

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



Rear view of Bintumani Hotel at Aberdeen

**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, 14 August 2006

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

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Salone Times  
Monday, 14 August 2006

# STUDENTS END SECOND MOOT COURT COMPETITION

*For the second edition of the Moot Court competition in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for students of Sierra Leone, the organiser, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in collaboration with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, was glad to notice an increase of the level of the candidates. "I was impressed by the level of IHL knowledge of the students and their ability to argue the case, compared to the first edition", explained Philippe Stoll, Communication delegate of the ICRC.*

An imaginary humanitarian crisis between two countries (Borla and Rubica) was presented to five teams of three students drawn from Fourah Bay College, Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, Njala University and Eastern Polytechnic of Kenema. The teams had to answer questions related to IHL concerning events occurring during that crisis. Is it lawful to attack a power station or a dam? Is an army allowed to use nuclear weapons? Are artillery attacks respecting the principals of proportionality or of distinction?

After extensive arguments and vigorous submissions by students coupled with legally minded questions from the members of the jury, Abdul K. Koroma (Jr), Abdul Rahman Kamara, Nelson Sheku Fofanah, students from the Mass Communication of Fourah Bay College emerged as the winning team. Momoh

Thomas Bokarie of Njala University (Freetown) received the award of the best speaker.

The winning team will follow a series of standard training sessions to meet the high requirements of the Pan African stage of the competition in Arusha, Tanzania in November 2006.

The winning team of last year and several Sierra Leonean IHL specialists will be involved in this training. The competition was followed by a large public including relatives of the competitors, students, IHL specialists and members of the Fourth

estate.

In collaboration with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, this Second Moot Court Competition was organised by the International Committee of Red Cross within the framework of its mandate to support the efforts of States in disseminating International Humanitarian Law.

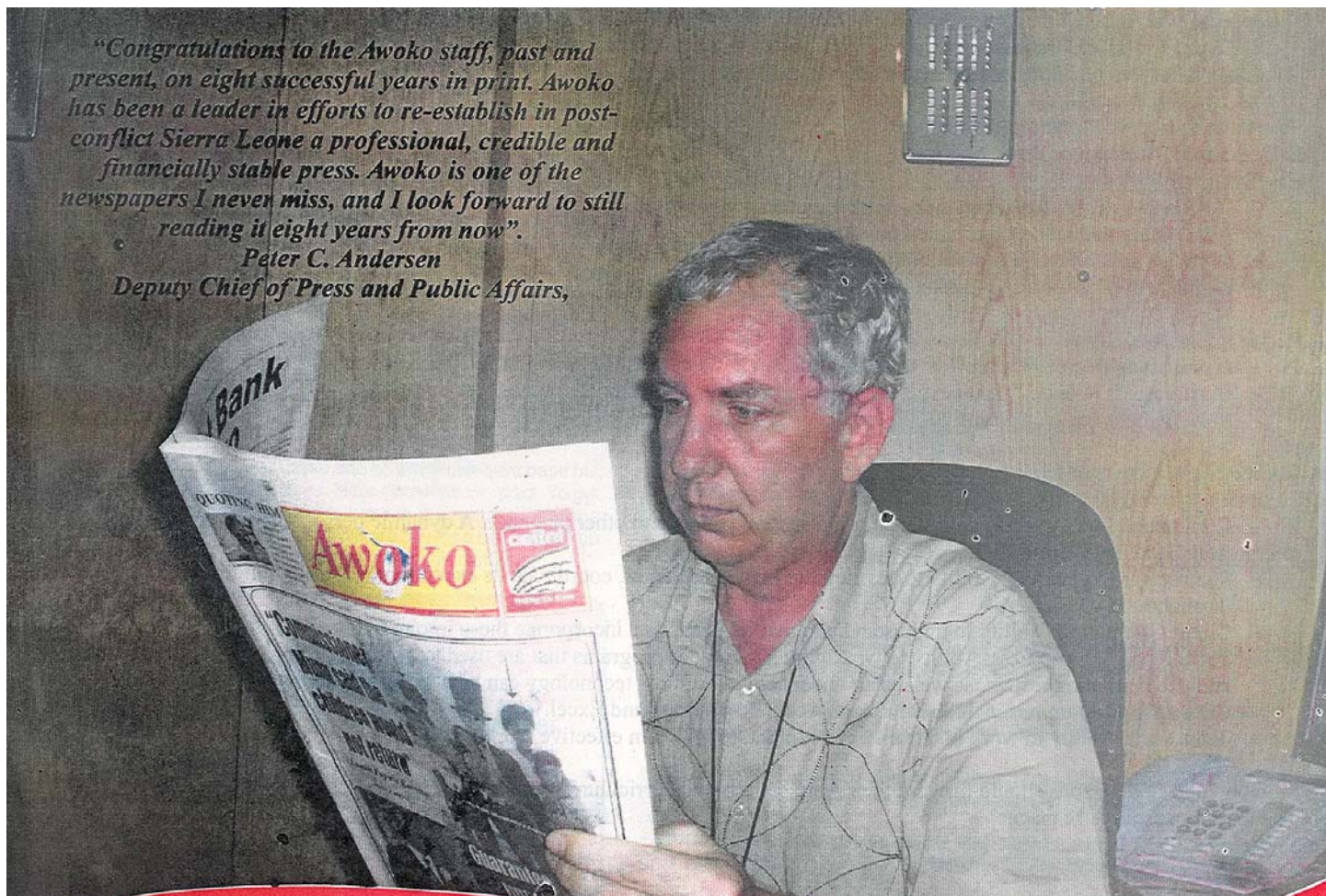
## Awoko

Monday, 14 August 2006

### Peter Andersen Featured as Part of Awoko's 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"Congratulations to the Awoko staff, past and present, on eight successful years in print. Awoko has been a leader in efforts to re-establish in post-conflict Sierra Leone a professional, credible and financially stable press. Awoko is one of the newspapers I never miss, and I look forward to still reading it eight years from now".*

*Peter C. Andersen  
Deputy Chief of Press and Public Affairs,*





## Accra Daily Mail

Monday, 14 August 2006

### **Ghana's Presidency at the United Nations Security Council: Matters arising Africa Can Solve Its Own Problems**

Africa is or should be able to solve its own problems, Ghana's Foreign Minister Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said Wednesday in New York. Former Liberian president Charles Taylor, currently in The Hague on charges of war crimes, should have been tried in Africa, according to Minister Nana, who noted that "it would be anomalous for Milosevic to have been tried in Freetown."

He added that the indictments by the Hague-based International Criminal Court of the top five officials of the Lord's Resistance Army rebels from Uganda should be put on hold pending peace and amnesty talks being held in Juba in South Sudan between the LRA and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni government.

Ghana, which holds the presidency of the UN Security Council this month, had scheduled a full day open session on West Africa peace consolidation. Ghanaian Foreign Minister Nana began by noting that while "events in the Middle East are important, there are other important events in other parts of the world.

I think it is just as well that a balance is established to show that the concerns of humanity are not just focused on one region but focused on all parts of the world that need consideration and discussion."

In responding to seven questions from Inner City Press at the conclusion of the afternoon session, ranging from Ivory Coast through Liberia to Uganda and Zimbabwe, Minister Nana sketched out an Afro-centric vision of justice and "peace on the Continent."

He expressed hope that diplomatic relations between the world community, specifically the United Kingdom, and the Robert Mugabe government in Zimbabwe can be improved.

Responding to concerns that Mr. Mugabe's appointed mediator and former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa is too close to Mugabe to be seen as independent, and that Kofi Annan erred in deferring to Mr. Mkapa, Minister Nana said, "I prefer to wait and see." He responded similarly when asked about the peace talks with the Lord's Resistance Army. "Talks fo peace? That has to be good, right? We must wait to see what happens."

Thursday Kofi Annan's spokesman was asked by Inner City Press to respond to these "wait and see" views. At the televised noon briefing, the spokesman said that the indictments are for the ICC to comment on, but that "the Secretary-General and the UN system do not condone impunity."

He stated that countries which are signatories to the ICC's Rome Statute, which included Uganda, must arrest and turn over indictees to the ICC in The Hague. More generally, he stated that "each post-war situation calls for a different solution, drawn up by governments themselves."

This appears to apply to the UN's silence on the offer of a colonel's position in the Congolese army to Peter Karim, who took seven UN peacekeepers hostage for over forty days. The

spokesman closed with a reference to the UN's new Peacebuilding Commission, which is focused in part on Burundi.

Turning to The Hague, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno-Ocampo has repeatedly reminded Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where LRA leaders Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti are reportedly staying, of their duties to enforce the ICC's arrest warrants for both men and three other LRA leaders.

From Wednesday's statements by Ghanaian minister Nana, it appears clear that Ghana, or its foreign minister at least, has doubts about the indictments. In the sphere of lobbying, some have begun to call for the ICC "to employ Article 53(4) of the Rome Statute, under which the Prosecutor can reconsider a decision at any time based on new facts or information."

Of Charles Taylor, Minister Nana complained that too many "are talking as if he has already been convicted."

In a separate interview Tuesday with the United Kingdom's permanent representative to the UN, Emyr Jones Parry, Inner City Press inquired into reports that the UK is promoting a draft security council resolution to allow the use of force and crossing of borders into the Congo to pursue the LRA and its leadership. Ambassador Jones Parry confirmed that the UK is drafting such a resolution.

On another matter before the Security Council, the request to remove the sanction on the trade in Liberian diamonds, Minister Nana noted that ECOWAS has called for a lifting of all sanctions with economic impacts, by implication including the diamond sanctions. Mr. Nana said, "if as we see a responsible and accountable government is beginning to put its feet down in Monrovia, there's every reason to assist that process by enabling them to have access to more and more money to do the work they need to do to consolidate peace in their country."

The Security Council is also actively seized of the situation in Ivory Coast in the run-up to the elections now scheduled for October 31. Inner City Press asked Minister Nana if he expects that deadline to be met.

Mr. Nana responded that "increasingly most of us have recognized that may not be feasible," but that the need to maintain momentum should "guide all actors in the Ivorian drama." Asked to respond to Laurent Gbagbo's recent statement that he will remain in power even if elections are further delayed, Minister Nana said he is "not in a position to comment on the Constitutional propriety either way."

During Wednesday's open Council session, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke of the competing needs for reconciliation and for strengthening the rule of law. Wednesday Inner City Press asked Mr. Annan's spokesman to prioritize these two. The spokesman's response noted that "the Secretary-General and the UN system do not condone impunity" and that "justice must be served without delay."

In the tinted glass building on Manhattan's East River bank, the statements are straight-forward. Out in zones of conflict, particularly out of the media's spotlight like the deal in East Congo with Peter Karim, the messages get lost. Nor, some note, has peace as yet resulted.

## The Inquirer (Monrovia)

Friday, 11 August 2006

### **No Security Threat in Lofa, Say UNMIL Commander**

By Morrison O.G. Sayon, Lofa County

The Pakistani Battalion-6 Commander of UNMIL in Lofa County, Maj. Hanssan Khan, has assured that there is no major security threat in the county.

Speaking to a team of journalists who toured several parts of Lofa yesterday, Maj. Khan said that with the presence of UNMIL troops in the county, the security situation is now stable.

He said the county is passing through the transitional phase, where the focus of UNMIL is gradually shifting to developmental projects.

Maj. Khan maintained that the unhindered development works by all the NGOs and government agencies to secure a good working environment suggests that there is no immediate security threat.

The UNMIL Commander's statement comes in the wake of recent reports that there are some 2,500 hunters from Nimba and other areas carrying out illegal hunting in Kolahun and Vahun Districts.

The news that strange men were in the forest gave birth to reoccurring rumors of regrouping rebels in Kolahun District.

The rumors were further strengthened when Lofa County Representative, Malian Jalieba, alleged that there are some 2,500 hunters in the county.

Reacting to the reports, Maj. Khan said in order to check the authenticity of the presence of the more than two thousand hunters, a series of meeting were held among UNMIL Pak-Batt-6, UNMIL Military Observers, UNMIL Civil Affairs Section and the hunters.

He said at the end of the meeting, it was discovered that only 69 hunters were working in the county contrary to the reports.

Maj. Khan noted that after concerted efforts, the hunters agreed to be transported back to Nimba County where they initially came from.

He stated that out of the 69 hunters, 37 were transported by UNMIL while some of them went back to work expressing their wish to stay in the area and go back to Nimba at a later date.

He said though there is a slight increase in incidents of domestic violence as large number of refugees are returning back to their homes, these incidents do not pose any security concern.

Some of the citizens who spoke to The INQUIRER in separate interviews said the security situation in their county is stable as UNMIL is on top of the security situation.

The citizens said the only problem in the county is the lack of local security in Vahun and Kolahun Districts. They said hunters presently in their districts are residents of the districts and are married with their families.

The District Commissioner of Kolahun Mr. Morris Tamba said only three police officers and three Immigration officers are in the district.

In Vahun District according to the District's Commissioner Mr. Michael Siafa, there is no police and Immigration officers in the district. He said UNMIL is not even deployed in Vahun, something which according to him is creating fear in the minds of the citizens.

The citizens are therefore appealing to the government of Liberia to deploy security men in their various districts so as to allay the fears in the minds of the citizens who are focused on their farming activities.



## BBC Online

Monday, 14 August 2006

### Uganda hopeful about rebel talks

Uganda says talks with the rebel Lord's Resistance Army can succeed despite the killing of LRA commander Raska Lukwiya by government soldiers on Saturday.

LRA spokesman Obonyo Olwen told the BBC the rebels would regard the death of Mr Lukwiya as an act of provocation, but said the peace process had to continue. Talks were due to resume on Monday with the question of rebel demands for a government ceasefire still unresolved.

Mr Lukwiya was wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

Ugandan army spokesman Cpt Paddy Ankunda told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme the LRA should return to the negotiating table so both sides could agree on a bilateral ceasefire.

"This shouldn't take long. We don't see any reason why we shouldn't sign a comprehensive ceasefire," he said.

Cpt Ankunda said the shooting of Mr Lukwiya should not be regarded as provocative, since there was no bilateral ceasefire in place.

"What the LRA declared is a unilateral ceasefire that does not have rules and regulations to govern it," he said.

"Our view is that we have to agree on a bilateral ceasefire."

### Mourning

The LRA would continue the talks, but will ask for three days to mourn Mr Lukwiya, AFP news agency reports.

"We have agreed to continue with the peace talks. We do not want to be blamed if the talks collapse, but we know the Ugandan government wants the talks to fail," LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny told AFP.

Peace talks between government negotiators and LRA representatives in southern Sudan were postponed at the weekend after the two sides failed to agree on an end to hostilities.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has set a 12 September deadline for thrashing out a final peace deal.

The LRA declared a unilateral truce last week but then refused to attend more talks until the government followed suit.



The LRA declared a unilateral ceasefire a week ago

The government has called for a comprehensive ceasefire, which includes a demand for the rebels to provide details of their forces and deployment.

### **Guarantee**

The government also wants a guarantee the LRA will not use the halt in fighting to reinforce its positions.

The talks, brokered by the government of south Sudan, had been considered the best chance of ending the 20-year-war in northern Uganda.

Mr Lukwiya was among five top members of the LRA, including the group's leader Joseph Kony, who are sought by the International Criminal Court to face charges including murder, rape and forcibly enlisting children.

Against the wishes of the ICC, Uganda has offered amnesty to LRA leaders in exchange for peace talks.

The LRA has abducted thousands of children and forced them to fight since the conflict in the north began two decades ago.

United Nations



Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

## **UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 August 2006**

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

### **International Clips on Liberia**

*There were no stories on Liberia in the major international media today.*

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

THE BIRMINGHAM POST Date: August 12, 2006

#### **Diamonds blind workers to gold**

Chief Aiah Lebbie weighs a small but heavy pile of metallic flakes glistening in the palm of his hand. It is gold, found by small-scale or artisanal diamond miners in the tailings of a diamond gravel pit in Lebbie's Nimikor chiefdom, in Sierra Leone's eastern province. Unaware of soaring gold prices on international markets and more concerned with looking for diamonds, miners sell these flakes to the chief for a just a few dollars. "People are so obsessed with diamonds in Sierra Leone, they overlook the value and abundance of this gold," chief Lebbie said. "They think in the short term, the quick fix of finding a single diamond, but really with gold the long-term potential is enormous." Sierra Leone is notorious for its "blood diamonds" which helped fuel a brutal 1991-2002 civil war, made famous by images of drugged up child soldiers and mutilated civilians.

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

#### **UNMIL Increases Patrol in Dangerous Suburb of Monrovia**

- UNMIL troops have stepped up patrols in Paynesville, a suburb of Monrovia, in response to the rising incidents of armed robbery in the area.
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss told a news conference yesterday that the mission had begun cordon and search operations in Paynesville to uncover weapons being used by criminals to cause public disorder.
- Mr. Doss also said that UNMIL would prevent any efforts by groups of gangs to seize economic assets making reference to the Guthrie Rubber plantation and other public plantations in the country, which have under the control of ex-combatants.
- He said UNMIL was making efforts to restore national management of those plantations.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **UN Envoy Calls For Law Reform Commission**

- Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss yesterday called the establishment of a law reform commission to review a number of legislations to strengthen the rule of law.
- Mr. Doss observed that individuals committing serious offences were being released in the name of bail, saying that unfortunately the Ministry of Justice and other law enforcement agencies have no choice but to abide by the provisions of the law.
- He said that law enforcers would not make much progress if those arrested and detained for serious crimes were seen back in the streets.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

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

**Illicit Tappers Attack Cocopa Rubber Plantation in Nimba**

- Reports said yesterday that a group of unknown armed men believed to be illicit tappers recently attacked the Cocopa Rubber Plantation in Nimba County leaving five persons seriously injured.
- According to the reports, state security personnel and UNMIL troops in the area have moved in to contain the situation.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*