

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

**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 of:**

Tuesday, 14 February 2006

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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## As Dr. Joe Demby ends testimony at Special Court

*By Tom E. Tommy & Saffia S. Kabbah*

The Former Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, ended his testimony yesterday at

the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

In his testimony, he revealed what appeared to be top secrets of the Kamajor movement of

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## As Dr. Joe Demby ends testimony at Special Court

*From front page*

which he was a senior member, and even went on to tender documents to justify his assertions.

On the activities of the National Coordination Committee (NCC), Dr. Demby said it was basically to provide logistical support for Civil Defence Force (CDF) fighters, adding that it was the Chief of Defence Staff then General Maxwell Khobe who was responsible for the supply of arms and ammunition to the fighters which comprised of CDF and ECOMOG. Dr. Demby further explained that after due consideration, it was decided in a meeting between him, late General Maxwell Khobe, Sheka Mansaray and Colonel Bourie Musa, that all the pro-government forces are brought under one umbrella. Such forces included ECOMOG, the Kamajors, the Civil Defence Unit (CDU) and the Organized Body of Hunters' Society (OBHS).

On the atrocities caused by the rebels from May 25<sup>th</sup> 1997 to February 1998, Dr. Demby stated that in the Kenema district, the rebels were in the habit of using the usual Kamajor uniforms as a strategy to have easy access to specific

towns and in the end cause untold havoc in such towns.

These Kamajor uniforms which were used by the 'sobels', he said, were manufactured and sold to the 'sobels' by members of the Kamajor movement, and went on to mention certain names M.B. Sesay, Jalloh, Koina, and Kpakima as some of the people engaged in what he referred to that "unscrupulous activity".

Dr. Demby also explained how his residence at No. 16 Dr. Demby Street in Kenema was burnt down by the 'sobels'.

"When the rebels attacked towns and villages, they usually assemble civilians in an open while they enter the houses in search of food, money and other valuable properties," he stated. He also stated that the rebels used to take people hostage and turn them into human shields against their opponents.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Frederick Carew, is expected to face the Trial Chamber of the Special Court today to argue on Chief Hinga Norman's Defence motions to subpoena the President, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah as a witness.

# Joe Demby explains role in CDF

By Joseph Turay

Testifying in the ongoing CDF trials last Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Trial Chamber No.1 of the Special Court, former Vice President- Dr. Albert Joe Demby has disclosed that the Kamajor group, which was he said was later named by President Kabbah as CDF was a "voluntary mass mobilization of men, women and children from all walks of life who took up defensive weapons such as knives, cutlasses, short guns etc to resist their enemies, particularly the RUF and AFRC rebel fighters who had been attacking their towns and villages." In all of these, the former VP says he played a very important role by contributing financially towards boosting the support of the Kamajor fighters who according to him were doing a "good job" in the defence of their various Chiefdoms. Demby told the Court that his involvement in the moment started way back in 1994 on to the time the "movement" became CDF while he was

deputising President Kabbah who appointed him. He added that Norman's involvement in the CDF came in later in 1996 after his (Demby) appointment as Vice President of Sierra Leone. Dr. Joe Demby disclosed that even when Norman and the President fled to Guinea, it was he who the President appointed to be organising the rest of the CDF transactions in Lungi where he had fled to seek refuge from the hands of the rebel fighters. Dr. Demby explained that while based in a Hotel in Lungi, he had meetings with Kamajor fighters who had come from 'Base Zero' to negotiate with the AFRC junta fighters. The witness also recalled the huge financial support, which his Government (SLPP) was giving to the Kamajor fighters, who he said were under the sole command responsibility of ECOMOG Forces headed by-General Maxwell Kobe. According to the former Vice President, while he was in Lungi, he gave useful advices to the fighters in addition to

providing oral reports to President Kabbah who was then in Guinea.

He recalled that President Kabbah visited Lungi in 1997 and praised the Kamajor fighters during the visit. Still on his role in the CDF before the 1997 coup, Dr. Demby further explained he held meetings with Senior Military Officers; noting that Norman's role in the restoration of democracy was crucial. The former VP acknowledged that even before the coup, Norman had in his presence together with Heads of the Army told President Kabbah about a possible coup.

Chief Norman Dr. Demby recalled made it clear during the meeting in the face of the Heads of the Army that they were planning a coup, while warning President Kabbah that if he (Kabbah) does not take any action to forestall the coup, he President Kabbah be the one to again signed the death warrant of those soldiers.

This according to Dr. Joe Demby came to pass when President Kabbah ordered the execution of the same soldiers.

# Demby Continues At Special Court



**DEMBY: testifies**

**FORMER VICE-president Dr Albert Joe Demby continued his testimony at the Special Court yesterday that the civil populace also developed their own defensive mechanisms called civil society movement.**

*by*

**SU THORONKA**

He said when they took over in 1998 he as chairman of the national co-ordinating committee met 9 March

**NORMAN: on trial**

1999 at the Lodge in which they asked the secretary of state to submit the list for rice and condiments.

Demby said provision was made on that list for the War

Council to be supplied but that upon inquiry it was discovered that while Chief Hinga Norman and others were at Base Zero there existed a war council which was responsible for dealing with all matters concerning the war and that they had different committees like appointments, logistics etc and thus the national co-ordinating committee resolved that the national war council which had been superseded by the NCC be abolished but some compensation was however paid in appre-

**Continued Page 4**

# Ngor Demby Testifies!

## From Front Page

ciation of their vital role played during the rebel war.

He said the NCO was an administrative body not a military component and that Chief Norman had no hands in the distribution of military equipment to fighters and that Mansaray, Khobe met with Col Buhari Musa for a coherent plan to bring the civil society onboard so as to accommodate them for food and logistics and that Mansaray now secretary to president was the national security adviser and a member of the NCO.

Demby said the civil society movement was transformed to OBHS meaning organised body of hunting society. That opinion amongst members within the NCO became divided on who constitutes western area civil defence and subsequently civil defence was defined as those hunters who were permanently resident in the western area and those coming from the provinces should be called operational civil defence.

It was agreed that all operational CDF should not be deployed without the consent of the chief-of-staff and that sending of operational CDF to Lungi should be discussed with Buhari Musa for necessary advice and the NCO re-

solved after a meeting on 3 May 1999 that all food supply for CDF in the provinces should be channelled through Ecomog for distribution.

He said many complaints were made against the CDF when he was NCC chairman, that rebels developed a tactic of manufacturing kamajor uniforms which they wore to commit many crimes as kamajors.

Demby said rebels who approached a town in kamajor uniform were regarded by the people as protectors but will then open fire, shoot at them and burn their houses and those who hide in their houses were set alight and that this was discovered when rebels were caught or killed in battle and that it was a common practice employed by the rebels.

The former veep named Mr Konneh in Koribondo, Jalloh and MB Sesay in Bo as those responsible for manufacturing kamajor outfit and that kamajors under certain circumstances also burnt houses and that his residence at 16 Dr Demby street in Kenema was burnt down by kamajors.

He said whenever rebels entered and captured a town, they either burn good houses or at best occupy them and that his residence was one of those occupied by rebels during the coup in May 97 until they fled with Ecomog's intervention and chased by the kamajors.

That kamajors were alleged to have locked up people up in their houses which they set alight, that rebels who attacked a village usually assemble civilians either in a barri or open space, search for hidden people in houses or look out for arms and ammunition, food and valuables and that if in the process an intervention team arrives, the rebels would drag the civilians and use them as human shields and sometime run with them to the bush.

He said while in the house, the rebels will tell the civilians to lie on the ground with their faces down and standing up means being caught in the cross-fire. If the intervention team succeeded in forcing the door open the rebels will run for cover while innocent civilians were mistakenly killed.

Demby said he also investigated the alleged killing of civilians at checkpoints and that after attacking a village or town, people moved to the nearest safe area and rebels will mingle with civilians. The rebels will dismantle their guns and hide them in their luggage while some will hang a loaded gun on their backs and wear raincoats to disguise the gun.

The former veep also said he investigated a report made to president Kabbah that kamajors seized houses belonging to civilians and the president instructed minister of Local Government, JB Dauda, retired civil servant

Lamin Sesay and himself to go to Kenema and investigate and see that people get back their property.

During intervention, he said houses that were empty were occupied by the intervention team and owners reclaimed them later. That another matter investigated had to do with the Temne mosque in Kenema that was closed.

He said when the rebels entered Kenema with their field commander Maskita, he presented himself to the temne tribal head as hail-

ing from Magburaka in the north and that he promised to protect him and others from the north and that the arms and ammunition they brought with them were stored in the mosque and it was from there that Maskita and his men armed themselves to launch an attack on the police station and later captured prominent people like BS Massaquoi who was killed by Maskita.

That his body was mutilated and the remains thrown into the bush and that this angered the people of Kenema and the intervention team was told on arrival and the arms and ammunition were removed from the mosque and closed.

event they heard anything they should just take it as nothing but that he warned against looting as he will send special money for the

men to buy food.

Earlier, Attorney-General and minister of Justice, Fred Carew told the court that the accused stand charged for treason when on 9 January, the accused persons prepared to overthrow the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone by unlawful means.

"My lord, we shall seek to show that the accused persons were prepared to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone to assassinate vice-president Solomon Berewa and that Alpha Bah endured the procurement of arms and ammunition from the arms store of the government of Sierra Leone.

On Golley's medical situation, AG Carew said he was reliably informed that Golley refused to be treated by the prison doctor and to be treated by a medical officer of his choice.

"Is there any law in Sierra Leone which gives a prisoner to go out of the prisons for medical treatment?" Ademosu queried. Carew said Golley should know that

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Exclusive

14 February 2006

# A.G Faces Special Court Today

*By Mohamed Kai*

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice Frederick Carew will today face the Special Court in what many have described as a legal battle to justify why he thinks the President; Alhaji Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, should not avail himself to testify in the matter involving the three Civil Defence Force indictees, Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Moinina Fofanah and Allieu Kondewai.

It would be recalled that the President was named by the CDF 1st accused Hinga Norman, as one of his witnesses in the ongoing trial.

Chief Norman last week he stated that he was at 'Base Zero' when President Kabbah provided him one satellite phone to facilitate constant communication between himself and the president.

Norman further revealed that at a meeting with President Kabbah in Conakry after the May 25 1997 coup, the president discussed with him plans to supply arms and ammunition, transport, food, cash as well as other logistical materials as support to Mr Norman's effort to recruit more Kamajohs for the purpose of reversing the coup.

In a related testimony, the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Komrabai Peter Penfold, told the court that he was in the United Kingdom when he received a telephone call from the Director of Sandline International, a mercenary outfit, Mr. Cizer, that he had struck a deal with President Kabbah for the supply of a consignment of arms and ammunitions which arrived in Lungi and was handed over to the late Major General Maxwell Khobe, who at the time was head of the Ecomog Task Force in Sierra Leone.

A senior counsel from the defence team who preferred anonymity intimated The Exclusive that the President needs to clarify some of the roles he played as pronounced by the witnesses of the Special Court.

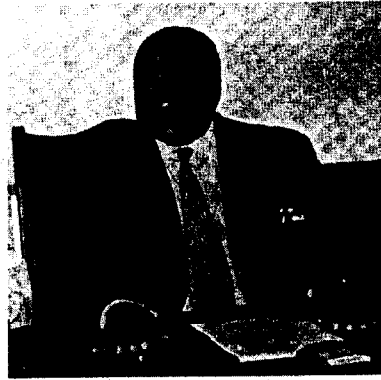
# Special Court gives AG last chance

*By Joseph Turay*

The presiding Judge at the ongoing trial of indicted members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) at the Special Court. Justice Pierre Boutet has requested the Attorney General (AG) and Minister of Justice- Alfred Carew to appear in Court tomorrow Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Making the oral request last Friday during Court

proceedings, Judge Boutet warned that his request for the Attorney General to make a submission on behalf of President Tejan Kabbah, would be the final chance for the AG; adding that the Court had for long now been waiting to see the AG in Court. This request made by the presiding Judge on behalf his colleague judges came as a result of a letter sent to the Court by AG Carew dated 10<sup>th</sup> February. The



*A.G Carew: to defend Pres. Kabbah at the Special Court*

Justice Minister in the letter expressed deep regret for his absence following the trial chamber's seven-day ultimatum. Carew in the letter which was read in Court by Judge Boutet, first apologised

for his absence; giving the reason that he was busy having meetings of security concerns with other senior Government officials. He also requested in the said letter that the Court give him a short, convenient time that he would by all means make his appearance. The

letter Special Court Judge Boutet says bears the full signature of the AG. The court latter in its ruling has instructed the Registrar to file in a letter to the Justice Minister; informing him of the date that has been set for him to argue out his points.



*National Constitution versus Special Court...*

# Attorney General defends Kabbah at Special Court today



*Kabbah... time will tell*

Section 46 (subsection 4) of the 1991 Constitutions of this country state among other things that "... while any person holds or performs the functions of the office of President, no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against him in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him either in his official or private capacity."

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Special Court sources say, will present an oral defence at the court today, citing the

above relevant and other sections both in the constitution and legal proceeding in the country, which appear to prohibit President Kabbah from appearing in person to testify at the court.

However, a Special Court source explained that the above and other relevant section of the constitution does not prevent the President from giving evidence in the court as a witness nor does it say he should not take the witness box.

The oral argument of Fred Carew would be witnessed by various international legal luminaries at the court, as well as the defence, who

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## Attorney General defends Kabbah at Special Court today

*FROM PAGE 1*

will also be present when the Attorney General present his oral legal defence

According to the deputy Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Peter Anderson, the office of the Attorney General had already advanced a legal written argument in defence of President Kabbah as to whether or not he should testify as a witness

in the Special Court.

The issue of the Special Court, it could be recalled, taking precedence over the local court has been an issue of debate among legal luminaries in the country.

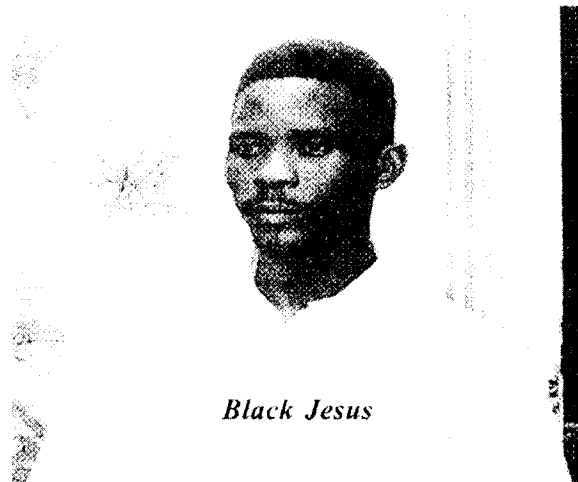
"The rules governing the administration of the Court make use of both local and international laws, therefore if the constitution, based on the argu-

ment that would be presented by the Attorney General prevent the president from testifying as a witness or brought in as an indictee, the international law makes no provision for that," argues a member of the judiciary.

It is not known whether or not Mr. Fred Carew will emerge victorious in his defence, considering his porous legal background many people are expressing doubts as to the success of the country's Attorney General.

# **Ex-Rebel Commander** **Makes Passionate Plea**

FORMER dreaded 'West Side' commander Abdul Kamara aka Black Jesus has made a passionate plea to both government and his former comrades in arms saying it is in the interest of lasting peace and stability in the country. *Contd. Page 4*



*Black Jesus*

# **Ex-Rebel Commander Makes Passionate Plea**

*From Front Page*

Speaking to this press in an exclusive interview Black Jesus asked government to take cognizance of the blanket amnesty it gave them by releasing all ex-combatants presently held in detention for assorted crimes including those indicted by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Admitting that they committed heinous crimes against their fellow countrymen during the decade-long civil war he said they were still looking up to government to absolutely fulfill its commitment under the Lome Peace Accord.

The former rebel commander, on behalf of his colleagues, expressed profound appreciation to government for the immense courage it displayed in bringing them

out of the bush and reintegrating them into society with the hope of making them useful and responsible citizens.

"We really want this to continue because what has been done cannot be undone. We committed serious crimes, yes, but our people have forgiven us so there should be no witch hunting because any grudge emanating from such action could filter down to generations. And this will not augur well for our hard earned peace," he noted. Black Jesus blasted the Special Court stating that the enormous amount of money poured on it could have yielded fabulous results if it were spent on reconstruction and reparation for war victims.

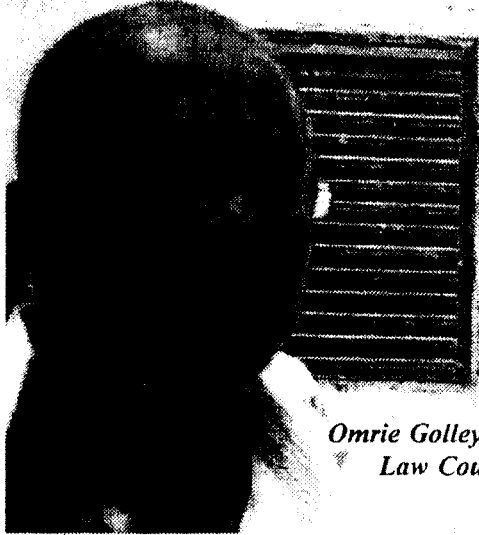
To ex-combatants across the country he said: "War will never take us any-

where. It is better to resolve our grievances through sustained dialogue other than violent means. We have had enough so there is no need destroying our country further because it is the only country we have. It is inhuman we started working hard to contribute meaningfully to nation building."

He specially appealed to authorities and all Sierra Leoneans to erase their negative perception of ex-combatants and warmly embrace them for national unity and development.

Meanwhile, a number of former ex-combatants who were facing various charges in court were acquitted and discharged last Thursday. They had been held at the Pademba Road Maximum Prison for over two years.

# Golley's Treason... **Plans to wipe-out SLPP Govt. exposed**



*Omrie Golley at the  
Law Court*

High Court No. 2 how he was hired by Omrie Golley to wipe-out the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) government.

He was testifying at the treason trial in which Omrie Golley and two others are arraigned. Mr. Bangura, who was a Battalion Commander in the Armed Forces Revolutionary

Council (AFRC) in 1997, identified the three accused persons.

Lead in evidence by the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Oladipo Vivian Robinson, the witness recalled that, "On 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005, I received a mobile call..." in which the voice identified

*Contd. Page 2*

*By Ophaniel Gooding*

**H**assan Bangura, aka Bomb Blast **f o r m e r** Sergeant. of the Sierra

Leone Army-SLA (now Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces - RSLAF), yesterday testified at the Freetown

# Plans to wipe-out SLPP Govt. exposed

Complaints against the CDF.

**From Front Page**  
himself as Omrie Golley. He added that after being showered with praises, the voice started criticizing the government.

The witness went on, "he [the voice] stated that he would get on to me through one Alpha." Adding that he [the voice] had very important issues for us to discuss which he [the voice] would not like to discuss over the phone.

Mr. Bangura explained that the next day around 11 am, he [the witness] received a mobile call from someone who identified himself as Alpha Bah. The witness stated Alpha requested for them to meet, "So we decided to meet at Kingharman Road".

At Kingharman Road, the witness added, "I directed him [Alpha] to my residence at Tengbeh Town.

The witness went on, "at my residence, Alpha [the second accused] made a call to Mr. Golley [the first accused] and handed it over to me".

Mr. Bangura stated that Mr. Golley stated that he had a mission for me, which he would not like to discuss over the phone. The witness went on, "I asked him what was the mission and he [the first accused] replied ... 'to wipe out the SLPP government... and admonished me not to worry as he [the first accused] would provide all the necessary support... I replied that that would not be any problem since I will carry it out."

Mr. Bangura went on

to testify that when the second accused left, he [the witness] called two of his best friends namely: Issa Mansaray and Foday Bah Marrah, who advised him to inform the authorities.

Bomb Blast went on that on the next day the second accused came to him and he [the second accused] made a call to Mr. Golley. The witness added, "I again talked to him and he [Mr. Golley] informed that he had sent \$ 1,000 which I should use to purchase weapons".

The witness went on, "He [Mr. Golley] told me that he is not in town but would send the amount through the second accused."

Mr. Bangura explained that he did receive Le.3 million from the second and third accused. Adding that he gave Le1 million to the second accused, the Le. 2 million he split between him and his friends.

The witness stated that Mr. Golley asked him when would the operation start. "I told him I would not carryout the operation since he [Mr. Golley] was not in town."

Mr. Golley reportedly informed him that he would arrive in Sierra Leone on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2006.

"After the second accused left I called the Asst. Deputy Defence Minister Capt. Kposowa and informed him that the former Revolutionary United Front (RUF) spokesman Omrie Golley had planed to overthrow the SLPP government and would be arriving on January 9<sup>th</sup> and when he [Mr. Golley] arrived I would inform him".

The witness continued, "the 9<sup>th</sup> was on a Monday, I received a call from the second accused, who

informed me that Mr. Golley had arrived and wished to meet with me and he [Mr. Golley] would be sending a vehicle to pick me up." After the second accused left, the witness continued, "I called Capt. Kposowa and informed him about what had transpired, he [Capt. Kposowa] advised me to go and meet with Mr. Golley".

The witness explained that during the evening hours of that day, a black 4 Runner jeep picked him up and took him to the Bintumani Hotel.

He explained that the second accused who was in the jeep took him to one of the hotel rooms "where I met the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> accused. The first accused stated that he is here to do the finial arrangement for the operation".

The witness continued, "I told him that the money sent was not enough and the arms store man has requested for \$6,000. He [Mr. Golley] told me that he wanted to meet with the arms store man and the Commandoes I had secured."

Mr. Golley, the witness disclosed, informed him that the mission would be in two folds. "The first is to assassinate Vice President Solomon Berewa and the second is to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone. Mr. Golley explained that the assassination of the Vice President would serve as a pretext, which would lay the foundation for the overthrow of the government".

The witness stated that Mr. Golley explained that it would seem as if the security apparatus were unable to provide security for the Vice President, while the other mission would pretend as if they were unaware of the first mission.

Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/newsbeat\\_2](http://www.cocorioko.com/newsbeat_2)

## **MOTION TO SUBPOENA PRESIDENT KABBAH : TOMORROW'S HEARING THE LAST --SAYS PRESIDING JUDGE BOUTET**

Monday February 13, 2006

The Presiding Judge of the Special Court Trial Chamber 1 , Hon. Justice Pierre Boutet, has said that Friday's postponement of the hearing into the motion to subpoena President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah will be the last. There will be no more postponements , he intimated.

The Judge said on Friday that since this was a very important matter, this was the last postponement. Justice Boutet stated that if the Attorney General, Frederick Carew does not attend tomorrow's hearing , the Special Court would go ahead without him. He did not however say whether he would render a decision in the absence of Mr. Carew.

The Sierra Leone Attorney General last Friday called for the hearing to be postponed .He expressed regrets for not being able to attend the hearing because of his involvement in serious national security matters together with his senior law officers . Whether the Attorney General was playing delaying tactics or not , it is not immediately known.

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah had been subpoenaed as a witness by Chief Sam Hinga Norman , the former Interior Minister and one-time Coordinator of the pro-government militia , the Civil Defence Force ( CDF ) who is on trial before the UN-Supported Special Court for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity

## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/news\\_page\\_6](http://www.cocorioko.com/news_page_6)

### **GOLLEY CONTACTED ME WITH PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT--Prosecution witness**

Monday February 13, 2006

A Prosecution witness today told the Treason trial in Freetown that former RUF Spokesman, Omrie Golley, contacted him with plans to overthrow the SLPP government . The witness said that Golley met him in December to solicit men to accomplish the purpose of staging a coup.

Mr. Golley is on trial for allegedly preparing and endeavouring with some other persons to overthrow the government by unlawful means . According to the prosecution , Golley and two others were charged with plotting between 1 December 2005 and 13 January 2006 to kill Vice President Solomon Berewa and overthrow the government.

The first prosecution witness today was Hassan Bangura , who described himself as a former member of the Sierra Leone military Forces .He was also a former AFRC/ RUF rebel known as BOMB BLAST The witness further told the court that Golley produced U.S \$ 1,000 as funds to undertake the project but he found out that they would need U.S \$6,000 to purchase arms and ammunition for the coup.

Golley was arrested on 12 January , 2006 along with two other men Mohamed Alpha Bah and David Kai-Tongi, who have also been arraigned before Magistrate Sam Margai at the Freetown Magistrate court.

According to the charge sheet, the men were alleged to have held meetings at the Bintumani Hotel and Kadi's Beach Bar, Lumley, where they "met, participated and deliberated together" and also "manifested their complicity in the plot to overthrow the government."

The charge sheet also alleged that Mohamed Alpha Bah "visited the arms store of the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces" for the purpose of "ascertaining the availability of arms and ammunition" in the store "

The trial continues tomorrow .

**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 Feb 2006**

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

**International Clips on Liberia****Liberian leader names Nigerian to head military**

MONROVIA, Feb 13, 2006 (AFP) - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia has appointed a Nigerian army general, Luka Yusuf, to head the west African country's armed forces.

In a weekend speech marking the country's defense forces day, Sirleaf, who is commander-in-chief of the army, said the nation emerging from 14 years of bitter civil war required external assistance to rebuild its military force. "I have accepted with immediate effect the appointment of Major General Yusuf of Nigeria and ... have sought and obtained bilateral assistance from the United States of America for the nomination of a senior US military officer from the US army to serve as senior military advisor to the government," she said. "Our country currently lacks the technical and tactical capacities and proficiency to provide for its own defence and national security," Sirleaf said.

"It was imperative to seek bilateral assistance from Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to nominate a capable and credible officer to serve in such capacity during the restructuring and formation of the AFL (Armed Forces of Liberia)." Ellen Sirleaf said the appointment of the Nigerian general was part of what she called the "matrix of options" available for the rebuilding of Liberia's military.

**Local Media – Newspapers****Nigerian Appointed Interim Commander of Liberian Army**

*(The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage, Liberian Express, National Chronicle and The Informer)*

- Delivering her Armed Forces Day address on Saturday, 11 February, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf appointed Nigerian Army General, Luka Nyeh Yusuf to serve as Command Officer-in-Charge during the restructuring and formation of the new Liberian army.

**President Names Supreme Court Bench, Makes more Nominations**

*(Daily Observer, The Inquirer, The Analyst, New Democrat, Heritage and Liberian Express)*

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has nominated a Professor of Law Johnnie Lewis as Liberia's Chief Justice and Emmanuel Wureh, Francis Korkpor, Gladys Johnson and former Justice Minister Kabineh Ja'neh as Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, an Executive Mansion statement said. The President also appointed National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Francis Johnson-Morris as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Liberia. She reconstituted the Commission and named NEC's Co-Chairman James Fromayan as Chairman with Jonathan Weedor, Jeanette Davidson, Rev. Moses Rhoulac, Elizabeth Boryenneh Nelson, Ansumana Kromah and David Menyongar as members of the Commission.



## **Opposition Political Party Opposes Two Presidential Nominees**

*(The News and The Inquirer)*

- A press statement issued in Monrovia said that the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has reacted to the nomination of National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris as Justice Minister and Attorney-General of Liberia, saying that she had expressed impartial sentiments during the elections and was unable to administer fair justice. The CDC also frowned at the nomination of James Fromayan as Chairman of NEC alleging that his performance on the Commission during the October elections questioned his ability to preside over free and fair elections. The party admonished the Senate to reject the two nominees.

## **President Sues Former Critic**

*(The News, The Inquirer and The Analyst)*

- The Caranda and Sons Law Chambers, legal counsel for Madame Johnson-Sirleaf, filed to the Civil Law Court during its December term a lawsuit of not less than US\$5 million to compensate their client in an action of libel against Mr. Thomas Woewiyou. Mr. Woewiyou allegedly wrote an open letter to Madame Johnson-Sirleaf during last year's electoral process, which her lawyers described as defamatory and injurious to Madame Johnson-Sirleaf's reputation.

## **China to Waive Liberia's Debt**

*(The News)*

- Speaking at a dinner hosted over the weekend in Monrovia by the Liberia Business Association, Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, Lin Songtian, said that China was ready to waive all of Liberia's outstanding debts to help the government push forward the process of national reconstruction.

## **Rights Activist Calls for Audit of Lawmakers**

*(The Analyst)*

- Liberian human rights activist Aloysius Toe recently called for inclusion in the pending audit of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) elected lawmakers who worked in the NTGL.

## **Sierra Leone to Shortly Supply Electricity to Liberia**

*(Heritage)*

- Sierra Leone's ambassador to Liberia Patrick Foyah told journalists in Monrovia over the weekend that following recent talks in Monrovia between Presidents Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf the Republic of China was concluding plans to construct a major dam at the Bekonkou Waterfall in Eastern Sierra Leone which will supply electricity to the Sierra Leone and Liberia.

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

### **President Makes New Nominations in Government**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **President Receives New Ghanaian Ambassador Today**

- According to an Executive Mansion press release, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will today receive the Letters of Credence of newly accredited Ghanaian Ambassador Maj.-Gen. Francis Adu-Amanfeh. The new Ghanaian Ambassador replaces former Ambassador Kwame Aboa-Awoa.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Lower House Speaker Confers with Key Human Rights Groups**

- In a press statement, the National Legislature Press Bureau said that the Speaker of the House of Representatives Edwin Snowe over the weekend met with Executive Directors of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and the Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy. The meeting was intended for acquaintance and relationship-building between the National Legislature and the human rights community.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **UNMIL Graduates Correctional Officers**

- The United Nations Mission in Liberia over the weekend graduated the first batch of 24 correctional officers including six women. The Ministry of Justice and the UNMIL's Corrections Advisory Unit conducted the training course.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

**ELBS RADIO** *(News monitored yesterday at 19:00 pm)*

### **Forest Workers Union Wants Government Review Agreement with Steel Company**

- In separate letters to President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, House Speaker Edwin Snowe and Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo, the Forestry and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) said it wants the government to review the concession agreement the former National Transitional Government of Liberia entered into with the Metal Steel Company because it is illegal.

### **Opposition Political Party Opposes Two Presidential Nominees**

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

### **Residents of Monrovia Suburb Embark on Road Project**

- Montserrado County Constituency #10 Representative Regina Teah said that residents of the Doe Community have embarked on a US\$1 million project to recondition roads in the area.

*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).*

## Court 'to force' Saddam to attend

**Saddam Hussein will again be forced to attend courtroom hearings, the chief prosecutor in the deposed Iraqi president's trial has told the BBC.**

The ex-leader and two prosecution witnesses disrupted the trial on Monday with claims that they had been brought to the courtroom against their will.

The last four prosecution witnesses are expected to appear in court on Tuesday.

Saddam Hussein and seven former aides are being tried over the killing of 148 Shia villagers in Dujail in 1982.

The defendants deny all the charges.

### 'Down with Bush'

The witnesses set to take the stand on Tuesday are also likely to be there against their will, the chief prosecutor told the BBC.

Jaafar al-Moussawi said it is unlikely the witnesses - all high-ranking former security officials - will be prepared to testify against their deposed chief.

**This is not a court, this is not a court, this is a game**  
Saddam Hussein

The prosecution believes, however, that their deep knowledge of the former Iraqi leader's administration could help clearly implicate him in the deaths in Dujail, says the BBC's Jon Braine in Baghdad.

Monday saw two former aides to Saddam Hussein refusing to testify against him at his trial in Baghdad.

Former head of the presidential office Ahmed Khudayir and ex-intelligence chief Hassan al-Obeidi both said they had been brought against their will.

Saddam Hussein said he too was forced to attend and shouted: "Down with Bush".

### Stormy exchange

At the start of Monday's three-hour session, Saddam Hussein continued a stormy exchange with the new chief judge, Raouf Abdul Rahman, whom he accuses of being biased.

The defendants had vowed not to appear in court until the return of their lawyers, who are calling for the removal of Judge Rahman and boycotting the proceedings.

The chief prosecutor had asked the chief judge to bring Saddam Hussein and his co-defendants to court by force if necessary.

On entering court, Saddam Hussein said: "They have forcibly brought me here."

His half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti scuffled with guards as he was brought in.

Both then continued to harangue the judge throughout the early proceedings, refusing orders to sit down and be quiet.

"This is not a court, this is a game," Saddam Hussein shouted.

Barzan Ibrahim sat on the floor with his back to the judge. The case has now been adjourned until Tuesday.

The new chief judge took over last month after the resignation of his predecessor Rizgar Amin and has adopted a more hardline approach to the defendants.

Saddam Hussein and some of his co-defendants failed to show up at the past few sessions.

Our correspondent says the prosecution was aware that the spectacle of an empty dock risked further undermining a trial that has repeatedly descended into farce.

Story from BBC NEWS:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle\\_east/4711188.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/middle_east/4711188.stm)

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