

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



The Plenary of the Special Court Judges took place 12-13 May 2006.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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

Monday, 15 May 2006

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion please contact
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Concord Times
Monday, 15 May 2006

Special Court lawyer condemns Taylor's transfer to The Hague

Story: Michael Bockarie

A member of Special Court Defense team, Charles Jalloh Thursday condemned the transfer of former warlord and Special Court indictee Charles Ghankay Taylor to The Hague.

He argued that there is no evidence to prove that Taylor's presence in Sierra Leone is a

security threat.

Taylor, he said, if tried in Sierra Leone, will have easy access to members of his family and witnesses.

Charles Jalloh asserted that the former warlord, "is still innocent" until he is proved guilty by the court.

Jalloh who was speaking at the

Marry Kingsley Auditorium during a symposium organized by the Fourah Bay College Human Rights Clinic claimed most Sierra Leoneans have already convicted Taylor even before the court starts trying him.

He encouraged the public to wait for the outcome of the court's verdict, which would prove whether Taylor

Cont. page 3

Special Court lawyer condemns Taylor's transfer to The Hague

From page 1

is innocent or guilty.

"Article 17 of the Rules states that all accused remain innocent until proven guilty," he maintained adding that Taylor's rights as an accused are also

entrenched in that same Article which includes fair judgment and the right of a defender.

He says if an accused has no means to acquire the services of a lawyer, the court would provide him with a legal counsel.

Special Court Deputy Prosecutor, Christopher Staker maintained the evidences against Taylor are based on actual facts. Staker on his part called for Taylor's trial outside West Africa.

For Di People
Monday, 15 May 2006

Kangbai Writes Special Court



DESMOND de SILVA-64



PANOS ZORBAS-64



PATRICK MULLEN-67



MALCOLM BISHOP-68



PATRICK CAHILL-1979



GERARD McCOY-1986



HARENDRA de SILVA-1970



ROBIN WHEATLEY-1971



FRANCES BOLTON-1981



CHARLES J BENSON-1990

Dear Harpinder Arthwal,
It was great to read your intention for For Di People newspaper to retract a front-page story written by me captioned: 'Special

one's human rights. You may also agree with me that For Di People as a respected media house produced your letter unedited within the full ambit of the media law with regards to the right to reply. However,



JANINA PASIUK-1983

him from public service because of the SLPMB saga?

It will be far better if you will offer some simple answers to the above questions than to just merely make a blanket denial of the story. In fact, your tone in the letter actually seems to represent one begging for image repairing.

My best regards to you and the rest of the crew at the Special Court. Yours faithfully, Jia Kangbai



JOHN C REES-1972



NIGEL SHEPHERD-1973



SIMON WARD-1984



ROD JOHNSON-1975



NOTU HOON-1975



BARRY COULTER-1985



CHRIS S MATTOCKS-75
Court May Indict Pa Kabbah'

Of course, you as well as anyone have the right to reply to ANY story carried in any newspaper as long as the said newspaper infringed on

after going through your letter there remain several unanswered questions that one would still like you-Chief Prosecutor to offer some plausible answers to:
1. Will you kindly say whether the learned Chief



GRACE ONG-1985
sional way (either as court clerk, pupillage etc) at anytime in the seventies, in the same law firm ie; 2 Paper Buildings (Chambers of Desmond de Silva)?
3. Also, Harpinder Arthwal, are you reacting for the Spe-



KABBAH:strong ties



DE SILVA:friends

Prosecutor of the Special Court is an employee or employer of 2 Paper Buildings (Chambers of Desmond de Silva) in the Middle Temple in the United Kingdom?

2. If the learned Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court is an employer of the said law firm can you tell For Di People newspaper whether Mr Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was engaged in any profes-

cial Court or specifically for the Chief Prosecutor whom you work for as his Political Advisor and Special Assistance?

4. And finally Harpinder Arthwal, will you tell For Di People Newspaper whether the Chief Prosecutor was a pupil of the renowned Dr Peter Corrigan? And was he already aware that Kabbah had been indicted in Si-

Salone Times
Monday, 15 May 2006

HINGA NORMAN MUST NOT DIE



COMMENTARY BY Phileas Jusu

Reports coming out of the Special Court for Sierra Leone speak of the deteriorating state of health of the detained former CDF Coordinator, Sam Hinga Norman. He is reported to be in a wheel chair and can only walk with the aid of a walking stick. One of his legs is said to be swollen and cannot use shoes as a result.

Norman's family members are worried and are reported to have written a letter to the Registrar of the Special Court which was copied to eminent state and international leaders in-

cluding President Kabbah and the Secretary General of the United Nations. The Special Court seems to be keeping tight lips over the issue; and the Deputy Chief of Public

Affairs of the Special Court was yesterday quoted in a local tabloid to have denied knowledge of the letter and the alleged move by the court to take Chief Norman

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Hinga Norman Must Not Die

to Ghana for medical attention, which, we understand, was turned down by the Ghanaian Government. We at SALONE TIMES urge the Special Court to come out with a statement on the state of health of

Chief Norman much as we would appreciate an invitation to the press by the Special Court to visit Norman in his cells and prove for themselves whether or not the indicted war crime detainee is in good health.

We believe Norman like any other detainee in the Special Court, until proven guilty, has right to good health and access to proper medical facilities should he fall ill, especially against the backdrop of recent deaths

of war crime indictees in detention (Slobodan Milesevic in the Hague and Foday Sankoh who died while standing trials at the Special Court here in Freetown).

Hinga Norman's trial at the Special Court is at an advanced stage and every Sierra Leonean is keen on the outcome of his and other trials going on at the Special Court. It is not in the interest of the general pub-

lic therefore should his trial be delayed or the verdict thereof due to deterioration in his health. We at SALONE TIMES will encourage any step the Special Court can take to either secure proper medical attention for the allegedly ailing Norman or dismiss beyond all reasonable doubts the "rumour" of Chief Sam Hinga Norman's deteriorating health.

Independent Observer
Monday, 15 May 2006

American, 3 others docked for Spying at Special Court

By Isatu Gbla

An American citizen and three others, arrested for taken photographs of the

Special Court, were yesterday docked before Magistrate Adrian Fischer of Court No 1A. The American Michel Che

Mildline, three Sierra Leoneans; Felix Rogers, Damasco Kanu and Collins Koroma, were charged with three counts

of spying and taking photographs of the Special Court on April 22 and 29 this year. They all pleaded not guilty.

Lawyer representing the accused A.S. Sesay, told the court that the accused were charged for spying and for taking pho-

tographs at the Special Court, which is an International Court. He therefore argued that the Sierra Leone government has no right to charge them to Court for a crime which is not within their mandate. He further argued that there were no inscriptions on the walls of the Special Court saying it is a prohibited area.

State Counsel Gerald J. Sowel, countered that when one considers the purpose of the Special Court with prisoners that are of interest to everybody, taking photographs create the impression to the prisoners that they would be rescued.

He said the state has the paramount duty to maintain law and order.

The State Counsel objected to bail for the accused on the grounds that they were charged under Section 79(3) of Act 32 of 1965 for which bail must not be granted.

Magistrate Fischer however said the actions of the accused were unlawful thus refusing them bail.

The matter was adjourned on Monday 15.

Standard Times

Monday, 15 May 2006

Chief Norman the hero

Bee, the judicious creature on this planet, will ever remain ringing the bell about the patriotic role played by the Special Court inductee, Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

The most gracious custodian of history, busy Bee, of the heroic performance of Chief Norman can always stand up to testify to the fact.

If you doubt Bee, just check and counter check his track record, and you will surely prove that indeed Chief Norman has been a sacrificial lamb for the liberation of his motherland, "Salome".

If only Bee was the final determinant of the Special Court proceedings, there would have been no course for delay to decide the case of Chief Norman.

In fact Bee is becoming apprehensive about the hypocrisy of our so-called father of democracy, who is ready to sacrifice a national hero for the safety of their 'debul.'

Bee has already begun to hear of a slow death for the Chief in his Special Court cell, and tears run down his eyes, wondering whether

this is indeed the price we have to pay for our freedom.

This is really ridiculous to Bee and the numerous beelets, who continue to see all the other key players who actually did the dirty work during the war, walking free. Time will surely tell. Lonta!

Concord Times

Friday, 12 May 2006

Suspected Special Court Spy, Three Others Charged

By Sahr Musa Yamba

Michael Chemidline, an American citizen, a suspected spy nabbed around the Special Court April 29th has been charged to court together with three other Sierra Leoneans.

They were charged with conspiracy to engage in a purpose prejudicial to the interest of Sierra Leone contrary to law.

The three Sierra Leoneans are Felix Rogers, Damascus Kamara and Collins Kamara.

They were arraigned before Magistrate Adrian Fischer at court No. 1A Thursday on a three-count charge of conspiracy.

Defense counsel for the accused, Africanus Sesay objected to the first count on the grounds that they were charged under a law that was nonexistent at the time of the alleged incident. "There is no law dating back as far as common law, which the accused have violated for the prosecution to proffer charges as contrary to law," Counsel Sesay submitted. His second objection was on the grounds of jurisdiction arguing that the court (magistrate court) had no business trying people who allegedly took snapshots of the Special Court, which, he submitted, is an international territory that came into existence by an agreement between the government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations. "The government of Sierra Leone cannot bring an action on behalf of the Special Court," counsel Sesay submitted.

His third objection was based on arguments that the Special Court is not a prohibited place and there is no inscription around there stating it is a forbidden area.

He cited Section 61B of the constitution arguing further that the Special Court is an international ground like any embassy or High Commission.

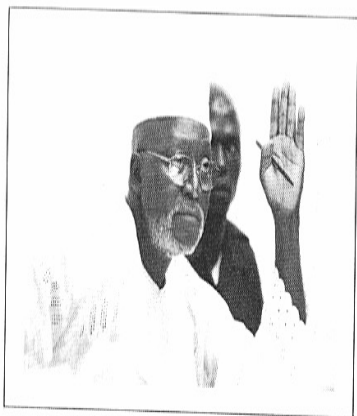
Responding to the objections, state counsel, Gerald Soyie submitted that conspiracy to commit any offence is prescribed under common law citing Section 6 of the constitution. He submitted that any body acting contrary to the interest of the state in the case of espionage could be charged. He submitted that at the material time of the alleged incident, the offence of conspiracy existed and subsisted up to date. "That been the issue, the laws of Sierra Leone have been violated," he argued.

On the issue of jurisdiction, prosecutor Soyie submitted that the Special Court is an institution "living in Sierra Leone." He maintained it is an international body, but the purpose of the Special Court is that it is trying prisoners in the interest of justice, prisoners who every body in this country has an interest in and submitted that any one taking photographs as alleged in charges and thereby creating an impression that the prisoners tried at the Special Court might be rescued, the

state has the right to be concerned. He argued it is the "paramount duty of the state to maintain law and order." Soyie completely disagreed with the defense counsel.

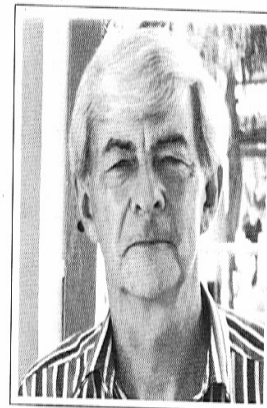
He submitted that it is the business of the government of Sierra Leone to take necessary action in connection with any entity within its jurisdiction if government after due consideration establishes that its interest and security are endangered. He submitted the accused were engaged in an action prejudicial to the state.

The accused were refused bail by the Magistrate who is to make a ruling on the objections raised later. The hearing was adjourned to Monday May 15th.



Cover Story

Norman To be Freed, Jailed?



New developments have taken place in recent months in the case of war crimes inductee, Chief Hinga Norman, now facing charges of crimes against humanity and international humanitarian law. Two foreign witnesses in the persons of Mr. Peter Penfold and General Richards have testified on his behalf. Mr. Peter Penfold describes Chief Hinga Norman as a hero and not a war criminal. This statement, coming from no other person than the former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone poses a big question as whether the Special Court inductee would walk as a free man or not, in the aftermath of his trial. However the trial judges have better, more visceral understanding of whether the accused would be freed or jailed as they put the bits and pieces together to give their final verdict on the case.

Libyan TV, Tripoli

14 May 2006

Libyan leader decries treatment of former Liberian leader

(BBC Monitoring) At 1230 gmt, on 14 May, Libyan TV began to relay a recorded address delivered by the country's leader Mu' ammar al-Qadhafi during the previous evening on the occasion of a dinner ceremony held in honour of visiting Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Al-Qadhafi began his address by admitting that he normally does not exchange dinner ceremonies addresses but as an "appreciation to our sister the president of the sisterly Liberia, this would be an exception". After welcoming the Liberian leader, Al-Qadhafi said: "We express our pride that an African woman is shouldering this responsibility. I would like to say that the African woman has very powerful personality." Al-Qadhafi then praised President Johnson Sirleaf for "her courage in taking on this responsibility and for her bravery in rescuing the sisterly Liberia from a civil war which lasted 13 or 14 years. She deserves every support, encouragement and appreciation not only from Libya but from the whole of Africa."

The Libyan leader expressed his satisfaction with the introduction of multi-party system in Africa and for the fact that elections have replaced coups d'etat "as means to assume power". Al-Qadhafi then spoke about the history of military coups d'etat in Africa, and their negative effect on the continent's political stability and economic and social developments. He also referred to the liberation wars in the continent.

The Libyan leader, however, expressed reservations over multi-party elections "because they do not seem to bring about stability in Africa, as we are witnessing rebellions against governments which are supposedly elected democratically". This led Al-Qadhafi to speak about the conflicts which are tearing the continent apart: "The ongoing conflicts in Africa have, once again, opened the door wide for the return of colonialism to Africa. At present, there are troops representing more than 57 states in Africa under the name of peace-keeping forces. There are 57,000 UN peace-keeping troops, of which two thirds are in Africa."

Al-Qadhafi said Africans needed to settle their own problems by themselves: "We need to solve our own problems and expel these forces from our continent. This requires a speedy building of African institutions. We need to speed up the creation of an African army and to establish an African ministry of defence to make from our institutions an effective force, such as rapid African intervention force, African council of peace and African academy of strategy. We have 1,150,000 troops in Africa and we spend 41bn dollars annually on these troops, but we still need the UN forces which abuse our dignity? This is embarrassing for Africa."

Addressing his guest, the Libyan leader then returned to the situation in Liberia: "Allow me to make a last observation. It concerns our friend (former Liberian President Charles) Taylor. He is both my friend and your friend. He is our shared friend. But in Liberia you were close to him more than me. I do not sympathize with Taylor's domestic policy. It did not concern me. This concerned the Liberian people who elected your excellency as their president. However, I say this as a matter of principle. I consider Taylor as a man who made sacrifices for the sake of Liberia, because on 11 August 2003, he willingly abandoned power for his deputy and headed for his exile in Nigeria in order to bring to an end a 14-year long civil war. For that reason the Liberian civil war was brought to an end, elections were held and your excellency won the confidence of the

Liberian people. This could have marked the end of the matter. But to attack him on his political asylum and to hand him over to a court in Sierra Leone! This was not part of the agreement on the issue of his abdication of power.

"Africa should have been credible. Those who were parties to this agreement should have had their words respected. Our brother (Nigerian) President (Olesegun) Obasanjo had proposed to Taylor political asylum in Nigeria. On that basis, Taylor handed over power to his deputy, Musa. The attack on the sanctity of political asylum is a very serious matter. It is a serious precedent. This is a serious precedent. Meanwhile, the fabrication of the charge of running away and his arrest on the Nigerian borders have made the matter even more embarrassing. This is a disgrace. This is a disgraced comedy. This has nothing to do with African morals.

"Naturally, Liberia and your excellency have nothing to do with this issue, because the procedures came from other parties. This is a serious precedent which is comparable to that of (former Chad's President Hissene) Habre. They are talking of handing over Hissene Habre, the former president of Chad, to an international court. This is completely unacceptable. I strongly oppose the trial of Habre in an international court or outside Africa! This is embarrassing for Africa. I also categorically oppose the trial of Taylor. If Habre deserves to be tried, he should be tried in Chad or Africa.

"Your excellency! We rely on your ability, personality and courage to prevent these serious precedents. I believe that all Liberians should be allowed to engage in a peaceful and democratic action. In the end, Taylor is one of your citizens and you are surely responsible for your citizens. We rely on your appreciation of this issue. You need to adopt positive positions which we are expecting, and of which you are worthy, so that these people return to reason. Otherwise the entire democratic process in Africa will collapse.

"Taylor was also an elected president and he won 70 of the 90 seats in parliament. He also received 75,3 per cent of the votes in the July 1997 elections. I do not believe that our brother Obasanjo had obtained this result in elections. Anyway! Despite this he was toppled. This is the problem we are facing! We elect presidents then we rebel against them and we topple them. We cling to the hope that democracy and stability will be consolidated in Africa with the emergence of wise and capable leaders in the calibre of your excellency."

End of monitor's report. No further processing planned.

African News Dimension

15 May 2006

Libyan Leader Unhappy over Taylor's arrest

By Andnetwork .com

Tripoli (AND) The President of Libya Muamma Gaddafi has expressed his dissatisfaction over the extradition and subsequent turn over of the former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to the Special World Crime court in Sierra Leone.

The Libyan leader said the surrender and subsequent arrest of the former Liberian leader, is totally a violation of the asylum agreement that took him to Nigeria, when he gave up power to end the Liberian crisis.

President Gaddafi made the remark at his President Lodge in Tripoli, Libya when he received the Liberian leader as his special guest during a two day visit.

Speaking on the issue of Mr. Taylor who he said is his friend the Libyan leader frowned over the situation concerning Mr Taylor's turn over, stressing that it did not bring dignity to the African continent.

"Parties to agreement should honour their responsibility. The issue of Mr. Taylor turn over is not part of the asylum agreement," he told the visiting Liberian President who was seated on his left.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, did not immediately responded to President Gadaffi's comments but in an interview with AND Monrovia correspondent who travelled with her to Tripoli, she acknowledged the contentious issues raised by the Libyan leader as it relates to African dignity over the arrest issues of Mr. Taylor.

"In private conversation, I talked to him on the issue, and I think he understands that Liberia's position is simplest the safety of our state. He appreciated it in our statement that this is not Liberia's doing. Liberia is not responsibility for all of this and he recommitted himself to assisting Liberia," Sirleaf said

By Patrick Wrokpoh in Libya

The Analyst (Monrovia)

12 May 2006

War Crimes Court Undermines TRC, Says S/Leone Former TRC Chairman

The Chairman of the erstwhile Sierra Leonean Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Bishop Joseph C. Humper, says having the Special Court in Sierra Leone to operate at the same time as the Sierra Leonean TRC, greatly undermined the effectiveness of that country's reconciliation process.

Bishop Humper made the disclosure over the weekend when he visited the offices of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia at the head of a two-man delegation from Sierra Leone to Liberia.

The Sierra Leonean Bishop said that the simultaneous creation and operation of the Special Court alongside the TRC created undue impediments in his country's TRC quest to get alleged perpetrators to appear for hearings.

Sharing his experiences with Commissioners of the Liberian TRC on the challenges and prospects of truth commissions, Bishop Humper said that due to the conflicting messages of the Special Court versus the TRC, uncertainty was created in the minds of alleged violators of crimes.

He said that many perpetrators believed that going to the TRC would mean automatic turnover to the Special Court for prosecution and therefore did not go to the TRC.

As a result, he lamented that many alleged perpetrators, including some former members of the RUF, who initially would have gone before the TRC opted to stay away for fear of being dragged to the Special Court.

Ironically, the Bishop further noted that this suspicion was buttressed by the fact that the TRC offices were located within a short distance from the Special Court.

" Indeed, it was even strongly speculated that there existed a secret tunnel from the TRC building to the building housing the Special Court via which alleged violators would be brought to appear before the Court," Humper maintained.

He emphasized that the tasks ahead of the Liberian TRC are daunting and challenging but, not unachievable. He said that the TRC's success is predicated upon support the Commission receives from everybody.

Bishop Humper stressed the importance of civil society and the media in the TRC process stating that the cooperation and support of both sectors is crucial to the effectiveness and outcome of the TRC process.

He finally cautioned the TRC to remember that the Liberian experience is a unique one and therefore, the Commission must not copy or borrow blindly from other past truth commissions.

Responding, the Vice Chairman of the TRC, Mrs. Dede Dolopei, expressed thanks to the delegation for its interest and words of wisdom to the TRC.

She assured the delegation of the TRC's commitment to ensuring that the commission completes its mandate.

She disclosed that the mandate of the TRC is to promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation, a release signed by the Chairman of Media Relations and Outreach of the Truth and Reconciliation of Liberia, Massa A. Washington, said.

Reuters

Saturday, 13 May 2006

American and 3 Sierra Leoneans held for taking photos

FREETOWN (Reuters) - One U.S. citizen and three Sierra Leoneans have been detained in Freetown on conspiracy charges after attempting to photograph the U.N.-backed special court holding Liberia's former strongman Charles Taylor.

A magistrate ordered the four men to be detained in Freetown's Pademba Road prison on Friday, charged with conspiracy and inspecting a prohibited area, court sources said.

The sources identified the American as Michael Chemidlin and the three Sierra Leoneans as Felix Rogers, Dawosco Kamara and Collins Kamara but gave no further details.

Their arrest stirred fears on the streets of the Sierra Leonean capital of a plot to spring Taylor from the court's jailhouse.

Taylor is awaiting trial on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels during Sierra Leone's 1991-2001 civil war.

Amid security fears, the United Nations is seeking to move the trial to The Hague, but the process has been delayed as no third country has volunteered to act as Taylor's jailor, if he is convicted. Denmark, Sweden and Austria have all refused.

Reuters

Saturday, 13 May 2006

'Taylor can't be photographed'

Freetown - An American citizen and three Sierra Leoneans have been detained in the Sierra Leonean capital of Freetown on conspiracy charges, after they attempted to photograph the United Nations-backed special court holding Liberia's former president Charles Taylor.

A magistrate ordered the four men to be detained in Freetown's Pademba Road Prison on Friday.

The four have been charged with conspiracy and inspecting a prohibited area.

Court officials identified the American as Michael Chemidlin.

The three Sierra Leoneans are Felix Rogers, Dawosco Kamara and Collins Kamara.

Their arrest has stirred fears on the streets of the Sierra Leonean capital. People fear a plot to spring Taylor from the court's jailhouse.

Taylor is awaiting trial on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing rebels during Sierra Leone's 1991-2001 civil war.

The UN is wanting to move the trial to The Hague amid security fears, but the process has been delayed because no third country has volunteered to act as Taylor's jailor if he is convicted.

Denmark, Sweden and Austria have refused.

United Nations  **Nations Unies**

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 13 May 2006

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

International Clips on Liberia

May 12, 2006

UNHCR repatriates 200 Liberian refugees from Ghana

Accra_(dpa) _ Some 200 Liberian refugees in Ghana were flown home Friday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Ghana News Agency (GNA) reported. The exercise was carried out in collaboration with the government of Ghana, the government of Liberia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It is the first charter flight to Liberia since UNHCR's policy shift to actively promote voluntary repatriation to Liberia.

LIBERIA: Rubber plantations "lawless", says UN

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

MONROVIA, 11 May 2006 (IRIN) - Large areas of the Liberian countryside where former fighters control rubber plantations are "lawless" and are putting plantation workers and their families at risk, according to a UN report. Also fingered as a concern are private security guards hired by the rubber companies who "arrest" and "detain" illegal rubber tappers without reference to the Liberian National Police (LNP).

International Clips on West Africa

Ivory Coast to allow France's RFI radio back on air

ABIDJAN, May 12 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast said on Friday it would allow Radio France Internationale (RFI) to resume local broadcasting in the West African country, lifting a ban imposed last year over a story linking the government to a massacre. "It should start again in the coming hours. It's just a question of technical matters now," said Diego Jerome Bailly, President of the National Council for Audiovisual Communication, the broadcasting regulator in the former French colony.

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

President Says U.S. Visit Gave Her Access to American Investors

- Speaking to journalists on her return from the United States Thursday, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that her visit to the U.S. gave her an opportunity to brief American investors on investment possibilities in Liberia. President Sirleaf had been invited by an American billionaire Oprah Winfrey to participate on her TV show.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Urges Liberians to Engage in Tree Planting

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has attributed the change of Liberia's climate to the loss of trees. Speaking at the National Tree Planting Day in Monrovia yesterday, the

President urged Liberians to begin planting trees in their communities to enable the country regain its climatic condition.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

President Pays Official Visit to Libya Today

- An Executive Mansion source said that President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf will today pay an official visit to Libya in response to an invitation from Libyan President Mohammed Quadaffi.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Switzerland to Give US\$3 Million Bilateral Aid to Liberia

- According to an Executive Mansion press statement, the government of Switzerland will donate US\$3 million as part of its bilateral assistance towards Liberia's reconstruction programs. The Swiss Government has also agreed to contribute additional US\$250,000 to rehabilitate the Kolahun-Vahun highway in Lofa County.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

American College Offers Scholarships to Liberian Nurses

- President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said that the Chicago-based Harvey College has offered 35 scholarships to help train Liberian nurses in the United States.
- Briefing journalists Thursday, the President also said that the City of Chicago has donated two garbage trucks and other equipment to the City of Monrovia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Information Ministry Embarks on Yearly Registration of Media Houses

- In a press release issued in Monrovia yesterday, the Ministry of Information said that it has commenced the annual registration of media institutions in the country to ensure standards in the media and to keep an accurate data on the operations of the media in Liberia.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Lawmaker Supports Calls for War Crimes Court for Liberia

- Receiving in Monrovia yesterday a petition calling for the establishment of a war crimes court for Liberia, House of Representatives Speaker Edwin Snowe said that he supports the call and would lobby with his colleagues to support the move as well.
- Speaker Snowe added that creating the court would be a perfect opportunity for those who are accused of committing atrocities during the war to be tried.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star Radio)

Human Rights Group Sues Government for Detaining People without Trial

- In an interview yesterday, the Center for the Protection of Human Rights Chairman Dempster Brown said that the group has sued the Government of Liberia for allegedly detaining people without trial. Cllr. Brown said that over 300 people were being held without trial at the Monrovia Central Prison.

(Also reported on ELBS Radio and Star 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. Jeddi Armah at armahj@un.org.