SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



An effigy of Judas rests at the top of Leicester Peak after being dragged through the streets on Good Friday.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Tuesday, 10 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.

Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact

Martin Royston-Wright

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For di People Tuesday, 10 April 2007

Sierra Leoneans To Watch Charles Taylor's Trial Live

ACCORDING TO SLAJ's president IB Kargbo, Sierra Leoneans will be able to watch live the trial of former Liberian president and Special Court indictee, Charles Taylor as it takes place in The Hague.

by JAMES COLE

Modalities are being put in place by "Search for Common Ground" and the 'BBC' to chose three journalists from Sierra Leone and two from Liberia to go to The Hague and cover the trial.

Furthermore, the trial will be translated into the various languages as it was done in the Special Courts Freetown. There was also talk of representatives of civil society organisations being given the same opportunity.

The trial will be relayed Continued Page 5

Taylor

From Page 3

live via satellite. The Special Court has had several meetings with SLAJ and other stakeholders on their plans to make the victims of the war observe the trial and see justice being done and in this light they will be erecting a giant television screen at the Special Court and access will be given to people to watch the trial as it is relayed live.

Standard Times Tuesday, 10 April 2007

"Lawyers are not liars"

-Sarkodie Mensah BY SAIDU KAMARA

A prominent Ghanian legal luminary Mrs. Julia Sarkodie Mensah has defended lawyers in Freetown that they don't lie contrary to wider public perceptions about them.

As a legal consultant in judicial affairs attached to the Sierra Leone's Law Court Buildings, the learned lawyer made the remarks while presenting a paper on career counseling for senior secondary school pupils of the Freetown Secondary School for Girls (FSSG) held at the Miatta Conference hall last Saturday.

In her presentation, Mrs. Mensah noted that the profession is noble with upright people who reasonably think well and can articulate their views in either defending or prosecuting matters.

She encouraged pupils of FSSG to choose law as professional careers while carrying out their schooling in other to defend them-

selves, the general public fellow and the country as a whole.

"Don't listen to what people say. They just want to discourage you not to enter into the legal profession" she told the school pupils.

The law, she emphasized, strengthen people and makes them versatile.

Against the background that lawyers lie while arguing in court, the legal luminary reminded her audience not to listen to the distractions, noting that their work is based on logical arguments.

The programme was part of a career counseling organized by the Ghanaian Professionals Association in Sierra Leone (GHAPSIL) in collaboration with the Ghana High Commission as part of the 50th Independence Anniversary of Ghana.

While welcoming pupils to the programme, Mr. Clavence Adusei, the president of GHAPSIL introduced the 'Choosing Your Career' as the theme of the programme to the students.

On behalf of the banking profession in Sierra Leone, Mrs. A. Karen Tanoh's paper delivered introduced banking to the pupils. She is the Managing Director of ECOBANK in Sierra Leone who took the opportunity to introduce her institution to the students.

As a female banker, the ECOBANK boss encouraged girls to take up banking subjects in school as important priorities in their educational careers.

On behalf of the medical Profession, Prof. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi appealed to students to pursue medical careers so that their dreams of contributing to Sierra Leone's health status would be achieved.

The Ghanaian High Commission to Sierra Leone H.E. Dr. Mrs. Mokuwa Adu-Gyamfi chaired the ceremony by giving voice to the occasion while FSSG SS Acting Vice Principle Mrs. Worokia Conteh thanked the organizers for the outcome of the occasion.

Independent Observer Tuesday, 10 April 2007

Hinga Norman's Family Rejects Autopsy Report

According to a press release signed by Alfred SamForay (photo) of the Hinga Norman-CDF Defence Fund, the family of Chief Sam Hinga Norman "does not accept or endorse the recently released forensic pathologists' report alleging that Chief Norman died of "natural causes" as a result of myocardial infarction (heart attack) as the definitive and exclusive cause of death."

The release further stated the Norman family still

stands by its original assertion that Chief Norman died under sub-standard medical and clinical conditions, medical neglect and / or possible human intervention in the natural healing process at the Aristide La Dantec Hospital in Dakar, Senegal on 22 February 2007.

According to the press release, the Norman family is presently in legal and medical consultations abroad of their own choosing and at their own expense and will make an official statement in response to the autopsy and toxicological reports as soon as possible.

"Meanwhile, friends and supporters of Chief Hinga Norman, in particular members of the Kamajor Movement, are well advised that the struggle to vindicate the good name and character of Mr. Moinina Fofana, Dr. Alieu Kondewa and Chief Hinga Norman was not buried with Chief Norman.", the release stated.

Among other things, the release admonished Kamajors to stay the course and ended with a biblical reference:

"We know that any one who puts his hands on the plow and turns back is not worthy of the prize. With respect to the indicted CDF leaders, their cause to defend and to stand for their rights continues to be our eternal refrain until in the words of the Hebrew Prophet Amos, "judgment rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." God Bless All"





UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

VOA 09 April 2007

Liberia: New House Speaker Discusses Priorities

By James Butty. Washington, D.C.

After months of controversy and legal wrangling, the Liberian House of Representatives has a new speaker. He is Alex J. Tyler of the Liberia Action Party. He replaced former Speaker Edwin Snowe who resigned earlier this year after he was threatened with removal by his colleagues for allegedly bringing the House in disrepute. Snowe blamed the executive branch for bribing some legislators with \$5,000 each to remove him.

President Johnson Sirleaf Visits Belle Yella

Apr 08, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf kicked off another round of her County-wide tour with a one day visit on Saturday to Gbarpolu County. While in Gbarpolu, the President visited Bopolu, the official seat of the County, as well as Belle District, home to the now ruined infamous Belle Yallah prison Compound.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Saturday, 7 April 2007, 15:03 GMT 16:03 UK

Ivory Coast PM names new cabinet

The new Ivory Coast Prime Minister Guillaume Soro has announced his cabinet, which is charged with taking the country to free and fair elections. Mr Soro - a former rebel leader - said the cabinet would hold its first meeting on Saturday. Ivory Coast has been in crisis since Mr Soro's rebels seized control of the north of the country in September 2002.

Local Media - Newspaper

Opposition Party Sets up Probe Committee

(Liberian Express, New Democrat, The Analyst, The News, The Inquirer, The Informer and New Vision)

- Speaking to journalists yesterday, the Chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Joshua Sackie said the party has set up a 5- man committee to investigate some legislators whom the CDC said voted against its candidate in the just-ended election for House Speaker. The party's decision was based on recommendation from its legal counsel following a meeting yesterday.
- The Party's Chairman said the seven lawmakers would be probed this week and urged the Lawmakers in question to cooperate with the investigation to avoid confusion in the Party.

SRSG Decorates Senegalese Peacekeepers

(Liberian Express, Heritage and The Informer)

• Speaking at a ceremony to decorate the Senegalese contingent in Harper, Maryland County, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss reassured Liberians that the United Nations Mission in Liberia will not leave the Country

prematurely, adding that the Mission would not put at risk the gains that have been made so in returning Liberia to peace and stability.

<u>Local Media – Radio Veritas</u> (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

Opposition Congress for Democratic Change sets up Probe Committee

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Firestone Workers Stage Sit-In Action at Labour Ministry

- Scores of workers of the Firestone Rubber Plantation in Margibi County today staged a sit-in action at the Labour Ministry to demand the reinstatement of their suspended union members.
- The workers said the ministry was wrong to reject the reinstatement of their leaders by the General Agriculture and Allied Workers Union of Liberia (GAAWUL).
- GAAWUL yesterday threatened to lead a mass strike action nationwide if the ministry failed to reinstate the suspended union officials.
- Addressing the protesters, Labour Ministry authorities called for calm as negotiation are underway to amicably resolve the stand-off with GAAWUL.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Johnson-Sirleaf to Transform Infamous Belle Yella Prison

- Speaking during a tour of the facilities of the one time maximum Belle Yella Prison,
- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said the prison would be transform into a museum.
- President Sirleaf said the stigma caused by the prison would be removed and promised that government would also work with its partners to decide the kind of school that would be established there.
- She promised to open up roads that would link Belle Yella to other parts of the country.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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 or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 5 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

04/05/07 - FPA Staff Report

Bomi Tyler elected Speaker

Monrovia - Bomi County's District #1 Representative Jenekai Alex Tyler (Liberia Action Party (LAP) has been elected speaker of the House of Representatives of Liberia edging out Edward Forh of the Congress for Democratic Change. Liberty Party's Armah Sarnoh, withdrew from the race shortly before voting and gave threw his support behind Tyler, not the other way around as was previously reported. Tyler defeated Ford of Montserrado County thirty-two to twenty-seven votes.

International Clips on West Africa

THE INDEPENDENT April 05, 2007

Ivory Coast rebel leader made PM

ABIDJAN Guillaume Soro, the rebel leader who has controlled the northern half of war-divided Ivory Coast for four years, took office as the country's prime minister yesterday - the first step in a peace accord. He led a coup attempt against Laurent Gbagbo, Ivory Coast's President, five years ago, which sparked a civil war. Charles Konan Banny, the outgoing prime minister, made a peaceful handover.

Guinea parliament speaker for probe into anti-government strike

CONAKRY, April 5, 2007 (AFP) - The head of Guinea's parliament on Thursday called for a probe into a crippling strike against the government of veteran President Lansana Conte which drew a crackdown and claimed at least 113 lives.

<u>Local Media – Newspaper</u>

SRSG Says UNMIL Will Not Leave Liberia Now

(New Democrat, The Analyst, Liberian Express, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and The News)

 Addressing the weekly press briefing, the Special Representative to the Secretary General to Liberia, Allan Doss said the Security Council's extension of the UNMIL's mandate by six months does not mean the mission will depart Liberia after that time and said the withdrawal of troops will depend on the progress made in the security restructuring and other post war challenges facing the country.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Calls on Lawmakers to Ratify Mittal Steel Agreement

(The Informer, New Democrat, The Analyst, Heritage, Liberian Express, The Inquirer, Daily Observer and The News)

- Speaking at the commencement convocation of the University of Liberia yesterday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf called on the National Legislature to approve the nearly US\$1 billion Mittal steel agreement and stressed it was urgent in the face of the huge unemployment in the country.
- The Executive Mansion sometime ago submitted the agreement to the legislature after negotiating the version government said would bring more benefits to the Liberian people.
- Delivering his convocation address at the University of Liberia 86th commencement, US Ambassador to Liberia, Donald Booth said his government would provide over US\$25 million to support Liberia's educational system.
- Ambassador Booth said the money will be used to train teachers, renovate rural teacher training institutions, and provide textbooks and supplies. He also said that the money will be used to give accelerated education for those who missed school as children because of the war.
- He disclosed that part of the money will be used to provide scholarships to young women and children and assured that the US and other international partners are in the country to assist government by helping to start some critical projects.

<u>Local Media – Radio Veritas</u> (News monitored today at 9:45 am)

UNMIL Will Not Depart Liberia Prematurely, says UN Official (Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

US Government pledges US\$ 25 Million to Support Education in Liberia

President Johnson-Sirleaf Urges Ratification of Mittal Deal

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Election for House Speaker set for Today

- The House of Representatives is due to hold elections for a new Speaker on today, Thursday after plenary declared the position vacant.
- The vacancy was created following the resignation of Representative Edwin Snowe as Speaker earlier this year.
- Meanwhile, two human rights organizations yesterday filed a petition to the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition on the House of Representatives to bar the holding of election for the position of Speaker.
- In their eight-count petition, the human rights groups said holding election for a new Speaker is a violation of the constitution which states that the House of Representatives should elect a Speaker once every six years.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

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UNMIL here till the job is done, says UN Envoy, as he decorates Senegalese peacekeepers

Harper, Liberia – The UN Envoy to Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss has re-assured Liberians that the UN Mission in Liberia - UNMIL - will not leave the country prematurely. He was speaking at a medal presentation ceremony in the southeastern port city of Harper, Maryland County during which Senegalese peacekeepers were decorated, for their contribution to the UN peacekeeping operation in Liberia.

"UNMIL is not leaving yet" he declared. "We will not put at risk the gains that have been made so far in returning Liberia to peace and stability".



Mr. Doss lays a wreath at the Peace Monument

The Special Representative of the Secretary General, acknowledged the progress made in the country since the inception of the UN Peace Mission in October 2003, saying, Liberia was on the path to recovery after long years of conflict, but he noted also that West Africa had not yet escaped the shadow of conflict. "We cannot be complacent. We must continue to be vigilant and provide essential security until the national security forces are ready to take over".

Mr. Doss commended the contribution of the Senegalese peacekeepers to the progress taking place in Liberia. He said their daily patrols, escorts, and check-point duties have helped maintain security in Maryland County and contributed to the realization of UNMIL's principal mandate of establishing and maintaining a stable environment in Liberia. Mr. Doss praised the Senegalese soldiers for going beyond their peacekeeping duty to provide assistance to local communities, and reminded them of their fundamental duty of care to the people of Liberia, especially women and children, urging them to strictly abide by the Secretary-General's policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse.



General Obiakor decorates a Senegalese soldier with UN peacekeeping medal

At the same event, Mr. Doss also inaugurated a Peace Monument erected by the Senegalese peacekeepers as a symbol of cooperation between the Senegalese contingent and the people of Maryland County. The medal-presentation ceremony was attended by UNMIL Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Chikadibia Isaac Obiakor, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, the UNMIL Director of Administration, Stephen Leiberman and county authorities.
