

**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.  
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**Local News**

‘War Don Don’: Issa Sesay Glamorized / *The Torchlight* Page 3

War Victims Benefit From NaCSA Skills Training / *The New Citizen* Page 4

“I Have Resigned My Job” Sierra Leone’s... / *Standard Times Online* Page 5

**International News**

DCT-008 Concludes His Evidence / *Charlestaylortrial.org* Pages 6-7

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL* Pages 8-13

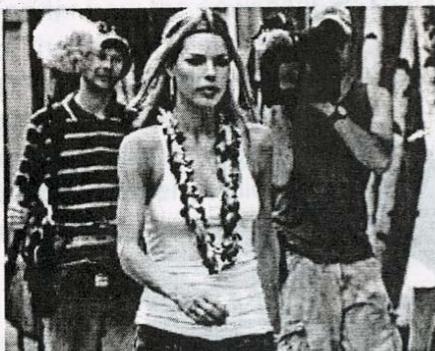
# 'War Don Don': Issa Sesay Glamorized

*Movie On Special Court Trial Out*

Synopsis: From 1991 to 2001, the RUF fought to overthrow the ruling government of Sierra Leone. In 2003, after the end of the war, the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone spent more than \$200 million building a Special Court to seek justice and reconciliation, setting up the world's first international war crimes "hybrid tribunal."

Three years in the making, WAR DON DON draws on unprecedented access to the inner workings of the defense and prosecution in Issa Sesay's trial, including access to Sesay himself, exploring the contradictions of a man who dealt in blood diamonds, commanded child soldiers and was blamed for mass atrocities against civilians, while also being credited by some with single-handedly ending the war.

The prosecution, led by Stephen Rapp (who was recently appointed Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues by President Obama), argues that the trial is supposed to assess the guilt of those at the top, who routinely turned a blind eye to the misdeeds of men under their command. Wayne Jordash, Sesay's lead defense lawyer, counters that his client was an uneducated young man who was coerced into fighting.



Moreover, he says, "Any process which isn't prepared to examine itself is fundamentally flawed. You [the Special Court] have such an impetus towards convicting everybody before the Court, and that doesn't lend itself to a truth-finding process." Saying that he believes the Special Court has an important place, Sesay offers his own version of the war.

While the trial is underway in Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, the Outreach Group of the Special Court visits rural communities to answer questions and show videotape of the proceedings. While some people feel the trial is positive and a step towards the country's reconciliation, others are angry, believing some of the millions of dollars it cost to build the Special Court would have been better allocated to citizens to alleviate the immediate damage of the war.

During the trial, the prosecution has former RUF soldiers testify against

## War Victims Benefit From NaCSA Skills Training

*By Abu Kalokoh*

**T**he National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), last Monday commenced skills training in various vocations, for female victims across the country, under the Reparation Programme.

The training which is being provided by contracted vocational institutions, and is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Women through UNIFEM, targets 650 female victims, who will acquire livelihood enhancing skills in areas such as tailoring, driving, computer literacy, agriculture, gara tie-dyeing, etc. These women, mostly between the age of 20 and 40yrs, were rendered vulnerable and destitute as a result of human rights violations endured during the Sierra Leone conflict, and the training is intending to empower them, to be self-reliant, live productive lives and take care of their dependants.

Addressing trainers and trainees during a meeting held at NaCSA headquarter on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, the Programme Manager for the Reparation

Programme, Amadu Bangura, pointed out that the training is in fulfillment of the TRC's recommendation for restoring the dignity of victims of the conflict, by empowering them through capacity building that will enable them to rebuild their lives. He said that this is the first phase of what they hope will be an ongoing exercise until all eligible war victims have acquired training in livelihood enhancing skills to be self-reliant.

NaCSA's Western Area Coordinator, Osman Jalloh, called on the victims to take the training seriously as it is an opportunity for them to turn their lives around for the better. He said they were not selected based on luck, but on their vulnerability, and it is now up to them to take control of their destiny.

NaCSA's Commissioner, Saidu Conteh Sesay, admonished the trainers to consider their engagement not as a contractual one but as a moral one, as they are dealing with fellow Sierra Leoneans who have gone through traumatic experiences. He said they have an opportunity to contribute to peace building by rebuilding the lives of victims and help promote reconciliation. Com-

missioner Sesay also called on them to be particular sensitive to the special needs of these victims as the trainers can also contribute to the healing process.

The training is expected to last from three to six months, after which beneficiaries will be given \$500 (Five hundred Dollars) each, as a start up grant for small-scale income generating activities.

The Sierra Leone Reparations Programme is a key recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) It is predicated on the right to reparations for the harm caused during the eleven years civil war in Sierra Leone on five categories of civilian victims specifically identified in the TRC report of October 2004- amputees, severely war wounded, victims of sexual violence, war widows and child victims. The focus of the programme is to address the emerging needs of the severely war affected whilst for the majority it is based on victim empowerment, through livelihood support programme tailored to individual needs.

Standard Times Online  
Wednesday, 8 September 2010

### **“I Have Resigned My Job” Sierra Leone’s New Anti Corruption Boss Says**



*New Anti Corruption Boss Joseph Kamara...Has Promised To Do A Good Job*

Joseph Kamara, President of the Sierra Leone Bar Association a professional legal body has tendered his letter of resignation to the association’s Secretary General at the Secretariat Office on Bathurst Street. Mr. Kamara, up to the time of his resignation was loved by the membership of the association. His letter of resignation from the association takes effect after four weeks and was submitted to the Secretary General on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

It would be recalled that some four weeks back, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma nominated Mr. Kamara for the position of Commissioner of the Sierra Leone’s Anti Corruption Commission, following the

resignation of Lawyer Abdul Tejan Cole. On Monday this week the nominee appeared before the Appointments Committee in Parliament where he was interviewed on a number of areas including the position for which he was nominated. The Committee, according to a member was pleased with his performance and will be forwarded anytime to the general body with a detailed report about his performance for a unanimous approval and endorsement to be made before taking up office.

Mr. Joseph Kamara is a professional lawyer with vast experience in prosecuting. He worked at the Law Officers Department and rose to the rank of Principal State Counsel and left to pursue an MA Programme in Law in the United States of America in addition to a long list of diplomas and other qualifications. While in the United States of America, Mr. Kamara had made several presentations of legal papers in conferences held at the Washington District of Columbia and other states in the United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada.

With his experience, exposure and qualifications Mr. Kamara was offered a job at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and his outstanding performance left his superiors with no alternative but to promote him to the position of Deputy Prosecutor of the Special Court. On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 Mr. Kamara tendered his letter of resignation to the Sierra Leone Bar Association. Asked why he resigned his position as President of the Bar Association he said “I have to do that, not only on principles, but to prevent what could be seen as a “conflict off interest.

## Charlestaylortrial.org (The Hague)

Wednesday, 8 September 2010

### **Liberia: DCT-008 Concludes His Evidence**

Alpha Sesay

Today, DCT-008, the 20th defense witness who could possibly be the final witness to give oral evidence in the Charles Taylor trial, concluded his evidence.

The witness was re-examined by defense lawyers for the former Liberian president, who is on trial for allegedly supporting Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels during the 11 year civil conflict in Sierra Leone, which saw the commission of heinous crimes, including rape, murder, and amputations against the civilian population of the country.

Prosecutors allege that Mr. Taylor provided arms and ammunition to RUF rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for Sierra Leone's blood diamonds, a relationship that prosecutors say formed the basis of a campaign of terror against the civilian population of Sierra Leone. Mr. Taylor has denied these allegations, telling the court that members of his security apparatus in Liberia could have had dealings with the Sierra Leonean rebels without his knowledge.

In his testimony for Mr. Taylor, DCT-008 has supported Mr. Taylor's assertions, particularly through testifying that Special Security Services (SSS) Director Benjamin Yeaten had a special friendship with RUF commander Sam Bockarie, and this friendship formed the basis of the support that the RUF received from Liberia. Mr. Taylor, the witness has maintained, did not have knowledge of such a relationship.

As defense lawyers re-examined him today, DCT-008 tried to clarify some issues that had come up during his cross-examination by prosecutors.

The witness clarified issues relating to the use of various floors of the Executive Mansion in Liberia while Mr. Taylor was president. During his cross-examination, prosecutors suggested to him that Mr. Taylor used the the 8th floor of the Executive Mansion to coordinate operations with RUF rebels in Sierra Leone. The witness denied this, saying that Mr. Taylor never lived on the 8th floor.

Explaining what he knew about the 8th floor, DCT-008 said, "On the 8th floor, that was where the presidents, starting from [William] Tolbert to [Samuel] Doe, they had their residence there but during the war, we were told that the place was ransacked and all the things that were there were looted by ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group]."

"According to the story that I heard for the Mansion, it happened that when they [ECOMOG] were in control of Monrovia, they were in control of the Mansion, and so they used that opportunity to loot the place so nobody could see them," the witness added.

He said that while he knew that Mr. Taylor moved into his White Flower residence in early 1999, he did not know where the former president lived between 1997 to late 1998.

He "however never heard that the president Taylor resided on the 8th floor."

The witness explained that the 7th floor housed radio communications equipment and the 6th floor was the presidential kitchen. He said he never heard that the SSS used the 5th floor of the Mansion for radio communications.

The witness also tried to clarify issues relating to the use of the word "principal" in radio communications. According to a previous prosecution witness, the language used by radio operators whenever RUF commanders wanted to talk to Liberian officials was "my principal wants to talk to your principal." DCT-008 has said in his testimony that radio operators used the word "master" rather than "principal" as the latter could have made it easy for people monitoring the communications to know what was going on.

When asked to tell the court why they used "master" rather than "principal," the witness explained, "The reason was that the term principal, even within the Government of Liberia radio communications system, we referred to the commander of certain radio stations as principal and the term principal in Liberia means head of an institution."

"So if the term principal is used, anybody who had been listening on the Government of Liberia side will know that there is an operator on the Liberian side and the Sierra Leone side."

When he was responding to questions from the judges, the witness discussed the arms purchase that SSS Director Mr. Yeaten undertook for the RUF.

Justice Richard Lussick asked the witness that when "Benjamin Yeaten sent people to buy arms and ammunition from the LPC [Liberian Peace Council] and ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia], where did he get the money from?"

In response, the witness said, "I did not say he sent men to buy arms from the LPC or ULIMO. I said those areas were controlled by LPC and ULIMO. To answer your question, I don't know where he got the money."

The witness has said that Mr. Yeaten's radio operators communicated regularly with RUF radio operators and such contacts were not known by other radio operators working for the Liberian government.

Justice Lussick therefore asked the witness whether he used to monitor other calls made by other radio operators.

"As a radio operator, provided I stand on the frequency, I could monitor any calls...any operator could do that, even during the war, LURD [Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy] used to monitor our communications and we used to do the same," he said.

He agreed with Justice Lussick that he would not know if somebody else was monitoring his communications.

As SSS Director Mr. Yeaten has taken center stage in this trial as the main person who was in contact with RUF rebels and having worked as a radio operator for Mr. Yeaten, Justice Teresa Doherty asked the witness whether Mr. Yeaten is still alive.

"I don't know, since he left Liberia in 2003, I have not got any information about him...I do not know whether he is alive and even if he is alive, I do not know where he is now."

Earlier in the week, defense lawyers indicated that DCT-008 might be the final witness to give oral testimony as a defense witness for Mr. Taylor. As the witness concluded his testimony today, the judges asked defense lawyers whether they had anything to say about the conclusion of their case. Defense counsel for Mr. Taylor, Terry Munyard, addressed the court on this and told the judges that the defense wants the court to have a status conference on Monday next week. Before the status conference, the team will meet with Mr. Taylor and get instructions from him on the way forward, he said.

He concluded, "At the moment, we are not anticipating calling any further live evidence, should that change, we will let the parties know."

The court resumes for a status conference on Monday.

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

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary**  
**8 September 2010**

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

**UN News in Liberia**

**UNMIL News**

**Maryland County Senator Identifies Cause of Influx of Drug Traffickers**  
**[National Chronicle ]**

- Maryland County Senator John Ballout says the law against drug trafficking is weak, thereby leading to the release and influx of users .
- Speaking at the graduation exercise of the Haywood Mission High School in Monrovia , Senator Ballout said the use of harmful drugs is becoming common to the extent that it must now attract a robust fight .
- He told the students that the Legislature is considering instituting tougher laws that will curtail the use and trafficking of harmful drugs.
- Investigation shows that officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Liberia National Police (LNP) as well as UNMIL Nigerian security officers are also linked to drug trafficking and usage.

**NEC Rules Out Referendum Possibility**

*[Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, ELBC , Truth and Liberian Express ]*

- The Chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has ruled out the possibility of conducting a referendum in the same year with the General and Presidential Elections.
- Mr. James Fromayan cited poor infrastructure as one of the reasons for the impossibility .
- He named unfavourable physical conditions as other reasons for the impossibility for a referendum ahead of the 2011 Elections .
- He also noted that the commission does not have the capacity to conduct any referendum because it wants to direct its energy to the 2011 Elections.
- Meanwhile the NEC Chairman has informed donors of the need of additional 65% budgetary allocation of the current NEC's budget .
- He said the additional allocation is necessary to cover possible runoff in 2011 adding that only the presidential runoff has appropriation.
- At the sametime the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General Moustapha Soumafé has disclosed that Germany, Sweden and Spain have delivered their pledges to the commission .
- He said the European Union (EU) has also committed itself to providing funds to the coming elections.
- Mr. Soumafé pointed out that Japan, Denmark and Norway have shown willingness to contribute to the 2011 elections' budget .
- Tuesday's donor meeting was attended by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), African Union (AU) , European Union (EU) , UNMIL , Representatives of the Liberian Government , ECOWAS , NEC , and others .

**Local News on Liberian issues**

**USAID, Government Sign Educational MOU**

*[The News]*

- The United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Liberian Government are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding on additional educational support to Liberia.
- A release from the US Embassy says the agreement is aimed at affording Liberians the opportunity to access conventional academic systems, such as progress with formal and informal livelihood training programs.
- Under the agreement, Liberians will gain employment and maintain a healthy lifestyle with a focus to participate in community development programs.
- The Ministries of Education and Youth and Sports are key government partners to the agreement.

### **Liberia's Kenneth Best , World Hero**

[Heritage, Inquirer, Daily Observer and News]

- The International Press Institute (IPI) has named Liberian Journalist Kenneth Best as one of the world 's 60 Press Freedom Heroes.
- The IPI has meanwhile invited Mr. Best to Vienna, Austria to a ceremony where he will receive his award .
- Mr. Best, who turns 72 in October, is the publisher of Liberia's oldest news paper , the Daily Observer.
- The IPI is the world's largest and oldest press organization founded in 1950 and is champion of press freedom through out the world .
- The group said it recognized Mr. Best for his meaningful contributions toward the welfare of press freedom and his outstanding performance as a journalist .
- In 2000, Mr. Best was also honored in the US by the IPS during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as one of the world's 50 Press Freedom Heroes.

### **Finance Minister Encourages Lofa Diaspora Citizens**

[New Democrat, Liberian Express, Daily Observer and News]

- Finance Minister Augustine Ngafuan has urged Lofa citizens in the Diaspora to contribute immensely to ensure a successful July 26 celebrations in their county next year.
- According to Minister Ngafuan who also hails from Lofa, a successful July 26 celebrations in the county will mean well for all Lofa citizens .
- The Finance Minister also noted that Lofa citizens need to return home and rebuild their county.
- He spoke in the US during the induction of the Federation of Lofa Association in the Americas .
- The President of the Lofa Association in the Americas Arthur Zakamah thanked Minister Ngafuan for what he termed his inspirational speech.
- He pledged his group's commitment to the development of Lofa County .

### **President Johnson Sirleaf Misled**

[Heritage]

- Nimba County Senator Adolphus Dolo says President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was misled by government negotiators and technocrats that the APM Terminal Agreement is beneficial .
- The USD\$120 million 25-year agreement which speaks of the privatization of the Freeport of Monrovia, is being negotiated by the Inter-ministerial Committee headed by the Chairman of the National Investment Commission and representatives of the Dutch Company .
- The Nimba County Senator made the assertion Tuesday during a joint legislative hearing at the Capitol Building in Monrovia .
- He said the agreement will not yield enough revenue as purported by government's neglectors if ratified .
- According to him there are critical issues that still need to be addressed in the agreement that should not be overlooked .
- Senator Dolo urged government negotiators and technocrats to always properly advise the president on all agreements which according to him if not done might mortgage the country .

### **Wulki Farm Charged for Tax Invasion]**

[New Republic]

- The Tax Court of Monrovia has ruled against the management of Wulki Farm in a case between the farm and government on tax evasion.
- Government took Wulki Farm to court recently for what it termed 'refusal to pay real estate tax '.
- Tax Court Resident Judge Eva Mappy-Mongan ruled that Wulki Farm pays the sum of USD\$ 23,278,62 dollars effective October .

- The court said failure on the part of the farm will amount to drastic legal action .
- Judge Mappy-Mongan said her ruling was based on the fact that the farm violated the revenue code of 2000 on real estate tax .
- Wulki Farm is owned by former Maritime Boss and renowned Businessman Benoni Urey .

### **Accused Chinese Murderer Freed to eat Food of their Choice**

[Inquirer ]

- Criminal Court “B” says it will allow two Chinese men charged with “first degree murder” to eat any food of their choice and answer telephone calls ahead of final ruling .
- Criminal Court “B’ Judge Blamo Dixon ordered the Ministry of Justice to feed the foreign defendants in the bailiwick of the court during lunch break of trail.
- The Ministry of Justice is also charged with the responsibility to purchase food for the accused from any reputable Chinese restaurant and bring it to the bailiwick of the court to feed the men .
- The judge also said the men are privileged to eat any African dish if they wish.
- Judge Dixon order comes after Defense Counsel argued that the Justice Ministry now sees it as habit to bring people to court with out preparation or attempt to feed them.

### **Zimbabwe Football Association Complains Liberia**

[New Democrat and National Chronicle]

- The Zimbabwe Football Association has filed a complaint with the Confederation of African Football over the alleged ill-treatment of its national team in Liberia on the eve of Sunday's Cup of Nations qualifying match.
- ZIFA in a letter to CAF released on Tuesday accused the LFA of “psychological frustration”.
- They alleged their team was taken from one hotel without electricity or water to another where some players had to sleep after midnight on mattresses on the floor.
- ZIFA also accused the LFA of delaying its players for three hours and deliberately puncturing a tire on the team bus.

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

### **Finance Minister Encourages Diaspora Lofa Citizens**

[ Veritas, Sky FM, and ELBC]

### **Ghana Electoral Commission Chairman Arrives in Liberia**

[Also reported Radio Veritas, Sky FM, ELBC, Truth, and Truth]

- The Chairman of the Ghana Electoral Commission Dr. Kwadwo Afara-Gyan has arrived in the country.
- Dr. Afari-Gyan is in Liberia to conduct series of electoral working sessions with staff of NEC.
- NEC said Dr. Afari-Gyan’s presence in the country is in response to a request through the International Foundation of Electoral System (IFES) by the Chairman of NEC.
- According to a release, Mr. James Fromayan made the request for Dr. Afari-Gyan to assist NEC in preparing for the 2011 Elections in Liberia.
- While in the country, the Ghana Electoral Commission Chairman will meet with key partners of NEC.

### **Government’s Delegation Meets Maryland Citizens**

[Also reported Radio Sky FM and ELBC]

- Internal Affairs Minister at the head of a high power Liberian Government’s delegation has met with citizens of Plebo in Maryland County.
- The delegation includes the Ministers of Agriculture , Labor and Deputy Minister of Justice .
- They told citizens of Maryland that government has asked SIFCA to operate the oil palm plantation and called on them to cooperate .
- They said the company won a competitive bidding process to operate the plantation and said a concession agreement was being worked out .
- Minister Harrison Kanwea told the citizens that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf respects the views of the people and was also concerned about the high unemployment situation in that part of the country .
- He noted that what ever is done against SIFCA has the propensity to discourage investors .
- In response ,the citizens agreed to receive and work with the company .
- They apologized to government for the inconvenience their opposition to the company caused.

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

### **LRRRC Unawares, Liberian Refugees Repatriate**

*[Also Reported on Sky FM and ELBC]*

- The Liberia Repatriation Resettlement and Reintegration Commission (LRRRC) said it is unaware of reports that authorities in the Gambia have warned Liberian refugees in that country to integrate or return home .
- A reintegration officer of the LRRRC said contrary to the media reports, a new registration process is underway to update the status of Liberian refugees in the Gambia .
- Mr. Momolu Freeman said during the process the status of Liberian refugees in the Gambia will be determined .
- He said the LRRRC is working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) and the Gambian Government to ensure that Liberian refugees are given due courtesy in the process .
- He said the Liberian Government and UNHCR are monitoring the registration process .
- He said September 2011 is scheduled for the return of Liberian refugees in the sub-region.
- Mr. Freeman has meanwhile called on Liberian refugees in the Gambia to take advantage of the registration process.

### **NPA Managing Director Reverts Stance Against APM Terminals**

*[Also reported on Sky FM and ELBC]*

- The Managing Director of the National Port Authority(NPA) has reverted to supporting the Government of Liberia and APM Terminal contract for the privatization of the Freeport of Monrovia.
- She told a joint Legislative hearing Tuesday that government has taken a policy decision to privatize the Freeport of Monrovia .
- She said the NPA Board of Directors has agreed to support the 120 million agreement that will improve infrastructure and address the plight of the port's employees .
- The Chairman of the National Investment Commission (NIC), Deputy Finance Minister for Revenue , the Executive Director ,the Public Procurement Concession Commission ( PPCC) and Assistant Justice Minister for Economic Affairs all endorsed the APM Terminal agreement which they said will help accelerate economic performance in the country .
- Earlier ,the NPA Managing Director kicked against the agreement noting that it does not seek the welfare of employees and address other issues .

### **Verbal Exchanges over EPA's Function**

*[Also reported on Sky FM and ELBC]*

- Verbal exchanges have ensued between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Land, Mine and Energy that the EPA is operating beyond bounds.
- Assistant Land, Mines and Energy Minister Beanford Weeks said the EPA is overstepping its bounds in the performance its statutory mandate .
- Details of Minister Weeks' comments are not available but the EPA has challenged him to cite one instance during which the agency usurped the function of any agency of government.
- The EPA also said it is taking aback by the Assistant Minister's allegation owing to the fact that he has the right to seek any information he wants from the EPA.

### **Belleh District Development Association Debunks 15% Road Completion**

- The Belleh District Development Association said 75% of rehabilitation work on the Belleh Yala Road is completely contrary to media reports that only 15% of the road was done .
- A son of the district Kia Sah told the local media that the road is inaccessible to vehicles.
- The Chairman of the association Teto Johnson said the statement is a disservice to the company building the road .
- He said the company has assured residents of the district that the road will be completed during the dry season.
- Mr. Johnson also said the citizens are grateful to government for the road.

### **Human Rights Group Calls for Halt on Sande Practices**

- The local human rights group "Save Humanity" is calling for the abolition of the Sande Society in the mining town of Weaju, Grand Cape Mount County.
- A spokesman of the group Elijah Gbangee said the town is no more suitable for a Sande Society Bush.
- He said the presence of the Sande Society in the town is not healthy and poses threats to school-age girls and foreigners who are in some instances forcibly initiated in the society.
- The group's spokesman said Sande Society practices belong in the deep forest and not in the town that is inhabited by hundreds of non society members.

## International Clips on Liberia

### **Liberia Faces Potential Destabilization** [Xinhua and AP]

A top UN envoy on Wednesday said that **Liberia** continues to face "potentially destabilizing" security challenges arising from multiple threats. The statement came as Ellen Margrethe Loj, the UN secretary-general's special representative and coordinator of UN operations in Liberia, briefed the UN Security Council on developments in the effort to consolidate peace in the West African nation.

"Mob violence, ethnic and communal tensions, competition for natural resources, land disputes, sexual and gender-based violence and armed robbery," and alarming rates of unemployment, have all given rise to significant security concerns in Liberia, said Loj. With the country's presidential and legislative elections set to take place in September 2011, the government has initiated plans for the eventual takeover of security responsibilities from the United Nations peacekeeping mission in **Liberia** (UNMIL). "Given the fact that **Liberia's** major security threats are internal rather than external, it will be important to ensure that security agencies, especially the police, immigration and corrections services, are strengthened to meet their future operational challenges," noted Loj. "The reality is that much more external support will be required," she said.

### **Chevron Says Liberia OKs offshore investment** [Reuters]

Chevron Corp said on Wednesday the **Liberian** government has approved its investment in three deepwater concessions off the African country's coast. The company will acquire a 70 percent interest in the deepwater blocks LB-11, LB-12 and LB-14, 12 to 110 miles south of **Liberia's** capital, Monrovia. Exploration in the region is slated to begin in the fourth quarter. Elsewhere on the African continent, Chevron has exploration and production businesses in Angola, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and the Republic of the Congo. Shares of Chevron, based in San Ramon, California, rose a penny to \$77.06 in premarket trading. The stock has traded between \$66.83 and \$83.41 in the past 52 weeks.

## International Clips on West Africa

### **Ivory Coast**

#### **Ivory Coast united by greed** <http://mondediplo.com>

A billboard dominates the view from the roundabout in Yamoussoukro, the titular capital of Ivory Coast. In the distance the dome of the world's biggest church looms over the city. President Félix Houphouët-Boigny built the Basilique de Notre Dame de la Paix in his home town, which he made the capital. Ghastly in its proportions and extravagance, the church is a monument to his domineering yet economically successful leadership of Ivory Coast for more than 30 years after independence from France in 1960. The billboard shows two Ivorian men embracing, one wearing the distinctive hat of the Fula, a nomadic tribe of pastoralists. "Social cohesion – Tolerance and solidarity for reinforced social cohesion" is the slogan (in French). Bris, 18, doing his homework while working in his family shop next to the billboard, says: "It's about unifying the people. We are divided." The UN is responsible for the billboards, which are seen all over country but especially in the main city, Abidjan.

### **Sierra Leone**

## **Sierra Leone doubles Profit Share from Diamond Miner**

[AFP]

Sierra Leone's government said Monday it has revised its agreement with diamond miner Koidu Holdings, doubling its share in profits to 60 percent as part of a broad review of mining accords.

"The agreement has put us on a stronger footing as Koidu Holdings was having 70 percent of the share of benefits while the government had only 30 percent," Mining Minister Alpha Kanu said.

"But the new agreement will allow the government to realise a 60 percent share of all net benefits," he said. Government will receive an additional 18 million dollars (14 million euro) a year as part of the new agreement under which Koidu will also provide 100,000 dollars annually to train Sierra Leoneans. Rent has also increased from 50,000 US dollars to 200,000 dollars a year.

The review is part of a promise the government made when taking office in 2007, in an effort to improve profits from mining. The minister said royalties for all mining companies had been increased from three percent to 6.5 percent and export duties from four percent to five percent.

## **Guinea**

### **Japan gives Guinea US\$5.8 million for health**

[PANA]

The Japanese government has released US\$5.8 million to Guinea to help it to tackle food insecurity in the most under-privileged areas, a statement from the office of the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday. WFP said this aid was granted at a critical moment where food insecurity and natural disasters were resurfacing. WFP representative, Fatma Samoura, said thanks to that distribution, her institution would be able to take vital food and nutritional support to 'vulnerable people' until late 2010. The beneficiaries are from the most under-privileged groups of the region of Forest Guinea, the departments of Gaoul and Koundara (North) and the city of Conakry, the capital.

Primary school children in assisted schools set up by WFP, through its 680 school canteens, will benefit from that assistance as well. One of the objectives of that aid, which will benefit 180,200 school children, is to contribute to increase the registration and success rate for schools, particularly girls. About 17,800 children suffering from malnutrition, pregnant women and HIV/AIDS infected and affected people, or 28,500 beneficiaries, will also be taken care of.

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