

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



PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

as at:

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Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Kenema records 300 human rights violations

*By Mohamed Vandi
in Kenema*

Chairman of the human rights commission in Kenema Tuesday told journalists that his organisation has recorded over 300 cases of human rights violations in the district from January to March

2009.

Titus Missalley said even though there is marked improvement in human rights abuses in the district, more campaign is needed to reach people living in the rural communities.

He stated that gender-

based violence, rape and sexual abuse are some of the serious human rights violations frequently recorded. He said to ensure effective and proper dissemination of information regarding their activities all human rights violations are sent

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Kenema records 300 human rights violations

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to various UN agencies and other rights groups across the world.

Missalley slammed the government for what he referred to as its failure to uphold promises made before coming to power to curb violence and other abuses.

"The failure of the government to address most of the citizens' needs is mostly responsible for the increase in human rights violence," Missalley claimed. He also charged the police for "the unprofessional manner they sometimes present cases in the courts".

"There is problem with the police prosecutors, who most often don't

present the correct statements of complainants and the accused, which is why some complainants end up losing cases easily," Missalley said, adding that government needs to provide the police with trained lawyers that can successfully prosecute cases in court.

He also urged the government to focus attention on food security, noting that a hungry man is always an angry man.

Speaking to Concord Times, Information and Communication minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo acknowledged that there is problem with youths perpetuating human rights violations but questioned the measures used by the

Kenema human rights commission chairman to determine the number of violations.

He said cognisant of the fact that young people need to be provided with jobs, the government in its wisdom thought it fit to set up the Youth Commission that will provide thousands of employment opportunities for the youths.

Kargbo said government detests all forms of violence and abuses and the fact that freedom of speech and assembly exist and elections conducted transparently, are all indicators that his government is serious about promoting democracy in the country.

FAMBUL TOK SUPPORTS KONO AND MOYAMBA WITH 56 BICYCLES

One of the core values of FAMBUL TOK project is to work with communities to find their own answers. FAMBUL TOK believes working with communities will help to a large extent reconcile people and also foster development in Sierra Leone.

Due to this fact, FAMBUL TOK recently supported Kono and Moyamba districts by supplying communities with bicycles to facilitate FAMBUL TOK activities.

Handing over 28 bicycles for the 14 chiefdoms to the Chairman, District Executive of FAMBUL TOK, Executive Director of Forum of Conscience who is also Chiefdom Speaker, Kamaa chiefdom extended thanks and appreciation to Forum of Conscience and Catalyst for Peace for empowering communities. Chief Raymond Komba said had it not been the timely intervention of FOC/Catalyst for Peace, work in Kono would have been very difficult.

He urged contact people to use the bicycles judiciously in carrying out FAMBUL TOK activities in the district.

One of the contact persons, Edith Jarfoi of Gorama Kono chiefdom assured that the bicycles would be used for their intended purposes.

In Moyamba, 28 bicycles were also presented to the Chairman, District Executive for FAMBULTOK for the use of all 14 chiefdoms in Moyamba.

Handing over the bicycles on behalf of FOC/Cata-

lyst for Peace, Acting Programme Manager, FAMBUL TOK, Solomon Yarjoh called on beneficiaries to use the bicycles for FAMBUL TOK activities. He stressed that the bicycles are not for personal use and therefore called on contact persons to cooperate with their communities.

He stated that the Executive Director, FOC, Mr. John Caulker and his partners, Catalyst for Peace are determined to ensure that commu-

nities reconcile, adding that reconciliation is a continuous process that needs time.

Receiving the bicycles, Chairman, Moyamba District Executive for FAMBUL TOK, Paramount Chief Alfred Ndomawa Banya of Kongbora chiefdom stated contact outreach persons are now empowered. He also extended thanks and appreciation to FOC/Catalyst for Peace for a job well done.

The bicycles have already been distributed.



UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 May 2009

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

International Clips on Liberia

Improve Coordination, Funding for Disaster Risk Reduction, Governments Urged

Nairobi, May 13, 2009 (UN Integrated Regional Information Networks/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- Better coordination between countries and aid agencies is necessary to improve preparedness and response to local and trans-boundary disasters, delegates at the second Africa meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), held in Nairobi, said.

They also challenged governments to improve funding for DRR activities.

"Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea are affected by similar hazards such as army worms and flooding, but each country has its own preparedness and response plans," said Mary Mye-Kamara, Sierra Leone's disaster management department director.

International Clips on West Africa

AfDB and Member Countries Ready to Tackle Vulture Funds

May 13, 2009 (African Development Bank/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The African Development Bank (AfDB) and 29 Regional Member Countries (RMCs) have, so far, signed an agreement to establish The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF), which will become fully operational by the end of June.

Out of the 29 countries, nine have deposited their instruments of ratification acceptance or approval of the Agreement with the Secretary-General of the African Development Bank, acting as the Provisional Depository. The AfDB at the 2009 Annual Meetings in Dakar, Senegal urged that further signatories to the Facility's agreement will facilitate the timely operationalization of its activities.

The countries that have signed the agreement include: Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali.

Local Media – Newspaper

Lawmakers ask Deputy Minister out of Chambers –Cite Improper Dress Code

(The News, The Informer, Daily Observer, National Chronicle, New Democrat)

- Deputy Finance Minister for Revenue, Mrs. Alfreda Tamba, caused uproar at the House of Representatives Tuesday when she was stopped from taking oath and asked out of the Chambers due to "improper dress code."
- She was in readiness to raise her hands when the Sergeant-At-Arms noticed the exposed parts of some of her body and approached the Deputy Speaker who was presiding.
- It was then ruled that the Minister should leave and return properly dressed.

- “Madam Minister, it has been brought to the attention of the Chair that you are not properly dressed. We ask that you come back in the next 30 minutes properly dressed,” said Deputy Speaker Togbah Mulbah.
- But Minister Tamba rejected the decision and said she would not return, insisting that she was properly dressed.
- However, some legislators disagreed with the dress code decision after the Minister’s departure, but the majority said the decision was right. Minister Tamba was at The House to explain the payment of real estate taxes for additional revenue

Three Police Officers Disrobed over stolen money

(Daily Observer)

- [sic] The Liberia National Police (LNP) says it has disrobed three of its officers that tried to conceal money seized from two kids and earlier stolen from the guardian of one of the children. George Bardue, spokesperson of the LNP said that some three police officers (names not given), while trying to check the total amount, tried to conceal some of the money but were caught in the act and arrested.

Teenage Motherhood Alarming

(New Democrat)

- [sic] At least one out of three girls ages 15-19, have had children, while more than one out of six girls between the same age group (15-19) give birth every year and almost one in seven of their infants die within a year, according to the Liberia Demographic Health Survey. The situation experts say results to a lot of complications in the lives of teenage mothers including loss of school year (s) or total withdrawal from school, reduced self esteem, reduced earning capacity as a result of truncation of education. These effects, experts say have social change implications that gradually reduce the potentials of girls maturing into adulthood. These were made known Sunday during the launch of a program designed to teach teenagers how to abstain from sex in order to prevent teenage pregnancy and avoid contacting HIV/Aids at the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The program dubbed "No Marriage, No Baby" is intended to support and assist determined youth attain their expressed goals spiritually, physically, financially and morally, says Pastor Wilson Nnanan of the Redeemed Church.

Press Union says reported attack on Journalist by President Pro-tempore Unacceptable

(The Inquirer, The Informer, Heritage)

- The Press Union of Liberia has termed as unacceptable the recent “aggression” on journalist Solomon Ware by President Pro-tempore Cletus Wotorson.
- Last week, journalists assigned at the Capitol accused Senator Wotorson of attacking their colleague and announced a news block out on the pro-temp.
- The Press Union said after conducting an investigation into the incident it was established that the Pro-temp acted improperly.
- The Union said information gathered from the public and support by the video footage contradicts the Senator’s contention that it was the reporter who pushed him.

Local Media – Star Radio (News monitored today at 09:00 am)

EU Gives Over US\$12M for Community Development

- The European Union (EU) said it has approved 160 community based projects for Liberia.
- Speaking during the turnover of six projects in Lofa County, the EU Project Manager for Infrastructure, Paul Smith said the cost of the projects is valued at €8.5 million a little over US\$12 million.
- He said the EU has signed an agreement with the World Bank for the projects to be implemented by the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE).
- He said the three-year project include schools, clinic, market buildings and bridges.

(Also reported on Truth F.M., Sky F.M. and ELBC)

House Tables Discussion on 2009/2010 Draft Budget

- The House of Representatives has tabled discussions into the 2009/2010 draft budget submitted by the Executive for approval.
- The House said it would not debate the draft budget unless 64 copies are made to it by the Executive.
- Meanwhile, the Civil Servants Association of Liberia has called on the National Legislature to reject the proposed budget statement from the Executive citing the need for further increment in civil servants salaries.
- The Association wants the Legislature to ensure that Civil Servants are paid the minimum of US\$100 per month as oppose to the US\$80 proposed by the Executive.

(Also reported on Truth F.M., Sky F.M. and ELBC)

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Nigerian “Businessman” Wants Money Back

- [Sic:] Speaking in a telephone interview from Nigeria, Valentine Ayika whose US\$508,200 was confiscated by government in 2006 appealed to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to intervene and ensure that he gets his money back.
- He denied the money was gotten illegally saying it was acquired through a loan transaction which he has not been able to pay back up to present.
- The Nigerian “businessman” however admitted not declaring the money upon entry into Liberia something Government said was one of the reasons for seizing the money.
- Meanwhile, one of the lawyers claiming to be the attorney of the Nigerian has said he is not aware of a lawsuit instituted against Government by another lawyer in favour of Valentine Ayika.

Justice Minister Says Efforts Are Underway to Build Capacity of Prisoners

- Speaking at UNMIL weekly press briefing today, Justice Minister Philip Banks said government is making immense efforts to build the capacity of inmates and improve the standards of various correction centers across the country.
- Minister Banks said Government has put in place a monitoring system at the Monrovia Central Prison and provided a data base to also indentify prisoners at various centers.
- He disclosed that Government recently launched a pilot agriculture project at the National Correction Palace in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, to improve the living standard at the prison.

UN News

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

UN chief presents funds from benefit football match for children in conflict



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) hands over cheque to the NGO Play31 to help children through sports

13 May 2009 – Weeks after the final whistle had blown on a United Nations fundraising football match, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today scored the winning goal by passing a cheque for \$11,000 to children who have suffered the ravages of war in Sierra Leone.

Last month Ambassadors Heraldo Muñoz of Chile and Christian Wenaweser of Liechtenstein led out two teams of UN diplomats, who kitted up to raise money and awareness for an organization founded on the basis of Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that every child has the right to play.

Play31 provides children in countries torn apart by armed conflict with the basic necessity for play – a football – in the belief that the game has the unifying power to create peaceful societies.

The Secretary-General commended Jakob Lund, who founded Play31, at an event at UN Headquarters in New York where he handed over the funds raised, noting that there have been many examples where “soccer and sports in general have created a very important atmosphere [which is] politically conducive to reconciliation.”

He commented that it was appropriate that he played defense, and sometimes goalie, in the match since, as Secretary-General, one of his main jobs is “to defend defenceless people and speak for the voiceless people.”

Jurist

Thursday, 14 May 2009

The Spirit of Nuremberg Lives! Remembering Henry King

JURIST Contributing Editor David Crane of Syracuse University College of Law, former Chief Prosecutor for the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone, says that the scope and vitality of today's international criminal law is a lasting testament to the life and work of the late Henry T. King, Jr., the youngest American prosecutor at the 1945-46 Nuremberg trials. King, himself a past contributor to JURIST's *Forum*, died May 9 at the age of 89...



The spirit of Nuremberg lives! My friend and mentor thumped the table vigorously despite his age, his eyes blazing fiercely as he gazed into the audience at the end of his keynote speech at the First Annual International Humanitarian Law Dialogs at the Chautauqua Institution in August of 2007. The audience rose as one, giving him a standing ovation, many with tears in their eyes, including me.

I had introduced Henry King prior to this momentous address. Before me were all of the living current and former Chief Prosecutors of the world's international tribunals and courts. We are a small fraternity of just a dozen or so men and women who have taken up the call of Henry King and Robert H. Jackson who, among many other courageous souls there in Nuremberg in 1945-46, began a subtle process of international criminal justice which has blossomed into the legal mechanism by which mankind now faces down impunity. Known as the Nuremberg Principles, these guidelines allowed for the steady development of jurisprudence that is international criminal law today.

As I stated in that introduction, Henry King was an American lawyer, a professional who stepped forward throughout his long legal career to seek justice, to represent clients zealously before the law, and to teach generations of new lawyers about the law's majesty. I recall Henry telling me what a chance he took when he left his law firm in New York as a twenty-six year old associate and recent Yale Law School graduate, to travel to Germany and into the unknown challenges to be faced regarding a new idea, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, mankind's first true attempt to hold accountable those who committed mass atrocity.

Many counseled Henry not to go, that he would forever damage his prospects for a successful legal career. But off he went. For many months he worked quietly behind the scenes, developing the cases that would see the conviction of the top Nazi war criminals for international crimes, an historic first. This was the measure of the man and the beginning of his legacy. After returning he would successfully practice law for many decades, as a commercial lawyer, professor, and as a leader in the American Bar Association.

Years ago, chatting over dinner, Henry talked about how hard it was at Nuremberg, not only to do the

legal work, but just to get up and go to the Palace of Justice day in and day out to face the factual horrors of the Holocaust. Nuremberg was largely destroyed, so the amenities of living were spare if not missing all together. At the time I was the Chief Prosecutor for the international war crimes tribunal in West Africa, called the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and I was struggling to handle the horrors of that atrocity and maintain a focus. I asked Henry how he handled the day-to-day grind of developing a legal case with so much death and destruction around. He put his hand on my arm, looked me in the eyes, and with a slight smile told me, “around two scotches” before dinner. We both laughed, relaxed, and with those words I was able to go back and with the mirth and wisdom of my friend ringing in my ears, face down the beast of impunity there in West Africa. What he meant in those words was for me to hold on to your humanity, to your family, to your friends. The business of international criminal law is physically and emotionally draining, only through the love of family, friends, and life can one get through the horror.

Henry King’s ability to say the right words - words that inspired, words that mattered - were legend. Later in his life, as a professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, students would flock to his classes to listen, learn, and to understand that only through the law is mankind anchored and centered. I have chatted with those students. When when you mention Henry King their eyes glitter with the excitement of having learned from a true giant in our profession. What a rare privilege it must have been for them.

Henry King’s legacy lives on in all of us - American lawyers - who daily use the law as a tool to make our society better. For those of us who work in the field of international criminal law, Henry’s legacy, the Nuremberg legacy, is reflected in the *ad hoc* tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, and the International Criminal Court, the world’s permanent tribute to all those brave men and women, like Henry T. King, Jr. who toiled bravely among the ruins at Nuremberg to seek justice. Henry, you were right — the spirit of Nuremberg lives!

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Farewell my dear friend, and thank you for your life and example.

David M. Crane is a professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and founding Chief Prosecutor for the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (2002-2005).