

**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 of:**

Wednesday, 11 January 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## Mongolian takes over Special Court security



*General Tommy Goransson formally hands over to Lieutenant-Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai; observed by NIBATT Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ismail*

**T**he Nigerian Contingent (NIBATT) has formally handed over the security of the Special Court to the Mongolian contingent (MONBAT) from United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) at a ceremony held at the Court building.

This is the first peacekeeping deployment of MONBAT in West Africa, though some of its members have served in UN missions in the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Western Sahara and Sudan. Other soldiers in the unit have taken part in peace-support missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The MONBAT personnel have attended a month-long training course to prepare themselves for their duties in Sierra Leone, and will be

*Contd. Page 2*

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# Mongolian takes over Special Court security

*From Front Page*  
equipped with heavy weapons and armoured personnel carriers.

At a brief ceremony, Brigadier General Tommy Goransson representing UNMIL Force Commander Lieutenant-

Special Court since 2003, where they had served with professionalism and distinction.

For his part the interim registrar, Mr. Lovemore Munlo said on behalf of all staff at the Special Court

extended their gratitude and thanks to the Commanding Officer and all ranks of NIBATT for a job well done.

B y a m b a s a d e n  
Bavarnagai of Mongolia  
The officer-in-charge of  
the Registry, Joseph

## Mongolian peacekeepers take over security at Special Court

Responsibility for the protection of the Special Court was formally transferred Sunday from the United Nations Nigerian contingent (NIBATT) to the Mongolian contingent (MONBAT) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Special Court Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, Peter Andersen told Concord Times Monday a company of the Mongolian contingent has been designated for the Special Court.

In a brief ceremony in front of the courthouse, Brigadier-General Tommy Goransson, represent-

ing UNMIL Force Commander Lieutenant-General C.I. Obiakor of Nigeria, witnessed the handover of the Special Court Military Guard Force to Lieutenant-Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai of Mongolia.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Registry, Joseph Poraj-Wilczynski, noted that various contingents of Nigerian peacekeepers had provided security at the Special Court since 2003, where they have served with professionalism and distinction.

*Continued page 3*

## Mongolian peacekeepers take over security at Special Court

*From page 1*

The current Nigerian contingent is headed by Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ismail, and has been deployed in Freetown for just over a year. This is the first time in about ten years that Nigerian soldiers have ceased serving in Sierra Leone.

General Tommy Goransson formally hands over to Lieutenant-Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai, observed by NIBATT Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ismail.

The MONBAT force will be housed both at the Special Court complex in New England and at the U.N. Camp near the U.N. headquarters in Aberdeen. The force will be under the military command of UNMIL headquarters in Liberia.

This is MONBAT's first peace-keeping deployment in West Africa, however individuals of the unit have served in U.N. missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Western Sahara, and Sudan. Other soldiers in the unit have taken part in peace-support missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

MONBAT personnel have attended a month-long training course to prepare them for their duties in Sierra Leone. The contingent will be equipped with heavy weapons and armoured personnel carriers.

The Mongolian contingent will conduct operational exercises with other elements of the UNMIL force, in particular with its Swedish and Irish contingents that are prepared to deploy rapidly by air, land and sea to support MONBAT if required.

# Mongolians now secure Special Court

*By Joseph Turay*

Mongolian Contingent (Monbat) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has finally taken over security from the Nigerian Contingent at the Special Court. The Peacekeepers who made their deployment Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Court's Complex, New England during a brief handing over ceremony, will also be housed at the UN Camp near the UN Headquarters at Aberdeen.

They would be under the direct command of the UNMIL Headquarters in Monrovia, Liberia. During the hand over ceremony, which was witnessed by Senior Military Commands of UNMIL and the outgoing Nigeria contingent, The

Officer-in Charge of the Registry, Joseph Poraj Wilczynski said different contingents of Nigerian Peacekeepers had provided security for the Court since 2003 and had done so with good professionalism and distinction.

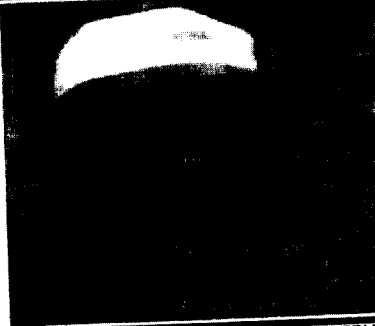
He added that the outgoing Contingent headed by Lt. Colonel J. Ismail has since been deployed for over a year. "The Interim Registrar- Mr. Lovemore Munlo and all staff members of the Special Court wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to the Commanding Officer and all ranks of Nibatt for a job well done," Poraj Wilczynski said, while wishing them a safe return to Nigeria. This Contingent of Monbat's first peacekeeping Mission in

Africa have served in UN Missions in Sudan, DR Congo and the Western Sahara and includes soldiers who have also taken part in Peace Missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Force, which has undergone a month-long training course to prepare themselves for duties in Sierra Leone, will be equipped with heavy weapons and armoured personnel carriers.

It will also conduct operational exercises with other elements of the UNMIL Force, particularly the Swedish and Irish contingents who are well prepared to deploy rapidly by air, land and sea to support Monbat if the need arises, a release from the Special Court states.

# Told Ernest Koroma In Detention!



Up to last night, officials of the opposition All People's Congress (APC) were maintaining tight lips on the secret meeting between their leader Ernest Bai Koroma and war crimes indictee and detainee Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who is currently facing charges at the UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone. Both Koroma and the former deputy Defence Minister reportedly met last Wednesday and Friday, and both meetings lasted for several

hours after the latter extended the invitation to the former. Chief Norman reportedly wanted to reach the people of Sierra Leone and believes the most appropriate person to do that is the opposition leader. A very reliable source hints this press that Koroma is not comfortable with the first meeting with Chief Norman on Wednesday and decided to call in some independent witnesses on the following

Friday, to which they had a lengthy frank talks said to be based on his incarceration, state security and his grudge for the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). This is the first time both

men have met since his arrest and subsequent detention by the Special Court for crimes against humanity and other crimes. Inside sources described the talks as 'very fruitful'.

Published By INDEPENDENT OBSERVER, 29, Rawdon Street, Freetown. Managing Editor: Jonathan Leigh. Editor: Sorie Sudan Sesay.  
Mobile: 076-608194, 076-602898, 033-362128, 030-237848. Advertisement: 030-200095, 033-441877/033-441900. E-mail: [jadleigh@yahoo.com](mailto:jadleigh@yahoo.com),  
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By Chief Gbondema Gbondo  
Tele: 076-571-830

One thing Sam Hinga Norman has never been since he was born over three scores ago is that, he has never been APC. One thing he has always been is SLPP ever since, up to the moment of his incarceration! A strange fate for which the SLPP is not remotely responsible - it is purely fate.

#### Tactics

If the infamous APC once, at its bloody heyday, boasted of its egregious 99 (ninety-nine) tactics to "stay" in power shall be so thirsty for a come-back, then wooing indicted and disgruntled Sam Hinga Norman could satanically fall within their diabolical game plan. Watch them!

The surfeit of the APC political activities over the last two months, the contemptuous courtroom embrace/romance between Charles F. Margai and his political cousin Ernest Koroma, the planned Christ The King College Bo celebration coincidental joint visit, the unfulfilled invitation to Koinadugu, and the latest visit to the special detention facilities where Norman is indicted etc. are all powerful pointers that the serpentine politics where the likes of Foh thrived in the past is about to be rejuvenated! One is not at pains, however, to comprehend why this strange visit (s) took place any way. The answer is not even in the question because every one knows that the embattled minority leader is at daggers drawn with the "respected" old guard of his own party and is subsequently in a very desperate bid for a new political lease of his life and ambition. This means, even going the extra mile to go to bed with avowed (former) enemies, as long as it could engender the desired goal for Koroma and Foh - to them, the end justifies the means.

#### Position

What a hypocritical belated and opportunistic

## strange Bedfellows: APC Woos Hinga Norman!

position statement, expected to be issued at the behest of Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma on the arrest and detention of the Chief Kamajor Leaders!

Picking issue with the institution of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, side-stepping the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, cannot be politicized at this political point in time. This thesis is predicated on the parliamentary debate records where the APC joined with SLPP Members of Parliament to ratify the Special Court provision to try those with "greatest responsibility" in the commission of crimes against humanity. There is no way - not even a shameful way - Ernest Koroma can deny that fact, except Victor Foh who can do anything under the SUN to survive.

#### Reality

The political canvas of the Kamajor constituency within the SLPP politics, adherent to SLPP ideology, can be evidenced by the massive support the ruling party continues to enjoy from the now-defunct Kamajor hierarchy in the South and Eastern provinces up to date. And up to the eve of Norman's arrest, he was already unpopular and had fallen out with the Kamajors he had helped to maintain, which is seen in the indifference they look upon his indictment!

*The political canvas of the Kamajor constituency within the SLPP politics, adherent to SLPP ideology, can be evidenced by the massive support the ruling party continues to enjoy from the now-defunct Kamajor hierarchy in the South and Eastern provinces up to date.*

Ernest Koroma and Foh cannot succeed to woo former (any imagined) Kamajor constituencies with the view of promising Norman that hypothetically, if APC wins 2007, they would grant Norman amnesty or restore him to either a ministerial position or make him a running mate candidate!

The earnest truth is that Ernest Koroma and Victor Foh are double foes of Sam Hinga Norman and the Norman people. Reconciliation is still far-fetched between those two groups - the former APC oppressors and the oppressed.

From Awareness Times Newspaper in Freetown

## LOCAL NEWS

### **APC takes lead on Hinga Norman Palava in Sierra Leone**

By Rev. Alfred Sam Foray (Official Spokesman of Hinga Norman)

Jan 9, 2006. 14:37

Even as the ruling Sierra Leone People' Party (SLPP) and its leadership take a hands-off role in the matter of Prosecutor versus Sam Hinga Norman, the opposition All Peoples Congress led by Ernest Bai Koroma and Victor Foh, have taken the case against the former SLPP senior minister as a *cause celebre*.

In the nearly three years that Chief Norman has been arrested and incarcerated by the so-called Special Court for Sierra Leone negotiated for by the SLPP government, only once or twice has any leader of the SLPP visited the chief, and that was in an attempt to dissuade Norman from pursuing a law suit against the party for alleged violations of the party constitution and relevant sections of the All Political Parties Act and most importantly the national constitution.

The case of Samuel Hinga Norman versus the SLPP, Jah, Saffa and Carew, is scheduled for hearing before the Sierra Leone Supreme Court next month.

Meanwhile, in the past several weeks, the opposition APC and its leaders have held several meetings with Chief Norman at the New England Detention Center where Norman along with two other leaders of the government-sponsored Civil Defence Forces (CDF) are being held on eight counts each of War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and other serious violations of humanitarian laws.

It is to be recalled that the CDF along with other international and regional forces helped to return the SLPP to power after being removed by rebels in May 1997 and in January 1999.

While the SLPP considers the so-called Special Court as independent of government and the party, the APC leaders consider the case against Chief Norman a national problem beyond partisan politics. As such, Party Leader Ernest Koroma and Secretary General, Victor Foh, have taken upon themselves to take the Norman issue to the public and the international community.

The party (APC) blamed for largely for being responsible for the deterioration of the conditions of living in the country culminating in the civil war, now appears to have taken the moral high grounds.

Largely as a result of intervention of Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma and Victor Foh, a statement that was to be released last week by Chief Norman on a wide range of issues including his trial and the case against the SLPP has been postponed for early this week.

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## ***Commentary***

# **The SLPP's Days Are Numbered**

*By Munda Tombo*

I HAVE been following the comminiques released by the Rev. Sam Foray in America in respect of APC turn about face on the Hingha Norman issue. My question is why only now?

AS FAR as I know Parliament with the help of the APC party sold our laws and our sovereignty to the so-called Special Court of the SLPP. There was only one single vote against the Special Court Bill in parliament. It did not come from Ernest Koroma but from Hon. Ibrahim Sorie, the only man who showed the same character Chief Hingha Norman showed in facing the rebels. Chief Hingha Norman got rid of the rebels the APC and the SLPP brought in blood suckers.

I APPLAUD the APC for this effort though a little too late. But it is always better late than never. The country is bigger than any party and they may have now realized that they are in parliament and in peace thanks to Chief Norman. I would rather see Hon. Ibrahim Sorie leading any talks with Chief Norman.

HON. SORIE may be the only parliamentarian/politician with his head properly fixed on his shoulder. By the way Rev. Sam Foray, thank you for not giving up on our hero and indeed Sierra Leone.

THE SLPP's days are numbered and God will make them account for their deeds.

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## UN Sierra Leone peacekeepers protecting Special Court replaced by UN Liberia forces

9 January 2006 – With the recent departure of United Nations forces serving in Sierra Leone, a contingent of Mongolian troops based in Liberia has been assigned to protect the Special Court in Freetown set up to try those guilty of war crimes in the country over the past decade.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) recently wrapped up its work, handing the responsibility for guarding the Court to the neighbouring UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

“A battalion of some 250 Mongolian peacekeepers has taken over the protection of the Special Court for Sierra Leone,” spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters in New York today.

He added that the unit relieves a Nigerian battalion of “blue helmets,” which will return home.

The UN-affiliated Special Court for Sierra Leone is mandated to try those “bearing the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian and Sierra Leonean laws” committed in the country’s territory since 30 November 1996.

Among those whom the Court is seeking to prosecute are former Liberian President Charles Taylor, now living in exile in Nigeria, and missing former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council of Sierra Leone commander Johnny Paul Koroma.

## **Mongolian troops start to safeguard war crimes court in Sierra Leone**

A contingent of 250 Mongolian troops started their mission of safeguarding the UN-backed special war crimes tribunal in Sierra Leone on Sunday, reports reaching Lagos said.

Being the only UN troops remaining in this war-torn West African country after the UN peacekeeping mission ended in December 2005, the Mongolian troops will be under the command of the UN peacekeeping mission in neighboring Liberia.

Armed with heavy weapons and armored personnel carriers, the Mongolian contingent can get support from the Swedish and Irish contingents stationed in Liberia, who are "prepared to deploy rapidly by air, land and sea," the reports quoted a UN statement as saying.

The Sierra Leonean civil war from 1991 to 2001 cost some 120,000 lives and left thousands mutilated. This prompted the launch of the five-year UN mission for Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

At the height of its operations in 2001, UNAMSIL was the largest peacekeeping operation in the world with some 17,000 peacekeepers deployed across the country to disarm tens of thousands of rebel fighters.

The special war crimes tribunal, established under an agreement between the UN and the Sierra Leonean government in 2002, is charged with trying those who bear the greatest responsibility for grave crimes committed during the decade of civil war in Sierra Leone.

*Source: Xinhua*

People's Daily Online --- <http://english.people.com.cn/>

# AngolaPress

Luanda - Wednesday, January 11, 2006 - 9:17:00 AM

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Conference**
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sur l'Educat**
**News**

## Mongolian peacekeepers take over security at special court

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 01/09 - Responsibility for the protection of the Sierra Leone's UN Special Court was formally transferred Monday from a Nigerian contingent to their Mongolian counterparts from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The Mongolians, under the military command of UNMIL headquarters in Liberia, will conduct operational exercises with other elements of the UNMIL force, in particular with Swedish and Irish contingents, who are prepared to deploy rapidly by air, land and sea to support them if required.

The Mongolian contingent is equipped with heavy weapons and armoured personnel carriers.

The Nigerians are returning home after their tour of duty.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the UN and the government of Sierra Leone.

It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

To date, the prosecutor has indicted 11 persons on various charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Nine indicted people are currently in the custody of the court.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 9Jan. 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia**

07/01/2006 12:34:02

**Liberian army reluctantly begins to disband**

by Zoom Dosso

MONROVIA, Jan 7 (AFP) - Soldiers from Liberia's national army reluctantly began to disband on Saturday, peacefully leaving the main military barracks in the capital despite fears of violence. Ahead of the inauguration later this month of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the country's first president following 14 years of civil war, the transitional authorities ordered the full disbanding of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

The move angered the remaining soldiers in the army, which had already seen their numbers reduced and were slated to be reorganized under the 2003 peace accords.

**West Africa: Stability see-saws in the world's poorest region**

*[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]*

**DAKAR, 9 January (IRIN)** - West Africa, the world's poorest region, chalked up successes in 2005, with war-battered Liberia and Sierra Leone edging closer to lasting peace. But perennial problems such as corruption and unemployment could still scupper progress, and elsewhere in the region prospects remained bleak.

Liberia, Africa's oldest republic, became the first country on the continent to elect a female president, when Harvard-educated economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf won the second-round run-off vote in November.

09/01/2006 10:50:27

**Diamond Fields Announces the Discovery of Kimberlite in Liberia and Progress**

Source: PR Newswire Date: January 09, 2006

VANCOUVER, Jan. 9 - Diamond Fields International Ltd. (TSX: DFI) ("DFI" or the "Company") is very pleased to announce the first discovery of kimberlite on its 1,095 km<sup>2</sup> Grand Cape Exploration License in western **Liberia**. Based on recovery of G10 garnets and high kimberlitic counts from samples taken in closed drainages, reconnaissance stream sediment sampling on the Grand Cape property has so far located 10 high priority targets for detailed follow up with about 45% of the property covered by reconnaissance sampling so far. A sampling grid measuring 1km x 1km was established over a swampy depression suggesting the structure of a pipe of about 3 hectares in size from which G10 garnets had been recovered.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

09/01/2006 06:47:05

### **Mongolian troops start guarding UN war crimes court in Sierra Leone**

FREETOWN, Jan 9 (AFP) - A contingent of 250 Mongolian peacekeepers started guarding the UN-backed special war crimes court in Sierra Leone Sunday, taking over from Nigerian troops, the head of the force said. "It's great taking over the protection of the court," Lieutenant Colonel Byambasuren Bayarmagnai, said late Sunday. "This is the first time in any UN mission as a company" for the troops, transferred from neighboring Liberia, he told AFP.

09/01/2006 06:51:50

### **Charities call for new global regulations on weapons sales**

Source: AP Alert - Business Date: January 09, 2006

LONDON\_A coalition of charities claimed Monday that 1 million people have died as a direct result of the global small arms trade since 2001 as they urged the United Nations to work toward new regulations on weapons sales. The Control Arms Campaign is lobbying member states as the U.N. undertakes its first major review of international gun trade laws in five years.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **Campaign for House Speaker Intensifies**

*(Daily Observer, The News, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage, National Chronicle, The Independent, The Vanguard and The Informer)*

- Three main contestants for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives-- Montserrado County independent Representative-elect Edwin Snowe, Unity Party's Dusty Wollokollie and Kettehkumeh Murray of Congress for Democratic Change-- intensified their campaigns in the run-up to the election, which was rescheduled for Wednesday, 11 January.

### **Press Union Criticizes Unity Party's Media Policy**

*(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, Heritage,)*

- In a press release in Monrovia yesterday, the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) criticized the Unity Party (UP) for excluding a number of journalists from a recent meeting with President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

### **Interim Legislature Wants Travel Ban on Transition Government Officials**

*(Daily Observer)*

- In a binding resolution passed by the National Transitional Legislative Assembly recently, the lawmakers called for the imposition of a travel restriction on the officials of the transitional government until they are cleared of alleged involvement in corrupt practices.



## **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

### **ECOWAS Calls for Smooth Transfer of Power**

- In its annual report for 2005, the Economic Community of West African States said that it was committed and will remain engaged in the peace process in Liberia by continuing to monitor the process.  
*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Legislators-Elect to File Certificates for Transitional Legislature**

- Briefing journalists yesterday, National Legislature Press Director James Jensen said that the newly elected Legislators will today submit to the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) for documentation, the certificates issued to them by the National Elections Commission after the elections.  
*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

### **Legislators-Elect Appraise Interaction with Ghanaian Counterparts**

- In an interview, the Legislators-elect said that their interaction with members of the Ghanaian parliament was a step in the right direction. Maryland County Senator-elect Gloria Scott said that the Ghanaian experience added to the knowledge they had previously acquired.  
*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

## **ELBS RADIO** *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

### **Human Rights Group to Sue Rubber Company for Maltreating Local Population**

- A local human rights group said that it will institute a lawsuit against the Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) for allegedly burning down villages in Districts Number 3 and 4 in Grand Bassa County to plant rubber.

## **STAR RADIO** *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

### **International Medical Group Completes Renovation of Hospital in Harper, Maryland County**

- The international non-governmental organization Merlin over the weekend turned over the J.J. Dossen Hospital in Harper, Maryland County to the Government of Liberia after reconditioning and refurbishing the facility. The work cost the organization more than US\$1.5 million dollars.

### **Congress for Democratic Change Senator-Elect Defers with Partisan**

- According to a press statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) National Women Wing Chairperson, Senator-elect Hannah Brent, said that the press statement issued by partisan Jacqueline Capehart that the party will meet to put forth names for the leadership of the House Representatives is not the position of women of the CDC.

*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. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*