

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



Geoff Walker, as (he insists) he would like his friends at the Special Court to remember him, leaves for home today after two and a half years as a Court Support Officer.

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:

Thursday, 10 August 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Awareness Times
Thursday, 10 August 2006

FBC bags 2nd Moot Court Award on IHL

By Abu Bakarr Munu

The 2nd Moot Court Competition for Sierra Leonean students on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ended past Tuesday, 8th August, 2006 at the chambers of the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone at New England in Freetown. The competition which was between five teams comprised two from the Fourah Bay College-University of Sierra Leone (FBC-USL); the Law Department and History and Mass Communication Department of the Arts Faculty, while the other three teams were drawn from the Njala University College (NUC), Milton Margai College of Science and Technology (MMST) and the Eastern Polytechnique in Kenema.

At the end of the competition, Team-3 from the Arts Faculty, Fourah Bay College emerged as winners.

A panel of four moot Judges supervised the competition. The competition was based on a given fictitious armed conflict situation in which several instances of violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) were perpetuated by either side of the conflict. The teams were required to pin point these instances and relate them to the International Humanitarian Law and the charges of war crime and other related violations of the rules of engagement in warfare. The teams were expected to argue their points based on the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocols to justify their cases. Each team was accorded twenty minutes to do their presentation and ten minutes was allocated for questions from the judges on matters outside the periphery of

the stated fictitious conflict as well as the documents which form the basis of International Humanitarian Law.

The primary aim of the competition according to the organizers was to promote IHL in general and within Sierra Leone's academic circles in particular by testing student's ability to use IHL.

At the end of the exercise, the panel of four judges announced members of Team 3 which comprised; Abdul Karim Koroma (Jr.), Abdul Rahman Kamara and Nelson S. Fofanah, all Year II Students in the Arts Faculty, Fourah Bay College (FBC) as the winners of the competition.

A Physics Department Year V Student of Team 4 from the Njala University College (NUC), Momoh Bockarie was proclaimed the Best Speaker during the competition.

The winning team, Team 3 from the Fourah Bay College, will represent Sierra Leone at the 6th International Moot Court Competition in November this year in Arusha, Tanzania.

In his statement during the prize giving ceremony, Head of ICRC Delegation in Sierra Leone, Mr. Jung Montani, one of the presiding judges during the competition said the ICRC is happy and highly pleased with the performance at competition. He therefore encouraged students and lecturers to put more emphasis on IHL. Mr. Montani also commended the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) for incorporating the IHL in their operations.

The other three judges who presided over the competition were Heman Von Hebel, Deputy Register, Special Court, Melinda Davies, State Counsel, and RSLAF Legal Consultant, Lt. Col. I.M. Koroma.

Standard Times
Thursday 10 August 2006

FBC wins Moot Court Competition

BY ABUBAKARR KARGBO

Nelson Fofanah, Abdul Kamara and Abdul Karim Koroma of Fourah Bay College are the winners of this year's Moot Court competition organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The competition was held on Tuesday 8th August 2006 at the Special Court in Freetown with five teams from the Njala University College- Freetown campus, Eastern Polytechnique- Kenema, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, and two

teams from Fourah Bay College, from the Law Department and Mass Communications Departments.

Each team composed of three students that argue a case based on fictitious events resulting in a humanitarian crisis, and were judged by a jury on their ability to use International Humanitarian Law.

Members of the Jury included Jurg Montani, as head of ICRC Delegation in Sierra Leone, Lt. Col. I.M. Koroma the RSLAF legal Adviser, Mrs. Melinda Davies a state council of the Freetown Magis-

trate Court, and Herman Von Hebel Deputy Registrar of the Special Court.

In his statement, ICRC's Head of Delegation said he was extremely happy with the level of cooperation and interest in International Humanitarian law (IHL).

"IHL must be applied by government, security forces and the judiciary. Sierra Leone has signed most treaties of IHL but has not committed itself to implement some of these treaties," he said.

"I hope that we have raised the interest and awareness of future leaders on IHL. I hope all univer-

sities and colleges will continue to show interest on IHL and be included in their studies" he remarked.

The Head of Delegation reiterated the fact that in the long run Sierra Leonean friends of IHL will be organizing such an event with the support of ICRC.

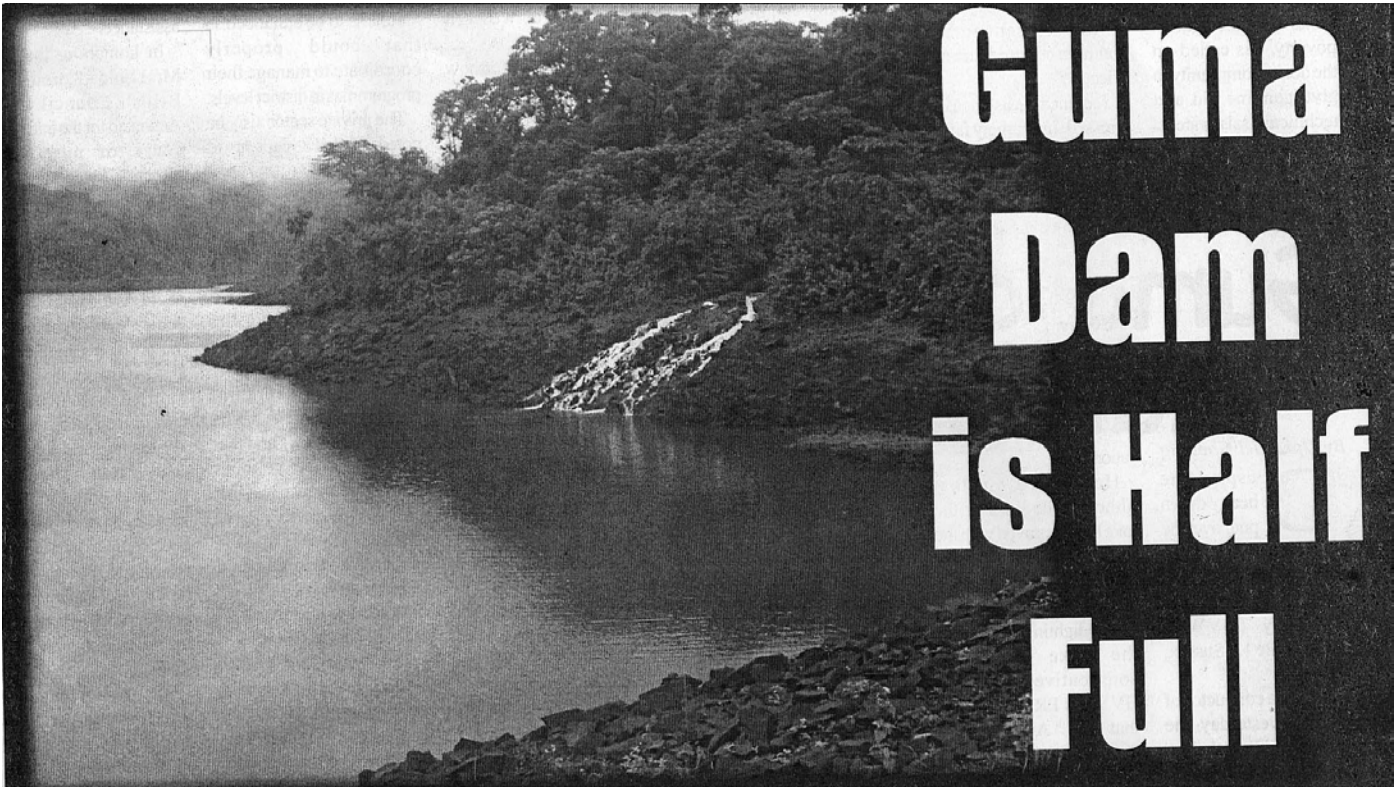
Mr. Montani thanked all those who in diverse ways contributed

to the success of the competition.

Certificates were handed to the participants while the award of best speaker went to Momoh Thomas Bockarie of team four from Njala University College.

The winning team will be representing Sierra Leone in the Sixth International Moot Court Competition in Arusha, Tanzania.

Awoko
Thursday, 10 August 2006



Guma dam is half full

By Ophaniel Gooding

Despite the heavy down pour over the past few weeks, after the delay in the rains this year, the Guma Valley Water Company (GVWC) dam at Mile 13, Sussex, is half full.

During a conductor of the dam yesterday, the GVWC Public Relations Officer, Mr. Musa, explained that the reason for the tour was for journalists to have first hand information about the state of the dam. He added that rumours had been making the rounds that, “the dam is full and there is no need for water

rationing”.

He pointed out that although the level of the lake had improved with the recent rains, “the dam is relatively low in comparison with previous years”.

Highlighting the level of the lake in three consecutive years, the GVWC’s PRO disclosed that on 7th August 2004, the dam level was 828.54 ft on the same date last year and this year the levels were 841.99 and 825.46 respectively.

Mr. Musa disclosed that an extra 36.52 ft of water in the reservoir was required for the dam to be full. He admonished consumers to continue to

conserve water and to report leakages so that water would be saved for others.

Giving a brief history of the dam, Senior Technical Assistant attached to the dam, Mr. Joselyn Williams explained that the dam was commissioned on 4th February 1967 with a 5.2 billion gallon capacity.

He disclosed that when the dam reached its brim on normal basis, “19 million gallons are sent to the city on a daily basis.” At present, he noted, “we are supplying 13 million gallons daily.” The reason for not supplying the standard amount, he disclosed, was because “the dam is not yet full we have to ration...”

New Citizen
Thursday, 10 August 2006

As Guma embarks on house-to-house check of illegal connections...

GUMA DAM WATER LEVEL ENCOURAGING

By Amadu Daramy

Over ten print and electronic media practitioners yesterday made a visit to the Guma Valley Water Company dam site at Sussex to inspect the

current state of water level at the dam.

The visit was led by the Public Relations Officer of the company, Joseph Musa and during the visit it was

discovered that the water level at the dam is a little over the half way mark.

Enlightening members of the media at Sussex, a Senior

Cont. page 9

GUMA WATER LEVEL ENCOURAGING

From page 1

Technical Assistant in charge of the dam, Joselyn Williams disclosed that the present water level in the lake "is 827.5 feet above sea level. This height of the water level is quite appreciable and encouraging as water supply to the treatment plant from the dam is from draw-off No.3 which is the third draw off-point from the top level at No. 1 when the dam overflows."

Joselyn Williams further explained that there is still need for considerable rainfall for the water level at the dam to increase further to its capacity as he also appealed to members of the public to desist from the indiscriminate cutting down of trees so as to prevent deforestation from affecting sufficient rainfall.

Responding, Guma's Public Relations Officer, Joseph Musa pointed out that in spite of the encouraging rainfall this month that has contributed to the

considerably increase in the water level at the dam, there is still need for consumers to conserve water and to use water wisely as Guma is still pursuing the policy of rationing water in the city.

Joseph Musa further maintained that rationing of water is not meant to create undue hardship on consumers but that the strategy employed by Guma is a temporary measure geared towards ensuring the judicious use of water in the long term and for a situation in which the city might experience a longer period of dry season.

Joseph Musa went on, "the current rationing exercise is aimed at averting the problem of water shortage such as was experienced by consumers in June this year. I want to appeal to members of the public to col-

laborate and cooperate with Guma by promptly paying their bills and to report cases of leakages and other faults swiftly to the relevant authorities at either Guma headquarters on Lamina Sankoh Street or Guma Works Yard at PWD compound, off Pademba Road."

The Guma PRO further appealed to members of the media to adequately inform members of the public that the company has embarked on a rigorous house to house check of illegal connections that has become rampant in the city and a cause of serious concern to the company.

The PRO also observed that the number of illegal connections in the city is on the increase and that Guma is losing millions of Leones due to illegal connections.

A conducted tour of the lake site was made by journalists who were impressed by the commitment and dedication of Guma staff manning the treatment works located in the densely forested area of Sussex.

Exclusive

Thursday, 10 August 2006

(Satire)

Special Court rejects volunteer suspects

About 22 men who surrendered themselves up as perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sierra Leone's civil war have been rejected out-rightly by the Special Court.

The men confessed that they commanded troops that committed gruesome crimes against innocent civilians (mostly women and children). Some of them carried long chains of human ears and fingers while others carried human skulls as evidence to support their claim.

John N'dapi, who identified himself as spokesman for the group, said they decided to surrender in order to save the Special Court much needed resources and trouble trying to follow evidences that will eventually indict them. However, curiously panicked Special Court officials said the whole thing smells fish.

"This might be a calculated scheme for trouble..." said the Court's chief prosecutor. But our investigations into the background of some of the volunteers - most of them unemployed, middle-aged parents - reveal that they decided to pose as RUF warlords when they got wind of the special menu and other facilities designed for detainees at the Special Court detention centre.

"It's a pity they were rejected but I think it's very smart of them.

"I mean just look at the logic behind their scheme. Life as a prisoner of the Special Court is better," one old woman commented.

Below we reproduce the menu for the Special Court Detention Centre (a 4-day rotation of breakfast, lunch and dinner) which detainees like Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Issa Sesay, Augustine Gbao have been enjoying.

Menu for Special Court Detention Centre (New England)

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Dinner</u>
	<u>Day 1</u>	
Fruit Juice Boiled Egg & Mayonnaise in bread as sandwich Tea with milk and sugar	Boiled Rice Fish stew Fruit	Fried Potatoes Chicken Soup Fruit
	<u>Day 2</u>	
Fruit Juice Corned beef in bread as sandwich Tea with milk and sugar	Boiled Rice Potato leaves with fish or beef Fruit	Fried Plantains Fruit
	<u>Day 3</u>	
Fruit Juice Rice Pap & bread and butter Tea with milk and sugar	Boiled Rice & boiled cassava Beans cooked with fish or boiled Potatoes Fruit or boiled egg	Fish Soup & Plantains Plantains Fruit
	<u>Day 4</u>	
Fruit Juice Bread & Fish stew Tea with milk and sugar	Boiled Rice Groundnut stew & Vegetables Fruit	Salad & potatoes chicken & bread Fruit

Based on the Medical Officer's nutritional advice, in accordance with Rule 23 of the Rules of detention, which specifies that "Each Detainee shall at reasonable hours receive food which is suitably prepared and presented, and which satisfies in quality and quantity the standards of dietetics and modern hygiene and takes into account the age, health, religious and, as far as possible, cultural requirements of the Detainee."

Axcess News

Thursday, 10 August 2006

West African disarmament and Reintegration of Former Combatants Only the Beginning, Security Council Says

By Staff

(AXcess News) New York - The disarmament and reintegration of former combatants, an end to the threat from the illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and much stronger national institutions and civil society groups are just some of the necessary steps that West Africa must take if peace is to consolidate across the region, the Security Council said today.



In a statement read out by Nana Akufo-Addo, Foreign Minister of Ghana, Council President for August, the 15-member body underlined the importance of the United Nations' new Peace building Commission in helping countries emerging from conflict to achieve lasting peace and stability.

The statement also urged the UN, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to integrate their efforts and to maximize their resources so that peace initiatives in the region are given the best possible chance to succeed.

Voicing concern about the threat posed by the continuing illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons, the statement called on all States in the region to ratify a pact limiting the sale and distribution of small arms and light weapons.

But it stressed that "a comprehensive and coordinated manner" is required if West African countries are to consolidate peace and promote security and economic development.

The presidential statement followed an open debate in which almost three dozen speakers - including Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his Special Representative for West Africa Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah - addressed the Council on peace consolidation in the region.

Annan told the Council meeting that all too often the international community's hard-won achievements in ending wars are reversed or undermined because of its frequent response to post-conflict situations - a "shortage of funds, lack of international coordination, and a tendency to leave too soon."

He said West Africa is not taking advantage of its rich natural resources and fulfilling its economic and social potential because of "grave and widespread shortcomings of governance," as well as a lack of political stability and prosperity.

The Secretary-General added that the region's problems must be tackled holistically, given that "insecurity has no respect for national boundaries."

But he pointed to an accord signed by Nigeria and Cameroon in June, ending a decades-long dispute over the border region of Bakassi, as proof that the UN can help countries of the region to make progress on the road towards stability.

Noting that nearly 60 per cent of its population is under the age of 30, Ould-Abdallah told the Council that this demographic fact must be considered by the international community when devising solutions to problems in West Africa.

Many of these young people, he said, are unemployed and have little hope of finding jobs, given they have few skills and are emerging from a period where the region's wars have been their chief employers.

Ould-Abdallah said the next 12 months will be a crucial period for the region, as national elections are due in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mali and Sierra Leone among others.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9 August 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

[There were no relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today]

International Clips on West Africa

Reuters 9 August 2006

Ultimatum in Ivory Coast

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast _ Rebels holding northern Ivory Coast said Tuesday that they would not accept President Laurent Gbagbo's retaining power after an Oct. 31 deadline for elections. The ultimatum set the rebel New Forces on a collision course with Mr. Gbagbo, who, with the vote expected to be delayed, vowed Sunday to remain in office until it took place. A United Nations-backed peace plan for Ivory Coast, a West African country split since a 2002-03 civil war, had already prolonged Mr. Gbagbo's expired mandate for up to 12 months starting last Oct. 31 after elections did not take place then.

EU gives Sierra Leone 8 million euros for polls preps

FREETOWN, Aug 8, 2006 (AFP) - The European Union said Tuesday it would give Sierra Leone eight million euros to help prepare for next year's presidential and parliamentary elections. Jeremy Turnacliffe, the EU's representative in Freetown, said the elections would "be a further step towards Sierra Leone's move to democracy". The West African country has set July 28 2007 for polls expected to serve as a crucial test of its democratic credentials and establish whether the West African state, ravaged by a 10-year brutal civil war, is on the road to full recovery.

Local Media – Newspaper

Speaker Snowe Threatens to "Move On" UNMIL's Headquarters

(New Democrat, The News, The Analyst and Heritage)

- Addressing Tuesday's Plenary on the wave of "insecurity" in Monrovia and its environs at the Capitol Building, Speaker Edwin Snowe threatened to mobilize his constituents in Electoral District #5, Paynesville, to "move on" the Headquarters of the United Nations in Liberia (UNMIL) if the situation is not arrested immediately.
- [sic:] We are concerned and want to send this message out, especially to UNMIL. UNMIL is responsible for security in this country. If UNMIL will compromise the security of the people of this country, we will not relent, we will move on them. And we are very serious on this matter; *New Democrat* quoted Mr. Snowe as saying.
- [sic:] But minutes later, amidst a roar of laughter from the chamber floor, Mr. Snowe said, "And when I said that we will move on them we don't mean that we will move on them."

House Summons UNMIL and National Security Heads

(New Democrat, The News, The Analyst and Heritage)

- Members of the House of Representatives on Tuesday voted unanimously to cite all heads of security agencies as well as UNMIL security advisor to appear before Plenary in an executive session to explain the current situation in the country.

Government and UNMIL Assess Security at Liberia-Sierra Leone Border

(The Inquirer, New Democrat and The Informer)

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia in collaboration with Liberian defense authorities on Tuesday toured the Mano River Bridge at Bo Water Side in Grand Cape Mount County to assess security situation there.
- During the assessment tour at the bridge which borders Liberia and Sierra Leone, the delegation met with officials of Sierra Leonean security forces at which time Liberia's Defense Minister Brownie Samukai said that the trip was intended to build confidence on both sides of the border.

Deputy SSS Director Claims Counter Attack on his Residence

(The News, The Inquirer, New Democrat, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Heritage, The Informer, National Chronicle and Public Agenda)

- A counter-shooting incident reportedly occurred early Tuesday morning at the Du Port Road residence of Deputy Special Security Service Director, Ashford Peal, barely three days after a shoot-out which killed a security guard at the home of his boss, Chris Massaquoi.
- Mr. Peal, the central figure in Saturday's shoot-out which killed Emmanuel Williams at the home of Mr. Massaquoi, claimed that his home was also attacked by armed men who had gone to assassinate him. No one was hurt in the incident.

Press Union of Liberia Wants Massaquoi and Peal Re-examined

(The News, Heritage and The Informer)

- The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) on Tuesday described as a travesty of justice, the release of Deputy Special Security Service Director, Ashford Peal, despite ongoing investigation into the shoot-out at the residence of Mr. Massaquoi.
- In a press statement issued on Tuesday, the Union said that the two security figures demonstrated irresponsibility in their dealings and needed to be reexamined.
- The PUL has urged President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to surrender Ashford Peal to the Police for investigation and at the same time called for the suspension of Mr. Chris Massaquoi in order for him to be subjected to the investigations.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)*

Lawmakers to Quiz National Security Chiefs

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Journalists Urge President to Arrest Special Security Deputy Director

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President Dedicates Improved Housing Units for Rubber Workers

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf yesterday dedicated newly constructed housing units for low income earners of the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company after she had earlier requested the Company to improve the living condition of its employees.
- During her visit to the Company, President Johnson-Sirleaf said that the government was committed to the education of all citizens and urged management to build more schools on its Plantations.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberian Government and World Bank Sign US\$38.5 Million Grant

- The Government of Liberia and the World Bank yesterday signed what they called a Pre-Arrears Clearance Grant for US\$38.5 million. The Bank's Representative to Liberia Giovanni said the Grant among other projects would fund emergency rehabilitation of critical infrastructures including key highways and bridges.
- Finance Minister Dr. Antoinette Sayeh said that the Grant is an exceptional financing on the part of the World Bank to which Liberia is indebted to the tune of over US\$500 million.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Solicitor-General Refutes Claims of Bank Analyst's Defense Lawyers

- The Government of Liberia has refuted former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Analyst Christopher Taylor's Defense Lawyers' claims that their client was audited in his absence, accusing him of embezzling US\$150,000 from the Bank.
- Addressing a news conference yesterday, Liberia's Solicitor-General Tiawan Gongloe clarified that it was rather financial investigators that established that Mr. Taylor had allegedly embezzled the money. Cllr. Gongloe also clarified that it was untrue that the Court was about to hear a summary judgment in the case without the CBL admitting that it conducted an audit in the absence of Analyst Taylor.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

International Transparency Group Launches Liberia Office

- The Liberian Chapter of the "Publish What You Pay", a global transparency group, was launched in Monrovia yesterday focusing on the transparent use of natural resources.
- The group's Liberian Chapter head, Atty. Alfred Brownell said that industries operating in Liberia would have to disclose what they pay to government and government would have to in turn disclose what it received from the industries. This practice, he added, would enable Liberians monitor the amount of money the government accrues from the natural resources and how it is spent.
- The "Publish What You Pay" Liberian Chapter groups 15 civil society organizations including, Green Advocates, Foundation for International Dignity and Press Union of Liberia and being funded by the U.S. government and the Open Society Initiatives for West Africa.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

U.S. Envoy Implores Government to Enter Concessions with Responsible Companies

- United States Embassy Charge d'Affairs Lewis Mazel implored the Government of Liberia not to enter concession agreements with irresponsible companies so as not compromise the welfare of Liberians.
- Speaking at the launching of the Liberia Chapter of "Publish What You Pay" yesterday, Mr. Mazel emphasized that any agreement signed by government should be out of a fair and transparent negotiation to ensure that all Liberians benefit from the natural resources. Mr. Mazel admonished Liberians to study the possibilities of opening factories to begin processing raw materials in their country.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

UNMIL/PIO/PR/94
2006

Press release, 08 August

UN Envoy meets Sierra Leonean authorities on the Mano River Union Bridge, Grand Cape Mount County

Monrovia, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. Brownie Samukai, together with UNMIL Deputy Force Commander, Maj.-Gen. Muhammad Tahir, and other UNMIL and government officials today met with Sierra Leonean authorities on the Mano River Union Bridge in Bo Water Side, Grand Cape Mount County, to discuss means to enhance the level of individual and joint security operations and patrols along the common border.



Minister Samukai, SRSR Doss and Maj. Gen. Tahir meet with Sierra Leonean authorities on Mano River Union Bridge, Grand Cape Mount County

Special Representative Doss recognized that the current security situation has allowed increased trade between the two countries. However, he cautioned that both Liberian and Sierra Leonean authorities must continue to be vigilant and ensure that no illegal movement of civilians and weapons takes place. Mr. Doss described the joint operation as “a good example of working together to ensure that the safety and security of the citizens and government of Liberia are maintained.”

Speaking to UNMIL Radio, Minister Samukai praised UNMIL’s support for the joint operations and described the continuous communication between the two countries as a means of establishing confidence and ensuring safe movement of people and free flow of goods across the borders.

During the visit, the SRSR and the delegation also met with the Namibian contingent deployed in the area and received a detailed briefing on the security situation in Grand Cape Mount County.

Special Representative Doss praised the Namibian contingent for their good work and reminded them that until the Liberian national forces are rebuilt, the responsibility of ensuring the safety of Liberia’s borders lies with them. He also reminded the contingent that they must strictly abide by the UN’s code of personal conduct.

On behalf of the Liberian Government, Minister Samukai also expressed his gratitude to the contingent. “We encourage the humanitarian assistance you are providing, especially the clinic. It is very helpful for our people,” he added.

The delegation also visited the camp currently being built by Pakistani military engineers in the Guthrie plantation. The camp will include facilities to house the Liberian National Police and an UNMIL Formed Police Unit in support of the Liberian Government’s decision to re-possess the rubber plantation.

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Family Security Matters

Thursday, 10 August 2006

<http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/terrorism.php?id=201292#>

Hezbollah's African Network

J. Peter Pham, Ph.D.

Despite the valiant efforts of the men and women of the Israeli Defense Forces to degrade the lethal capacity of Hezbollah terrorist organization—and, one might add, notwithstanding the frantic denials of diplomats not wanting to face up to the consequences of admitting the terrible reality of the situation—it has become quite clear that the only way forward to a sustainable cessation of hostilities along Israel's border with Lebanon will require cutting off the radical Shī'a group's access to the external sources which enabled it to amass its arsenal and carry out its operations in the first place.



At the time of this writing, there have been some discussions on the role that Syria and Iran have played not only in fomenting, but also in prolonging the conflict. However, to date, almost no attention has been paid to the third leg of the tripod sustaining the operations of the Hezbollah death cult: its far-flung financial and logistical networks among the Lebanese Shī'a diaspora, especially in West Africa.

Emigrants from Lebanon, the majority of whom, for a number of historical reasons, happened to be Shī'ites, began flocking to West Africa in the early 1900s, where they were welcomed by British colonial authorities who saw them as a tool with which to break the hold of the increasingly nationalist-conscious local merchant class on trade with the interior in places such as the Crown Colony of Freetown.

Over time, a combination of governmental favour and their own hard work resulted in the Lebanese achieving dominance not only of the commerce in manufactured goods, but also control of the trade in natural resource commodities like the fabled alluvial diamonds of Sierra Leone. The Lebanese in West Africa have become the region's "market-dominant minority," to borrow a term popularized by Yale Law School professor Amy Chua in her study of free market democracy and global instability, *World on Fire*. As Chua herself observed, "the extent of Lebanese market dominance in Sierra Leone—historically and at present—is astounding."

Arguably the most successful Lebanese trader in West Africa was Jamil Said Mohammed, a close associate of Siaka Probyn Stevens, the kleptomaniac dictator of Sierra Leone from 1968 to 1985. In his halcyon days in Stevens's one-party state, Jamil's National Trading Company held monopoly rights to for the importation of no fewer than eighty-seven commodities. As I documented in my book, *Child Soldiers, Adult Interests: The Global Dimensions of the Sierra Leonean Tragedy*, so great was Jamil's influence that he managed to persuade Stevens's handpicked successor, Joseph Saidu Momoh, to host a 1986 "state visit" of Yasir Arafat, who was exiled to Tunis after his humiliating defeat by the Israeli forces in Lebanon and who was, at least that year, being treated by the international community as a virtual diplomatic leper after a group led by PLO executive committee member Abu Abbas hijacked the Italian cruise liner *Achille Lauro* and pushed overboard a 69-year-old wheelchair-bound Jewish American passenger from New York, Leon Klinghoffer. Arafat offered to pay the cash-strapped Momoh \$8 million for the use of one of Sierra Leone's offshore islands as a training base for his exiled fighters. While, under pressure from Western nations, Momoh turned down the offer, he did allow Jamil to maintain a 500-man "personal security force," consisting primarily of Palestinians driven out of Lebanon, which effectively enabled the Palestinian leader to achieve the same end of finding a base to keep his fighters together.

During the Sierra Leonean civil conflict (1991-2001), Jamil and another Lebanese Shī'a merchant, Samih Osaily, whom Belgian intelligence has linked to Osama bin Laden's financial network, fenced diamonds on behalf of the brutal Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, who enslaved whole communities to mine them in areas under its control. After the conflict, when it appeared that the United Nations-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone might prosecute him, Jamil fled back to Lebanon on a diplomatic passport provided to him courtesy of his childhood friend, the Sierra Leonean-born speaker of the Lebanese parliament, Nabih Berri, whose Amal militia-cum-political party is a full partner in Hezbollah's "Resistance and Development Bloc" in the legislature. (According to intelligence sources, Jamil repaid the favor by giving Berri a substantial cut in the former's new state-plundering racket, the Zahrani oil refinery.)

While the colorful Jamil may have left West Africa, more than 100,000 of his compatriots remain. In many respects, the fictitious Yusuf “the Syrian” who tried to corrupt Scobie in *The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene, who himself served as an intelligence officer in Sierra Leone during the Second World War, was actually a composite figure summing up these traders from the Levant who, even as they prospered in Africa, maintained close commercial and personal ties with their homeland, followed events in the Middle East, and were willing to use every artifice to further their ends.

In 2004 Larry Andre, the deputy chief of mission at the United States Embassy in Freetown told the Associated Press:

“One thing that’s incontrovertible is the financing of Hezbollah. It’s not even an open secret; there’s not a secret. There’s a lot of social pressure and extortionate pressure brought to bear: ‘You had better support our cause, or we’ll visit your people back home.’”

While undoubtedly some pressure is at work, other observers also see conviction: witness the anti-Israeli (and anti-American) rallies, replete with Hezbollah flags, which members of the Lebanese community have staged in recent weeks in a number of West African capitals.

In Sierra Leone, Lebanese traders control an overwhelming majority of the diamond buying shops. Although some of these enterprises are officially licensed by the Sierra Leonean government, most experts agree that their owners conduct most of their business off the books, smuggling last year somewhere between \$170 million and \$370 million worth of uncut gems out of the country each year according to Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the West African country. A not-inconsiderable portion of these illegal profits eventually finds its way into Hezbollah’s coffers. For just one example of how lucrative this revenue stream is for the terrorist group, when Union des Transports Africains de Guinée (UTA) flight 141 en route to Beirut crashed off the coast of Benin on Christmas Day 2003, not only were 133 passengers lost, but so was a briefcase with \$2 million in contributions being carried by a Hezbollah fundraiser.

In his book *Blood from Stones: The Secret Financial Network of Terror*, former *Washington Post* correspondent Douglas Farah described how al-Qaeda procured diamonds from the RUF and its Liberian patron, former President Charles Taylor. In contrast to Osama bin Laden who saw in the gemstones a means to *hide* his money, Hezbollah’s Hassan Nasrallah’s sees in them a way to *make* money.

In fact, according to reliable sources in the region, Hezbollah is no longer content with collecting tribute from the Lebanese diaspora involved in the diamond trade and its operatives have slowly gone into the business directly, buying diamonds from both local miners and Lebanese traders in relatively well-known places like Kenema and Koidu in eastern Sierra Leone as well as more isolated production centers in Liberia, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to sources in the diamond business, Hezbollah then sends the highest quality gems to the industry’s center in Antwerp, Belgium, while lesser stones go to the emerging diamond cutting centers in India—in either case earning the terrorists a handsome return on their initial investment.

If the United States and its allies are serious about fighting international terrorism, then they must do everything in their power to destroy Hezbollah—recall, Nasrallah has said that his group “needs only to survive to win.” This means that an effective counterterrorism strategy must confront the issue of the support that the terrorist group receives from not just Syria and Iran, but also from Africa.

With respect to curtailing the flow of resources to Hezbollah from its African network, the task will be both easier and harder than cutting off its supply lines from Damascus and Tehran. It will be easier, because we will not be acting against governments, but with them: most African governments would welcome assistance in building their own law enforcement capacity as well as in reasserting control over their own countries against the interlopers from the Middle East. However, the challenge will simultaneously be more difficult, because of the nature of the diaspora community within which Hezbollah operates: readily identifiable, but not easily penetrated.

As, *U.S. News & World Report* reported recently:

“At the Pentagon, the CIA, the State Department, and the FBI, there is a heightened sense of urgency” concerning these places with officials scrambling to expand our on-the-ground capabilities.

However, the same article noted that:

“the political and diplomatic hurdles are substantial. Each office costs millions of dollars to establish and equip...the FBI has long struggled to recruit and train G-men with the know-how to effectively work in these regions—language skills especially, plus the necessary historical, geopolitical, religious, and cultural sensitivities.”

The task of shutting down Hezbollah’s financial network will undoubtedly require considerable investment by the U.S. and its allies of resources, human and otherwise, in a number of African countries. However, failure to cut off the terrorist group from these sources of support undermines the fight against it in the Middle East. So the effort must be undertaken because at stake is not only the peace of the Middle East, but the stability of Africa and, ultimately, the security and national interests of the United States.