

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



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, 11 December 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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The Exclusive

Tuesday, 11 December 2007

Kabbah Vs SLPP

*Special Court Demands Evidence

SLPP parliamentarians recently called for the indictment of the Ex President who they alleged, worked hand in gloves
Contd. page 2

By David A. Jabati

The call for the Special Court to indict former Presi-

dent Kabbah for war crimes by SLPP Parliamentarians as published

in this medium can only be possible if there are evidences against him, the Spe-

cial Court told The Exclusive yesterday.

It could be recalled that

Kabbah Vs SLPP

From front page

with the late Hinga Norman who was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity but died while in the custody of the Special Court before the final ver-

dict was delivered.

Speaking to The Exclusive, SLPP's Secretary General, Jacob Jusu Saffa declined to comment saying, "That was the view of few parliamentarians but

as a party, we have not made such a call," adding that the party is currently focused on something different.

However, many SLPP members The Exclusive interviewed expressed the need for the indictment of Kabbah but have not been able to come up with grounds for his indictment.

From what The Exclusive has gathered so far, the indictment of the Ex President will only be possible if there are enough evidences of complicity or direct involvement by him in the heinous war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the course of the war.

Standard Times

Tuesday, 11 December 2007

Killing the Death Penalty

BY PROJECT SYNDICATE

It is finally happening, after 13 years of negotiations, delays, and hesitation, the UN General Assembly will vote this month on the proposal for a universal moratorium on the death penalty. A large majority of the UN adopted the proposal on 15 November, despite attempts by some member states to obstruct, amend, or bury it. Fortunately, in the end, the opponents were forced to fight a will stronger than their own: the will of those who, after the abolition of slavery and torture want to mark another turning point for civilization. But will this December's vote be a mere formality?

To be honest, one is not sure that all of the world's governments have accepted the inevitable, or that even the most inflexible will now agree to the moratorium. But one continues to have faith that the General Assembly will know, as always, how to meet this challenge.

It is very clear that even if the vote succeeds, the UN resolution will not be binding, and that establishing and enforcing a moratorium is only a necessary mid-way step toward full abolition. But the UN should push for an immediate de facto suspension, without waiting for the debates to begin on legal reforms in the respective countries. It is hoped that this approach will allow a wide consensus in the General Assembly, and that any last minute change of heart will fail.

One big lesson to learn during the struggle to create the International Criminal Court (ICC), and now during the battle for a moratorium on the death penalty, is that it is often better to aim for a realistic result, than a perfect one. Before the international community established the ICC, there were two ad hoc tribunals, one for the former Yugoslavia and one for Rwanda. Their work paved the way for the ICC.

Some European Union countries wanted to push for complete abolition of the death penalty right away, their position is clearly understood. Everybody would have wanted the same thing, but had we followed that route, we would most likely have failed.

There is an important lesson in this, for the EU at a time when it is seeking to become a global actor: we must reach an internal consensus while always bearing in mind what the external ramifications of

our decision might be. On the moratorium, we remained pragmatic and built a strong European foreign policy. And it was an advantage in the UN negotiations to have a common European position and to have spoken with a single voice.

A second lesson that should be learned is also useful for the EU, which finds itself in a world in which new powers are emerging and where all actors from Manila to Algiers, from Doha to Libreville, must deal with the challenges of globalization and interdependence on a daily basis. That lesson is, Europe has more friends than it has enemies in the world.

These friends deserve respect and attention. If Italy and the EU had not understood the need to work with non-European countries, and make them feel that they were responsible and fully-fledged protagonists, the efforts to establish the ICC and be so closed to declare a universal moratorium on

the death penalty would have failed.

Perhaps it is not exactly a new lesson, but it is what other actors have in mind when one thinks about efficient multilateralism. Not only does it work, but, above all, in some cases, it is the only way of moving forward.

Finally, a third lesson relevant to the fight against the death penalty and, indeed, to winning any political battle is perseverance, which is considered to be a mix of pig-headedness and the ability to maintain one's position. Without perseverance, there can be no progress.

All this is a success, not only for anti-death penalty radicals, for the "Hands off Cain" association, the Italian government, and for the European Union and its friends in the world. It is much more: it is a success for all those who believe that it is still possible to improve the world and ultimately the human condition every day.

The death penalty to most anti death penalty campaigners is not the solution to global problem, nor is a solution to social problems. Some times the wrong people suffer unduly for acts not committed by them and by the time this is realized, it's too late.

The moratorium on death penalty should not be seen or used as a passport by criminals. It is hoped that the December vote would achieve its objective, and that heads of government would respect the outcome of the exercise.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 December 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia's Gyude Bryant to Plead Not Guilty in Court

By James Butty

VOA News – Washington D.C., 10 December 2007 - The former chairman of Liberia's National Transitional Government goes to court Monday to answer charges he stole more than a million dollars during his tenure from October 2003 to January 2006. Charles Gyude Bryant was arrested Friday (December 7) for failing to appear in court twice, a violation of his probation. He was released the following day on the condition that he will appear in court today Monday. Bryant told VOA that he intends to plead not guilty.

12/10/2007 10:00:59

Ex-Liberian president in court for graft, trial adjourned

MONROVIA, Dec 10, 2007 (AFP) - Former Liberian president Gyude Bryant appeared in court Monday on charges of corruption, before his trial was adjourned for three days to allow him to gather a defence team. He asked the high court for time to consider his defence options after the Supreme Court suspended his lawyers for "improper conduct".

Ex-Liberian president released from jail

MONROVIA, Liberia - The Associated Press, December 10, 2007: A former Liberian president was released from the capital's central prison on Saturday after he agreed to follow through on his promise to appear in court next week. Gyude Bryant, accused of pilfering US\$1.3 million from the country's coffers, was jailed Friday after failing to show up in court. He was released when he signed a court notice committing himself to appearing in court Monday.

12/10/2007 11:22:13

Liberian leader in Minnesota defends against warlord allegations

Source: AP Alert - Political Date: December 10, 2007

MINNEAPOLIS_Kerper Dwanyen won the election to lead the state's Liberian organization, but allegations that he was a warlord in the African country's bloody civil war in the early 1990s could prevent him from ever taking the job. The election commission for the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota is expected to decide in the next few days what to do about allegations filed by two of the losing candidates.

International Clips on West Africa

12/10/2007 06:51:34

Amistad welcomed home in Sierra Leone

Randall Beach New Haven Register, Conn.

Source: New Haven Register (New Haven, CT) (KRT) Date: December 10, 2007

Dec. 10--Thousands of Sierra Leoneans chanted "Amistad! Freedom!" Sunday as the schooner Amistad sailed up to the docks of Freetown for a "homecoming" celebration. For Master Emeritus William Pinkney, who was the Amistad's first captain and the man at the helm when it arrived Sunday morning, the event was "the culmination of a dream."

12/10/2007 04:06:37

UN peacekeepers continue redeploying in Ivory Coast

Agence France-Presse English Wire via NewsEdge Corporation :

ABIDJAN, Dec 10, 2007 (AFP) - The United Nations peacekeeping mission in **Ivory Coast** said Saturday it had accomplished nearly half of a vast redeployment operation initially scheduled for completion this month. "Eight posts have been dismantled (as of) November 30 and nine more remain,"

said General Fernand Marcel Amoussou, force commander for the 8,000-troop United Nations Operation in **Ivory Coast**.

Local Media – Newspaper

Former Liberian leader freed after a night in prison

(The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle, Public Agenda, The Informer, New Democrat, New Vision, Liberian Express, Daily Observer)

- Former transitional head of state Gyude Bryant was released on Saturday after spending a night in common prison on condition that he appears in the court on today, Monday.
- Mr. Bryant was arrested Friday for refusing to appear in court, where he has been charged with corruption. This is the first time a former Liberian head of state has been imprisoned under such condition.
- National Chronicle and Heritage newspapers perceived his imprisonment as a 'witch hunt' and an act that undermines reconciliation in the country.

Preliminary report says no foul play in UNMIL helicopter crash

(New Democrat)

- A preliminary report on the recent crash of an UNMIL-chartered Russian helicopter has disputed claims that the chopper was shot down.
- Quoting the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority, New Democrat said the preliminary investigation confirms that no bullet was fired as earlier confirmed by 10 eyewitnesses who witnessed the destruction of the tail rotor assembly while observing the helicopter in flight.
- "According to the analysis of the decoded information from the Flight Data Recorded (FDR), there was no fire on board and no failures of the helicopter system till the emergency began."
- The investigation followed speculations attributed to a spokesman of UT Air[the company to which the helicopter belongs] in some international wire services, particularly the Russian News and Information Agency, Novosti, that the flight might have been hit by gunfire.
- The UN cargo helicopter crashed last month soon after taking off from Ganta to Luguatuo, along the Liberian-Ivorian border killing all three crew members aboard.

UNMIL deploys additional security at key plantation after violent clash

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

- UN security personnel including military and police collaborated with their Liberian police counterparts to restore calm at the Firestone Rubber Plantation in Margibi County following a violent demonstration in which at least five persons sustained injuries last Friday.
- In a statement, the UNMIL called on the community "to stop acts of violence, which will only make the situation worse." The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia, Alan Doss, appealed to all parties to be cautious and to peacefully resolve any grievances and disagreements.

Election Commission Announces Run-Off in Gbarpolu Senatorial By-Election

(Daily Observer)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) has released the final results of the Gbarpolu County by-election with no candidate obtaining an absolute win. NEC said Theodore Momo of

the ruling Unity Party and independent candidate Counselor Kannie Wesso would go for a run-off.

- According to the Commission the UP candidate obtained 39.1 percent of the total votes while Counselor Wesso received 17.6 percent. Nine candidates contested the December 4 Senatorial By-election to succeed Senior Senator Samuel Tormetie who died four months ago.

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

UNMIL Deploys Extra Security in Firestone

- Correspondents say the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has deployed additional security personnel to back the Liberia National Police (LNP) restore calm and order to the Firestone Rubber Plantation in Harbel, Margibi County.
- The deployment follows the weekend's disturbance at the plantation that resulted in at least five people being injured. Several properties including a health centre were damaged and looted during the incident.
- In a statement the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Liberia, Alan Doss, appealed to all parties to be cautious and to peacefully resolve any grievances and disagreements.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth F.M.)

Former Transitional Chairman Bryant Goes to Court Today

- The former Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, Gyude Bryant is appeared in court today following a day in detention at the Monrovia Central Prison.
- Mr. Bryant said the decision to go to court was a key condition for his release from prison early Saturday morning.
- He was arrested on Friday and sent to the country's maximum prison for disrespecting a court precept.
- The former Chairman is facing trial for economic sabotage.

President Sirleaf Frowns on Wave of Violence

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has warned that people who choose violence over dialogue in violation of the laws would be prosecuted.
- Speaking at the weekend during a regular cabinet meeting, President Sirleaf however said government would continue to encourage dialogue amongst citizens.
- The President then expressed concern over the increasing use of violence by citizens as a means of settling their grievances and cautioned that those who abuse freedom of speech and assembly would be held accountable in keeping with the laws of the country.

(Also reported on ELBS, Star Radio and Truth F.M.)
