

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Monday, October 11, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
Ibrahim Tommy  
Ext 7248  
MOBILE: 232 76 645 914



**Giving The TRC  
Truer Meaning**

SEE PAGE 4

**SALONE MAN LAMBASTS  
DEBT RELIEF PROPOSAL**

SEE PAGE 3

**Thought For  
The Day**  
*Truth Supressed  
Shall Rise  
Again*

## EX-ANTI TERRORIST UNIT OFFICER CLAIMS

# 'JONNNY PAUL WAS KILLED IN MONROVIA'

By Ahmed Jusu Sheriff

*disbanded Anti Terrorist Unit (ATU) exiled president Charles Taylor of Liberia is said to have been responsible for the killing of retired Major Johnny Paul Koroma the former head of the RC military junta and leader of the People's Liberation Party (PLP). He was reportedly killed in the outskirts of Monrovia.*

A disclosure was made to SALONE TIMES by a former ATU member Samuel Deen at his mechanical shop at Claratown Street, Monrovia, Liberia on October 2 this year.



### Johnny Paul Killed In Monrovia

of the Anti Terrorist Unit led by Commander Benjamin Yeaten arrested Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia. According to him, Mr. Koroma was taken to St. Paul's Bridge in the outskirts of Monrovia and shot on the orders of the ATU Commander.

Mr. Deen, however, said he was not at the scene when the killing took place but that it was Commander Yeaten who reported that Johnny Paul Koroma had been killed and his body dumped into the St. Paul's River.

Speaking further to SALONE TIMES, Samuel Deen said the Rtd. Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma was living at Kolahun in Lofa County in Liberia. He went on to say that Johnny Paul Koroma came to reside in Monrovia when LURD fighters' invasion of Lofa County intensified. The ex-ATU member maintained that the presence of Johnny Paul Koroma in Monrovia created a diplomatic tussle between the then president Charles Taylor and diplomats living there. He said that this led to the order of his arrest and subsequent killing by the Anti Terrorist Unit.



# THE EXCLUSIVE

2 No. 2152

Monday October 11, 2004

Le500

# Taylor Planned Kono Attack



master planner

Joseph Turay

for the prosecution  
ner Commander of  
ed Forces of Liberia  
x-President Charles  
Brigadier General  
nue, testifying at the  
Court last Friday dis-

## -Special Court Witness Testifies

closed that the ex-president  
ordered the RUF field com-  
mander Sam 'Maskita'

Bockarie to attack and fortify  
the diamond-rich district of  
Kono.

According to the prosecution

witness, ex-President Taylor  
ordered the attack on Kono  
District for the mining of  
blood diamonds by the RUF

outfit so that proceeds ac-  
crued from the sale of dia-  
monds could be used for the  
purchase of arms and ammu-

nition.

General Tarnue, who was

Contd. page 2

## Taylor Planned Kono Attack

From front page

being cross-examined by the  
British-born Defence Coun-  
sel Wayne Jordash for the  
first RUF accused Issa  
Sesay, further testified that  
everyone in Liberia knew  
that ex-President Taylor was  
in command of RUF and  
therefore directed all attacks  
that were launched in Sierra  
Leone by the rebel outfit,  
especially in the resourceful  
areas.

The witness further testified  
that the attacks on the dia-  
mond-rich Kono and Tongo  
Fields were part of the mili-

tary strategy the former  
warlord designed to win  
the war in Sierra Leone,  
adding that Taylor used  
his sophisticated SSB  
Motorola radio handset to  
communicate with the  
National Patriotic Front  
of Liberia (NPFL) high  
command and the RUF.  
When asked by the de-  
fence counsel whether the  
NPFL and RUF com-  
manders were given sat-  
ellite phones by Taylor,  
the General answered in  
the negative, but none-  
theless confirmed that

both rebel groups had commu-  
nication links.

Gen. Tarnue also denied knowing  
the code that was used by the two  
rebel outfits to communication  
with Taylor, but however con-  
firmed the former warlord on many  
occasions communicated with one  
of his high commanders, Ben-  
jamin Yatay, who he said most  
times delivered messages to the  
RUF rebels.

The witness further testified that  
he took part in most of the strate-  
gic military plans that were held  
between Taylor and his high com-  
mands in Liberian and Sierra  
Leone.



# THE DEMOCRAT

TRUTH SETS US FREE

MONDAY OCTOBER 11, 2004

Le500

# Liberia, Libya To Compensate Sa. Leone

By  
A-Jon  
King

*The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has in its recommendations asked Liberia and Libya to separately make substantial reparation and financial contributions to the Sierra Leone War Victims Fund for their respective roles in the decade-long bloody civil war.*

According to the Commission's findings, Charles Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia

(NPFL) were key players in the war while Libya provided support to the insurgents

The report highlights bad governance, endemic corruption and denial of basic human rights as the

responsible for the war. Mineral resources aggravated the war as all the fighting forces systematically plundered and

looted the country, noted the Commission.

"The conflict and the independence period preceding it represented the most shameful years of Sierra Leone's history. These periods reflected an extraordinary failure of leadership on the part of many of those involved in government, public life and civil society. No enlightened and visionary leaders emerged to steer the country away from

the slide into chaos and bloody civil war," the Commission states.

The Commission further observes that the country continues to suffer the same situation. It therefore wants government and the international community to work in concert to remedy this situation by providing basic needs and opportunities to particularly war victims.



### **LURD Re-affirms Support for Transitional Government**

*(Heritage, National Chronicle and The Informer)*

- In a press statement read in Monrovia yesterday, the leadership of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) reaffirmed its support for the transitional government and asked Liberians at home and abroad to be mindful of those who intend to make the country ungovernable.
- A LURD spokesman indicated that Speaker George Dweh and Charles Bennie—both LURD members—recent trip to Ghana was to plot the removal of Chairman Bryant, an act that is against the philosophy of LURD.



## New Security Council resolution directs aim at all terrorists

8 October 2004 – Condemning terrorism as one of the most serious threats to peace and security, the United Nations Security Council today unanimously called on countries to prosecute or extradite anyone supporting terrorist acts or participating in the planning of such schemes.

In adopting [resolution 1566](#), the Council set up a working group to consider recommendations on measures to be imposed against "individuals, groups or entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities" not already identified by its Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions committee.

Some approaches to be studied include "more effective procedures considered to be appropriate for bringing them to justice through prosecution or extradition," freezing financial assets, travel restrictions and arms embargoes.

The text calls on countries to prevent and punish "criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act."

Such acts "are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature," according to the Council.

The resolution also asks the working group to consider the possibility of establishing an international compensation fund for victims of terrorist acts and their families, which might be financed through voluntary contributions garnered in part from assets seized from terrorist organizations, their members and sponsors.

Ambassador Andrey I. Denisov of the Russian Federation - which sponsored the resolution along with China, France, Germany, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States - stressed there was a need to improve the legal and other operational instruments to combat terrorism and terrorist organizations that are expert at changing their tactics depending on the situation.

"We are convinced that the resolution further strengthens the essential coordinating role of the United Nations in the international campaign against the terrorist threat," he said.









## EU poised to lift Libya sanctions

**European Union foreign ministers are expected to approve the lifting of UN sanctions against Libya at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.**

They will also discuss an Italian proposal to ease an EU arms embargo on Libya - a move that could boost hi-tech efforts to curb illegal migration.

EU ambassadors decided on 22 September that the sanctions on Libya - imposed in 1992 - should be lifted.

Italy has spearheaded diplomatic moves to bring Libya closer to the EU.

Also on the agenda are proposals to tighten sanctions against Burma, and to lift the EU arms embargo against China.

The ministers are also expected to discuss progress in the hunt for war crimes suspects in the former Yugoslavia, and Iran's nuclear programme.

### Immigration crisis

Italy wants Libya to patrol its coastline more effectively and catch the hundreds of illegal migrants who try to reach Europe by sea each month. It wants the EU to allow exports to Libya of equipment such as binoculars and boats.

The United States lifted its trade embargo on Libya last month.

The EU and the US imposed trade sanctions on Libya in 1986 in retaliation for what they saw as Libyan support for terrorist groups.

UN sanctions were imposed in 1992 to force Tripoli to hand over two Libyans indicted for the 1988 bombing of a US airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland.

They were suspended after the two Libyans were handed over for trial in 1999 and then abolished last year after Libya agreed to compensate the families of the 270 victims, as well as those of the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over Niger.

Washington lifted its sanctions against Tripoli as a reward for Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's decision to scrap weapons of mass destruction.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/3732514.stm>

Published: 2004/10/11 07:47:55 GMT

© BBC MMIV



The Miami Herald

Herald.com

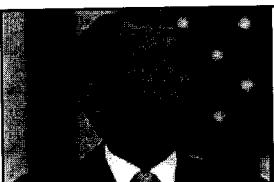
Search:

Articles-last 7 days

for


Go

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Tropical Life | City Guide | Shop Local | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes



Who's Your Pick?

Take the PollingPoint Presidential Election Survey >>>



Welcome **Guest**  
Sign Up | Sign In  
Member Benefits

Back to Home >

Monday, Oct 11, 2004

News

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

CARS

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

STUFF

SHOP LOCAL NEW!

79° Hi 87 Lo 77  
Mostly Cloudy

Webcams  
Weather | Traffic

5minuteherald

SPONSORSHIP

ENGLE

Sections

News

• Breaking News

• Miami-Dade

• Neighbors

• Broward

• Neighbors

• Florida Keys

• Florida

• Nation

• World

• Americas

• Cuba

• Haiti

• Canada

• Politics

• Education

• Issues & Ideas

• Weird News

Sports

Business

Entertainment

Tropical Life

Health

Home & Garden

Travel

Opinion

Columnists

Corrections

City Guide

NEW!

For Women

Your Stories

email this

print th

Posted on Mon, Oct. 11, 2004

COLOMBIA

Peace snags on question of what crimes to forgive

A recent court decision in Colombia revived an old debate over what constitutes a war crime.

BY STEVEN DUDLEY  
sdudley@herald.com

BOGOTA, Colombia - When a guerrilla named Miguel Antonio Puentes surrendered three years ago, he thought it was the beginning of a new life.

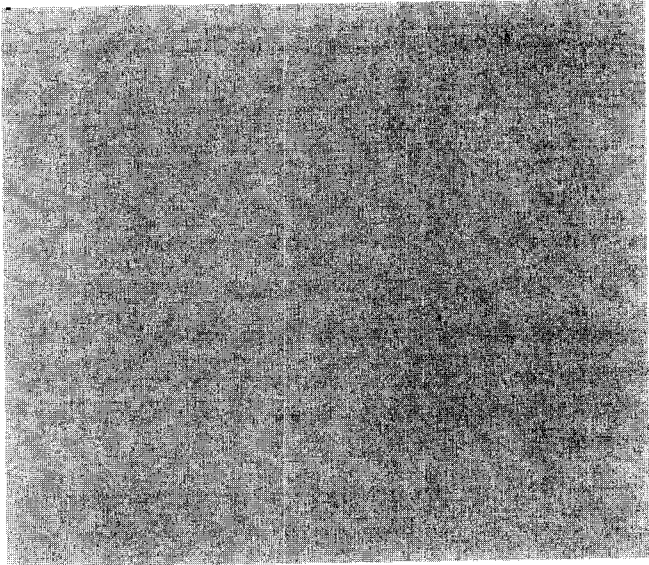
After dedicating his youth to the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the man also known as "Commander René" was taking advantage of the government's offer of amnesty for his crimes if turned himself in.

But in August, Colombia's Supreme Court ended Puentes' dream when it struck down his appeal seeking clemency for a string of kidnappings. Those, the court declared, were not political crimes that it could pardon.

The court's stance revived a question that has plagued dozens of countries, from post-civil-war Central America to post-apartheid South Africa and post-communist Europe: Which crimes can be forgiven in hopes for peace and which cannot?

El Salvador granted a full amnesty to all sides after its civil war in the 1980s. Argentina's Congress passed, then revoked, two laws that protected human rights violators from its military dictatorship. Chile's 1978 amnesty law, decreed by then-leader Gen. Augusto Pinochet, pardoned all crimes committed by the military and its opposition from Pinochet's 1973 coup to March 1978.

Colombia's four-decades-old conflict among leftist rebels, military forces and right-wing paramilitary fighters has been one of the most brutal in the Western Hemisphere. Massacres and assassinations are commonplace here, and the list of weapons include chain saws, machetes and cyanide bullets. Tens of thousands have died.





**High School Sports**[Find it Fast](#)[Obituaries](#)[Calendar](#)[Dave Barry](#)[Dolphins](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Special Reports](#)[Action Line](#)[Lottery](#)[Horoscopes](#)[Comics](#)[Contests](#)[Today's Front Page](#)[Site Tools](#)[Message Boards](#)[Maps & Directions](#)[Yellow Pages](#)[Shop Local](#)[Jobs](#)[Cars](#)[Homes](#)[Classifieds](#)[Newspaper Ads](#)[Special Sections](#)[Shopping News](#)[Services](#)[Archives](#)[Subscribe](#)[Place an Ad](#)[Site Index](#)[Contact Us](#)[More Herald Services](#)[Partners](#)[El Nuevo Herald](#)[Noticias en español](#)[Street](#)[WLRN Public Radio](#)[CBS 4 WFOR-TV](#)[Gay South Florida](#)[Top Vacation Picks](#)[More Partners](#)**SOUTH FLORIDA  
IN PICTURES**

» [Today's photos](#)  
 » [More photos](#)

**PHOTOS OF THE  
DAY**

» [Today's photos](#)  
 » [Photo Gallery](#)

Amid this pain and suffering, the challenge for the government and the courts will be to determine what crimes to forgive for those rebels and paramilitary fighters who wish to surrender.

"I'm convinced that peace in Colombia needs a strong dose of pardon," said Sen. Antonio Navarro Wolff, who should know. Wolff and many of his comrades from the leftist M-19 guerrilla group were pardoned in the late 1980s in return for their weapons and a promise that they form a legal political party.

But in Colombia, there is still no consensus on what kinds of crimes can be forgiven for former members of the FARC, the smaller National Liberation Army guerrillas known as ELN, and the rightist United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, known as AUC.

**'A HUGE PROBLEM'**

"Here, there is a huge problem we've yet to resolve," the government's peace commissioner, Luis Camilo Restrepo, said in a recent news conference. "What to do with members of armed organizations that have committed terrible crimes; what to do with [armed] actors that are involved in crimes that cannot receive amnesty or sentence reductions."

In the case of the rebels, one key issue is kidnappings, because the FARC has long used kidnappings for ransom to fill its war coffers. With close to 3,000 people abducted each year -- mostly by guerrillas -- Colombia has the highest kidnapping rate in the world. The victims include the father of President Alvaro Uribe. He was kidnapped and killed by the FARC.

Uribe has taken a hard line against the guerrillas since taking office in August 2002, and pushed the military into launching several offensives against them. He has also sought to negotiate peace with the AUC and ELN, entertained proposals to swap prisoners with the FARC, and opened the door to deserters with a generous amnesty program.

The peace talks with the AUC have been plagued with legal questions. Many AUC leaders are wanted for massacres in Colombia and drug trafficking in the United States and Europe, but they are demanding guarantees that they would not be extradited if they surrender.

Now Puentes' case has raised questions about the surrender system, officially known as Program for the Humanitarian Attention to the Demobilized, which has led more than 6,000 guerrillas and paramilitary fighters to turn themselves in. Most believed that they would be pardoned for their crimes.

But Colombian law stipulates that those who commit "atrocious crimes -- terrorism, kidnapping, genocide, and homicide outside of combat" -- will be excluded from any amnesty.

"This exclusion expresses the ethic of a society that although it may recognize political crimes, it does not allow that these crimes be committed using any method," the Supreme Court said.

Puentes' case highlights the complexity of the matter. Six months after Puentes, the midlevel commander in the FARC's 53rd Front, surrendered, the attorney general's office charged him with kidnapping two Colombians and a foreign national in the province of Cundinamarca.

**LINK TO KIDNAPPING**

One Colombian who was kidnapped told authorities that Puentes was in charge of the holding period. Puentes had even used the man's wallet to carry his ID, which Puentes forgot to remove when he returned the wallet to the abducted Colombian. The ID was key evidence connecting Puentes to the kidnapping.



## HELPING HANDS



Help the victims of  
Hurricanes Charley,  
Frances, Ivan and  
Jeanne.

• [click here to help](#)

Andrés Piñate, vice minister of defense and head of the demobilization program, said Puentes' case is the exception.

"The ones who have these legal problems are the commanders," Piñate explained. "This program not for these commanders, it's for the soldiers." Still, some analysts worry that the strict interpretation of the laws will hinder peace efforts and lead other guerrillas to stay in the war.

"If we're talking about the future, any negotiation with the guerrillas on a serious basis would have to change that and broaden the scope, not necessarily pardoning them for everything," said former Peace Commissioner Daniel García Peña. "But the laws aren't necessarily in favor of them to hang themselves in, and much less negotiate peace right now."



email this



print this

## Ads by Google

**Colombia Flight Bargains**

Low Cost Flights to Colombia. Many Special Deals Book Online. Aff  
[www.seek365.co.uk/colombia\\_flights](http://www.seek365.co.uk/colombia_flights)

**Public Corruption Defense**

Miami-based Attorneys & Counselors International and Domestic Services  
[Diaz-Kaiser.com](http://Diaz-Kaiser.com)

**U.S. Supreme Court Cases**

All cases since 1870, indexed by topic and fully searchable.  
[www.usscplus.com](http://www.usscplus.com)

**REAL  
Cities**

Get the latest  
real estate news  
from Herald.com

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Tropical Life | City Guide | Shop Local | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars  
Homes  
About Herald.com | About the Real Cities Network | Terms of Use & Privacy Statement | About Knight Ridder  
Copyright



[✉ Email this document](#)

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Date: 8 Oct 2004

---

## West Africa: Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8, Sep 2004

### I. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A conference was held in Dakar, Senegal on 28 and 29 September 2004 with the participation of major bilateral donor countries to West Africa, the UN system and international NGO's, to discuss the humanitarian situation in the region. The participants noted the importance of pursuing Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reintegration (DDR) initiatives in the countries affected by political instability or slow recovery from civil wars (CDI, Guinea and Liberia) as well as promote repatriation processes and the return of internally displaced persons, returning migrants and third country nationals.

The conference also discussed the impact of the desert locust invasion in the affected countries and its medium to long term consequences for the food stock and on food security. The countries affected by the locusts scourge were encouraged to enhance their immediate interventions towards the insects and at the same time to prepare intervention modalities for the return of the desert locusts in the summer of 2005.

### II. POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION

#### **Burkina Faso:**

A seminar held in Ouagadougou with more than 60 participants from government, private and technical partners of more than 20 countries discussed how to align the development aid with the poverty reduction strategies. The seminar hosted by UNDP in collaboration with the Burkina Faso government is in preparation for the high level meeting of the "l'OCDE" which will take place in March 2005.

#### **Cameroon:**

The opposition in the Presidential election, scheduled to take place on 11 October, have not been able to unite on a candidate between the five contestants within the coalition - Coalition de l'opposition camerounaise pour la reconciliation et la reconstruction nationale (CRRN) and the current President Paul Biya, therefore stands a good chance of winning the election.

#### **CDI:**

The Corridors for peace (corridors de la Paix) initiated by the UN in CDI to contribute to the reconciliation and peace in the country shaken with turmoil for more than two years has been opened with depart of a first convoy from Abidjan. The convoy, consisting of two busses with children between 12 and 15 years marks the first phase of the corridors for peace initiative to restore the social cohesion in the country after the breakout of the division of the country in two on 19 September 2002. The programme that allows population movements within protected corridors is giving priority to children and aged persons.

#### **Chad:**

The National Commission on Human Rights (Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) in Chad have in an open letter to the Prime Minister raised their concern over the number of violations to the human rights charter that the southern part of the country has witnessed over the last decade. These violations especially relates to the conflicts between pastoral nomads and agricultural producers which have seen several thousand injured, killings and people that have gone missing, as well as incidents involving police



and the security apparatus.

### **Guinea:**

Guinea has agreed to hand back to Sierra Leone the disputed border village of Yenga, according to joint communiqué signed by the presidents of the two countries. Guinea had occupied Yenga, situated in Kailahun district since 1998 when Guinean troops moved into the village to support Sierra Leone government forces in their civil war against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel movement and then remained there. However, the civil war officially ended in January 2002 it was agreed last Thursday by the two countries that Yenga belonged to Sierra Leone and there would be no further dispute over its ownership.

### **Liberia:**

An official drive to resettle about 300,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Liberia will start in November, a month after the programme to repatriate refugees living in other West African countries. The resettlement of IDPs had been delayed to allow more time for northwestern Liberia which most of the IDP's come from to be declared safe after 14 years of civil war. Most of the IDPs living in camps around the outskirts of Monrovia came from Lofa, Bong, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties in northwestern Liberia.

### **Mauritania**

The Government has accused the Burkina Faso and Libyan authorities in supporting, hosting and training armed groups preparing to instigate sabotage operations and terrorism against the current regime in Mauritania. The accusation was made in connection to an attempted Coup d'Etat foiled on 9 August. The government claims that it has foiled 3 coup attempts within the last 15 months. Both Libya and Burkina Faso have denied any links to the plotters and have urged the African Union to investigate Mauritania's claims.

### **Niger**

President Mamadou Tandja of Niger appears well placed to win a second five-year term in elections later this year, following a strong showing by his supporters in local government elections in July. A split within the opposition further favours the President, who has succeeded in building a political coalition in support of him. President Tandja's main opponent in the first round of the presidential election on 13 November is likely to be Mahamadou Issoufou, leader of the Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS), the largest opposition party in parliament. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the first round of the presidential poll, a second round run-off between the two leading candidates will be held on 4 December, alongside parliamentary elections. A total of 6 candidates have registered for the Presidential post, after two new candidates announced their candidacy on Sunday 19 September.

### **Nigeria**

The local government of the Nigerian peninsula Bakassi has indicated that they are not willing to hand over the area to the Cameroonian government by 15 September 2004 the date to which the country should hand over the land. The Bakassi peninsula is an area covering 1000 square kilometres rich of petroleum, attributed to Cameroon by the International court of Justice in Hague in October 2002. The Nigerian government has following the verdict protested and asked to continue the negotiations with Cameroon within the UN framework.

Muslims "disillusioned with Shari'a" in Nigeria. After twelve Northern Nigerian states since 2000 have introduced Islamic law, or Shari'a, the Muslim population majority is mostly disillusioned. They had hoped Shari'a courts would be better than Nigeria's old and discredited justice system, but many by now find that only the harsh aspects of Shari'a are implemented while generosity and compassion is overlooked. The governments of the North Nigerian state and Shari'a courts have been accused of having failed to respect international human rights standards and disregarded what many Muslims argue are key principles of Shari'a



itself.

According to reports by Amnesty International up to 500 civilians have been killed and an unconfirmed number of persons were injured in fighting between rival armed groups" around Port Harcourt in Nigeria's Rivers State. State officials from Nigeria's oil capital however rejected these numbers. Most of the victims in the fighting between the armed groups and Nigerian troop were said to be civilians, including women and children, who had taken no part in the fighting and were killed or injured as a result of being targeted or indiscriminately shot at by members of the armed groups.

The Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force said in a communiqué that all foreign nationals working for the oil industry should withdraw from the region with immediate effect, otherwise their security could not be guaranteed. The disturbances in the region have contributed to keeping the world oil prices above the magic US\$ 50 per barrel. The move has come after months of intensive fighting after the military launched a major operation against the group earlier this year.

Following this announcement the Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has said that he is willing to discuss the grievances of an ethnic militaria group, but warned that he would do nothing to undermine the broader national interest.

## **Senegal**

The World Bank releases more than 60 billion CFA F to Senegal for the reconstruction of the Cassamance. The funds are specifically to accelerate the processes of reconstruction of the region that has seen more than 22 years of armed conflict. The Mayor of Bignona has equally announced the construction of a bridge on the Trans Gambian road that connects Ziguinchor with the rest of the country. The latter has been made possible by the acceptance on the Gambian authorities.

The pro-independence MFDC of Senegal's southern Casamance province have retired their aging founding leader, Father Augustin Diamacoune Senghor, after 20 years. The new elected leader, Jean-Marie François Biagui, until now the rebels' Secretary-General, was unanimously elected the MFDC's new President.

## **Sierra Leone:**

UN peacekeeping troops have handed over primary responsibility for security in Freetown to Sierra Leone government forces as they continue their withdrawal from frontline activities in the West African country. The Sierra Leone government forces would take over primary responsibility for security for a trial period of two months and if all went well, they would take full control on 26 November. The peacekeepers were originally due to withdraw from Sierra Leone at the end of 2004 but the UN Security Council decided to extend UNAMSIL's mandate for a further six months in view of continuing concerns over the security situation in neighbouring Liberia and Guinea.

## **DISARMAMENT**

The political reforms envisaged in the Accra peace accord, from July 2004 between the opposing parties to the CDI crisis will not be adopted as expected on 30 September. The reason for the current stalemate is related to the interpretation of the peace accord in the National Assembly by the deputies favourable of the President Laurent Gbagbo and the opposition. The parliamentary session closed in effect 2 days early on 28 September. The Secretary General the Forces Nouvelles, Guilame Soro has advised that the forces would not disarm until lawmakers push the reforms through. The disarmament of the FN had been scheduled to take place by 15 October.

According to former combatants, Tragen Wantee, a comrade-in-arms of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, has been recruiting former members of Taylor's armed forces for the past two months in order to launch an insurrection in neighbouring Guinea. The latest reports of clandestine recruitment in Nimba county



have surfaced at a time when many former combatants there are complaining that UN peacekeepers are refusing to register them for disarmament because they do not have a weapon to hand in. So far 7,000 former combatants in Nimba county had been disarmed. Fewer than one in three reporting for disarmament have actually handed in a gun.

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

According to the latest estimates from the countries in the region approximately 3.5 million hectares of land have been infested by the desert locust. It is mainly Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, and Niger that have been affected, but Burkina Faso, Chad and Cap Verde are also witnessing the impact of the locusts. To date approximately 15,8 % of this area, equal 543,750 hectares has been treated in the five most affected countries (see table below).

Country	Area infested	Area treated	Area prospected	Possible loss
<b>Mauritania</b>	1,600,000 ha	139,013 ha	n.a.	40% of pastoral and agric land
<b>Mali</b>	703,000 ha	143,000 ha	1,370,931 ha	Current loss estimated at 440,000 tons
<b>Senegal</b>	307,316 ha	199,847 ha	384,561 ha	Severe losses registered in isolated pockets
<b>Niger</b>	800,000 ha	56,634 ha	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	19,426 ha	5,256 ha	46,012 ha	n.a.
<b>Total</b>	3,429,742 ha	543,750 ha		Up to 25%

It is expected that the region in the coming weeks will experience a rapid development of summer swarms, as the larvae's will mature into migrating locusts in all the affected countries. The majority of swarms are expected to move west and northwest, re-infesting Senegal and also the north of Mauritania. Given the size of this year's locust plague, the worst since 1990, it is likewise assumed that some swarms will move southwards to Gambia, Guinea Bissau and possible Guinea by the end of the year. From October the swarms will invade the Maghreb countries in North Africa once again, attacking Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Coordination mechanisms between Senegal and Mauritania have been set up in the fight against the desert locusts – to be open to all countries in the sub region affected by the desert locust. COordination Sous Regionale de Lutte AntiAcridienne (COSLAA).

## HEALTH RISKS and SITUATION

### *POLIO*

As the polio virus has resurfaced in a number of countries in the sub region a global vaccination campaign will be initiated in the months of October and November 2004 in 22 countries in west and central Africa. More than 70 million children are expected to receive treatment in the age group between 0 and 5.

WHO has said that the epidemic is the largest seen in many years. The number of cases registered since the beginning of the year is five times higher than in the same period in 2003 (483 cases against 95)

### *HIV/AIDS*

In Cap Verde the Prime Minister Joise Maria Neves announced on Monday 20

September that antiretroviral drug (ARV) would be available to the country's HIV/AIDS affected population



from the month of December 2004. The medicine has been made available under the World Bank sponsored project for the fight against the disease, with the estimated costs of around US\$ 10 million.

The effects of the civil war in CDI hinders planned expansion of AIDS treatment to the Ivorian people since hospitals and health centres have been destroyed by fighting in the west of the country and medical staff have fled the rebel-held north. CDI has the highest rate of HIV in West Africa with an estimated 9.5% of the population being HIV positive, and in some parts of the north the percentage of people living with HIV/AIDS is double the national average. On top of the problems faced in CDI there is a danger of AIDS spreading more rapidly in neighbouring Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Ghana as a result of more than 500,000 migrants from these countries going home because they now feel persecuted and threatened by the Ivorian government.

### MEASLES

In CDI the World Health Organisation widens its scope of measles vaccination to older children up to the age of 14 due to the disruption to health services in Cote d'Ivoire caused by two years of civil war. The vaccination program is part of the larger new measles vaccination campaign in the West African country of 16 million people where the measles vaccinations normally targets the under fives year children.

## III. COORDINATION

The Humanitarian Inter Agency Task Force based in Dakar met with Mr. Roger Winter the Assistant Administrator of USAID in Washington on 20 September to brief him on the locust situation in the region. The meeting noted that the technical coordination in the Sahel region was inadequate and not matching the need of the affected countries.

FAO has in effect set up a sub-regional office in Dakar, within the premises of the OCHA RSO office to reinforce and enhance its logistical and coordination activities towards the desert locusts. The move has been welcomed by the international community who hopes that the stronger regional presence of FAO in the Sahel countries will strengthen the response and mitigation efforts undertaken by the affected governments.

## IV. RESOURCES MOBILIZED FOR THE 2004 CAP

Appealing organisation	Original Requirements	Revised Requirements	Pledges	Contributions	Resources available	Unmet Requirements	% Covered
FAO	738,700	564,450	0	0	0	564,450	0.0%
IOM	1,310,000	1,060,000	0	0	0	1,060,000	0.0%
OCHA	1,323,239	1,437,614	0	1,009,138	1,009,138	428,476	70.2%
OHCHR	200,000	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0.0%
UNFPA	662,500	327,339	0	0	0	327,339	0.0%
UNICEF	2,080,625	1,625,137	649,457	0	649,457	975,680	40.0%
WFP	113,387,545	91,565,886	0	69,522,549	69,522,549	22,043,337	75.9%
WHO	1,057,700	480,049	0	0	0	480,049	0.0%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>120,760,309</b>	<b>97,260,475</b>	<b>649,457</b>	<b>70,531,687</b>	<b>71,181,144</b>	<b>26,079,331</b>	<b>73.2%</b>

Summary of Requirements and Contributions - By Appealing Organisation as of 05 October 2004

## V. CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



Date	Event	Place	Structure	Contact details
4-5 Oct	Conference to develop integrated conflict prevention and peace building strategies for sensitive border areas in West Africa	Dakar	UNOWA/OCHA	UNOWA
1-31 Oct	FAO/CILSS crop assessment	Niger (4-16 Oct.); Senegal (17-30 Oct.); Mali (1-16 Oct.); Mauritania (17-31 Oct.); Guinea Bissau (8-22 Oct.); Gambia (16-23 Oct.); Burkina Faso (9-23 Oct.); Cap Verde (24-30 Oct.); and Chad (17-23 Oct.)	6 teams of experts - FAO	FAO
1-31 Oct	WFP food security and vulnerability assessments	Niger (4-16 Oct.); Senegal (17-30 Oct.) Mali (1-16 Oct.); Mauritania (17-31 Oct.); Guinea Bissau (8-16 Oct.); Gambia (16-23 Oct.) Burkina Faso (11-23 Oct.); Cap Verde (24-30 Oct.); and Chad (16-24 Oct.)	Various teams of experts - WFP	WFP

**For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:**

Herve Ludovic de Lys, Head of Office, OCHA Dakar, tel : (221) 867 27 50,  
e-mail : [delys1@un.org](mailto:delys1@un.org)

Ms Ute Kollies, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Dakar, tel : (221) 867 27 52,  
e-mail : [kollies@un.org](mailto:kollies@un.org)

Mr. Karsten Skovgaard, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OHCA Dakar, tel : (221) 867 27 57 ,  
e-mail : [karsten@irinnews.org](mailto:karsten@irinnews.org)

**Top**

With the exception of public UN sources, reproduction or redistribution of the above text, in whole, part or in any form, requires the prior consent of the original source.

**Related Documents:**

Latest Emergency Updates: [West Africa](#); [Africa: Locusts - Aug 2004](#); [Sierra Leone](#)  
Latest By Country: [Burkina Faso](#); [Cameroon](#); [Chad](#); [Guinea](#); [Liberia](#); [Mali](#); [Mauritania](#); [Niger](#); [Nigeria](#); [Senegal](#); [Sierra Leone](#)

Other ReliefWeb documents by: [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

Source URL: <http://www.reliefweb.int>

Joh

Home Page: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)  
[Comments](#)