

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Thursday, September 01, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Mariama S. Yilla  
Ext 7217 / 7216

Standard Times. Thursday September 1, 2005.

## Supreme Court rules against Hinga Norman

BY UNISSA BANGURA

**T**he Supreme Court headed by Justice Dr Ade Renner Thomas as Chief Justice, yesterday delivered a ruling in favour of the defendants, Dr Sama Banya, Dr Prince Harding and the

SLPP, first, second and third accused respectively, in the constitutional suit filed by Dr Bubuakei Jabbie on behalf of his client, detained former deputy minister of defense, Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

*CONTINUED PAGE 11*

### Supreme Court rules against Hinga Norman

*FROM PAGE 1*

In his two hours thirty minutes judgement the chief justice reviewed both the arguments of the plaintiff and the response of the defendant's solicitors.

With regard to the issue of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as raised by the plaintiff, the Chief Justice ruled that the "Supreme Court has the right to hear and determine the application since it is the high-

est court of the courts in the Land", quoting relevant sections of the law.

All the five Supreme Court judges expressed similar sentiments and unanimously came to a conclusion by delivering an uncontestable judgement in favour of the defendants.

The Chief Justice read out the orders of the court which stated that the first and second claims of the plaintiff were struck out, while the third and fourth points

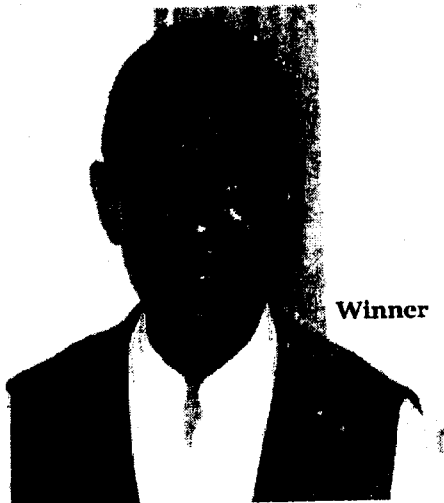
were struck out on the ground of lack of locus.

On the issue of cost, the Chief Justice said that each of the party should bear its own cost.

It would be recalled that the matter was filed pursuant to sections 122, 124(1), 127 and 171 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No. 6 of 1991 and rules 89 to 98 inclusive of the Supreme Court rules, statutory instrument No. 1 of 1982.

Christian Monitor. Thursday September 1, 2005.

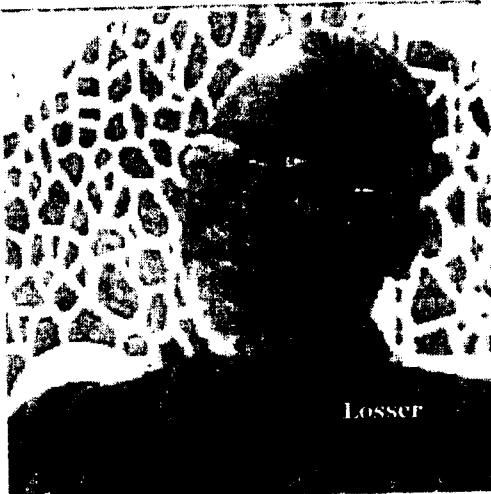
## As Norman Loses Out On **SLPP May** Convention This



Winner

**Lead Defence Counsel for SLPP: Eke Halloway**

**By Martin Sandy** permanent injunction sought by the plaintiff to restrain the party's convention be struck off. Justice Renner Thomas mentioned that the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine the plaintiff's motion but stated that the plaintiff has no "locus standi" (i.e the right to sue) in relation to the matter. He also stated that the



Loser

**Plaintiff: Hinga Norman**

also stated that the gross undertakings by the plaintiff should remain in the files of the court as no damages were given. He therefore dismissed all three defendants who were told to bear their own costs. He also praised Dr. Jabbie, Counsel for Hinga Norman for the diligent way in which he presented the plaintiff's case.

Meanwhile, after the judgment, Dr. Jabbie told

# *Injunction....* **Hold Weekend**



***Counsel for Plaintiff: Bubuaeki Jabbie***

a group of journalists at the Victoria Park that he was disappointed over the outcome of the matter. He said he was unhappy because the court did not look into specific issues thus, they failed to

adequately explore the concept of "Locus Standi". Meanwhile, reports filtering into our press say that the SLPP Convention may be held this weekend.

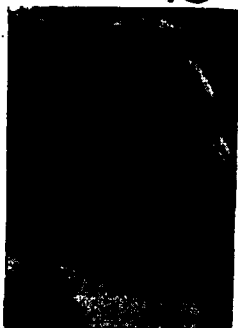
Awareness Times. Thursday September 1, 2005.

# Supreme damns Hinga



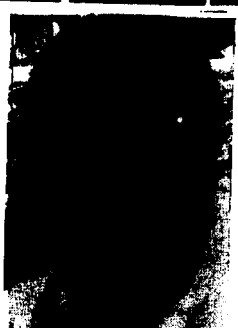
**Sama Banya: Smiles**

*By David A. Jabbie Jr.*  
The Supreme Court of  
Sierra Leone yesterday,



**Bu-Buake: Stunned**

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, passed  
judgment over an injunction  
earlier brought before it by



**The Prince of SLPP**

Special Court detainee and  
former Deputy Minister of  
Defence and Head of the

Civil Defence  
Force, Chief Sam  
Hinga Norman

The five Judges who  
presided over the matter,  
Chief Justice Ade Renner  
Thomas, Justices Tholla  
Thompson, John Kamanda,  
Sahr John and Virginia  
Wright gave a unanimous  
verdict dismissing the  
injunction motion.

Two issues were at stake on  
which the ruling was based  
The issue of whether the  
Supreme Court has the

## Court Norman

original jurisdiction to hear  
and determine the  
application made by the  
Plaintiff, and whether the  
Plaintiff, Sam Hinga  
Norman has the locus  
standi to make such an  
application.

Giving the final verdict, the  
Chief Justice, Ade Renner  
Thomas told the court that  
though the plaintiff, through  
his lawyer, Dr. Bu-buake  
Jabbie straineously tried to  
argue out that his client has  
the locus standi, his

arguement hasn't much  
weight.

According to the Chief  
Justice, there is a provision  
in the Political Party Act for  
the formation of a Political  
Party Commission. This  
commission though yet to be  
constituted, he said, has the  
right to bring up the issue in  
question to the Supreme  
Court and not an individual  
and therefore, the plaintiff  
has no right.

*Contd. page 2*

# Court damns Hinga Norman

*From front page*

On the issue of jurisdiction, the Chief Justice stated that jurisdiction can be relative, based on the substance of the matter but that in a case like this, the Supreme Court has no original jurisdiction.

The Chief Justice at the end of his final verdict ruled that the SLPP has no case to answer and that the Party should carry on with its National Delegates Convention.

He thanked Lawyer Bu-buake Jabbie for the efforts he made in arguing out his points. He congratulated Lawyer Eke Halloway on the other hand, for representing the defendants successfully. Speaking to Awareness Times shortly after the court ruling, the first accused Dr. Sama S. Banya who happens to be the National Chairman of the SLPP, said "We are happy that the judgment has been made today. We are particularly happy because of the victory. It is the will of the people".

Also talking to Awareness Times outside the Law Court

house, was the Second Defendant, Dr. Prince Alex Harding, who in a very happy mood said, "We knew we were going to win and we are happy that we won. Our accusers were shot by their own bullets. It is going to be victory all the way". He went on to declare that the national delegates convention will now going be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of this month. Dr. Harding ended by quoting the words of William Shakespeare, "All is well that ends well".

The Third Defendant, the SLPP party, represented by the Administrative Secretary, Brima Koroma, told Awareness Times that he is glad that democracy is at work within the party, pointing out further, "I think it is good for the party. I am also glad that the court educated lots of people about a lot of issues. It is a big victory for the party", he noted.

Lawyer Bu-buake Jabbie who called a Press Conference at the Victoria Park shortly after the verdict, told pressmen that he was

happy that the application his client made activated a lot of issues within the party.

On the issue of whether or not his client will be represented at the party's national delegates convention he said, "I am just a lawyer representing my client in his political struggle, I am not his campaign manager. I don't think I will be in position to state whether he is going to be represented or not. But I'm sure he has handled that well", he said. It could be recalled that the Plaintiff, Sam Hinga Norman through his lawyer Bu-buake Jabbie, filed in a motion in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone seeking for a temporary injunction on the holding of the SLPP Party Delegates Convention which was slated for August 19 and 20 2005. His argument was that the proposed convention and particularly the election of a party leader, contravenes the party constitution. This application filed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2005, prevented the party convention from proceeding as scheduled, as the matter was before the Supreme Court for a ruling.

The New Storm. Thursday September 1, 2005.

# Supreme Court SLPP Case Out

By Amara A. Samura



Chief Norman



Dr. S.S. Banya

*The matter brought before the Supreme Court by Chief Sam Hinga Norman against Dr. Sama S. Banya, Dr. Prince Alex Harding and the SLPP was yesterday thrown out of court by Chief Justice Dr. Adel Renner-Thomas in Freetown.*

The lawyer for the plaintiff applicant, Dr. Buakei Jabbie had filed a

motion in the Supreme Court seeking permanent injunction in the election, nomination or selection of the presidential candidate for the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party, SLPP, in the convention to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The application also questioned the eligibility of ministers of government officials benefiting from the consoli-

## Throws Of Court

dated fund to contest for positions in the party executive.

The Chief Justice quoted many sections in the 1991 constitution, the political parties Act of 2002, and a recent matter in Nigeria and England to buttress the decision.

The Judges noted that Chief Norman was a member of the SLPP and that he brought the case to

court as a law abiding citizen and member of the SLPP, adding that he brought the matter to the court on his own behalf and not in a representative capacity.

Addressing the press immediately after the verdict at the Victoria Park, lawyer Jabbie said he was happy about certain aspects of the decision reached at by the

*Contd page 2*

### Supreme Court Throws SLPP Case Out Of Court

*From front page*

judges but that he was also unhappy on other issues. He said section 127 of the 1991 constitution fully embraces *locos standi* in constitutional issue. He said the meaning of *locos standi* is the right of a

person to sue in court on certain issues. Dr. Jabbie maintained that the decision of the supreme court was adapted by the court to avoid going into the issues raised in the case; adding that they have not ad-

equately explored the *locos standi*.

"They have avoided the issue brought to the supreme court. They have obstacles in the conception of the law" Dr. Jabbie said.

Concord Times. Thursday September, 1, 2005.

## **As Norman Loses SLPP Case**

**Commentary By  
Phileas Jusu**

***Yesterday's Supreme Court ruling against the motion filed by war crimes indictee Chief Sam Hinga Norman offers a good opportunity for the party to take stock of where it had gone wrong in the recent past. But we believe that the prospects for unity would be considerably dim if any attempt is made to rush the holding of the National Delegates Convention.***

The said party convention which was to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August was indefinitely postponed by party officials as a result of an earlier injunction. The ruling now means that the convention can now be held and the ban on the election of party leader (which was the actual bone of contention) while the case was in court is now lifted.

Since the issues mentioned in the litigation were actually not addressed in court, this is perhaps the best opportunity the party has to call an in-house meeting and settle their dif-

**SEE PAGE 2**

## **COMMENTARY**

ferences once and for all as a way of avoiding future court actions. We at SALONE TIMES believe that the best way of easing the mounting tension and perhaps getting over most of the hurdles that presently seem to be pulling the party apart is to call the party's National Executive Council meeting where all the aspirants will be invited and attempts made to resolve the differences. Leaving things as they are now might create more gaps than exist at present.

One way of easing the tension is perhaps by giving some time lapse after the court ruling till say next year before organizing the National Convention.

The time lapse will as well have the advantage of allowing the delegates to know the candidates better and be in position to discern among the candidates as to who deserves what. It appears the focus of most people as they contemplate on the convention is the party's presidential nominee for the 2007 elections. There are other key posts within the party if not handled by people with the right caliber will lead the party to doom. It appears there is so much tension now that nobody is any longer talking about other party posts like chairman, secretary general or organizing secretary.

It's time for that tension to be eased now so that a period of serious reflection will precede the election of the party's leaders. Now more than ever cool heads are needed in the SLPP to chart the way forward.



# Salone Times

1 September 2005

## **Supreme Court Throws Out Norman Motion**

By Rhoda Williams

The Supreme Court yesterday set aside the motion filed by Dr. Bu-Bukei Jabbie on behalf of Chief Sam Hinga Norman over alleged breach of portions of the SLPP Constitution by certain members of the party.

The plaintiff also explained about what he described as the premature party's national convention which was scheduled for August 19-20.

The motion was filed on July 27 with the party's chairman, Dr. Sama Banya, the Secretary General Dr. Prince Harding and the party as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd defendants respectively in the matter.

It could be recalled that Chief Justice Ade Renner-Thomas, initially ruled that the convention may go ahead but that they should refrain from electing a leader of the party.

The Chief Justice who read out the ruling yesterday said that the plaintiff Hinga Norman does not have any legal right to take the matter to court, since according to him, the matter does not in anyway affect the plaintiff personally.

Addressing a news conference after the court ruling, counsel representing the plaintiff, Dr. Bu-Buakie Jabbie regretted that the court failed to address what counsel referred to as substantive issues in his earlier submission contained in Section 76(1) (h) of the national constitution.

Section 76 (1) (h) states that no person shall be qualified for election as a member of parliament if he is for the time being the president, the vice president, minister or deputy minister under the provision of the constitution.

Counsel expressed disappointment over the court ruling that his client does not have any right to bring the matter to court, saying that the court used the wrong formula to arrive at such conclusion.

Dr. Jabbie however promised to inform his client about the court's ruling. The defendants were represented by Eke Halloway.

# Concord Times

1 September 2005

## **Supreme Court throws Norman's case away**

Story: Regina Pratt & Joseph Kamanda

Chief Justice, Ade Rennder-Thomas in his judgment Wednesday ruled the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction sought by plaintiff, war crimes indictee and Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) leadership aspirant, Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

He was giving his ruling on the matter Sam Hinga Norman versus Dr. Sama Banyra Chairman SLPP, Dr. Prince Harding, Secretary General SLPP and the Administrative Secretary SLPP, Brima Korma who was representing the party membership.

The Chief Justice explained that the court has jurisdiction on certain matters in the constitution citing sections 122 and 124 (1) of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone.

He maintained proceedings from the original notice of motion did not adequately state what capacity the defendants are sued in the Supreme Court.

"Plaintiff lacks locust standard to pursue this matter and in view of that the matter is truck out of court," the Chief Justice said.

Justice Renner Thomas cited arguments made by defending counsel Eke Halloway who submitted that the Supreme Court lacks the jurisdiction in the matter to hear and determine the plaintiff's complaint. He argued the allegations are not an enactment or anything contained in an enactment.

He also cited plaintiff's counsel, Dr. Bu Buakie Jabbie who argued it is too premature to elect a presidential nominee in 2005 while the election is to be held in 2007.

In her own judgment, one of the five judges, Justice Virginia Wright reiterated the Supreme Court lacked original jurisdiction to hear the original notice of motion for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd defendants, adding that the injunction sought by the plaintiff that his right has been infringed upon is not appropriate.

She maintained the matter should have been brought to court in a representative capacity and not in his own right as a plaintiff.

Reacting to the ruling in a snap interview, counsel for the plaintiff, Dr. Bu Buakai Jabbie expressed mixed feelings at the ruling.

"As a lawyer representing Chief Norman I am going now to meet him in his Special Court prison cell and tell him the Supreme Court's decision that he does not have the

right to bring the matter to court because they say he has no standing and legal right,” Jabbie said.

“I do not agree with it that Norman has no right,” the counsel queried and adds.

“We raised the issue of Sections 176(1H) and 35(4) of the Sierra Leone Construction and Section 141 of the Political Parties Act which says that members of the national executive government cannot be members of the political party’s executive which has been done and it is a contravention of the construction. But they did not deal with that.”

“I am happy that the court was able to explore dormant constitutional issues. But what I am not glad about is their failure to go into the substantive issues raised in the case and that failure has been caused by their adopting of a narrow conception locust Standi in constitutional issues,” Jabbie retorted.

The judges who presided over the matter were Chief Justice Ade Renner-Thomas, Justice Virginia Wright, Justice Thola Thompson, Justice Sir John Muria and Justice Jon Moadeh Kamanda.

Cocorioko website

<http://www.cocorioko.com/>

## NEWS FLASH

### HINGA NORMAN LOSES CASE AGAINST SLPP

Wednesday August 31, 2005

The humonguous legal suit filed against the SLPP by the former Internal Affairs Minister , Sam Hinga Norman , in the Sierra Leone High Court , has been dismissed for want of LOCUS STANDI. Details are very sketchy and the full story will be reported later today, but the doctrine of Locus Standi in law means that the plaintiff does not have standing over the matter.

In law, **standing** or *locus standi* is the ability of a party to demonstrate to the court sufficient connection to and harm from the law or action challenged. For example, a person cannot bring a suit challenging the constitutionality of a law unless the plaintiff can demonstrate that the plaintiff is (or will be) harmed by the law. Otherwise, the court will rule that the plaintiff "lacks standing" to bring the suit, and will dismiss the case without considering the merits of the claim of unconstitutionality. (Wikipedia )

There are three constitutional requirements for a plaintiff to have locus standi. The plaintiff must show that he has suffered injury or will suffer injury , e.g an invasion of a legally-protected interest .Secondly, he must show causation , that is , a causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of .Thirdly, the plaintiff must show redressability , which is that it must be likely and not just speculative , that a favourable court decision will redress the issue.

We wait to see how the court argued in this case .Stay tuned for the details.

## UN stays in Sierra Leone after peacekeepers leave

31 Aug 2005 23:00:31 GMT

Source: Reuters

### Background

- ▶ FACTBOX: Guinea
- ▶ FACTBOX: Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ FACTBOX: Liberia
- ▶ CRISIS PROFILE: W. Africa teeters between war and peace
- ▶ CRISIS PROFILE-Is Ivory Coast heading for all-out war?

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 31 (Reuters) - The United Nations will remain active in Sierra Leone after peacekeeping troops leave the West African nation at the end of this year under a resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday.

### MORE →

The 15-nation council, by a unanimous vote, authorized the opening of a U.N. assistance mission and gave it an initial mandate of one year beginning on Jan. 1, 2006.

Sierra Leone, a former British colony with a population of about 6 million people, has made significant progress since the end in 2002 of more than a decade of civil war, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a report earlier this month.

But continued U.N. aid was needed to help the government improve its skills to run the country, develop the economy, protect human rights, establish a public radio network and improve its justice system, Annan's report said.

The council resolution approved his recommendation.

It also stressed the importance of a smooth transition from a peacekeeping mission to an operation focusing on long-term security and development, and said continued support would be required from the international community.


The civil war pitted government forces and militias against Revolutionary United Front rebels who seized control of the country's diamond-mining areas and became notorious for hacking off the limbs of women and children and enlisting thousands of child soldiers in their cause.

The rebels fueled the fighting by seizing the country's diamond-producing region and selling the diamonds they mined for arms.

Once the world body's biggest peacekeeping force, with more than 17,000 troops, the U.N. mission in Sierra Leone now numbers about 3,200 soldiers. Its current mandate expires Dec. 31 and will not be renewed by the Security Council.

U.N. peacekeepers were first deployed in the country in 1999, and

the fighting finally ended in January 2002.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

**Newsdesk** **NGO Latest** **Reuters Pictures**

---

- › British engineer kidnapped in western Afghanistan (*1 hour ago*)  
**Source: Reuters**
- › British engineer kidnapped in western Afghanistan (*2 hours ago*)  
**Source: Reuters**
- › CHRONOLOGY-The worst stampedes of the 21st century (*3 hours ago*)  
**Source: Reuters**
- › PNG police beat, rape children, says rights report (*6 hours ago*)  
**Source: Reuters**
- › UN stays in Sierra Leone after peacekeepers leave (*9 hours ago*)  
**Source: Reuters**

**MORE →**

[Printable view](#) | [Email this article](#) | [Send comments](#)

© 1998-2001 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content, including by framing or similar means, is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 31 Aug 2005**

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

**International Clips on West Africa****Ivory Coast rebels refuse South African mediation offer**

ABIDJAN, 31 Aug (AFP) - Ivory Coast's rebel New Forces (FN) on Wednesday said they refused to accept any future mediation by South African President Thabo Mbeki in the country's three-year conflict, in a statement sent to AFP.

"Starting today, the New Forces completely reject the South African mediation in the Ivory Coast," the group said in a statement signed by the rebels' spokesman, Sidiki Konate.

**South Africa assures UN it will press on with Ivory Coast mediation**

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Aug (AFP) - South African Defense Minister Mosiuoa Lekota huddled with members of the UN Security Council here Wednesday to reassure them that his country's mediation in Ivory Coast would continue despite rising tensions there ahead of planned elections.

**Thousands still trapped in flood-hit Sierra Leone**

FREETOWN, 31 Aug (Reuters) - Aid workers in Sierra Leone have managed to distribute aid to about 7,000 people stranded or made homeless by torrential rains in the south of the country, but another 10,000 remain out of reach, the Red Cross said.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Ms. Kadiatu Konteh at [kontehk@un.org](mailto:kontehk@un.org).*



Source: United Nations Security Council

Date: 31 Aug 2005

## Security Council establishes UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone to further address root causes of conflict

SC/8487

Security Council  
5254th Meeting (PM)\*

Emphasizing the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the long-term security and development of Sierra Leone after withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone by the end of 2005, the Security Council this afternoon requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone for an initial period of 12 months, beginning on 1 January 2006.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1620 (2005) and following the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in document S/2005/273/Add.2, the Council requested that the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) be mandated with assisting the Government in, among other things: building the capacity of State institutions to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the root causes of the conflict and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; developing a national plan of action for human rights and establishing a national human rights commission; enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007; strengthening the security sector; and developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children.

The UNIOSIL should also be mandated with coordinating United Nations missions and offices and regional organization in West Africa in dealing with cross-border challenges such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources, as well as coordinating with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, according to the resolution.

The Council, by the text, also requested the Secretary-General to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The meeting, which started at 1 p.m., was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

### Resolution

The full text of resolution 1620 (2005) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the situation in Sierra Leone,

"Commending the valuable contribution the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has made to the recovery of Sierra Leone from conflict and to the country's peace, security and development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 26 April 2005 (S/2005/273), and its addendum of 28 July 2005 (S/2005/273/Add.2), and welcoming his recommendation that a United Nations integrated office be established in Sierra Leone, after the withdrawal of UNAMSIL at the end of 2005, in order to continue to assist the Government of Sierra Leone to consolidate peace by enhancing political and economic governance, building the national capacity for conflict prevention, and preparing for elections in 2007,

"Noting the letter of 21 June 2005 from the President of Sierra Leone to the Secretary-General (S/2005/419), that likewise emphasizes the need for an integrated United Nations office to support the above objectives,

"Emphasizing the importance of a smooth transition between UNAMSIL and the new United Nations integrated office, and of the effective and efficient operation of the office,

"Emphasizing the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the long-term security and development of Sierra Leone, particularly in building the capacity of the Government



# ReliefWeb

of Sierra Leone,

"Reiterating its appreciation for the essential work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its vital contribution to the establishment of rule of law in Sierra Leone and the subregion, underlining its expectation that the Court will finish its work in accordance with its Completion Strategy, and in this regard encouraging all States to cooperate fully with the Court and to provide it with the necessary financial resources,

"Welcoming the publication of the report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission and encouraging the Government of Sierra Leone to take further steps to implement its recommendations,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), as recommended in the addendum to his report (S/2005/273/Add.2), for an initial period of 12 months beginning on 1 January 2006, with the following key tasks:

(a) to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in:

(i) building the capacity of State institutions to address further the root causes of the conflict, provide basic services and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth, including through the creation of an enabling framework for private investment and systematic efforts to address HIV/AIDS;

(ii) developing a national action plan for human rights and establishing the national human rights commission;

(iii) building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007;

(iv) enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions, including through anti-corruption measures and improved fiscal management;

(v) strengthening the rule of law, including by developing the independence and capacity of the justice system and the capacity of the police and corrections system;

(vi) strengthening the Sierra Leonean security sector, in cooperation with the International Military Advisory and Training Team and other partners;

(vii) promoting a culture of peace, dialogue, and participation in critical national issues through a strategic approach to public information and communication, including through building an independent and capable public radio capacity;

(viii) developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children;

(b) to liaise with the Sierra Leonean security sector and other partners, to report on the security situation and make recommendations concerning external and internal security threats;

(c) to coordinate with United Nations missions and offices and regional organizations in West Africa in dealing with cross-border challenges such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources;

(d) to coordinate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"2. Emphasizes the primary responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone for the consolidation of peace and security in the country, and urges continued support from international donors for the Government's efforts in this regard;

"3. Underlines the importance of establishing a fully integrated office with effective coordination of strategy and programmes between the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Sierra Leone, between the United Nations and other international donors, and between the integrated office, the Economic Community of West African States and other United Nations missions in the region;

"4. Welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation in the addendum to his report (S/2005/273/Add.2) that the integrated office should be headed by an Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and his intention that he/she should also serve as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development

# ReliefWeb

Programme and United Nations Resident Coordinator;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the basis outlined in paragraphs 15 to 24 of the addendum to his report (S.2005/273/Add.2), and looks forward to further details on the proposed arrangements;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of progress with establishing the United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone, and thereafter with the implementation of this resolution;

"7. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

## Background

The Security Council had before it the twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (document S/2005/273, dated 26 April, and Addenda 1 and 2), which states that the generally calm political and security situation in Sierra Leone has allowed for further progress to be made towards consolidating peace in the country. With the support of UNAMSIL and development partners, the Government of Sierra Leone has advanced towards accomplishing the benchmarks for stabilization in the country and for the withdrawal of the residual UNAMSIL presence. In particular, the Sierra Leone armed forces and police have both continued to build up their capacities to ensure effective responsibility for the security of the country.

It has been encouraging to note that there have been no security incidents requiring UNAMSIL support since the Mission handed over primary responsibility for security throughout the country to the Government in September 2004. Also, with regard to the benchmarks, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has now consolidated its deployment throughout Liberia, including in the areas bordering Sierra Leone. This, coupled with the continued deployment of UNAMSIL in the Eastern Province, has contributed to an improvement in security in the border areas of the country. It is the general view that currently Sierra Leone is not facing any significant external security threats.

The situation in Sierra Leone remains fragile, however, and much remains to be done to address the underlying causes of the conflict there, in order for the country to achieve durable stability and long-term national recovery. The strengthening of the security sector needs special, long-term attention. Despite assistance from donors, the Sierra Leone armed forces and police are still experiencing serious equipment shortfalls, and full deployment of the police in the provinces has yet to be attained. In addition, the Government needs to take further steps towards the restoration of the rule of law, including by implementing a comprehensive reform of the penal and judicial systems and building the capacity of an independent and impartial judiciary, which will effectively contribute to peace consolidation and the protection of human rights.

Progress made in protecting human rights, with the assistance of UNAMSIL and other partners, needs to be built on, including through the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. The Government should be encouraged to follow up on implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which submitted its report in October 2004. Continuous monitoring of the human rights situation and reporting of violations will be a crucial element in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, electoral reform issues should be urgently addressed if the 2007 elections are to be free and fair and held in accordance with international standards. At the same time, the work of the Special Court has proceeded satisfactorily.

The economic recovery in the country in the post-conflict period has been limited, and the living standards of the majority of the population remain poor. Poverty, including massive youth unemployment, and public discontent over slow progress made by the Government in the fight against corruption and the improvement of management of State revenues, are issues that urgently need to be addressed in order to sustain stability.

The further stabilization of the situation in Liberia has had a positive impact on the overall situation in the subregion. However, developments in the country before the October elections and during the period leading to the inauguration of the new Government in January 2006 will need to be monitored carefully with regard to any possible spillover effects on Sierra Leone. It is hoped that progress will be made in Côte d'Ivoire towards the full and unconditional implementation of the Pretoria Agreement of 7 April. Clearly, a continuation of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire or instability in Guinea could have a destabilizing effect on the subregion, including Sierra Leone.

# ReliefWeb

Having carefully assessed the situation, the Secretary-General believed that the outstanding challenges in ensuring peace consolidation would be best addressed by the Government with the support of United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as bilateral donors, which are most suited for post-conflict capacity-building. Therefore, an adjustment in the strategy of the United Nations involvement in Sierra Leone is warranted, and he recommended that the Council extend the UNAMSIL's mandate for a final period of six months, until the end of 2005. The Government should make full use of the unique window of opportunity provided by the continuing presence of UNAMSIL to further consolidate the security sector, in order to ensure effective security throughout the country, supported by the timely provision of the required assistance, and to address other outstanding challenges.

The Secretary-General also recommended that the drawdown of the UNAMSIL presence commence in mid-August 2005 and be essentially completed by 31 December 2005. However, the last infantry battalion and air assets should remain fully operational until the end of November, by which time the results of the elections in Liberia will be known. In order to allow for the timely planning and logistical preparations for an orderly withdrawal of UNAMSIL, an early decision of the Council would be essential. Furthermore, should a serious threat in the subregional or internal security situation in Sierra Leone arise in the coming months, the Secretary-General will revert to the Council with appropriate recommendations, including the possibility of adjustments in the schedule of the Mission's withdrawal.

Addendum 1 to the report, dated 21 June, informs the Council that UNAMSIL's budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (document A/59/758), totalling \$107.2 million, is before the General Assembly. The report notes that as at 30 April, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNAMSIL amounted to \$94.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$2.2 billion.

In Addendum 2, dated 28 July, the Secretary-General recommends establishment of a modestly sized United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone for an initial period of 12 months, commencing on 1 January 2006 and following withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

By its resolution 1610 (2005) (see Press Release SC/8432 of 30 June), the Council, while extending UNAMSIL's mandate for a final period of six months, requested the Secretary-General to finalize the necessary planning for an appropriate integrated United Nations system presence in the country, with the capacity and expertise to coordinate the activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, cooperate with the donor community and continue to support the Government in peace consolidation and long-term development after UNAMSIL's departure.

The Secretary-General proposed that the integrated office would be mandated to assist the Government of Sierra Leone with, among other things: building the capacity of State institutions to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the root causes of the conflict; developing a national plan of action for human rights and establishing a national human rights commission; enhancing good governance and transparency and the accountability of public institutions; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007; developing initiatives for the rights, protection and well-being of war-affected and vulnerable children and adolescents; and coordinating with the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Secretary-General notes that the Special Court is playing a vital role in bringing to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the conflict. While it is providing a tangible contribution to the process of national reconciliation, the Court may also serve as a model for ensuring accountability and combating impunity for crimes committed during other conflicts in an expeditious and financially restrained fashion. As it is most important that the Court be provided with effective security, the Secretary-General recommends that a company-size military unit from UNAMSIL be retained in Freetown to continue providing protection for the Court and that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) assume command and control of that unit.

\* The 5253rd Meeting was closed.

*For information media • not an official record*

# ReliefWeb

With the exception of public UN sources, reproduction or redistribution of the above text, in whole, part or in any form, requires the prior consent of the original source.

[Click here to print](#)

## Security Council establishes UN integrated support team for Sierra Leone

*31 August 2005* – With the six-year-old United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone set to close its doors in January, the Security Council today authorized the establishment of a follow-on UN integrated office to help achieve long-term stability and sustainable development as the West African country continues to recover from a bloody civil war during the 1990s.

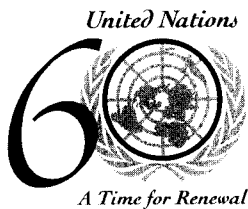
Acting on the request of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution to establish for one year, beginning on 1 January 2006, the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), which will work closely with the Government to root out the causes of the conflict and promote consolidating peace by addressing deficits in governance, human rights observance and the rule of law.

In his latest report this month, Mr. Annan said that although there had been significant progress in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone since the end of the conflict in January 2002, many challenges remained and strong support by the UN was needed to help the Government and people of the country address the “complex set of issues” that could hamper reconciliation and long-term development.

The Council decided that the office of integrated national and international staff would also assist the Government of Sierra Leone in promoting a culture of peace, dialogue, and participation in critical national issues, including through building an independent and capable public radio capacity; and in developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children.

It would also work with the Government towards building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007, enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions, and developing a national action plan for human rights and establishing the national human rights commission.

The Council also decided to request Mr. Annan to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is mandated to try those “bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian and Sierra Leonean laws” committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996.



# Security Council Meetings Coverage

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

Security Council  
5254<sup>th</sup> Meeting (PM) \*

SC/8487  
31 August 2005

## SECURITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHES UN INTEGRATED OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE

### TO FURTHER ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT

Emphasizing the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the long-term security and development of Sierra Leone after withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone by the end of 2005, the Security Council this afternoon requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone for an initial period of 12 months, beginning on 1 January 2006.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1620 (2005) and following the Secretary-General's recommendations contained in document S/2005/273/Add.2, the Council requested that the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) be mandated with assisting the Government in, among other things: building the capacity of State institutions to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the root causes of the conflict and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; developing a national plan of action for human rights and establishing a national human rights commission; enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007; strengthening the security sector; and developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children.

The UNIOSIL should also be mandated with coordinating United Nations missions and offices and regional organization in West Africa in dealing with cross-border challenges such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources, as well as coordinating with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, according to the resolution.

The Council, by the text, also requested the Secretary-General to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The meeting, which started at 1 p.m., was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

#### Resolution

The full text of resolution 1620 (2005) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the situation in Sierra Leone,

(more)

---

\* The 5253<sup>rd</sup> Meeting was closed.

*"Commending the valuable contribution the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) has made to the recovery of Sierra Leone from conflict and to the country's peace, security and development,*

*"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 26 April 2005 (S/2005/273), and its addendum of 28 July 2005 (S/2005/273/Add.2), and welcoming his recommendation that a United Nations integrated office be established in Sierra Leone, after the withdrawal of UNAMSIL at the end of 2005, in order to continue to assist the Government of Sierra Leone to consolidate peace by enhancing political and economic governance, building the national capacity for conflict prevention, and preparing for elections in 2007,*

*"Noting the letter of 21 June 2005 from the President of Sierra Leone to the Secretary-General (S/2005/419), that likewise emphasizes the need for an integrated United Nations office to support the above objectives,*

*"Emphasizing the importance of a smooth transition between UNAMSIL and the new United Nations integrated office, and of the effective and efficient operation of the office,*

*"Emphasizing the importance of the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the long-term security and development of Sierra Leone, particularly in building the capacity of the Government of Sierra Leone,*

*"Reiterating its appreciation for the essential work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its vital contribution to the establishment of rule of law in Sierra Leone and the subregion, underlining its expectation that the Court will finish its work in accordance with its Completion Strategy, and in this regard encouraging all States to cooperate fully with the Court and to provide it with the necessary financial resources,*

*"Welcoming the publication of the report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission and encouraging the Government of Sierra Leone to take further steps to implement its recommendations,*

*"1. Requests the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), as recommended in the addendum to his report (S/2005/273/Add.2), for an initial period of 12 months beginning on 1 January 2006, with the following key tasks:*

*(a) to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in:*

*(i) building the capacity of State institutions to address further the root causes of the conflict, provide basic services and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth, including through the creation of an enabling framework for private investment and systematic efforts to address HIV/AIDS;*

*(ii) developing a national action plan for human rights and establishing the national human rights commission;*

*(iii) building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007;*

(more)

(iv) enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions, including through anti-corruption measures and improved fiscal management;

(v) strengthening the rule of law, including by developing the independence and capacity of the justice system and the capacity of the police and corrections system;

(vi) strengthening the Sierra Leonean security sector, in cooperation with the International Military Advisory and Training Team and other partners;

(vii) promoting a culture of peace, dialogue, and participation in critical national issues through a strategic approach to public information and communication, including through building an independent and capable public radio capacity;

(viii) developing initiatives for the protection and well-being of youth, women and children;

(b) to liaise with the Sierra Leonean security sector and other partners, to report on the security situation and make recommendations concerning external and internal security threats;

(c) to coordinate with United Nations missions and offices and regional organizations in West Africa in dealing with cross-border challenges such as the illicit movement of small arms, human trafficking and smuggling and illegal trade in natural resources;

(d) to coordinate with the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

"2. *Emphasizes* the primary responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone for the consolidation of peace and security in the country, and urges continued support from international donors for the Government's efforts in this regard;

"3. *Underlines* the importance of establishing a fully integrated office with effective coordination of strategy and programmes between the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Sierra Leone, between the United Nations and other international donors, and between the integrated office, the Economic Community of West African States and other United Nations missions in the region;

"4. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's recommendation in the addendum to his report (S/2005/273/Add.2) that the integrated office should be headed by an Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and his intention that he/she should also serve as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Resident Coordinator;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue planning for security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone on the basis outlined in paragraphs 15 to 24 of the addendum to his report (S.2005/273/Add.2), and *looks forward* to further details on the proposed arrangements;

(more)



"6. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of progress with establishing the United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone, and thereafter with the implementation of this resolution;

"7. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Background

The Security Council had before it the twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (document S/2005/273, dated 26 April, and Addenda 1 and 2), which states that the generally calm political and security situation in Sierra Leone has allowed for further progress to be made towards consolidating peace in the country. With the support of UNAMSIL and development partners, the Government of Sierra Leone has advanced towards accomplishing the benchmarks for stabilization in the country and for the withdrawal of the residual UNAMSIL presence. In particular, the Sierra Leone armed forces and police have both continued to build up their capacities to ensure effective responsibility for the security of the country.

It has been encouraging to note that there have been no security incidents requiring UNAMSIL support since the Mission handed over primary responsibility for security throughout the country to the Government in September 2004. Also, with regard to the benchmarks, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has now consolidated its deployment throughout Liberia, including in the areas bordering Sierra Leone. This, coupled with the continued deployment of UNAMSIL in the Eastern Province, has contributed to an improvement in security in the border areas of the country. It is the general view that currently Sierra Leone is not facing any significant external security threats.

The situation in Sierra Leone remains fragile, however, and much remains to be done to address the underlying causes of the conflict there, in order for the country to achieve durable stability and long-term national recovery. The strengthening of the security sector needs special, long-term attention. Despite assistance from donors, the Sierra Leone armed forces and police are still experiencing serious equipment shortfalls, and full deployment of the police in the provinces has yet to be attained. In addition, the Government needs to take further steps towards the restoration of the rule of law, including by implementing a comprehensive reform of the penal and judicial systems and building the capacity of an independent and impartial judiciary, which will effectively contribute to peace consolidation and the protection of human rights.

Progress made in protecting human rights, with the assistance of UNAMSIL and other partners, needs to be built on, including through the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. The Government should be encouraged to follow up on implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which submitted its report in October 2004. Continuous monitoring of the human rights situation and reporting of violations will be a crucial element in consolidating peace in Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, electoral reform issues should be urgently addressed if the 2007 elections are to be free and fair and held in accordance with international standards. At the same time, the work of the Special Court has proceeded satisfactorily.

The economic recovery in the country in the post-conflict period has been limited, and the living standards of the majority of the population remain poor.

(more)

Poverty, including massive youth unemployment, and public discontent over slow progress made by the Government in the fight against corruption and the improvement of management of State revenues, are issues that urgently need to be addressed in order to sustain stability.

The further stabilization of the situation in Liberia has had a positive impact on the overall situation in the subregion. However, developments in the country before the October elections and during the period leading to the inauguration of the new Government in January 2006 will need to be monitored carefully with regard to any possible spillover effects on Sierra Leone. It is hoped that progress will be made in Côte d'Ivoire towards the full and unconditional implementation of the Pretoria Agreement of 7 April. Clearly, a continuation of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire or instability in Guinea could have a destabilizing effect on the subregion, including Sierra Leone.

Having carefully assessed the situation, the Secretary-General believed that the outstanding challenges in ensuring peace consolidation would be best addressed by the Government with the support of United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as bilateral donors, which are most suited for post-conflict capacity-building. Therefore, an adjustment in the strategy of the United Nations involvement in Sierra Leone is warranted, and he recommended that the Council extend the UNAMSIL's mandate for a final period of six months, until the end of 2005. The Government should make full use of the unique window of opportunity provided by the continuing presence of UNAMSIL to further consolidate the security sector, in order to ensure effective security throughout the country, supported by the timely provision of the required assistance, and to address other outstanding challenges.

The Secretary-General also recommended that the drawdown of the UNAMSIL presence commence in mid-August 2005 and be essentially completed by 31 December 2005. However, the last infantry battalion and air assets should remain fully operational until the end of November, by which time the results of the elections in Liberia will be known. In order to allow for the timely planning and logistical preparations for an orderly withdrawal of UNAMSIL, an early decision of the Council would be essential. Furthermore, should a serious threat in the subregional or internal security situation in Sierra Leone arise in the coming months, the Secretary-General will revert to the Council with appropriate recommendations, including the possibility of adjustments in the schedule of the Mission's withdrawal.

Addendum 1 to the report, dated 21 June, informs the Council that UNAMSIL's budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (document A/59/758), totalling \$107.2 million, is before the General Assembly. The report notes that as at 30 April, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNAMSIL amounted to \$94.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$2.2 billion.

In Addendum 2, dated 28 July, the Secretary-General recommends establishment of a modestly sized United Nations integrated office in Sierra Leone for an initial period of 12 months, commencing on 1 January 2006 and following withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

By its resolution 1610 (2005) (see Press Release SC/8432 of 30 June), the Council, while extending UNAMSIL's mandate for a final period of six months,

(more)

requested the Secretary-General to finalize the necessary planning for an appropriate integrated United Nations system presence in the country, with the capacity and expertise to coordinate the activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, cooperate with the donor community and continue to support the Government in peace consolidation and long-term development after UNAMSIL's departure.

The Secretary-General proposed that the integrated office would be mandated to assist the Government of Sierra Leone with, among other things: building the capacity of State institutions to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the root causes of the conflict; developing a national plan of action for human rights and establishing a national human rights commission; enhancing good governance and transparency and the accountability of public institutions; building the capacity of the National Electoral Commission to conduct a free, fair and credible electoral process in 2007; developing initiatives for the rights, protection and well-being of war-affected and vulnerable children and adolescents; and coordinating with the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Secretary-General notes that the Special Court is playing a vital role in bringing to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed during the conflict. While it is providing a tangible contribution to the process of national reconciliation, the Court may also serve as a model for ensuring accountability and combating impunity for crimes committed during other conflicts in an expeditious and financially restrained fashion. As it is most important that the Court be provided with effective security, the Secretary-General recommends that a company-size military unit from UNAMSIL be retained in Freetown to continue providing protection for the Court and that the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) assume command and control of that unit.

\* \* \* \* \*