

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



A knife sharpener at work in Freetown

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:

Wednesday, 11 April 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Concord Times
Wednesday, 11 April 2007

Salone to abolish death penalty

By **PEL Koroma**

Chairman of the Constitutional
Review Commission, Dr. Pe-

ter Tucker told journalists at the
British Council hall that his

Commission has recom-
mended the abolition of the
Cont. page 5

Salone to abolish death penalty

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death penalty.

The Commission also recom-
mends that the country should
have two chambers of Parlia-
ment adding that Paramount
Chiefs should now serve in the
Senate which will be made of
44 members.

The Commission also recom-
mended that naturalized citizens
are to vote and be voted for
adding that Lebanese has the
right to be Parliamentarians.

"Public servants can now en-
ter into politics provided they

resigned their position three
months before elections," he
said.

On the issue of immunity of
the State, he said, the immu-
nity of the President last only
after the end of his term in
office.

Consultative meetings on the
amendments will be held in
Freetown, Bo, Kenema and
Makeni.

"The review of the 1991 con-
stitution is in accordance with
the Lome Peace Accord," Dr.
Tucker concluded.

The News

Wednesday, 11 April 2007

LAWCLA launches Juvenile Justice Report

By Allieu Kamara

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) last week launched a detailed and constructive report on the Juvenile Justice in Sierra Leone.

The Director of LAWCLA, Melron Nicol-Wilson gave a brief overview of the handbook report. He said his office has been

advocating for the rights of juvenile offenders since the inception of the juvenile justice unit in July 2001. He said the vulnerability of children

needs to be taken into account in the implementation and development of laws, in relation to young people who commit offences.

According to Mr. Nicol-Wilson, "a cursory look at how the juvenile justice sector in Sierra Leone is administered

provides ample evidence that the system is in dire need of reform." He said the report outline various international standards relating to the treatment of children and also considers provisions in Sierra Leone domestic legislation to juvenile such as the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act and The Children and Young Persons Act. He said the report also highlights key areas where reform is urgently needed in order to meet international standards and to ensure that young people are treated in a just and fair manner.

The chairman of the launching ceremony, Bennidict Sannoh, who is also Head of UNIOSIL Human Rights Section, said respect for human

right and peace should be the key words for every country that emerges from civil war. Sannoh note that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations need to be implemented in full if lasting peace is to be maintained in this country. He said the causes of the civil war are outlined in the TRC and Sierra Leoneans need to ask themselves if they have settled the reasons for the war before they start thinking of development.

He said one of the reasons that need to be addressed is child's labour which was misused during the war and still continue to be exploited through child trafficking at local and

international level. Sannoh commended LAWCLA for a job well done saying that the publication of such report is one sure way of addressing the causes of the war. Formally launching the book, the Country Director Plan International, Mrs. Fadimata Alinchar said the issue of helping young children is in consonance with her organization. Mrs. Alinchar said Plan International vision is to let children realize full potential in order to enhance the quality of life for children in the developing countries. She noted that the report is a balance one which protect and promote children. Mrs. Alinchar confirmed that LAWCLA is now a development partner with Plan International.

Salone Times
Wednesday, 11 April 2007

SALONE IN BRIEF

LATE NORMAN'S FAMILY REJECTS AUTOPSY REPORT

According to a press release signed by Alfred Sam Foray of the Free Hinga Norman Fund based in the United States, the family of the late Chief Sam Hinga Norman does not accept or endorse the recently released forensic pathologist report which stated that Chief Norman died of natural causes.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Friday, 6 April 2007

Sierra Leone's Opposition Leader Not Impressed with Special Court's Role

Sierra Leone's main opposition leader says he is not impressed with the role of the UN-backed special court in reconciling the country. Mr Ernest Koroma said he held the belief earlier that the court should not have been established along a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr Koroma told Star Radio for some strange reasons, the key suspects are all dying in the process. He named the suspects who have died as Foday Sankoh, Sam Bokarie, Chief Sam Hinga Norman and the mysterious disappearance of Johnny Paul Koroma.

Mr Koroma maintained it is only time that has been a major factor in reconciling the people of Sierra Leone. Mr Koroma is the leader of the All People's Congress of former President Siaka Stevens.

Star Radio (Liberia)

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

Over 150 Witnesses Identified to Testify Against Charles Taylor

The UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone says the prosecution has identified over 150 witnesses to testify against Charles Taylor.

The spokesman of the Special Court said the number might reduce during the selection of witnesses for the case. Mr Peter Andersen said the court in The Hague would decide whether the witnesses would testify via technology or would be taken to The Hague.

Mr Andersen also told Star Radio the Witness Protection Section of the Special Court would ensure the security of the witnesses.

The Analyst (Liberia)

Thursday, 5 April 2007

Unmil Not Leaving

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Liberia, Amb. Alan Doss, has assured Liberians that UNMIL won't be abruptly withdrawn from Liberia as being speculated.

Amb. Doss said any future withdrawal of peacekeeping troops would be carried on in close consultation with the Liberian government and other partners.

He clarified that the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1750 adopted recently in New York did not call for such a withdrawal of troops from Liberia at the moment.

Making the clarification yesterday during UNMIL regular press briefing held at the Mission's headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia, Amb. Doss dismissed ongoing speculation about troop withdrawal as untrue and unfounded.

"The resolution didn't call for the withdrawal UNMIL forces at this time. We want to emphasize this because there are reports in the press insinuating that UNMIL forces are about to pack up and leave Liberia. That's not the case," said Amb. Doss.

Amb. Doss: "The UN Security Council never said that it is time to leave Liberia, but rather said it is time to be thinking, planning, for the drawdown and eventual withdrawal, but it did not give it timetable, neither did it say we will leave at the end of this mandate".

He said instead of pulling out now, UNMIL would undergo re-adjustment of its forces which exercises are normal practices. According to Mr. Doss, UNMIL had increased police presence after one battalion left the country last year, adding, the leaving of UNMIL forces won't be in a hasty fashion.

"None of us in UNMIL want to put a risk on the progress made over the three and half years operations, particularly the progress made since the 2005 elections", said Amb. Doss.

He also refuted reports by the local media that the Security Council Resolution 1750 addressed issues regarding sanctions and armed embargo in Liberia.

"These matters will be taken up in separate sessions of the council", Amb. Doss

He disclosed that the council has asked UNMIL to cooperate with Sierra Leone Special Court, but noted that this does not mean that UNMIL will have to arrest and send people to Sierra Leone for prosecution.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 April 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

There were relevant stories on Liberia in the international media today.

International Clips on West Africa

AP 04/09/2007 20:21:40

War-divided Ivory Coast risks unity in bid to end restive stalemate

HEIDI VOGT

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast _ In a wide swathe of land cutting across the middle of Ivory Coast, there is no government. Farmers tend to yams and bananas near U.N. troops who patrol the zone, which separates army and rebel fighters. The farmers go north only with insurgents' permission and south only with state-issued papers. Whole villages inhabit this limbo. The so-called Zone of Confidence, guarded by French and U.N. peacekeepers, was set up as part of a 2003 cease-fire in this West African nation's civil war. It has since come to symbolize the country's not-quite-peace, not-quite-war stalemate.

Local Media - Newspaper

President Holds Talks with Belgian Envoy

(The Analyst)

- At her Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf held in audience, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Mr. Karel De Gucht stating that the Government of Liberia was interested in forging bilateral agreements with Belgium as it endeavored to renew the post-conflict Country.

Senate Postpone Ratification of Steel Agreement

(The News, New Democrat, The Inquirer and National Chronicle)

- The Liberian Senate yesterday called on their compatriots to be patient as the Mittal Steel agreement which the Government signed was being painstakingly analyzed to prevent the recurrence of mistakes made previous concession agreements.
- The Senate added that the delay was meant to ensure that the interest of Liberian was protected under the deal

Plantation Workers Demand Reinstatement of Union Leaders

(Heritage and Daily Observer)

- Correspondents said that workers from 16 Divisions of the Firestone Rubber Plantation have commenced a strike action to demand the reinstatement of their leaders who were suspended from office by Ministry of Labour officials and the continuation of the collective bargaining agreement with the Company's management.

Defense Warns against Looting Renovated Barracks

(The Analyst and The Inquirer)

- Defense Minister Browne Samukai told reporters that the newly renovated Edward B. Kesselly Military Barracks along the Roberts International Airport was being looted by unknown persons whom he warned could be caught in cross-fires of trainee soldiers.

Local Media – Radio Veritas *(News monitored today at 9:45 am)*

Plantation Workers Demand Reinstatement of Union Leaders

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberian Leader Commissions Water Facility

- Speaking at the commissioning ceremony of pipe-borne water supply to West Point, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that she was happy for the patience and support Liberians have shown the Government in the face of limited resources and called on the international partners to do more in helping to meet the needs of citizens.
- For his part, the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation Board Chairman, Luseni Donzo stated that supply of safe drinking water would be extended to other localities while the Corporation's Managing Director, Humbu Tulay disclosed that the World Bank recently donated four vehicles to the entity to enhance the supply of water.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

President to Access Development in Southeastern Counties

- In an interview, the Deputy Information Minister for Administration, Richmond Anderson declared that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's visit to Southeastern Liberia by road would afford her the opportunity to access the destruction done and identify the plight of the people in the rural areas.
- He added that she would also access the level of development being undertaken by Southeastern superintendents from the US\$1 million development fund allotted to them.
- Meanwhile, President Sirleaf has held talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht saying that her Government was interested in forging bilateral agreements with Belgian as Liberia continued in its path to national renewal. For his part, Mr De Gucht assured his government support to Liberia's development objective.

(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.