

**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 at:

Friday, 14 September 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
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Awoko

Friday, 14 September 2007

Woes With Taylor Still Awaiting Trial

By Lauren Gardner

The hybrid war crimes tribunal set up by the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations achieved what international observers described as a major milestone in July when it delivered sentences of 45 and 50 years to three men convicted of committing war crimes during Sierra Leone's late-1990s civil war. The ruling at the [Special Court for Sierra Leone](#) marked the first-ever conviction of an African warlord for using child soldiers, and it came just a few weeks before a second round of convictions, on Aug. 2, in which two other former militia leaders were found guilty of war crimes. While these advances have drawn praise from the international community, they've occurred in the shadow of the Special Court's lack of progress in the trial of Charles Taylor, the former president of neighboring Liberia indicted for crimes connected to exacerbating Sierra Leone's war. From the start, the Special Court has been troubled by financial woes, which observers say can only be expected to grow in the months and years to come. Already, the court "doesn't have enough money," says Elise Keppler, counsel to the International Justice Program at New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Kepler, who contends that the court will need more cash when the current round of litigation is finished, told *World Politics Review* that judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers often don't know how much money the court will receive in donations well enough in advance to plan effectively for trials and to maintain necessary staff levels. She added that court staffers are regularly put in the position of having to take time away from their jobs to raise funds.

David Crane, who served as the court's chief prosecutor from 2002 until 2005, says that about 70 percent of his work was spent dealing with politics and diplomacy, which included fundraising from both governmental and non-governmental sources.

"You're always thinking about money," he said.

It is possible that the court's financial problems are simply a design flaw, according to a March 2006 report by New York-based [International Center for Transitional Justice \(ICTJ\)](#).

The report, titled "[The Special Court for Sierra Leone Under Scrutiny](#)," (pdf

file) outlined how the court was intentionally set up differently from the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, which created a financial drain on U.N. Resources. The result, according to the report, is that the Sierra Leone court's budget is only about \$25 million a year, compared to some \$120 million per year for each of the Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals.

[Human Rights Watch](#) asserts that the court's defense office has lacked sufficient funds. While "[we are] all for cost efficiency," said Keppler, everyone involved in the court still needs the appropriate resources to function. [The Role of 'Interested' States](#) Marieke Wierda, who co-authored the ICTJ report and serves as a senior associate with the organization, says that while the court operates autonomously from other U.N. bureaucracy, it is still subject to the oversight of a management committee. The committee is comprised of "interested states," which, says Wierda, include the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands -- the four countries that have donated the most

to keep the court going.

The United States is the biggest donor, contributing about \$35 million between 2002 and 2006.

The U.N. Secretariat and Sierra Leone are also on the management committee, which was established to take the place of the U.N. Secretariat in managing donations received for the court. Unlike the funding for the Rwanda and Yugoslavia tribunals, the donations are made voluntarily, rather than being mandated by the United Nations. Despite funding problems that have plagued the court, Crane, the former prosecutor, defended the court's financial autonomy from the United Nations. In an interview with WPR, Crane maintained that it was a good decision to keep operations outside of the United Nations' assessed funding system as a means of limiting the extent to which U.N. bureaucracy could slow the court's progress.

"[The current system] does work -- it just has to be consistent, that's all," he said.

According to the ICTJ report, the committee is not allowed to advise the court on any judicial matters. Its central role is to ensure that the court's funding levels are maintained, and to encourage other countries to contribute funds. However, the report maintains that the committee has failed to rally the political and financial support needed for the court's future.

Awoko

Friday, 14 September 2007

Former child soldier shares his story

By Joe Larson

By age 13, Ishmael Beah was forced to join the government army in war-torn Sierra Leone in West Africa.

After three years of fighting, he went to a UNICEF rehabilitation center, where he worked to regain his humanity.

About 479 people gathered in Stewart Center's Loeb Playhouse at Purdue University Wednesday night to listen to Beah describe his experiences and read excerpts from his book, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

Junior John Aitchison decided to attend the event after reading Beah's book, which has been sold and promoted locally for months at Starbucks, among other shops.

"It just reinforced that his story is real," Aitchison said about the lecture. "He's a real person, and it really happened to him." In one excerpt he chose to read, Beah described the carnage created when the war reached his grandmother's village.



Ishmael Beah, a best-selling author, speaks Wednesday night at Purdue University

A mother who was too numb to cry carried her baby, who had been shot. A man rushed toward the hospital with a child who was covered in blood and obviously dead.

"You have to find a shred of hope to continue living in this kind of madness," Beah said. For some in the audience, Beah's experiences resonated on a

personal level.

Ph.D. student Garene Kaloustian said she could relate to Beah's lecture because she was affected by the Lebanese civil war when she was a child.

She is now studying the resilience of children in adverse conditions. "I think he just hit exactly what I'm studying," she said. Beah also used the occasion to explain some of his motivations for writing the book.

The Exclusive
Friday, 14 September 2007

COUP?

*CDS Talks Tough

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Maj Gen. Edwin Sam Mboma, has warned his men to stay

completely out of politics. "Any officer who attempts to stage a coup will be kicked out within 24

hours as the international community is against coup plotters," Mboma stressed angrily.

CDS Mboma disclosed that he had received countless telephone calls from individuals trying to

drag him into that mess. "But I always put-off such calls," he said. He admonished his men not to let

themselves be used by politicians as they will use
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CDS Talks Tough

From front page

and dump them when they have achieved their goal.

He called on all soldiers to stay neutral; as according to him, any soldier that falls short will be severely dealt with.

He pointed out that the army has received commendation from the Sierra Leone Police boss and the International Community for their role in complementing the police to provide security as certain misguided elements were desperate to cause havoc for civilians.

"Had it not been for the timely intervention and support of the army, some polling stations would have been on fire on September 8th 2007," he said.

Sam Mboma said the results of the election will soon be announced and urged all soldiers to stay in their barracks as Military Officers will be out to arrest any one who flouts such order.

"Leave the civilians to dance and celebrate. Don't join them. We will have to pledge our loyalty to the new incoming gov-

ernment when it would have been sworn in" Mboma stated.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, in charge of Personnel and Training Brig Gen. KSM Mondeh, also promised to do all it takes to ensure the army doesn't usurp the democratic process although according to him, he had recently been castigated as having plans to stage a coup which he said was untrue.

"I am a loyal officer and so will I remain," he promised.

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 September 2007

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

International Clips on Liberia

AP 09/12/2007 21:17:13

Bush extends stays of thousands of Liberians in US

WASHINGTON _ President Bush is extending by 18 months the stays of thousands of Liberians living in the United States under temporary protected status. Because of civil war at home, Liberians have been residing in the United States for nearly two decades. Following elections in 2005 and modest signs of stabilization in Liberia, the Homeland Security Department lifted their temporary protected status, subjecting them to deportation as of Oct. 1st. Liberians are concentrated in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Philadelphia and Providence. Although permanent residency is the ultimate goal, any extension is a relief to Liberians living in the U.S.

International Clips on West Africa

Opposition leader maintains lead in Sierra Leone presidential vote

By Rod MacJohnson

FREETOWN, Sept 12, 2007 (AFP) - Sierra Leone's opposition leader Ernest Koroma maintained his lead over his rival in presidential elections, outgoing Vice President Solomon Berewa, with ballots from half of the country's polling station counted. Preliminary results issued by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) on Wednesday showed Koroma ahead with 58.5 percent of the votes. He was leading in seven out of the 14 districts, while Berewa strengthened his lead in the remaining seven, all located in the southern and eastern parts of the country where his People's Sierra Leone party (SLPP) has traditionally drawn its support. Voters had turned out last Saturday for the run-off round of what were only the second presidential polls since the end of a brutal civil war in this impoverished country.

09/12/2007 17:30:51

Sierra Leone president urges acceptance of results; opposition leads with half vote counted

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone _ President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah urged all parties Wednesday to accept the results of Sierra Leone's runoff, as the opposition candidate maintained a strong lead with half the votes counted. "There will be no winners and we will all be losers if the country is plunged into chaos just after the final results," Kabbah said in a radio message. Opposition leader Ernest Bai Koroma had about 57 percent of the 989,130 valid votes counted so far, compared with 43 percent for Vice President Solomon Berewa of the ruling party, electoral commission Chief Christiana Thorpe said.

Local Media – Newspaper

Opposition Claims Victory in Sierra Leone's run-off election as row over Early Results Deepens

(The News, Liberian Express, New Democrat, The Informer)

- Sierra Leone's opposition leader, Ernest Bai Koroma has claimed victory in the run-off presidential election but the ruling Sierra Leone's People's Party has accused him of trying to steal the polls as more results are still due.
- Partial official results from over a fifth of the polling stations show Koroma of the All People's Congress (APC) leading with 64 percent, ahead of Vice President Solomon Berewa at 36 percent.
- Campaigning for the run-off was marred by clashes between rival supporters but the voting went ahead peacefully although foreign and local election monitors reported cases of electoral fraud, including apparent ballot stuffing. Electoral authorities are due to release more results later today.

Justice Minister Designate Vows to Crackdown on Criminals

(The Analyst, The Monitor)

- Justice Minister designate, Counselor Philip A.Z. Banks has vowed to restore law and order as the security forces will not relent in dealing "decisively" with criminals terrorizing various communities in the country.
- Minister Banks said while government does not intend to violate the rights of its citizens, criminals must realize that they would no longer be permitted to continue terrorizing others.
- Speaking yesterday when he took over as Minister of Justice, Counselor Banks assured that the country's security forces will assume a more robust role in bringing relief to the country and its people.
- Out-going Justice Minister, Frances Johnson-Morris said despite the challenges faced by her administration, there were some remarkable achievements. She cited the submission of the Assets Freeze Bill to the National Legislature, assigning County Attorneys throughout the country among others.

President Sirleaf Engages Senators in Interactive Dialogue

(Heritage, The Inquirer)

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and members of the Liberian Senate yesterday met in an interactive dialogue intended to discuss critical national issues aimed at strengthening the relationship between the two branches of government. The meeting dubbed "Dukor Dialogue" was organized under the auspices of the Governance Reform Commission (GRC).
- Addressing the opening session of the forum, GRC Chairman, Dr. Amos Sawyer said the gathering was necessary for the two branches to reflect on the level of progress made over the past months in moving the democratic process forward. The President welcomed the holding of the forum describing it as an important initiative in moving forward. President Sirleaf then stressed the need for all the branches of government to collaborate with each other because the failure of one branch is a failure of the entire government.

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

Bush Signs Executive Order to Extend Stay of Liberians in the US

- Correspondents said that United States President George Bush signed an Executive Order to extend by 18 months the stay of thousands of Liberians in America illegally. The Liberians who have been residing in the States since the civil war were scheduled to be deported to Liberia by 30 September.

- The extension comes after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf wrote the American President requesting him to use his influence in the US House Senate to ensure that the Temporary Protective Status Bill before it is passed as soon as possible.
- Recently, the "Friends of Liberia" including former diplomats, business people, missionaries, Peace Corps and American volunteers who worked in Liberia had also petitioned President Bush to extend the stay of the Liberians in the US on grounds that Liberia's infrastructure is destroyed and that if the Liberians are forced to return home, the Country's fragile economy would be overwhelmed.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

New Justice Minister Poised to Fight Crime

- During a ceremony to takeover as the new Minister of Justice, Cllr. Philip Banks vowed to vigorously crackdown on criminals and promised to ensure that the Liberia National Police are fully armed in order to protect the Liberian society. He stressed that too much was being heard of rape and armed robbery, but vowed to deal with the menace.
- Minister Banks declared that he would personally join patrols of the Police, combing every point where criminals are suspected to be to ensure safety and security for Liberians, noting that by personally leading the patrols, he would be signalling that crime was being addressed at the highest level.
- For her part, the outgoing Justice Minister France Johnson-Morris said that the greatest challenge that faced her administration was what she called an "aggrieved and averted" society to law and order, but praised the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the assistance that led to some achievements.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Liberian Muslims Begin Ramadan

- An Executive Mansion release said that as Muslims in Liberia join millions of Muslims around the world to commence Ramadan in keeping with the teaching of the Faith, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf called on Muslims in Liberia to continue to pray for peace and reconciliation irrespective of social class, tribal background and religious affiliation.
- The President congratulated Muslims for embarking on a spiritual journey of Fasting and Praying and hoped that Allah, the Almighty will continue to shower his manifold blessing upon the nation and its people.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Pro-Democracy Campaigner Calls for more Attention to Women Issues

- As keynote speaker at a workshop on women rights, the Executive Director of the Centre for Democratic Empowerment Ezekiel Pajibo said that unless women issues are highlighted to the fullest by women organizations, their chances of competing with men in national development will be left on the "back-burner".
- Mr. Pajibo pointed out that Liberian women have contributed a lot to the development of the nation and challenged them to remain focused, recounting that the role played by Susannah Lewis and others many years ago should be remembered.

(Also reported on Truth FM, Star and ELBC Radio)

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Voice of America

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

French Court Hears Rwandan Tribunal Extradition Request

By Lisa Bryant

Paris

A French appeals court is examining a demand to send two Rwandan genocide suspects to the International Criminal Tribunal in Tanzania. Lisa Bryant has more from Paris.

The appeals' court hearing is the latest chapter in lengthy efforts to bring Rwandan Roman Catholic priest Wenceslas Munyeshyaka and former prefect Laurent Bucyibaruta to trial. Both men have been living in France for years and are accused of participating in the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed 800,000 people. Father Munyeshyaka had been a practicing priest in a French parish.



Man at the "genocide cemetery" of Kigali, Rwanda (file photo)

French authorities arrested the two men in July, but released them in early August after a local court ruled that arrest warrants from the U.N.-backed International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda were invalid. They were re-arrested last Thursday, after the Arusha-based tribunal reportedly issued new, more explicit warrants to have them tried in Tanzania.

But Jeanne Sulzer, head of the legal action group of the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights, believes the two men should be tried in France, which has jurisdiction to do so. She also criticizes the long delay in bringing the two suspects to justice - especially in the case of Father Munyeshyaka.

"France has been condemned by the European Court for Human Rights for the unreasonable delay against Munyeshyaka," said Sulzer. "It has been more than 10 years since the investigation has been opened. What the victims are asking for now is that there is an effective investigation and that this person be prosecuted before an independent and impartial tribunal."

The Rwandan genocide also remains a point of contention between Kigali and Paris, prompting Rwanda to cut diplomatic ties last year. Officials hope relations will normalize under the new government of French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Relief Web

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

Special update on floods in West Africa

Scope of floods in West Africa

Following torrential rains, floods have affected over 500,000 people in 12 countries in West Africa (Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, The Gambia, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, **Sierra Leone** and Ghana)(1). This current number of victims shows that the situation has worsened compared to last year low 65,000 people at the same period. The situation is especially worrisome in Ghana with 260,000 people affected; Burkina Faso with 35,000 and Togo with 20,389. So far, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mauritania have requested international assistance or solidarity.

Situation and response

Ghana

Flooding in the Upper East Region, north-eastern Ghana has killed at least six people and affected over 260,000, according to the Government. They destroyed thousands of homes in the Upper East Region after torrential rains from 24 to 29 August. The flooding has also caused major bridges to collapse, and destroyed crops in the Upper East Region. Response-Government officials have visited the region to assess the damage and announced they would deliver initial relief supplies to affected populations. Regional authorities had appealed to the government, charitable organisations, religious bodies and NGOs for assistance. The United Nations are considering the deployment of a disaster management team in Ghana.

Togo

An assessment completed on 6 September by the Togolese Ministry of Territorial Administration revealed that floods made 20,389 victims including 14,260 displaced, 20 deaths and 24 injured. They have also destroyed a great number of hectares of crop, 18,250 houses, 68 bridges and seven dams, completely cutting access to about half of Kpendjal prefecture. Other prefectures affected are Oti, Tône and Tandjouaré, some 600km from the Togolese capital Lome. According to UNDP Togo, assessments on displacements, infrastructure and crop damage are ongoing. Government officials in Kpendjal in a report issued on 3 September said many villages are cut off from major health centres and commercial activity.

Needs and Response: Local officials in the Savanes region said people in the flood affected areas urgently need tents, food, water, medicines, mosquito nets, salt, petrol and matches. The Togolese government is providing initial relief supplies including food, medicines and blankets, but health workers said that given the number of people affected and the threat of waterborne illnesses, more supplies will be needed in the coming days. School opening is due 17 September, but according to authorities parents that are faced with house rebuilding are not very likely to take their children back to classes. However a delay is noticed in the distribution of aid items due to weak resources.

Floods exacerbate the living conditions of communities already hit by high rates of malnutrition. United Nations studies in 2006 showed that 62.7 percent of people in the Savanes region do not have access to adequate food and 32 percent of children under five suffer acute malnutrition.