

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



No. 52 B

VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND CONDIMENTS EMPORIUM, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

Early trading at Freetown's Corporation Fish Market, popularly known as Kissy Road Market.

(Courtesy of Lisk-Carew)

## **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 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.  
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact  
Martin Royston-Wright  
Ext 7217

**Local News**The Criminal Justice System / *Standard Times*

Pages 3-4

**International News**72 Witnesses to Testify Against Taylor / *The Analyst (Monrovia)*

Pages 5-6

Son of Liberia's Former Strongman Pleads Not Guilty to Torture / *Associated Press*

Page 7

Secretary-General Welcomes Peaceful Run-Off Elections / *UN News Service*

Page 8

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / *UNMIL*

Pages 9-10

## Standard Times

Tuesday, 11 September 2007

### The Criminal Justice System

The legal system in Sierra Leone is actively under the control of the judiciary. As such, it is the administration or dispensation of justice that one would mention about when referring to the Criminal Justice System.

It broadly comprises the institutions and personnel that are responsible for the investigation of offences and the dispensation of justice. Within the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone, three major institutions work almost simultaneously within the Criminal Justice System and the dispensation of justice.

However, these institutions have their individual short comings that have significantly affected the returns in the Criminal Justice Network. The Courts, Police and Prisons constitute the major stakeholders of the Criminal Justice System. Constitutionally, it is the responsibility of the Sierra Leone Police Force to defend the lives and property and to preliminarily investigate any offences reported or detected within Sierra Leone. Their duties are to assert the existence of elements of crime or criminal liabilities and discharge or charge such matters to court. Within the courts nowadays, police officers perform the task of prosecutors. Thus, they have been trained to legally prosecute matters, as counsel on behalf of the state.

There are however certain problems that are mostly linked to the police force. One of such problems is accepting bribes from complainants and accused persons. Such bribes mostly received by the police have seriously undermined the dispensation of justice. The presence of unqualified personnel within the rank and file of the police has led to the frequent reporting of anomalies, in the preparation of charge sheets, as a result of those unfortunate situations, wrong charges have mostly been drawn for the offences reported, to either make a good case bad or a bad case good as a result of lack of understanding. Equally so, most police prosecutors have either encountered embarrassment from legal practitioners during prosecution and cross examination or being knocked-off by technicalities as a result of their unqualified nature.

In Freetown and the provincial areas within Sierra Leone, the Court plays a central role in the dispensation of justice within the Criminal Justice System. It is the responsibility of the courts to investigate, try and pronounce judgment over accused persons and plaintiffs within their jurisdiction.

There are court rules and the Criminal Procedure Act that form the foundation for the administration of justice.

Unfortunately, there are sharp differences in the administration of justice in the Provincial Areas and in Freetown. Within Freetown, the Courts though there are evident violations of the fun-

damental rights of complainants and defendants and the giving of bribes, yet such practices are not glaring as they are done in Provincial Areas. In those areas, violations of human rights are rampant and conspicuous in court settings, bribery and corruption are acceptable norms in these places and there are unending adjournments in court cases.

Children and young adults within the Criminal Justice System are tried in public, in violation of their rights; indigent individuals are left to attend court sittings perennially, without their matters being mentioned, such are some of the unfortunate acts perpetuated within our court systems in Sierra Leone. It must be emphasized that these are not the only problems that are presently engulfing the Court systems in this Republic.

Without doubt, the Prisons Services as an institution of justice also plays a significant role in the administration of justice in Sierra Leone. It is explicit that it serves as the safe house and detention facilities for accused persons, plaintiffs and convicts within the Criminal Justice System in Sierra

Leone. This is the only maximum central prison in the country. Its singular existence has not spurred the government in upgrading its facilities and possibly establishes modern detention facilities in other parts of Sierra Leone. Rather, it seemed as if the government of Sierra Leone is satisfied or complacent with the filth and unsanitary conditions that are glaring in some of these places. The violations of human rights that occur in the maximum prisons are uncompromisingly high on a daily basis and have been cases of concern to not only the international community but to the citizenry of this nation.

The Criminal Justice System in Sierra Leone is in urgent need for reform. Indigent Sierra Leoneans, who cannot hire the services of legal practitioners, continue to suffer different violations of their rights. The situation in the Provinces is terrible and as a matter of urgency, government should either employ more state counsels that would be posted to the Provincial Areas or establish the long awaited Legal Aid Board.

The office of the ombudsman has been a public institution that has assisted Sierra Leoneans and aliens in agitating for their rights. It was set up by an act of parliament in 2000 to investigate complaints by citizens against government officials and agencies. This office is occupied by an individual who had practiced in the bar, for a long period and whose wealth of experience in the Civil and Criminal Procedures of the Justice System is an asset to the people of the nation.

Before the end of our bloody civil war, the government of the day had evaluated the numerous socio-economic and structural violence's suffered by the citizens and people of this nation. And as such, there was every need to address it at once, those burning issues of human rights violations that had engulfed our beloved mother, Sierra Leone. The ombudsman's office, which is a fairly new creation in Sierra Leone, started off, on a robust but right ground to address the plight of the inhabitants of this nation. This office has been and continues to receive complaints from private individuals on various issues of human rights violations against government agents or officials.

The ombudsman has investigated enormous cases but since he hasn't the authority to try and hands down verdicts, its influence have not been felt by the majority of Sierra Leoneans. In fact this office could only be found in a small space with few individuals that serve as auxiliary staff and personnel to the ombudsman. The ombudsman's office is yet to experience decentralization in the country. The non expansion has been mainly linked to the unavailability of funds. Thus, it automatically implies that though this office was established to provide legal aid to the people of this nation, it has not succeeded absolutely in achieving its desired objective. Another reason for the seeming failure to achieve the desired objective by the ombudsman's office is the lack of permanent or contractual barristers and solicitors, to persecute and defend the cases of individuals suffering from violations of different kinds in their work place.

## The Analyst (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 11 September 2007

### **72 Witnesses to Testify Against Taylor**

By George J. Borteh

It has been established in Monrovia that about 72 witnesses produced by the prosecution in the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor by the Special Court of Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Netherlands are prepared to testify against him.

The witnesses accordingly, have been drawn into several categories including amputees from the Sierra Leonean civil conflict.

The Executive Director of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, (JPC), Cllr. Augustine Toe, made the disclosure yesterday during a press conference held at the National Catholic Secretariat in Monrovia.

Cllr. Toe, who has just returned from The Hague where he had gone to acquaint himself with the trial of Mr. Taylor, said the 72 witnesses will be transported taken to The Hague before the start of the trial which has been scheduled for January 7, 2008.

On June 4th, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment for the ex Liberian President for War Crimes and Crimes against humanity. Mr. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to all 11 counts of the charges.

His new defense team headed by Jamaican-born-British lawyer, Cllr. Courtenay Griffiths, filed a motion seeking for postponement of the case for four months to allow him to adequately prepare, a petition which presiding Judge Julia Sebutinde granted.

Cllr. Toe said the defense lawyers informed the court in their motion that potential witnesses for their client (Taylor), are unwilling to testify because of the prevailing travel ban and asset freeze imposed on them by the UN Security Council.

But under Security Council resolution, the United Nations will relax the travel ban for those wanting to go to The Hague to testify in the trial.

Meanwhile, the JPC boss disclosed further that while in The Hague, sources told him that Mr. Taylor has been well taken care of by authorities of the Special Court.

"We spoke to officials of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, to people from the defense team of Mr. Taylor; we spoke to representatives of other Human Rights organizations concerning reports in Liberia that the rights of Mr. Taylor are being abused/violated as a detainee," he noted.

He added that Mr. Taylor's lead counsel, Cllr. Griffiths, at a press conference held on August 20, 2007 following adjournment of the trial in The Hague, intimated that his client has been well taken care of in prison.

"Today, Mr. Taylor eats what he wants. Mr. Taylor is given meal allowance, he prepares his own food; not that the Special Court does not employ a cook for Mr. Taylor," said Cllr. Toe.

He added that family members of the former Liberian leader are permitted to visit him, noting that more resources including office spaces in both The Hague and in Monrovia are provided.

Cllr. Toe, who did not have an opportunity to talk with Mr. Taylor during his visit to The Hague, stressed that the JPC will remain in constant contact with its international partners, officials of the Special Court and the defense team of Mr. Taylor.

He assured that the Commission will do everything necessary to inform the Liberian public on proceedings of the trial when it begins next year as well as the well being of Mr. Taylor. Cllr. Toe said his trip to The Hague, was facilitated by a partner, Misereor of Germany.

## Associated Press

Tuesday, 11 September 2007

### **Son of Liberia's former strongman pleads not guilty to torture**

MIAMI (AFP) — The son of former Liberian president Charles Taylor on Monday pleaded not guilty before a US court in Miami to charges that he was involved in summary executions and brutal torture in the west African nation.

Charles McArthur Emmanuel, a US citizen also known as "Chuckie Taylor," was head of Liberia's anti-terrorist services during his father's rule in Liberia.

The indictment, which supersedes earlier charges, describes in graphic details some of the killings and cases of torture Emmanuel allegedly conducted and ordered between April 1999 and July 2003.

One victim was allegedly placed naked in a pit as stinging fire ants were shovelled over him. The indictment also mentions torture with melted plastic, electric shocks and scalding water as well as beatings with "sharp metal rods."

Emmanuel is also accused of summarily shooting people held at a checkpoint, and stabbing others with a bayonet.

He was arrested in May on charges that he fraudulently obtained a US passport which he tried to use to enter the United States upon landing at Miami airport.

Immigration officials say Emmanuel lied about the identity of his father -- who faces war crimes charges over the Sierra Leone civil war -- when he filled in the passport application in 1986.

Emmanuel, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, is a US national but he featured on a UN list of Liberians who were the subject of travel sanctions.

His trial is due to start in January. His father is also scheduled to go on trial in the Hague before the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The former Liberian President faces charges of crimes against humanity including murder, sexual slavery, mutilation and conscription of child soldiers during the brutal, decade-long conflict in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

## UN News Service (New York)

Monday, 10 September 2007

### **Secretary-General Welcomes Peaceful Run-Off Elections**

This weekend's presidential run-off election in Sierra Leone was generally orderly and peaceful despite the violence and tensions preceding the polls, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today, urging the country's people to resolve any future disputes through legal channels.

Sierra Leoneans cast their ballots on 8 September in the second-round of presidential elections between Ernest Bai Koroma of the All People's Congress and incumbent Vice-President Solomon Berewa of the Sierra Leone People's Party, who are vying to succeed President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Secretary-General said he "urges the political parties and people of Sierra Leone to exercise restraint as counting of the ballots proceeds and to resolve all arising disputes through the existing legal channels."

Earlier this month, the two presidential candidates signed a communiqué on measures to try to calm tensions in Sierra Leone.

In a statement on the eve of the run-off, Mr. Ban voiced his deep concern over incidents of harassment, intimidation and violence involving supporters of the two main political parties in the West African country, which is seeking to rebuild after a devastating decade-long civil war.

The 11 August presidential and parliamentary elections were Sierra Leone's second since the end of the decade-long civil war in 2002, and the first since the withdrawal of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) in December 2005. The mission has been replaced by the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL).



United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 September 2007**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

AP 09/10/2007 06:21:16

#### **China interferes in 1st Africa summit in Taiwan: Chen**

TAIPEI, Sept. 10\_(Kyodo) \_ Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on Monday accused China of attempting to stifle a gathering of the island's African diplomatic allies here over the weekend. Leaders from Taiwan's diplomatic allies in Africa -- Malawi, Swaziland, Gambia, Burkina Faso, and Sao Tome and Principe -- converged to attend the summit and Monday's Taiwan-Africa Progressive Partnership Forum. Defying pressure from China, the five countries signed a declaration supporting Taiwan's bid to seek membership in the United Nations, a move fiercely opposed by China. Among those who had planned on participating but could not are two Liberian members of parliament who were charged with treason for expressing an interest in attending Monday's forum, Chen said. Liberia does not have diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

### **International Clips on West Africa**

#### **Sierra Leone's rivals claim early lead in presidential run-off**

By Susan Njanji

FREETOWN, Sept 10, 2007 (AFP) - Parties of the two candidates in Sierra's Leone's presidential race both claimed an early lead on Monday as the poor and war-scarred west African country awaited official results from Saturday's vote. According to partial unofficial results from more than a third of polling stations, opposition candidate Ernest Koroma of the All People's Congress (APC) is ahead of his rival, outgoing Vice President Solomon Berewa of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).

09/10/2007 07:29:49

#### **Sierra Leone opposition chief takes early poll lead**

By Katrina Manson

FREETOWN, Sept 10 (Reuters) - Sierra Leone opposition leader Ernest Bai Koroma took a narrow lead in a presidential run-off, according to partial, unofficial results broadcast on Monday by local media. Election observers said Saturday's poll passed without major disruption despite fears of violence after fighting during the campaign, but the West African country's largest group of local monitors said there had been ballot stuffing and other problems. Results from 35 percent of polling stations put Koroma on 54 percent, ahead of Vice-President Solomon Berewa, the Independent Radio Network, which links 20 local stations whose reporters collect results posted outside polling stations, said.

Local Media – Newspaper

#### **Military Service Requires Sacrifice, U.S. Envoy tells New AFL Soldiers**

*(Heritage, The News, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Public Agenda and The Inquirer)*

- United States Ambassador to Liberia, Donald Booth has admonished the newly trained soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to conduct themselves to the highest standard of integrity.
- Speaking over the weekend at programmes marking the graduation of 500 new soldiers at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia, Ambassador Booth urged the men and women of the AFL to remain committed and unwavering in the performance of their duties, adding that “you have challenges ahead of you which require many sacrifices”.
- He then cautioned the graduates not to allow themselves to be used by politicians as it was done in the past. The Ambassador assured that the U.S. Government would continue to support the restructuring exercise of the AFL so that it would perform to expectation. Defense Minister, Brownie Samukai praised the US Government and others for the training of the new Liberian army and warned the new soldiers that indiscipline would not be tolerated while in service.

### **Liberia Mourns Three Eminent Citizens**

*(Heritage, The News, Liberian Express, New Democrat, The Analyst, Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Informer, Public Agenda, National Chronicle and Plain Truth)*

- Three prominent citizens of Liberia died over the weekend. The three are G. Bacchus Matthews, a political activist and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Angie Brooks Randolph who was elected president of the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly and J. Rudolph Grimes, former Secretary of State during the Tubman era.
- According to the reports, Mr. Matthews aged 59, died on Friday September 7 at the St. Joseph Catholic Hospital following a bout with prostate cancer. Hours after his death, former Secretary of State, Rudolph Grimes also died at his home in New Jersey the USA. Madam Brooks-Randolph died on Sunday in the U.S at age 91.
- In separate remarks, President Johnson-Sirleaf acknowledged the deaths and said she was profoundly saddened by their passing. She paid tribute to the three distinguished Liberians for their contributions to the country.

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

### **Chief Justice Lewis Attends Meeting of ECOWAS Chief Justices in Nigeria**

- In a statement issued by the Supreme Court of Liberia yesterday, Chief Justice Johnny Lewis will join other Chief Justices of ECOWAS-member States in Abuja, Nigeria to discuss modalities to establish a Judicial Council of the West Africa Community.
- The meeting of the Chief Justices will take place in line with a decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State for the Justices to establish the Council to recruit judges for the Community’s Court of Justice and to handle disciplinary matters.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC 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 Karpah at [karpah@un.org](mailto:karpah@un.org).*