Not only did they have the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience with navigation, engineering, boat handling and other Coast Guard skill sets, they also got a chance to see how we interact with each other and conduct our day-to-day business." During the LCG's time at sea onboard the Mohawk, members gained experience through on-the-job training within their perspective fields. The LGC members also became proficient in maritime disciplines such as damage control, small boat operations, and law enforcement techniques. "The training I received on Mohawk was very valuable; it helped increased my knowledge and skills so that I can be more proficient in my job in LCG," said Boatswain's Mate Seaman Andrew Zoegbo, section leader of Boatswain's Mates, Liberian Coast Guard. Zoegbo was one of four LCG members who attended the U.S. Coast Guard's intensive "A" School training for boatswain's mates in Yorktown, Virginia.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Guinea**

#### **Guinean Premier retracts from constitution amendment proposal APA**

Guinean Prime minister, Jean-Marie Doré, has retracted his proposal for a constitutional amendment which would see the public administration ministry chiefly entrusted with the task of organizing the 19 September presidential runoff instead of the electoral commission. Premier Doré on Monday called on supporters and detractors of his

planned constitutional amendment to smooth things over and ease the political tension. "There has been fuss about nothing. I have asked that the role of the territorial government and Political Affairs ministry (MATAP) shall be defined as well as that of other ministries implicated in the electoral process", he addressed the transition leader and the delegates of both presidential frontrunners - Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde. He stressed that the matter was not to amend the new constitution but to issue an enforcement decree on the paragraph 2, article 2 of the electoral code so that each actor "knows his/her role".

### **Civil Society groups warn PM not to tamper with Guinea's run-offs** **www.sierraleonedailymail.com**

Civil society organisations in Guinea are up in arms against the civilian Premier Jean-Marie Doré for attempting to fidget with the constitution days ahead of the presidential run-off. "Any attempt to modify the text will be considered a serious violation and could lead to grave consequences," warned a weekend statement by an umbrella group, the Organisation for the Defence of Human Rights and the Citizens in Guinea. Dr Thierno Maadjou Sow, who is the chairman of the group, said it was "absolutely wrong" on the part of the prime minister to make any constitutional modifications at this "very critical period." In a draft decree which leaked to the press on Saturday, Premier Doré said the modification would allow the electoral commission to jointly organise the run-off with the Ministry of Territorial Administration. The ministry supervises regional governors, district commissioners and assistant district commissioners. Premier Doré argued that when endorsed, the decree will help prevent the discrepancies that tainted the first round election of 27 June.

### **Ivory Coast**

#### **Cote d'Ivoire refugees place high hope on Oct. 1 election: UNHCR** **Xinhua**

Cote d'Ivoire refugees taking shelter in neighboring countries are placing high hope on the Oct. 31 presidential election to end the political crisis, so as to return home years after fleeing conflicts since 2002, according to the UN refugee agency. "I come from Liberia where I personally discussed with some refugees and they told me they were awaiting with impatience the return to the country," said UNHCR Africa bureau chief Georges William Okoth-Obbo in a statement obtained by Xinhua on Monday. Okoth-Obbo made the remarks after a meeting with the UN secretary general's special representative for Cote d'Ivoire, Choi Young-jin. The UNHCR official said he had discussed with Choi the political situation in Cote d'Ivoire and the conditions and perspectives for the return of refugees. A key topic is the "level of collaboration" between the UNHCR and ONUCI, the UN peacekeeping mission in the West African country. An estimated 25,000 refugees need the UN protection when they return from host countries. Cote d'Ivoire plunged into war following an attempted coup by the New Forces (FN) in 2002. The country has been divided ever since with the government controlling the south and the FN holding the north, although the civil war lasted only one year. The country was expected to hold its first post-war election on 2005, but failed to do so amid differences over disarmament and reunification. The country last put off the vote in the early half of the year after postponing it in November 2009.

#### **Ivorian gendarmes attend training session on maintenance of law and order organized by UNOCI police** **African Press Organization**

Some thirty Ivorian gendarmes are attending a training programme on the techniques of the maintenance of law and order during the electoral period organized by the UN police (UNPOL). The session started on Monday 23 August at the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in Abidjan. According to the Deputy Chief of the UN Police, General Sylvestre Kibeceri, the training programme follows a request from the leadership of the Ivorian gendarmerie, who referred to the United Nations' Resolution 1939 which recommends UNOCI to accompany the Ivorian parties in the framework of the preparations for elections. "The training session is aimed at reinforcing the capacity of our partners of the Ivorian police and gendarmerie", said General Kibeceri at the opening ceremony of the working session. "It will be an opportunity to efficiently witness what the UN mission does in the framework of elections and put into practice what you will learn", he said to the participants who will in turn be in charge of training other gendarmes.

#### **UNOCI calls for calm management of the electoral appeals** **African Press Organization**

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) notes an increase in verbal tension and physical clashes as the legal phase of the appeals process progresses. This atmosphere, should it persist, could compromise the progress already achieved in the conduct of the electoral process. UNOCI launches an urgent appeal for a return to calm and serenity with a view to maintaining and consolidating a peaceful electoral environment. In the same spirit, UNOCI encourages the competent authorities, political actors and populations to strictly apply and respect the law.

## Hirondelle News Agency

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### **Former MRND President never propagated ethnicity, says witness**

ICTR/KAREMERA –

August 25, 2010 (FH)-The first defence witness for Mathieu Ndirumutse, former President of then Rwandan ruling party, MRND, told the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) Wednesday that he never heard the defendant delivering speeches with ethnicity and extremist elements prior to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

The witness, Gustave Mbonyumutwa, who was a student at Belgium School in Kigali between 1991 and 1994, said, "had he (Ndirumutse) made such speeches would have triggered reactions from my friends and schoolmates who had frequent discussions on political matters at school."

Led by Ndirumutse's co-counsel Frederic Weyl, the witness told Trial Chamber III presided over by Judge Dennis Byron that within the said period he made frequent visits to the house of the accused as he had a close friendship with one of his daughters, who was also his schoolmate.

According to the witness, he got opportunity of meeting with Ndirumutse and chat with him. "I never heard him giving ethnicity or extremist comments," he said. Mbonyumutwa recalled that Ndirumutse was involved in some cultural activities, including leading a choir at St Michael Church. Such choir, he said, was not made up of any ethnicity divisions.

Cross-examined by prosecuting attorney Don Webster, the witness told the Tribunal that though he was 17 years old during genocide period he was aware of political activities that were going on in Rwanda. Mbonyumutwa, however, said, he had little knowledge of what happened on the massive killings of Tutsi before he left Rwanda in July 1994.

The witness admitted further that he had not discussed politics with Ndirumutse, but he knew political issues relating to him because not only he was a public figure but also students discussed such matters extensively in school.

Hearing continues Thursday. In the trial, Ndirumutse is charged with his party's Vice-President Edouard Karemera for crimes committed by members of their party. The prosecution has indicted them for their superior responsibility as top officials of the party. Karemera has already completed his defence case.

FK/GF

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### **Karadzic seeks arms trafficking report from Belgium**

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Rodovan Karadzic wants Belgium to release documents in an arms trafficking probe which he would use at his genocide trial, a Belgian justice spokesman said Wednesday.

The request from Karadzic's legal team was transmitted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, based in The Hague, to the Belgian federal prosecutor's office, the spokesman said.

One of his three legal advisers, Peter Robinson, told the newspaper La Libre Belgique that Karadzic wants to show that Croatia and Bosnia received weapons despite a UN arms embargo.

"It is to prove that members of the UN violated the arms embargo during the war in Bosnia and gave the Bosnian army weapons that were used to attack Serb villages around Srebrenica," Robinson was quoted as saying.

"We also see on the witness stand witnesses who accuse Karadzic of violating UN resolutions. He wants to prove that member countries violated these resolutions themselves," Robinson said.

Karadzic wants documents related to Jacques Monsieur, a notorious Belgian arms dealer being held in the United States since his arrest at a New York airport in August 2009 on charges of trying to smuggle fighter-jet parts to Iran.

In 2002, a Brussels court sentenced Monsieur to more than three months behind bars for selling weapons including grenade launchers and missile parts to Iran, China, Ecuador, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in the 1980s and 1990s.

Karadzic, 65, faces 11 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide arising from Bosnia's 1992-95 war in which 100,000 people were killed and 2.2 million left homeless.

Among other accusations, he stands charged with genocide in connection with the massacre of nearly 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica in July 1995.

Arrested in July 2008 after 13 years on the run, he is acting as his own defence lawyer.