

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



The Prosecutor addresses students at the International School. See today's *'Special Court Supplement'*.

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:

Monday, 12 February 2007

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

Monday, 12 February 2007

Charles Margai's cheap stunt

I have never felt so bad in my life like when I read in some of the tabloids Sam Hinga Norman's and the eight others with whom he is facing charges at the Special Court, statement, expressing their support for Charles Francis Margai's PMDC party.

I thought it so very mindless on the part of Mr. Margai. This just goes to show the low level to which some politicians are prepared to sink to win votes; it also goes to show just how childish the man, Charles Margai can be. This is nothing but a childish prank that is bound to upset many people even including his supporters.

Here are people who are facing very serious charges for which, if convicted, will spend their lives in prison, being harangued by this lawyer of a man, just to give the false imprisonment that the nine people, who are on three separate joint criminal enterprise, love and support him.

May I ask if I may, how genuine is that joint statement and under what circumstances was it obtained? Who wrote it? Whose idea was it? Sam Hinga Norman and Issa Sesay are said to be terribly ill to the point that they had to be flown out of the country for treatment. This is more than enough on their plates for anybody to add politics to their plight. This is rubbing salt to their wounds.

Prison is a place that can make somebody very stressful. Imagine being banged-up behind bars for hours and hours all alone; imagine that one does not have control over his own life. A man who was boss in his home now has to be bossed around by prison guards. Imagine that a prisoner is not allowed to hold the keys to his own room. Imagine that one who had been used to a busy daily schedule now has to sit idly watching the ceiling and dreaming of the day when life will be normal again. Imagine what all this will do to one's psyche!

Charles Margai did not think about all this but instead he is using those vulnerable people as pawns to gain his own selfish end. How heartless and unchristian! Of the three main presidential candidates, he is the only one that has access to those people so for him to exploit this advantage is totally unfair. He defends three of them so it is natural for his wish to be their command. They have no alternative but to obey his every word. Prison has turned them into little children obeying their master's every command. A master is not supposed to take unfair advantage of his position. It is like a school master coercing a school girl into having sex with him with the promise of high marks in the exam.

There is all probability that Charles Margai must have assured those men that he will read all the law books in the universe to make sure they all go free. There is also probability that these assurances pushed those men into appending their signatures on an already written statement. How callous!

I am sure those people's relatives and friends will be very upset by this cheap stunt and they are sure to treat it with the utmost contempt and revulsion. What Charles Margai has done boils down to harassment. The Special Court authorities must not sit by and see people who are in their custody being harassed by a lawyer. The prisoners are yet unconvicted so they must be properly looked after and protected from psychological torture. The authorities at the Special Court must issue a public statement dissociating themselves from Charles Margai's childish prank.

It is not politics that is in those people, their relatives' and friends' minds. Their care right now is to be able to live together again.

On the contrary Charles Margai doesn't even care whether or not they get convicted as long as he can have his way with them. If Charles Margai cannot mourn with those who are mourning and weep with those who are weeping, let him just leave those poor people alone. No

Here are people who are facing very serious charges for which, if convicted, will spend their lives in prison, being harangued by this lawyer of a man, just to give the false imprisonment that the nine people, who are on three separate joint criminal enterprise, love and support him.

one would like to be in their shoes at the moment as they are going through very troublous times. They cannot now wave good bye to their school-going children; they cannot cook for themselves their favourite dishes; they cannot go out to watch the amputee football tournament. Their case is a very sorrowful one.

Charles Margai must really be joking if he thinks this stunt will win him votes. The whole nation is very upset about it. Most people hate him for this. I can't help but shed a tear at the way those helpless people are being manipulated for votes. I just wish they can be left alone so they can carry on their lives at peace until such a time when they will be released from those treacherous cells. May God Almighty have mercy on them.

Standard Times
Monday, 12 February 2007

When justice becomes a product on the market

WITHOUT GETTING into the problem of naming names of people involved in the destruction of the justice system in this country and the denial of the individual human rights and dignity, Standard Times wish to make it categorically clear that without a properly functioning judicial system in any country there will be NO sustainable peace or development.

IDENTIFIED AS one of the major causes of the eleven-year long rebel war that devastated the country and made millions into refugees and displaced people, it is the belief that the government would consider the establishment and maintenance of a properly and functioning justice system one of its priorities.

IT IS however regrettable that despite all efforts to rebuild the system from the ruins of the war it is still a far cry from the expectations of the people, especially when one considers the manner in which certain officials in the system have refrained from introducing changes that should be introduced in order to promote the cause of justice in the country.

INNOCENT CITIZENS are still arbitrarily arrested and detained sometimes for days and weeks some times on the basis of a simple complaint from an aggrieved individual and without recourse to judicial procedures in the interest of the accused. In many of the cases the unfortunate individual is let out after spending time in detention without being charged with anything, and threatened by the complainant of going through the same thing whenever he/she gets out of the line again.

THESE WERE the hallmarks of the last APC regime in the years leading up to the war in 1991; arbitrary arrests and detentions, mysterious disappearances and murders, police brutality and repression, economic dislocation and many other human rights violations.

STANDARD TIMES and the people of this country do not wish to recall those days again. What the country requires are strategies to promote its speedy recovery and development so that the many unemployed youths in the country would have something to do to engage themselves instead of hanging out on the street corners with all kinds of imaginations.

IN THE absence of such an opportunity for the youths, human rights abuses in the judicial system could only be additional pressure and stress for a very important sector of the society.

THE HABIT of demanding money for every service offered by those in the justice system is not good for the healthy development and establishment of sustainable peace and security for all.

WHEN JUSTICE is put on sale on the market only the wealthy will be assured of it.

INDEED THERE can be no peace without justice, or justice without peace. To establish sustainable peace in this country, after so many sufferings before, during and after the war, it is the fervent hope and prayer of this media organization that the government uses all its might in the coming months to bring about greater public confidence in the country's judicial system.

IT WOULD go a long way to make things better for many Sierra Leoneans who are currently languishing.

Concord Times
Monday, 12 February 2007

6480 RPG bombs discovered in Tongo

Mohamed Massaquoi & Mohamed Vandi in Kenema
A report has it that a large cache of arms and ammunition have been discovered in Tongo Fields, Lower Bambara Chiefdom in the Kenema District. It was stated that 6,480 Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG), 55

hand grenades, 176 rounds of AK-47 magazines and other assorted ammunitions were found at Pomp Station, Landoma village. Sources from Tongo informed Concord Times that the ammunitions were discovered by a group of miners swimming in one

of the deserted diamond pits at Pomp Station.

A police Land rover and an open truck arrived at the Kenema Police Station at about 5:30 pm with the ammunitions believed to have been brought from Tongo.

The source disclosed further that the operation started about three days ago and it was confirmed that there are still more ammunitions in the said location. "On the second day, the workers refused to deep further in the river as they were afraid of explosives but with the

timely intervention of the Paramount Chief and other officials of Arms for Development, the workers returned to the pit to fetch more arms and ammunitions." the

Cont. page 3



*Acha
Kamara
Police Boss*

6480 RPG bombs discovered in Tongo

From page 1

source disclosed.

As at the time of going to press, officials of the Kenema Police Station could not confirm the incident to journalists even though they were standing at the scene when the ammunitions were brought into the station.

However, Woman Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hillary Sao Kanu in Freetown, confirmed that some amount of arms and ammunition were discovered in Tongo Fields and has been handed-over to the Operational Support Division (OSD) in charge of Tongo.

Awoko

Monday, 12 February

Salone batter Ghanaian amputees

In the first match of the first all Africa Amputee Soccer festival, which started at the National Stadium on

occasions by Musa Vandi and at the end of the first half it was still one zero. During the second

the fans home with jubilation.

In the second match, Leone Stars single leg amputee



Victorious Salone Amputee Team One

Friday, Salone battered their Ghanaian counterparts by three goals to nil.

Maxwell Fofanah accounted for all the goals to put the Sierra Leone single leg amputee in the lead.

After the goal the Ghanaian single leg amputees started using long passes but were intercepted on many

segment, the Sierra Leonean side became more determined when Maxwell Fofanah made it two in the second minutes of play from a rebound after Amadu's shot was saved from goalkeeper Jack Knife.

Then three minutes later Maxwell put the score to three zero after receiving a pass from Amadu to send

team two played to a goalless draw with Liberia Single Leg. The match was exciting as both teams put up brilliant show in front of a large crowd.

David Davies from Britain handled the matches with five players in each team with 20 minutes at each half. Vice President Solomon Berewa took the kick-off before the match started.

Awareness Times
Monday, 12 February 2007

Amputees beat Ghana 3-0



Tens of thousands of football fans watched as Sierra Leone's Single Legged Amputee football team beat their Ghanaian counterparts 3-0 in the opening match of the All-African Amputee Football Championship held at the National Stadium last week Friday February 9th 2007. The final winners of this soccer championship competition will qualify for the Amputee



World Football Championship in Turkey later this year.

The other teams taking part in the All-African Amputee Football Championship are Nigeria, Angola and Liberia.

Each of the teams has six outfield players missing a leg and there is also a one-armed goalkeeper in the tournament. Many of the men lost their limbs during the civil war or fell victim to rebels during the brutal conflict.

Sierra Leone's Coach Mambu enthusiastically told the BBC's Network Africa program, "Our two-legged people are failures long since; we want to bring football back to life through these amputees."

The Nation (Nairobi)

Sunday, 11 February 2007

Lawyers Drag Legal Battle to the Streets

As Charles Taylor's trial is set to start on June 4 in the Hague, his lawyers and diehard loyalists appear to be poised to stage a ferocious battle in his defence.

Already, public opinion, and the mainstream press in Monrovia, is awash with stories and commentaries of this trial, something that sends chills down the spines of many Liberians. One billboard placed centrally in a busy highway near downtown Monrovia posts a clear but chilling message: "Charles Taylor is Innocent."

According to The Inquirer, one of the more regular papers, his lawyers are in town and are already encouraging "all Liberians to demand justice in the trial of their former leader". Karim Khan and Avi Singh, both seasoned war crimes lawyers with extensive experience in Yugoslavia, East Timor and, nearer home, in Rwanda, are in the country for the first time to drum up support from citizens, encouraging them to avoid being "distracted by petty politics and resist their citizen languishing in foreign courts for crimes allegedly committed in a different country".

They are also in Monrovia to set up liaison offices and recruit witnesses to testify in this eagerly awaited case. They are also demanding that the trial be broadcast live on international radio.

Charles Taylor, Liberia's former President, faces an 11-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Sierra Leone. The lead lawyer, Mr Karim, who is a British national, wants Liberians to "engage the process through scrutiny to make sure that the former president is given his right in courts". He dismisses the case as "Hollywood fiction being prepared for a blockbuster movie", according to the Analyst newspaper.

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 10 February 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

Liberia Donors Conference Set for February 13-14

VOA
09 February 2007

Next Tuesday and Wednesday (2/13-14) in Washington, DC, the World Bank will host a donors' conference on Liberia. Donors will decide how much to continue investing in the country, just a few years after the end of its civil war. The medical aid group, Doctors Without Borders, says without sufficient investment, illness and disease will claim the lives of many Liberians. Liberia's healthcare system relies heavily on the international community. So says Tom Quinn, former head of mission in Liberia for Doctors Without Borders. "In terms of health, it's still heavily dependent on the international community. Something in the region of almost 80 percent of all of the healthcare positions in the country is provided through international organizations or faith-based organizations. It's a country that has possibly some of the worst health indicators in the world," he says.

Bush to Host Liberia's Sirleaf at White House Again – 100th Marks a Milestone

02/10/07 – Front Page Africa

U S. President George W. Bush will welcome Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the White House on Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

A statement from the White House says Sirleaf's visit will mark the Bush's 100th meeting with an African Head of State during his six years in office. "The visit will be an opportunity for the President to hear from President Johnson-Sirleaf on the progress being achieved in rebuilding the social, political, and economic life of Liberia," according to the White House statement.

International Clips on West Africa

Man found guilty of attempting to smuggle guns to Ivory Coast

Source: AP Alert - California Date: February 09, 2007 --SAN DIEGO_A federal jury found a man guilty today of trying to smuggle guns and ammunition to his native Ivory Coast. Yssouf Diabate (YOO'-soof DEE'-ah-baht-ay) faces up to ten years in prison and a one (m) million dollar fine for attempting to illegally export 38 semiautomatic guns and high-capacity magazines to the West African nation. A United Nations arms embargo currently bans arms shipments to the Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast needs cleanup as it faces "historic chance" for progress, top U.N.

Source: English General News, Date: February 09, 2007--UNITED NATIONS_The outgoing head of the U.N. mission in Ivory Coast said the war-divided nation has a "historic chance" for progress and urged the country to deal with its "toxic waste, both in politics and in the environment." Pierre Schori said Friday that after 22 resolutions and 20 presidential statements adopted by the Security Council on Ivory Coast in the last four years, the U.N. is still at "square one." "The gap between doctrine, resolutions and implementation in the field is enormous, and it's detrimental to the peace process," he said.

Local Media – Newspaper

Local Media – Star Radio (News culled from website today at 09:00 am)

President Sirleaf off to Partnership Conference

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and delegation left the country yesterday for Washington DC to attend the partnership forum on Liberia.
- President Sirleaf will open the forum focusing on Liberia's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, among other national Issues.
- The forum is being hosted by World Bank, United Nations, U.S. government, European Commission, IMF and the African Development Bank.

President Johnson-Sirleaf Promises Drastic Action for Passport Fraud

- Speaking when she officially launched the ECOWAS Passport, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said she would take straight measures against people engaged in passport fraud in the country.
- The President said passport fraud is still being noticed at the Foreign Ministry and stressed the need to improve the quality and security features in the Liberian Passport to make it internationally accepted.



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Thu Feb 8, 2007 8:28 AM GMT

IMF urges agreement to cancel Liberia massive debt

By Lesley Wroughton

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Liberia's foreign debt is unsustainable and urgent steps are need by the international community to help clear the country's massive debts, the International Monetary Fund's No. 2 official said on Wednesday. In a statement, John Lipsky, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said it was important that the donor community showed support for Liberia by agreeing on a financing package to help ease the country's foreign debt of some \$3.7 billion.

International Clips on West Africa

BBC Last Updated: Friday, 9 February 2007, 15:07 GMT

African Amputee Cup to Kick Off

Africa's first amputee football cup is kicking off in Sierra Leone on Friday, when the hosts meet Ghana. Each of the five teams will have six one-legged outfield players and a one-armed goalkeeper in the tournament, which is being sponsored by Fifa. Many of the players taking part lost limbs during long-running civil wars in their countries. Thousands of people had their arms or legs hacked off by rebels during Sierra Leone's conflict, which ended in 2002. The BBC's Piers Edwards in Freetown says amputees can often be seen playing football along the beach near the capital.

Local Media – Newspaper

Angry Residents Besiege Speaker Snowe Home

(The Informer, The Analyst, Daily Observer, Public Agenda, New Democrat, The News, Inquirer, and Varsity Pilot)

- Some residents of Electoral District #5 in Paynesville, Montserrado County, yesterday besieged the residence of House Speaker Edwin Snowe and prevented him from going to the Unity Conference Center (UCC) in Virginia they thought that it was “illegal” for him to attend session there as doing so would violate the ruling a Supreme Court ruling and the Constitution of Liberia.
- In an interview on Wednesday, Speaker Snowe assured the public that he and his colleagues who have been meeting at the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia would join the Majority bloc of Lawmakers that meet at the Unity Conference Center in Virginia to do the Liberian people work.

Ex-Soldiers Riot to Demand Benefits

(The Informer, The Analyst, Public Agenda, Democrat, The News, Inquirer, and Heritage)

- Hundreds of deactivated soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia yesterday blocked roads around the Paynesville-ELWA junction to protest what they termed “just” benefits owed them by the Government. The action disrupted normal business activities and the flow of traffic. The group’s spokesman, Col. Narrison Kanyan said that they blocked the streets to draw the attention of the Government and the international community to their plight.

Catholic Justice Commission Concern over Detention without Trial

(The Analyst, Inquirer and Heritage)

- In its Situation Report for 2006 which was released yesterday in Monrovia, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) said that over 300 persons were being held in various places of detention without due process of law.
- The Commission’s National Director, Cllr. Augustine Toe alleged that the Government violated the rights of the detainees through illegal imprisonment for periods ranging to more than two years.

Government Launches Probe into Plot against President Sirleaf

(Heritage)

- Speaking on her monthly “Conversation with the President” radio phone-in programme yesterday, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf announced that the State security was probing into reports that certain individuals were plotting against her, adding that the probe which will determine the veracity of the plot would be done with fairness and without malice against no one.

United States Renews Commitment to Reconstruction of Liberia

(The Informer, Daily Observer, The News, and Inquirer)

- In a U.S. Embassy statement issued in Monrovia yesterday, United States Ambassador Donald Booth stated that the upcoming partnership forum for Liberia in Washington D.C. would also attract U.S. private investments to the Country, signaling a renewed commitment to Liberia’s reconstruction and development on the part of the United States.

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

United States Ambassador Off to Partnership Forum for Liberia

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

So-called Deactivated Security Officers Riot for Unpaid Service Benefits

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Elections Commission Sets 20 February for Nimba County District Run-Off

- During an official declaration of the outcome of the Nimba County By-Election yesterday, National Elections Commission Chairman James Fromayan announced 20 February 2007 as the date set for the run-off as no candidate obtained an absolute majority to be declared a winner.
- Chairman Fromoyan named candidates Evans Koah of the Unity Party and Paul Tuazama of the Liberia Action Party to participate in the run-off.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Deputy Speaker Presides over Legislative Plenary Following Saga

- Correspondents said that the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tokpah Mulbah, yesterday presided over the House's Plenary for the first time, signaling an end to the leadership crises which have paralyzed the work of the Lawmakers for weeks now.
- Deputy Speaker Mulbah allegedly said that the reception at the Unity Conference Center - where he presided - provided an opportunity for the House to further discuss the differences, adding that there was no resolution on the agenda to replace Mr. Edwin Snowe as House Speaker, even though the body would discuss it if it came up.

(Also reported on ELBS and Star 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 Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Voice of America

Sunday, 11 February 2007

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-02-11-voa21.cfm>

Guinea Union Leaders Call New Strike to Press President's Departure

By Phuong Tran
Dakar

In Guinea's capital, people are stocking up on supplies in anticipation of a renewed strike, following violent protests that have left more than a dozen people dead. Union leaders and the opposition are calling for the president to go, saying his appointee as prime minister is too close an ally, and lacks the independence union leaders demanded. Phuong Tran reports from VOA's regional bureau in Dakar.



AP Photo

In the capital, Conakry, people are stocking up on supplies before what they fear will be another crippling shutdown, as union leaders announced the continuation of their strike starting Monday.

In the town of Kankan, east of the capital, thousands of youths shouted calls for President Lansansa Conte's death and declaring victory to the people.

Burned bus on a street in Conakry

Anger is mounting over the president's choice of Eugene Camara, a close ally in the president's Cabinet, to be prime minister. Union leaders had called off a crippling strike late last month after the

president agreed to fill the empty post of prime minister. Union leaders had demanded that the prime minister be given broad powers.

But union and opposition leaders say Mr. Camara is too cozy with the ailing president, and too weak to lift Guinea out of corruption and poverty.

Though union leaders called for the strike to resume, they also distanced themselves from what they call the youths' violent insurrection.

Yamadou Toure, secretary general of Guinea's chapter of the International Trade Union Confederation, says union leaders do not support the vandalism unfolding across the country, and want to resolve the crisis through a strike until Mr. Conte steps down.

In preparation for another long shutdown, residents in the capital walked around barricades to look for open stores to stock up on supplies.

Journalist Maseco Conde reported from Conakry's mostly empty streets, where he says fearful residents are preparing for the worst.

Conde says almost all the big markets and stores were shuttered because demonstrators had been stoning and vandalizing stores the day before.

He says small corner stores that were still open were quickly being emptied of food and basic supplies, as people stocked up on dry goods.

Five hundred kilometers south of the capital, in Nzerekore, debris from Saturday demonstrations littered streets.

International Federation of the Red Cross local-office director Mamady Cisse says more than 20,000 students clogged the streets on Saturday. Nzerekore is Mr. Camara's hometown.

BBC

Friday, 9 February 2007

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6346363.stm>

African amputees' cup kicks off

Africa's first amputee football cup has started in Sierra Leone, with the hosts beating Ghana 3-0 in the opening match.

Each of the five teams has six one-legged outfield players and a one-armed goalkeeper in the tournament, which is being sponsored by Fifa.

Many of the players taking part lost limbs during long-running civil wars in their countries.

Thousands of people had their arms or legs hacked off by rebels during Sierra Leone's conflict, which ended in 2002.

The BBC's Piers Edwards in Freetown says amputees can often be seen playing football along the beach near the capital.

Pride

Some 10,000 people watched the opening game between Sierra Leone and Ghana at the National Stadium in Freetown.

Sierra Leone coach Mose Mambu, whose brother lost a limb in the war, said before the match that he was confident his team would make the country proud.

I have confidence in my boys, although Nigeria has professional players

"Our two-legged people are failures long since, we want to bring football back to life through these amputees," he told the BBC's Network Africa programme.

Our correspondent says Sierra Leone has not been known for its footballing prowess and has only qualified for the African Nations Cup twice in its 50-year history.

"I have confidence in my boys, although Nigeria has professional players... we have the technical capability and we are the hosts," Mr Mambu said.

Sierra Leone had been scheduled to play Nigeria in the first game, but the Nigerian players are still on the road.

They have been driving all the way from Lagos and the trip will have taken them three days and three nights, our correspondent says.

The other teams taking part in the All-African Amputee Football Championship are Angola and Liberia.

Despite the end of Angola's long civil war, land-mines remain a serious problem there, with people going to their fields often losing limbs.

The winner of the competition will qualify for the Amputee World Football Championship taking place in Turkey later this year.

Sierra Leone came third in the 2005 World Cup.

Special Court Supplement Prosecution Outreach at International School, 9 February 2007





