

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



Representatives of the Republic of Serbia judiciary discussed judicial issues this morning with members of the Special Court Interactive Forum (SCIF)

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

**as at:**

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

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

### Local News

Taylor War Crimes Trial to Resume in January / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 3
Commemorating Human Rights Day... / <i>Awoko</i>	Page 4
Kamajors Declare for APC / <i>Sierra Express</i>	Page 5
No Money for Human Rights Commission / <i>The Spectator</i>	Page 6
Lack of Reconciliation... / <i>Concord Times</i>	Pages 7-8
Seeking Peace With Justice in Africa / <i>Concord Times</i>	Page 9
...Kudos For Justice, Halloway and Others / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 10-11
Man or Monster? / <i>Standard Times</i>	Pages 12-13

### International News

Final Status Conference Held Today; Trial to Resume... / <i>The Trial of Charles Taylor Website</i>	Page 14
UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary / <i>UNMIL</i>	Pages 15-18

Awoko

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

## Taylor War Crimes Trial to Resume in Jan

The special court trying former Liberian President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges cleared the way Tuesday for his trial to resume next month, more than six months after its chaotic adjournment.

In a hearing lasting less than 10 minutes, the prosecution and defense agreed they would be ready to hear the first evidence on Jan. 7, when the U.N.-backed court will begin a schedule of 25 1/2 hours of hearings per week.

The trial is expected to continue until mid-2009.

Taylor, the first African leader to face an international court, is charged with arming and supporting rebels who killed thousands of civilians and hacked off the limbs of thousands more during Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war, which ended in 2002.

Specific charges include murder, sexual slavery and rape, terrorism, and conscripting child soldiers.

### *He has pleaded innocent.*

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis told the court she would present a list of witnesses this week who will appear during the first two weeks of the trial and will file a motion to grant protective measures for some witnesses the final measures before the trial can begin in earnest.

Prosecutors have said they will present witnesses from Taylor's inner circle who will testify that from his headquarters in Liberia he controlled rebel forces in neighboring Sierra Leone to exploit its timber, diamonds and other resources.

They also have proposed bringing victims mutilated by the rebels, although Taylor's defense team has argued that such testimony was irrelevant and only intended for its emotional appeal, since no one disputed that atrocities occurred during the brutal war.

Taylor boycotted the start of the trial on June 4 when the prosecution gave its opening statement. He told the judges by letter that he was poorly represented by the court-appointed attorney and was accorded inadequate funds to mount a proper defense. After one more session boycotted by Taylor, the trial was adjourned. It reconvened only for pretrial hearings after he dropped his demand to represent himself and hired a team led by British barrister Courtney Griffiths paid by a grant to Taylor of US\$100,000 per month. The trial, at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is being held in The Hague because of fears it could ignite violence if it were held in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital.

Awoko

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

## *Commemorating Human Rights Day ...* **Human Rights Commission (SL)** **marks its first anniversary**

**I**n line with its legislative authorization to promote and protect human rights, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) Monday commemorated the International Human Rights Day and the commission's first anniversary.

In her statement the HRCSL commissioner, Jamesina King, said "this year's event is the beginning of one year advocacy campaign culminating in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR's) 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008."

She noted that, "this day is also significant as the HRCSL is marking its first anniversary of our operations", adding that "the establishment of the commission is a fulfillment of the terms of the Lome Peace Agreement and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

The commissioner explained that this year's theme: 'Dignity and Justice for All of Us' was relevant in ensuring that conflict did not ignite which should be their common goal as "we work towards reconciliation and reconstruction of a post conflict society where peace, justice and the rule of law prevails."

She stated that impunity was fostered by the absence of justice and

it robbed not only individuals of their dignity but also "our society of unity, sustainable peace, stability, development and reconciliation which our society needs. We therefore called upon all today to join the campaign to end impunity and to promote justice for all victims."

"The HRCSL remains committed in fulfilling its mandate of promoting and protecting the rights of individuals in Sierra Leone not in isolation but in partnership with all citizens. Therefore we shall build in Sierra Leone a culture of respect of human rights," she said.

In his statement, vice president Samuel Sam-Sumana congratulated the commissioners of the HRCSL for their resilience and hard work over the last twelve months.

"Our commitment as a government to the protection and promotion of human rights was articulated by the President during the state opening of the third parliament of the second republic of Sierra Leone," he said.

The vice president stated that, "as we celebrate this day, we hope that we can take stock of our successes and at the same time reflect on our weakness so that we can better promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone."

The National Vision Competition 2007 was also declared open by Mrs King as she official opened the national secretariat.

Sierra Express  
Wednesday, 12 December 2007

# KAMAJORS DECLARE FOR APC

*By Abdul Hassan Fackie*

Over five hundred Kamajors of the Southern region will tomorrow formally declare their loyalty and support to President Ernest Bai Koroma and the APC in Bo during the Southern Region Reconciliation Programme spearheaded by the Resident Minister South, Musa Tarawally.

According to reliable sources close to the Resident Ministry, they have made their intention known to the Minister.

Sources further maintained that at that same ceremony which will be graced by President Koroma, the rehabilitated Provincial Administration Headquarter Building will be named after late Chief Sam



*Musa Tarawally, Resident Minister South*

Hinga Norman in recognition of his contribution to the furtherance of democracy and peace in this country.

These sources further reveal that all the fifty-two Paramount Chiefs of the Southern  
**Contd. page 2**

## Kamajors Declare For APC

From page 1

Region will publicly declare their support for President Koroma's vision for a better Sierra Leone.

It has also been revealed that to foster reconciliation in the region, all political parties have resolved to throw out all politically motivated cases in the courts and negotiations are now advanced to also drop all petition cases in the

south.

Sources say the youths in the southern province too have decided to support President Koroma in rebuilding this nation and they have resolved that henceforth they will process only for the President or no other politician.

Political observers says this programme will form a new page in the history of the southern region from that of partisan

thinking to that of unity and cohesion for development in line with the APC's manifesto and it will mark the first landmark achievement of the Resident Minister, Musa Tarawally.

They pointed out that such an ingenious and meaningful programme could be replicated in all the other regions of the country to foster national unity and cohesion for national development.

The Spectator  
Wednesday, 12 December 2007

# No money for Human Rights Commission

A member of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) Rev Moses Kanu, on Monday announced that since the Commission was established it has not received any subvention from the government. He was speaking at the Miatta Conference Hall, Youyi Building during the anniversary ceremony of the International Day of Human Rights

“Since our appointments we have not received a single cent from the government in the form of salaries and allowances.” He revealed that they spend money out of their pockets to make trips and organise their programmes. This, according to the Commissioner, “is a violation of our human rights because it is unfair for one to work without pay.” He called on the government to start fund-

ing the Commission to make it effective and gain public confidence. The Commission was formed by an Act of Parliament in 2004 and set up thereafter. The Commissioners were sworn-in in October last year, and started work on the 10th of December, 2006. Its secretariat was officially opened on 10th December, 2007 to coincide with the International Day of Human Rights.

# Lack of reconciliation poses a threat to Salone's development

By  
*Mariama Kandeh*

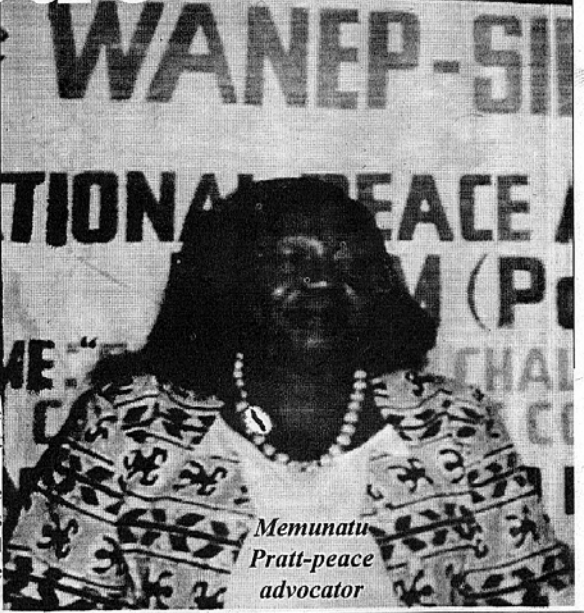
**C**ontinuous political, tribal and ethnic fighting poses a huge threat to the country's ongoing development, according to a female peace advocator.

Memunatu Pratt, head of

Peace and Conflict Studies at Fourah Bay College, has said, "Our problem is rebuilding the democracy of our state, which has setbacks stemming from economic, social and media reforms. The huge challenge for our country today is

reconciliation and this should start from our homes if we are to mend the wounds that emanated from the war."

She also added that a large hindrance to reconciliation is political squabbles as exhibited most recently during the  
*Contd. page 4*



*Memunatu  
Pratt-peace  
advocator*

## Lack of reconciliation poses a threat to Salone's development

*From page 1*

August-September elections.

Pratt said Sierra Leoneans should change their mindset and attitude, starting from the top to the grassroots level.

"Sierra Leone needs to redefine its priorities. Reconciliation means allowing people to enjoy their human rights, making them part of the decision-making process because they are affected by the decisions that are taken at all levels of development," she said.

Pratt also said action and continuity will enhance reconciliation.

Minister of Defence, Retired Major Alfred Palo Conteh agreed and

said, "I need not over-emphasize the wounds left behind by the eleven years of war coupled with our differences during the electioneering period. There is dire need to consolidate the hard earned peace and security so as to enhance sustainable national development," he said. Conteh said peace and reconciliation are prerequisites for national security and growth. He said there is a great need to combat poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation, which will help in reversing the ineffectiveness of the state.

Sierra Leone came in at the bottom of the United Nation's human

development index, released last week.

Conteh said the prospect for peace, security and development rest on the provision of employment for youths. "Any attempt to straight-jacket conflict resolution and peace-building into a single framework runs the risk of instability," he said.

Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) Ibrahim Karim-Sei said by and large, journalists did a fair job of covering the elections and many attempted to report on reconciliation issues. Karim-Sei said 80 per cent of media houses abided by the electoral code of conduct for journalists.



## Concord Times

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

### Seeking Peace with Justice in Africa

# From The Balcony

*By Ernest Harsch, United  
Nations Africa Renewal*

After years of war, hundreds of former militia fighters are coming out of the forests of Ituri, in the far northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to disarm. "The time of war is over," declared Col. Mathieu Ngujolo, a militia commander. "Now is the time to rebuild our country."

For many residents of Ituri, peace is enough, for now. "We lived through the war. We lost our parents, our brothers and sisters. We suffered the worst atrocities," commented John Tibamwenda, a district chief in Bunia, the provincial capital, during a demobilization and arms-destruction ceremony. "It's now time to turn the page." Yet in the DRC, and other countries emerging from war, many people are wondering whether peace must come at the expense of justice for those who pillaged, raped, killed and terrorized. Are communities that were victimized expected simply to welcome back those who victimized them? Or might prosecutions jeopardize peace efforts and make combatants hesitate to hand in their arms?

#### *Amnesty or prosecution?*

Seeking ways to resolve such dilemmas was one of the challenges facing participants in the Second International Conference on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Stability in Africa,

held earlier this year in Kinshasa, the DRC's capital. Organized by the Congolese government and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the meeting drew DDR experts and practitioners from across Africa and from various UN and other international agencies.

On the relationship between DDR and justice, the greatest controversy has revolved around the granting of amnesty. Amnesties have been common in peace pacts in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, often as inducements to warring factions to join a peace process.

In 2000, Uganda adopted an Amnesty Act for anti-government militias, guaranteeing those who renounced violence a resettlement package and a promise to not bring charges against them. By December 2006, about 21,000 rebels had agreed to accept the offer, including some 15,000 from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which for years has wreaked havoc in northern Uganda. In those communities many people regard amnesty as an important tool for peace and for recovering children kidnapped by the rebels. Similarly, some form of amnesty has featured in peace talks in Sierra Leone, Liberia, the DRC and other countries.

Human rights activists, however, argue that failing to prosecute those who committed the worst atrocities perpetuates a culture of impunity that can contribute to future abuses. They also point out that under international law there can be no amnesty for war crimes or crimes against humanity.

There is some evidence that the threat of prosecutions may complicate demobilization efforts. In one instance representatives of a special court for war crimes in Sierra Leone were barred from a demobilization camp because peacekeepers feared that ex-combatants would abandon it.

#### *Striking a balance*

In practice, peace negotiators have sought to strike a balance. In the DRC, explained Daniel Kawata, national coordinator of the disarmament and demobilization commission, any commanders suspected of "heavy criminal business" were subject to arrest. But such arrests were limited so as not to "lose the possibility of demobilizing a whole bunch."

When the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague announced several years ago that it was opening investigations into war crimes by the LRA, some local communities warned that indictments could hamper

peace efforts. In October 2005 the ICC issued warrants for the arrest of Joseph Kony and other LRA commanders. Justice Peter Onega, chairman of Uganda's Amnesty Commission, said in an interview with Africa Renewal that such judicial action "may not help in the amnesty process."

Despite the indictments, however, peace talks with the LRA have not collapsed. One option now under consideration is for Ugandan courts to try Mr. Kony and his colleagues instead.

#### *Communities at the centre*

Formal trials are not the only option. Rwanda, for example, is trying several hundred thousand cases stemming from the 1994 genocide in community courts. These gacaca assemblies enable villagers to directly confront the accused, who may be forgiven or sentenced, including to community service. So far, notes Alpha Fall, a senior associate of the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) in New York, the trials do not seem to have hampered efforts to reintegrate ex-combatants, some 54,000 of whom have given up arms since 1995.

In Uganda, many of those who were granted amnesty have participated in traditional rituals known as timokya or mato oput (forgiving, reconciling), in which they publicly acknowledge their past actions. "Once this is done," Mr. Onega explains, "this person is once again accepted back into the community and all animosity toward this person must stop."

Governments can also help communities that are receiving demobilized ex-combatants. In Ituri, the former militia fighters will each receive \$100. If poor villagers do not also get support for rebuilding, the imbalance can breed resentment and convey an impression that the ex-fighters are being "rewarded" for their past violent behavior. Providing reparations for the victims of atrocities can also help improve attitudes towards ex-combatants, Mr. Fall argues.

Ultimately, prosecutions can also aid reconciliation, Mr. Fall adds. "Prosecution of militia leaders can help draw a distinction between those who have most responsibility for crimes, and lower-level offenders... increasing the

prospects for trust between ex-combatants and the communities where they choose to reintegrate."

*Note to the Editor: With peace returning to war ravaged parts of Africa, communities, governments and human rights activists are struggling to balance the need to disarm and demobilize former fighters with the cries for justice from their victims. Africa Renewal weighs the issues and examines African responses to the sometimes contradictory demands of justice and of peace.*

## Standard Times

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

### ...Kudos For Justice, Halloway and Others

"To err is human and to forgive is divine" are words that often come to mind whenever one thinks about Justice and the impartial role some of our Judges play in the dispensation of Justice in Sierra Leone. Sadly, some of the significant role of the judges has not been taken into account by the media, although the mass media has been playing its role in reporting court proceedings but, media practitioners often misrepresent Judges and judgment handed down by them.

This is as a result of several factors which included, but not limited to the legal complexities of matters in courts. Other reason could be sheer disregard for fair and balanced reporting.

In the Standard Times Newspaper Publication of Wednesday November 28th, 2007 under the column "Human Rights Issues:, an article captioned "THE RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL" was an attempt by the columnist to give an overview of the 'Justice Delivery System" in the country over the years. He however touched on the matter between the Sierra Leone Insurance Ltd (SLICO) as Plaintiff/Respondent and Defendants/Applications Abu Bakarr Gamanga, Kenema Gamanga, Morie Maya Gamanga and Patrick Gamanga which matter was being presided over

by the High Court Judge, Justice A.B Halloway; one of the country's finest Judges. Allan Halloway as he is fondly called, is the son of the late industrious Mamoud Halloway, a dynamic and enterprising Sierra Leonean. Allan Halloway may look young in appearance, but he is endowed with wisdom and experience and vast knowledge in the legal profession. His appointment as High Court Judge was not a mistake nor a legal miscalculation. Perhaps, if the Human Rights columnist had got wind about his reservoir of legal knowledge he would not have challenged or raise any comments regarding the outcome of the SLICO case that was presided over by him. Instead, he would have asked for a few minutes of lectureship about the matter; rather than publishing the following words "Many people in the country can attest to the fact that the country's justice system is still polluted with corruption and bribery. A case in point was the fake lease scandal that has already brought disrepute to the Sierra Leone Insurance Company (SLICO).

"According to investigations, the late Paramount Chief of Boajibu Chiefdom, PC Kenema Gamanga's children are embattling in a case of unfair justice meted on them by the high court presided over by Justice Alan Halloway which has provoked human rights activists over the alleged lease of their

---

## ...Kudos for Justice Halloway and others

family house situated at 2, Pademba Road in Freetown.

The columnist perception about the country's Judiciary and Judges failed to understand that there are some judges who could be described as "Daniel in Judgment" not only because of their experience and wealth of knowledge, but as a result of their uprightness and dedication to duty. Justice Halloway is among the few in our Judiciary system that posses these starling qualities, and has always looked forward for posterity to reward him.

When this columnist was questioned by his editor for making such generalization that has to do with the performance and personality of Justice Allan Halloway, in a rather regretful tone he

remorse and try to establish strong relationship with them for better understanding and rational judgment.

Like his father, Allan Halloway is one individual very unassuming and believes in hard work, these qualities he continues to display at home and in his place of work "This is no fair publication" the columnist was told, but an infringement into the human rights of the learned Judge. It would be recalled that prior to the outbreak of the rebel war in Sierra Leone, the Judiciary was perceived by many people in the country as corrupt probably due to the delays in court proceedings which sometimes have to take a long time before a Judge lays final hands on them. Other reasons also include lack of competent staff to carry out the work effectively.

sense of responsibility in dispensing justice in court especially his contributions towards law reform and the improvement of the justice sector in the country. Also, Magistrates Bineh Kamara, Adrian Fischer, Komba Kamanda, Margai and a few others should be recognized for their impartiality and hard work.

There are some Judges whose contributions to the judiciary are hardly noticeable. This is not because they want it that way, but the adage "actions speak louder than voice" has been their motto, but the fact has always remained undisputable that the good works of others would one day come to light. This is evident in the case of Justice Nicholas Browne Marke, Hon. Justice Sesay and Patrick Hamilton who have been symbols of emulation in the circle of learned men and women in the Judiciary of Sierra Leone.

Among the list of high profile cases to their credit, are matters of land disputes, properties and criminal cases in line with the due process of the law and have demonstrated to accused persons their "Right to Fair Trial" and that nobody is above the law.

Apart from presiding over cases in Freetown, they also handle matters in the provincial towns of, Bo, Kenema and Makeni to ensure that justice sails smoothly in these parts of the country. Sadly, they lack adequate facilities to ensure that work is done with ease. Facilities such as computers, internet for legal research, better housing facilities for Judges and Magistrates, vehicles, security of tenure etc and other equipment must be provided for these Magistrates and judges in the interest of nation building and a strong and productive Judiciary.

**There are some Judges whose contributions to the judiciary are hardly noticeable. This is not because they want it that way, but the adage "actions speak louder than voice" has been their motto, but the fact has always remained undisputable that the good works of others would one day come to light**

said "These were comments made by those family members who convened a press conference affected by the decision of the court" and he added "I am sorry for any embarrassment that the publication may have caused the learned Judge" Saying sorry to a Judge or any other individuals who have strenuously built their reputation over the years is insufficient, but to show

Presently, the Judiciary is viewed by many people as an improved institution compared to the past. Today, matters are speedily expedited by Judges and Magistrates excluding some JPs who are still novice in the legal profession. If credit is to be giving for this radical transformation, few Judges and Magistrates are expected to be beneficiaries, and these include Hon. Justice A.B.

Halloway, who over the years has demonstrated a complete

## Standard Times

Wednesday, 12 December 2007

### Man or Monster?

# ISSUES

BY PROJECT SYNDICATE

The appearance of the first former Khmer Rouge leader in a special hybrid court established in Cambodia to bring that movement's surviving leaders to justice provoked a question on which the tribunal's integrity will depend: should an accused mass murderer be released from prison pending his trial?

Kaing Guek Eav, commonly known as "Duch," presided over the deaths of more than 14,000 people at S-21, a former Phnom Penh high school turned into a torture center. He is one of five former senior Khmer Rouge leaders who will be made to answer for their roles during Pol Pot's genocide, in which an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians perished. Until recently, Duch was the only one imprisoned, after being exposed in 1999.

The court, with its improbable blend of Cambodian and foreign judges and attorneys as well as laws is meant to be a model for judicial reform and independent justice in a country where impunity has long been the rule.

The five red-robed judges who presided over the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the tribunal's official name) are the final arbiters of Duch's detention, but the question they are now considering belongs as much to the people of Cambodia as it does to the court. Should mass murderers be afforded the same rights as everyone else?

One of my aunts has a strong opinion on the matter. Khmer Rouge soldiers beat her father to death, and she remembers being shot at for sport by communist cadres as she and dozens of other peasants scuttled up a mountainside. She now lives one block from S-21. "Human rights are for humans," she said emphatically when I asked her about Duch's case. "He is a monster."

I once believed that, too. When I first visited Duch's house of horrors in 1990, I was 15 and full of wonder about the country where I was born but had never lived. My family escaped the Khmer Rouge on April 17, 1975, the day they

# Man or Monster?

claimed victory. When my mother and I journeyed home to reunite with relatives who had survived the genocide, S-21 (also known as Tuol Sleng) was among our first stops.

By then, the torture facility had been turned into a museum. I remember feeling claustrophobic as I walked down its narrow halls and into classrooms turned into crude cellblocks. The air was stale but heavy with the stench of death in interrogation chambers, barren save for a single bed frame, shackles, and a chair. Flecks of dried blood peeled up from the floor.

somebody's daughter, somebody's son. This was somebody's mother or sister or brother.

Back then, I thought: What monster could do such things?

Now, that monster was sitting in a courtroom, looking scared and meek as prosecutors catalogued his alleged war crimes. Sitting in the packed auditorium where snatches of Duch's face flash by on a movie screen, I'm struck by what I see: a face that belongs to someone. This alleged perpetrator of unspeakable misdeeds is, like his victims, someone's son, someone's brother, someone's father.

them to their deaths. When we start to see each other as less than human, we respond with inhuman acts.

It is this narrow, black-and-white view of humanity that has perpetuated a cycle of violence in Cambodia, where raging mobs beat to death robbery suspects and young mistresses suffer acid attacks by jealous wives. To say that Duch is a monster who does not deserve rights ignores the gray area between good and evil, between man and monster, where anything is possible.

This trial is about that gray area, about that place in us all where morality decays and evil takes root and grows, the way mold prevails given the right conditions. Each of us carries this potential for rot.

There is no dispute that Duch violated the rights of thousands of Khmers. But if the basic premise of these trials is to uphold human rights, then we are obliged to extend that same principle to Duch. What does it say to the country and the world if a court convened to mete out justice flouts the law? Isn't lawlessness the plague we are finally trying to eradicate in Cambodia?

The judges have offered no indication when they will make a decision. And no one would blame them for taking their time to consider their options. This is, after all, the court's first test of fairness before the trials of Duch and four of Pol Pot's other henchmen begin next year.

We all want justice, but that justice should not come at the cost of our humanity.

We all want justice,  
but that justice should  
not come at the cost  
of our humanity

This was a place where fingernails of countless victims were ripped out, where others were strung upside down and dunked in barrels of water, where many were brutalized with metal prongs and batons. This was a place of utter brokenness. This was Duch's place.

Mostly, I remember the hundreds of black and white mug shots of prisoners and victims that covered every inch of the walls a ghastly montage of human suffering that haunts me to this day. I couldn't help but think: this was

This might have been only a fleeting thought had I not seen Duch's family members, who attended the hearings. Hang Seav Heang, 28, described the defendant as a gentle man, a good father. One of his sisters said he was a caring, protective brother, and that she would always love him.

Outside the courtroom and in the community, most of the Khmers I talked to were, like my aunt, quick to categorize Duch as something other than human. Duch must have thought much the same thing about his victims when he ordered

## The Trial of Charles Taylor website

Tuesday, 11 December 2007

### **Final Status Conference Held Today; Trial to Resume on Schedule on January 7, 2008**

During today's status conference, which lasted only ten minutes, the following agenda issues were discussed:

1. Any updates from the Parties on preparation for the Trial.
2. Any additional issues in respect of the administration of the case.

Prosecutor Brenda Hollis indicated that this week she will provide to the Defense a witness list for January 2008. During the upcoming holidays (December 17, 2007 - January 4, 2008) the Prosecutor will provide to the Defense the statements of the first witnesses to be heard when the trial resumes.

At the request of Presiding Judge Sebutinde, Hollis indicated that she will clarify the order in which the Prosecution witnesses on the witness list will be called and - to arrange for interpretation services - the language in which each witness will testify.

Hollis also said that during the first week of January she will provide to the Defense copies of the Prosecution exhibits to be submitted.

The Prosecutor indicated she will request protective measures in respect of witnesses to be heard in February 2008.

The Defense indicated that they are working very hard to process all the information coming in, and that they expect to be fully ready on January 7, 2008 to continue the trial.

The Presiding Judge confirmed the trial will resume on January 7, 2008. The revised hearing schedule has 3 sessions a day. The first session of the trial runs from 9 until 10.30 a.m. The second session runs from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. After the lunch break the Court will resume at 2.30 p.m. and will close for the day at 4.30 p.m. This schedule will be followed from Monday through Thursday. On Friday the same schedule applies except that there will be no afternoon session.

The Defense and the Prosecution did not raise additional issues. Court was then adjourned until January 7, 2008.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

---

## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 11 December 2007

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

### International Clips on Liberia

12/11/2007 10:45:50

#### **Liberia trip sought in diploma fraud case: Testimony of officials there crucial, defense attorneys argue**

Source: Spokesman-Review, The (Spokane, WA) (KRT) Date: December 11, 2007

Dec. 11--Defense attorneys for four remaining defendants in a Spokane-based diploma mill case want to travel to Liberia to depose seven of that country's high-ranking officials, including a Supreme Court justice. U.S. taxpayers would pick up the as-yet-undetermined bill if the request is granted by U.S. District Court Judge Lonny Suko, who's assigned the wire fraud and money laundering case.

12/11/2007 07:15:22

#### **Taylor War Crimes Trial to Resume in January**

ARTHUR MAX

Associated Press Writer

Source: AP Online Regional - Europe

Date: December 11, 2007

THE HAGUE, Netherlands\_The special court trying former Liberian President Charles Taylor on war crimes charges cleared the way Tuesday for his trial to resume next month, more than six months after its chaotic adjournment. In a hearing lasting less than 10 minutes, the prosecution and defense agreed they would be ready to hear the first evidence on Jan. 7, when the U.N.-backed court will begin a schedule of 25 1/2 hours of hearings per week. The trial is expected to continue until mid-2009.

12/11/2007 18:19:53

#### **Incoming United Nations SRSG Pays Courtesy Call On President Sirleaf**

Source: All Africa Global Media Date: December 11, 2007

Monrovia, Dec 11, 2007 (Liberia Government/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --The incoming Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-general to Liberia, Madam Ellen Loj, has paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia. The United Nations Representative said she was pleased to be in Liberia and looked forward to working with the Liberian government to consolidate the peace, national reconciliation and development.

## **International Clips on West Africa**

12/11/2007 21:19:06

### **Czech police arrest four foreigners for drug trafficking**

Source: CZECH NEWS AGENCY Date: December 11, 2007

Prague, Dec 10 (CTK) - The police from the Czech Anti-drug Centre (NPC) arrested three people from Nigeria, one from Ivory Coast and one Czech citizen over drug trafficking within the operation codenamed Ebonics last week, Bretislav Brejcha from NPC said today. The group smuggled cocaine and ecstasy to the Czech Republic and delivered it mainly to drug dealers in Prague's centre. Police revealed 2300 ecstasy tablets, 30 grammes of cocaine and over half a kilo of marijuana during home searches in Prague and Znojmo, south Moravia. Brejcha said most of the money gained through drug selling was unfortunately transferred to Nigeria and Ivory Coast. The suspects face up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of illegal drug production and possession. kva/dr

## **Local Media – Newspaper**

### **Former Transitional Chairman Bryant Apologizes to Court**

(The Inquirer, Heritage, National Chronicle, The Forum, The Informer, New Democrat, New Vision, Daily Observer, The Analyst)

- Former transitional leader Gyude Bryant appeared in court on Monday with an apology to the Criminal Court 'C' for failing to appear in court to answer corruption charges twice last week.
- Mr. Bryant had earlier said he would defend himself after dismissing his lawyers. But he rescinded his decision at the court two days after he was released from detention at the Monrovia Central Prison. Accordingly, Mr. Bryant pleaded with the court to allow him time to find new lawyers to represent him in the trial.
- Quoting Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio, National Chronicle and Heritage said the President expressed regret over the imprisonment of the former Liberian leader but was quick to say that the President could not have interfered with the court's decision because she is committed to the rule of law.
- Her regret was in response to criticisms from several quarters including some regional leaders who reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over the confinement of the former head of state.

### **Sweden Pledges over US\$6M to Government**

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The Informer)

- The government of Sweden has pledged to provide over US\$6m to support Liberia's post-war rehabilitation programme.
- Speaking on Monday at his regular press briefing in Monrovia, Presidential Press secretary, Cyrus Badio said US\$1m will go immediately to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) which has been yearning for donor support to successfully complete its work.
- The rest of the funding will support the country's school feeding program which should have ended this month, the Senior Executive Service and labor intensive community programs. Mr. Badio said the assistance was a result of discussions President Sirleaf held with Spanish officials during a recent visit to that country.

### **UNPOL and LNP Discover Criminal Gangs in several Communities**

(National Chronicle)

- The United Nations Police and the Liberia National Police, According to National Chronicle, have discovered five criminal gangs operating in several communities -The Township of Gardnerville, Congo Town, Red Light in Paynesville, Bushrod Island and Logan Town - across Monrovia. The UN Deputy Police Commissioner Ibrihim Idris said the Police have stepped up night patrols in these specified communities in order to break up these criminal gangs.

### **Anti-Corruption Group Launch Today**



(The News, Heritage, The Inquirer)

- The anti-corruption Working Group (LAWG) that evolved as a result of the pressing need to constitute a common civil society frontage for the fight against corruption is expected to be launched today in Monrovia. The Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), the Centre for Media Studies and Peace building (CEMESP), the Liberia National Law Enforcement Agency (LINLEA) and the Liberia Media Centre (LMC) are amongst forerunners of the idea to establish the group. The group also seeks to harness the cumulative efforts of civil society organizations in the combat against corruption in Liberia.
- "Fighting Corruption: A Collective Responsibility" is the theme of today's launch which is being held in commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day which came as a consequence of a three-year effort by 129 countries to take global action against corruption.

### **South African Firm to Invest US\$100M to Refurbish Hotel Africa**

(The Informer, The News, Daily Observer)

- The Executive Mansion has disclosed plans by a South African Investment delegation, the Nubian Consortium to refurbish the Hotel Africa facilities. According to Presidential Press Secretary, Mr. Cyrus Badio said the team met with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Monday and acquainted her with the progress of its decision.
- The Nubian Consortium which is expected to begin the renovation work January 2008 hopes to invest US\$100M to renovate Hotel Africa and other related infrastructures including the Conference Centre in time to host the International Women Colloquium in 2009.

### **Firestone Management Wants End to Violence at Plantation**

(Heritage, The Inquirer)

- The Management of Firestone Liberia has described the ongoing violence at the plantation in Harbel, Margibi County as unwarranted and unacceptable. In a statement issued in Monrovia, the Firestone management said the violence at the plantation runs contrary to everything it is doing to help rebuild Liberia and provide security for its employees.
- "A lawless faction has burned our offices and looted a health centre for which the sole purpose is to provide desperately needed medical services to its employees and dependants", the management said. According to the Firestone management, the violence occurring in Harbel has nothing to do with it or its policies, noting that the unrest was a result of a rivalry between two workers groups. The Inquirer reports that the company has called for government to take immediate action to end the continuous violent stalemate between the two groups.

### **Liberia Opens Bids for Offshore Oil**

(New Democrat)

- Liberia has opened bidding for 10 offshore oil blocks in its second licensing round. The paper quotes the National Oil Company as saying that the offshore blocks will be on offer until the close of the licensing round early June next year.

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

### **President Sirleaf Regrets Former Transitional Chairman's Detention**

- Speaking to reporters yesterday, Presidential Press Secretary Cyrus Badio said President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has expressed regrets over the detention of former Transitional Chairman, Gyude Bryant and said it was not her pleasure to see a former head of state being detained.
- Mr. Badio however said the President's regret does not intend to undermine the judicial process as no one is above the law.
- He then denied reports that the President was directly involved in the release of Mr. Bryant from the Monrovia Central Prison but said she was hopeful that the courts will speed up the judicial process.

- Meanwhile, the former Transitional Head of State has apologized to the court for ignoring its precept that led to his detention.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

### **New Special Representative to Liberia Meets President Sirleaf**

- The incoming Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General to Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Loj yesterday paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia.
- An Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia quotes the UN envoy as saying that she looked forward to working with government to consolidate the peace, national reconciliation and development and said there was a need for continued partnership between the mission and Liberia.
- For her part, President Sirleaf spoke of the numerous challenges facing the country and expressed government's determination to confront them.

### **Government Displays Bid Publication**

- Government has displayed three local newspapers that it said published bids for the sale of a stockpile of iron ore at the Port of Buchanan
- This follows media reports that the government "secretly" sold the stockpile of iron ore in violation of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission Act.
- Addressing journalists on Monday, Information Minister, Dr. Lawrence Bropleh exhibited the three local dailies (The New Democrat, the News and the Inquirer newspapers) which on April 10, 2006 published the bids for the sale of the iron ore.
- Minister Bropleh said the three newspapers advertised an invitation for proposals to auction the remaining quantity of iron ore stockpiled in Buchanan at the request of the Lands, Mines and Energy Ministry.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

### **Sweden Gives Over US\$6 Million to Liberia**

- The government of Sweden is providing over US\$6m to support Liberia's post-war rehabilitation program.
- The Executive Mansion said the commitment is in response to a recent request by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when she visited that country.
- According to Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio, US\$ 1m will go immediately to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission while the rest of the funding will support the country's school feeding program, senior executive service and labour intensive programs.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

### **South African Investment Team Allots US\$100m for Hotel Africa Repair**

- The Executive Mansion has disclosed plans by a South African Investment delegation, Nubian Consortium to refurbish the Hotel Africa facilities.
- Briefing journalists on Monday, Presidential Press Secretary, Cyrus Badio said the group hopes to invest more than US\$100m to renovate the hotel and other facilities and said the renovation is expected to begin January 2008 and is to be completed in time to host the International Women Colloquium in 2009.

*(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)*

\*\*\*\*