

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

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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

Monday, November 14, 2005

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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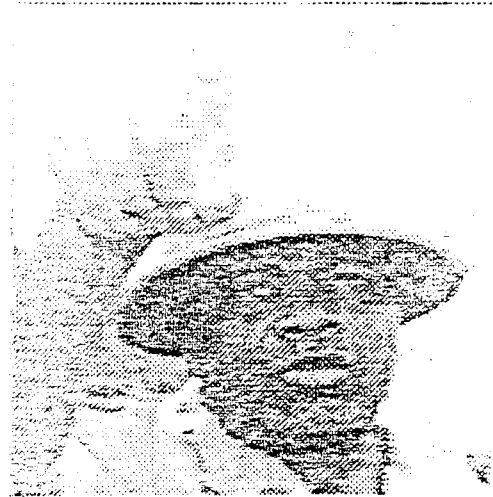
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# UNMIL to arrest Charles Taylor

*By Sarah Kamara*

The United Nations Security Council on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006, passed an important resolution giving the UN peacekeeping force in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), authority to apprehend and detain the former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor if he returns to Liberia. It was also given the mandate by the same resolution to



*Charles Taylor: Coming soon transfer or facilitate his transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.*

According to Elise Keppler, Counsel for the

## *From front page*

International Justice Programme, Human Rights Watch. It is a welcome idea as this has been of concern to the organization and several others around the world including Sierra Leoneans. Keppler maintains that it will be good for the international justice system as Taylor's role in the perpetuation of the war against defenseless Sierra Leoneans was very key. Commenting further on the resolution Keppler said, "With Friday's resolution authorizing the UN Peace Keeping Force in Liberia to arrest Charles Taylor and transfer him to the Special Court for Sierra Leone if he returns to

Liberia, the circle is tightening. The Security Council has sent a strong signal to the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo that Taylor must face trial at the Special Court where he is indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. We expect President Obasanjo to get the message," she noted. When contacted on the issue, the Deputy Chief of Information and Public Affairs at the Special Court for Sierra Leone Peter Andersen, made the following comments: "It is a welcome idea. Our position has always been the same that Charles Taylor must face the Special Court. There are sufficient international treaties which qualify his return to the court for trial. We

want him returned by who so ever is protecting him to come and answer to the numerous war crime charges and crimes against humanity levied against him," he said. It could be recalled that for a long time now the UN Security Council had been deliberating on this proposal which last Friday culminated in this resolution. The issue of Taylor's return to Liberia after the country's first democratic elections in several years had been hotly debated and it gained centre-stage during the election campaigns. His return to Liberia is considered as a threat to the security of not only Liberia, but the entire Mano River Union.

# Taylor faces UN arrest

The West African regional group Ecowas has urged the losers to accept the result with dignity and grace.

However, Mr Weah reiterated his claims of fraud.

"As far as I am concerned there will be a re-run and I am going to pursue that," he told the BBC.

But the candidate said he was telling his supporters to be calm, "because we need to be peaceful".

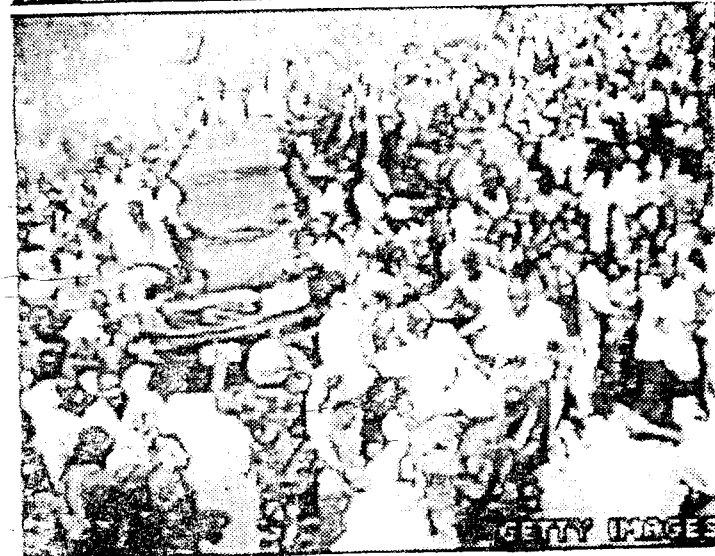
Despite his appeals, at least one person was injured when UN forces fired tear gas to disperse protesters near the US embassy.

They acted after some of Mr Weah's supporters broke through a line of Liberian riot police trying to hold them back from the embassy, Reuters news agency reports.

The Weah camp is supported by most of the 100,000 ex-combatants from Liberia's 14-year civil war.

Rejected

Mr Weah has said Ms Johnson-Sirleaf should not claim victory while his complaint to the



Supreme Court is being investigated.

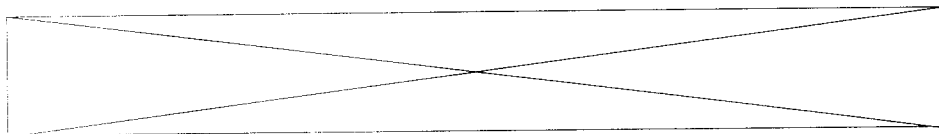
On Friday, Weah campaign officials filed a petition with the Supreme Court to halt vote counting.

But the court rejected the appeal and referred them to the National Elections Commission.

Ms Johnson-Sirleaf rejected claims of vote-rigging as absurd.

She told the BBC she hoped Mr Weah would join her new government after 'getting over his disappointment'.

The election was held after the civil war ended two years ago.



## Special Court Holds Seminar to Train Investigators

**Concord Times** (Freetown)

NEWS

November 11, 2005

Posted to the web November 11, 2005

Freetown

The Special Court's Defence Office opened a one-day seminar Wednesday aimed at preparing Defence investigators for the imminent opening of the Defence case in two of the Court's three ongoing trials, a release from the UN backed court states.

The session was taped by the Public Affairs Office for the use of foreign-based counsel not currently in Sierra Leone.

Nine Defence investigators working on behalf of accused from the CDF, RUF and AFRC trials, along with Defence Office staff, attended Wednesday's seminar.

The training covered logistical and other issues pertaining to all three trials, with matters concerning witnesses high on the agenda. The investigators heard from representatives of the Court's Witness and Victims Support Section and UNICEF.

The seminar was opened by Principal Defender Vincent O. Nmehielle, who told participants that the Defence had to do more than pay lip service to the ideal of equality of arms.

"We must be seen to seriously consider the issues surrounding the trial rights of the accused person, or else human rights itself would be on trial," Nmehielle said.

Nmehielle told the investigators to "commit to the idea that every accused person is innocent until proven guilty." "You would definitely therefore work to the best of your ability having that conviction in your mind in terms of putting their case forward," he added.

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# To Protect or to Disclose: An Assessment of Witness Protection in Criminal Trials

By Ibrahim Jaffer

Witnesses who testify in person in criminal trials often face threats and reprisals, especially when some are victims of the atrocities perpetrated. Sometimes, testifying in court involves the horrors they have gone through. They are harassed, their families, from the accused, the family or friends, and even the community they come from. This fear often dissuades them from coming forth to testify.

At the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), some witnesses come to court under protective shields to testify. Rule 34(A) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the SCSL (the Rules) ensures that neither of the parties to the trial may apply to a judge of the Trial Chamber or Trial Chamber to order the non-disclosure of a victim or witness who may be in danger or at risk, until the Judge or Chamber decides otherwise.<sup>1</sup> That notwithstanding, Article 17(A) of the Statute of SCSL gives the accused the right to examine the witnesses against him/her and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his/her behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him/her.<sup>2</sup> Where do both interests meet? Which of the two interests should have primacy over the other? To uphold the right of the accused to fair trial and public hearing, or to prevent intimidation and reprisal against the witness at the expense of the right of the accused? This article therefore attempts to answer these questions by examining witness protection at the SCSL, the safety and security of the witnesses before, during and after trials and how best to achieve such goals without inhibiting the rights of the accused to a fair and public trial. The article ends by exploring possible ways of replicating similar programmes in our municipal courts.

## *Witness Protection at the Special Court for Sierra Leone*

From its inception, the SCSL established a Victim and Witness Unit (VWSU) pursuant to Rule 34(A) of the

Rules, commonly referred to as 'Victims and Witness Support Unit (VWSU). Their task is to protect victims and witnesses who will testify before the Court, "...and others who are at risk on account of testimony given by such witnesses, in accordance with their particular needs and circumstances'. Unlike other international criminal tribunals, the establishment of the VWSU is by virtue of the SCSL Statute.<sup>3</sup> The inclusion of this Unit in the Statute signifies its cardinal importance to the whole trial process. The Unit is larger and has more staff compared to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda/Yugoslavia (ICTR/ICTY). The Unit provides both physical security and psychosocial support. It extends similar programmes to family members of a witness whose testimony is likely to jeopardise their lives.

As aforementioned, witness protection normally assumes three dimensions: protection before, during and after trials. Whilst the SCSLMP acknowledges the importance of all three stages, this article focuses mainly on the trial stage, as it concerns the rights of the accused.

During trial stage, the VWSU gives courtroom orientation to witnesses to help them overcome fright and enhance confidence. A witness that does not require special protection normally gives testimony in the full view of all sides to the trial including the public gallery. However, in the case of a protected witness, he comes to court with a pseudonym and sits in a shield to protect his identity at least from the public. In addition, the court sometimes distorts his voice so that the public gallery would not identify the witness speaking. If the witness is a minor or a child below 18 years, the video-link method is used. The Unit will show the screen only to members of the Internal Courtroom and not to the public gallery. Furthermore, if the witness testifying is likely to say certain names that will eventually disclose his identity or the testimony is sensitive to national security, the Court will go into "Closed Session".<sup>4</sup>

Page 2

That is, with certain infringements on the rights of the accused to a fair and public hearing. As already stated, Article 17(4) of the Statute of SCSL affirms the rights of the accused which states that the witness needs to give testimony in person so that the accused should be able to cross-examine him. The SCSL therefore places the responsibility for ensuring that both interests are satisfied. Even though Hinga Norman had commented that the continuous hearing of testimony in closed sessions undermines the rights of the accused to fair and public trial, the concession both sides have made has collectively helped find a middle ground. As it is stated in Rule 75(A) of the Rules, protective measures should only be applied if provided that the measures are consistent with the rights of the accused.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, balancing of witness protection against that of the rights of the accused to a fair and public trial has been a point of contention in the CDF Trial at the SCSL.

Furthermore, there have been occasions in which the people have tried to disclose the identity of the witness. For instance during a Cross-Examination, Hinga Norman called an undisclosed witness (my son). This may send signals to the public that such a witness was a beneficiary to the accused. Also in March 2005, the Court charged four women for contempt of court, following their attack on one witness. They were relatives of the indicted AFRC members (Court 62324 and 95). Although the Court at the end of the trials, tempered justice with mercy by giving them suspended sentences when they pleaded guilty, it was able to send a strong warning to the public that any attempt at disclosing the identity of witnesses will be punishable by law.

#### *The Situation Before the National Courts*

Public hearing is a hallmark in the justice system of Sierra Leone. However, the national courts do not have any proper form of witness protection in criminal proceedings. In the 1980s, the court attempted some form of witness protection, albeit on *ad hoc* basis in high profile criminal trials. For instance, during the treason trials of C.M.T Kalkai, Francis Minah and

Others, in 1987, the prosecution ensured protection for its 'principal witnesses'. Since then, no programme has been instituted to effect any form of witness protection, though some witnesses during the 1998 AFRC Court requested for it. Instead, the courts have been relying on the citation - 'contempt of court' to ward off any threat against witnesses.

There has indeed been some wariness among the general population as to the witness protection measures before the SCSL. The fear that potential witnesses will not come forward and openly present their names to the public may make people feel that they are hiding something, and that they are not telling the truth. According to this argument, if they were telling the truth they would have no problem with openly disclosing their names. This argument is based on false presumptions and fails to take into account a justified fear of reprisal, as has been borne out in the experience of the SCSL, where it has been suggested that witnesses have indeed been approached and threatened.

Why then should there not be a Witness Protection Unit in our municipal courts? As we are in a transition process yearning for a rapid advancement towards a proper judicial system, there is a dire need for the government to see how best to institute a unit for the protection of witnesses in criminal trials. Given that the SCSL is still around, and the Sierra Leone Judiciary has given verdict on the constitutionality of the Special Court, the SLCMP suggests that both institutions should take advantage of the situation to collaborate and exchange ideas. In fact, the SLCMP suggest that the VWSU should not be an exception to the legacies the SCSL will leave with the people of Sierra Leone, and that steps should be taken to ensure that such a Unit is established forthwith.

<sup>1</sup> See 16(4) of the Statute

<sup>2</sup> See Rules 75 and 76 of the Rules

<sup>3</sup> Hinga Norman is the first accused in the Civil Defense Forces case

<sup>4</sup> See Berkeley Report of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004

<sup>5</sup> See Issa, Sesay and Others v the President of the Special Court and Others, Supreme Court No. 1 October 2005

11/11/2005



## Security Council

### SC/8554

Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

Security Council  
5304<sup>th</sup> Meeting (PM)

#### **SECURITY COUNCIL INCLUDES FORMER PRESIDENT'S APPREHENSION, TRANSFER**

#### **TO SPECIAL COURT IN MANDATE OF UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN LIBERIA**

#### **Adopting Resolution 1638 (2005), Council Expresses Appreciation for Nigeria 's Contribution to Restoring Peace, Stability**

The Security Council, determining that the return of former President Charles Taylor to Liberia would constitute an impediment to that country's stability and a threat to its peace, decided this morning to include in the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) the former leader's apprehension, detention and transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in the event of his return to Liberia.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1638 (2005) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council decided also that, as a part of its additional mandate, UNMIL should, in transferring or facilitating the former President's transfer to the Special Court, keep the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed.

Stressing that the former President remained under indictment by the Court, and affirming Liberia's political independence, the Council also expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo for his country's contribution to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African subregion, acknowledging also that Nigeria had acted with broad international support in its decision to provide for Mr. Taylor's temporary stay there.

Henrique R. Valle ( Brazil), speaking after the vote, explained that he had joined the consensus to reflect his country's firm commitment to the settlement of all conflicts in Africa. However, the Brazilian delegation believed that the promotion of the rule of law should be exercised by national institutions, with international assistance if requested. Adherence to the rule of law should be based on the strict observance of a country's domestic framework, as well as international law.

Also speaking after the vote, Martin Garcia Moritan ( Argentina) said he had joined the consensus on the understanding that post-conflict peacebuilding in Liberia must be conducted with respect for law and justice. Impunity sent a bad signal for the future and undermined a genuine process of national reconciliation. For that reason, Argentina supported the Mission's mandate, with full respect for Liberia's sovereignty and legal order, and in coordination with its Government, to apprehend Mr. Taylor and facilitate his transfer to the Special Court.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone in 2002 to try serious violations of international humanitarian law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed since 1996, at the height of that country's 1991-2002 civil war. Mr. Taylor and 11 others indicted by the Court are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. All but two of the indictees, including Mr. Taylor, are in the custody of the Special Court in Freetown.

The meeting began at 1:11 p.m. and adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Council Resolution



The full text of resolution 1638 (2005) reads, as follows:

*"The Security Council,*

*"Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning Liberia, Sierra Leone, and West Africa,*

*"Affirming its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Liberia,*

*"Expressing its appreciation to Nigeria and its President, Olusegun Obasanjo, for their contributions to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African subregion, and acknowledging that Nigeria acted with broad international support when it decided to provide for the temporary stay of former President Charles Taylor in Nigeria,*

*"Stressing that former President Taylor remains under indictment by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and determining that his return to Liberia would constitute an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and to international peace and security in the region,*

*"Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*"1. Decides that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) shall include the following additional element: to apprehend and detain former President Charles Taylor in the event of a return to Liberia and to transfer him or facilitate his transfer to Sierra Leone for prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to keep the Liberian Government, the Sierra Leonean Government and the Council fully informed;*


*"2. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter."*

\* \* \* \* \*

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## UN Security Council commends all parties for peaceful run-off elections in Liberia

11 November 2005 -- The United Nations Security Council today commended Liberians for their commitment to peace during the recent run-off presidential elections and, citing the threat posed by the potential repatriation of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, called for UN peacekeepers to arrest him if he returned to the country.

After Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) briefed Council members on the second round of presidential elections held on Tuesday, the Council President for November, Ambassador Andrey Denisov of the Russian Federation, told journalists: "Members of the Security Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections and commended all Liberians attending the polls."

The members of the Security Council underlined that the completion of free and fair presidential elections will be "a key step forward toward restoring the normal state functions of Liberia and will pave the way for the return of Liberian refugees to their homeland," he said.

The Council congratulated the two presidential candidates for their "serious, mature and peaceful" campaigns, expressed appreciation for the dedicated and able efforts of the National Elections Commission and for the support the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and other multilateral and bilateral partners provided during the preparation and holding of the elections.

To further underline the new Liberia's irreversible commitment to the rule of law, any concerns related to the election should be pursued and resolved exclusively through peaceful and legal means, the Russian Permanent Representative said.

On the question of Mr. Taylor, the 15-member Council unanimously adopted a resolution saying that, as a part of its additional mandate, UNMIL should keep the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed should they transfer Mr. Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone or facilitate that action.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone in 2002 to try serious violations of international humanitarian law during the country's civil war, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed since 1996. Officials of the Court have long called for the arrest of Mr. Taylor on charges of war crimes in connection with Sierra Leone.

The Council expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo who, with broad international support, contributed to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African sub-region by providing for Mr. Taylor's temporary stay in his country.

In Liberia, meanwhile, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) presidential candidate George Weah addressed 2,000 supporters at a rally at his campaign headquarters, appealing to them to remain peaceful. Some 500 CDC supporters then marched two miles to an area opposite the National Elections Commission (NEC) building, where UNMIL Formed Police units and Liberia National Police units maintained order.

Mr. Weah's supporters later threw stones near Monrovia's embassy row in the Mamba Point area, describing the presidential elections results, which are not yet official, as unfair. UNMIL Formed Police units dispersed them.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, UNMIL chief Alan Doss, telephoned Mr. Weah about these developments. Subsequently, Mr. Weah provided a recorded interview for UNMIL Radio, broadcast in the evening, in which he issued a peace message and urged his supporters to stay off the streets and obey the law.

## UN empowers peacekeepers to nab Liberian ex-leader

11 Nov 2005 22:17:05 GMT

Source: Reuters

By Larry Fine

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 11 (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council on Friday empowered peacekeepers to arrest exiled former President Charles Taylor if he returns to Liberia and turn him over to a special tribunal in Sierra Leone.

The council also urged Liberians to settle peacefully and legally any disputes over this week's presidential election.

Former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has claimed victory in Tuesday's presidential election with 59.4 percent of the vote with 97 percent of polling stations reporting. But supporters of soccer star George Weah took to the streets of Monrovia on Friday to protest, charging the vote was rigged.

Taylor, living in exile in Nigeria, was indicted by a special court in Sierra Leone in March 2003 on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for fueling civil war in West Africa through an illicit trade in arms for diamonds mined by rebel groups.

In addition to calling for his arrest, the resolution adopted unanimously by the 15-nation council referred to Taylor's stay in Nigeria as "temporary," which human rights activists said could clear the way for his Nigerian hosts to turn him over for trial in Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council, for the first time, is giving authority for Taylor's arrest, and also signaling that it is a temporary exile," said Elise Keppler of New York-based Human Rights Watch. "That is extremely significant."

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said Taylor should take the message seriously.


The U.S.-drafted text, co-sponsored by Denmark, signaled council support for "the full restoration of democratic institutions, and made it clear that Mr. Taylor's presence is not helpful in achieving that objective," he told reporters.

A separate council statement praised Liberia's voting as "peaceful and orderly" in this week's second round in the presidential election, called after Weah won the first round a month ago but fell short of the needed 50 percent.

With U.N. forces firing tear gas at Weah supporters after they stoned police in protest, Russian Ambassador Andrei Denisov

called for calm.

A peaceful and legal resolution of any election disputes "would underline Liberia's irreversible commitment to the rule of law," Denisov said, urging all Liberians to respect the election outcome once the official results are announced.

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## Taylor faces UN arrest in Liberia

By Susannah Price  
BBC News, United Nations

**The UN Security Council has voted unanimously for UN peacekeepers in Liberia to detain ex-President Charles Taylor if he returns to the country.**

Mr Taylor, currently in exile in Nigeria, was indicted by a UN-backed court in neighbouring Sierra Leone for crimes against humanity there.

US-based group Human Rights Watch says the resolution is a big step forward.

Charles Taylor has scarcely figured in the recent elections but his future remains a highly contentious issue.

The resolution stresses the fact Mr Taylor remains indicted on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the UN-backed court in Sierra Leone.

Nigeria has refused to hand him to the court, saying it would contravene the terms of the deal under which Mr Taylor agreed to step down.

Under the resolution, UN peacekeepers in Liberia are mandated to detain Mr Taylor if he returns to Liberia and to transfer him to Sierra Leone for prosecution.

Russia's ambassador to the UN, Andrei Denisov, said council diplomats stressed the need to reverse the culture of impunity.

Analysts say it is hoped the resolution would deter Mr Taylor from returning to Liberia, which could be very destabilising.

Elise Keppler of Human Rights Watch said the resolution sent a strong signal to Nigeria's President, Olusegun Obasanjo, that he should surrender Mr Taylor to the court.

However, as the court is facing funding problems, she warned that time was of the essence.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4430400.stm>

Published: 2005/11/11 23:40:36 GMT

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## U.N. sends 'signal' to Liberia's Taylor

### Arrest of ex-president authorized after alleged election influence

**UNITED NATIONS (CNN) -- U.N. peacekeepers in Liberia now have the authority to arrest former President Charles Taylor and transfer him to Sierra Leone for trial should he return to the country.**

The U.N. Security Council on Friday voted unanimously to expand the mandate of the peacekeepers on the heels of Tuesday's democratic presidential elections in Liberia.

With nearly all the votes counted, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was poised to defeat international soccer star George Weah in a runoff. Johnson-Sirleaf would be Africa's first democratically elected female president.

Diplomats said they received reports Taylor had been active behind the scenes, trying to influence Liberia's elections.

The current Security Council president, Russian Ambassador Andrey Denisov, said the resolution was intended to send a "strong signal" to Taylor that he would be expected to face trial.

There was no agreement in the Security Council on a call to extradite Taylor from Nigeria, where he was given asylum in July 2003 as the United States and other nations sought to bring an end to years of civil war in Liberia.

Nigeria -- the powerful nation that currently heads the African Union -- has resisted calls to hand over Taylor, citing its agreement with Taylor for asylum. Taylor's exit from Liberia was part of a peace deal.

A diplomat from Denmark who co-sponsored the resolution called it "more preventive action, and now we'll have to work on how we get him extradited. ... At least now it tells Taylor to stay out of Liberia."

Taylor -- Liberian president from 1997 until forced out in 2003 -- was indicted in 2003 by a U.N.-backed court in neighboring Sierra Leone.

The charges of war crimes were related to his support for rebels in Sierra Leone who were committing widespread atrocities against civilians. He reportedly supplied arms to the Sierra Leone rebels in exchange for diamonds.

Taylor also is banned from traveling outside Nigeria under a previous U.N. resolution. A U.N. panel of experts has said he has violated this ban within Africa.

There are roughly 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Liberia.

After a briefing by top peacekeeping official Hédi Annabi, the Security Council "welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections," Denisov said in a written statement.

The council, he said, "underlined that the completion of free and fair presidential elections will be a key step forward towards restoring the normal state functions of Liberia and will pave the way for the return of Liberian refugees."

But Weah, who came out ahead in the first round of voting, has alleged fraud in the runoff. His supporters have taken to the streets, clashing with peacekeepers and police even as the candidate appealed for peace.

Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated economist and political veteran, said she will offer her opponent a job, possibly the ministry of youth and sports.

"I hope he will agree to work with me," she said.

Denisov's statement said the council "urged the candidates, their parties and all their supporters to respect the final results of the election once they are officially declared."

*Liz Neisloss and Zain Verjee contributed to this report.*

**Find this article at:**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/africa/11/11/iberia.un>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



## UN Security Council Authorizes Arrest of Former Liberia's President

2005-11-12 5:47:40 CRIENGLISH.com

The UN Security Council adopted unanimously on Friday a resolution that authorizes the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to apprehend former Liberian President Charles Taylor if he returns to that country.

The Council, determining that the return of Taylor would constitute an impediment to Liberia's stability and threat to its peace, decided to include in the mandate of UNMIL the former leader's apprehension, detention and transfer to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, in the event of his return to Liberia.

The Council also decided that, as a part of its additional mandate, UNMIL should, in transferring or facilitating the former president's transfer to the Special Court, keep the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone in 2002 to try serious violations of international humanitarian law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed since 1996, at the height of that country's 1991-2002 civil war.

Taylor and 11 others indicted by the Court are charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

(Source: Xinhua)



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<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/W00511/S00203.htm>

## UN Commends Peaceful Run-Off Elections In Liberia

**Monday, 14 November 2005, 10:08 am**

**Press Release: United Nations**

UN Security Council Commends All Parties For Peaceful Run-Off Elections In Liberia

The United Nations Security Council today commended Liberians for their commitment to peace during the recent run-off presidential elections and, citing the threat posed by the potential repatriation of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, called for UN peacekeepers to arrest him if he returned to the country.

After Assistant Secretary-General Hédi Annabi of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) briefed Council members on the second round of presidential elections held on Tuesday, the Council President for November, Ambassador Andrey Denisov of the Russian Federation, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sc8555.doc.htm> told journalists: "Members of the Security Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections and commended all Liberians attending the polls."

The members of the Security Council underlined that the completion of free and fair presidential elections will be "a key step forward toward restoring the normal state functions of Liberia and will pave the way for the return of Liberian refugees to their homeland," he said.

The Council congratulated the two presidential candidates for their "serious, mature and peaceful" campaigns, expressed appreciation for the dedicated and able efforts of the National Elections Commission and for the support the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and other multilateral and bilateral partners provided during the preparation and holding of the elections.

To further underline the new Liberia's irreversible commitment to the rule of law, any concerns related to the election should be pursued and resolved exclusively through peaceful and legal means, the Russian Permanent Representative said.

On the question of Mr. Taylor, the 15-member Council <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sc8554.doc.htm> unanimously adopted a resolution saying that, as a part of its additional mandate, UNMIL should keep the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as the Council, fully informed should they transfer Mr. Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone or facilitate that action.

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone in 2002 to try serious violations of international humanitarian law during the country's civil war, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed since 1996. Officials of the Court have long called for the arrest of Mr. Taylor on charges of war crimes in connection with Sierra Leone.

The Council expressed its appreciation to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo who, with broad international support, contributed to restoring stability in Liberia and the West African sub-region by providing for Mr. Taylor's temporary stay in his country.

In Liberia, meanwhile, Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) presidential candidate George Weah addressed 2,000 supporters at a rally at his campaign headquarters, appealing to them to remain peaceful.

Some 500 CDC supporters then marched two miles to an area opposite the National Elections Commission (NEC) building, where UNMIL Formed Police units and Liberia National Police units maintained order.

Mr. Weah's supporters later threw stones near Monrovia's embassy row in the Mamba Point area, describing the presidential elections results, which are not yet official, as unfair. UNMIL Formed Police units dispersed them.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, UNMIL chief Alan Doss, telephoned Mr. Weah about these developments. Subsequently, Mr. Weah provided a recorded interview for UNMIL Radio, broadcast in the evening, in which he issued a peace message and urged his supporters to stay off the streets and obey the law.

## African leaders hail Liberia poll

**Seven powerful African leaders have hailed Liberia's election as free and fair and urged anyone unhappy with the result to avoid resorting to violence.**

The leaders, including South Africa's Thabo Mbeki and Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo, praised voters and election officials for a "job well done".

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is on course to become Liberia's next president.

But her opponent, former football star George Weah, has demanded a re-run, complaining of vote-rigging.

Hundreds of his supporters staged angry protests in the capital, Monrovia, on Friday after official results showed Ms Johnson-Sirleaf ahead. Mr Weah has urged them to remain calm.

With almost all the votes from Thursday's run-off election counted, Ms Johnson-Sirleaf has an insurmountable lead. She is expected to be named president when official results are announced soon - making her the first woman to be elected president anywhere in Africa.

### Investigation under way

The leaders of Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia and Algeria as well as the chairman of the African Union commission issued a statement during a meeting in Abuja on AU issues.

They described the vote as "peaceful, transparent, free and fair," AFP news agency reported.

#### **PARTIAL RESULTS**

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf: 59.4%

George Weah: 40.6%

From 97% of polling stations

Source: NEC

Anyone who disagreed with the vote outcome should "use constitutional and legal means to address any grievances," they added.

The Weah camp has made allegations of ballot tampering, intimidation and harassment during the vote. An investigation is under way.

The UN Security Council has already urged Liberians to settle the dispute peacefully.

International observers say the election was broadly free and fair.

The West African regional group Ecowas has urged the losers to accept the result with dignity and grace.

### 'Absurd claims'

However, Mr Weah re-iterated his claims of fraud in an interview with the BBC.

"As far as I am concerned there will be a re-run and I am going to pursue that," he said.

Weah campaign officials filed a petition with the Supreme Court on Friday to halt vote counting. But the court rejected the appeal and referred them to the National Elections Commission.

Ms Johnson-Sirleaf rejects claims of vote-rigging as absurd.

She told the BBC she hoped Mr Weah would join her new government after "getting over his disappointment".

The election was held after the 14-civil war ended two years ago.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/4433844.stm>

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Consumer Credit  
Oversight and Investigations

November 11, 2005

President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf  
Republic of Liberia  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear President-Elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf:

I am writing to congratulate you on your historic election victory - and respectfully request that you immediately call upon the Nigerian government to transfer former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the custody of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Without doubt, your election promises a new beginning for Liberia. Your fellow citizens have enthusiastically demonstrated their faith in the democratic process, turning out in large numbers to vote, marking the freest and fairest election in Liberia's history. The United States strongly supports this democratic achievement and has an abiding interest in Liberia's well-being. Many in the Congress look forward to working with you as you confront Liberia's many challenges.

I would be considerably more optimistic about Liberia's future, however, if Mr. Taylor faced the 17-counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for which he has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The United States and many other governments strongly support the Court and its mandate, and I urge you to do likewise.

Please understand that I do not make my request of you lightly. I chaired the Subcommittee on Africa for eight years, focusing much of my attention on West Africa. In my view, progress in Liberia, and the international community's considerable investment in your country, remains in jeopardy as long as Mr. Taylor is permitted to elude justice. Of equal importance, justice must be pursued for the Sierra Leonean people.

I firmly believe that as long as Mr. Taylor continues to enjoy safe harbor --while remaining active in Liberian politics from a distance-- the livelihoods and democratic rights of millions of West Africans, and the post-war re-construction of Liberia and Sierra Leone, will remain at risk. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo has resisted numerous

calls, including by the United States Congress, to transfer Mr. Taylor to the custody of the Court. Nevertheless, I request that you call for the Nigerian government to deliver Mr. Taylor immediately to the Court, so that justice can be done and Liberia can enjoy better prospects for prosperity.

Madame President-elect, it is the hope of many that you use your strong democratic mandate to affirm that the use of violence to achieve political ends is no longer acceptable in West Africa - and usher in a new era for the rule of law in the region. Mr. Taylor must be held accountable for his past actions, and achieving this end will require your decisive and immediate action.

Again, please accept my congratulations on your election. I thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Royce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

EDWARD R. ROYCE

Cc: The Honorable Donald E. Booth  
U.S. Ambassador, Republic of Liberia  
111 United Nations Drive  
P.O. Box 10-0098  
Mamba Point  
Monrovia, Liberia



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## UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 12 Nov 2005

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

### International Clips on Liberia

#### **Weah party demands rerun of Liberia election**

MONROVIA, Nov 12 (Reuters) - Soccer star George Weah's party demanded a rerun on Saturday of Liberia's presidential runoff vote, saying last Tuesday's poll was unfair. With 97 percent of polling stations' votes counted from Tuesday's runoff ballot, Harvard-trained former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has an unassailable 59.4 percent, but former AC Milan striker Weah has cried foul.

"The process was unfair. There is a difference between free and fair elections," Milton Teahjay, senior political advisor to Weah and his Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) party, told Reuters. "We are asking for a rerun of the election," he said.

#### **Calmer Monrovia anticipates last of Liberia election results**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 12 (AFP) - A day after protests in favor of trailing presidential candidate George Weah, Liberia's capital awoke to calm Saturday, when final poll results were expected to give Africa its first elected woman head of state .

BBC Last Updated: Saturday, 12 November 2005, 03:02 GMT

#### **Weah urges Liberian poll re-run**

**Liberian presidential candidate George Weah has called for a re-run of Tuesday's election, saying it was marred by vote-rigging.**

"As far as I am concerned there will be a re-run and I am going to pursue that," [Mr. Weah] told the BBC. But the candidate said he was telling his supporters to be calm, "because we need to be peaceful".

#### **African Union calls for respect of Liberian poll results**

ADDIS ABABA, Nov 12 (AFP) - The African Union (AU) on Saturday called for respect of results for Liberian presidential elections that are almost certain to give Africa its first elected woman head of state.

*The Economist* 10 November 2005.

#### **Another coup: a peaceful election**

(Editorial)

FOR the second time in a month, Liberians have gone to the polls to decide who their 23rd president will be. In October's first round, voters eliminated all but two of the 22 contestants; this week they made their final choice. As *The Economist* went to



press, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf had established an early lead over George Weah, but counting all the votes may take over a week. But, equally important, the whole process, so far, has been entirely peaceful: testimony to the voters' evident desire finally to put decades of political violence behind them.

Corruption is on the lips of everyone. Any new government will need to tackle graft and cronyism. Fortunately, it will find itself bound by the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Programme (Gemap), which was endorsed by the outgoing transitional government. The aim is to make public finance more open; international experts are to monitor the government's fiscal performance for the next three years.

The New York Times Published: November 12, 2005

## **In First for Africa, Woman Wins Election as President of Liberia**

By LYDIA POLGREEN

DAKAR, Senegal, Nov. 11 - Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated economist and former World Bank official who waged a fierce presidential campaign against the soccer star George Weah, emerged victorious on Friday in her quest to lead war-torn Liberia and become the first woman elected head of state in modern African history.

"Everything is on our side," said Morris Dukuly, a spokesman for Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf. "The voters have chosen a new and brighter future."

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

#### **Unity Party Maintains Lead in Preliminary Runoff Result**

- During a press conference yesterday, National Elections Commission Chairman Frances Johnson-Morris said that with 2,978 polling places reporting 804,171 votes nationwide, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Unity Party leads the presidential runoff with 465,971 votes amounting to 59.4 percent.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Congress for Democratic Change Flag Bearer Urges Supporters to Be Calm**

- In a bid to calm tension when CDC supporters yesterday demonstrated against alleged fraud in the runoff, CDC presidential candidate George Weah called on supporters to stop the demonstration.
- CDC media advisor Sam Stevequoah said that a Writ of Prohibition had been filed with the Supreme Court contending that the run-off election was fraudulent. But the Court rejected the petition on grounds that the NEC needed to first decide the complaint.

*(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)*

#### **CDC Denies Ordering Protestors into the Streets**

- Speaking to Star Radio, CDC Chairman Cole Bangalu said that the party did not sanction the demonstrations, saying that it would do nothing to disturb the peace process.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

#### **Unity Party Spokesman Says Run-off Election Was a Message from Liberians**

- Addressing journalists yesterday, UP Spokesman Tanue Manwulo said that the run-off election of 8 November expressed the desire of Liberians to move down the path of democracy. He said that the party would implement the people's mandate, adding that he wished the UP and the CDC would share in meeting Liberians' desires.

*(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)*

### **Transitional Government Chairman Rejects Lawmakers Resolution**

- A highly placed source told Radio Veritas that Transitional Government Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant rejected a resolution in which the interim lawmakers were seeking his approval for them to possess the 76 Cherokee jeeps issued to them as lawmakers.

### **UNMIL Chief Assures Liberians of Calm**

- After UN troops yesterday quelled a demonstration of CDC supporters, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Alan Doss assured Liberians that calm had returned to Monrovia and that Liberians. He said that shops and stores were reopened after UNMIL forces dispersed the protestors
- Mr Doss confirmed that two persons sustained minor injuries after UNMIL police fired tear gas when the demonstrators became unruly in Mamba Point near the American Embassy.
- He said that the UN mission was holding discussions with Mr. Weah and Mrs. Sirleaf on issues concerning security. Mr. Doss assured Mr. Weah that UNMIL would ensure that the NEC judiciously investigates his complaint of irregularities.

### **European Union Hails Radio Veritas, Others for Balanced Runoff Reporting**

- In its preliminary findings on the runoff, the European Union Election Observer Mission lauded Radio Veritas, *Heritage* newspaper, Ducor Radio and ELBC Radio for balanced and neutral reporting during the election period.
- The Mission said that the media institutions demonstrated balance in the amount of time and space allotted to the two run-off presidential candidates and neutrality in the tone of reporting.

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

#### **Transitional Government Unhappy about Post-Runoff Protests**

- In a statement read yesterday by Information Minister C. William Allen, the Transitional Government said it was deeply disturbed over yesterday's street protest in Monrovia describing, it as an unruly action, which violated the law. It blamed the demonstration on supporters of the CDC.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

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

#### **United States Embassy Wants Liberians to Remain Peaceful**

- In statement issued yesterday, the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia appealed to Liberians to conduct themselves peacefully and orderly.

#### **International Contact Group on Liberia Meets on CDC Runoff Fraud Complaint**

- The International Contact Group (ICGL) on Liberia said it discussed yesterday the complaint filed by the CDC to the NEC. The ICGL assured that a formal hearing, under the auspices of the NEC, would be held in the next few days.

#### **UNMIL Troops Arrest Local Chairman of CDC**

- A Star Radio Correspondent said that CDC Maryland County Chairman Blotey Scerien was arrested by UNMIL troops for allegedly inciting partisans of the CDC to demonstrate.

*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 and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.*



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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 Nov 2005**

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**International Clips on Liberia****Liberia 'not ready' for return of Taylor: Johnson Sirleaf**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 13 (AFP) - Liberia's likely president-elect, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, says the country was "not ready" for the return of her exiled predecessor Charles Taylor, who faces trial on war crimes charges in neighboring Sierra Leone.

13/11/2005 11:15:01

**Liberia President-Elect Confident of Vote**

By TODD PITMAN Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) The woman poised to become Liberia's next president expressed confidence Sunday that electoral results would be certified soon despite her soccer star opponent's allegations the vote was fraudulent. Former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has called on her opponent, George Weah, to concede defeat since results from last week's heated presidential runoff gave her an unbeatable lead with nearly all the votes counted.

BBC Last Updated: Sunday, 13 November 2005, 19:06 GMT

**African leaders hail Liberia poll**

Seven powerful African leaders have hailed Liberia's election as free and fair and urged anyone unhappy with the result to avoid resorting to violence. The leaders, including South Africa's Thabo Mbeki and Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo, praised voters and election officials for a "job well done".

The leaders of Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia and Algeria as well as the chairman of the African Union commission issued a statement during a meeting in Abuja on AU issues. They described the vote as "peaceful, transparent, free and fair," AFP news agency reported. Anyone who disagreed with the vote outcome should "use constitutional and legal means to address any grievances," they added.

**Calm Liberia set to boast Africa's first woman president**

by Lauren Gelfand

MONROVIA, Nov 13 (AFP) - The Liberian capital was calm Sunday in the wake of protests over an election that is set to bestow Africa with its first elected female president and is aimed at turning the page on years of civil conflict.

There was no chance that ballots from 20 polling stations yet to report could reverse the 20-point lead Harvard-educated banker Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enjoyed over international soccer star George Weah. The same was true of the official complaints lodged by Weah's Congress for Democratic Change with the National Elections Commission, since these involved a negligible proportion of the 800,000 or so votes cast in Wednesday's runoff.

## **Liberia church chiefs appeal for calm in runoff row**

By Alphonso Toweh

MONROVIA, Nov 13 (Reuters) - Church leaders in Liberia appealed for calm on Sunday as the country waited to see whether economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf would be proclaimed president after her run-off win was disputed by her rival.

13/11/2005 14:58:04

## **Africa Elections Give Reasons for Hope**

By DONNA BRYSON Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) Liberians voted on a Tuesday in November and will swear in their president in January just like Americans. So far things have gone smoothly enough to count as a miracle after 14 years of civil war and chaos, but now the country has to ensure the election is no mere pantomime of Western democracy.

Foreign election monitors praised Tuesday's runoff vote in **Liberia**, in which Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf appeared poised to become Africa's first elected woman elected president. Her rival, George Weah, cried fraud. But as was noted by Denise Dauphinais, an expert on attempts to build democracy in fragile countries, at least he went through proper channels, lodging his complaint with **Liberia's** National Election Commission.

"It's a good sign that (Weah's camp is) willing to have the process sort itself out in an orderly manner," said Dauphinais, who has worked for Washington-based IFES, the International Foundation For Electoral Systems, in such places as **Liberia** and Somalia.

13/11/2005 12:51:45

## **U.S. consultant brought modern political tips to Liberia's Iron Lady**

By BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) \_ Over the objections of nearly everyone on the campaign, Larry Gibson, campaign adviser to Liberia's newly elected president, held firm: traditional African headdress shouldn't be worn in Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's key campaign photograph. Johnson-Sirleaf sided with Gibson, the Maryland lawyer who ran three successful campaigns for former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke in 1987, 1991 and 1995. Gibson had been tapped to bring a modern campaign to Liberia and boost the 67-year-old former finance minister to an unprecedented victory.

Harry Greaves, a top aide to the woman known as the Iron Lady, credits Gibson with playing a major role in shaping the campaign. Gibson helped with important tactical decisions and knew how to get effective campaign signs to boost her profile in the West African nation.

13/11/2005 03:17:06

## **"Iron Lady" poised for tough, risky job ahead in war-ravaged Liberia**

By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) \_ Liberia's 19th president was overthrown and assassinated. His successor was executed by guerrillas who first cut off his ears. No. 21 won office after igniting a civil war, but fled into exile amid a rebel assault on the capital.

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a strong-willed, erudite 67-year-old, wants to be No. 23. If her commanding electoral lead is certified, she'll become Africa's first elected female head of state, one of the few in the world. "It's a big task. I'm aware of the enormity of this," a bespectacled Johnson-Sirleaf said in an interview as the vote-counting proceeded. "But I also think that I'm up to the task."

VOA 12 November 2005

## **UN Urges Calm Amid Liberia's Controversial Vote-Counting**

By Nico Colombant, Monrovia

*The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Liberia is appealing for calm, as vote-counting is being finalized from Tuesday's controversial run-off presidential election. With almost all votes counted, former Finance Minister Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has a wide lead. But her opponent, former soccer player, George Weah, and his supporters, are still waiting for a hearing on allegations the vote was rigged.*

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

13/11/2005 10:35:25

## **U.N.: Ivory Coast rebuilding air force, one year after French destroyed it**

By DANIEL BALINT-KURTI, Associated Press Writer

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) \_ Ivory Coast's government has begun rebuilding its air force, one year after it was mostly destroyed by French forces in retaliation for an air raid that killed nine French soldiers, a United Nations report said.

The U.N. report was expected to be released Monday, but a copy obtained by The Associated Press said that a 10-man team of technicians from Belarus and Ukraine was in Abidjan under contract by the Ivorian Defense Ministry to repair the aircraft.

*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 and would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*